

April 2024

The American Legion Family of Post 166 Doing Things All Year Long

Commander's Corner

I have been asked a few times about the history of our Post and with the anniversary of the grand opening of our Post home coming up in April, this seems like a good opportunity to share our Post story.

In January 1992, the Citrus County Chronicle ran an article that a new American Legion Post was being formed to serve veterans in the Homosassa, Chassahowitzka and Lecanto area. The new Post, #166, was named in honor of a local man from Lecanto, Marine WO4 Arnold Vern Allen (01/22/1915 - 09/16/1991).

The Post was issued a temporary charter on March 30, 1992, and the actual charter was presented to the Post on February 17, 1993, with charter membership of 66 Legionnaire members.

The first official meeting was held at the recreation center in Crystal Oaks on SR 44. Without a Post home, the meetings were held at many venues over the years, including the Lions Club, Homosassa VFW, several restaurants, the Elks, and the Eagles.

The Post was very successful at first and even had an Honor Guard. But after a few years, membership began to decline due to members getting older and others who were tired of not having a Post home. By 2007, the Post membership had shrunk to just twelve members and was in danger of losing its Charter.

The new Commander, with help from the District, was successful in slowly growing membership again and slowly added the Legion Family. First was the Auxiliary who received their charter in 2015 followed by The Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders in 2017.

And finally on February 1, 2019, the Post was able to sign a lease on their first home and the Post held an opening celebration on April 20th, 2019.

Today we have 297 American Legion members, 180 Auxiliary members, 75 SAL members and 22 American Legion Riders. And the Post is growing in membership every day.

Space is tight at times, but with the support of our members we are working hard to grow our Building Fund. To all of you who have attended a monthly Sunday dinner or participated in Tuesday night desserts, 50/50 raffles, the Bonz Games, and the many other activities that support the Fund, and to those who make all of it possible, I extend a sincere Thank You! With everyone's help, I know we will accomplish the goal!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Commander

American Legion Post 166, Homosassa FL

Auxiliary Unit 166

Hello all – Summer is almost upon us and we have voted to suspend our meetings in July and August. Our work to support our Veterans and our community will continue throughout the summer, thanks to our Program Chairmen.

In February, we held our second annual Rummage Sale at Howard's Flea market. We raised a little under \$600.00 which will go to support our Veterans. Thank you to everyone who donated and worked the event and especially to Jan Habich who coordinated everything.



We have a new Raffle Fund Raiser for the Vet Relief Fund, thanks to Patriot Cigars. The proceeds will go to the VetRelief Fund to help those Veterans who find themselves needing temporary help. I hope you will purchase a few to help this great cause.



Service not Self

Debbie Ballew ,President ALA Unit 166

The Sons of the American Legion

I would like to thank everyone who came out on March 2nd to support our Ziti dinner. Our members were generous and donated everything for the meal so that proceeds from the meal and the 50/50 could be donated to the Florida Sherriff's Youth Ranches.



Also, a reminder to all SAL members, please plan to attend our 04/18 meeting. We need to fill all Officers nominations if we are to keep our Charter.

Greg Doody, Squadron Commander Pro Tem

ALR Chapter 166

Our Fundraiser for Veterans Programs is coming up Derby Day on May 4th. This event is open to everyone, no matter what your ride or drive.



Ready to ride?
Bikes, Trikes, Street Rods
Trucks And Automobiles
All Welcome!



6th
Annual
Kentucky
Derby
Ride



Games at
Every Stop!
Prizes for High/Low
Scores

May 4, 2024

American Legion Post 166

Registration opens at 9:00AM

Continental Breakfast Provided

KSU at 10:00AM

Ride Starts and Ends at American Legion Post 166
4250 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa

Crystal River Eagles 4272
5340 W Grover Cleveland Blvd, Homosassa

VFW Floral City 7122
8191 S Florida Ave, Floral City

IRRU
14736 Edward R Noll Dr, Spring Hill

American Legion Post 77
4375 S Little Al Point, Inverness

American Legion Post 155
6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Crystal River,

