



# Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

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CHARTERED AUGUST 1974



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

March 2026  
VOL. 39 NO. 03  
CIR:218sm758em16pu

*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

I want to thank all the volunteers who have assisted in the work around the Hall for the last month. Your support has been greatly appreciated by myself and others who have commented on how nice the Hall is looking. We still have some work left, so if anyone else wants to join us, we are working every Wednesday and Saturday mornings starting at 0900. Hope you have a great day.

**Remember to please pay your dues for 2026.**

**Jim Bright** 904-776-9004

## Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$1,000 to Gold Star Wives  
Approved \$600 for Red Shirt Friday Down Payment

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

New: Antonio Pantoja, Max Wheeler

Transfers: None

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:

Penny Swiebel 5/26

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/26

Pete Wait 11/26

Eddie George 1/31

## 2026 Membership Renewal

**Post 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.

## ELECTIONS

It's that time of the year when all 4 organizations will be holding elections. **Officer nominations for the Legion will be taken in March/April/May with the election to be held Saturday, May 23 from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The Auxiliary will take nominations March/April/May with the election to be held at the May 11th meeting. The SAL will take nominations March/April/May with the election at the May 5th meeting. The Riders will take nominations at the March/April/May meeting with the election at the May 2nd meeting.** Whichever organization you belong to, please consider holding an office for the coming year. It is OK to hold an office in more than one organization. New blood is always needed.

## 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](http://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.

## Legion Impact Report

In January, the National Emergency Fund provided \$87,994.58 in grants issued to assist Legionnaires and SAL members in recovery from natural disasters. TAL staff appeals representatives submitted 870 appeals in January free of charge for veterans disputing their claims decisions. \$3,991,092 retroactive VA disability benefits were secured for veterans in appeals of their claims decisions. National Youth Scholarships were awarded to 21 individuals totaling \$54,866. Participants in the Grassroots Advocacy Center totaled 786,654 Legionnaires. Baseball team registrations totaled 353 teams thus far, and 2 more former Legion ballplayers were inducted into the Hall of Fame bringing the total to 90. Child Welfare Grants in January totaled \$28,062. Temporary Financial Assistance grants for veterans in need totaled \$4,485 in January.

## Military/VA Benefit Changes

Major changes were made by Congress. Cost-of-living increases for disability and survivor benefits match Social Security every year. VA can step in before foreclosure, buy percentage of delinquent mortgage and transfer it to a VA-managed loan. Victims of fiduciar-ies who stole benefits will see VA repay stolen money in full.

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

### Post Officers

Commander	Jim Bright
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	<b>VACANT</b>
3rd Vice Commander	Tom Stephens
4th Vice Commander	Jerry Lee
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	<b>VACANT</b>
Service Officer	<b>VACANT</b>
Judge Advocate	<b>VACANT</b>
Historian	<b>VACANT</b>
Sergeant-at-Arms	<b>VACANT</b>

### 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 Berton

### Executive Board

Steve Bartelt	Bill Knipper
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>VACANT</b>

### Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

### Auxiliary Officers

President	Liz Hill
1st Vice President	Brenda Sahioun
2nd Vice President	<b>VACANT</b>
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
<b>VACANT, VACANT</b>	

### Club Manager Liz Hill

## 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 the discounted rates by paying senior rate of \$40 or the 3-year rates of \$130/\$120 at the Post.

## Clarence Hill

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

Again, thanks to all for your help last month with our functions: steak nights-Suzanne, Debbie, Cody, Mike and Jessica. Thanks to Fatima for decorating and Kadence for serving our Valentine Dinner. Thanks to all who donated cakes and to Patty and Virna for their help with the cake walk.

Our dinners in March are steak or salmon on the 6th and 20th, and on the 14th, we will be serving a corned beef and cabbage dinner for St. Patrick's Day starting at 5 PM. We are selling chances for an Irish basket. Drawing is at 8 PM on the 14th.

We need a few more members to achieve our 100%. Please help by renewing or sign up if not a member.

March is community service month. For our end of year reports, let me know what you do in your community. We all do something-help a neighbor or volunteering your time-it all counts.

We are still collecting books, toiletries, etc. Congratulations to Ann Predmore for winning the Super Bowl chili cook-off..

**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

**Congratulations to Ann Predmore for winning the chili cookoff and thank you to all who participated.**

**The drop ceiling tile replacement is completed, new emergency exit signs have been installed.** 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.

