



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

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CHARTERED 1974



HOME POST OF FLORIDA'S FIRST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER 2009-2010 - CLARENCE E. HILL

November 2021
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Legion and Auxiliary meetings, second Monday of the month at 8pm.
Post Hours: 8am - midnight Mon - Thurs; 8am - 2am Fri - Sat; 1pm - midnight Sun

Commander's Corner

Good day everyone, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to spending the upcoming Christmas holidays with friends, family and loved ones. The holiday season can be a difficult time for some. If you know of someone who is struggling due to physical, emotional, or financial needs, be a friend and offer comfort. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call to make a difference in someone's life.

Last month we had our **Early Bird Dinner**. In the event you don't know, early birds are those Legion Family Members who have renewed their membership for the upcoming year by Veterans Day. I want to give a **special thanks to our 2nd Vice Mitch Harding, his wife Tory and Auxiliary President Virna Luke for a fantastic spaghetti dinner with all the fixens!** If you haven't renewed yet, remember starting New Years Day you will have to show your 2022 card to be served.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of non-profits. **We need volunteers here at Post 316.** If you can dedicate some time on a Legion program, in the kitchen or doing some maintenance/clean-up your efforts would be greatly appreciated. It is said that the Legion runs on STP (Same Ten People) and it sure seems to be true. I see the same people at the same function every time, make a difference get involved! I want to thank the new faces I see who have attended our monthly meeting. Because of them we have had a quorum for all our meetings this Legion year. Thank you and I hope to see more join us. Remember complaining at the bar does nothing, it is in our general membership meeting that change takes effect. **Want change, then attend the meetings and let your voice be heard!**

This is the month of Christmas and it's our custom to wish for and sometimes receive presents. My wish is that our members become more active. I hope to see new faces join us for meetings, kitchen events, maintenance projects as well as just stopping into the canteen. I also would like to see some facility upgrades. If you have a talent or skill especially with electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc. why not look around the Post for a project you can undertake, get with the House Committee and make a difference. **One big project I would like to see completed this upcoming year is the completion of painting our building.** I know it is a bigger project than most could take on individually however if you are or know a painting company that would make us a deal, please contact me. The same for the outside lighting, if you can or know someone who will do us a good job, please provide their information to me.

Merry Christmas all,
Denny Luke

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved paying the IRS penalty of \$3020 for late filing

We welcome these new members and thank them for choosing Post 316 as their Legion home:

New: Ronald Hendry, Vincent Johnson, Fred Lowe, Ronald Squires, Jody Russell, Christa Holt

Transfers: William Carroll, Judy Clausen, Lineo Gacutan, Arthur Gallo, Gary Jones, Wayne Winchester

Booster List

The booster list is for members and member's businesses only. **Gold boosters are \$25 annually.** Our Gold Boosters are:

Lynn Murray 2/22	In Remembrance USS Stark 2/22
Wallace Williams 3/22	Richard Goodman 3/22
Penny Swiebel 5/22	Clarence & Liz Hill 8/21
Bob Shellenberger 10/23	B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23
Lance H. Davison 4/25	Eddie George 1/27

TOYS 4 TOTS

This year's donation period ends at noon on December 13. The bin is under the guest sign in book. Please bring in new and unwrapped toys. **For each toy donated, you get one free card for the first jack-pot bingo game on each bingo day.**

PEARL HARBOR DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our 22nd annual Pearl Harbor Day Golf Tournament will be held at the Windy Harbor Golf Club at Naval Station Mayport on **December 4th** with a shotgun start at 8:30 and Captain's Choice format. **Hole sponsorships are \$50 each.** We have reached our limit on players—thank you. Breakfast, lunch and door prizes are included. Prizes include closest to pin on 4 holes, longest putt, longest drive as well as winners. Mulligans are available. Proceeds benefit American Legion Programs.

Department Holiday Raffle

The Department of Florida is conducting a raffle in December. The Post has 100 tickets available that cost \$5 each. **Starting on December 1st, Department will draw one name every day for the entire month of December and that person will get a percentage of the amount of money in the pot.** The percentage is different each day, but Christmas Day's drawing will be for 20% of the pot.

