



# 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**

February 2022  
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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 all,

Welcome to 2022, I hope you have paid your dues! Currently we are 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 18 Posts in our District for membership renewals. What is your problem? Why have you not renewed? Is there a reason you have not renewed, if so please contact me with your concerns!

So, what are we going to do in 2022? Do you have any Legion goals you would like to achieve in 2022? How about looking at our programs and becoming a chairperson? How about contacting a program Chairperson and ask to join their team? How about becoming a Post officer? How about making it your goal to attend at least 50% of our General Assembly meeting? How about becoming a member of a cook team? What about looking around the Post and identifying a project that needs to be completed and make it your project to spearhead?

I really do not feel like writing this months Newsletter. I don't feel like writing it because I do not feel like I have your support. Every month I try to be positive and ask for your continued support of our organization. Granted I could do a better job as Commander; however I feel I have represented you as well if not better than a lot of our past Commanders. At our January General Assembly Meeting we had, I believe, 7 or 8 members in attendance. In 2021 our membership stood at 846 members in good standing. With only 7 or 8 members in attendance that is less than 1% participation. We had 8 new members and 10 transfers to vote in, however because we didn't have a quorum of only 10 members we could not. Thankfully none of those prospective members were present. How embarrassing would that have been! Also why were they not in attendance? I guess it is a good thing we do not perform an Initiation Ceremony, yes, the American Legion does have an Initiation of New Members Ceremony. It can be found on page 47 of the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. Maybe we should get back to basics and actually hold people responsible. I remember in my past joining another organization and until I attended their meeting and was initiated, I was not considered as a member. Maybe we should adopt a similar attitude?

It's a new year, figure out what you want from our Post and act upon your desires. We need new leadership and participation for the good of our Post. As I said above, consider taking a Chairmanship and/or run for a Post officer position. Except for just a few names on our leadership board, the names have remained the same for how many decades? I just ask one thing, if you do take me up on my challenge, do so with the intent of doing the best you can. We do not need new leadership in name only. If you stand up, own up! Being responsible for our Post is more than simply seeing your name on the leadership board behind the bar! This is our Post, start acting like you have ownership and participate!

**Denny Luke**

Executive Committee and General Assembly

**No Quorum, no business conducted**

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

**New:** Could not vote on new members

**Transfers:** Could not vote on transfers

**Taps:** Robert Becker

## 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**

**Wallace Williams 3/22**

**Richard Goodman 3/22**

**Penny Swiebel 5/22**

**Clarence & Liz Hill 8/22**

**In Remembrance USS Stark 2/23**

**Bob Shellenberger 10/23**

**B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23**

**Lance H. Davison 4/25**

**Eddie George 1/27**

## Super Bowl Chili Cookoff

**Bring your best chili on Sunday the 13th. Judging at 4PM. Then stay for the Super Bowl. Thank you to everyone who brought in food for the Sunday games.**

**Several jackets have been left in the Post recently. See Liz if you are missing a jacket.**

## Korean War Memorial

The Semper Fidelis Society and Vets4Vets are proud to announce a dedication ceremony of the Korean War Veterans Memorial at the Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery at 4083 Lanie Road on Saturday, February 5th at 1100. The Memorial is dedicated in memory of all those who fought and served in and during the Korean War. More info can be found at [jsfs.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:jsfs.usmc@gmail.com).

## New Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic

A virtual groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 15 to commemorate the construction of a new VA outpatient clinic being build at 145 Heron Bay Rd. It will be co-located with a brand new domiciliary which will provide an additional 30 beds of residential treatment capacity. This outpatient clinic will replace the VA Southpoint and Jacksonville University sites. The Jefferson Street Clinic will continue to remain open.

## 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 and receipts.**

## 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	<b>VACANT</b>
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	Paul Rastatter
Judge Advocate	<b>VACANT</b>
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**

Please pay your 2022 dues now. The **2021 cards are expired**. [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/](http://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, \$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**

Happy February to all! Welcome to our new members and those that have renewed for 2022. Currently Unit 316 is in 5th place for the entire District, let's drive our membership up, invite your family and friends to join our fantastic Post 316 family. If you have any questions or concerns regarding membership, please contact Suzanne LaMonica (Membership Chairman) at [suzlamonica@comcast.net](mailto:suzlamonica@comcast.net). We had a very nice New Year's Party, great food, and dance music. The next day Liz and Bill were in the kitchen preparing a delicious New Year's Day Breakfast. It was so good, I had to order another meal. We **donated toiletries for the Homeless Veterans Stand Down held on Jan. 28 and 29th** at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Our Volunteers are amazing, for steak teams, we had Liz, Kadence (Junior), Bill (Legion), Suzanne, Emma (Junior), and Denny (Legion). Auxiliary steak nights are the first and third Friday of the month 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](mailto:dndfishing@aol.com).

UPCOMING: **Valentine's Prime Rib Dinner on Saturday the 12th and Karaoke with Doug Bracey**, please donate a cake for our cake walk. **Feb. 26 ABC School starts at 10 am at Post 316**, learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary policies and procedures, the **same evening, Mardi Gras Party with cajun food and Cajun Dave & Lester for music**, don't miss out, you will be sad. Auxiliary steak nights are Feb 4 and 18. Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday, Feb 13 at Post 250 (2608 Black Creek Dr., Middleburg, FL 32068). Monday, Feb 14 is Unit 316 General Meeting at 8 pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting.

SAVE THE DATES: March 5 our Riders are having an Oyster Roast, everyone invited. April 2 The Military Child Table Setting Ceremony in our Post, starts at 11:30 am. Please show your support.

**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

**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 2022 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 NFL clothing on Sunday game days and get drink specials.

**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

I hope everyone made it safely through the new year and off to a good start, as a reminder if you have already renewed your yearly memberships thank you, if you have not please see Annie at your soonest or leave a check in an envelope in the Riders mailbox located next to the Post's front door. Keep an eye on the various social media systems you frequent for upcoming rides and events you might be interested in attending as a Chapter and bring them to our attention so we can get something set up, in case your not aware we do not see all postings. Don't forget to give your motorcycles a pre-ride safety check if you have not rode in a while. Due to the upcoming ALR Summit our **February meeting has been rescheduled to the 2nd Saturday the 12th at 9 am**, hope to see you there.

**John Tinsley**

## 2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed service members and their families.

**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

Did you know that on December 15th, 1943, Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery started to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationary in Washington, D.C., the first draft of what would later become the "GI Bill of Rights"—considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement. On June 22nd, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the original GI Bill, officially called the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes to U. S. society. Higher education becomes democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill. They also get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families.

**Mitchell Lounsberry**

## Mortgage and Rental Relief Programs

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP):** "Eligible household" must include one or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling in Duval County and **must demonstrate all 3 of these criteria:** 1. one or more individuals has either a. qualified for unemployment benefits or b. experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hard-ship due, either directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 and can attest to such in writing. 2. One or more individuals can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include a past due utility or rent notice or eviction notice, unsafe or unhealthy living conditions or any other evidence of such risk, as determined by the City. 3. The household has a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income (AMI) for the household. Priority is provided to households that have incomes below 50% AMI or have one or more members who have been unemployed for at least 90 days. Residents can apply online with the application available at <https://www.coj.net/erap>.

**Mortgage Relief Program (MRP):** Individuals requesting assistance must be the owner and occupant of the property. Up to 6 months of delinquent mortgage payments or \$7,500, whichever is less will be provided. Payments will be made directly to the mortgage company. Federal Guidelines require qualifying families and individuals to have an income that falls below 80% of the AMI. Those interested must create a MyJax account at [myjax.custhelp.com](http://myjax.custhelp.com). Applicants must submit a completed application and all required documentation through their MyJax account.

## Sons of The American Legion

The 2022 cards are available. Please pay your dues We have just reached 70% so renew now. The 2021 cards expired December 31st. Thank you to the January 14th steak team. Our steak night is the 11th 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 5th 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**

AMI 80% requirements are:

Household size	Total Income
One person	\$41,900
Two people	\$47,900
Three people	\$53,900
Four people	\$59,850
Five people	\$64,650
Six people	\$69,450
Seven people	\$74,250
Eight people	\$79,050

**VA is processing claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service. They are: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism associated with Agent Orange exposure, asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) associated with particulate matter exposure during military service in SW Asia/certain other areas.**

## 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](http://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.**



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February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>GIN</b>		1 Chicken or Veal Parmesan <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia Night 7PM	2 <b>Groundhog's Day</b> Smothered Pork Chop Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	3 Baked Chicken <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts	4 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 <b>Steak Bingo 6:15</b> <b>Queen of Hearts 8</b> Kenny Holiday	5 <b>SAL Mtg 1030</b>
6 <b>BOURBON</b>	7 Liver or Meatloaf <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> Riders Food House Com 6:30 Men's Night 7PM	8 Spaghetti with Meat or Clam Sauce <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia Night 7PM	9 Burgers Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	10 Stuffed Chicken Breast <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts	11 White Chili & Corn Muffins <b>SAL Steaks 5—8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:15</b> <b>Queen of Hearts 8</b> Doug Bracey	12 <b>Riders Mtg 0900</b> <b>Valentine's Party</b> Prime Rib Dinner 5 Cake Walk 6:30 Doug Bracey
13 <b>SCOTCH</b> 5th District 2 PM Middleburg 250 Super Bowl Chili Cook-off-4 PM	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> Shepherd's Pie <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> Riders Food Men's Night 7PM <b>Mtg Night 8 PM</b>	15 Chicken Enchilada <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia Night 7PM	16 Beefy, cheesy Italian Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	17 BLT <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts	18 Taco Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 <b>Steak Bingo 6:15</b> <b>Queen of Hearts 8</b> A1A Jax	19 <b>SUBVETS 1100</b>
20 <b>WHISKEY</b> Maintenance Day 10:00	21 <b>President's Day</b> Chicken Fried Steak <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	22 Philly Cheesesteak <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia Night 7PM	23 Chicken Alfredo Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	24 Chicken Noodle Soup & Sandwich <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts	25 Potato Soup & Grilled Cheese <b>Legion Steaks</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:15</b> <b>Queen of Hearts 8</b> Mitch	26 <b>Mardi Gras Party</b> Cajun Dinner 5PM Cajun Band-Dave and Lester
27 <b>WINE</b>	28 Chicken & Dumplings <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> Riders Food Men's Night 7PM		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		<b>NEED LUNCH WORKERS</b>	