

Summer 2025

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER



The official start of summer maybe June 21st, but once it again, it has come early to Homosassa! Our winter members have returned home and a lot of our local members have also headed North to escape the heat. I believe it is going to be a long hot summer!

Things will slow down at the Post, but we will still have events: hot dogs for the 4th of July, cheeseburgers on Labor day, Karaoke on the 1st and 3rd Monday, Race Night on the 3rd Wednesday, and bands each month – Debbie and Chuck of the BC band on July 9th and the Last Chance Band on August 6th.

This Summer edition of the newsletter will cover July and August and will resume in September.

As we all know, summer means hurricanes to Floridians and we have had more than our share lately, and it's predicted that we will see more again this year. Please have your hurricane kit ready and an evacuation plan in place. If you are impacted, the Legion Family has programs to help our members who are in good standing (three years or more).

On Saturday, June 28th, the new Officers of the American Legion Post 166 Family were installed for the coming year. Please offer your congratulations and support to these Volunteers! Pictures of the installation are included in this newsletter.

Membership renewal for 2026 opens July 1st. All "Early Birds" who renew between July 1st and September 31st are invited to our catered Free Early Bird Dinner in October. You can renew online, at the Canteen, or at one of the Membership Renewal Drives that will be held in August and September. Dues remain the same as last year: Legionaires \$45.00; ALA \$39.00; SAL \$34.00. Checks, cash, and credit cards (\$1.00 fee) are accepted. Your early renewals will allow us meet the membership goals set for us by National and Department.

Wishing everyone a safe summer!

For God and Country

Bob Ballew, Post 166 Commander

Contact information: (727)432-7220; rballew931@gmail.com

AUXILIARY UNIT 166

Quilt Raffle to Support ALA Charities



The winning raffle ticket will be drawn following the July 4th Picnic in the Post. If you have not purchased your tickets , there is still time. Tickets are \$5.00 each . All proceeds from tickets sales will be used to support our ALA Charities. See the Bartenders for tickets.

A special thank you to Sherry Betts for this beautiful patriotic handmade quilt.

ALA 7 Day Cruise to Support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund

There is still time to sign up for our 7-day ALA cruise on the Norwegian Dawn. It's going to be a fun time, leaving out of Tampa with stops in Cozumel, Belize, Honduras and Costa Maya. See the flyer on the Fundraiser Page for more details and contact our Travel Agent Shandelle Johnson at 813/408-1247 to book the cruise.

Operation School Brigade

The auxiliary will not have an August meeting, but we will continue to work our mission during that time. Operation School Brigade will be starting soon at the Dollar Tree Stores. All donations made at the Homosassa store will be picked up and distributed to the Homosassa Elementary School. So, if you are in the store, consider making a donation, knowing it will help our neighborhood school.

Service not self

Debbie Ballew, President ALAFL 166

Contact information: 727/432-7230; ALAFLunit166@gmail.com

SQUADRON 166

Thank you all for making Race nights successful! We started this fundraiser in March, and every month attendance has grown. If you haven't had a chance to attend, please stop in on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and place your bets for the winners of the races. All proceeds of this event go to support of the American Legion charities. See our Race Night flyer on the Fundraiser Page.

As a reminder, the SAL will not be taking a summer vacation this year. We will continue to meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10AM.

For God and Country

Randy Parrish , Squadron Commander

Contact Information: (614)570-8561; rparrish51@yahoo.com

ALR CHAPTER 166

Capture the Plaque Update



Our plaque is home!

Three of us went to American Legion Post 129 located in Jacksonville Beach on June 8th and retrieved our plaque.

It is now hanging proudly back on our wall – hopefully, it will be there longer than one day this time. The last two times it was captured, it had only been home one day.

ALR 166 Oktoberfest Ride

Please mark your calendars for **October 25, 2025**. We will be hosting a ride to benefit the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC) to ensure that all Veterans who are in need will have a Thanksgiving meal. There will be raffles, and Oktoberfest style food. This ride replaces our Hams N Hogs ride that we have hosted for 5 years. All are welcome to join us. Registration is 9AM and we will depart from the Post at 10AM. Food will be provided before and after the ride. More details will be coming soon

Join ALR Chapter 166

I also wanted to remind everyone that if you belong to the American Legion Family, have a motorcycle, and like to ride, please consider joining our Chapter. Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30AM. We keep them short and then we ride, stopping for lunch along the way. We stay off the busy roads and ride the many beautiful backroads in our area. We would love to have you along for the ride!

