

Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416, NC



THE SENTRY

Issue #57, April-June 2025



Phase One Results Are In: Vision 2040

-Written by Bill Granger, Post 416 Adjutant

As most of our post membership is aware, VISION 2040 is a multi-decade project that will determine the buildout of our property at 5419 South Alston Avenue in a manner consistent with American Legion initiatives and community needs. Phase one was a survey to our membership, area partners, and local community to identify the priorities of the services and amenities that are of greatest importance. Once these needs are prioritized, we can begin to focus our time and resources impacting our community, state, and nation in a manner that is most efficient and meaningful.

Phase one, the survey phase, was completed on March 15, 2025 with the resulting report already published online at [Project 2040](#). Based on the results of the survey, concepts naturally fell into three or four natural groupings which can be used to focus future waves of fundraising construction efforts. It is recommended that construction (and resulting fundraising)

should occur in the following groupings. Groups 3 and 4 can be switched in order of importance if so desired, as the summary results were nearly tied for both:

- Group 1: Baseball field(s), batting cages, and baseball support building(s).
- Group 2: Veterans memorial, walking path/park/open greenspace, commemorative brick element (complimentary concept to walking path)
- Group 3: Multipurpose gym/classrooms
- Group 4: Picnic/Event Pavilion

Using the information gathered in the survey, a site development plan will now be created for the Post 416 property at 5419 South Alston Avenue. This will be known as phase two and is now active. It should provide renderings of a proposed year 2040 view of the property, include estimated construction costs by structure/use, and present any government/environmental challenges. There will be additional fundraising required for this phase. Once an approved site plan is in place, further fundraising efforts will need to occur for construction costs, most likely in their order of recommended grouping.

If there was ever an opportunity to leave a lasting mark in our corner of the world, Vision 2040 could very well be where it begins. Please contact us if you are willing to financially partner with us on this project!

Post 416 Auxiliary Sponsors Girl Scout Troop 1462

Beginning January 2025, Post 416's American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has sponsored Girl Scout Troop 1462, a brand-new troop in the Research Triangle Park area. This group of young ladies has already made itself known through their Girl Scouts' annual cookie sales, which will fund their activities for the upcoming year. ALA officer Jennifer Weideman has also volunteered some time mentoring these young ladies.

We are proud to add this new sponsorship to our family of services as we continue to exemplify our motto of "veterans strengthening our community!"



AMERICAN LEGION
LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416

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Legion 2025 Membership Drive Update

After our post 2025 membership drive concluded on December 31, 2024, we received a flood of renewals which pushed our Post 416 membership up to 57 members. This is an all-time historical record since documents have been tracked at our post level in the 1970's. This puts Post 416 at 114% and well ahead of our state department goal of 50 for the year.

As part of this achievement, Post 416 was also presented the Cardinal

Award for beating our post membership goals by District 12 Commander Charles Johnson at a recent meeting this spring (photo below). Well done everyone!



Post 416 Achieves Another Historic Membership Milestone

After conclusion of our membership drive on December 31, 2024, we received a flurry of new memberships – enough to charter a new Sons of The American Legion (SAL) detachment at Post 416! We currently have 12 members signed up, and the necessary paperwork to standup the new detachment has already been sent to the state department. Once approved, the SAL paperwork is then forwarded to the national office for their approval. This is the stage we are at currently (as of press time).

Once we receive our charter from the national office, we will begin the formal standup of our Post 416 SAL detachment. In the meantime, Phillip Goldbsy will serve as Acting Detachment Commander and Bill Granger as Acting Detachment Adjutant to begin preparations for turning a SAL detachment at Post 416 into a reality. Congratulations to all for this historic accomplishment!



UPCOMING ACTIVITY REMINDERS

- 4/22/25 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 4/27/25 – Spring BBQ chicken dinner, noon-2pm
- 5/13/25 - Quarterly TAL/SAL/ALA membership dinner @ 6pm
- 5/13/25 - TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm (officer elections)
 - 6/10/25 - ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
 - 6/10/25 - TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 6/24/25 – TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm
- 7/8/25 – Quarterly TAL/SAL/ALA membership dinner @ 6pm
- 7/8/25 - TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm (officer installation)

TAL – The American Legion **ALA** – American Legion Auxiliary **SAL** – Sons of The American Legion

George Scruggs Transfers to Post Everlasting

We announce the passing of George Coleman Scruggs at his home in Durham on March 6th, 2025.

