



THE 148'r NEWSLETTER

The American Legion Alafia Post 148

February - March 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—7:00 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



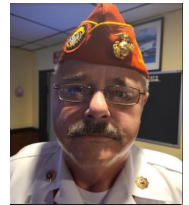
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

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,

Please see our updated hours on the first page. Times will remain flexible, depending on the number of Members present, holidays, events, etc. We are also going to do a trial run of music on Saturday nights, starting in February. I am really excited about our events and activities for February and March. I hope that you all get a chance to join us for them. Do not forget to show your 2024 membership to get your new RED key card, in case you don't have one yet. We welcome your company and participation.

Thanks to all the Post, Unit Officers, and Volunteers that contribute to our Memberships, Events, Kitchen Dinners, Rides, Entertainment, Newsletter, Queen of Hearts, etc., in order to keep our Post functioning and making it a wonderful place to come and hang out with our Veterans, Friends, and Families. I am truly grateful for the hard work that you all accomplish, complete with astonishing success—you all genuinely ROCK!

Once again, it is appreciated and hope to see you all at Home Post!

For God and Country!

Lynnette Stokes / Commander



Veterans Service Office (VSO) View

Happy New Year to all of our Members and their families! My name is Doug Woodring, a Pennsylvania Native who has lived in the Tampa Bay area since 1996 and a Riverview resident for over 5 years. I've been the Alafia Post 148 Veterans Service Officer for about 3 1/2 months, taking over for Mike O'Dell, who we thank for his service. As a retired Navy Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) Veteran with a 100% permanent and total disabled VA rating. I've been a member of Post 148 for almost 2 years and enjoy the camaraderie at Post 148. I hope to see all of you at the Post General Membership meetings or in the Lounge. You can reach me on my cell, 813-417-0352 or email ServiceOfficer148@Yahoo.com. I am starting this column as a way to communicate with the membership and provide resources available to Veterans and their dependents as well as special events and programs that can save Veterans time, money, and provide helpful information. A few notes for this month's 148'r newsletter.

- The VSO is more than just someone to ask about Department of Veteran's Affairs issues. I'm a Post member and family resource, who can connect you with not only VA, but also with community and local government assistance for Veteran's and their dependents.
- I cannot render assistance if I am unaware of a need. If you know of any Veterans in need, please let me know as soon as possible.
- I pledge to do my very best to assist you with your issue. This does not mean there will always be an immediate resolution, but we will work together and with Post leadership to determine the best course of action.
- Check the March calendar, as I will be holding office hours (the good kind) at the Post weekly for a few hours on a first-come, first-served basis, as I'm retiring from Federal Service on 29 Feb 2024. I feel it's important to make myself available on a regular basis and connect with fellow Vets.
- **Veteran Benefit**—Have you heard of the Lifeline or the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)? These are FCC programs that can help you save on your monthly cell phone (select carriers), a mobile device, and internet bill. As a Veteran receiving compensation, a VA Pension, or VA survivor benefits, you qualify. Go to <https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline-consumers> for information, eligibility and enrollment. It's a fairly straightforward process taking a minimal effort on your part to apply and then contact your service provider. You should sign up for Lifeline, if eligible first, as you are then automatically qualified for ACP.

Please welcome the following Members to Post 148

NEW MEMBERS

Pete Mason
Devon Wilson
Stephen Kofron
James Renfrow

Andi Sina
John Bergeron
Mark Donohue
Shawn Towne

TRANSFERS

Lutreva "Lulu" Byrd-Gilchrist
Pablo Rodrigues

Wilfred Rios
Randall Talaski

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Greetings from the Riders!

Wow, can the weather get any better for riding? I think not!! We are hitting the ground (pavement) and putting in the riding miles. Our membership is up and I want to thank everyone for joining us for another year. The monthly Rider dinners are back in full swing with Shepherd's Pie in February and Chicken Alfredo in March. (Meals are subject to change). Our dinners are on the last Saturday of each month. Come on out and get some home-cooked "yummy"! In February we will participate in the 8th Annual American Legion Riders Summit in Orlando, 3 fun-filled days of learning. The summit provides the opportunity for Riders to learn various tools to make us better Riders, and of course, lots of camaraderie!

