

Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416, NC



THE SENTRY

Issue #59, October - December 2025



How to Get Out the Vote but Remain Non-Political

-Written by [The American Legion](#)

This year ushers in Congressional and local elections. And while American Legion posts are encouraged to promote "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) efforts, it is important to remember to remain nonpartisan in the process.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party.



With that mind, here are some dos and don'ts for Legionnaires and posts to follow during the election cycle.

- Can I wear my American Legion cap to a political event? No. The American Legion cap is considered the official legion uniform (see p. 38 of 2024 Officer's Guide). If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion.
- Can we use our American Legion post for a political event? When using post facilities to host any candidates, the post must remove American Legion emblems and American Legion flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.
- Can I get The American Legion at the local, state and national level to support a candidate running for Congress or any political office? No. In Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally, the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. However, you, as a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy.

2025 College Scholarship Awarded

At the August 12 membership meeting, the Post elected to award a one-time \$500 college scholarship in lieu of a Boys State scholarship (which we had no candidates apply for this year). This year's winner is Mr. Gabriel Ferrell, who is one of our original American Legion baseball team members and has been with the team every season. Gabriel is pictured below receiving his award from Bill Granger.

It's been amazing seeing him grow into the amazing young man he is. Gabriel is beginning his studies in Cybersecurity at Montreat College this fall, and we wish him nothing but success!



SUNDAY OCT 5, 2025

5K9 DOG JOG

WAKEMED SOCCER PARK, CARY

RUN FOR VETERANS & RESCUE DOGS

IMPROVING LIVES, SAVING LIVES, ONE VETERAN AND ONE DOG AT A TIME.

★★★★★ <https://VetstoVets5K9.itsyourrace.com/> ★★★★★

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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AL416NC.WIXSITE.COM/AL416NC WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALPOST416NC AL416NC@GMAIL.COM



Morrisville Veterans Memorial Foundation 5k Walk Scheduled

Join the MVMF on Saturday, November 8th, 9:30 AM EST for our 4th Annual 5k walk. All proceeds raised go towards the building of the Veterans Memorial. \$25/ Walker Registration Fee (Event T-Shirt Included)

Schedule :

8:30am Onsite Registration Opens
9:00am Commemoration Ceremony
9:30am Walk Begins (rain or shine)

Register at:

<https://www.morrisvilleveteransmemorial.com/post/4th-annual-5k-walk>



UPCOMING ACTIVITY REMINDERS

- 10/14/25 – ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
- 10/14/25 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 10/28/25 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 11/11/25 ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
- 11/11/25 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm
 - 12/9/25 – Annual holiday dinner @ 6pm
- 12/9/25 – TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm
 - 1/13/25 – ALA membership meeting @ 1:30pm
 - 1/13/25 - TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm

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

Squadron Commander's Corner

-Written by Phillip Goldsby

I was honored to represent Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416 at the District 12 meeting in September. It was great to hear what other Posts are doing, and how Department leadership is always available to help each Post, Unit and Squadron succeed. There were several meaningful messages that were shared, but the one word that kept coming up was "family". By definition, the members of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) are here because of our family. In turn, the SAL is a part of the American Legion family, as is the Auxiliary, American Legion Baseball, and all the other programs and activities we engage in to honor and support America's veterans and their families. So we are a family, and our family name is Lowe's Grove.



SAL 416 Commander Philip Goldsby with NC Department Commander "Bo" Durham

Another takeaway from the District meeting was on the challenge coin given to me by Department Commander Devell "Bo" Durham: Inspire and Engage. One of the biggest issues facing the American Legion, other veteran service organizations, and about every other kind of volunteer effort is recruitment. As we reach out to the public to increase our membership, we must bear in mind how we can inspire individuals and groups to become part of our family and engage them in our activities, like the fall BBQ Chicken Dinner we just had.

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 at 416SALNC@gmail.com.

Best regards

Philip A Goldsby

Commander, Lowe's Grove SAL Squadron 416

Post 416 Interviewed on Southpoint Access Podcast

In this episode of Southpoint Access Office Hours, Neighborhood News Guy Wes Platt interviews Bill Granger from American Legion Post 416. Granger shares insights about the post's community engagement, support initiatives for veterans, youth programs, and fundraising events. He emphasizes the importance of community involvement and the various ways the post contributes to local needs, including scouting, scholarships, and disaster response efforts. Granger also discusses membership opportunities for those interested in supporting the American Legion's mission. View it at <https://soduwelikelocal.news/southpoint-access-office-hours-sept-15-2025/>



JOIN US FOR

A Very Merry Holiday Meal!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

6:00PM

5419 S. ALSTON AVENUE,
DURHAM NC 27713

RSVP WITH NUMBER PERSONS ATTENDING TO:
AL416NC@GMAIL.COM



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

LOWE'S GROVE, NC POST 416

Holiday Meal Set for Tuesday, December 9th

Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416 will celebrate the holiday season with our customary end-of-year membership dinner on Tuesday, December 9th starting at 6 p.m. The meal will be determined in an upcoming membership meeting.

In order for us to plan our food order, the Post requests anyone planning on attending RSVP via email to AL416NC@gmail.com with the number of persons attending from your household by Monday, December 2nd. Thank you for helping us plan a very merry dinner!

BE **THE** ONE

Post 416 Baseball Team Names Award Winners

With the conclusion of the 2025 American Legion Baseball season, the Post presented the top two players with awards during the annual appreciation dinner held on August 17, 2025.



Pictured on the left is Alex Pena, winner of the first annual Ron and Mary Helen Mitchell Legion Baseball Scholarship. Ron served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict, and both he and Mary Helen were long-time members at Post 416. Ron transferred to Post Everlasting June 2023 at 86 years of age. The Post created this new award in honor of Ron and Mary Helen Mitchell, and is chosen by the coaching staff to be awarded to a player that has a positive impact upon their team, who shows up for every game and puts others ahead of himself.

Pictured on the right is Gabriel Ferrell, winner of the first annual George C. Scruggs

Legion Baseball Scholarship. George was a co-founder of Legion Baseball at the Post and served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. George also served in multiple post officer roles before transferring to Post Everlasting March 2025. This scholarship is chosen by the coaching staff to a player that best represents "citizenship through sportsmanship" on the team, and is the highest award given.



The post is very proud of these young men and their accomplishments, and we wish them success in their future endeavors!

Girl Scouts Troop 1462 Corner

- Written by Cindy Honickman, Troop Leader

So far Troop 1462 planned out their badges for the year. We earned the simple cooking badge by making milkshakes, smoothies and Oreo Pie. We earned the savvy shopper badge by learning how to balance needs and wants and make choices according to a budget. We are currently planning our first overnight trip.



New Post Commander and Adjutant Named

On September 22, former Post Commander Johnny Clinton resigned his office. In a Post Executive Committee meeting immediately following, Bill Granger was unanimously elected as Post 416 Commander to fill the remainder of Clinton's term. Thomas Wilkie was elected as Adjutant to fill the remainder of Granger's term.

"Johnny served the post admirably. His work with the state grant allowed numerous facility updates to be made, and his efforts will continue to benefit our membership," said Commander Bill Granger. "I thank him for his service and only wish to build upon his foundations as we press forward at Post 416."

Post Supports 535th MP Battalion Family Day

The post hosted an informational table at the 535th MP Battalion Family Day event on Sunday, September 7th. This was a brand new initiative to our local military families. Thanks to Zach Drum, James Snyder, Jennifer Weideman, and Thomas Wilkie who staffed the table. There were about 200 family members in attendance and a lot of information was shared.



Post 416 Earns 2025 Membership Awards

At the July 8 membership meeting, District 12 Commander Jim Parise awarded Post 416 the Tarheel Award for achieving 100% of our annual membership goals. The Post also earned the North State Award for achieving 100% renewal of our existing members. Well done to everyone!



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.

JOIN THE LEGION FAMILY AT






POST 416

5419 S. Alston Avenue, Durham NC 27713
AL416NC@gmail.com ★ [AL416NC.wixsite.com](https://www.al416nc.wixsite.com)

2026 TAL Membership Drive On Track (for now)

We are in the heat of our 2026 membership campaign and are on track, but barely. We are still hopeful we can accelerate these state deadlines as noted in the handy thermometer graphic below so we can focus our energies with other post goals to make a bigger impact for community, state, and nation. With that in mind, it is the post's goal to be at 100% of goal by January 1, 2026.



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

Willie Alford
Kellen Arney-Johnson
John Barricelli
John Bennett
Richard Chilausky
Deanna Dooris
Zach Drum
Manfred Emmrich
Bryant Farrell
Michael Fenning
Pete Gaydosh
Bill Granger
Doug Green
Bobby Haggy
David Hartmetz
Eugene Harvey
Walter Henderson
Jon Hunter
David Hutson
Paul Judge
Rob Kaufman
Ricard Lofton
James Lowe
Alan Mangum
Mike Mitchell
Joe Oleniacz
Missy Owen
Al Rowland
Reynaldo Ruybal
Leo Scrivner
David Sellars
Marshall Shipp
James Snyder
Larry Strickland
Ken VanDine
Jerry Vaughn
James Vollmer
Arley Webb
Thomas Wilkie

2026 SAL Memberships Very Close!

The 2026 Sons of The American Legion goal has been set at 11 members for 2026, and we are currently at 9 members renewed. Thanks to the following members who have already submitted their 2026 dues:

Sean Canoy
Philip Goldsby
Ron Goodson
Bill Granger
Patrick Granger
Ewan Hanson
Liam Hanson
Julian Speight
Felix Stumpe

With 3 existing SAL members on the 2025 roster yet to renew, this goal is entirely within our reach. Please renew today if you are one of those three!



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. 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.

Fall BBQ Chicken Dinner – In Photos



From L to R: Thomas Wilkie, James Lowe, Larry Strickland



From L to R: Pete Gaydosh, Rob Kaufman, Larry Strickland, Thomas Wilkie



Local Durham U.S. Army Recruiters volunteers



Help from Girl Scout Troop 1462



Philip Goldsby



From L to R: Jennifer Weideman, U.S. Army Recruiter, Faydean Spencer



From L to R: Jennifer Weideman, Phil Goldsby, Faydean Spencer, Pete Gaydosh, (U.S. Army Recruiters in background)