



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

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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

Welcome to March, daylight is increasing, and the weather has some cold spells. Now that the weather is getting warmer, the Post has partnered with Home Depot to complete these improvements. Just a reminder, **March 15 is the designated birthday of The American Legion**. This day in 1919 is when the first American caucus was held by members of the American Expeditionary Force and convened in Paris—March 15 is the day The American legion came to life. Your membership continues to make us a strong organization with the ability to help others. And for that I sincerely thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to be of service to our veterans and our community.

Nominations for next year's Legion Officers will commence at our March General Assembly meeting (11 March) and continue at the April and May meetings. Voting will take place on 18 May. If you are interested, please attend a meeting to be nominated as you must be present to accept or notify me in writing.

Have a great March and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Bill Knipper 904-535-7526

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$122.40/month for 12 months for public bus bench

Approved \$500 donation to the Freedom Car

Approved \$1,000 for the Fallen Heroes Monument in the BVMP

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

New: Nick Brooks, Jerome Culbreth Jr., Jessica Chetwood, Timothy Downs, Robert Hynes, Jacque Major, Dominic Patricio, Ray Shephardson, Steven Van Kleeck, James Williams Jr.

Transfers: Bruce Johanson, William Johnson

Taps: Thomas Baumann, Eddie Simpkins Jr.

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 1/31

Post Service Officer

Registration is now open for the Department Service Officer Class at the June Convention. Post 316 has been without a Service Officer for a number of years now. Primary duties are to assist members with filing for VA benefits and answering any questions that may come up. If interested, please talk to Post Commander Bill Knipper.

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**

Department Raffle

The Department online raffle continues. **Due to those participants who designated sponsoring Post 316, the Post received \$145 this past quarter. Thank you to those participants for your generosity 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. 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.**

POST 316 DUES INCREASE

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 for 2024/2025/2026. 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 it will cost the Post the new national renewal rate.**

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.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION

As the Department Convention is in mid-June, **the Post election will be held from 0800 to 2000 on Saturday, May 18th. At the Post meetings in March, April and May, nominations for all offices will be accepted.** You must be present at the meeting to accept the nomination or have provided the Commander a letter of acceptance prior to the meeting. This is an opportunity for members to make an impact, participate in the betterment of Post 316 and get involved. Any member can be nominated for any office.

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	VACANT
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
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	VACANT
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	VACANT
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

Welcome to all of our new members-we're glad you joined us. Thanks to the volunteers who worked our steak nights: Auxiliary-Lisa & Tara, SAL-Kevin, Glen & Cody. Thank you. **We need volunteers for other functions-if you can help, please give me a call.**

Dinners in March are: Steak or Salmon on the 1st and 15th and **a corned beef and cabbage dinner for St. Patrick's Day on Saturday the 16th at 5 PM.** Please plan on joining us for a fun night as we will have raffles and a prize for the best looking leprechaun.

Our membership is at 97% and we need 13 members to renew or sign up a new member. Please help us get to 100%-renew now.

The next District meeting will be Sunday the 10th at Hilliard Post 401 at 2PM Our meeting is on Monday the 11th at 8PM. **Our District President will be making her official visit.** Ladies, we need to make her welcome by having a good turnout. Please try to attend. Our meetings last about 30 minutes. **We are sending Easter cards to our troops. Stop by and sign a card.** Hope to see you at our monthly meeting on the 11th. We need your support and attendance.

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

Congratulations to Greg White for winning our Chili Cook-off.

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 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.

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 and get the program back on track. 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 whether we sell them or not 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 will 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 the March edition of our newsletter! As we gear up for another thrilling season of rides, events, and camaraderie, let's take a moment to reflect on our past adventures and look forward to the exciting journeys ahead. Reminder, 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. I want to thank everyone for participating in our first **MARDI GRAS PARTY! WHAT A GREAT TURNOUT! DON'T FORGET ON Saturday, March 2 at noon** is our **ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST** with shrimp and all the fixings. **The Matt Altman Band** will be entertaining us again! So, make plans to attend! I want to remind everyone safety is our top priority. Make sure you conduct your pre-ride checks on your motorcycle and stay vigilant on the road. Are you interested in taking a ride to a destination? Reach out and let's get it set up! Remember **Round Robin** starts on the 1st of April. As we embark on another exhilarating month of riding, let's continue to uphold the values of camaraderie, respect, and passion that define the ALR. Together, let's make March a month to remember!

Our next meeting is March 2 at 9 am – plan to make it short so we can prep for the oyster roast. Also, **start thinking about those nominations and the position you want to hold.**

Ride Safe,

Denise Strickland

2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed 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

Hope everyone had a great month. We retired over 200 flages this past month and will try to do another ceremony the first week in March. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know. Any help is greatly appreciated. We plan to clean the filters on the 16th starting at 0900. It should only take a couple of hours. If you can help, please let me know.

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 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

Sons of The American Legion

The bartenders may ask to see your 2024 card at any time, so have your card ready. We are down to 24 delinquent members on our roster and only need 9 to make 100%. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** The list is downloaded every 2 weeks and the cards are mailed out. Thank you to the February 9th 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. The 3-years dues for 20 and younger and dual members will be \$40 starting July 1st.** 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.

Our meeting is the 2nd at 1030. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting and consider taking an office. **Nominations for 2024-2025 will be taken at the March/April/May meetings and the election will be held at the May meeting. Thursday pizza night is going well, come out and try one and even lend a hand.**

David Keasler

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**

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).

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.



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



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BOURBON		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri			1 Soup & Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	2 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030 Oyster Roast 1200
3 SCOTCH	4 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night	5 Mexican Beef Tips Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	6 Fish or Shrimp Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	7 Turkey or Ham Wrap Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	8 Italian Hoagie SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	9
10 DST Begins WHISKEY 5th District 2PM Hilliard Post 401	11 Corned Beef Lunch Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night Mtg Night 8 PM	12 Chicken Bruschetta Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	13 Shepherd's Pie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	14 Meatball Hoagie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	15 Legion B-Day Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	16 SUBVETS 1100 Corned Beef Dinner 5 PM
17 St. Patricks Day WINE	18 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night	19 Spring Begins Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	20 Crispy Beef Tacos Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	21 Smothered Pork Chops Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	22 BLT & FF Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30	23
24 Palm Sunday BEER	25 Medal of Honor Day Chicken & Dumpling Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night	26 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	27 Stuffed Chicken Breast Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	28 Beef Veggie Soup-Grilled Cheese Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	29 Good Friday VN Vets Day Fish Tacos Riders Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30	30
31 Easter RUM						