

January 2023

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



### Commander's Corner

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to our seasonal members. We have a busy few months planned, including Michigan Day, Superbowl Party, St. Paddy's Day Party, Four Chaplains Ceremony, bands, Karaoke and many more events.

I also want to welcome our new bartenders: Brittany, Cindy, Lincoln, Nancy O'Connor, and Pam. Claudia and Peggy are still here with Claudia on Monday and Tuesday days and Peggy on Wednesday and Thursday days. Nancy Parish is our new lead bartender and she is doing a fantastic job. Come in and meet the new staff.

2022 membership expires December 31, 2022. When you come in the canteen starting January 1, everyone will be asked to show their 2023 membership card. If you do not have a current card, you will not be able to purchase a drink. Florida law states that anyone who is in the Post, must be a member or be signed in by a member and that member must accompany their guest at all times. If you haven't renewed, you may do so at the Canteen. Be Proud – Show Your Card!

In addition, door keys also expire on December 31, 2022. You may leave your card at the canteen to be reprogrammed and picked it up a few days later.

I am proud to announce that the Legionnaires received four awards at Fall Conference.

- The Children First Gift Club Caretaker 2021-2022 for outstanding support of the Legion Child Welfare Foundation
- Three Membership awards for meeting 2023 membership goals of 50%, 55% and 65%. We now stand 83.50% (as of 12/22/22).

Our building fund continues to grow, thanks to our members! We just received a \$500.00 donation from the Auxiliary, who challenged the SAL to match the donation, which they did. We are on our way to being ready when the opportunity arises, but we must keep up the momentum. We are not there yet, but with your continued support we will get there!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew  
Post 166 Commander

## Auxiliary News

Welcome 2023! We look forward to accomplishing much for our Veterans in the new year!

The past few years, we have donated hams to Daystar for Thanksgiving. At the recommendation of AnnMarie Briercheck, Director of Daystar, we made a change and donated the money we would have spent for hams which allows them to purchase more for the food Pantry than we could at the grocery store. She also told us there were more families in need during than Christmas than Thanksgiving, so this year we donated \$400.00 to Daystar for the Christmas Holidays.



*Julie Rowe, Daystar Director Annmarie Briercheck, Debbie Ballew, Daystar Board President Leo Gannon, and Janice McGough*

We participated in Operation Homefront again this year. Special thanks to Dorene and Sheri for their trips to the Dollar Stores and Dollar Generals to pick up the generous donations of Christmas shoppers. The toys were sorted and then delivered to Jackie’s School for Young Minds, the Military recruiting officers in Brooksville, and to Daystar Life Center for veterans’ families and other who are in need.

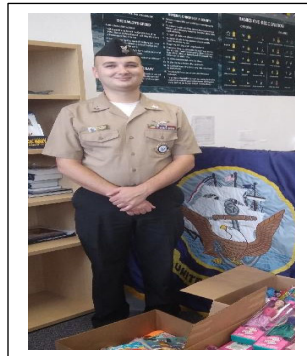
For those who are not aware of the project, Dollar Tree and some Dollar Generals host this event twice a year. In August /September for school supplies and November/December for Christmas toys. The program’s goal is to assist Veterans with expenses by asking shoppers as they check out if they would like to donate towards this great cause and the participation is overwhelming. Our collection resulted in over three thousand boys and girls toys.



*Collected toys*



*Toys headed to Daystar*



*Navy Recruiting Office*



*Army Recruiting Office*

In December, we did something different for our meeting with a luncheon at the Margarita Grill. It was a great opportunity for us to sit and talk and to get to know each other. We had a wonderful time and I think it will become a tradition.



*Service not Self  
Debbie Ballew, ALA Unit 166 President*



### SAL Update

On behalf of the Sons of the American Legion, I would like to invite you to our Football Burger Clash on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to raise money so we can better support our Veterans.



Our membership continues to grow and all membership goals have been met and I thank the squadron for their support in getting us there. I would like to extend a personal invitation to the SAL members to come to our meetings. Our meetings are held the third Saturday of the month at 10AM. We are looking for new ideas to help us grow and to be a major contributor for our Post. Your input is vital to the success of our Squadron.