George was born on June 29th, 1943 in Rowan County, NC to JC and Stella

Scruggs. George was a graduate of North Rowan High School and Mars Hill College and attended Southeastern Seminary. For most of his career, George worked in data communication with the EPA. He loved baseball, outdoors, and driving. More than this, George had several passions that defined him. He loved his wife Betty, son and daughter-in-law Joshua and Stacy, and grandchildren Micah and Joy with a quiet intensity.

Having served in the Army during the Vietnam conflict, George was an ardent patriot and loved the USA. Recently, he was thrilled to be a part of American Legion Post 416, most recently as Chaplain. He was also one of the early contributors establishing an American Legion Baseball team at Post 416. In remembrance of his contributions, Post 416's Legion Baseball team this season will wear "GCS" on their uniform sleeve to pay tribute to George's leadership and service.

We'll miss George's smiling face and constant optimism around the post.



Jennifer Weideman Receives Honor

-Written by Sandra Rich, Post 416 ALA President

Jennifer Weideman received a Certificate of Appreciation at the March 8th American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) District 6 meeting.

Division II President, Susan Davis presented Jennifer Weideman District 6 President & Post 416 Vice President, with a Certificate of Appreciation:

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which contributed to the advancement of the American Legion Auxiliary programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

We appreciate Jennifer's willingness and dedication in providing excellent service and assistance to the 13 ALA units that fall under District 6. By the way, Jennifer was re-elected to serve as District 6 President for the upcoming year. We wishing Jennifer a successful year as District 6 President.



Showered with Love: USO Brings Baby Joy to Military Families in Raleigh

- Written by [Barry Morris, USO Southeast](#)

For many military families, the journey to parenthood can be filled with unique challenges, especially when living far from loved ones and familiar support systems. That's why USO North Carolina recently brought joy, connection, and a little bit of home to expecting military spouses through a USO Special Delivery baby shower event in the Raleigh-Durham area.

These events are part of the USO's Special Delivery program, which first launched in 2013. The program is designed to support military moms-to-be with baby showers that offer more than just gifts, they provide emotional support, a sense of community, and moments of celebration. To date, the program has served more than 50,000 expectant service members and spouses across the globe, both in person and virtually.

In the Raleigh-Durham area, where there are no nearby military



bases, USO North Carolina recognized the critical need to reach military families feeling isolated. There, families gathered to enjoy games, food, gifts, and the chance to make new friends who understand the unique realities of military life.

"Very awesome event here! I'm grateful for all the staff and volunteers," said Qiang An, an Army spouse. "The experience is very entertaining, and I felt welcome by the staff and the team."

Another Army spouse, who asked not to be named, shared: "It was a really good experience that helped me with social skills and building new friendships."



"This event was very fun and uplifting for new moms and families within the military," said one Army spouse. "I loved the games and prizes. And was

very excited to attend. My favorite was the bib baking."

Army spouse Lakaysha Al-Uqdah added, "This was an awesome event. I really liked the activities, prizes, and group size."

Susan Drum, the Center Operations Specialist for USO North Carolina overseeing mission delivery in the Triangle Area, expressed pride in the program's impact.

"These baby showers are more than just a celebration," Drum said. "They're about making sure our military spouses feel seen, supported, and connected, especially during such a special and sometimes overwhelming chapter of life. Whether they're stationed near a base or living in a more isolated area like Raleigh-Durham, they deserve to know they're not alone."

For Air Force spouse Anna Gerlach, the experience left a lasting impression. "This event was so much fun and I had such a blast! A bag for every mom was a wonderful surprise," she said.

"Honestly, I really loved this event and hope you do a couple or a few each year, I would love to attend another one!"



Through this USO Special Delivery event, USO North Carolina continues to deliver on its mission of strengthening the wellbeing of America's service members and their families, no matter where they are or what they're facing.

