



# 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 2024  
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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

Those frigid temperatures have really hit home lately, but we've been staying warm and fuzzy at the Post. The staff would like to extend a heart-felt THANK YOU for all your generosity and support. January was a slightly lower key month, but we had amazing turnouts for the News Year's Eve Party. **Please make sure your membership card is current for year 2024.**

**"Be the One"** This is the message from our National American Legion Commander. It addresses the Veterans Suicide rate which has climbed to 22 losses per day. **If you know of someone in crisis, please reach out to them. The new Suicide hotline is "988".** Remember, this could be the buddy you had in boot camp. It is up to all of us to reach out and check on a buddy. See the note on page 3. **Take care of your significant other for Valentine's Day and join us for a great dinner on the 10th.** Have a safe and happy month.

**Bill Knipper 904-535-7526**

## Executive Committee and General Assembly

**Approved \$500 Scholarship to Kadence Thigpen**  
**Approved moving the night bartender's parking space from under the tree to next to the Commander's space**

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

**New:** Aiden Grimes, Clayton Millner, Thomas Rice

**Transfers:** John Wolf

**Taps:** Harry Hollenbach

## Booster List

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

**In Remembrance USS Stark 3/24 Clarence & Liz Hill 8/24**

**Lynn Murray 3/25**

**Lance H. Davison 4/25**

**Penny Swiebel 5/26**

**Eddie George 1/27**

## 2024 Membership Renewal Notices

Once again, **National has changed the renewal notice** you receive from them. **Please remember, the Post has no control over what National does.** The blanks for updating/providing your information are now on the back of the notice. **If there are blanks on the back, please fill in the information and also provide your birthday** when you mail in your dues.

## 2024 Membership Cards

If you pay dues online, you will be charged our official dues rate of \$40. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$32 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$32 to the Post. **Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2024 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 and a new membership number and put you in the headquarters Post which is Orlando 400.** Post 316 will lose you as a member and get no credit for your renewal. Please remember that you cannot pay your dues to the Post by credit card as we cannot process them. You'll have to use the ATM next to the exit.

## Department Raffle

The Department online raffle continues. **Due to those participants who designated sponsoring Post 316, the Post received \$49. Thank you to those participants and others are welcome to join them.** A winner is drawn on a Friday every two weeks. An early bird winner of \$1,000 is drawn one Friday, then the 50/50 winner the next Friday. So every Friday has a winner. Details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org/raffles](http://www.floridalegion.org/raffles). Thus there are two ways to win on each cycle with a winner drawn every Friday. When you purchase your tickets, **you can select Post 316 from the "Support Your Local Post" dropdown menu** when submitting your tickets. On a quarterly basis, the Post will receive 10% of the amount spent by those designating the Post. If a member who has designated Post 316 wins the 50/50, the Post will receive a \$500 bonus. You do not have to be a Legion Family member to play, but you have to be in Florida-the number won't work from outside the state. **Thank you to all who have supported Post 316.**

## DUES INCREASE

At the National Convention in Charlotte at the end of August, a resolution came forward for a **\$5 increase in the National portion of the per-capita effective July 1, 2024** with the beginning of the 2025 membership campaign. It passed unanimously. The last time National raised dues was in 2017. The Department portion remains unchanged for now but could change when the Department Finance Committee meets in May 2024. **At the December Post meeting, a dues increase of \$5 per year across the board was approved. Those members who have years left on their 3-year payment will not be affected by the increase in dues until their 3-year period ends.** If you are interested in prolonging the impact of the dues increase, pay the 3-year rate this year. You can also avoid it all together by becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member which can only be done online. **Our 2025 Legion dues will be \$45, the Early Bird dues will be \$40 and the Senior rate will be \$37. Three-year dues for 59 and younger will be \$115 and for 60 and older will be \$105. The 2024 dues rate is not affected unless you pay after June 30, 2024. If you pay your 2025 dues prior to July 1, 2024, it will still be the new rate as we cannot report your membership until after July 1, 2024 when the new rate is effective.**

## Post Website/Facebook Page

The Post needs a webmaster and admin for our Facebook page as the current member transferred to another Post. For the website, knowledge of WordPress website application is required. Some routine duties include uploading the monthly newsletter/calendar and fliers for any upcoming events. For Facebook, creating daily posts to engage with our members and future members, sharing our lunch menu, advising of weekly events, creating Facebook events, sharing pictures, videos, reels, etc. Working closely with the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders to promote their events. Also share any important information from National or Department. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

## POST NEWSLETTER

**This February issue is the last newsletter that those who have not renewed for 2024 will receive.**

**POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.**

### Post Officers

Commander	Bill Knipper
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	Bryan Canto
3rd Vice Commander	Joe Sawyer
4th Vice Commander	<b>VACANT</b>
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	<b>VACANT</b>
Judge Advocate	<b>VACANT</b>
Historian	Shane Adcox
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Tinsley

### 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	<b>VACANT</b>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tom Mari, Jr.