Best Poker Hand, Meal, Raffles, & More

\$15.00 Per Participant

Ride Sponsored By American Legion Riders Chapter 166
Benefits Post 166 Veterans' Charities
For More information Call Dwight (352) 587-7773

Dwight Dejean, Director ALR Chapter166

MONTHLY EVENTS

Every Tuesday

5:30PM: Pie Slice Sale

\$5.00 suggested donation to the Building Fund

Queen of Hearts

6:15PM: Queen of Heart ticket sales close

6:30PM: Queen of Hearts Drawing

\$1.00 per Ticket

Winning ticket holder receives 70% of the posted amount **if present**; if not present, winning ticket holder receives 50% of above amount

Members only

Must present current membership card if drawn

50/50 Raffle: Following the Queen of Hearts

5PM Tickets Sales Open

7 tickets for \$5.00, no limit

3 Drawings Held

1 – 50% of Ticket Sales

2 – 10 Pull Tabs

3 – 5 Pull Tabs

Must be Present to Win

Open to Members and Guests

The Bonz Game: Following the 50/50 Raffle

3 chances to roll 5 of a kind

\$1.00 to play

Winner receives a chip redeemable for 2 beers, wine or well drinks or one chip for top shelf drinks Excludes specialty Drinks

Open to Members and Guests

Every Friday is Red Shirt Friday

Wear Red to Support the Deployed

Noon to 7PM: Purchase your first drink & receive a chip for the same drink, excludes specialty drinks

6:30PM 50/50 Raffle Followed by The Bonz Game*

**Same rules apply as Tuesday night*

First Monday of the Month

5PM to 8PM: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment

Karaoke has moved back to Monday

First Friday of the Month

Clam Chowder

2PM – 6PM: Make a \$5.00 donation to the Building Fund and receive a cup of Clam chowder

Monday April 1

5PM to 8PM **Karaoke** with Buzzsaw Entertainment

Tuesday, April 2

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 raffle, The Bonz Game

Friday, April 5 – Clam Chowder & Red Shirt Friday

Tuesday, April 9

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 raffle, The Bonz Game

Friday, April 12 –Red Shirt Friday

Sunday, April 14

4PM Monthly Sunday Dinner

Traditional Shepherd's Pie, salad, & cornbread

Tickets available at the Canteen for a \$10.00

Donation to the Building Fund

Tuesday, April 16

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 raffle, The Bonz Game

Wednesday, April 17

3PM to 6PM **Last Chance Band**

Friday, April 19- Red Shirt Friday Activities

Tuesday, April 23

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 raffle, The Bonz Game

Friday, April 26 - Red Shirt Friday Activities

Tuesday, April 30

Queen of Hearts, 50/50 raffle, The Bonz Game

Check our Social Media Accounts

Facebook: [American Legion Post 166 Homosassa, Florida](#)

Website: americanlegionpost166.com

BE THE ONE

To **ASK** veterans in your life how they are doing

To **LISTEN** when a Veteran needs to talk

To **REACH OUT** when a veteran is struggling



Monthly Meetings and Officers

American Legion Post 166

Executive Committee Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 10AM

General Membership Meeting: 2nd Saturday at 10AM

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Post Commander | Bob Ballew |
| 1 st Vice Commander | Dwight DeJean |
| 2 nd Vice Commander/ Adjutant | Lincoln Haynes |
| Finance Officer | Darrell Walters |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Jane Mundis |
| Chaplain | Bill Rowe |
| Historian | Tom Piazza |
| Past Commander / E Board | Marie Conti |
| Judge Advocate / E-Board | Frank Digennaro |
| Executive Board Member | Tom Brown |
| Executive Board Member | Bud Costello |
| Executive Board Member | David Kaczanowski |
| Executive Board Member | Kevin Myhill |
| Executive Board Member | John Surprise |