Post 416 2024-25 Annual Goals: A Final Update

-Written by Bill Granger, Post 416 Adjutant

We have now reached the final report of our 2024-25 year to examine how we are progressing towards completing our annual goals. As a reminder, these goals are intended to address the most pressing challenges to the continuation of The American Legion at Lowe's Grove, NC. All post officers agreed in July 2024 these four action items will have the most long-term impact towards continuing the mission of The American Legion in our local community.

Goal #1: (a) Create a road sign plan in front of post, and (b) identify opportunities with "DOT-like" signs in community.

As of publication date, Johnny has actively overseen development of artwork and engaged printing of a new roadside banner for in front of the post, as well as a small run of 2-sided "political signs" to post around town in visible, well-trafficked areas.

Goal #2: Identify area organizations and businesses friendly to The American Legion, and contact no less than 5 by June 30, 2025.

Adjutant Bill Granger has updated post communication materials in Q1 2025 with a focus on our latest messaging of being the only veterans service organization located in the Research Triangle Park. However, outreach to RTP businesses exploring how best we could partner with them has yet to occur.

Goal #3: Increase the number of rentals greater than FY24.

As of publication date, we have rented the post four times this fiscal year with one additional rental already booked in the next month. We have completed this goal as it was originally drafted; however, with the recent departure of one of our long-term lease partners we are faced with a budgetary need to execute 5-6 additional rentals before the end of 2025. Sergeant-at-Arms Rob Kaufman will continue to spearhead this goal towards our revised goals.

Goal #4: Begin a long-term 2040 site development plan.

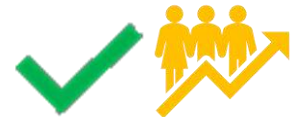
Phase one of VISION 2040 has been completed. Phase two is now underway.

Goal 1: Improve community visibility with better signage



In progress, to be completed with the month.

Goal 2: Contact no less than 5 friendly RTP businesses



Phase one of project completed, no progress on phase two.

Goal 3: Increase rentals



Original goal completed, revised goal in progress.

Goal 4: Begin a long-term 2040 site development plan



Completed.

“We’re Here for Each Other”

Today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The mission of The American Legion's **Be The One** initiative is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. We're actively working on lessening the stigma associated with mental health treatment and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran or service member may be at risk – one life at a time.

Across the nation, change is underway to reduce the number of military-affiliated Americans who are lost to suicide. Various estimates have put the daily toll at 18 or 22, while others say those figures underestimate the real number. In any case, The American Legion believes one is too many.

That is why The American Legion has prioritized raising awareness about the issue, providing free suicide prevention training and reassuring those who find themselves struggling that it is “OK to not be OK.” Our goal is to talk openly and boldly about the challenges affecting Americans every day.

As part of The American Legion **Be the One** mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

After the free online training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. Sign up today to take this free online training held weekly at <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>.

BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

TO **REACH OUT** WHEN
A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING

Jordan High School Honor Society Helps Post 416

Young men representing Jordan High School's Honor Society have been busy around Post 416 recently. Besides helping to jar peanuts on multiple occasions, they have also repainted the rear building hallway and picked up trash along South Alston Avenue. They have been absolutely fantastic and we value their service greatly. Thank you to these young men!



2025 is the 100th Anniversary of Legion Baseball

American Legion baseball began in 1925, and this year marks the centennial celebration of this institution. Post 416 once again will sponsor a senior-level team, this year coached by Derrick DePriest. In January 2025, a “Meet the Coach” event was held to introduce the coaching staff to potential team members, where Post 416 Commander Johnny Clinton presented the team with a check for our financial contribution to their season. A special 2025 baseball season publication will be forthcoming with full and complete details within the next month.