The American Legion was founded on 4 pillars, with Children & Youth being one of them. The Riders rise up to meet those programs. On March 16th, we are hosting a benefit poker run for an amazing 10 year old, Mason Fox, who has an advanced form of Leukemia. His father is a Hillsborough County Firefighter, his aunt is a member of the Riders and an Auxiliary member, and his grandfather is a Rider and a Legion member. You don't have to be a Rider to participate. Join us for fun, raffle baskets, 50/50s, and to meet some local First Responders.

With that, have a great Spring and "four wheels move the body, but two wheels move the soul".

Ride for the Cause, not the Applause!

Angela Ritter (TnA)

Director 2023-2024—ALR Chapter 148

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Dear Auxiliary,

The Auxiliary will be holding the annual Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser for the American Auxiliary Emergency Fund this year. The dinner will be on February 10th. It will also be the Wedding ceremony and reception for Margaret Blazer and Walt Nea. The Ceremony and Dinner will be from 5pm-7pm. The entertainment and reception will be from 7pm-11pm. The dinner will cost \$12 per person, which includes Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, dinner roll, and of course, wedding cake for dessert. We will also have a 50/50 drawing, basket raffles, and entertainment by DJ Tim Goodrich.

Our 15th District Picnic for Boys & Girls State will be held on February 17th at Post 138. The tickets are \$12 per person and can be purchased at the picnic. For further info, please see the flyer in the newsletter.

The Auxiliary will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary of our Charter with a gala. Please look for further info in our April/May newsletter.

For God and Country

#ringyourbell

Julia Arndt-President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Hello,

Check the first page for our updated hours. Be sure to show your 2024 Membership card to the bartender in order to receive your new RED key card, if you haven't yet done so.

Please come out and support our weekly Bingo, starting at 6:30pm every Wednesday. As well as our weekly Fish Fry every Friday from 5-7pm.

SAL Post 148



We are sad to report that

Matthew Krupa

Walt Raysick

*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
- Week of 12th—National Salute to Veteran Patients
- 2nd—Groundhog Day
- 3rd—Four Chaplains Day
- 4th—USO Birthday
- 10th—Valentine's Dinner & Party (Also celebrating the wedding of Margaret Blazer & Walt Nea)
- 13th—Mardi Gras
- 14th—Valentine's Day
- 19th—Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

February Meetings at a Glance

- 5th—ALR at 7pm
- 6th—MCL at 7pm
- 8th—SAL at 7pm
- 12th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 15th—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 19th—Calendar Meeting at 7pm (April/May)
- 26th—Legion General Membership



Boys & Girls State PICNIC

SAT. FEB. 17TH 12-4PM

**THE ANNUAL PICNIC
BENEFITS THE 15TH
DISTRICT BOYS &
GIRLS STATE
TRANSPORTATION.**

WHERE: American Legion Post 138
5535 W Prescott St.
Tampa, 33616

COST: \$12 per ticket
(children 10 & under free)

MENU: hamburgers, hotdogs, brats,
sides

- Dessert Bake Sale
- Gift basket & 50/50 raffle
- "Adult Beverage" raffles
- Games for young & old w/ prizes
- Bounce house
- Boat Rides

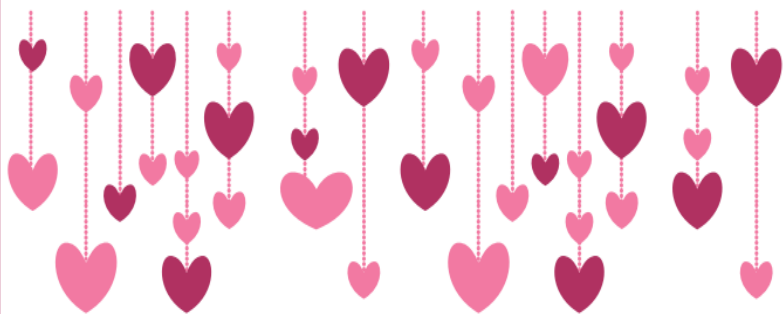


**THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY**

Please RSVP with your ENTIRE POST attendance
district15@legionmail.org

Please make checks payable to 15th District & "Picnic" in memo

Valentine's



Saturday February 10, 2024
Wedding

You are Cordially Invited to
Margaret Blazer & Walter Nea Wedding Ceremony 5p.m.

