



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

April 2023
VOL. 36 NO. 04
CIR:286sm738em18pu

*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

Once again thanks to all the volunteers who helped in March. Our membership is at 91.46%.

Home Depot is going to provide the Post with material to clean up and improve the looks of the property and building. Along with the material, they will bring volunteers to help, and we need to provide volunteers to work alongside them to make it easier to get future grants. I will keep you posted on the dates so let's be ready to step up and lend a hand. Our insurance company has canceled our insurance because the roof is over 25 years old. At our last Executive Committee meeting, we approved \$82,000 to repair the roof. We have temporary insurance in place while the work is in progress. We have also restarted the Building Fund and encourage those who can to help with the cost. It is tax deductible.

The 5th District Picnic will be held on the 8th of April at Post 137. Don't forget bingo is Monday night at 6:30 and Tuesday/Thursday at 2:00 PM. Wednesday is pass the trash, Thursday luck of the draw darts and Friday is steak night, steak bingo and Queen of Hearts. Also, we could always use volunteers on steak nights.

Greg White

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$82,000 to replace the roof
Approved \$250 for Jax Beach Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs
Approved \$100 for the 5th District Picnic at Post 137

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

New: Michael Cross, Dwayne Greer, Barbara Luedtke, Lanny Mosely, William Spicer, Jacqueline Waters

Transfers: Michael Anderson and Chuck West

Taps: None

Booster List

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

Regan Askwith 4/23	Clarence & Liz Hill 8/23
Bob Shellenberger 10/23	B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23
David & April Tolbert 11/23	In Remembrance USS Stark 3/24
Lynn Murray 3/25	Lance H. Davison 4/25
Penny Swiebel 5/26	Eddie George 1/27

Membership Cards

National has greatly revised the membership program this year. There are a lot of issues with what was provided, but our procedure hasn't changed. You will note changes to the renewal notice you receive from National. **Please remember, the Post has no control over what National does. Ignore the line that says "Member since 2022"**-it is on every renewal notice no matter how long you have been a member. Note that the card they have put on the back of the renewal notice is a **sample card** so it also has a 1 for continuous years. They have also removed the blanks for updating/providing your email address and phone number. If you are mailing your dues to the Post, feel free to provide that info and your war era/birthday on the back of the renewal notice. The card provides a procedure for paying online. **Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2023 unless you are behind and want to catch up your years; and do not click on the \$25 or \$30 options. If you click on one of them, the system will make you a new member starting with one year, a new membership number and put you in the headquarters Post which is 400 in Orlando. Post 316 will lose you as a member and**

get no credit for your renewal.

POST ELECTION

Legion nominations for 2023/2024 began last month at the General Assembly meeting. The following individuals were nominated for the positions as indicated: 1st Vice-Clarence Hill, Treasurer-Randy Casey (pending acceptance), Chaplain-Joe Nolan, Executive Committee-Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt (pending acceptance). Sgt-at-Arms-Al Yardley Commander, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Vice, Historian, minimum of 3 more for Executive Committee as well as any of the positions that have nominees. There are two more rounds of nominations before the election. To be nominated, you must be a member in good standing (2023 dues paid) and either be present at the meeting to accept or provided the Post Commander an acceptance in writing. You can nominate yourself and seconds are not required. Service Officer, Judge Advocate and Adjutant are appointed. Service Officer training at Department is required. The Post needs a Service Officer. If you have any interest, please let the Commander know.

VA Mental Health Care Update

Starting this past January 17th, **ALL VETERANS are able to access emergency mental health care FREE OF CHARGE** at any VA medical facility or outside clinic, regardless of whether they are already enrolled in VA health care services as part of VA's suicide prevention effort. The new policy applies to all veterans with any separation status except dishonorable discharge, regardless of whether they qualify for other VA medical services. VA will waive costs for VA care or provide reimbursements for emergency mental health care in facilities outside the VA system. Costs can include appointment fees, transportation costs and other related follow-up expenses. The new plan also calls for VA to cover the costs of up to 30 days of inpatient or residential care for treatment of those mental health issues and up to 90 days of outpatient care if veterans are experiencing an acute suicidal crisis. Veterans suicides has dropped to the lowest rate since 2000, but veterans are still significantly more likely to die by suicide than their civilian peers. This new benefit removes cost from the equation when veterans are at imminent risk of self-harm and allows them to access life-saving care when they need it most, regardless of whether the veteran has ever enrolled in or used VA healthcare benefits. **Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency can contact the Veteran Crisis Line through 988 option 1 for a VA staffer or 1-800-273-8255 option 1. Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net for assistance.**

Habitat for Humanity

The Beaches Habitat has a **Senior Home Repair program to address health, safety and accessibility issues.** Repairs could include roof/flooring repairs, construction of wheelchair ramps, window/door replacement and plumbing/HVAC repair. Program is open to seniors (60 and older) living east of the intracoastal and who own and reside in their home. Habitat finances the repairs with an interest-free loan whose monthly payments are calculated based on income. Seniors must demonstrate the need, be willing to partner and be able to repay the loan. For information or assistance, contact Taryn Stevens, construction coordinator, at 904-595-5806.

POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.

Post Officers

Commander	Greg White
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	VACANT
3rd Vice Commander	VACANT
4th Vice Commander	VACANT
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Bill Knipper
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	Al Yardley

House Committee

Chairman: Jim Bright

SAL Officers

Commander	David Keasler
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Horn
2nd Vice	Cody Dyal
Finance Officer	Clarence Hill
Chaplain	Will Oliphant
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tom Mari

Executive Board

John Tinsley, Thomas Root
Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt
Les Saunders

Legion Riders

Director: John Tinsley

Auxiliary Officers

President	Virna Luke
1st Vice President	Liz Hill
2nd Vice President	VACANT
Secretary	Suzanne Lamonica
Treasurer	TracyLynn Jenkins
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Tammy Knowles
Membership	Suzanne Lamonica

Auxiliary Executive Committee

Brenda Sahioun, Annie Anderson
Montana Jenkins

Club Manager Liz Hill

Legion First Vice Vibes

We are on the homestretch now and have done well this year, closing in on 95%. We need help as renewals have really slowed down. If you know a member who hasn't renewed, please encourage them to renew. Thanks. Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Please pay your dues by check, money order or come in and pay cash.

National went to a new system on April 1, 2021. You can create an account by visiting legion.org/renew and follow the steps. 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.** See Page 3 for details on establishing an account.

Dues are \$40 for ages 59 and younger (\$35 for Early Bird 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

Happy spring to all! We've had challenges filling our Auxiliary steak nights (1st and 3rd Monday of the month), special thanks to Lisa Hill, Kevin Burton (Sons) and Cody Dyal (Sons) for taking on both of our steak nights in March. We need your help, with over 300 Auxiliary members, this should be an easy task to fill every month. As a volunteer, you get 4 complimentary drinks, 1 dinner and tip\$. Let me know if you are available.

Unit 316 is currently 93.77% with membership, please invite your family and friends to join. Membership questions, contact Suzanne LaMonica at suzlamonica@comcast.net.

Saturday April 1 the Military Child Table Setting Ceremony will be at Post 283 (9459 Fort Caroline Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32225), starts at 11:00am (be there by 10:30am). Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday April 2 at 2pm, Post 54 (626 S 3rd St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034). District Picnic on Apr. 8 from 12-5pm at American Legion Post 137 (5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville 32210). Join us for a fantastic time, bring you family and friends. Live music, bouncy house for the children, hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings! Monday, April 10 is Unit 316's General Meeting at 8pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting. SAVE THE DATES: May 7 at 8:30am is District Constitutional Conference (DCC) at Post 137 (5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32210), this is where we elect our future District leadership for 2023-2024 (Legion and Auxiliary).

For God 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 Tap Trivia 7 PM

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 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8

Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 8:00 PM-volunteers needed

Trivia will start again this month on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM with a new person conducting the contest. Get your team together and join the fun. **Queen of Hearts started again last month** and the pot is growing.

If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support in 2022.

Lost & Found. If you are missing any item, like jackets, 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 2023 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.** We need volunteers to sell the tickets. Please see Liz if you can help.

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 logo shirts on race day Sundays to 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 6:30 PM every Friday steak night. Eight games are conducted-7 for steaks and 1 for road kill.

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. Please note: The Manager will only redeem tickets Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Seats at the games are for player only. Players are restricted to playing one game at a time.**

Liz Hill

Legion Riders

Welcome to March, I remember hearing about some Roman talking about the 15th. Anyway we start off with an Oyster Roast after our March meeting and we need everyone's support to make it a success. The riding season is getting in full swing, hope you are getting out there. As a reminder to all, if you have some favorite place or someplace in the local area you want to ride to, get with myself or Denise. If another Chapter is planning a fun run, let us know so we can get out there and represent. Speaking of represent-ing, it's time to think about nominations for elections of Chapter Officers and think about what position you would like to fill, some-thing to think about. As always, we need help in the kitchen for Monday nights, so step up and sign up. We also have steak night this month and will need help with the grill and kitchen.

John Tinsley

2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed service members and their families.
VACANT

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

Hope everyone had a great March and remember: spring is here. We have a contractor chose to replace the roof. Start date is to be determined and we will let everyone know when it will be. The April House Committee meeting will be held Monday the 3rd at 1800. Our outside work day will be the 15th out in the back yard. We plan to retire flags and clean up the sheds as well. Please volunteer if you can. Home Depot is donating a lot of material so we can do some small repairs around the building. More info coming as we get the material.

Jim Bright

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

2009-2010: 10/22/2009: President Obama signs the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act of 2009 guaranteeing "advance funding" for VA appropriations, a formula that The American Legion has strongly supported for many years. The new law sets funding for VA one year in advance. 2/2010: The entire Legion Family led by National Commander Clarence Hill bands together and wins \$250,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors in the PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project, submitting the most votes in an online contest and beating out over 700 other groups and charities to take first place in the contest. This was an early example of the still growing power of online and social media to augment everything the Legion does. 10/2010: The Legion forms a PTS-TBI Ad Hoc Committee to both examine current methods by VA and DOD of treating the two conditions and investigate potential alternatives. 12/2010: The Legion officially begins a relationship with USAA, making the veteran-founded insurance company "The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services." The purchase of USAA products gains money for Legion programs.

