

THE AMERICAN LEGION ALAFIA POST 148



June - July 2025



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
OFFICERS 2025-2026**



**AMERICAN LEGION
OFFICERS 2024-2025**



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
OFFICERS 2025-2026**

MEETING: 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—6:30 PM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP—7:00 PM

MEETINGS: EXECUTIVE BOARD—2nd MONDAY
OF THE MONTH—7:00PM
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP—4TH MONDAY
OF THE MONTH—7:30PM

MEETING:
1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00PM

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
Asst Sgt at Arms.....Michele Smith

Executive Committee:
Susan King Ernie Perez
Ronni Groenthal

Past President.....Georgia Mackenzie

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 Commander.....Lynette Stokes
Lounge Manager.....Ronni Groenthal

Director.....Andy Davis
Assistant Director.....Ronni Groenthal
Adjutant.....Gerri Turner
Finance OfficerEd Linde
Secretary.....Gerri Turner
Historian.....Andrea Leon
Chaplain.....Tom Stone
Sergeant at Arms.....Leeland Smith
Road Captain.....
Membership.....Jennifer Jeffrey
Safety Officer.....George Sutton



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
OFFICERS 2025 - 2026**



**SCOUTING AMERICA
OFFICERS 2024-2025**



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OFFICERS 2025-2026**

MEETING:
2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00PM

MEETINGS: (at Grace United Methodist Church)
Pack—Every Tuesday at 6:45PM
PACK COMMITTEE—4TH SUNDAY EVERY
MONTH 7:00PM

MEETING:
1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH—7:00PM

Commander.....Mark Getty
1st Vice.....Carroll Weese
2nd Vice.....Ryan Cansler
Adjutant.....Anthony Galimidi
Finance Officer.....Kevin O'Donnell
Sergeant of Arms.....Ronin Smith
Chaplain.....Tom Stone

Executive Board:

Ted Martine Alan Saeger
Ronnie Pimental Cliff Menting

Past Commander.....Micah Saeger

Charter Org Rep.....David Jones (USN)
Pack Committee Chair.....Kurt Gardner
Cubmaster.....Alex Perschall (USA)
Asst. Cubmaster....Michelle Barker (USAF)
Asst. Cubmaster....Kristin Spahlinger Jordan
Pack Treasurer.....Mike Sakr

Commandant.....Ron Essick
Senior Vice.....Michael Hernando
Junior Vice.....Mike Nolan
Judge Advocate.....Tommy Reichard
Adjutant.....Jack Skelding
Paymaster.....Larry Westcott
Sergeant at Arms.....Yahahn Thompson
Chaplain.....Berry Cobb

Hours of Operation:

Monday—10:00AM-9:00PM

Tuesday-Thursday

11:00AM-9:00PM

Friday: 10:00AM—12:00AM

Saturday: 11:00AM-10:00PM

Sunday: 11:00AM-9:00PM

Hours Subject to Change

E-Mail: Commander.al148@gmail.com

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Facebook: Riverview American Legion Alafia Post 148

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor: Missy Finkbeiner

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7240 US Highway 301
Riverview, FL 33578

Mailing Address:

Same as Physical

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FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Hello Legion 148 Family,

Wow how time flies! My time as the Commander is coming to a close. I am not seeking re-election due to medical issues and family issues. It's been an honor to try and make things better for all of us at our Legion. I believe that we have moved in the right direction to make 148 a more enjoyable place for people to come in and join us.

Memorial Day was another great event at our Veterans Park, for those of you that attended, I'm sure you'd agree. Thanks again to our Members that come to the park to fix the hotdogs and hand out the cookies. I heard lots of great feedback on what a wonderful job that was done.

We've managed to get a few things done around the Legion, but we need your help in getting even more done. Please make sure you support Andy Davis, who will be our new Commander, along with all of the Officers that have graciously stepped forward to bring us to the next level. Once again, thank you for allowing me to be your Commander.

All the best,
Your Commander
Mike O'Dell

Doug Woodring - Veterans Service Officer (VSO)



Greetings Legion Members, here's this months update!

South Hillsborough VA Library Closed—The library services have moved back to the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. For now, I recommend going to the Veteran's Memorial Park if you need to visit with a VSO for all of your VA benefits and claims needs.