### WE NEED YOU!

Curt Woods  
Squadron 166 Commander

### Looking Over the Fairing

We were honored to be a part of the Wreaths for fallen Heroes on December 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the fifth year for this annual ride and is sponsored by ALR Chapter Post 237 and Veteran for a Cause. We have joined them in this endeavor from the beginning. Although it was a windy day, bikes from all over Citrus and Hernando county, as well as cars and trucks met at Crystal Harley Davidson and were escorted by Citrus County deputies to Bushnell National Cemetery where over 2300 wreaths were placed on veterans graves. It is a humbling experience!



We will join the ALR Chapter 237 again on January 28<sup>th</sup> on their annual ride to support Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Grief Services.

Post 166 is the first stop and anyone interested in riding can register at our Post at 10AM. Stops include Grumpy Gators, Crystal River Eagles, and IRRU Social Club. Dinner will be served after the ride at Post 237.

Hold the date for **May 6, 2023**- our annual Derby Day Ride followed by Derby Day fun at the Post! More details coming soon.

Ride safe  
Bob Ballew, Acting Director

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### Veterans Information

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has determined that VA is required to reimburse veterans for insurance copays where the veteran would be responsible under their private insurance policies for emergency care. The ruling also dictated that VA must expedite the process of issuing this new rule, setting a deadline of Feb. 22, 2023.



### Local Service Officers

Jim Dryer (315) 240-1442 Wanda Thomas (352) 257-0541



## January 6, First Friday

2PM – 6PM Clam Chowder

Donate to the Building Fund & receive a cup of Chowder

## January 15, SAL BBQ

3PM – 5PM Hamburgers 7 Hotdogs

50/50 & Basket Raffles

Wild Card Football Games on TV

## January 30, Last Monday Karaoke

Featuring KJ Buzz Chainey

5PM -8PM

## Future Dates:

February 3: First Friday Clam Chowder

February 5: Four Chaplains

February 14: Valentine's Day Event, Blood Mobile

February 18-19: Post Flea Market

February 21: Mardi Gras Party

February 27: Karaoke with KJ Buzz

## Every Friday

**Wear a Red Shirt to support the Deployed**

Noon to 7PM - Purchase your first drink & you will

Receive a chip for the Same Drink

*\*Excludes specialty drinks*

6:30PM Queen of Hearts drawing

(American Legion Family Members only)

50/50 Drawing follows the Queen of Hearts

(American Legion Family and Guests)

The Bonz Game follows the 50/50 raffle

Three rolls of the dice to get all the same number

Win 2 beer, wine, or well drink chips; or

1 call or top shelf chip

**For the Latest Information  
Check our Social Media Accounts:**

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

Website: [americanlegionpost166.com](http://americanlegionpost166.com)

## Monthly Meetings and Officers

### American Legion Post 166

**Executive Board Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10AM**

**General Membership Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 10AM**

Post Commander	Bob Ballew
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Mark Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Dwight DeJean
Adjutant	Jane Mundis
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jane Mundis
Finance Officer	Open
Chaplain	Bill Rowe
Historian	Tom Piazza
Judge Advocate / E Board	Bob McDowell
Past Commander / E Board	Marie Conti Executive
Board Member	Tom Brown Executive
Board Member	Bud Costello
Executive Board Member	David Kaczanowski
Executive Board Member	John Myers

### American Legion Auxiliary

**Monthly Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10:30AM**

President	Debbie Ballew
Vice President	Judy Salo
Secretary	Julie Rowe
Treasurer	Dee Costello
Chaplain	Vicky Eley
Historian	Barbara Dubose
Sergeant-At-Arms	Janice McGough
Executive Committee	Dorene Bettis
Executive Committee	Barb Tripp
Executive Committee	Marion Healy

### The Sons of the American Legion

**Monthly Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 10AM**

Commander	Curtis Woods
1st Vice Commander	Greg Doody
Treasurer	Bill Rowe
Chaplain	Bill Cloke
Sergeant-At-Arms	Ed Nemeth

