



# 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**

May 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 everyone had a great month. We have one more General Assembly meeting (May 11th at 7PM) to volunteer and be nominated for any officer position for Post 316. The election will be Saturday, May 23 from 0830—2000. Thus far there are no opposed offices.

We started our Saturday morning working on the Hall improvements on April 25th. Come out and join us any Saturday.

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. Our goal is 791 and we are 88 members short at 703.

**Jim Bright** 904-776-9004

## Executive Committee and General Assembly

**Approved \$1,000 to Sandalwood Band to be in the Memorial Day parade in Washington DC-they need to raise \$60,000**

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

**New:** March-Carl Barber, Fred Lynn, Bill Rachal, Tom Ryan, Augustus Webb April-Rogelio Antipolo, Brent Reed

**Transfers:** March-none April Ben Herndon, Jim White

**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 & April with these results: Cdr-Jim Bright, 1st Vice-Clarence Hill 2nd Vice-None, 3rd Vice-Tom Stephens, 4th Vice-None, Chaplain-None, Historian-None, Sgt-at-Arms-None, E-Board-Bill Knipper and Steve Bartelt. Nominations will be taken at the May meeting with the election to be held Saturday, May 23 from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The Auxiliary will take nominations and hold their election at the May meeting. The SAL will take nominations and hold their election at the May meeting. The Riders will take nominations and hold their election at the May 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.

## Post 316 Family Status

A number of items like jackets, sweaters, glasses, keys, etc. have been left in the Post and are stored in the liquor locker waiting to be claimed. If you have lost anything, please get with the Manager and see if it is there. **All items will be disposed of at the end of May.**

Post 316 has over 700 Legionnaires, nearly 400 Auxiliary members, 168 Sons of the Legion and nearly 70 Riders, yet each organization struggles to get a quorum at our monthly meetings, and it's the same people each month. More members need to take an interest in the Post, step forward and hold an office or attend meetings and bring forth your ideas. **We also have a problem with items disappearing**-an example is tables and chairs are gone without being signed out and getting the Manager's approval and haven't come back-if you have any Post property, please return it. As the Commander has noted, our 3 dollies are missing. The Post can't afford to keep replacing these items. **Please respect Post property.**

## 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.

**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</b>	<b>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**

Welcome to our new members and all who have renewed their 2026 cards. **We have not reached 100% yet, but are close.** Please renew if you have not.

Thank you to all our volunteers-Auxiliary, Legion and SAL who continue to support us. We need help as it is the same 5 or 6 every month. **At our meeting we had 6 of us for nominations. If we do not fill our offices, we will have to turn in our charter and everyone will have to transfer. I am asking that you all consider coming to the monthly meetings. It takes approximately 30 minutes a month.**

We need your support. Nominations at the April meeting were: Pres-open, 1st Vice-Brenda Sahioun, 2nd Vice-open, Secretary-Linda LaForm, Treasurer-Cathy White, Chaplain-Annie Anderson, Historian-open, Sgt-at-Arms-Lea Carlisle, Asst Sgt-at-Arms-Bonnie Buchmeier, Exec Com-open. If you would like to hold an office, please call me. **The election is at the May meeting on the 11th at 8 PM.**

Dinners in May will be steak or salmon on Friday the 1st and 15th.

**May is the month of the Poppy.** We have Poppies at the Post. Wear your Poppy proudly. We continue to collect books, toiletries, etc.

**We need 32 members for 100%.** Sign up a new member which can be a daughter or granddaughter as it is \$5.00 for Junior Girls up to 18 years old.

**Memorial Day is Monday the 25th. A service will be held in the park by Post 316 at 9:00 AM. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** For God and Country

**Liz Hill, lizardlassie@aol.com, 904-234-2692**

### From the Bar:

Monday-Men's Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Monday-Bingo 6:30-8:30 **Riders serving food-volunteers needed**

Tuesday Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed

Tuesday Tap Trivia 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

Thanks to Patti Harrison and Brian Knauss for pass the trash. Tuesday TAP TV trivia is at 6 PM. 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. The rules are posted-please read them.**

## Legion Riders

### Spring into the Season – Let's Ride! 🌸

Spring is in full bloom, and so is our excitement for hitting the open road on two wheels. As birds sing and flowers blossom, we're reminded of the freedom, adventure, and camaraderie that come with every ride. Let's make the most of this beautiful season—together!

### Upcoming Event: 13th Annual Boots on the Ground Poker Run

Mark your calendars! 📅 **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> ♀ Flamingo Lake Ⓞ**  
Registration begins at 8:00 AM 🚗 KSU at 11:00 AM  
Let's roll deep to support our heroes. This is an incredible way to honor those who've served our country—don't miss it!

### Happy Mother's Day!

Behind every great person is a remarkable mother. Wishing all the amazing Moms in our community a beautiful Mother's Day filled with love, laughter, and appreciation. You are the heart of it all!

### Memorial Day Flag Line – Honor & Remembrance

Join us as we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.  
📅 **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> ♀ Beaches Veterans Memorial Park Ⓞ** Please arrive on or before 8:30 AM Let's stand proud and united in remembrance.

🚗 **Ride Safe, Ride Smart** As the weather warms up, more bikes are hitting the road. Let's lead by example, **wear your helmets, obey traffic laws, and ride defensively.** Your safety is everything.

📅 **Next Meeting Reminder** 📅 **Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00 AM** Let's keep the momentum going—see you there!

🌸 **Looking Ahead: Department Convention** 📅 **June 11–14 ♀ Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista**  
Make plans now to attend this exciting event!

📅 **Stay in the Know** Want to stay updated on district happenings? Check out the calendar:

🔗 [District Calendar](#) 🔗 [Florida American Legion Website](#)  
Until next time... **Ride safe, ride proud, and ride together.**  
With respect and gratitude!

## 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](#)

## Sons of The American Legion

### Greetings Squadron 316,

Thank you to everyone who supported our Steak Night, Wednesday evening meals, and April General Assembly meeting. Our Wednesday meals continue to be a big success, often selling out thanks to the dedication of our kitchen team. Be sure to check the Post Facebook page for upcoming menus—your support keeps our Squadron strong.

### Upcoming Events:

- **General Assembly Meeting:** Tuesday, May 5th at 6:00 PM
- **Wednesday Evening Meals:** 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Steak Night:** Friday, May 8th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM

I am proud to share that our Squadron has contributed over **\$2,100** this year to a variety of worthy causes, including the NASCAR Freedom Car, Wreaths Across America (Jacksonville National Cemetery), Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial & Museum, Boys State, Girls State, the American Legion Department of Florida Disaster Relief Fund, Special Olympics, and we're not done yet!

Our **54th Annual Detachment Convention** will be held June 11–14, 2026, at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. The delegate sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. This will be the final convention at this location, so if you plan to attend, please reserve your room soon by calling 1-800-782-4414 and requesting the Legion Rate. More details are available on the Detachment website.

We **urgently need a Commander**, and I encourage members to step up. To prepare, review our CBL, the Administrative Manual & Squadron Handbook (on the Detachment website), *The Source*, and consider taking the free online Legion Basic Training course.

**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:** Tom Mari
- 2nd Vice Commander:** Glenn LaForm
- Finance Officer:** Clarence Hill
- Historian:** Tom Horn
- Chaplain:** Lester Verrette
- Sgt-at-Arms:** Kevin Bertin

We **urgently need a Commander**, and I encourage members to step up. To prepare review our CBL, the Administrative Manual & Squadron Handbook (on the Detachment website) *The Source*, and consider taking the free online Legion Basic Training.

Our membership drive is nearly complete, we are at 99.4%, needing just **one more member** to reach our goal of 168. Please encourage eligible sons, grandsons, 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

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 con-**



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May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SCOTCH</b>		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri			1 Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	2 ALR Mtg 0900 5th District DCC Jax Post 137 0830
3 <b>WHISKEY</b>	4 Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders' Food Men's Night 7PM	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> Chicken Pesto Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM SAL Mtg 6 PM	6 BLT & FF Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	7 <b>Nat'l Day of Prayer</b> Stuffed Chicken Breast Bingo 2:00—4:00	8 <b>VE Day 1945</b> Chicken Salad Wrap SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	9
10 <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>WINE</b>	11 Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders' Food Men's Night 7PM Legion Mtg 7PM Aux Mtg 8PM	12 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	13 Chicken Nachos Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	14 Baked Ham Bingo 2:00—4:00	15 <b>Peace Officer Memorial Day</b> Potato Soup Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	16 <b>Armed Forces Day</b> SUBVETS 1100
17 <b>BEER</b>	18 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders' Food Men's Night 7PM	19 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	20 Chicken Swiss Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	21 Ham or Turkey Wrap Bingo 2:00—4:00	22 <b>Nat'l Poppy Day</b> Bean Soup/Egg or Ham Salad Sandwich Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	23
24 <b>RUM</b>	25 <b>Memorial Day</b> NO LUNCH Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders' Food Men's Night 7PM	26 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6PM	27 Crispy Beef Tacos Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	28 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00	29 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich Rider's Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	30
31 <b>VODKA</b>						