



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

1127 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516
Offices/Club (904) 249-0202 /Fax (904) 249-2058
E-Mail is alpost316@bellsouth.net
Web site: alpost316fl.org
CHARTERED AUGUST 1974



HOME POST OF FLORIDA'S FIRST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER 2009-2010 - CLARENCE E. HILL

March 2025
VOL. 38 NO. 03
CIR:226sm800em16pu

*Legion meeting, second Monday of the month at 7 pm.
Auxiliary meeting, second Monday of the month at 8 pm.
Post Hours: 8:30am - midnight Mon - Thurs; 8:30am - 2am Fri - Sat; 1pm - midnight Sun*

Commander's Corner

Hello from your Commander. The weather is starting to get warmer and the days longer. Spring is around the corner.
Please note: starting with the March 10th meeting our General Assembly meeting will start at 7 PM (1900). By doing this we hope to increase our meeting participation. Hope to see you at the March meeting. Another reminder: **at the March and April meetings, we will be taking nominations for officers for the 2025-2026 year. The election will be in May.** The list of offices is at the top of the 2nd page. Please consider running for office.
Also at the March meeting, a motion will be made to be SMOKE FREE IN THE POST. You must be present at the meeting to vote on the issue.

Jim Bright 904-776-9004

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$250 for the POW/MIA Freedom Car
Approved \$2,500 for the baseball team for uniforms

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

New: Deborah Kelley, Scott McCallum, Marc Price, William Sikes, Louis Spradlin, Beverly Taylor

Transfers: None

Taps: Lee Austin

Booster List

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

Lynn Murray 3/25	Lance H. Davison 4/25
Clarence & Liz Hill 8/25	Ben & Shirleen Wait 8/25
Penny Swiebel 5/26	Eddie George 1/31

2025 Membership Renewal

If you pay dues online, you will be charged our official dues rate of \$45. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$37 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$37/\$40 to the Post. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged 3 X \$45 = \$135. You can only get the discount rates of \$105 for 60 and older/\$115 for 59 and younger by paying at the Post. **Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2025** 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.** Use the ATM next to the East side exit.

50th Anniversary Coins

The coins are in and can be purchased **for \$10 each.** See Clarence or Liz to purchase your coins.

All 2024 membership cards expired the 31st of December. Please pay your 2025 dues now. Reminder, you cannot be signed in as a guest, you cannot be served and you cannot be in the Post once your card expired.

Social Media Notice

The following notice was posted on the bulletin board, will be incorporated into the Post Regulations and is effective immediately. It reads: At a regular meeting of the General Assembly on Monday, October 14, 2024, **the membership ruled that any negativity toward The American Legion Post 316, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 316, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 316, Riders Chapter 316, their officers or their members on Facebook or any other social media platform would lead to consideration of disciplinary action by the House Committee.** It was also noted that used in a positive way, Facebook and other social media platforms can be tools to promote news, functions and activities going on at our Post. We want to build on a reputation of a Post that supports the Legion Family and a safe haven for our members as well as to promote new members that may want to join our Family Organization. Any concerns should be dealt with at your respective meetings.

5th District Meeting

The next 5th District Meeting will be Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 PM at Hilliard Post 401. The 5th District ALR meeting will be held at 12:30 that day also at Post 401. Attendance is a good way to see what other Posts are doing and get ideas for our Post.

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 Beaches who gave their all during every war will have their names etched on the monument.** Total cost is more than \$45,500, and a reinforced concrete base to hold it will be about \$10,000. Atlantic Beach has contributed \$25,000 and Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach have contributed \$5,000 each. Money raised is just over \$50,000. We have reached our goal for the monument and Atlantic Beach has ordered it. We are still working on the concrete base funding so donations can be made to Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., with Fallen Heroes Monument in the memo line and submitted to Post 316.

2025-2026 Post Officers

The Department Convention will be held June 12-15 in Lake Buena Vista. Post elections are required to be completed and reported not less than 10 days before convention. **We will be deciding on an election date in May at the March meeting. Nominations for all offices will be taken at the March and April meetings. The election will be held in May.** Please consider attending the meeting and running for an office. The Post hasn't had a full slate of officers for a couple of years now.