Coach Derrick DePriest



A Peak at the 2025 Legion Baseball Uniforms



Save the Dates: 2025 Post 416 Baseball Season

Date	Day	Versus	Start	Location	Address	City	Pod?
5/26/2025	Monday	Ahoskie Post 102 - Memorial Day Classic	1:00 PM	E. Carolina Athletic Park - Field #1	871 Buckswamp Road	Goldsboro, NC	
5/26/2025	Monday	Garner Post 232 - Memorial Day Classic	4:30 PM	E. Carolina Athletic Park - Field #4	871 Buckswamp Road	Goldsboro, NC	
5/28/2025	Wednesday	Chatham Post 305	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	
5/29/2025	Thursday	Chatham Post 305	7:00 PM	Jordan Matthews High School	910 E. Cardinal Street	Siler City, NC	
5/31/2025	Saturday	Raleigh Post 157	5:00 PM	Enloe High School	128 Clarendon Cres	Raleigh, NC	
6/2/2025	Monday	Garner Post 232	7:00 PM	Historic Durham Athletic Park	500 W. Corporation Street	Durham, NC	
6/7/2025	Saturday	Aberdeen Post 72	12:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	
6/7/2025	Saturday	Aberdeen Post 72	3:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	
6/9/2025	Monday	Garner Post 232	7:00 PM	TBD			
6/10/2025	Tuesday	Raleigh Post 157	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	
6/12/2025	Thursday	Garner Post 232	7:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	
6/14/2025	Saturday	Beaufort Post 99 - Doubleheader	1:00 PM	East Carteret High School	3263 US Hwy 70E	Beaufort, NC	
6/14/2025	Saturday	Beaufort Post 99 - Doubleheader	3:00 PM	East Carteret High School	3263 US Hwy 70E	Beaufort, NC	
6/19/2025	Thursday	Raleigh Post 157	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	pod
6/21/2025	Saturday	Raleigh Post 157	1:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	pod
6/24/2025	Tuesday	Raleigh Post 157	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	pod
6/25/2025	Wednesday	Wake Forest Post 187	6:30 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	pod
6/26/2025	Thursday	Wake Forest Post 187	6:30 PM	Heritage HS	1150 Forestville Road	Wake Forest, NC	pod
6/28/2025	Saturday	Wake Forest Post 187	1:00 PM	Jordan HS	6806 Garrett Road	Durham, NC	pod
6/30/2025	Monday	Garner Post 232	6:30 PM	TBD			

Call for Delegates – 2025 Department Convention

If you are interested in serving as a voting delegate representing Post 416 at this year's Department Convention, please make yourself known to the Post Adjutant **before May 20, 2025**. Due to our membership success this term, Post 416 is now authorized THREE American Legion voting members, but the Adjutant must submit said persons in advance of the convention.

This year's convention is held from Wednesday, June 18 to Saturday, June 21 at the Hilton Raleigh-North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609.

South Durham Little League – Partial Updates

As of press time, only partial information is known about the two teams Post 416 has sponsored for the 2025 spring season of South Durham Little League. We do not know what team we have sponsored for girls senior softball: only that games are scheduled to start the first week in May. However, we do know our boys' intermediate team is the Expos and this is all of the schedule shared before press time:

- Saturday 4/12 Parkwood Ballfield (5124 Revere Road Durham), 2pm and 4pm
- Saturday 4/19 Hillside High School (3727 Fayetteville Road Durham), 1pm and 3pm
- Saturday 4/26 Parkwood Ballfield (5124 Revere Road Durham), 2pm and 4pm



HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT

AMERICAN LEGION   

POST 416

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HONOR YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN WHO RETURNED
HOME AND LATER DIED THROUGH THE
IN MEMORY PROGRAM



**The Wall That Heals will be in Roxboro, NC
from May 1 - 4th**

To have your veteran included as part of the mobile Education
Center display when The Wall That Heals is on display in Roxboro,
apply by **March 31st.**



For more information, visit
www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/
or scan the following QR code:



WINGS OVER WAYNE

AIR SHOW

MAY 3 - 4, 2025 SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

10 A.M.

KC-46 AND F-15E FLYOVER IN OPENING CEREMONY
SMOKE AND THUNDER JET TRUCK
T-6 Warbird Thunder Formation Aerobatic Demo
Precision Exotics
RV-8 Full Throttle Formation Demo

11 A.M.

Pitts Rooster Aerobatic Demo
Mini Jet Tom Larkin Demo
Precision Exotics
Franklins Flying Circus
T-28 Trojan Thunder Jive Kerby Aerobatic Demo

12 P.M.

DH-100 Vampire Demo
MXS Rob Holland Aerobatic Demo
SMOKE AND THUNDER JET TRUCK
F-15E, T-38 AND PYRO Combined Arms Demo

1 P.M.

Franklins Flying Circus
C17 Demo
Precision Exotics

2 P.M.

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds