



THE 148'r NEWSLETTER

The American Legion Alafia Post 148

December 2023 - January 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



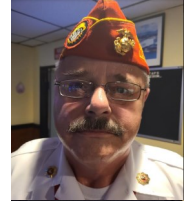
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

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 Officer.....Ed 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.....Walt Raysick
Past Commandant.....Sal DiFonzo

Hours of Operation:

Monday—Saturday:
 Open at 10 AM
 Sunday:
 Open at 11 AM

Bus. Phone: 813-677-6529
Fax: 813-671-4764

E-Mail: Legion148@tampabay.rr.com

Website: www.americanlegionalafiapost148.org

Facebook: American Legion Alafia Post 148

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7240 US Highway 301
Riverview, FL 33578

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Same as Physical

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Greetings,

I am getting excited about our events and activities for 2024. I hope that you all get a chance to review our calendars and join us. Do not forget to review your membership so you can get your new key card. We welcome your participation.

As we approach into this blessed time of year, let us all remember to treat each other with kindness, consideration, and thoughtfulness. It goes a long way, and is welcomed and appreciated.

Many thanks to the Auxiliary, Legion Riders, SAL, and the Marine Corps League for your generous events, donations, and your contributions to the Post. We accomplish so much with wonderful members such as yourselves—your support makes a difference, and it shows!!

Please come and join us for our Legion Christmas Party, as well as for the Kids Christmas Party. A lot of work from our volunteers goes into organizing this and we do appreciate seeing all of our members participate in these wonderful activities.

Don't forget our New Year's Eve Party so we can get together to say goodbye to 2023 and celebrate another successful year for our Legion. Also, my heartfelt thanks to everyone that will be assisting with our Christmas and New Year's activities. Without your help, support and smiling faces, we could not accomplish all these activities at Home Post...you ROCK! Once again, my profound thanks, and look forward to seeing you soon.

For God and Country!

Lynnette Stokes / Commander

A word from our Finance Officer, Andy Davis (new email: al148financeofficer@gmail.com)

Hi All, I would like to take this time and thank you all for supporting our events. Our Post is doing well. Like any other business, we could use more patronage. Please bring, and tell, your friends about us and help get the word out to increase our membership.

Friday nights we have the SAL Fish Fry from 5-7pm. Karaoke begins at 7pm every Friday as well. (I love the coconut shrimp)! We have BINGO every Wednesday night starting at 6:30pm. See the last page of the newsletter for details. The last Saturday of every month (except Nov & Dec) is the Rider dinner. Please keep and check your calendars. The holidays are upon us and we'll be doing all kinds of events.

A few things that have changed and will be changing. You should now know we have a POS system and now accept credit cards. There is a small upcharge for using a card. We have also done away with having a PO Box, effective Dec. 1st. Our physical address is now the mailing address...7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview, FL 33578.

Lori Holsopple is now our Lounge Manager. She and I are working very hard to get things operating a little more smoothly than in the past few months. As for me, I've never done any kind of accounting, and I'm learning fast. Things are starting to fall in line, for both of us, and will only get better from here. Again, THANK YOU ALL for your continuing support!

Membership dues for all of the American Legion Family may be paid online at Legion.org. Links to each are under the About tab.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Hello,

Be sure to pay your Membership dues for 2023-2024 by the end of the year. The dues are \$35. You must have a renewed membership card in order to receive a new door card. Encourage eligible friends and family to join the Legion.

Please come out and support our weekly Fish Fry every Friday from 5-7pm.

The Auxiliary will be hosting the annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday. 9th from noon-2pm.

The annual adult Christmas Party is Friday, 15th.

SAL Post 148



We are sad to report that

Leo Renz

has been transferred to Post Everlasting. May God rest his soul, and provide comfort to his family and friends.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Riders are going strong with December being the last month for renewals. Contact Tom Ritter to renew. The last few months have been busy for the Riders, beautiful weather kept us on the road, with beautiful riders to new and exciting places in Florida.

15th District won the Merry-Go-Round (MGR) trophy for achieving the most points in a month. Post 148 Riders showed up for every ride and was the most represented Post each week. Shoutout to those that participated!

We started planning for our next fundraiser to be held in March. Stay tuned for more info.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Remember those that won't be with their families this year. Take time to reflect on what 2023 meant to you, the good times and the sad times. Make solid resolutions and strive to keep them. Get involved in the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders! We can't stay active without you. Best wishes to all and see you in 2024.

Ride for the Cause, not the Applause!

