



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

May 2023
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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

April was a good month, I hope everyone had a great Easter, and once again thanks to everyone who volunteered. Our membership is at 95.3 %. May is here, don't forget Mother's Day-Happy Mother's Day to all Moms.

We've had weather issues affecting the roof repairs, but hopefully it's done by the time you get this newsletter. Home Depot is still online with helping clean up the outside of the building and we will need volunteers to work with the Home Depot volunteers.

Our Post election will be held on Saturday, May 20th from 0800 to 2000. Come vote as we have many contested offices. We still have positions to fill, once again this is your Post-step up and support it. Memorial Day Ceremony will be held in the Park on May 29th at 0900. Post 316 is the host this year. We will be paying tribute to Gold Star Families.

The last District meeting is the Constitutional Conference at Post 137. Registration is at 0800. District Officers for 2023-24 will be elected as well as national convention delegates.

Greg White

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$200 donation to the Iraq/Afghanistan Monument

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

New: Corey Bartley, Erika Essman, Casey McGuire, Ted Shell, Michael Walton

Transfers: Raymond Breault, Adrian Kraus

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:

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 continued last month at the General Assembly meeting. The following individuals have been nominated for the positions as indicated: Commander: Bill Knipper, Jim Bright, Al Yardley; 1st Vice-Clarence Hill, Denny Luke; Treasurer-Randy Casey; Chaplain-Joe Nolan; Executive Committee-Steve Bartelt. We need volunteers for 2nd, 3rd, 4th Vice, Historian, minimum of 4 more for Executive Committee as well as any of the positions that already have nominees. Last round is at the May meeting with the election on the 20th. To be nominated, you must be a member in good standing (2023 dues paid) and either be present at the meeting to accept or have 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. We do have an absentee ballot procedure that begins with a request to the Commander. Place your completed ballot in a sealed envelope write ballot on the outside. Then place that sealed envelope in another sealed envelope and write your name on the outside. Either mail it to the Post or bring it in to be put in the Commander's box in the office.

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, including making the 95% goal. We still need help as renewals have really slowed down. If you know a member who hasn't renewed, please encourage them to renew. [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. Page 3 has 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 May to all! We should be at 100% of our membership goal by the time you're reading this message. We appreciate all Auxiliary members that have renewed and joined.

We had our first round of nominations of Officers for the upcoming term, join us on Monday May 8 for the final nominations and the election of Officers for 2023-2024.

Our Volunteers are amazing, and I truly appreciate all our Post 316 family for stepping up to help the Auxiliary during steak nights. Steak nights are the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, if you would like to volunteer, send me a message.

Sunday, May 7 District Constitutional Conference (DCC), registration at 8:00 am, Memorial Service at 8:30am, and Conference beginning at 9:00am, at American Legion Post 137 (5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32210). Delegates from Unit 316 will be electing the 5th District President and Delegates/Alternates to National Convention. All members are welcome to attend.

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 is in full swing on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM with a new person-join the fun.

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 May, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and effort to recent activities the Chapter has participated in. Again elections are upon us for Chapter officers, come on out and get involved to nominate those you want to hold an office. Chapter 9's Boots on the Ground event will be on the 13th of May, too many routes to lay out here. The May meeting will be on May 6, at 09:00 for the general assembly with the E-Board meeting at 08:30. Hope to see you there.

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

.Greetings from the House Committee Chairman: roof repairs should be in full swing or completed by the time you read this.

Next House Committee meeting will be the 1st of May at 1800. The next work inside day will be the 7th of May starting at 1000. We have reviewed the filters for the round fans and plan on changing them out. We should also change the A/C filters in the ceiling.

Have a great month and hope to see you at the May General Assembly which will be held on the 8th starting at 2000

Jim Bright

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

2011: 10/22/2009: May 5, 2011, The NEC authorized establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) to promote emergency communications and disaster preparedness, engage youth in math and science and facilitate public communications with our nation's federally licensed amateur radio operators who are veterans. TALARC membership is free for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion who are FCC licensed ham radio operators. The 5th District here in Florida is very active and has participated in many of the past hurricanes and other disasters. August 2011 The American Legion Baseball World Series is held for the first time in the tournament's new permanent home, Shelby, N.C. Prior to this, the tournament had rotated to different cities. Total paid attendance at the Shelby contests soars to an all-time high of 86,000 and is broadcast on ESPN-3.

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 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

Sons of The American Legion

Please pay your 2023 membership dues. We are doing well on membership at over 95%, so let's keep it up. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the April 14th steak team. **Our steak night is the 12th 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 6th at 1030. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. **Nominated for 2023-2024 are: Commander-David Keasler, 1st Vice-Tom Horn, 2nd Vice-Cody Dyal, Finance-Clarence Hill, Chaplain-Will Oliphant.** Offices open are Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms, and anyone can be nominated for any position. **Final nominations and the election will be at the May meeting.** Please consider taking an office. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting.

David Keasler

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*.

American Legion Scam

There is an unauthorized "My Legion App" currently available from the Android and Apple stores. It was created by an organization identified as "Giant Killer." Please do not engage with this seller as they **do not have permission to use the Legion likeness.** The app is a scam and is charging a monthly fee. National has no plans to produce a fee-for-service app, but is actively working on a mobile app focused on helping local Posts and individual members. When it is ready, it will be announced through official Legion channels and will be identified with The American Legion as the "seller" once published to the stores.



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



May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 May Day Beef Tips House Com Mtg 6 Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	2 Chicken Bruschetta Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	3 Spanish Chicken Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	4 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	5 Cinco de Mayo Taco Soup Grilled Cheese Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	6 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
7 BOURBON 5th District Const Conf Post 137 8:00 AM	8 Smothered Pork Chop Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	9 Crispy Tacos Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	10 Italian Hoagie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	11 Spicy Shrimp and Noodles Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	12 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	13
14 Mother's Day SCOTCH	15 Peace Officers' Memorial Day Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	16 Spaghetti w/ Meat/Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	17 Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	18 Meatball Sub Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	19 Nacho Supreme Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	20 Armed Forces Day SUBVETS 1100 Legion Election 8:00 AM-8:00 PM
21 WHISKY	22 Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	23 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	24 Meatloaf Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	25 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	26 Sloppy Joes Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	27
28 WINE	29 Memorial Day Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	30 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	31 Chicken Alfredo Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM		Lunch is served 1100—1300 Mon—Fri	