



# 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 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

Welcome to Spring and nicer weather days. As the Legion enters this new season, we have started scheduling some additional events. The Legion officer nominations are open for the upcoming year. If you are interested in a position, please attend 1 of the next 2 general assembly meetings to be nominated. Election day is 18 May from 8:30 AM—8:00 PM. In addition, we are seeking members to be poll monitors on election day. Please submit your name to Clarence Hill or me. In August 2024, Post 316 will be hosting the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Post 316 and coinciding with a Family Day. Events like bouncy house, face painting, free food are being considered, and inputs are welcome. It's still in planning, date to be finalized at the April meeting. Any and all ideas are welcome and come out and enjoy the day. All are welcome  
**Bill Knipper 904-535-7526**

### Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$400 for flags for the National Cemetery  
Approved \$500 donation to Vet Relief at ALR State Rally  
Approved \$1,000 for a new grill for steak night  
Approved \$2,500 for Family Day  
Approved \$3,000 for a new beer cooler

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

New: Evan Fitch, Cory Chevalier

Transfers: Thomas Delahunt, James Ganderup, David Webster

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 8/24                      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 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 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 \$145 this past quarter. Thank you to those participants for your generosity and others are welcome to join them.** Details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org/raffles](http://www.floridalegion.org/raffles). When you purchase your tickets, you can select Post 316 from the "Support Your Local Post" dropdown menu. 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. Department will be considering a \$3 dues increase that will be voted on at the May Finance Committee meeting and if passed will be voted on at the June Department Convention.**

### 50th Anniversary

The Post will be 50 years old this August. If you have an input for a celebration, please let the Commander know.

### CHANGE IN POST HOURS

Starting April 1st, the Post will open at 8:30 instead of 8:00 Monday thru Saturday. Sunday remains 1:00PM and the closing hours are not affected.

### Fallen Heroes Monument

The Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., is raising money to install a Fallen Heroes Monument in the Park next door. **The names of all residents of Atlantic/Neptune/Jacksonville Beach who gave their all during every war will have their names etched on the monument. Total cost is more than \$37,000. Atlantic Beach has contributed \$25,000. Donations can be made to Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., with Fallen Heroes Monument in the memo line.**

### 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 0830 to 2000 on Saturday, May 18th. At the Post meetings in 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. **We also need a couple of volunteer to help distribute ballots to 2024 members and to count the votes at 8PM.** Please let the Commander know if you can help.

**THE WRAP HAS BEEN INSTALLED ON THE PUBLIC BUSS STOP BENCH AT THE CORNER OF SAN PABLO RD. AND ATLANTIC BLVD. IT LOOKS GREAT—CHECK IT OUT.**

**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**

It's not too late to pay your dues. Thank you to all who have paid as we have made all of the goals to date including the 90% goal. Our dues will not change for 2024 cards and are as noted below. **Our dues will increase for 2025 cards as noted on the front page. 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 date, you will be charged \$40-national only recognizes our official dues.** You get discounted rates by paying the Post utilizing the renewal notice.

## **Clarence Hill**

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

Thanks to all who volunteered in March whether it was in the kitchen or calling or selling bingo cards, we appreciate your support. April dinners are steaks or salmon on the 5th and 19th. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now. Your membership is important to the Auxiliary. We supported a family in need last month with food/household essentials-thanks for the donations.

We will be holding nominations at our April meeting for the upcoming year. Please consider taking an office. Our next meeting is Monday, April 8th at 8 PM. Our District President will be visiting us. Please attend. We will have finger foods and dessert. **Would you like a free 2025 membership. For each meeting attended, attendees will have their name entered for a quarterly drawing.**

We need volunteers so come out and support your Auxiliary.

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-players needed  
Wednesday-Ladies Night-7 PM-\$50 off drinks  
Wednesday-Pass the Trash 7 PM-volunteers/players needed  
Thursday-Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed  
Thursday-Luck of the Draw Darts-7 PM-players needed  
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

**Numerous complaints have been received about the use of speaker phones at the bar. If you get a call, please don't put it on speaker or go outside to talk.**

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

As we welcome the blossoming of spring, it's time to gear up for another exciting month of camaraderie, service, and riding. April brings with it a renewed sense of energy, and we're thrilled to share any upcoming events and initiatives with you. Let's saddle up and make a difference together!

A warm welcome to our **newest members** who have joined the American Legion Riders family: **Fatima Bartelt, Tom Horn, Stephen Roberts, Bill VanPatten, Cathy White, and Jackie Wilhite**. This month, we invite you to join us as we embark on new adventures, forge deeper connections, and make a lasting impact through our collective efforts. Whether you're a seasoned rider or new to our ranks, there's a place for you in our vibrant community.

**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. This is your last chance!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out and participated in our annual Oyster Roast – what a success!

**Remember Round Robin starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Check your email as I sent flyers to the group for upcoming events!** As safety remains our top priority, let's ensure we're equipped with the necessary gear and knowledge for safe riding. Remember to conduct regular maintenance checks on your motorcycles and always adhere to traffic rules and regulations. Let's ride responsibly and return home safely after every journey. As we embark on another month of service and solidarity, let's carry the spirit of camaraderie with us wherever we go. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans and communities alike. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the American Legion Riders' mission.

**Reminder our next meeting is Saturday, April 6 at 9 am.**

Our District meeting will be at Post 54 on **Sunday, April 14 at 12:30 pm**. Don't forget to nominate yourself or someone you think is a good fit for a position. Ride safe and ride on!

**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. Looks like the temperatures are going to start getting warmer so make sure you use lotion to protect your skin. We cleaned and changed out the air filters as well as the smoke spinners.

**The House Committee has received numerous complaints of people using the speaker option on their cell phones while sitting at the bar or inside the hall. Please be considerate of those around you and either go outside or leave your phone off the speaker when you receive a call.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN HOURS—THE POST WILL NOW OPEN AT 8:30 INSTEAD OF 8:00 ON 4/1/24.**

**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

## Sons of The American Legion

**Thank you for your support this year as we have made 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 March 8th steak team. **Our steak night is the 12th this month. Pizza night has been temporarily discontinued.**

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 6th 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 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**

### 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**

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.



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



## April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>RUM</b>	1 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	2 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	3 Patty Melt Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	4 Fish Tacos Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM	5 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	6 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
7 <b>VODKA</b>	8 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	9 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	10 Cuban Spiced Pork Loin Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	11 Shepherds Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM	12 Chili & Sandwich SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	13
14 <b>GIN</b> 5th District 2 PM Fernandina Bch 54	15 <b>Tax Day</b> Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	16 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	17 Pot Roast Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	18 Hamburger Stroganoff Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM	19 Chicken Veggie Soup & Grilled Cheese Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	20 SUBVETS 1100
21 <b>BOURBON</b>	22 <b>Earth Day</b> Rib Dinner Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	23 Pesto Chcken Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	24 Mexican Beef Tips Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	25 Ham or Turkey Wrap Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM	26 <b>Arbor Day</b> Hot Italian Sub Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30	27
28 <b>SCOTCH</b>	29 Brunch 10:00 AM Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	30 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		