Angela Ritter (TnA)

Director 2023-2024—ALR Chapter 148

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Dear Auxiliary,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and your families. May your holidays be safe and fun! December is a busy month for the Auxiliary. The 2nd is our 15th District meeting at Post 111. Registration at 9am. Meeting at 10am.

3rd—Monthly Bake Sale/Breakfast. Please bring baked goods by 8am or drop off on Saturday. Leave in the kitchen marked for Bake Sale. Also on the 3rd, we will be having a packing party to sort and make gift bags for the Kids Christmas Party, at the Post at noon.

9th—Serenity Meadows/Hackney Cemetery clean-up from 9-11am. The Kids Christmas Party is from 12-2pm. There will be games, cookie and ornament decorating, and of course, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause will be there for pictures. There will also be a free lunch for each child.

15th—Adult Christmas Party

16th—Wreaths Across American for Serenity Meadows and Hackney Cemeteries. The Ceremony will start at 10am and wreath placement to follow. We will need volunteers to help unload wreaths from the truck and for placement on the graves. This is the 1st year we will be having this ceremony for the Cemeteries we take care of. (a flyer is in the newsletter with a QR code for donations of wreaths so we can do this every year to honor our Military).

General meeting for the 21st has been cancelled so all of our members can enjoy the holidays with their families. Reminder—Please renew your membership dues prior to January 1st. You will need to show your renewed membership in order to get a new door card.

Personally, I would like to thank all our members and our Post family members for all of your support to the Auxiliary and our programs. Without your help and support, we would not be able to accomplish all the things we do for our Military, their families, our community, and our children and youth.

For God and Country

Julia Arndt-President

Please welcome the following Members to Post 148

NEW MEMBERS

Luis A Crespo	Barbara A Manning
Pete S Snow	Jason D Glasscock
Justin Salzwimmer	Andrew S Castor
Phillip R Lynn	Richard E Lyon
Beatriz E Villarejo	Edward J Hailey
Lina M Downing	Richard J O'Neill
Bruce A Komoscar	Damon R McKenzie
Enrique "Javier" Becerril	Jim Hill

TRANSFERS

Robert D Anderson	David Jones
George Sutton	Phyllis Sutton
Chris Teodoro	Douglas E Shively
Marco A Valezquez Cruz	

December Calendar at a Glance

- 1st—Civil Air Patrol Birthday
- 7th—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Hanukkah, Begins at Sunset—Ends on the 15th
- 13th—U.S. National Guard Birthday
- 15th—Adult Christmas Party
- 16th—Veterans Memorial Park—Wreaths Across America at 10am
- 18th—National Wreaths Across America Day
- 20th—MCL Christmas Party 3pm-6pm
- 25th—Christmas Day
- 26th—Kwanzaa Begins—Ends January 1st
- 31st—New Year's Eve

December Meetings at a Glance

- 4th—ALR at 7pm
- 5th—MCL at 7pm
- 11th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 14th—SAL at 7pm
- 18th—Calendar Meeting at 7pm (February/March)
- 21st—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 25th—(Cancelled) Legion General Membership

December Entertainment

Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve—10am—6pm

Christmas Day—Closed

Anywhere Karaoke—1st, 15th & 29th
Bill Knowles—8th & 22nd



Jukebox Night
Every Saturday at 7pm



Queen of Hearts
drawing every
Saturday at 7pm



Scan the QR code to honor our veterans by sponsoring a wreath: \$17 each
Placement ceremony on December 16, 2023 at 10 AM, in our cemetery:
Serenity Meadows Memorial Park
6919 Providence Road, Riverview FL 33578



Toy drop box
located in the
Lounge under
the Queen of
Hearts board.
Drop off by
Dec. 10th!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
**CHILDRENS
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
DECEMBER 9TH
FROM 12-2pm

Fun & Games
Cookie & Ornament Decorating
Picture with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause

Free Hot Dog, Chips & Drink
Free Gift For Each Child

Hosted by
American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Post #148
7240 US Highway 301
Riverview, FL 33578
(813) 677-6529

Post Christmas Party

When: December 15th at 7pm

We will have an Ugly Sweater Contest, along with a White elephant Gift exchange.

White Elephant will start at 7:30pm followed by the Ugly Sweater contest.

White Elephant Rules

Must bring a gift of \$20 or more. **Absolutely NO Gag Gifts!**

1. Each player brings one wrapped gift to contribute to a common pool.
2. Players draw numbers to determine what order they will go in.
3. The first player selects a gift from the pool and opens it.
4. The following players can choose to either pick an unwrapped gift from the pool or steal a previous player's gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen in this way can do the same – choose a new gift or steal from someone else.
5. Each person will get 3 steals.
6. After all players have had a turn, the first player gets a chance to swap the gift he or she is holding for any other opened gift. Anyone whose gift is stolen may steal from someone else (if that person has a steal left). When everyone is out of steals, the game comes to an end. After the first person either steals or keeps their gift, anyone with a steal left may use that steal. We will use the lowest start number and go up until all steals are used.

Anywhere Karaoke & Christmas music

Lotto Board Drawing!

Sandwiches & Snacks

See Bartender for Lotto Board Tickets



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

Happy new year • hello 2024

New Year's Eve Party

Sunday, December 31st—7pm~Midnight

Entertainment: Charlie Imes

Wagon of Cheer Drawing

Champagne Toast Party Favors

Sandwiches & Snacks

Hosted By:
American Legion Alafia Post 148

7240 US Hwy 301
Riverview, FL 33578

Goodbye 2023



January Calendar at a Glance

- 1st—New Year's Day
- 7th—Auxiliary Bake Sale & Breakfast
- 15th—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Just Because—National Days

- 1st—National Bloody Mary Day
- 6th—Take down the Christmas Tree day
- 10th—Peculiar People Day
- 28th—National Blueberry Pancake Day
- 29th—Curmudgeons Day
- 31st—Hell is Freezing Over Day

January Meetings at a Glance

- 1st—ALR at 7pm
- 2nd—MCL at 7pm
- 8th—Legion eBoard at 7pm
- 11th—SAL at 7pm
- 18th—Auxiliary-Officers at 6:30pm-General at 7pm
- 22nd—Legion General Membership at 7pm

January Entertainment

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



Jukebox Night
Every Saturday at 7pm



Queen of Hearts
drawing every
Saturday at 7pm

Monday, January 1st

Bloody Mary's—\$3.50
10am-4pm

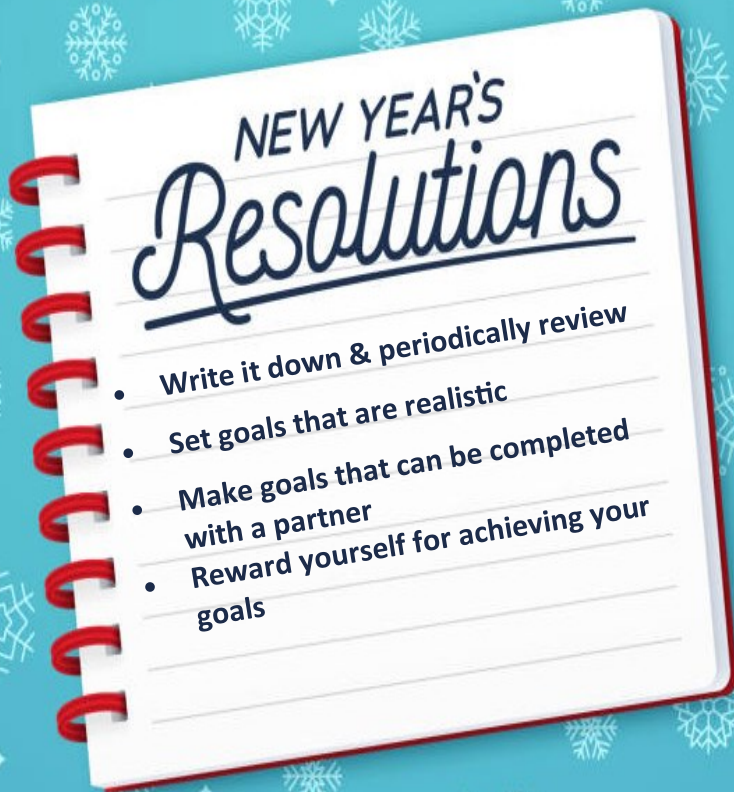


Black-eyed Peas & Ham

Cornbread

Greens





Thank you to all of our Members for your continuing support of our Post. Lets do all we can to make 2024 a great year!

Stay up to date on our activities and events. These can be seen on the TV in the Lounge and through our newsletter/ calendars.

We want to hear from our Members. Talk to any of our Post Officers if you have any questions/concerns, ideas for events & functions, ideas for additional activities, suggestions for the newsletter, etc...

Our growth and success can only be accomplished with the continuing support of our Legion friends and families.

Have a very safe and happy New Year!!



American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter Post 148 Rider Dinner

\$10.00 Donation

Saturday Jan 27, 2024



Smith Clan Lasagna Dinner with Salad, side and Bread

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS (Subject to Change)

The next CALENDAR MEETING is scheduled for Monday, December 18th at 7PM



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!!



“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

