



THE SENTRY



Issue #61, April - June 2026

America is Turning 250, Join the Challenge

(Pg. 4)



2nd Century of Legion Baseball

(Pg. 9)



Commander's Corner

Post 416 stands on the brink of something truly transformational, not only for the Post but for our surrounding community. What I refer to is Vision 2040 – our plan to develop the remaining land at 5419 South Alston Avenue. When casting a vision, one question to answer is, “why do some organizations fail while others survive or evolve?” The phrase “If you’re not growing, you’re dying” frequently gets tossed around in leadership books. While not 100% correct on an individual level because it ignores the necessity of rest and stillness, it does capture a fundamental truth regarding organizations: standing still rarely means playing it safe and often means falling behind for groups who fail to change.

When drawing upon inspiration for this message to the Post 416 team, I came across the following piece of history that similarly mirrors our own smaller moment in time to encourage us forward. I offer it as a modern-day lesson from those who made North Carolina “first in flight.” The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, are widely known as the first engineers to successfully design, build, and operate an aircraft. The night before their first flight, Orville wrote a letter to Wilbur (excerpted as follows):

“Dear Brother,

Last week I heard a joke, “What do you call two men who think they can fly? A funeral.” The whole town has become an ocean of pointed fingers. People who I once considered friends are now a tidal wave of unsolicited advice. They are trying to rinse the colors out of our dreams. Yesterday a lady from church pulled me aside and said, “if God had wanted us in the sky He’d have given us wings.” And I replied, “Isn’t that what imagination is?” The ability to go somewhere where others can only think of?

Brother, some people who have never run a mile will tell you a marathon is too far. People will try to talk you out of jumping into the water simply because they never tried to learn how to swim. Fear is when the brain digs faith out of the body and then calls that survival. Fear is when we turn up the volume on everything that might go wrong and then give it permission to speak louder than our courage. But for those who do not worship at the altar of panic, for those who will not sacrifice their ambitions to worst-case scenarios, for those who will not give up, failure is just a short story they tell before they talk about success. I say stupid and brave are just two sides of the same coin – the only difference is whether or not you guessed correctly before the penny hits the floor.

And I know this task before us has been difficult, but when I walk outside I can feel the ground getting nervous like it knows it can’t keep us here much longer because we are destined for a higher calling. And I hear what they say, they say it’s impossible and it can’t be done, but I say everything is... until it’s not. Tomorrow we will call gravity a liar. We will kiss God on the face, and I will look you in the eyes and I will say “I told you the wind would feel different up here.” What they think does not matter, for when we are in the clouds we won’t even be able to see them. Brother, I have a joke for you, “What do you call the first two men in the world who figured out how to fly? Legends.””

Sincerely,

Bill Granger

Commander, Lowe’s Grove American Legion Post 416



Squadron Commander's Corner

Greetings Squadron 416

Spring is upon us, as evidenced by the Yellow Scourge covering everything and generally being a nuisance. But spring is also the season of renewal and growth. It's this part of spring that provides the opportunity for the Squadron to renew our commitment to honoring our fathers who served before us and grow the activity and involvement of the Squadron.

Part of the renewal that the Squadron will experience is the upcoming election of Squadron officers. Officer elections are coming up in May. Our Squadron should endeavor to have a full complement of officers, and all positions will be open for nominations: Commander, First and Second Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain and Historian. Certainly, with our small roster thus far, it's not reasonable to expect to fill every position. However, we should at least have a Commander, First Vice Commander, Adjutant and Finance Officer.

As of this writing, the Squadron is at 130% membership renewal for 2026. About the time the next edition of the Sentinel is published, renewals for 2027 can begin. The Squadron should commit to the goal of exceeding both the number of members as well as reaching full renewal as early as possible.

On 04 April 2026, for the first time in many years, there will be an SAL Division 3. Currently, there are 17 Squadrons, plus one starting in Sanford. The meeting will be at Chapel Hill Post 6, since the Division Commander Thomas Matherly is a member there. Squadron 416 will be represented by your Commander Philip Goldsby, Squadron Adjutant (and Post Commander) Bill Granger and Post Adjutant Thomas Wilkie. As Squadron 416 continues to grow, there's a valuable opportunity to meet and interact with other Squadrons and leadership at the Division, North Carolina Detachment and even National level. We stand to learn more ways to be an effective Squadron, participate in issues that affect SAL in general, and make our Squadron known to others that we are active and growing.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support the Post, the Unit and the Squadron. Please reach out with any comments or opportunities to broaden our presence in the local veteran community. I wish you and yours a New Year of peace, prosperity and positive action.

Best regards,

Philip A. Goldsby

Commander, Lowe's Grove SAL Squadron 416



Philip Goldsby

Sons of The American Legion Commander

American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

Celebrate the nation's 250th by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service.

About the Challenge

The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley encourages everyone to join the challenge, which was launched by Past National Commander James LaCoursiere on July 3, 2025. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. Donations will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Register here: <https://legion.myeventscenter.com/event/Usa-250-Challenge-111671>

Support a Participant or Donate here: <https://go.legion.giving/usa250challenge/>

Learn more about VCF here: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/veterans-and-children-foundation>

Source: American Legion ([Legion.org](https://www.legion.org))



Tax Day April 15, 2026

Tax Day is upon us! If you have not already done so, ensure you file on time.

The IRS maintains the irs.gov/getready webpage with helpful information. The page has many practical tips and resources for taxpayers. Preparing for the filing season can be simplified into two main steps.

Gather and Organize

Taxpayers should gather all their tax documents. The most common are IRS Form W-2, Form 1099, records of digital asset transactions and other information forms. There may be specific paperwork to support your income tax deductions, education credits or mortgage payments. You will need the adjusted gross income (AGI) from your prior year's tax return if you want to file electronically. Taxpayers must wait until all forms are received to file an accurate tax return.

IRS Online Account

You may create an IRS online account and enjoy multiple benefits – you can review your most recent tax return and AGI; obtain an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN); or sign a power of attorney for your tax preparer. The online account allows you to authorize a tax professional to access your tax records electronically. You can review and cancel payments and set up a payment plan.

Setting up direct deposit remains the quickest option for receiving a tax refund. Per an executive order, the IRS has started to phase out paper checks for tax refunds. Taxpayers without a bank account may want to explore opening an account or looking into alternative methods to receive a direct deposit.

You should gather your tax information and have an organized system for maintaining your records. The required forms are generally issued by the end of January and would be expected to be received by early February. Older adults and military members may benefit from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

Source: American Legion ([Legion.org](https://legion.org))



New Additions to Our Post Lending Library

Our lending library has just received a generous donation of three dozen books, all centered on military history and the lives of those who have served. This new collection spans multiple eras, branches, and perspectives, offering members and visitors a richer opportunity to explore the stories that shaped our nation's armed forces.

The donated titles include a mix of detailed historical accounts, personal memoirs, battlefield analyses, and biographies of notable military leaders. Whether you're interested in learning more about pivotal conflicts, gaining insight into the experiences of service members, or studying the strategic decisions that influenced world events, there is something in this collection for every curious reader.

These books are now available for checkout in the lending library at the post. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these new resources—discover a story you've never heard, revisit a moment in history, or share a book with a fellow veteran.

If you'd like help selecting a title or recommending one for others, feel free to stop by the post and help yourself.

- 'Walk In My Combat Boots', Patterson, Eversmann & Mooney
- 'No Ordinary Dog', Chesney
- 'Young Men and Fire', Maclean
- 'The Warfighter's Soul', Wark & Rodriguez
- 'No True Glory', West
- 'Live From Baghdad', Wiener
- 'Into The Viper's Nest', Grey
- 'Faith Of My Fathers', McCain
- '1001 Things Everyone Should Know About World War II', Vandiver
- 'The Greatest Generation Speaks', Brokaw
- 'Ashley's War', Lemmon
- 'Kosovo', Judah
- 'Vietnam', Hartline
- 'Left Of Boom', Laux & Pezzullo
- 'The Greatest Generation', Brokaw
- 'Heroes', Publications International
- 'The American Spirit', Ed. Sullivan LIFE Books
- 'September 11 a Testimony', Ed. Boyd
REUTERS
- 'The Dogs of War', Rogak
- 'No Ordinary Assignment', Ferguson
- 'City of Death', McEwen
- 'The Long Road Home', Raddatz
- 'Overconfidence and War', Johnson
- 'Roots of Strategy', Ed. Brig. Gen. T.R. Phillips
- 'Leadership in Turbulent Times', Goodwin
- 'Fiasco', Ricks
- 'Standing By', Buckholtz
- 'The All-Volunteer Force', Ed. Bicksler, Gilroy, & Warner
- 'Sergeant Stubby', Bausum
- 'Yorkie Doodle Dandy', Wynne
- 'Flag of Our Fathers', Bradley with Powers
- 'Band of Brothers', Ambrose
- 'Shooting Ghosts', Brennan & O'Reilly
- 'Soldier Stories', Readers Digest
- 'Grunt', Roach
- 'Two Scoops of Hooah?', Hauer & Whitney

Updated Officer Roles & Responsibilities

Reminder for 2026, we're updating our officer roles to match our new Constitution and By-Laws, as well as aligning with National and Department standards. The current team will continue as-is through June, but new roles start July 1, 2026. Post 416 is excited to announce refreshed officer roles and responsibilities, each designed to help our Post grow, serve, and thrive. Here's how your leadership team will work for you:

Commander & Adjutant: The Strategic Duo

Commander:

- Define annual goals for post with advice and consent from the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Chair the PEC
- Train and supervise all post officers
- Approve the post annual budget, and plan the post operations for the year
- Lead annual post officer elections
- Lead post membership meetings
- Serve as primary communication lead with American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion Squadron at Post 416
- Represent Post 416 at district/department meetings
- Represent Post 416 at internal/external events

Adjutant:

- Record and publish post meeting agendas and minutes for every membership meeting
 - Submit all membership records to the Department
 - Maintain and organize all post paper/electronic files
 - Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
 - Serve as a backup to Financial Officer
 - Lead post internal communication efforts, to include publishing a quarterly newsletter
 - Manage the post regalia inventory
 - Submit all required National and Department annual reports on behalf of the post
-

1st & 2nd Vice Commanders: Champions of Engagement

1st Vice Commander:

- Lead the annual membership drive
- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Backup the Post Commander at post meetings in case of their absence
- Lead a Post Buddy Check twice annually (March and November)

2nd Vice Commander:

- Lead all post social events
- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Oversee and execute post special events per the American Legion Manual of Ceremonies (pages 44-81)
- Organize all quarterly membership meals, as well as any special meals

Finance Officer & Chaplain: Heart and Stewardship

Finance Officer:

- Deposit, disburse, and track all post funds
- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Prepare annual post budget for Commander review
- Create all post financial reports
- Lead post quartermaster responsibilities

Chaplain:

- Serve as moral leader for post meetings and special events
- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Coordinate all post funeral and sick call support
- Lead post Memorial Day and 4 Chaplains Day ceremonies

Sergeant at Arms & Historian: Tradition and Storytelling

Sergeant at Arms:

- Lead all post “welcome wagon” activities
- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Oversee and/or execute physical space changes before and after post meetings
- Lead post flag retirement ceremonies

Historian:

- Serve in the Post Executive Committee (PEC)
- Complete annual post history according to Post Officers Guide (pages 140-149)
- Lead post external PR initiatives (such as social media and webpage content)

By clearly defining these roles, Post 416 is set for a future of growth, camaraderie, and service. Thank you to all our officers and committee members for your dedication and leadership!



Entering the 2nd Century of American Legion Baseball

As we step into the 101st year of American Legion Baseball, Post 416 is embracing a new era—one built on tradition, innovation, and a renewed commitment to mentoring youth through our vision of “Citizenship Through Sportsmanship.” A dedicated team has been working tirelessly to lay a stronger foundation for a season that promises to be more focused, purpose-driven, and impactful than ever before.

You can be a part of the excitement, too! We’re making a concerted effort to make every home game an event to remember. Individual tickets are required (\$10 each), with a combined 20-24 home games for junior and senior teams (pending weather/playoffs). Enjoy concessions sales, scoreboard, announcers, and special food truck nights. Team merchandise will be also available so you can show your support in style.

For those planning on attending more than a couple of games, you can also choose the new and more economical Booster Club experience! Choose from Bronze, Silver, Gold, and exclusive Post 416 member levels, each offering exciting perks—from concession items and team t-shirts to season tickets and invitations to our end-of-year celebration.

- **Bronze:** \$100/ea – \$2 concession credit at each game, plus a team t-shirt
- **Silver:** \$250/ea – 1 season ticket for all games, \$2 concession credit at each game, plus a team t-shirt
- **Gold:** \$500/ea – 2 season ticket for all games, \$4 concession credit at each game, 2 team t-shirts, an invite for 2 to end-of-year celebration, and a team autographed baseball
- **AL Silver** (for Post 416 members only): \$100/ea - 1 season ticket for all games, plus a team t-shirt
- **AL Gold** (for Post 416 members only): \$250/ea - 2 season ticket for all games, 2 team t-shirts, and an invite for 2 to end-of-year celebration

Sales and game schedules will soon be posted online on the team’s webpage at:

<https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc/about/baseball>.

Let’s make 2026 a season to remember—on the field, in the stands, and throughout our community. Join us and be part of the legacy!



2026 TAL Membership Drive is Close!

We currently have 59 (98.33%) members renewed for the 2026 campaign. All current members have renewed, but the goal is still one member away. All are highly encouraged to seek out new members to help us grow.

Thanks to the following members who have already renewed for 2026:

Willie Alford
Kellen Arney-Johnson
John Barricelli
John Bennett
Austine Brooks
Richard Chilausky
Amos Cooper
Robert Davis
Joseph Dean
Spencer Dewaele
Deanna Dooris
Zach Drum
Manfred Emmrich
Ronald Eurquhart Sr.
Bryant Farrell
Michael Fenning
Gale Forest
Pete Gaydosh
Bill Granger
Doug Green
Christopher Greene
Bobby Haggy
David Hartmetz
Eugene Harvey
Walter Henderson
Larry High
Roy Hunt
Jon Hunter

David Hutson
Paul Judge
Rob Kaufman
Ricard Lofton
James Lowe
Alan Mangu
Thomas Meyer
James Mitchell
Mike Mitchell
Joe Oleniacz
Victoria Orto
Missy Owen
Julius Pyles
Al Rowland
Reynaldo Ruybal
Leo Scrivner
David Sellars Sr.
Marshall Shipp
James Snyder
Larry Strickland
Arvin Swanson
Ken VanDine
Jerry Vaughn
James Vollmer
Arley Webb
Thomas Wilkie
Wayne Wrenn



2026 SAL Memberships Achieved!

The 2026 Sons of The American Legion goal had been set at 10 members for 2026, and we smashed this goal and achieved 13 members joined/renewed and hit 130% of our goal. However, we are still small and .



Thanks to the following members who've renewed/joined:

Sean Canoy
Philip Goldsby
Steven Goode
Ron Goodson
Bill Granger
Patrick Granger
James Greene
Ewan Hanson
Liam Hanson
Julian Rouse
Leo Scrivner
Felix Stumpe
Thomas Wilkie



Post 416 Connects with the Community

On Saturday, February 14, 2026, members represented Post 416 at the annual 'Cars and Coffee' event in Morrisville, NC. 'Cars and Coffee' is Morrisville's Veterans recognition day. Despite the chilly weather, Bill Granger, Jennifer Weideman, Phil Goldsby, and Pete Gaydosh showed up, delivered American Legion Family brochures, and talked to folks in the community about who we are and what we do to support fellow Veterans, their families, and our community.



On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Hope Worldwide Church's Sunday School class blessed Post 416's hall for their 'Day of Service'. The group gave our post a thorough cleaning and re-organized our supplies. A huge shoutout to Post 416 member William Orchard-Hayes for coordinating these efforts.



Activities Around the Post

Lowe's Grove American Legion Auxiliary of Post 416 hosted a breakfast and division meeting for American Legion Auxiliary Department of NC Division 6 members on Saturday February 28, 2026. Leaders and members from across Division 6 came together to share updates and to plan for upcoming events.



Scouts continue to flourish and pursue their badges, learning the skills they will need to be our Nation's next great leaders.



Membership Information

Ways To Pay Annual Dues at Post 416

Current dues remain at \$40 for TAL, \$32 for ALA, \$30 for SAL. There are four different ways you can renew:

- Cash/check in-person to the Adjutant at a post meeting
- Check in the mail to P.O. Box 12202, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
- Online at [MyLegion.org](https://mylegion.org) . Can do one year or multiple year renewals.
- Online at <https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc>.

Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership Program

American Legion members interested in the discounted Paid Up For Life program can now easily join online: www.legion.org/join/pufl

Legionnaires who become a Paid Up For Life member will avoid any future increases to membership dues and will never have to pay annual dues or receive renewal notices. Other benefits include a lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine.

Once registered:

- Members can either pay in full
- Pay in 12 monthly installments
- Members may also print a personalized Paid Up For Life application from the web page and mail in their payment.

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

After a member signs up, his or her respective department and post will be notified either electronically or by mail. The post has 30 days to notify the department in writing if the applicant is ineligible for a Paid Up For Life membership. The department will then notify National Headquarters about why the application was denied.

Posts may continue to process applications on the current paper forms until informed otherwise.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program: call (800) 433-3318 or email ia@legion.org.

Multi-year Memberships Available

Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join.

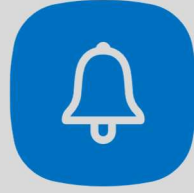
Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website.
- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have



signed up for the multiyear membership.



UPCOMING POST ACTIVITY REMINDERS

April 2026

- 4/1 – Be the One Day
- 4/4 – SAL Div 3 Meeting at Post 6 Chapel Hill @11am
 - 4/14 – ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
 - 4/14 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
 - 4/26 – Spring BBQ Chicken Dinner @12pm
 - 4/28 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm

May 2026

- 5/1 – Be the One Day
- 5/9 – District 12 Meeting at Post 416 Lowe's Grove @ 11am
 - 5/12 – ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
 - 5/12 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
 - 5/25 – Memorial Day 2026
 - 5/26 – Quarterly Membership Meal @6pm
 - 5/26 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm

June 2026

- 6/1 – Be the One Day
- 6/9 – ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
- 6/9 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
 - 6/14 – Falg Day 2026
- 6/23 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm

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

LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416

The Sentry is a free, quarterly publication of Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 146, NC.

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