Decreased suicide rate among women Veterans 2021 and 2022 (The latest year which data is available)—VA Suicide Prevention programs are playing a part. The decrease was 24.1% for 2021-2022. The decline tells us VA programs may be effectively reaching this group. In addition to being the fastest growing population in the Veteran community, women are the fastest growing group of Veterans who use the VA services. Current resources available:

- **Women Veteran Program Managers**—Available at every VA medical center to ensure women receive tailored care and are connected to necessary services.
- **Expanded mental health care access**—A complete range of care, including telehealth and peer support, is available to address PTSD, depression, anxiety and substance use disorders.
- **Military sexual trauma services**—VA offers free services and resources to meet survivors where they are in their recovery.
- **Whole Health Approach**—This type of treatment includes traditional care and therapies, like yoga and meditation, to manage stress and build resilience.
- **Postpartum and perinatal mental health**—These programs focus on health during and after pregnancy, addressing postpartum depression and related concerns.

As the women Veterans population has grown, it's become a bigger focus for VA. VA continues to create support systems and outreach programs to reduce suicide among women Veterans and improve their overall quality of life.

Doug Woodring
Post 148 Service Officer

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Greetings Fellow Riders and Members!

Another year is in the books. We've put on a lot of miles together. Even though we didn't achieve the Merry-Go-Round trophy this year, I believe we still have a good chance of keeping the Round Robin trophy. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for all of you participating in these functions. We carry this district. I just want to say THANK YOU! To all of you Riders. You all made me look good. Thank You! To all of our Officers. You all keep me straight. I'll be at it again this coming year. We have our new Officers for 2025/2026. See the first page for the Officer list. Installation of Officers will be held on June 29th from 2-4PM.

As you may have heard, we are putting together a poker run, in Terry Johnson's memory, to benefit Boy's and Girl's State. This will be July 19th. We are raffling off a TP9SF pistol. See our lovely mixologists for tickets. There will be baskets and bottle raffles. Please get with me or Ed Linde if you would like to donate to the cause. Please show us some love by supporting our Rider Dinners, the last Saturday of every month. Our Road Captain has made our ride list available for other Members who don't ride. Feel free to take one and join us. They are located on the Rider's board in the restroom hallway.

It's been a real privilege being your Director and I'm looking forward to another great year.

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Hello from the SAL

We've had our elections for 2025/2026 Officers. See the first page for our updated Officer list.

Installation of Officers will be held on June 29th from 2-4PM.

Don't forget every Wednesday is Bingo night, starting at 6:30pm. The SAL Fish Fry is every Friday from 5-7PM!

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Dear Auxiliary,

Congrats to our elected Officers for 2025-2026. I look forward to working with you all.

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 **Asst Sergeant at Arms**-Michele Smith
Executive Committee-Susan King Ernie Perez Ronni Groenthal **Past President**-Georgia Mackenzie

Department Convention will be from June 12th-15th in Orlando.

Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 15th from 11am-1pm. (See flyer for details)

Installation of New Officers will be on Sunday, June 29th from 2-4pm. Officers to wear white shirts with blue or black skirts or pants. All others, please wear an Auxiliary shirt.

See flyer for the James A Haley Veterans Hospital Wish List.

For God and Country

Julia Arndt-President



FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER

Celebrating Six Months as Your Lounge Manager!

Time flies when you're surrounded by great company! It's hard to believe that 6 months have already passed since I stepped into the role of Lounge Manager. Every day has been a wonderful experience, getting to know our amazing patrons and working with the talented team that brings this lounge to life. From curating special events to crafting an inviting atmosphere, my goal has been to make each visit memorable. Whether you've been with us for years or just recently discovered our lounge, your presence makes all the difference.

I'm thrilled to introduce the newest member of our team, Rebe. Rebe is a military spouse and Auxiliary member of our Post. With a passion for mixology and a talent for crafting unforgettable drinks, Rebe brings fresh energy to our Lounge. She has spent years perfecting the art of cocktails, ensuring each drink isn't just a sip—but an experience. Whether you're in the mood for a classic Old Fashioned or something adventurous, you're in for a treat.

Next time you visit, be sure to say hello and let Rebe shake up something special just for you!

Cheers!

Ronni



FROM THE BOY SCOUTS

Introducing David Jones (US Navy), Legionnaire, and Scouting leader for the last 14 years. David has held many positions in his Scouting journey, holding Pack, Troop and Crew leadership positions along the way. He has also held Scouting District and Scout Camp positions. David is a beaded Wood Badge leader. Wood Badge is the highest level of Scout Training an adult can achieve. This training is held in the same regard as the rank of Eagle. His son (19) is an Eagle Scout, and his daughter is in Pack 637 on her own journey to Eagle.

David proudly serves as both the Scouting Chair and Charter Organization Rep for American Legion Alafia Post 148, playing a vital role in guiding and supporting Scout Pack 637. With a passion for youth development and civic duty, David ensures that the Pack operates under strong leadership and within a supportive, values-driven environment where Scouts can thrive in character, community service and personal growth. In his dual role, David acts as the key liaison between Post 148 and Scouting America, helping to align both organizations around shared values and missions. The American Legion provides essential resources, meeting spaces, and mentorship from its veteran members, while David ensures Pack 637 remains a vibrant, impactful program within the local community. His leadership strengthens the connection between generations of service and the future leaders of tomorrow. The relationship between the American Legion Alafia Post 148 and Scout Pack 637 is more than administrative—it's a living, working partnership grounded in patriotism, leadership and community service. Together, we will participate in events such as Memorial Day ceremonies, flag retirement services, Veterans Day parades, and community clean-up projects. These shared experiences allow young Scouts to learn the meaning of service from those who have lived it, while giving the Legion Members the opportunity to shape and inspire future generations.

Thanks to David and the dedicated Members of Post 148, the collaboration between the American Legion and Scouting America will flourish—instilling values of honor, duty and community in every Scout who walks through our doors.



Please welcome the following new and transferred Members to Post 148

NEW MEMBERS

Rodney Sesler
Richard Scarnell

Andrew Powanda
Rafael Beltran

TRANSFERS

Bradford Brooks
Anthony Luciano Geigel
Jasmine Bellard
Robert Temples

Marjorie Emerick
Douglas Jordan
Joseph Bianco



We are sad to report that

Walt Nea Matthew Krupa Bruno Duerr Ruth East
Walter Murrell Henry Mart William Hollash

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

June Calendar at a Glance

- ◆ PTSD Awareness Month
- ◆ Home Ownership Month
- ◆ 8th-14th—National Flag Week
- ◆ 12th-15th—FL Dept Legion Convention in Orlando
- 6th—D-Day
- 11th—Women Veterans Day
- 14th—Army Birthday
- 14th—Flag Day
- 15th—Father's Day
- 19th—Juneteenth
- 23rd—Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- 27th—PTSD Awareness Day
- 29th—Installation of Officers (All Units)

Meetings at a Glance

- 2nd—ALR 7PM
- 3rd—MCL 7PM
- 9th & 23rd—VSO On-Site 4-6PM
- 9th—Legion eBoard 7PM
- 12th—SAL 7PM
- 16th—Calendar 7PM (August/September)
- 19th—Auxiliary—Officers 6:30PM—General 7PM
- 23rd—Legion General 7:30PM
- 26th—MCL Officers 12-1PM

The AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OF ALAFIA POST 148

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS *For* LEGION YEAR 2025-2026

SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH
2PM-4PM

Lunch will be served



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





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
**FATHER'S DAY
BRUNCH**
**SUNDAY, JUNE 15
FROM 11AM-1PM**




Breakfast Casserole
Biscuits N Gravy
Pancakes N Grits
Chicken croissant sandwiches
Cole Slaw
Potato Salad
Chips
Father's eat FREE
All others \$10.00

American Legion Auxiliary
Alafia Post 148
7240 Highway 301 South
Riverview, FL 33578
813-677-6529





Saturday, June 14th 2-4PM

Cookout—Burgers & Hot dogs

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Bring a side to share



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

JUNE is *National*
PTSD AWARENESS
MONTH

**National PTSD
Awareness Day**
June 27

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE



Visit—www.veteranscrisisline.net/

Dial 988 then press 1 - Chat Online

Text—838255

24/7, Confidential crisis support for Veterans and
their loved ones



\$10.00 Donation

Saturday June 28, 2025

5pm - 7pm

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



Ronni's cheesesteak and fries

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

**AMERICAN
LEGION**



**KARAOKE
NIGHT**

**OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

**HOSTED BY
DJ BILL KNOWLES**

**7-11PM
FRIDAY NIGHTS**



**June 8th & 22nd
"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.

Must be member of Legion Family to play



July Calendar at a Glance

- ◆ 17th-19th—Alive Day
- 4th—Independence Day
- 21st—National Junk Food Day
- 25th—National Hire a Veteran Day
- 27th—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- 28th—National Buffalo Soldiers Day
- 29th—Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary

Meetings at a Glance

- 1st—MCL 7PM
- 7th—ALR 7PM
- 10th—SAL 7PM
- 14th—Legion eBoard 7PM
- 14th & 28th—VSO on-site 4-6PM
- 17th—Auxiliary—Officers 6:30PM—General 7PM
- 28th—Legion General Meeting 7:30PM
- 31st—MCL Officers Meeting 12-1PM

JAMES A HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL WISH LIST

New Fleece Blankets, Twin Size
New Men's Athletic Shorts, All Sizes
New Men's Underwear, All Sizes
New Men's Undershirts, All Sizes
New Men's Sweatshirts, All Sizes (no hoods, zippers or strings)
New Men's Shoes, Sizes 8-13 (slip-on-casual/close-toe shoes without laces).
New Men's Swin Trunks, Sizes M-XXL
Unisex New Athletic Pants, All Sizes
Unisex New Athletic Shirts/T-Shirts, All Sizes
New Women's Underwear, All Sizes

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Body Wash/Liquid, Combs, Hair-Brushes,
Denture Adhesive, Deodorant, Hand and Body Lotion,
Nail Clippers, Disposable Razors, Shampoo, Toothpaste,
Alcohol Free Mouthwash

American Legion Auxiliary, Alafia Post 148
Place in box by the Office in the Lounge
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Friday, July 4th
2pm-4pm

ANNUAL COOKOUT
BURGERS & HOT DOGS

Bring a side to share



If you cook it,
they will come.

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



Post Family Dinner
Open to all Members!

Saturday, July 12th
5pm-7pm



Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans,
Homemade Slaw & Potato Salad
Banana Pudding

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

July 6th & 20th "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.

Must be member of Legion Family to play

American Legion Alafia Chapter 148

Terry Johnson Memorial Poker Run

PROCEEDS GO TO BOYS & GIRL STATE AND OTHER LEGION PROGRAMS

SATURDAY JULY 19
\$15 PER RIDER/PASSENGER
\$5 EXTRA HANDS

REGISTRATION STARTS 9AM
1ST BIKE OUT 10AM
LAST BIKE IN 4PM
BEST HAND \$100
WORST HAND \$50

STARTS AND ENDS AT AMERICAN LEGION CHAPTER POST 148
7240 US 301 RIVERVIEW FL 33578

50/50, BOTTLE & BASKET RAFFLES
PULLED PORK AND POTATO SALAD

Stops at American Legion Posts 72, 3 and AMVETS 44

AMERICAN LEGION KARAOKE NIGHT

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HOSTED BY DJ BILL KNOWLES

7-11PM FRIDAY NIGHTS



\$10.00 Donation
Saturday, July 26, 2025
5pm—7pm

American Legion Riders
Alafia Chapter Post 148
Rider Dinner



MEAL TBD

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

LET'S GET
social



LIKE FOLLOW TAG

ALAFIA POST 148
LOUNGE

Follow our
Facebook pages

Riverview American
Legion Alafia Post 148



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

(Subject to Change)

Pinochle



9:30AM Mondays & Fridays
Double Deck / Partners

The next CALENDAR MEETING
is scheduled for Monday,
June 16th @ 7PM



Taco Tuesdays!

Every Tuesday 11:30am-3pm

BAR BINGO!

5-7PM

Every Tuesday



Wild Wing Wednesdays

12PM-7PM



SLOPPY JOE'S

Every Thursday
11:30AM - 2:30PM



S.A.L. FRYING FRIDAYS

5:00-7:00PM every Friday

*Fish, Shrimp,
Chicken, and
More!*

WINGS & THINGS

WINGS

6 FOR \$7 12 FOR \$14
20 FOR \$23

THINGS \$5

SOUTHWEST EGGROLLS
ONION RINGS
MOZZARELLA STICKS
JALAPENO POPPERS

Fridays at 7:30

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!!

BAKE SALE

"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

Hosted by:

The American Legion Auxiliary and
The Sons of the American Legion