VACANT

Online Legion Account

To register in MyLegion.org, you must have your email attached to your name in the online National roster. If it is not in your profile, the account you establish will be a non-Legion account. See 1st Vice Clarence Hill if you are not sure. To establish the account, go to mylegion.org and select "Register." Enter the email in the Register window and click next. Then follow the prompts. After you create your password, the email must be verified. The system will send you a one time password (OTP) to verify it. Once your account is established, click on "My Account" and your information will be displayed to you and you can make additions or corrections as needed. With this system, you can print your own replacement cards if you lose yours.

PACT ACT SCAMS

As with all new benefits, scammers are quick to jump in and try to take advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There has been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing emails and calls targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf. Find a VA accredited representative near you for help in filing a claim for free. That's why Posts have Service Officers.

PACT Act

The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was signed into law 8/14/22 by President Biden. The law will allow vets to obtain

Sons of The American Legion

Please pay your 2023 membership dues. We are doing well on membership at nearly 90%, so let's keep it up. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the March 10th steak team. **Our steak night is the 14th 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 1st at 1030. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. **Nominated in March were: Commander-David, 1st Vice-Tom Horn, 2nd Vice-Cody Dyal, Finance-Clarence Hill, Chaplain-Will Oliphant.** Nominations will continue in April. Please consider taking an office. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting.

David Keasler

disability compensation for their exposure related injuries without having to prove respiratory illnesses or cancer diagnoses were related to their service-related exposure to open-air burn pits. In the past, the VA stuck to strict scientific evidence before granting presumptive status for illnesses linked to military service, and some 70% of claims were rejected due to lack of evidence. The law will **allow the VA to provide benefits and care to vets suffering from some 23 toxic exposure-related respiratory illnesses and cancers** to be phased in over the next 3 years. Vets will also see their VA medical coverage on discharge increase from 5 years to 10 years. 2017 discharged Vets will automatically be increased, while those discharged between 2014 and 2017 may apply for the increase. Vietnam Vets exposed to Agent Orange, presumptive status for monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) goes into effect immediately, while high blood pressure benefits won't go into effect until late 2026. There is also funding for the VA to hire more people to process the increase in claims. Info is available at VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

Camp Lejeune Justice Act

From August 1953 to December 1987, servicemembers and their families were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Congress passed a law that established presumptive conditions for those exposed to include the following cancers: esophageal, lung, breast, bladder and kidney, as well as leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Presumptive conditions shift the burden of proof away from the veteran, which streamlined and simplified the disability claims process. **Predatory law firms charging exorbitant fees have engaged in aggressive marketing campaigns to include television advertisements and social media digital marketing campaigns targeting veterans. Some take 2/3 or more of the settlement. This is why the Legion has service officers to help with the claims process.** While Post 316 is currently without one, the service officers for both Post 129 in Jax Beach and Post 283 in Arlington assist our members. If you intend to file a lawsuit and hire a lawyer, be sure to understand exactly what the relationship is. **At the National Fall Conference in Indianapolis last month, the NEC passed a resolution calling on Congress to provide the necessary oversight during the implementation of this act to ensure veterans receive fair consideration of their lawsuits and protections against predatory law firms.**

AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH

In January, *The American Legion Dispatch* will go to a digital format reaching a greater number of officers and leaders of the organization with additional resources. Enhancements to the monthly e-newsletter and a more robust web platform are in production. The *Digital Dispatch* currently has over 30,000 subscribers. Going digital will ensure that more officers-such as committee chairpersons and program managers-have access to information they need, and will deliver important information in a more timely manner. **The Digital Dispatch is free for those who register to receive it. Subscribe at legion.org/newsletters;** you will be directed to sign in to your **MyLegion.org** account, then opt in to receive the *Digital Dispatch*.



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



April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Lunch is Served 1100—1300 Mon—Fri				1 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
2 Palm Sunday BEER 5th District 2 PM Fernandina Beach Post 54	3 Chicken Fried Steak House Com Mtg 6 Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	4 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	5 Shepherd's Pie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	6 Passover Gold Star Spouse Day Smothered Pork Chop Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	7 Good Friday Soup & Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	8
9 Easter RUM	10 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	11 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	12 Chicken Fajitas Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	13 Pepper Steak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	14 Chef Salad SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	15 SUBVETS 1100
16 VODKA	17 Brunch 9-1 Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	18 Tax Day Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	19 Patty Melt Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	20 Chicken Salad Wrap Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	21 Sloppy Joe Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	22 Earth Day Gold Star Families Memorial Ride 4/22-29/2023
23 GIN	24 Stuffed Pork Chop Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	25 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	26 BLT & FF Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	27 Ham or Turkey Wrap Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	28 Arbor Day Shrimp Po Boy Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	29 American Le- gion Family Day Paint & Sip Party 1 PM Post 316
30 BOURBON						