



THE 148'r NEWSLETTER

The American Legion Alafia Post 148

April - May 2024



AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2023-2024

Commander.....Lynnette Stokes
1st Vice.....Terry Johnson
2nd Vice.....Bill Rivera
Adjutant.....Terry Johnson
Finance Officer.....Andy Davis
Sergeant at Arms.....Bob Claycomb
Chaplain.....Kevin O'Donnell
Historian.....
Judge Advocate.....
Service Officer.....Doug Woodring
Executive Board:
 Mark Finkbeiner Mike O'Dell
 Angela Ritter Walt Nea
Past CommanderLynnette Stokes
Lounge Manager.....Lori Holsopple

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

AMERICAN LEGION:
EXECUTIVE BOARD-
 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00 PM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP-
 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:30 PM

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY:
 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—6:30 PM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP-7:00 PM

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:
 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00 PM

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS:
 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00 PM

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE:
 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00 PM



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2023-2024

President.....Julia Arndt
1st Vice.....Jeannie Dion
2nd Vice.....Monica Kelley
Treasurer.....Patti Alley
Secretary.....Teresa Ponce
Chaplain.....Vicki Linde
Historian.....Margaret Blazer
Sergeant at Arms.....Sandra Souders
Ass't Sgt at Arms.....Michele Smith

Executive Committee:
 Georgianna Bruno Alice Del Rosario
 Jennifer Jeffery

Past President.....Georgia Mackenzie



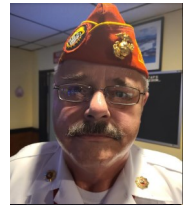
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

Commander.....Micah Saeger
1st Vice.....Carroll Weese
2nd Vice.....Don DeBruin
Adjutant.....Greg Dodge
Finance Officer.....Kevin O'Donnell
Sergeant of Arms.....Ryan Cansler
Chaplain.....Tom Stone
Executive Board:
 Ted Martine Greg Wussow
 Ronin Smith Cliff Menting
Past Commander.....Steven Arndt



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS 2023-2024

Director.....Angela Ritter
Assistant Director.....Alice Del Rosario
Adjutant.....Lori Yeago
Finance OfficerEd Linde
Historian.....Carol Johnson
Chaplain.....Tom Stone
Sergeant at Arms.....Leeland Smith
Road Captain.....Andy Davis
Membership.....Tom Ritter
Safety Officer.....Terry Johnson



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OFFICERS 2023-2024

Commandant.....William Moore
Senior Vice.....Ron Essick
Junior Vice.....Bill King
Judge Advocate.....Bruce Younggren
Adjutant.....Jack Skelding
Paymaster.....Larry Westcott
Sergeant at Arms.....Hank Wolons
Chaplain.....Patricia Skelding
Past Commandant.....Sal DiFonzo

Hours of Operation:

Monday—1PM-9PM
Tuesday-Thursday
 11:00AM-9:00PM
Friday: 11:AM— 12:00AM
Saturday: 11:00AM-10:PM
Sunday: 12:00PM-9:00PM
 Hours Subject to Change

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FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Greetings,

Spring is in the air and along with that, I am really looking forward to seeing all of you here at the Post for all of our activities. I want to thank Ms. Dee Hoffman, Mr. Russell Beasley and Mr. Bill Rivera, who assisted me with the St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 17th. I was so happy for your assistance and advice. It was so appreciated. It was very clear everyone was having an amazing time and enjoyed the meal. Thank You so much!!

The Post has started having Saturday night entertainment. So please come on out and enjoy the music and perhaps have a dance or two! The more participation we have, we will be able to continue having these great bands on Saturdays.

Do not forget to look at our newsletter and info-TV in the lounge for upcoming events and entertainment. I am so happy to be a member of an organization that continues to work well with each of our units, in order to make our Post an amazing place for all to come and visit. Great job!

Hope to see you all at Home Post!
For God and Country!

The Legion will have final Officer nominations, for the 2024-2025 year, during our meeting at 7:30 on April 22nd. The Elections for Legion Officers will be held on Saturday, May 11th from 10am-6pm, if needed.

The Auxiliary, SAL and Riders are in the middle of Officer nominations for the 2024-2025 year, with 2nd nominations in April and final nominations/elections in May.