For the Cause, not the applause

Dwight Dejean, ALR Chapter 166 Director

Contact Information: (352)587-7773; ddejean1957@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sue Thompson, ALA

Barb Fletcher, ALA

POST EVERLASTING

Michael (Mike) Crawley, USN Veteran

May He Rest In Peace!

2025- 2026 OFFICERS & MEETING TIMES

Legionnaires membership meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Commander: Bob Ballew

1st Vice Commander : Dwight DeJean

2nd Vice Commander: Tom Brown

Sgt-at-Arms: Jane Mundis

Finance Officer: Darrell Walters

Chaplain: Bill Rowe

Historian: Tom Piazza

Judge Advocate: Frank DiGennaro

Past Commander: Marie Conti

Executive Committee Member: Ernie Chainey

Executive Committee Member: Bud Costello

Executive Committee Member: John Surprise

Executive Committee Member: Kevin Myhill

Adjutant: Dwight Dejean

Auxiliary Unit 166 membership meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM **No Aug. meeting**

President: Debbie Ballew

Secretary / Treasurer: Dee Costello

Chaplain: Lola Strickland

Sergeant-At-Arms: Kandy Pelton

Executive Committee: Julie Rowe

Executive Committee: Barb Tripp

SAL Squadron 166 membership Meetings: 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00AM

Squadron Commander: Randy Parrish

Vice Commander: Ernie Chainey

Treasurer: Mark Wagnitz

Chaplain: Bill Cloke

ALR Chapter 166 membership meeting : 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30AM, fun ride follows

Director: Dwight Dejean

Assistant Director: Bob Ballew

Secretary / Treasurer: Debbie Ballew

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mark Wagnitz

Road Captain: Tom Brown

Chaplain: Paul Herrick

Historian: Marcy Hammond

MONTHLY EVENTS

We need your support for our monthly Events. It takes a lot of volunteer hours to make our Events happen and they can only be successful if you participate.

Every Tuesday: Queen of Heart Event

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 & guests

The Bonz Game: Following the 50/50 Raffle

\$1.00 to play; 3 chances to roll 5 of a kind.

Winner receives a chip redeemable for 2 beers, wine or well drinks or one chip for top shelf drink.

Excludes specialty drinks.

Open to members and guests

Red Shirt Friday: Purchase your 1st drink; receive a chip for the same drink, excludes specialty drinks

First and Third Monday of the Month: 5PM to 8PM: Karaoke with Buzzsaw Entertainment