### Executive Board

Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt

**VACANT VACANT**

**VACANT**

### Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

### Auxiliary Officers

President	Liz Hill
1st Vice President	Annie Anderson
2nd Vice President	<b>VACANT</b>
Secretary	Sharon Harville
Treasurer	Cathy White
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	Cathy White
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Suzanne Lamonica
Membership	Nicole Thigpen

### Auxiliary Executive Committee

Brenda Sahioun, **VACANT**

**VACANT**

Club Manager Liz Hill

## Legion First Vice Vibes

The 2024 cards are at the Post and are being processed. Our dues have not changed this year and are as noted below. **Expect a dues increase next year as the note on the front page indicates.** Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Pay by check, money order or come in and pay cash.

**You can create your own national membership 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.**

**Dues are \$40 for 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 to the Post utilizing the renewal notice.

## Clarence Hill

### **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE**

Thanks to all who volunteered, brought dishes to donate and attended our meeting. Welcome to our new members. Please join us at our meeting in Feb and give us your support-we need new ideas. Our steak/salmon dinners are Fri the 2nd and 16th. We always need help.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Sat the 10th with a dinner, cake walk and entertainment. Dinner will be served at 5PM. We need donations of cakes for the cake walk. The Valentine's Day basket drawing will be at 9PM. We hold a chili cookoff on Super Bowl Sun the 11th with judging at 3PM, bring your favorite chili. **Thank you to Cathy White for accepting Treasurer.**

We continue to collect toiletries, books, etc. The Legion is starting a dart league on Thursdays at 7PM, but we need a few more players to sign up.

The February District meeting is at Middleburg Post 250 on Sun the 11th at 2PM. Our meeting is on Mon the 12th at 8PM. Hope to see you there.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

For God and Country.

**Liz Hill, lizardlassie@aol.com, 904-234-2692**

### *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  
Thursday-SAL Pizza Night  
Friday-Steak Bingo at 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8  
Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 7:45 PM-volunteers needed

**Our annual Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-off is February 11th.** Get your recipes dusted off and ready now. Judging will be at 3 PM and there will be \$1.00 drink specials.

The **kitchen and storage room are off-limits and closed when meals are not being served. No one is authorized** to go in the kitchen or storage room and help themselves to anything after meal hours or to use any of the equipment. Once again, thanks to all our volunteers. **We need help repairing bar stools if anyone can volunteer.** Thank you to our bingo callers, card sellers, winner checking. There is a sign-up list for Sunday football game food. With receipts, up to \$50 can be reimbursed.

**Trivia is in full swing on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM-join the fun.**

**If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support in 2023.**

**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 7:45 PM. **You must be present, be a 2024 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 NFL logo shirts on NFL 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 \$599 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

We hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for some thrilling rides ahead. **The District is selling raffle tickets to win a new 2024 HD Street Glide net proceeds to benefit Project VetRelief – Suicide Prevention Initiative.** The drawing is on 4/27/24 at 5 pm in Clearwater, FL. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. You never know, you could win like Denny Luke did one year! **Round Robin starts April 1** – no that is not an April Fools joke!! Let us plan many rides for the month to get and keep the trophy in the **Might 5<sup>th</sup>**!

Check out the website for all the information including the calendar of events: <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/from-the-chairman/>. We have some exciting events on the horizon. Mark your calendars for the **MARDI GRAS PARTY on Saturday, February 17 starting at 5 pm**. It promises to be a day filled with camaraderie, good food many libations, and great music! Also, **Saturday, March 2 at noon is our ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST** with shrimp and all the fixings. Make plans to attend!

Our **next meeting is on Saturday, February 3 at 9 am**. Come on out fill the meeting hall and win the jackpot of the 50/50!

Riding is all about freedom, but safety comes first. Always wear your protective gear, check your bike before hitting the road, and ride responsibly. Let's ensure every journey is a safe one. Remember, the road is calling, and we're ready to answer. See you on the next adventure!

Ride Safe,

**Denise Strickland**

### 2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those departed service members and their families.

**Bryan Canto**

### 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

See me if you'd like to volunteer around the Post.