Veterans Service Office (VSO) View



I've received several inquiries on benefits for families of Veterans who have gone onto "Post Everlasting". I thought it would be appropriate to share a few notes regarding major benefit entitlements in the 148'r.

- ◆ **Internment:** The VA provides a final resting place (National cemetery) for eligible Veterans, spouses and their eligible dependents and a headstone or marker (national, private, or public cemetery), a U.S. Flag for the decedents family and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.
- ◆ **Military Honors:** As of January 1, 2000, all eligible Veterans are entitled to military funeral honors (Honor Guard, Bugler). The next of kin, or appropriate individual, **MUST** request this service. Funeral directors have a Department of Defense Hotline number (1-877-MIL-HONR) to request and coordinate ceremonies. Another resource is https://www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp.
- ◆ **Reimbursement of burial expenses:** For service-connected deaths on or after September 11, 2001, the VA pays up to \$2000 towards burial expenses. If buried in a National cemetery, some or all of the cost may be reimbursed. For non-service connected deaths, after 1 October, 2023, the VA pays a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot. Two year filing limit.
- ◆ **VA Compensation:** The VA typically pays the last monthly disability payment to a surviving spouse. Surviving spouses, dependent children and/or parents of a service member may be eligible for a tax free monthly benefit, not income-based, called Dependent Indemnity Compensation. Survivors pension is an income-based benefit paid to eligible, un-remarried surviving spouses and/or dependent children of deceased Veterans. Housebound survivors may be eligible for aid and attendance in addition to the survivors pension.

These benefits should be taken care of by your funeral director, if they are aware of Veteran status. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions on this or any other benefits that may be available.

Thank you for your service,
Doug Woodring
Post 148 VSO

Please welcome the following Members to Post 148

NEW MEMBERS

David Roeder	Garry Gose
Aram Cardona	Brandon Blanks
John Yunckes	Seth William
Jesse Nelson	John Cote
Gary Nichols	Christopher Fugitt
Richard Crowley	Tara White
Noel Alers	Kevin Rodriguez
Jordan Rouff	Leslie Jones
Daniel Tracy	David Stevens

TRANSFERS

Donna Baker	Thomas VanBibber
Vanessa Colon-Rivera	James Stocks
Budd McNish	Patricia Allen
James Brown	Olivia Downton
Nicholas Arrada	Robert Stanger

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Greetings from the Riders!

The Riders are a ridin'! We've put in thousands of miles across the past few months of 2024 and don't plan on stopping anytime soon. April is one of our biggest fundraising months of the year with Round Robin. Round Robin is a month where we join together as Chapters and ride for Suicide Prevention. Last year, as a District, we lost the coveted trophy by a small margin, we don't plan on that happening again.

A big part of April is the in-state Unity Ride. Starting in Jacksonville, Chapters will ride throughout the state, with 3 routes (East Coast, West Coast and Central State) culminating at Orange County Choppers for one big rally. This year, the Central State Ride will make a stop at Post 148 as they head to the end of the ride on 27 April. Come on out and cheer them on!

The Riders came through yet again for a great cause raising over \$8,000 for the family of Mason Fox, the grandson of a Legion member and nephew to an Auxiliary member. Thanks to everyone who participated and/or helped make this benefit a huge success.

April/May brings nominations and elections for our next group of Officers. Congratulations to the Auxiliary for 75 years of "awesomeness". Here's hoping for many more years. Have a great April/May and see you at the Post.

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass: It's about learning how to ride in the rain!"

Ride for the Cause, not the Applause!

Angela Ritter (TnA)

Director 2023-2024—ALR Chapter 148

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Dear Auxiliary,

Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2023-2024 dues, please do so before May 25th. Departments close of books is June 1st.

75th Anniversary Gala for our Charter at Post 148. You should have received your invite. Please be sure to RSVP as soon as possible. We hope to have as many Past Presidents attending as possible. This is a formal event. Please dress appropriately.

2nd and 3rd voting nominations will be held at our April and May meetings. If you are interested in running for an Office, please let one of our current Officers or Chairman, Georgie Bruno, know. You MUST BE present to either accept or decline the nomination.

Dates to Remember: April 7th—Bake Sale/Breakfast / **April 13th**—Field of Honor Ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park at 10am / **April 18th**—Next ALA meeting—2nd Nominations / **May 16th**—ALA meeting—3rd Nominations and Elections

For God and Country

#ringyourbell

Julia Arndt-President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Hello,

We will have 2nd Officer nominations at our April meeting and 3rd nominations/elections at our May meeting. If interested in an Officer position, please let one of our current Officers know, so you can be nominated. You must be present to accept or decline a nomination.

The SAL will be hosting our annual Memorial Day cookout on Monday, May 27th, starting at 2pm. This year we will be doing a pig roast. There will also be a limited number of hamburgers for those that don't care for pork. Our Auxiliary will be providing the sides. Come on out and enjoy the meal with your Legion friends and family!

SAL Post 148



We are happy to report that

NONE

*have been transferred to Post Everlasting. May God rest their souls,
and provide comfort to their family and friends.*

April Calendar at a Glance

- Month of the Military Child
- Military Saves Month
- Ramadan ends April 9 (began March 10)
- 5th—Gold Star Spouses Day
- 9th—National Former POW Recognition Day
- 13th—Field of Honor Ceremony—Veteran’s Memorial Park at 10am
- 14th—Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 15th—Purple Up! Day (for the Military Child)
- 22nd—Passover and Earth Day
- 23rd—Army Reserve Birthday
- 27th—Rider Dinner
- 30th—National Military Brats Day

April Meetings at a Glance

- 1st—ALR at 7pm
- 2nd—MCL at 7pm
- 8th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 11th—SAL at 7pm
- 15th—Calendar Meeting at 7pm (June/July)
- 18th—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 22nd—Legion General Membership at 7:30pm

April Entertainment

Fridays

**Anywhere Karaoke—5th & 19th
Bill Knowles—12th & 26th**



**We now have Saturday night
Entertainment. Times are now from 4-
8pm, unless otherwise noted.
See the next page for schedule.**



**Queen of Hearts
drawing every
Saturday at 7pm**

April is Month of the Military Child

DANDELIONS

Dandelion seeds float across the sky

Shifting in the wind

Unsure where they will land

Blooming in many places

Adapting to new climates and soils

Military children are much the same

Moving to new towns

Missing family members overseas

Adjusting to so much change

Amazing, resilient, and strong

Written by Tiffany Donovan



**April 15th is Purple Up! Day
Wear Purple to honor
Military Kids!**



APRIL LIVE MUSIC SATURDAYS!!

Saturday entertainment is now from 4pm-8pm, unless noted otherwise

6th—Pure Classic Gold

13th—Ben Myers

20th—Bert & Friends

27th—Krista Joy & Joe Sardo



American Legion Riders Alafia

Chapter Post 148 Rider Dinner

5:00 PM Saturday,
April 27, 2024

\$10.00 DONATION



**Lori and Terry's Chicken Cordon Bleu.
Served with buttered red potatoes,
sweet peas, and roll**

American Legion Alafia Post 148 7240 US Hwy 301 S, Riverview, FL 33569

Don't Drink and Drive



May Calendar at a Glance

- Month of the Military Caregiver
- National Military Appreciation Month
- 5th-11th—Public Service Recognition Week
- 5th-11th—National Correctional Officer Week
- 4th—Auxiliary 75th Diamond Anniversary Gala
- 5th—Cinco de Mayo
- 11th—District Auxiliary Meeting—Post 111
- 11th—Post 148 Elections, if needed
- 12th—Mother's Day
- 25th—Rider Dinner
- 27th—Memorial Day

May Meetings at a Glance

- 6th—ALR at 7pm
- 7th—MCL at 7pm
- 9th—SAL at 7pm
- 13th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 16th—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 27th—Legion General Membership at 7:30pm

May Entertainment

Anywhere Karaoke—3rd, 75th & 31st
Bill Knowles—10th & 24th



Live Music Saturdays
4-8pm unless otherwise noted



Queen of Hearts
drawing every
Saturday at 7pm

ATTENTION: Auxiliary Members!!

You should have received the below invite. Be sure to RSVP as soon as possible. Spots are quickly filling up!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
ALAFIA UNIT 148

requests the honor of your presence at our Charter's

75th Diamond Anniversary Gala

Saturday May 4, 2024

Meet & Greet Cocktail Hour 4-5pm, Dinner & Entertainment 5pm
 Non-Auxiliary Members or Guests \$15.00 Donation

Please RSVP ASAP before March 31 to
 Teresa by phone, text, or email
 (727)389-1227 ALA148gala@gmail.com *Attire: Diamond Gala*

No Charge for current Auxiliary Members Dinner.
 Non-Auxiliary and Guests \$15 Donation.

Menu

Chicken Breast Marsala
 (With or Without Mushrooms)
 Red Bliss Smashed Potatoes
 Fine Green Beans
 Salad
 Cake



*Please specify with RSVP, with or without mushrooms,
 and any food allergies we should be aware of.*

We are aware parking will be challenging, please be patient and understanding. Overflow parking is available at the Elementary School and at O'Reilly's, or on the side of Hannaway Drive.

MAY—LIVE MUSIC SATURDAYS!!

4-8pm unless otherwise noted!

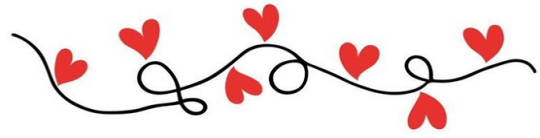
4th—The Hi-Tops (Auxiliary 75th Anniversary Gala—5-9pm)
11th—Leesah Stiles & Krista Joy
18th—Bert & Friends
25th—Rick Wynn





HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

Sunday, May 12th
2-4pm
Mother's eat free
All others \$10



**Pork Loin, Black Beans
or Green Beans
Yellow Rice, Roll
And Dessert**

Hosted by: American Legion Alafia Post 148
7240 US Highway 301, Riverview, FL 33578



Memorial Day Cookout
Remember and Honor

Monday, May 27th—2-4pm

We will be hosting a Pig Roast!
There will also be a limited
number of hamburgers.
Sides provided by the Auxiliary



**If you cook it,
they will come.**

Hosted by: SAL / American Legion Alafia Post 148
7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview, FL 33578

**American Legion Riders
Alafia Chapter Post 148
Rider Dinner**

**5PM Saturday
May 25, 2024
\$10 Donation**



**The Girls plus Tommy "Gunny",
rigatoni Bolognese Dinner,
Served with Salad and bread.**

American Legion Alafia Post 148 7240 US Hwy 301 S,
Riverview, FL 33569

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS (Subject to Change)

The next CALENDAR MEETING is scheduled for Monday, April 15th at 7PM

Pinochle

9:30AM Mondays & Fridays
At American Legion Post 148
Double Deck / Partners

S.A.L. FRYING FRIDAY
5:00-7:00PM every Friday

*Fish, Shrimp, Chicken,
Sweet Potato Fries, French Fries,
Onion rings, Hush Puppies and
Homemade Coleslaw*

Wear RED on Fridays
Receive \$.25 off drinks
until 12am

RED FRIDAY
REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

QUEEN OF HEARTS



**Tickets on sale
in the lounge**

**Weekly Drawing—Every
Saturday night at 7:00 pm**
Last tickets sold at 6:45pm

- Tickets \$2—No Limit
- If present, winner receives 60% of the pot. Legion receives 40%
- Not present, Legion receives 60%. Winner Receives 40%
- Pot rolls over to next week if Q of Hearts not drawn
- Winning ticket holder will receive \$25 if Queen of Hearts not drawn.
- An additional \$25 paid to winning ticket holder IF the card drawn is a Joker or any other Queen suit.



Hosted by: American Legion Alafia Post 148, 7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview FL 33578

**ALA Bake Sale & Breakfast—1st
Sunday of every month starting at 7am,
during the flea market. Please come out
and pick up some goodies and support
the ALA, which supports Veterans in
our area!!**

BAKE SALE

“Flea Market”

Every Sunday from 7am-12 noon
Managed by: Susie White



BINGO

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm

All night packs—Cards per sheets
\$10 for 3 / \$20 for 6 / \$30 for 9

Hot Balls—50/50—2 Specials

Intermission Special—Letter “I” -
\$1 per sheet

Coverall—\$2 a sheet

Hosted by:
The American Legion Auxiliary and
The Sons of the American Legion