### American Legion Riders

**Monthly Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month at 10:30AM**

**Fun Ride follows**

Director	Open
Assistant Director	Bob Ballew
Secretary	Debbie Ballew
Treasurer	Open
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tom Brown
Chaplain	Open
Historian	Barbara Debose
Road Captain	Jerry Van Tassel

# Welcome to our New Members

Melinda Adams, Auxiliary  
Richard Ashton, Legionnaire  
Kyle Breeden, Legionnaire  
Malerie Breeden, Legionnaire  
Duane Comfort, Legionnaire

Edward Hendrickson, Legionnaire  
John W Raum, Legionnaire  
Bradley Sills, Legionnaire  
Jimmy Sheeks, SAL  
Lorraine Simmons, Auxiliary

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We have now completed our first year of Citrus County Adopt-A-Highway. Grover Cleveland has never looked so good and I am proud to say that as an American Legion family, we have done a great job. We have one mor year of our contract and I would like to encourage your participation in our quarterly commitment, the county, our neighbors, and I thank everyone that helped.

See you in March

Judy Salo  
Group Leader

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## May God wrap his arms around those members we lost in 2022

Louis Boston, Legionnaire  
Tammy Campbell, Legionnaire  
Jimmy Fischer, Legionnaire  
Al Kelly, Legionnaire  
Rebecca Markussen, Auxiliary  
David Racket, Legionnaire  
Philip Teresi, Legionnaire  
Andrea Westover, Auxiliary