SMOKING/SMOKE FREE

This issue will be decided at the March meeting. If you have an input or preference, be there to be heard and to vote.

.POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.

Post Officers

Commander	Jim Bright
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	VACANT
3rd Vice Commander	Tom Stephens
4th Vice Commander	VACANT
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	Pete Wait
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Tinsley

House Committee

Chairman: Bill Knipper

SAL Officers

Commander	David Keasler
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Mari, Jr.
2nd Vice	VACANT
Finance Officer	Clarence Hill
Chaplain	Lester Verrette
Historian	Brian Knauss
Sergeant-at-Arms	Aaron Klaser.

Executive Board

Joe Bruce, Steve Bartelt

Bill Knipper **VACANT**

Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

Auxiliary Officers

President	Liz Hill
1st Vice President	VACANT
2nd Vice President	VACANT
Secretary	Denise Strickland
Treasurer	Cathy White
Chaplain	Annie Anderson
Historian	Brenda Sahioun
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Linda LaForm
Membership	Nicole Thigpen

Auxiliary Executive Committee

Diane Conrad, TracyLynn Jenkins

VACANT, VACANT

Club Manager Liz Hill

Legion First Vice Vibes

The 2024 membership cards expired on December 31st. Please pay your 2025 dues. The renewal notice you receive has areas on the back to provide info on email address, phone number, date of birth, etc. We really need to work hard to get 100% in 2025 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 \$45 for 59 and younger, \$37 for 60 and older (year-round). Our 3-year renewals are \$115 for 59 and younger and \$105 for 60 and older. **If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$45-national only recognizes our official dues. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged \$135.** You can only get discounted rates by paying \$40/\$37 or \$115/\$105 the Post 3-year rates to the Post.

Clarence Hill

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Thanks to the steak teams who volunteered in February-you did a great job. The Prime Rib dinner was also a hit. Thank you Kadence for your help.

We donated \$1,250 in food to our Veterans and families in need. We also donated 18 pairs of shoes and several sweaters and jackets.

We could not have a February meeting as we did not have a quorum. We need your support. **Elections will be coming up soon.** Please think about taking an office to support your Auxiliary.

Dinners in March are steak or salmon on the 7th and 21st, and on the 15th, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a corned beef dinner. March 1st, the Riders will celebrate Mardi Gras with a dinner and Cajun music. Come out and support our functions.

The 2024 cards are expired. If you have not renewed, please do so now. We need 34 to reach 100%. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods, food, books, toiletries, etc. We appreciate your support. We need more volunteers to support our programs. Please consider joining us.

Our meeting is the 10th at 8 PM. Hope to see you all there.

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 6 PM-players welcome

Wednesday-Ladies Night-7 PM-\$50 off drinks

Wednesday-Pass the Trash 7:30 PM-volunteers/players needed

Thursday-Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed

Friday-Steak Bingo at 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8

We will have a chili cook-off on Super Bowl Sunday the 9th. Enter your favorite chili. Judging will be at 4:00 PM.

The Tap TV Trivia Contest starts at 6 PM Tuesday nights. Turnout is great and the competition is fierce. Prizes are awarded so come join the fun and camaraderie. **Pass the Trash on Wed. is up and running again at 7:30 Wednesday nights, and is also doing well** Come out and join the fun.

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 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.

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

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 needs volunteers on Friday nights for the drawing to be held at 8:00 PM. **You must be present, be a 2024/25 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 back in action on Wednesdays at 7 PM. Thank you Patti Harrison. 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.

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. **Guests eligible to be members may only be signed in 4 times a month.**

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 drinks are finished. **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.

Bartenders will be checking membership cards. If you do not have a 2025 card, you cannot be served, be signed in or be in the Post

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 \$25,000 voucher, net proceeds to benefit **Project VetRelief – Suicide Prevention Initiative**. The drawing is on 4/12/25 at 3:30 pm in Clearwater, FL. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. I want to thank everyone for participating in our second annual **MARDI GRAS PARTY! WHAT A GREAT TURNOUT ON MARCH 1ST! DON'T FORGET ON Saturday, April 5th at 1 pm** 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!