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

\$12.00 Donation per person

Dinner Served: 5:30- 7p.m. Baked Ham, Scalloped potatoes, Green beans, dinner roll, salad, cake & Fountain w/ Belgian Chocolate.

Entertainment: D.J. Tim Goodrich

50/50. Raffle Basket's, Jello & Pudding Shot's

Proceeds go to Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Hosted By: AL Aux. Unit #148
Please RSVP to Jeannie Dion or Margaret Blazer by Feb. 4th

February Entertainment

Fridays
Anywhere Karaoke—2nd & 16th
Bill Knowles—9th & 23rd



**We are booking Saturday night
Entertainment on a trial basis.
See the next page for schedule.**



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

LIVE MUSIC SATURDAYS!!

We are booking Saturday night entertainment on a trial basis!

3rd—Jimmy Keith Band

10th—D.J. Tim Goodrich (Valentine's Party)

17th—Pure Classic Gold

24th—The Hi-Tops



American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter Post 148 Rider Dinner

\$10.00 Donation

Saturday Feb 24, 2024



**Angela's Shepherd's pie, served with
Cabbage and Bread**

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

March Calendar at a Glance

- Women's History Month
- 3rd—Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4th—Hug a GI Day
- 5th—Seabee Birthday
- 10th—Daylight Savings begins
- 13th—K-9 Veterans Day
- 15th—American Legion Birthday
- 17th—St. Patrick's Day
- 21st—Rosie the Riveter Day
- 24th = Palm Sunday
- 25th—Medal of Honor Day
- 29th—National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- 29th—Good Friday
- 31st—Easter

March Meetings at a Glance

- 4th—ALR at 7pm
- 5th—MCL at 7pm
- 11th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 14th—SAL at 7pm
- 21st—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 25th—Legion General Membership at 7pm

March Entertainment

Anywhere Karaoke—1st, 15th & 29th

Bill Knowles—8th & 22nd



Live Music Saturdays



Queen of Hearts
drawing every
Saturday at 7pm



American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter 148



Benefit & Poker Run Saturday, March 16th 2024

A benefit for the family of Mason Fox



On April 26, 2023, 10 year old Mason Fox was diagnosed with high risk B Cell-Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He is currently under going treatment requiring countless rounds of chemo, lumbar punctures, and long hospital stays.



Mason has a heart of gold and if you ask him, he bleeds blue (Tampa Bay Lightning Blue). He is the oldest of four boys; extremely bright and loves school. He is also a whiz at hockey and misses his team and the ice.

His father, Michael and Uncle Joe are Hillsborough County Firefighters, his Uncle Fred is a Pasco County Firefighter; his grandfather, Joe, is an American Legion Member (US Army Retired), and his Aunt Carol is an American Legion Auxiliary member.

1st Stop
American Legion Post 148
7240 US Hwy 301 South,
Riverview 33578

2nd Stop
American Legion Post 325
3412 US Hwy 301, Unit 103
Ellenton 34222

3rd Stop
Peggy's Corral
4511 US Hwy 41 N.
Palmetto, FL 34221

4th Stop
Pop-A-Bear Bar & Grill
4907 S. 50th St.
Tampa, FL 33619

Registration: 9:30am/Last Bike in: 3:00 pm
\$15 Registration Includes: Poker Hand & Meal
Pay-out for HIGH / LOW HAND



LIVE MUSIC SATURDAYS!!

2nd—Jacob Hunt

9th—Leesah Stiles & Krista Joy

16th—TBD

23rd—Bert & Friends

30th—TBD



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 17 from 2pm-4pm

Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes,
Carrots, Roll and Dessert
\$10 donation/person

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



American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter Post 148 Rider Dinner

\$10.00 Donation

Saturday March 30, 2024



**Alice's Chicken Alfredo,
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, February 19th 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%
- See Bartender for full rules/details
- Pot rolls over to next week if Q of Hearts not drawn
- Winning ticket holder will receive a free drink chip
- \$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

