



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

January 2026
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*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

Hope everybody had a great New Year celebration and enjoyed their time together.

The beautification of the Hall is off and running. We are doing the ceiling tile replacement now and also started painting the walls.

I want to personally thank everyone for their help in getting this project going. And am looking for anyone that would like to assist. Most of the work is being done on Saturday mornings starting at 0900 and work till about 1 PM.

Come out on the 31st of January for a backyard Barbecue sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion. It starts at 4 and runs till 8. There are fliers posted around the hall. Come check it out.

Remember to please pay your dues for 2026.

Jim Bright 904-776-9004

Executive Committee and General Assembly

No money spent

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

New: Scott Akridge, William Bush, David Liller, Debbie Sixkiller

Transfers: None

Taps: Ted Shell

Booster List

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

Penny Swiebel 5/26

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/26

Pete Wait 11/26

Eddie George 1/31

2026 Membership Renewal

Our dues as of January 1, 2026 are \$50 for 59 and younger, \$40 for 60 and older and \$45 for Early Birds; the 3-year rate is \$130 for 59 and younger, \$120 for 60 and older. If you pay dues online, you will be charged our official dues rate of \$50. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$40 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$40 to the Post. The same is true for the Early Bird rate of \$45 for 59 and younger. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged 3 X \$50 = \$150. You can only get the discount rates of \$120 for 60 and older/\$130 for 59 and younger by paying at the Post.

Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2026 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.

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.

Dues/Newsletter Reminder

Please renew your membership now. **This will be the last newsletter that those who have not renewed will receive.** The list will be purged for the March newsletter.

Return to Vietnam Program

This organization is offering an all expenses paid, guided Journey to Vietnam for 20 veterans who served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate); the 1/503rd, 2/503rd and 4/503rd Battalions; the 3/8th and 3/12th Battalions of the 4th Infantry Division and any supporting units during the Battle of Dak To (November 3-23, 1967). The journey will be February 13-24, 2026. This journey is more than a return to a place—it is a homecoming of the heart. It offers these brave men the chance to walk once more on the ground where they served, to honor the memory of their fallen brothers and to find peace, healing and connection in the company of those who understand. **If interested and meet the criteria, contact Rick St John at Rstjohn2506@gmail.com or 762-822-3766.**

SAL STATE EMAIL GROUP

The SAL Detachment of Florida has a Google email group open to all SAL members which promulgates information on activities and functions sponsored by Squadrons, Districts or the Detachment. **Members are welcome to sign up by going to the Detachment website (www.floridasons.org).** At the bottom of the page is a button and information about the Google group. Just click the button and follow the prompts. You will then be set up to receive information about your Detachment. There is a full page QR Code posted on the bulletin board next to the liquor locker. Currently, there are only 491 out of the more than 30,000 SAL members subscribed to this group.

Membership Note

Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders 2025 membership cards expire 12/31. Renew now. Your cannot be served or signed in without a 2026 membership card. The bartenders are conducting a 100% membership card check so please carry your card.

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	Jerry Lee
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	VACANT
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	VACANT

House Committee

Chairman: Bill Knipper

SAL Officers

Commander	Denny Luke
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Mari
2nd Vice	Glenn LaForm
Finance Officer	Clarence Hill
Chaplain	Lester Verrette
Historian	Tom Horn
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Burton

Executive Board

Steve Bartelt	Bill Knipper
VACANT	VACANT
VACANT	VACANT

Legion Riders

Director:	Denise Strickland
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Auxiliary Officers

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

Auxiliary Executive Committee

TracyLynn Jenkins	Bonnie Buchmeier
VACANT	VACANT

Club Manager

Club Manager	Liz Hill
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Legion First Vice Vibes

The 2026 membership year is in full swing at the new dues rate. **Please note the dues increased as of Jan. 1, 2026.** The renewal notice you receive has areas on the back to provide info on email address, phone number, date of birth, etc. **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.

2026 Dues are \$50 for 59 and younger and \$40 for 60 and older (year-round). Our 3-year renewals are \$130 for 59 and younger and \$120 for 60 and older. If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$50-national only recognizes our official dues. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged \$150. You can only get discounted rate senior rate by paying \$40 or the 3-year rate of \$130/\$120 to the Post. **Please note, dues have increased as of January 1st.**

Clarence Hill

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Hope this finds you all well. Thanks to all who volunteered in January. We welcome Jessica, Mike and Debbie as new volunteers in January. Thank you. February dinners are steak or salmon on the 6th and 20th. **On Saturday the 14th we will celebrate Valentine's Day with a prime rib dinner starting at 5PM.** There will be a cake walk at 7PM. We need donations of cakes and help to make the night a success. We will raffle a basket with the drawing at 9PM. Please come out and support us.

A few more members are needed to renew their dues for us to reach 100%.

We continue to collect books, toiletries, etc. Please drop them off at the Post.

February is Americanism month. Remember to fly our flag with pride.

The Post will have a **chili cook-off on Super Bowl Sunday the 8th.** Enter your chili and win a prize. Judging is at 4PM. Let's crown a champion. It's a lot of fun. We have started the selection process for Girls State. If anyone knows of a high school junior who would like to attend, please let me know.

Our next meeting is Monday the 9th at 8PM. We need more attendance. Last month there were 5 of us. Please join us.