Some sites of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALR5thDistrictFL>
<https://sites.google.com/a/alr5thfl.org/american-legion-5th/home>
<https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/about/>
<https://flalr.org/>
<https://fl-msp.com/>

Reminder: effective January 1, 2026, our dues will increase to \$20 yearly or \$150 for life.

Our next meeting is March 1 at 9 am – plan to make it short so we can prep for Mardi Gras. The next District meeting is March 9 at 12:30 pm at Post 401.

Also, start thinking about those nominations and the position you want to hold.

Ride safe and ride on!

Denise Strickland

2nd Vice Reverbs

VACANT

Chaplain's Corner

I sought the LORD and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4.

Pete Wait

House Committee

Bill Knipper

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

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.**

NEW VA Character of Discharge Regulation

The VA is implementing a new regulation pertaining to character of discharge determinations that will allow more former service members to qualify for VA benefits regardless of discharge type. Generally, a **former service member must have a discharge under honorable conditions**. Though VA cannot change the status of a DOD military discharge, it will review less than honorable discharges for benefits eligibility. **VA encourages former service members to whom it previously issued a negative character of discharge determination to reapply under the new regulations using a VA Form 21-0995** (<https://www.va.gov/find-forms/?q=VA+21-0995>), Decision Review Request; Supplemental Claim. Contact an accredited service representative for more information.

PACT Act

The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act was signed into law 8/10/22 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 we are just short of 95%. If you do not have a 2025, you cannot be signed in, be served or be in the Post. SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org. Thank you to the February 14th steak team. **Our steak night is the 14th this month.**

Dues have not changed and are **\$15 for 20-years and younger and dual members, \$20 for 21 and older. We offer 3-years at \$40 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings are the FIRST TUESDAY of the month, so our March meeting is the 4th at 6 PM. It is hoped that this will help with meeting attendance. Attend the meeting and give us your ideas. Elections are coming at the May meeting. Nominations will start in March, so please consider running for office.

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 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 who support the post and to place special emphasis on "Be the One."

New American Legion App

The American Legion has launched a new mobile membership app—Legion+ which can be downloaded through Apple iTunes and the **Google Play** store. Legion+ provides a direct route for members to access their digital membership card, manage membership information, recruit new members, help a suicidal veteran and get the latest news on legion.org. The new app includes these channels: **Home and News:** A list of the latest American Legion news head-lines; **Recruit:** A QR code appears that takes potential members to legion.org/join; **Be the One:** Features the ability to call the 988 Veteran's Crisis Line, follow QPR (question, persuade, refer) suicidal training and listen to Be the One podcast episodes. Other key features include: **A digital membership card** (top left corner icon) with current status and number of consecutive years; **Member-ship Account** (top right corner icon) with membership card, personal contact information, branch of service, service era, post and depart-ment contact information and more. More features will be added in the future such as the ability to send Post notifications to members, approve new members, and access Buddy Check rosters, Post Data Reports and Consolidated Post Reports.



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



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri				1 ALR Mtg 0900 Mardi Gras 5 PM
2 RUM	3 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	4 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap TV Trivia SAL Mtg 6 PM	5 Ash Wednesday Fried Fish Tacos Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	6 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00	7 Nacho Supreme Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	8
9 Begin Daylight Savings Time VODKA 5th District Mtg Hilliard 401 2 PM	10 Beef Tips Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Legion Mtg 7 PM Aux Mtg 8 PM	11 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap TV Trivia	12 Chicken Bake Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	13 Potato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Bingo 2:00—4:00	14 Breakfast Taco SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	15 American Legion B-Day SUBVETS 1100 Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner 5 PM
16 GIN	17 St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	18 Spaghetti w/Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap TV Trivia	19 Chicken Enchilada w/Beef Gravy Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	20 Spring Begins Pepper Steak Bingo 2:00—4:00	21 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	22
23 BOURBON	24 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	25 Congressional Medal of Honor Day Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap TV Trivia	26 Crispy Beef Tacos Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	27 Chicken or Steak Caesar Salad Bingo 2:00—4:00	28 Taco Salad Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	29 Vietnam War Veterans Day
30 SCOTCH	31 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM					