



THE 148'r NEWSLETTER

The American Legion Alafia Post 148

February - March 2025



AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2024-2025

Commander.....Mike O'Dell
 1st Vice.....Kevin O'Donnell
 2nd Vice.....
 Adjutant.....Kevin O'Donnell
 Finance Officer.....Andy Davis
 Sergeant at Arms.....Bob Claycomb
 Chaplain.....Kevin O'Donnell
 Historian.....
 Judge Advocate.....Doug Woodring
 Service Officer.....Doug Woodring

Executive Board:
 Mark Finkbeiner Felipe Jose Aguilar
 Walt Nea Roland "Skip" Schwoerke

Past CommanderLynnette Stokes
 Lounge Manager.....Ronni Groenthal

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

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

AMERICAN LEGION:
EXECUTIVE BOARD-
 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00 PM

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

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

AMERICAN LEGION:
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP-
 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:30 PM



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2024-2025

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

Executive Committee:
 Jennifer Jeffery Denise Bonnett
 Annette Tenti-Scep

Past President.....Georgia Mackenzie



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

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 Wussov
 Ronin Smith Cliff Menting
 Past Commander.....Steven Arndt



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS 2024-2025

Director.....Andy Davis
 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.....



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OFFICERS 2024-2025

Commandant.....Ron Essick
 Senior Vice.....Michael Hernando
 Junior Vice.....Bill King
 Judge Advocate.....Bruce Younggren
 Adjutant.....Jack Skelding
 Paymaster.....Larry Westcott
 Sergeant at Arms.....Yahahn Thompson
 Chaplain.....Patricia Skelding
 Jr. Past Commandant.....Bill Moore

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

E-Mail: (A new one is being set up)
Website: www.americanlegionalafiapost148.org
Facebook: American Legion Alafia Post 148
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor: Missy Finkbeiner
Printers: Custom Graphics of Tampa

Physical Address:
 7240 US Highway 301
 Riverview, FL 33578
Mailing Address:
 Same as Physical
Bus. Phone: 813-677-6529
FAX: 813-671-4764



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Hello Legion 148 Family,

I hope everyone has recovered from the hurricanes and is doing well. Unfortunately, on January 8th we lost an awesome member and leader, Terry Johnson. Terry was a great human being and one of the Officers to bring changes to our Post, for the better. I can't say enough good things about Terry. I considered him a very dear friend. My job as the Commander will be more difficult without him. We are very fortunate to have good people in our Post, one of them being Kevin O'Donnell. He has stepped up to fill the shoes of the jobs that Terry was doing, as the 1st Vice Commander and Adjutant, as well as remaining our Chaplain. Terry had struggled for many weeks and is now at peace. Please keep Terry's family and his long time partner, Lori Yeago, in your prayers. Please be sure to reach out to Lori in the coming weeks and months. Going forward, she will need the support of her American Legion family to help ease the pain of losing Terry.

For those that may not know, we have changed out our bowling machine to a multi-machine. In addition to bowling, it also has putt putt golf, cornhole and jarts. Come in and check it out. It's a lot of fun. We are continuing to try and make improvements to retain our awesome members, and bring in new members. Many members haven't been in for quite some time. If you know them, let them know there have been changes. Encourage them to start coming in again. I am always open for suggestions to make improvements of what our members would like to see. Reach out to me, or other Officers, with ideas, or drop a note in the Suggestion box on the wall by the popcorn machine.

We need quotes from a contractor to fix issues in our parking lot. We get a lot of water coming into the screen room, which makes it difficult for members to enter on that side. If you know a contractor that does that type of work, please send them to us. I would like to give a huge thank you to one of our great members, Me'lan'ie from G-Force parking lot striping of Tampa Bay. She and her team came out and re-striped the handicap parking, and other spots on the south side of the building. They did a fabulous job for us. Please send people her way. They're always looking for more people to help. It is a Veteran owned business. Don't forget every month the SAL has DJ's BBQ the 1st Friday, and Fish Fry all other Fridays, our Legion Officers make a dinner the 2nd Saturday, and the Rider Dinner the last Saturday. Please come out and support all we try to do for you and our Post. I can be reached by calling the Post at 813-677-6529 or on my cell 813-765-2706.

Best Regards,
Your Commander
Mike O'Dell

FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER

Dear American Legion Family,

I am thrilled to announce that I will be stepping into the role of Lounge Manager. This new opportunity fills me with great excitement and anticipation as I look forward to building on the foundation laid by Lori. First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lori on her well-deserved retirement. Her dedication and hard work have not only set a high standard, but also provided me with a strong platform to succeed. I am deeply grateful for all she has shared. She will be missed. As a proud member of the Riders and Auxiliary, I am committed to bringing fresh energy and innovative ideas to our Lounge. My goal is to create an environment that not only meets, but exceeds the expectations of our members and guests. Your support and collaboration will be invaluable as we embark on this exciting journey together. Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to working closely with each of you to achieve great things for our Lounge.

Warm Regards,
Ronnie



Doug Woodring - Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Greetings Post 148, I hope that you and your loved ones enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, or however you choose to celebrate the holiday season.

New Service Officer hours in the Lounge. I am now available in the Lounge for walk-in consultations on VA benefits and resources on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month, before the eBoard and General meetings. (holidays excluded). My new hours are in the calendars. Even if you don't require assistance, come on in and say hi.

New VA Scheduling System The VA is implementing a new, modernized appointment scheduling system to better deliver care to Veterans. Officially known as the Integrated Scheduling System (ISS), this new solution consolidates several scheduling applications into one location. It provides employees with a user-friendly scheduling experience while effectively reducing the time Veterans must wait for their appointments to be confirmed and scheduled. **The Implementation should be seamless for patients;** however, any business process transition always presents opportunities for improvement. The VA is committed to ensuring the transition to ISS goes as smoothly as possible. The VA expects to fully transition to ISS in February 2025.

New VA Logon Changes In 2025, you'll have 2 secure sign-in options (Login.Gov and ID.me) for all VA websites and apps. The VA will remove the My HealtheVet option after January 31, 2025, and the DS logon option after September 30, 2025. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign-in with a Login.Gov or ID.me account.

WHAT YOU CAN DO—WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CREATE A LOGIN.GOV OR ID.ME ACCOUNT NOW If you already have one of these accounts but haven't yet used it, start now so you have time to get used to it before the change. With Login.Gov and ID.me, you'll have access to all the same information and services you use today.

Doug Woodring
Post 148 Service Officer



Be sure to renew your Membership for 2025! Pay online or at the Post.
Legion-\$50/Auxiliary-\$40/SAL-\$35/Riders-\$15 (W/paid membership to another Unit)

www.Legion.Org

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Greetings Fellow Riders and Comrades!

As you all know, we lost a great friend, brother, and a vital volunteer to our post. May you Ride in Peach Terrance Johnson. We all will deeply miss you. I want to give a heart warming Thank You! To the Patriot Guard Riders and to all of the Riders who rode to escort Terry to Bushnell, in the cold rain. That was truly above and beyond and deeply appreciated by this Director. You all make me very proud to be your Director.

If you have been to the Post lately, you would have noticed a green 4-wheeled motorcycle with a wooden cedar trailer. This wagon is to help us raise money for the American Legion Veteran Suicide Relief Program. I know there is mostly motorcycle paraphernalia in the wagon. Please buy chances anyway, or donate your change in the jar on the bar at the drink station. The Chapter that raises the most money gets bragging rights and the proud feeling of being number one! Yes, you can keep the wagon and trailer. I want to thank Billy Bob and Gerri for putting the wagon together and making the list of items. Feel free to bring in **brand new** items to add to the trailer, if you have them. The wagon will be given away at Post 138 on March 8th at the Central Area Ride In. All are welcome to attend with us.

Our dinners are starting back up on the last Saturday of each month. I hope everyone that bought a meal at January's dinner, enjoyed the taste of Indiana. February's dinner will be meatloaf. March's dinner will be chicken cordon bleu with sides, and will be put on by Lori Yeago and Ashley (Terry Johnson's daughter). We hope to see everyone there! I have been putting copies of our ride list on the bulletin board in the restroom hallway. Feel free to take one and join us, even if in your car/cage. All are welcome. We will be discussing putting on a poker run at the February Rider meeting. So please keep your ears open for that info.

Remember "Ride till you're dry"!
Andy Davis—ALR 148 Director

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Dear Auxiliary,

Hope everyone is staying warm and healthy with this crazy weather! Remember, your red door card will no longer work. You must show the bartender your 2025 paid membership card in order to receive a new white door card. You can pay your membership renewal by mail, in person at the Post or online.

February 1st is our 15th District Meeting being held at Unit 152, starting at 9:30am. We have been asked to bring a side dish to share.

Sunday, February 2nd is our Bake Sale/Breakfast from 8am-11am. Please donate a baked item and leave in the kitchen at the Post on Saturday marked Bake Sale or drop off on Sunday by 8:30am.

Saturday, February 8th is the Celebration of Life of our sister, Carol Radlein. Auxiliary members are to wear a white shirt with black or blue pants or skirt. The service is from 12-2pm, followed by refreshments. Please bring a side dish. Sandwiches will be provided with potato salad.

Saturday, March 1st is the ABC Class for District 15 at Unit 418. Registration is at 8am and classes start at 9:30am. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 9th so you don't miss any of the events!

Saturday, March 22nd at 5pm the Past Commanders and Past Presidents Banquet will be held at Post 148. Please bring an item to be auctioned for Girls and Boys State Transportation. The tickets are \$15 each. If interested in attending, please see an officer for tickets. You can also purchase a ticket the day of the event. (See our Facebook page for further details).

Friday, March 28th at 5pm Our Department President, Charlotte Bass, will be visiting Unit 148. All Auxiliary members are requested to attend. Please wear an Auxiliary shirt.

REMEMBER, we have **BINGO** every Wednesday evening starting at 6:30pm. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Come and join us for a night of fun and games.

For God and Country
Julia Arndt-President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Hello from the SAL

Please continue to keep our Commander, Micah Saeger, in your prayers as he continues his recovery from his health issues.

Don't forget every Wednesday is Bingo night, starting at 6:30pm. The first Friday night of the month is now DJ's BBQ, all other Fridays will remain as Frying Friday.

Please welcome the following new and transferred Members to Post 148

NEW MEMBERS

Luis Richardson	James Harris
Robert Lavalley	Andrew Sutton
Kate Stacy	David Graham
David Chadwick	Josiah Shumaker
Joshua Beal	

TRANSFERS

Scott Nelson	Patrick Thompson
Thomas Kirkland	Dion Acevedo
Robert Jeffrey	Thomas Maxwell
James Forristal	Louis Galipeau
August Miller	James Edenfield
Dan Hains	Ronald Beyer
	David Farrugia



TAPS

We are sad to report that

Terry Johnson Larry Nay Ernest Piazza George Cox Chuck Oberst

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

February Calendar at a Glance

- ◆ Black History Month
- 9th-15th—National Salute to Veteran Patients
- Feb. 28th-Mar. 29—Ramadan
- 2nd—Groundhog Day
- 2nd—ALA Bake Sale
- 3rd—Four Chaplains Day
- 4th—USO Birthday
- 8th—Legion Dinner (All Units) 5-7PM
- 9th—Super Bowl
- 14th—Valentine's Day
- 15th—Valentine's Dinner/Party 5-10PM
- 19th—Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 22nd—Rider Dinner 5-7PM

Meetings at a Glance

- 3rd—ALR 7PM
- 4th—MCL 7PM
- 10th—Legion eBoard 7PM
- 13th—SAL 7PM
- 17th—Calendar 7PM (April/May)
- 20th—Auxiliary—Officers 6:30PM—General 7PM
- 24th—Legion General 7:30PM

**Our Legion Officers are cooking for you!!
Open to all Members and guests!**



Alafia Chapter Post 148 American Legion Monthly Dinner



\$12.00 Donation
Saturday Feb 8, 2025
5PM - 7PM
Open to the Public

**Mississippi Pot Roast, homemade Mashed Potatoes,
and fresh Steamed Green Beans**

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

SUPER BOWL

Party

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2025
6PM

DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS
Russell's Wings!