**Jim Bright**

### Service Officer

**VACANT**

### History Tidbit

**Shane Adcox**

### 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](http://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.**

### Legitimate Charity Donations

When donating money, keep a few things in mind:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited contacting
- Use the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search tool to verify tax deductible
- Research the charity to be sure it is real and always get a receipt
- Legitimate charities do not ask for gift cards, cash or wire transfers
- Scammers can change caller ID to appear to be from legitimate charity
- Beware of vague or sentimental claims on how the money will be used

### 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

## Sons of The American Legion

Please renew now as your 2023 card is expired. **The bartenders may ask to see your 2024 card at any time, so have your card ready.** We are down to 34 delinquent members on our roster and only need 19 to make 100%. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** The list is downloaded every 10 days and the cards are mailed out. Thank you to the January 12th steak team. **Our steak night is the 9th 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 be handed to you or be in the box behind the bar. **The National dues increase next year is for Legion members only, the SAL dues is not affected.**

**Our meeting is the 3rd at 1030.** This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. Only **Squadron Office open is Historian.** New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting and consider taking an office. **Thursday pizza night is going well,** come out and try one and even lend a hand.

**David Keasler**

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](http://VA.gov/PACT) or by calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

### BE THE ONE Campaign

At the Spring NEC meetings this past May, the NEC passed Resolution 13: Be the One Days to provide a new method for raising awareness of the Legion's "Be the One" veteran suicide-prevention initiative. The Resolution **urges American Legion Family members and American Legion posts to set aside the first day of each month as an opportunity to reduce the stigma around mental health issues.** Legion Family members are urged to wear a "Be the One" item to signal their commitment to the initiative. This can be a great way to keep awareness high about this important issue all year long. Resolution 7 passed at the same Conference establishes the last Saturday in April as "American Legion Family Day" and encourages posts to open their doors to their community with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize and give back to those members that support the post and to place special emphasis on "Be the One."

### WW II Veterans VA Eligibility

WW II Veterans are reminded they are **eligible for no-cost inpatient and outpatient health care.** This expansion occurred through American Legion sponsored legislation the Maxwell Cleland and Robert Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (Cleland-Dole Act) which was signed into law in December 2022. WW II Vets who served between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible regardless of their length of service or financial status. These Vets will not have to pay copays, enrollment fees or monthly premiums. WW II Vets are encouraged to enroll in the VA. Veterans who enroll may keep their private providers, Medicare and most other insurance to meet their health care needs. Veterans who were not approved for VA health care in the past due to income limits should apply again as income levels no longer apply due to this law.



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## February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>BEER</b>		<b>Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri</b>		<b>1 Freedom Day</b> Shepherd's Pie <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts 7 <b>SAL Pizza Night</b>	<b>2 Groundhog Day</b> Nacho Supreme Aux Steaks 5—8 <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>3 4 Chaplain's Day</b> <b>Rider's Mtg 0900</b> <b>SAL Mtg 1030</b>
<b>4 RUM</b>	<b>5</b> Liver or Meatloaf <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Rider's Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>6</b> Spaghetti w/Clam or Meat Sauce <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia 7 PM	<b>7</b> Chicken Salad Wrap <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> Pass the Trash 7 PM	<b>8</b> Mexican Beef Food <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts 7 <b>SAL Pizza Night</b>	<b>9</b> Bean Soup/Ham Or Egg Salad Sandwich <b>SAL Steaks 5—8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Valentine Dinner 5PM</b> <b>Valentine Party</b>
<b>11 VODKA</b> <b>Super Bowl</b> <b>Chili Cookoff 3PM</b>  5th District 2 PM Middleburg 250	<b>12 Lincoln's B-Day</b> Chicken Fried Steak <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Rider's Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b> <b>Mtg Night 8 PM</b>	<b>13 Mardi Gras</b> Mardi Gras Lunch <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia 7 PM	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> Pass the Trash 7 PM	<b>15</b> Pulled Pork Taco <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts 7 <b>SAL Pizza Night</b>	<b>16</b> Fish or Chicken Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>17</b> SUBVETS 1100  <b>Riders Mardi Gras Party 5 PM</b>
<b>18 GIN</b>	<b>19 President's Day</b> Beef Tips <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Rider's Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>20</b> Chicken Enchilada <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia 7 PM	<b>21</b> Meatball Hoagie <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> Pass the Trash 7 PM	<b>22 Washington's B-Day</b> Hamburger Stroganoff <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts 7 <b>SAL Pizza Night</b>	<b>23</b> Potato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich <b>Legion Steaks 5-8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 BOURBON</b>	<b>26</b> Baked Chicken <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Rider's Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>27</b> Beef Stew <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Trivia 7 PM	<b>28</b> Cuban Spiced Pork Loin <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> Pass the Trash 7 PM	<b>29</b> Fish Tacos <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> Luck of Draw Darts 7 <b>SAL Pizza Night</b>		<b>March 2nd</b> <b>Riders Oyster Roast 12:00 (Noon)</b>