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 needed

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

The drop ceiling tile replacement is going well and should be completed by the end of January. Our bar stool seats have been refurbished and look great. Thanks to Patti Harrison and Brian Knauss for pass the trash at 7:30 Wednesdays. Tuesday TAP TV trivia is at 6PM. Monday bingo 6:30, Tuesday/Thursday bingo 2:00.

Please note: on June 1st, prices on alcohol increased. It has been years since they have increased and our cost has gone up annually.

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

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 7:30 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.

Liz Hill

Legion Riders

We hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for some thrilling rides ahead. 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 5th**!

Check out the website for all the information including the calendar of events:

<https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/from-the-chairman/>



I would like to thank everyone who stepped up and helped cook on Monday and Friday for Bingo & steak night, without you we could not do what we do.

The next district meeting is **Sunday, February 8 at 12:30 pm at Post 250** everyone is invited to attend.

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, February 7 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

VACANT

Chaplain's Corner

VACANT

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.](#)

VA Home Loan Program

The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act authorizes the VA to create a “permanent partial claims program” that gives Veterans a second chance to stay in their homes. [Thousands of financially distressed Veterans using the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program who are at risk of foreclosure will become eligible for federal assistance to cover their mortgage under this new program](#) signed into law in July by President Trump that allows them to defer monthly mortgage payments temporarily without losing their homes. Under the program, the VA buys a portion of the Veteran’s debt and secures a lien on the property. The legislation is intended for homeowners struggling to rebound from financial setbacks, such as a job loss or high medical bills. The Veteran does not have to pay off the claim until the home is sold or refinanced. The legislation passed unanimously in the House and Senate. [The bill also enables the VA to continue funding not-for-profit community agencies that run homeless prevention programs that provide transitional housing and services for Veterans experiencing homelessness through the Homeless Providers Grant](#)

[and Per Diem Program](#). The American Legion supported this bill. “This critical legislation represents a profound commitment to safeguarding the financial security and dignity of Veteran homeowners” said James LaCoursiere, National Commander of The American Legion.

Sons of The American Legion

Greetings Squadron 316,

Did you attend the SAL Backyard BBQ? If so, thank you for being there. I also want to extend a special thank-you to Brian and all of his helpers. Planning and executing an event like this is no small task, but they pulled it off spectacularly. To everyone who planned, worked, or attended, thank you for making it a great success. I also want to thank Glenn and Linda for volunteering every Steak Night, yes they could use some help in the kitchen if you are available. Our **54th Annual Detachment Convention** will be held **June 11–14, 2026**, at the **Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista**. This will be our LAST convention at this location, so if you plan to attend, please reserve your room as soon as possible. Call **1-800-782-4414** and be sure to ask for the **Legion Rate**. Convention details: <https://floridasons.org/detachment-convention/>

Prior to the convention, we must conduct **Squadron elections**. Nominations will be accepted during our **March–May general membership meetings**, with elections held at the **May meeting**.

Have you considered stepping into a leadership role within our Squadron? If so, how are you preparing?

- Have you read our **CBL**?

Reviewed the **Administrative Manual** or **Squadron Handbook** (available under the *Resources* tab on the Detachment of Florida website)? <https://floridasons.org/>

- Are you familiar with **The Source**, and have you read it recently?

Did you know the **Legion Basic Training** course is **free** and open to all Legion Family members? <https://register.legion.org/alei>

Our **membership drive is going strong**—we are currently at **76.79%** of our goal. We need just **39 more members**, either renewals or new recruits—to reach our goal of **168 members**. Commander Nigbor has challenged every SAL member to recruit at least **one** new member. This should be an easy win. Think about it—how many of us have sons, grandsons, neighbors, or close friends who are eligible but have never been invited? Encourage **four members to renew and recruit four new members**, and you qualify for the **Department of Florida Individual Membership Award**. Recruit **five or more**, and you may earn a **National Recruitment Award**.

Remember and practice **C.A.R.E.** every day:

Communicate. Action. Recruit. Educate.

Together, we keep SAL strong.

Respectfully

Denny Luke

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 department 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



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 RUM Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri	2 Groundhog Day Beef Tips Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	3 4 Chaplains Day Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM SAL Mtg 6PM	4 Chicken Rice Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	5 Kielbasa Bingo 2:00—4:00	6 Chicken Vegetable Soup-Grilled Cheese Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	7 ALR Mtg 0900
8 VODKA 5th District Mtg Middleburg 250 2PM Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-off Judging 4:00 PM	9 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Legion Mtg 7PM Aux Mtg 8PM	10 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	11 Smothered Pork Chops Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	12 Lincoln's B-Day Smoked Brisket Bingo 2:00—4:00	13 Shepherd's Pie SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	14 Valentine's Day Aux Prime Rib Dinner 5PM Cake Walk 7PM Raffle 9PM
15 GIN	16 President's Day Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	17 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	18 Ash Wednesday Fried Fish Tacos Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	19 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00	20 Creamy Tortellini Soup-Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	21 SUBVETS 1100
22 Washington's B-Day BOURBON	23 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	24 Chicken Noodle Casserole Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	25 Hamburger Stroganoff Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	26 Sausage Patty w/Macaroni Salad Bingo 2:00—4:00	27 Bean Soup Egg or Ham Salad Sandwich Legion Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	28