American Legion Auxiliary

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Wed. at 10:00AM (Sept-June)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| President | Debbie Ballew |
| Vice President | Judy Salo |
| Secretary | Julie Rowe |
| Treasurer | Dee Costello |
| Chaplain | Vicky Eley |
| Historian | Cindy Haynes |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Sherry Walters |
| Executive Committee | Marion Healy |
| Executive Committee | Jan Habich |
| Executive Committee | Lola Strickland |

The Sons of the American Legion

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Saturday at 10AM (Sept-May)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Commander | Greg Doody Pro Tem |
| 1st Vice Commander | Open |
| Treasurer | Bill Rowe |
| Chaplain | Bill Cloke |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Tony Doody |

American Legion Riders

Monthly Meeting: 1st Saturday of the Month at 10:30AM Fun Ride follows **This month on 04/27**

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Director | Dwight DeJean |
| Assistant Director | Bob Ballew |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Debbie Ballew |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Tom Brown |
| Chaplain | Bill Sonnyclaf |
| Historian | Tammy Chainey |
| Road Captain | Pam Murrin |



May the Rest in Peace

Ernest Owens, Legionnaire
Leonard Sempert, Legionnaire
Jim Minton, Legionnaire

American Legion Family Officers

Officers are vital to our American Legion Family. Without them, there will be no meetings and therefore, there will be no Charter. Please consider an Officer's position. Everyone has something to offer to our organization. Nominations are currently being held April and May. You do not need to be nominated – you can nominate yourself!

Installation of Officers

Installation of 2024-2025 Officers will be held on June 22, 2024 at Sugarmill Woods Country Club (1 Douglas St, Homosassa, FL 34446). Breakfast starts at 9AM followed by the Installation of Officers. Members and guests are welcome to attend for a cost of \$23.00. Please RSVP by June 8, 2024 at americanpost166@gmail.com or call the Post at (352)765-3949.

Department Commander's Visit to Post 166



District 4 First Vice Darcy Bockman-Wright, Dept of Florida Commander Michael (Gambler) Raymond, Post 166 Commander Bob Ballew, District 4 Commander Doug Hockenberry

Donations Received



From The Yoopers' Turtle Creek
Camper's Crawl



From our friends from York
Pennsylvania

BUILDING FUND EVENTS

Pie Sales Every Tuesday Night
Thank you Phyllis Surprise

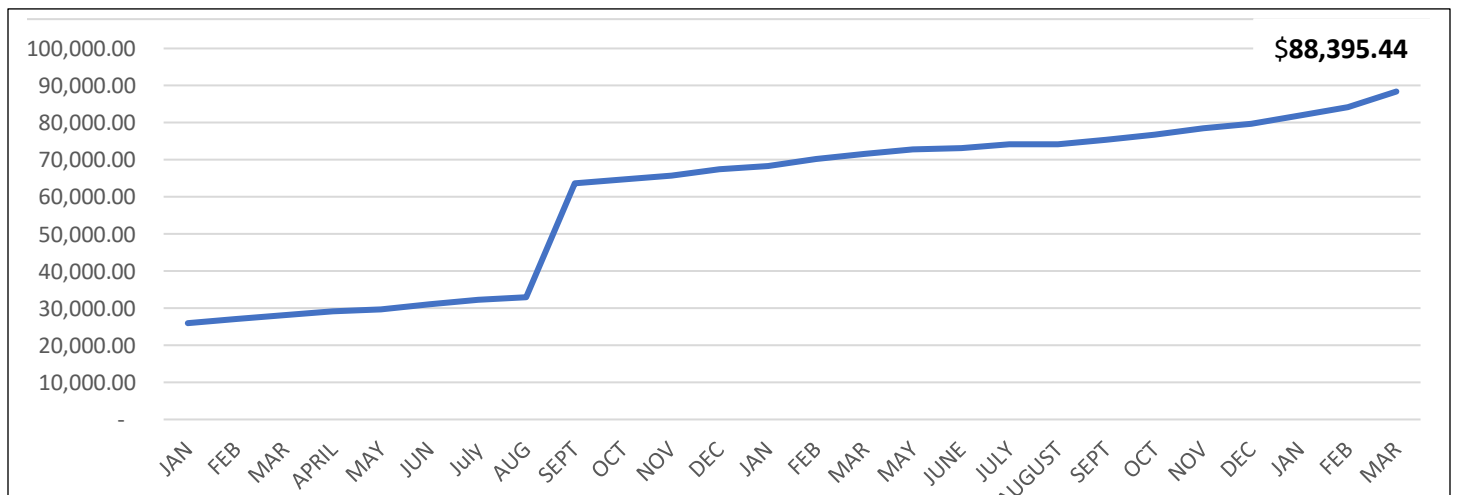


First Friday Clam Chowder
Thank you Jane Mundis



Building Fund Balance (04/01/24)

An increase over last month of \$4,283.00!



Post Photo Album

Donations for 50 Legs



Legionnaires

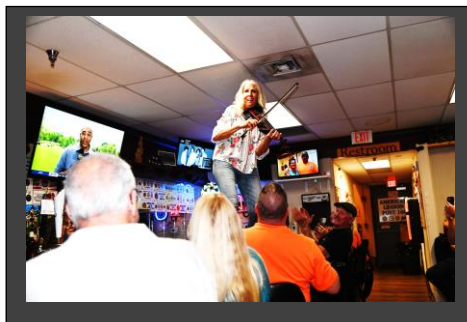


Riders

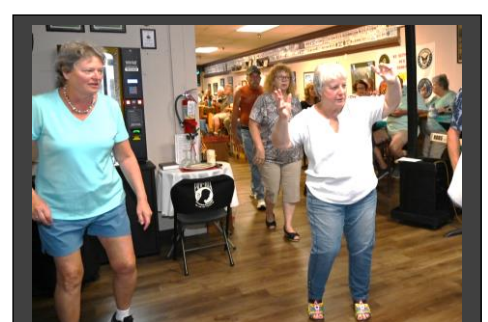


Auxiliary

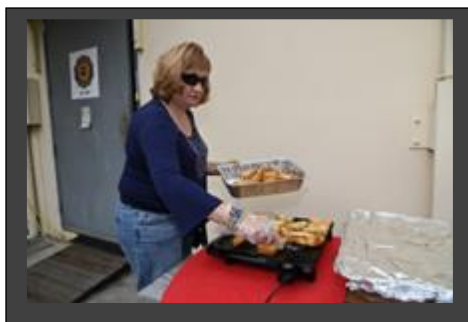
Star Fire



BC Band



Monthly Sunday Dinner - Lasagna

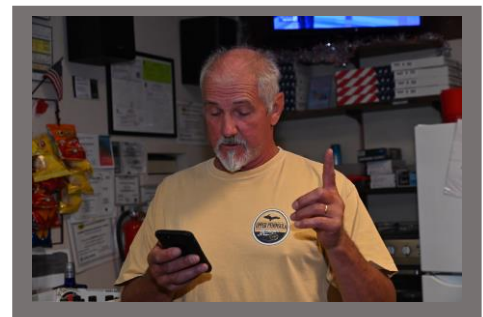


Thank you to our Yoopers and Troll members and guests for all you do

Membership Table at Turtle Creek



Michigan Day



April – Children & Youth Month

American Legion Post 166 – 4520 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa - americanpost166@gmail.com (352)765-3949

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------|---|---------------------------|----------|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | Karaoke | 10AM Executive Board Mtg 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | | | Red Shirt Friday 6:30 PM 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | Purple Up Day | 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale | 10:00 ALA Mtg | | Red Shirt Friday 6:30 PM 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale | 10AM AL Mtg |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 4PM Monthly Sunday Dinner – Traditional Shepherd’s Pie | | 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | 3PM -6PM Last Chance Band | | Red Shirt Friday 6:30 PM 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | 10AM SAL Mtg District 4 DD Meeting Newberry |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale | | | Red Shirt Friday 6:30 PM 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | 10:30AM ALR Mtg |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | 6:30PM Queen of Hearts 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game Slice of Pie Sale Military Brats BD | | | Red Shirt Friday 6:30 PM 50-50 Raffle Bonz Game | |