New Year's Eve Party

Tickets will go on sale for Post 316 members only on Tuesday the 7th. They will go on sale for all others on Monday the 13th. Entertainment is the Once Again Band. We ask that you bring a dish to share and the Post will furnish the main staple. Bar Seats are reserved at 6 PM. Basket of Cheer tickets are also available.

Membership Card Check

The bartenders will be checking membership cards this month as a courtesy to remind you that if you have not paid your dues for 2022, your 2021 card expires December 31st.

Drink Prices

There will be an increase in the price of drinks beginning Jan 1st.

Sunday Food

There is a sign-up list on the west wall to better organize Sunday food such that we are not overflowing on some days and have little on others. **Reimbursement of up to \$25 can be provided based on donations.**

LUNCH SCHEDULE

We are struggling to provide lunches every day of the work week. Liz can no longer keep up with the current schedule. Lunches will have to be cut back to fewer days unless people come forward to help. For info, contact Liz at 904-234-2692.

POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.

Post Officers

Commander	Denny Luke
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	Mitch Harding
3rd Vice Commander	Steve Bartelt
4th Vice Commander	Joey Perez
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Claython McConico
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	Paul Rastatter
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	Mitchel Lounsberry
Sergeant-at-Arms	Al Yardley

House Committee

Chairman: Al Yardley

SAL Officers

Commander	David Keasler
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Horn
2nd Vice	Ray Hinson
Finance Officer	Will Oliphant
Chaplain	Lester Verrette
Historian	Tom Mari
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Berton

Executive Board

Greg White, Mark Swinton
Ron Wilhite, John Tinsley
Les Saunders

Legion Riders

Director: John Tinsley

Auxiliary Officers

President	Virna Luke
1st Vice President	Liz Hill
2nd Vice President	Denise Strickland
Secretary	Suzanne Lamonica
Treasurer	Alison McCann
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	Annie Anderson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	TracyLynn Jenkins
Membership	Suzanne Lamonica

Auxiliary Executive Committee

Fatima Bartelt, Nicole Thigpen
Sharon Harville

Club Manager Liz Hill

Legion First Vice Vibes

The 2022 cards are here and you can pay your dues now. **2021 cards expire 12/31/21.** Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Please pay your dues by check or come in and pay cash.

Please include your branch of service with your renewal payment.

National went to a new system on April 1st.. Please see the Membership Update on page 3. You can create an account by visiting legion.org/renew. You can also register for the Automatic Annual Renewal Program.

You can only Pay Up For Life online and the \$100 discount is still in effect. Just go to your account in myLegion.org, search for PUFL offer.

2022 dues are \$40 for ages 59 and younger (\$35 until Veterans Day), \$32 for 60 and older (year-round). Our 3-year renewals are \$100 for 59 and younger and \$90 for 60 and older. **If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$40-national only recognizes our official dues.** You only get discounted rates by paying \$32 or \$35 utilizing the renewal notice.

Clarence Hill

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

I continue with my messages of gratitude and praise for our volunteers without them, we wouldn't be able to continue our Auxiliary Programs that enriches the lives of our Veterans, servicemembers and their families, children & youth, and our community. Thanks to Kim, Richard, Nicole, Sharon, Suzanne, Patricia, Bob, Tammy, Al and Denny! They helped with our annual Halloween Party and Witches Brew Dinner. We appreciate all members that donated dishes, and the cakes for the cake walk. A fun night was had by all! At Fall Conference (Nov 4-6) in Orlando, we donated goods and a gift basket to benefit the National Veterans Creative Art Festival that will be held in St. Petersburg, Fla. from April 18-25, 2022.

Thank you to Suzanne, Denise, Phyllis, Patty and Aaron (Legion) for taking on our November steak nights. Currently, we need help for Dec 3 and 176 steak nights from 5pm-8pm. If you want to volunteer on the grill, fryer, take orders, plate, clean up? Contact Denise Strickland (2nd Vice) at dndfishing@aol.com.

UPCOMING: We have an ongoing food drive for families in our community, please drop off your items at the post. See Liz Hill for any frozen items you wish to donate. Auxiliary steak nights are Dec 3 7 Dec 17. Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday, Dec 12 at American Legion Post 129 (1151 4th St. S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250) at 2pm. Wear your ugly sweater to the meeting and bring a wrapped gift, if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Suggested value \$15. Monday, Dec 13 is Unit 316 General Meeting at 8pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting. Saturday, Dec 18 is Unit 316 members Christmas Party at 7pm. Bring a dish/snack to share and a wrapped gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange, \$20 suggested value.

MEMBERSHIP: Thank you to those that have renewed and welcome to our new members. For those that have not renewed, dues are \$30, \$25 for over 60 and \$5 for Juniors. Contact Suzanne Lamonica (Membership Chairman) with any questions or concerns, email at suzlamonica@comcast.net.

I wish your and yours a blessed Christmas and New Year! 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6.

For God and Country,

Virna Luke, Socialalr5thFl@gmail.com, 817-791-3583

From the Bar:

Monday-Men's Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Monday-Bingo 6:30—8:30 **Riders serving food-volunteers needed**

Tuesday Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed

Tuesday Trivia 7 PM. Prizes awarded

Wednesday-Ladies Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Wednesday-Pass the Trash 7 PM-volunteers needed

Thursday-Bingo 2-4 PM-Volunteers needed

Thursday-Luck of the Draw Darts-7 PM

Friday-Steak Bingo at 6:15 PM by the 40 & 8

Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 8:00

Bartenders will be checking all cards this month as a courtesy. The 2021

cards expire 12/31/2021 so please renew now.

If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support in 2021.

Lost & Found. If you are missing any item, like cell phones, car keys, etc., please see Liz.

Customer Consideration: Please do not move other customer's drinks, money or property at the bar as this causes issues and accusations. If you want their seat, please ask them or ask the bartender to ask them.

The **Queen of Hearts** contest is conducted every Friday night with the drawing held at 8:00 PM. **You must be present, be a 2021 regular member of a VSO (no associate members can play and no signed-in guests can play) have your membership card on you, & pick the Queen of Hearts to win.**

DO NOT USE Handicap parking spaces for overnight parking.

All kitchen workers (lunches, Friday steak crews, Saturday dinners, Monday meal nights) are volunteers who depend on tips. Please remember to tip them.

Monday Bingo is at 6:30 and has a progressive lucky ball jackpot. **The Riders serve a variety of different items, so the price varies based on your order.** Tuesday and Thursday Bingo is at 2 PM with a progressive lucky ball jackpot.

Pass the Trash is Wednesday night at 7 PM. Come early to get a seat at the bar. **If you would like to deal, please let Liz know.**

Red shirt Friday drink specials are served every Friday. **You must be wearing a RED shirt to get the special.**

Wear official NASCAR clothing on race day Sundays and official NFL clothing on Sunday game days and get drink specials during the seasons.

We ask your cooperation in not bringing in or ordering outside food during times someone is serving food. Remember, they are donating their time and effort to prepare, serve and clean up. **The meals are fund raisers for our various programs. If you do not wish to buy the meal, please eat before you come to the Post or wait until the meal is done. Please do not bring in your own snacks, sodas, water, or any item we sell at the bar at any time.** When ordering food from outside the Post, please be sure to order plates and cutlery if needed. We will be locking the storage room at 6:00 PM nightly and on the weekends.

When you sign in a guest, that guest must leave when you leave.

Steak Bingo is conducted by the 40/8 at 6:15 PM every Friday steak night. Eight games are conducted-7 for steaks and 1 for road kill (ribs).

As a reminder, **the bartenders' priority is serving drinks to customers at the bar and in the line. If you wish to be served, use the waitress station-do not stand at the end of the bar or between people sitting at the bar.** If you want to redeem or buy a ticket for any machine, you will have to wait until the bartender finishes with drinks. **The Post has 72 hours to pay out on the machines and the bartenders cannot pay tickets of \$501 or more, or prior day tickets. You are limited to redeeming \$1,000 a day. If the bartender runs out of money, you may have to return later. The Manager will only redeem tickets Monday through Friday during normal business hours.**

We serve lunch Monday—Friday from 11 AM to 1 PM. We need help to continue this schedule.

Liz Hill

Legion Riders

The Riders Christmas Party is Saturday, December 11th at 6 PM, a pot luck supper is planned, turkey and ham platters will be provided by the Riders, a White Elephant gift exchange is planned so come on out and have a good time with your friends. I want to thank those who have participated in the Monday night Bingo meals, thank you for your time and effort it does not go unnoticed. Be extra vigilant and safe on the roads as drivers will be more distracted with the approaching holidays.

Our next meeting is Saturday the 4th at 9 am with the E Board at 08:30, hope to see you there.

John Tinsley

2nd Vice Reverbs

Thanks to those assisting with the Early bird dinner, making it a success. Please remember those deployed service members and their families as we enter the holiday season.

Mitch Harding

Chaplain's Corner

If you know of any sick or distressed Legionnaires please feel free to contact me at anytime 223-8053.

Joe Nolan

From the House Committee

Al Yardley

Service Officer

Paul Rastatter 215-906-5168

History Tidbit

All current Officers and Board members are asked to provide a photo wearing your Legion Cover and if possible a Legion shirt. The photo should be taken from the chest up. The photos will be used in the annual Post history book. You can email it to me at mlounsberry@comcast.net or provide a hard copy and bring it to the Post. Please include your full name, current position and any previous positions held at this Post. Additionally, any previous Post Commander can also provide a similar photo with the same info, so I can update the photo wall in the meeting room.

Mitchell Lounsberry

Two New VA Mortgage COVID Relief Programs

These programs are designed to help VA guaranteed home loan holders bring their mortgages current and resume making regular payments to avoid foreclosure. They are offered as a last resort and under limited circumstances. Requirements for both programs: must currently live in the property; must have been up to date, or less than 30 days overdue, on mortgage payments as of 3/1/2020; must have missed at least one payment after that date; must have entered into a forbearance agreement with the lender; must have recovered from any COVID-related financial hardship and cannot be delinquent on more than 30% of the property's appraised value. The **VA Partial Claim Payment Program runs until 10/28/2022**. Under this program, the VA will make any overdue mortgage payments to the lender and then create a second mortgage on the property. The second mortgage is interest free, and no payments are due until the veteran sells the home or pays off the original mortgage. At that time the borrower must repay the VA any money received before they own the house free and clear. The **Refund Modification Program** can give borrowers up to 20% reduction in their monthly mortgage payments. Again, the VA makes any overdue payments to the lender and creates a second mortgage. The lender is encouraged to modify the original mortgage by adding up to 10 years to the repayment schedule making it easier for the veteran to resume making payments. Contact your lender or a VA loan technician at 877-827-3702 for more details.

VA's Debt Management Center (DMC)

The DMC resumed sending debt notification letters on October 1. If you owe money to VA for an overpayment related to VBA benefits, here is what you need to know. VA automatically deferred collection

Sons of The American Legion

The 2022 cards are available. Please pay your dues. We have just reached 50% so renew now. The 2021 cards expire December 31st. Thank you to the November 12th steak team. Our steak night is the 10th this month.

If you received an invitation from National to become a Legion PUFL, it was sent in error by the new system. Disregard it.

Dues are **\$15 for 20-years and younger and dual members, \$20 for 21 and older. We offer 3-years at \$35 for 20 and younger and dual members, \$50 for 21 and older.** If you pay by mail, your card is mailed out the next day. If you pay in person, it will either be handed to you or be in the box behind the bar.

Our meeting is the 4th at 1030. All are invited to attend. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting and help make this year the best it can be.

David Keasler

on VBA benefit debts created on or after April 6, 2020, through September 30, 2021, to provide relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. Most VBA benefit debts are collected by the DMC, including debts for benefits, like compensation, pension and education. If VBA created a debt for you while collection was deferred, you likely received informational letters from DMC letting you know your debt existed, but you didn't need to act until after September 30 unless you chose to do so. [For more information on resumption of debt collection, https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/95184/debt-management-center-what-you-need-to-know-about-vba-debts-relief/.](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/95184/debt-management-center-what-you-need-to-know-about-vba-debts-relief/)

2021 Membership Update

The National Commander has announced a **new membership engagement initiative** for members who last paid in 2020 to give them the ability to continue their continuous years. Example: if an expired 2020 member had 5 continuous years prior to letting their membership lapse, and they pay for 2022, their continuous years would be 6. If dues are paid for both 2021 and 2022, their continuous years would be 7.

Renewing online: Legion members can register a MyLegion account at MyLegion.org with the email address on your membership record at National. **It is important that you have provided an email address to National prior to registering this account.** When your renewal is due and you have an account, a "Renew Now" button appears at the top right-hand page. Click on this button and the amount due is displayed in "My Order Balance." Select "Pay Now" or "Renew Now" to proceed and renew by credit card. You can also **save your credit card for auto renewals** which will be charged by the second week in July annually as the membership year runs July 1 to June 30. To set up auto renewal: 1. Click Membership Details under the MEMBERSHIP tab on the left-hand side of the page. 2. Click the box that says "I want to auto renew my membership each year" under your current membership status. 3. Enter credit card information and click "Add new card." 4. Click "Save" to save your future renewals. The system also gives you an option to receive your renewal notice by email. **Legion members with dues paid can print their current membership card** found under the MEMBERSHIP tab. If a dual member, the SAL card can also be printed if SAL dues are current. **Your MyLegion account allows you to manage your Legion information, and if a dual member, manage your SAL information.**

Scam Texts

Smishing, similar to phishing, is when scammers send a text to trick you into giving away personal info. **Report smishing texts to your mobile provider by texting 7726.** Some of the most popular tactics include asking you to verify purchases, claiming issue with your payment info, offering prizes or gift cards, sending fake package delivery notifications or warning you of suspicious activity on one of your accounts. If you're unsure if a text is legitimate, follow these **do's and don'ts**: **do** contact the business to determine if they contacted you, **do** forward spam and scam texts to 7726 and **do** block scam phone numbers; **don't** be fooled by familiar area codes as they have tools that make the number appear to be local, **don't** click links in text messages as links are used to install malware on your phone and **don't** respond to suspicious texts as scammers use this to verify your phone number and gain access to personal info.



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial
 American Legion Post 316
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
VODKA	Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri	NEED LUNCH WORKERS	1 Chicken Soup Chicken Salad Croissant Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	2 Meatball Sub Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	3 Shrimp Po Boy Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:15 Queen of Hearts 8 Double Shot	4 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
5 GIN @ Rams 4:25 PM	6 Hannukkah Ends Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30-8:30 Riders Food House Com 6:30 Men's Night 7PM	7 Pearl Harbor Day Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	8 Pepper Steak Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	9 Pork Loin Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	10 Chicken Fajita SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:15 Queen of Hearts 8 DJ Mitch	11
12 BOURBON 5th District 2 PM Jax Bch Post 129 @ Titans 1 PM	13 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30-8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	14 Baked Chicken Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	15 Beef Cheesy Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	16 BLT Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	17 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:15 Queen of Hearts 8 South Philly Billy	18 SUBVETS 1100
19 SCOTCH Maintenance Day 10:00 AM Texans 1 PM	20 Hamburger Steak Bingo 6:30-8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	21 Winter Begins Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	22 Cheeseburger Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	23 Pulled Pork Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	24 Christmas Eve NO LUNCH	25 Christmas Day POST CLOSED
26 WHISKEY Kwanzaa Begins @ Jets 1 PM	27 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30-8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	28 Choice of Sandwiches Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	29 Sloppy Joe Tater Tot Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	30 Patty Melt Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	31 New Year's Eve NO LUNCH New Year's Eve Party 7:00— Once Again Band	Bloody Mary/ Mamosa Specials