HAPPY *Valentine's* DAY

Unit 148 American Legion Auxiliary

Invites you to an
Enchanting Valentine's
Evening with dinner and dancing!

Saturday, February 15th-5-10pm

Dinner—5pm-\$12—Pork Tenderloin with Peppercorn Sauce
Egg Noodles, Wedge Salad, & a Roll

Entertainment: *D.J. Tim Goodrich*

Ghirardelli Chocolate Fountain

Proceeds go to the Dept. President

Special project *Operation 300*

RSVP Preferred through the Facebook event

Basket
& Bottle
Raffles

50/50

Jello &
Pudding
Shots

Hosted by: Post 148 American Legion Auxiliary

Charred by: Eileen Sullivan and Jeannie Dion

7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview, FL 33578



\$10.00 Donation
Saturday Feb 22, 2025

American Legion Riders
Alafia Chapter Post 148
Rider Dinner



Ronnie's Meatloaf, served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, and Green Beans.

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

Updates!

Be sure to follow our main Facebook page for updates and events!

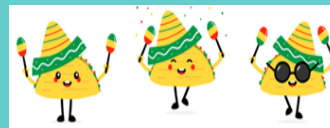
Riverview American Legion Alafia Post 148

We also have a new Facebook page to follow!
Alafia Post 148 Lounge

In the coming weeks, we will be adding lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays, in addition to Taco Tuesday & Sloppy Joes on Thursdays.

Check our Facebook pages for updates!

Tacos & Sloppy Joes—Starting at 11:30AM
Tuesdays & Thursdays



NOW
EVERY FRIDAY
7PM-11PM

KARAOKE

BK
ENTERTAINMENT



Karaoke
Host
Bill Knowles
813-666-5924

WINGS—EVERY SUNDAY

1pm-3pm \$1/wing (subject to change)



Hot, Mild, BBQ, Garlic Parmesan, Teriyaki, or Naked
With Blue Cheese or Ranch, and Celery

Feb 9th & 23rd
March 9th & 23rd
"Cover Your Six"



1pm-3pm

\$2.00 for two sets of three cards

\$1.00 for each additional three card pack

Cover 6 individual cards (on TWO strips)

win 75% of pot

Jackpot Round wins 100% of pot.



March Calendar at a Glance

- ◆ Women's History Month
- 23rd-30th—Military World Games in Switzerland
- 1st—Seabee Birthday
- 2nd—ALA Bake Sale
- 3rd—Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4th—Hug a GI Day
- 8th—Legion Dinner (All Units) 5-7PM
- 9th—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13th—K9 Veterans Day
- 15th—102nd American Legion Birthday
- 15th—Paint Party (See flyer)
- 17th—St. Patrick's Day
- 21st—Rosie the Riveter Day
- 29th—Rider Dinner 5-7PM

Meetings at a Glance

- 3rd—ALR 7PM
- 4th—MCL 7PM
- 10th—Legion eBoard 7PM
- 13th—SAL 7PM
- 20th—Auxiliary—Officers 6:30PM—General 7PM
- 24th—Legion General 7:30PM

**Our Legion Officers are cooking for you!!
Open to all Members and guests!**



Alafia Chapter Post 148 American Legion Monthly Dinner



\$12.00 Donation
Saturday March 8, 2025
5PM - 7PM
Open to the Public

**Homemade Chicken Broccoli Alfredo,
served with a salad and garlic bread**

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

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

FRIDAYS

fish fry

1) FISH* - 2 pieces (Baked/Fried)	\$9.00
2) Shrimp* - 8 pieces (Coconut/Regular)	\$10.00
3) COMBO Choose any 2 2 pc of Fish (Baked/Fried) - 6 pc of Shrimp (Coconut/Regular)	\$13.00
4) Chicken Tenders* - 3 pieces	\$8.00
5) THE WORKS 2 pc Fish (Baked/Fried) & 2 pc Chicken & 6 pc Shrimp (Coconut/Regular)	\$16.00