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.

**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. Wear official NASCAR shirts on race day Sundays and get the drink 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.**

## 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. I want to remind everyone that 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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/>

Our next meeting is March 7 at 9 am. The next District meeting is April 12 at 12:30 pm at Post 54. Also, start thinking about those nominations and the position you want to hold.

Ride Safe.

## Denise Strickland

VACANT	2nd Vice Reverbs
VACANT	Chaplain's Corner
Bill Knipper	House Committee
VACANT	Service Officer
VACANT	History Tidbit

## Online Legion Account

To register in MyLegion.org, [you must have your email attached to your name in the online National roster](#). If it is not in your profile, the account you establish will be a non-Legion account. See 1st Vice Clarence Hill if you are not sure. To establish the account, go to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and select "Register." Enter the email in the [Register window](#) and click next. Then follow the prompts. After you create your password, the email must be verified. The system will send you a one time password (OTP) to verify it. Once your account is established, click on "My Account" and your information will be displayed to you and you can make additions or corrections as needed. [With this system, you can print your own replacement cards if you lose yours.](#)

## 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,

[Thanks to all who supported our Steak Night, the Backyard BBQ and our General Assembly meeting this past February.](#) Your support is vital to the success of our Squadron, and I thank you for your support. Our next General Assembly meeting is on Tuesday 3 March at 6:00 PM and our Steak Night is on Friday 13 March from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Please come on out and support your Squadron.

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 during 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 **88.10%** of our goal. We need just **20 more members**, either renewals or new recruits, to reach our goal of **168 members**.

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](http://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.



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March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Women's History Month</b> <b>Be the One Day SCOTCH</b>	<b>2 Hamburger Steak</b> <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Riders Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>3 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> <b>TAP TV Trivia 6PM</b> <b>SAL Mtg 6 PM</b>	<b>4 Chicken Casserole</b> <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> <b>Pass the Trash 7:30</b>	<b>5 Seabee B-Day</b> <b>Stuffed Pepper Casserole</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b>	<b>6 Shrimp Po Boy</b> <b>Aux Steaks 5—8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>7 ALR Mtg 0900</b>
<b>8 DST Begins WHISKEY</b> <b>5th District Mtg Hilliard 401 2PM</b>	<b>9 Chicken &amp; Dumplings</b> <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Riders Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b> <b>Legion Mtg 7PM</b> <b>Aux Mtg 8 PM</b>	<b>10 Philly Cheesesteak</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> <b>TAP TV Trivia 6PM</b>	<b>11 Italian Sub</b> <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> <b>Pass the Trash 7:30</b>	<b>12 Lasagna</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b>	<b>13 Seafood Chowder/Egg or Tuna Sandwich</b> <b>SAL Steaks 5—8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>14 Aux Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage Dinner 5 PM</b>
<b>15 WINE</b> <b>American Legion 107th B-Day</b>	<b>16 Meatloaf</b> <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Riders Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>17 St. Patick's Day</b> <b>Corned Beef</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> <b>TAP TV Trivia 6PM</b>	<b>18 Chef Salad</b> <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> <b>Pass the Trash 7:30</b>	<b>19 Beef Vegetable Soup/Sandwich</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b>	<b>20 Spring Begins</b> <b>Ham or Turkey Wrap</b> <b>Aux Steaks 5—8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>21 Rosie the Riveter Day</b> <b>SUBVETS 1100</b>
<b>22 BEER</b>	<b>23 Fried Chicken</b> <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Riders Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>24 Stuffed Shells</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> <b>TAP TV Trivia 6PM</b>	<b>25 Medal of Honor Day</b> <b>Hot Dog/FF</b> <b>Ladies' Night 7PM</b> <b>Pass the Trash 7:30</b>	<b>26 Shepherd's Pie</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b>	<b>27 Nacho Supreme</b> <b>Legion Steaks 5-8</b> <b>Steak Bingo 6:30</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Vietnam War Veterans Day</b> <b>RUM</b>	<b>30 Rib Dinner</b> <b>Bingo 6:30—8:30</b> <b>Riders Food</b> <b>Men's Night 7PM</b>	<b>31 Chicken Marsala</b> <b>Bingo 2:00—4:00</b> <b>TAP TV Trivia 6PM</b>	<b>Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri</b>			