



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

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

April 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 everyone,

I want to start by saying we are almost there on membership. As of this writing we are at 90% of goal and need only 85 members to sign up to get us to 100%. If you know of a member who has not renewed for 2022 or of someone that could be a member, please talk to them and encourage them to renew or join.

Department Convention will be held at the Hilton Orlando in Lake Buena Vista from 16 - 19 June. This is a great event to attend, please consider doing so. There is a Delegate sign up sheet in the Post, we can send 10 Delegates so if you plan to attend please sign the sheet. Remember the Post subsidizes Delegates so there is a little financial assistance for those that sign up and attends.

That said, because Convention is being held mid-June we will need to hold our Post elections on 21 May 2022 from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. As of our General Assembly meeting on 14 March the following have been nominated as officers for the 2022-2023 Legion year. Commander - Denny Luke, 1ST Vice Commander - Clarence Hill, 4th Vice - Joey Perez, Chaplain - Joe Nolan, Sgt-at-Arms - Al Yardley, Executive Board - Lester Saunders, John Tinsley, Greg White, Thomas Root and Jim Bright. Our Election Chairman is Wayne Green, and committeemen Paul Langan, they could use another volunteer or two. There will be another round of nominations during our April 11th meeting. I only see 2 new names on the ballot so far and no one is being challenged. For those that want change now is the time to stand up. If we keep nominating and electing the same people why would you think change will be forthcoming?

Speaking of change I inwardly was chuckling at our last General Assembly meeting. It was said in the Newsletter that I was advised some members would be making a motion to go smoke free. We had a fabulous turnout with over 30 members present. There was no motion made to go smoke free. One of our members requested to know when we were going to vote on smoking. When informed there was no motion made therefore no vote, he then made a motion to keep things the same. It was later clarified the motion was to continue to be a smoking Post which passed overwhelmingly. I was chuckling because it seemed ridiculous to bring to the floor a motion to keep things the same. I was thinking of all the people who have vented to me about how badly they want to be a part of our activities, but they cannot stand the smoke. They failed to show up and make a motion for change, so therefore I assume they use smoke as an excuse to not participate? I have discovered many want someone else to make changes but they do not want to invest themselves. On an even sadder note, during the meeting volunteers were requested for Legion Steak Night. Out of the 30 plus present only Joey Perez volunteered. It's sad that so many people "want" but feel they don't have to "give"! Same on Post maintenance day. I regularly see Al Yardley, Mitch Harding, with Thomas Root and a couple others attending when their work/life schedule allows, where is everyone else?

There was one other motion pertaining to smoking. It was decided that the back room would be non-smoking for Friday and Saturday events. We would not install a functioning bar in the back room at this time, however if people start utilizing the back room a server will be assigned.

On the 5th of March the Riders held an oyster roast and shrimp boil as a Post activity. I want to thank all that were involved, it was fantastic! It was great to see all Legion family members working together and having fun for a common objective, to help our Post and to enjoy comradery with our members. The canteen had receipts that were triple from a lot of other non-event Saturdays. For those members who missed it you missed good food with Mitch DJ'ing on the Pavilion and a nice fire in the new fireplace. We even had members from Post 81, Melbourne FL ride up to join us. Again, where were our members? It would have been an even better day had we sold out of

Food. It's soon to be a new Legion year, do you want things to remain the same? Come into the Post, look around and if you think improvements don't, can't or shouldn't be made then stay home and be assured nothing will ever change or get better or.....

Denny Luke

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$100 for the Freedom Car competing at Xfinity level
Approved \$350 to sponsor Kadence Thigpen to the Junior Law Enforcement Academy training
Approved up to \$900 for handyman repairs to the Post

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

New: Laurise Burd, Joseph Ford

Transfers: Michael Overton

Taps: None

Booster List

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

Penny Swiebel 5/22

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/22

In Remembrance USS Stark 2/23 Alison McCann 2/23

Bob Shellenberger 10/23

B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23

Lynn Murray 3/25

Lance H. Davison 4/25

Eddie George 1/27

2022-2023 Nominations

The first round of nominations was held. Nominated thus far are:
Commander: Denny Luke. 1st Vice Commander: Clarence Hill. 4th Vice Commander: Joey Perez. Chaplain: Joe Nolan. Sgt-at-Arms: Al Yardley. Executive Committee: Lester Saunders, John Tinsley, Greg White, Thomas Root, Jim Bright.

There were no nominations for 2nd or 3rd Vice Commanders, Finance Officer or Historian. Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Service Officer are appointed.

Nominations will be taken in April and May. The election will be held May 21st from 0800 to 2000 due to the early scheduling of the Department Convention.

There is no limit on the number of nominations for any position, so please consider attending a meeting and accepting a nomination.

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	Teresa Frank
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

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/

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 April to all! Welcome new members and thank you for choosing Unit 316. We appreciate those that have renewed. Have you renewed for 2022? If not, please place your \$30 (over 60 only \$25) cash or check in an envelope with your name and drop it inside the Auxiliary box near the main entrance. Want to mail your check, make it payable to **ALA Unit 316**. Please, write your membership number or name on the memo field and mail it to Suzanne LaMonica Membership, American Legion Post 316, 1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233. If you have questions/concerns regarding membership, contact Suzanne LaMonica (Membership Chairman) at suzlamonica@comcast.net. In March we donated toiletries to the Veterans Village of NE FL Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Donated school supplies to Kids Safe Zone, a free after school program that mentors children at Post 194 (St. Augustine, FL). We had a fabulous corned beef dinner for St. Patty's prepared by Liz, sorry if you missed it, many compliments. Kadence (Aux Junior) helped in the kitchen and served. Our volunteers are amazing, for steak teams, we had Bill (Legion from NY), Kathy (Auxiliary Unit 233, Liz, Denise, Phyllis, Greg (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. We will start nominations this month, for our leadership for the term of 2022-2023, you can find all the responsibilities of officers in our unit guide book, go to alaf1.org under Quicklinks, click Unit Guide, see pages 65-72. **You're invited on April 2 inside our meeting hall for The Military Child Table Setting Ceremony, starts at 1130am.** Wear purple! Please show your support for our Auxiliary Juniors and Young Sons, the future leaders of our Legion Family.

UPCOMING: Auxiliary steak nights are April 1 and 15 at 5pm. **On April 7th at 7pm, we will have a painting party to make centerpieces for our Dept President's Homecoming.** Our hostess will be Cheryl. Please come out and support us. District 5 meeting on April 10 at 2pm, at Post 54 (Fernandina Beach). Unit 316 General Meeting is at 8pm on April 11. **Dept. President Luncheon on May 7 at Post 129** (Jacksonville Beh in the NON-smoking Lounge) at 11am. RSVP email sent to your inbox, if you did not receive it, call/text or send me an email to be added to the list.

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 PM

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 with 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 Sunday race day 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.**

Liz Hill

Legion Riders

Well the weather definitely got better this past month, lots of good rides taken hope all of you took the opportunity to get some miles under your wheels. Post 1 in Titusville is having a ride on 9 April, Post 88 has their fun run on the 23rd and the Florida Unity Ride will be stopping at 316 on the 25th for lunch. The ALR year is moving forward. We have commenced nominations for Chapter officers, and yes there are still a few positions with no candidates, don't be shy, step up if interested at our next meeting. Back by popular demand, raffle tickets will be available at our April meeting for a drawing to be held on 2 July for a 150 ticket brick of \$2 Florida Lottery scratch-offs. Please volunteer your services to help in the kitchen on Monday nights, we also have a steak night on 29 April. Our next meeting will be on 2 April at 09:00 with the E Board meeting at 08:30. Hope to see you all then.

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

1919: From May 8—10, the St. Louis Caucus was held where "The American Legion" was adopted as the organization's official name and the Legion's draft preamble and constitution were approved. On June 9, the National Executive Committee adopted the Legion Emblem. Congress granted a National Charter on September 16th. The first national convention was held Nov 10—12 in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble were adopted and Indianapolis outvoted Washington, D. C. to become the national HQ. A resolution was passed in support of Boy Scouts of America.

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. Applicants must submit a completed application and all required documentation through their MyJax account.

AMI 80% requirements are:

Household size	Total Income
One person	\$41,900
Two people	\$47,900
Three people	\$53,900

Sons of The American Legion

We are within a couple of members to reach the 100% goal. Please pay your dues. Thank you to the March 11th steak team. Our steak night is the 8th this month.

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. Nominations are being taken for the 2022-2023 year now. Please consider joining the team.

David Keasler

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.

VA has also extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to Dec 31, 2026. VA presumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These include: chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders, and undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances. A wide variety of symptoms can qualify a Gulf War Veteran for presumptive service-connection. Veterans who are experiencing unexplained medical issues are encouraged to file a claim

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.**



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 American Legion Post 316
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
GIN	Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		APRIL IS LEGION CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH		1 Taco Soup Grilled Cheese Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	2 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030 Military Child Table Setting Ceremony 11:30
3 BOURBON	4 Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food House Com 6:30 Men's Night 7PM	5 Gold Star Spouse Day Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	6 Potato Soup Grilled Cheese Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	7 Baked Ziti Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts Painting Party by Cheryl	8 BLT & FF SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Doug Bracey	9 Former POW Recognition Day Doug Bracey
10 Palm Sunday SCOTCH 5th District 2 PM Fernandina Bch 54	11 Stuffed Pork Chops Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	12 Chicken Bruschetta Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	13 Paprika Chicken Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	14 Patty Melts Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	15 Good Friday Chowder & Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Jax A1A	16 Passover Begins SUBVETS 1100
17 Easter WHISKEY	18 Tax Day Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	19 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	20 Turkey or Ham Wrap Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	21 Taco Stuffed Shells Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	22 Earth Day Shrimp Po Boys Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Mitch Karaoke	23 Passover Ends
24 Orthodox Easter WINE	25 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	26 Chicken Enchiladas Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	27 Smothered Pork Chops Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7PM	28 Tomato Soup Grilled Ham & Cheese Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	29 Arbor Day Chef Salad Riders Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	30