Third Wednesday of the Month: 5PM SAL Race Night

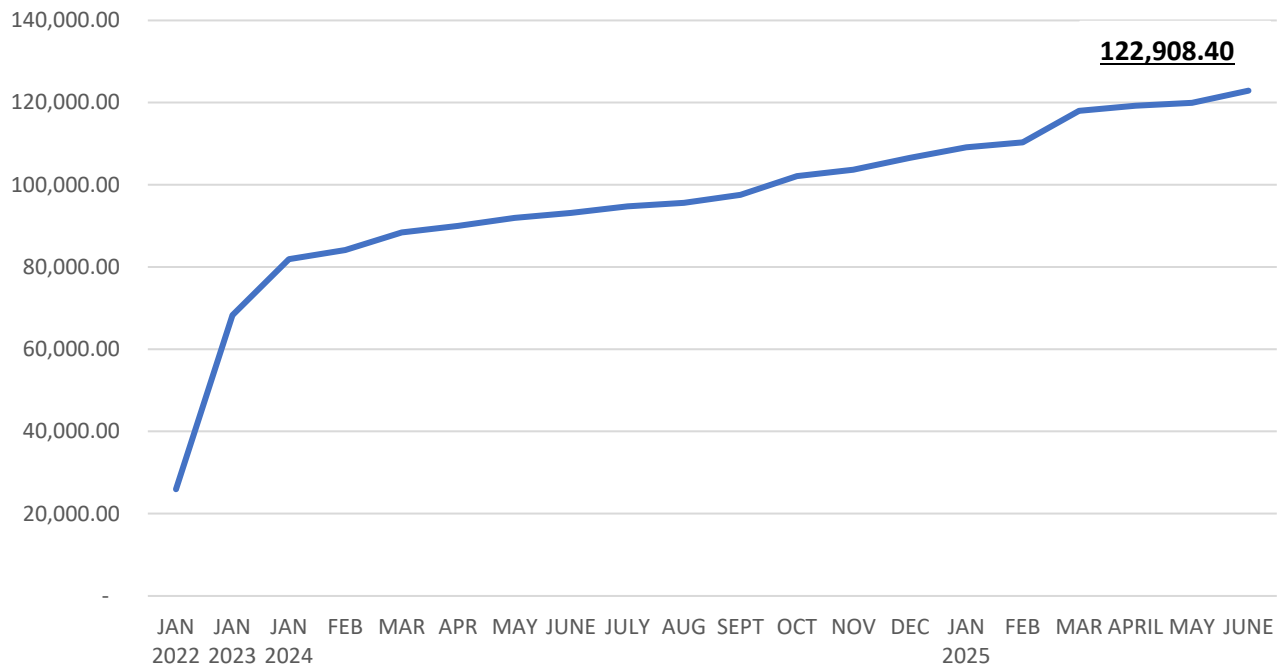
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 50/50 Salesperson – We need someone to sell 50/50 tickets on Tuesday evenings from PM to 6:30PM
- Painter - We need someone to refurbish/repaint our Collection Box for tattered and torn flags and to touch up at the Post as needed.
- Event Team - We need more volunteers to join our team and assist us with the execution of the majority of events held at the Post. We need more volunteers to help with food prep, set up, decorations, and most importantly ideas for great events so we can continue to raise money for our Post.
- Handy Man/Woman- We need volunteers to help with minor repairs periodically at the Post.
- Marketing - We need volunteers to help us get our name and projects out to the public

Don't see anything here, but would like to help us in other ways. Just volunteer - there is a place for everyone. We need you! Contact the Post at americanpost166@gmail.com to volunteer your time and expertise! Remember it takes all of us, working together to make our Post

THE BEST IT CAN BE!

BUILDING FUND



Thank you to all our members for your continued support!

POST FAMILY FUNDRAISERS

Patriot Quilt Raffle



Tickets \$5.00 Each
Proceeds Will Be Used To
Benefit Veterans And
Our Community
Sponsored By Auxiliary Unit 166
Quilt Courtesy Of
Sherry Betts

Drawing will be held July 4th
following the Picnic at the Post

See the Bartender for Tickets
Please Include Name & Number On Ticket

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 Cruise February 8-15, 2026



The Norwegian Dawn

Schedule

Sunday: 4PM Departs Tampa
Monday: Day At Sea
Tuesday: 7AM- 4:30PM
 Cozumel, Mexico
Wednesday: 10AM – 5:00PM
 Harvest Caye, Belize
Thursday 7AM – 5PM
 Roatan (Bay Islands), Honduras
Friday: 7AM – 4PM
 Costa Maya, Mexico
Saturday: Day at Sea
Sunday: 7AM Disembark

Information

Cabin rates starting at
 \$1567.72 (2 persons)
 Inside, Oceanview and
 Balcony
Gratuities \$140.00
Travel Insurance
 (optional): \$75.00 each
Perks: Beverage Package,
 Internet, Dining & Shore
 Excursion. Receive 2 perks
 with Inside & Oceanview
 cabins & 4 with Balcony

Book Now and Lock in your Rate!

For more information and to book your cruise
Contact Shandelle Johnson, Travlin Dreams Travel
813/408-1247 – Use code American Legion Auxiliary #166

SAL RACE NIGHT



Every Third Wednesday
Of the Month

Betting Window opens at 5PM
Bet as much or as little as you please

Six Heat Races
Winners of each heat will
Compete in the Final Race

Proceeds to benefit American Legion Charities

Oktoberfest BIKE RIDE

Save the Date

OCTOBER 25,
2025

Sponsored by ALR Chapter 166

All Proceeds Benefit
Citrus County Veterans
Coalition Food Pantry

4 Stops, Raffles, Authentic Food

MUSIC EVENTS

Debbie and Chuck Of the BC Band



**July 9th
3PM – 6PM**

First & Third Monday

Karaoke



5 to 8 PM

Featuring
Buzzsaw
Entertainment

The Last Chance Band

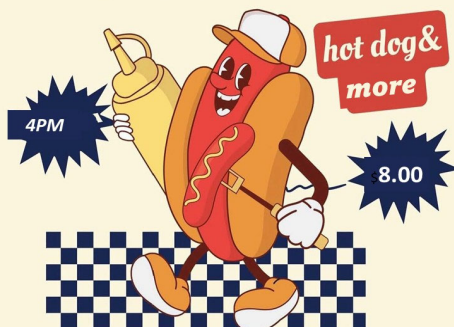


**Wednesday
August 6, 2025
4PM**

BUILDING FUND EVENTS

American Legion Post 166

4TH OF JULY



Includes Potato Salad, chips, dessert & Fixing Bar with everything you need for Chicago, Carolina, NY, & Detroit Dogs

Tickets available at the Canteen - Proceeds to benefit the Building Fund



**JOIN US FOR
CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE
Monday, September 1, 2025
4PM**

**Labor Day Weekend Show
Celebrating Jimmy Buffett**

**Tickets available at the Canteen
with a donation of \$8.00 to the
Building Fund**

WEAR YOUR BEST PARROT HEAD ATTIRE

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

2026 Membership Renewal Opens July 1, 2025

**Members with 2026 Membership
Paid by September 30, 2025
Are invited to a
Free Catered Early Bird Dinner***

Dues

Legion: \$45.00

ALA: \$39.00

SAL: \$34.00



Renew at the Post or Online

**Renewal Drives: August 8 & 22
3Pm -5PM**

****More information coming soon***

POST PHOTO ALBUM

2025-2026 American Legion Post 166 Officers with District Officers



2025-2026 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 166 Officers with District Officers



2025-2026 Sons of the American Legion Squadron 166 Officers with District Officers



2025-2026 American Legion Riders Chapter 166 Officers with District Officers



JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		JULY 1	JULY 2	JULY 3	JULY 4	JULY 5
		10AM Executive Committee Mtg 			RED-SHIRT FRIDAY 4 th of July 4PM Celebration Hot Dogs & More	 10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
JULY 6	JULY 7	JULY 8	JULY 9	JULY 10	JULY 11	JULY 12
	 5PM – 8PM		 10AM ALA Meeting 3PM – 6PM Music with Debbie & Chuck	M	RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:00AM AL Mtg
JULY 13	JULY 14	JULY 15	JULY 16	JULY 17	JULY 18	JULY 19
			5PM SAL Race Night 		RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:00AM SAL Mtg
JULY 20	JULY 21	JULY 22	JULY 23	JULY 24	JULY 25	JULY 26
	 5PM – 8PM				RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	
JULY 27	JULY 28	JULY 29	JULY 30	JULY 31	August 1	AUGUST 2
					RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows
AUGUST 3	AUGUST 4	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 6	AUGUST 7	AUGUST 8	AUGUST 9
	 5PM–8PM <i>Coast Guard Birthday</i>		4PM – 7PM Last Chance Band	 <i>Purple Heart Day</i>	3PM - 5PM Membership Renewal RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:00AM AL Mtg
AUGUST 10	AUGUST 11	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 13	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 15	AUGUST 16
			No ALA mtg		RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:00AM SAL Mtg
AUGUST 17	AUGUST 18	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 20	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 22	AUGUST 23
	 5PM – 8PM		5PM SAL Race Night 		3PM - 5PM Membership Renewal RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	
AUGUST 24	AUGUST 25	AUGUST 26	AUGUST 27	AUGUST 28	AUGUST 29	AUGUST 30
					RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	
AUGUST 31	SEPTEMBER 1	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 3	SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 5	SEPTEMBER 6
	Labor Day 4PM Cheeseburgers in Paradise - Celebrating Jimmy Buffett	10AM Executive Committee Mtg 			RED-SHIRT FRIDAY	 10:30AM ALR Mtg Fun Ride Follows