### District Four Meeting

January 22

Post 149

26821 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL 32669

Registration 12PM; Meeting starts at 1PM

All American Legion Family members welcome

### ALA District Four ABC School

January 8

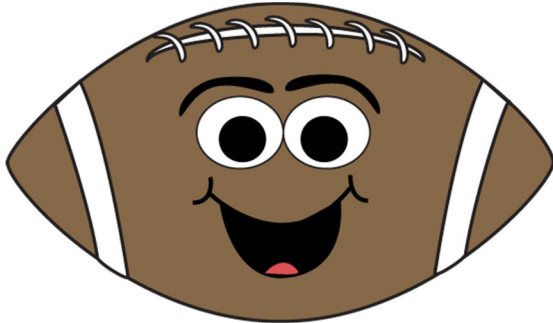
Post 284

5515 SE 109th St, Belleview, FL 34420

Registration 9AM; Meeting starts at 010AM

ALA members -Contact Debbie to carpool

## January Fundraisers for the Building Fund



Personize your own Football

Just \$1.00 each

### 2 Baskets this Month

#### SAL Football Basket

Raffle to be drawn on January 15th

#### Superbowl Basket

Raffle to be drawn at Superbowl Party

#### Basket Tickets

Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

## Building Fund as of December 30, 2022

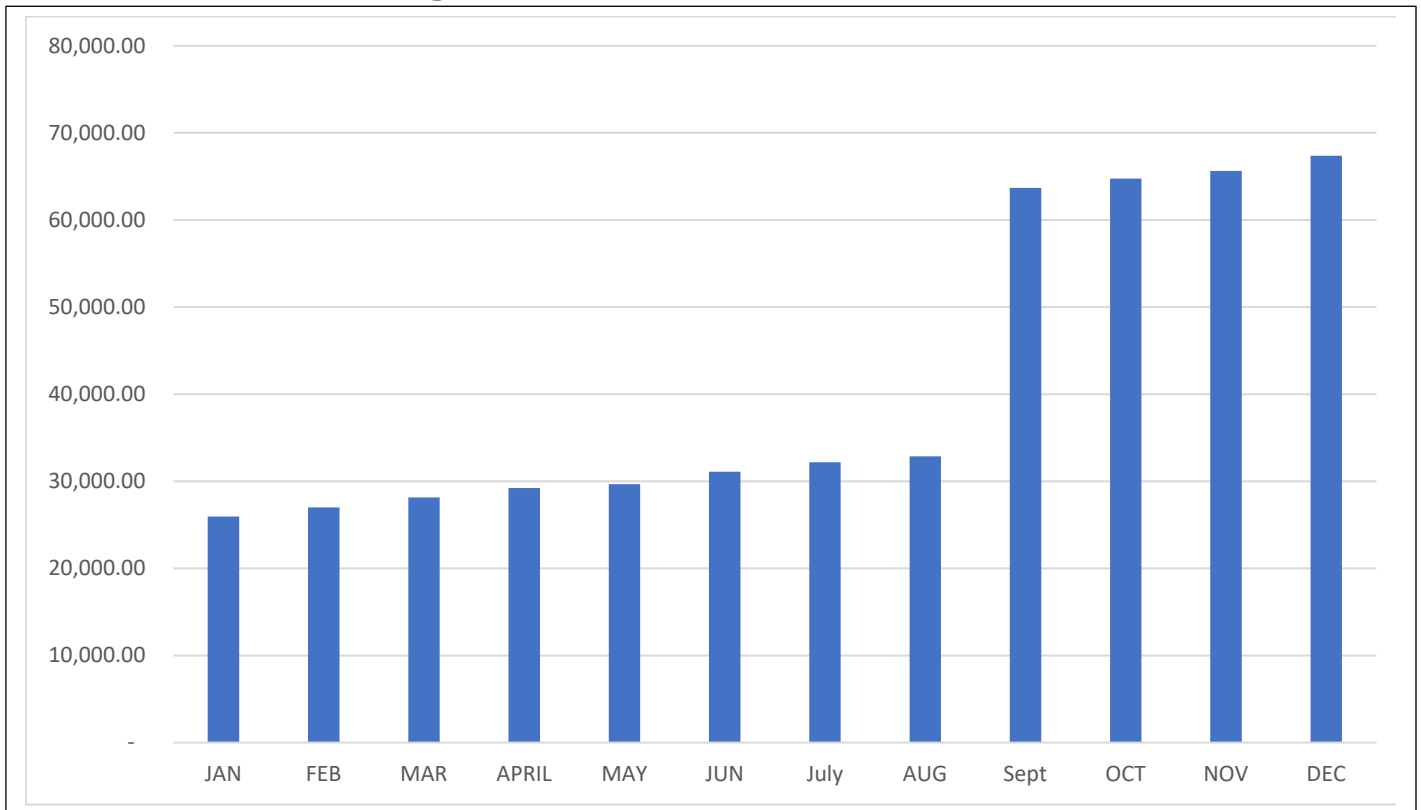
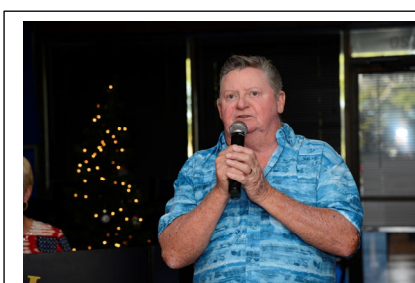


Photo Album

Trim a Tree / Ugly Sweater Party



And the winner is Daryl

# American Legion Post 166, Homosassa

## January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year	2	3 10AM E-Board Mtg	4	5	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 2 – 6PM Clam Chowder Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle Epiphany	7 10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows with Post 77
8 ALA ABC School – Post 284 9AM Registration	9 10:30AM ALA Mtg <i>CFP National Championship</i>	10	11	12	13 Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	14 10AM General Membership Mtg <i>Wild Card Playoffs</i>
15 SAL BBQ 3 – 5PM: Hamburgers & Hotdogs <i>Wild Card Playoffs</i>	16 MLK Day <i>Wild Card Playoff</i>	17	18	19 National Popcorn Day	20 Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle	21 10AM SAL Mtg <i>Divisional Playoffs</i>
22 1PM District Mtg Post 149 12PM Registration <i>Divisional Playoffs</i>	23	24	25	26	27 Red Shirt Friday 6:30 Queen of Hearts/50-50 Raffle International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28 ALR #237 Hospice Ride 11AM Post 166 (1 <sup>st</sup> stop) Register at Post
29 Conference Championships	30 5PM – 8PM Karaoke with KJ Buzz Chainey	31	February Dates			
February 3: First Friday Clam Chowder February 5: Four Chaplains February 5: : Superbowl Party February 14: Valentine’s Day Event, Blood Mobile February 18-19: Post Flea Market February 21: Mardi Gras Party						