



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

April 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

Looks like warmer weather is finally starting to show up. So please take care of yourselves and your pets.

We didn't have a quorum for the March General Assembly so we could not vote new members or on paying bills. This is why it is important for as many members as possible to attend the meeting. Also for the next two meetings we are taking nominations for 2027 officers. I would love to fill all the officer positions this coming year, but to do this members need to attend the meetings. Officer positions are listed at the top of page 2.

We are missing 3 four foot dollies from the hall. I'm asking for whoever borrowed them to return them please.

Remember to please pay your dues for 2026.

Jim Bright 904-776-9004

Executive Committee and General Assembly

No money spent due to no quorum

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

New: None-no quorum

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 were taken in March with Jim Bright nominated for Commander, Clarence Hill nominated for 1st Vice and Steve Bartelt for Exec Committee. Nominations will be taken at the April/May meetings with the election to be held Saturday, May 23 from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The Auxiliary will take nominations April/May meetings with the election to be held at the May 11th meeting. The SAL will take nominations April/May meetings with the election at the May 5th meeting. The Riders will take nominations at the April/May meetings with the election at the May 2nd meeting. Whichever organization(s) 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). 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 fiduciaries 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	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 Berton

Executive Board

Steve Bartelt	Bill Knipper
VACANT	VACANT
VACANT	VACANT

Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

Auxiliary Officers

President	Liz Hill
1st Vice President	Brenda Sahioun
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 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

Thanks to all who volunteered in March with steak nights-Kadence, Lisa, Kevin and Cody. St. Patrick's Dinner went great-thank you to all who came out and supported by purchasing a dinner. Thank you to Kadence for serving the dinner.

April dinners are: Friday the 3rd and 17th we will serve steak and salmon from 5-8 PM.

Membership is at 88% and we just need 35 members to reach 100%. We need you to renew now if you have not yet done so.

April is **Children and Youth month. On Saturday the 18th we will have a sock hop starting at 5 PM. Food will be served.** Dig out your poodle skirt, saddle shoes, bobby socks and leather jacket. Join us for a night of fun with DJ Larry and his oldies music.

Our next meeting is Monday the 13th at 8 PM. We will have our first nominations for new officers. We need new members to join us old ones. If interested come to the meeting or call me for info.

We continue to collect books, toiletries, etc. We would like to start our dart league on Thursday nights again. A sign-up sheet is at the Post. Please attend the meeting on the 13th and share your ideas.

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 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

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

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!

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.

Remember **Round Robin starts on the 1st of April**. With that being said, the **IN State Unity Ride starts on Sunday, April 19 with the Meet & Greet at Post 9 starting at 5 pm**. If you are unable to participate, please sign up online to be a virtual rider. <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/special-events/unity-ride/the-ride/>

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 4 at 9 am**. I hope to see you all then! Don't forget to nominate yourself or someone you think is a good fit for a position as we will be voting soon!

Ride safe and ride on!

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 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,

Thank you to everyone who supported our Steak Night, Wednesday evening meals and March General Assembly meeting. Our Wednesday meals have been a big success, often selling out thanks to the hard work of our kitchen team. Be sure to check the Post Facebook page for upcoming menus. Your support keeps our Squadron strong.

Our next **General Assembly meeting will be Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00PM Evening meal every Wednesday from 5:30 until 7:30, and our next Steak Night is Friday, April 10 from 5:00—8:00 PM**. Please come out and support your Squadron. I was a little disappointed at the turnout at the March meeting—we can do better.

Our **54th Detachment Convention will be June 11—14, at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista**. The delegate sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. This will be the **last convention at this location**, so if you plan to attend, reserve your room soon by calling **1-800-782-4414** and ask for the Legion rate. Convention details are available on the Detachment website, <https://floridasons.org/detachment-convention/>

Before the convention, we must hold Squadron elections. Nominations will be accepted at the April and May meetings, with election in May. Current nominations are:

Commander: Open

1st Vice Commander: Open

2nd Vice Commander: Open

Finance Officer: Clarence Hill

Historian: Tom Horn

Chaplain: Lester Verrette

Sgt-at-Arms: Kevin Bertin

We urgently need members to step up to be Commander, 1st Vice, and 2nd Vice Commander. You can prepare yourself by reviewing our CBL, reviewing the Administrative Manual & Squadron Handbook (available under the Resources tab on the Detachment of Florida website) <https://floridasons.org/>, reading **The Source**, and attending the online Legion Basic Training course which is free. <https://register.legion.org/alei>

Our **membership drive** is going strong—we are currently at **94.05% of our goal. We need just 10 more members to reach our target of 168**. Please encourage eligible sons, grandsons, eligible neighbors and friends to join or renew.

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

Communicate—Action—Recruit—Educate.

Together we keep SAL strong. Respectfully

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



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RUM	Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		1 Passover Begins Hamburger Stroganoff Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	2 Ham & Egg Casserole Bingo 2:00—4:00	3 Good Friday Tuna Fish Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	4 ALR Mtg 0900
5 Easter Sunday VODKA	6 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	7 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM SAL Mtg 6 PM	8 BLT & FF Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	9 Passover Ends Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00	10 Chicken Caesar Wrap SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	11
12 GIN 5th District Mtg Fernandina Bch 54	13 Beef Tips Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Legion Mtg 7PM Aux Mtg 8PM	14 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	15 Tax Day Baked Ziti Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	16 Swedish Meatballs Bingo 2:00—4:00	17 Chicken Vege- table Soup-Grilled Cheese Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	18 SUBVETS 1100 Sock Hop 5 PM
19 BOURBON	20 BBQ Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	21 Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	22 Earth Day Smothered Pork Chops Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	23 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00	24 Arbor Day Chicken Soup Chicken Salad Croissant Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	25
26 SCOTCH	27 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	28 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	29 Crispy Beef Taco Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	30 Pot Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00		