* Items can be air fried, must be requested

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE
French Fries or Onion Rings or Sweet Potato Fries
Hush Puppies
Homemade Coleslaw
Homemade Sauces

Painting Legions INSPIRED

Saturday, March 15th 4-7PM

Legion Family Members and Guests Only

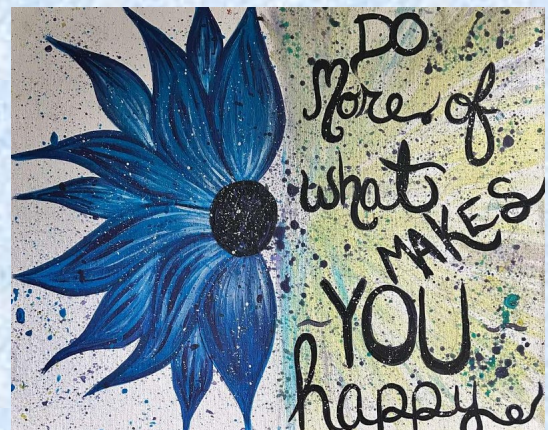
Guests must be signed in by a current Member

\$30 per seat All Painting Supplies Included
Held in the Hall at the Legion

The event will be shared online as soon sign-up is opened.

The Creative Side Studio

Hosted By: American Legion Post 148—7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview, FL 33578



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 16th
2-4PM \$12 donation/person

**Corned Beef, Cabbage,
Potatoes, Carrots,
Roll and Dessert**

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

AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Department of Florida District 15
Past Commanders & Past Presidents Banquet

Join us as we honor the Past Commanders, Presidents, and Directors of the 15th District

Saturday, March 22, 2025 @ 5:00pm
American Legion Post 148 | 7240 US-301, Riverview, FL 33578

Tickets: \$15 (mail checks to Post 148, Attn: Kevin O'Donnell)
Menu: charcuterie cheese board, mozzarella sticks, baked ziti with sausage or meatballs, garlic bread, and dessert

Please bring a wrapped item for the blind auction.
There will also be a 50/50 drawing

A portion of the proceeds benefit Boys & Girls State Transportation

See District 15 Facebook page for link to digital RSVP page or email POC below.
POC for questions: ALA 15th District Secretary Andrea Sherman
aladistrict15florida@gmail.com || (813) 455-3650

In Memory of
Terry

American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter Post 148 Rider Dinner
5:00 PM Saturday, March 29, 2025 **\$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

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Pinochle



9:30AM Mondays & Fridays
Double Deck / Partners

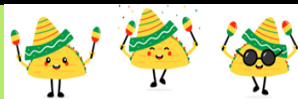
The next CALENDAR MEETING is scheduled for Monday, February 17th @ 7PM

S.A.L. FRYING FRIDAY

5:00-7:00PM every Friday

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

Taco Tuesdays!



Every Tuesday 11:30am-3pm

\$3 each or 2 for \$5 / Taco Salad \$6
Combo—\$6

(2 Tacos w/Chips & Salsa or Cheese Dip)

Sloppy Joe's

Every Thursday

11:30AM - 2:30PM or until sold out



Sandwich & Chips - \$5.75

Cover Your Six!



See calendar for dates each month—1pm-3pm

\$2 for two sets of three cards

\$1 for each additional three card pack

Cover two FULL strips (6 cards)—win 75% of pot

Jackpot round wins 100% of pot!

Progressive Jackpot—Details provided during the game

WINGS—EVERY SUNDAY

1pm-3pm \$1/wing (subject to change)



Hot, Mild, BBQ, Garlic Parmesan, Teriyaki, or Naked

With Blue Cheese or Ranch, and Celery

ALA Bake Sale—1st Sunday of every month starting at 8am, during the flea market. Please come out and pick up some goodies and support the ALA, which supports Veterans in our area!!



"Flea Market"

Every Sunday from 7am-12 noon

Managed by: Susie White



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

RED FRIDAY
REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

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

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The American Legion Auxiliary and
The Sons of the American Legion