Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

American Legion Family members leapt into action last August to provide aid to the Texas communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

Post 81 in Melbourne, Fla., was among those helping out. In the aftermath of the disaster, Legion Family members there collected about $20,000 worth of relief supplies, packed everything into a truck and dispatched it to Texas.

The next day, Hurricane Irma slammed Florida, causing widespread damage. Though fortunate to be spared the brunt of the storm, Post 81 lost its roof and sustained flooding damage.

Post members rallied to reopen the building in only nine days and began to serve its community as it recovered from Irma.

"I'm really proud of our post," Commander Tracy "Stretch" Spence said. "When it came time to replace the whole roof, we're talking $26,000 that we just didn't really have. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) was available to us, up to $10,000. We applied for it and they granted us $8,000, which really helped us because it saved us that money that we're able to roll back into the programs now."

That NEF success story is just one of hundreds from last year. In all, 348 NEF grants totaling more than $367,000 were distributed to American Legion members, Sons of The American Legion members and posts. More than 300 of those grants were related to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Not to be forgotten, smaller-scale natural disasters can wreak havoc on communities at any time. And NEF will be available to help our brothers and sisters recover, regardless of the disaster's scale.

For example, NEF has provided assistance to those whose lives have been turned upside down by wildfires in California, tornadoes in Illinois, flooding in Louisiana and an earthquake in Oklahoma.

In the Southeast, Midwest and the Plains, springtime means it's time to be on guard for tornadoes. Later in the summer, coastal regions will again be on watch for what is forecast to be an above-average hurricane season.

We don’t know when or where the next disaster will strike. But we do know the National Emergency Fund will be there to provide immediate financial assistance to those who qualify. Please support your fellow veterans with a kind contribution to
April 15 - 21, 2018 is National Volunteer Week, which is a time for organizations across the country to honor volunteers for their selfless contributions and recognize the irreplaceable impact of their time and energy all year round.

Join me this week in acknowledging and thanking our volunteers for all they do year round. The American Legion depends on all of our volunteers to make this organization the fantastic entity that it is!

We couldn’t do it without all of you who take such a dedicated stand to help Veterans!

Thank You!

National Commander’s Message, (continued)

NEF. www.legion.org/donate

Members of James LeBlanc Post 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., know how important NEF grants are in the wake of a disaster.

In 2016, a combination of nine-plus inches of rain and Hurricane Matthew left Post 230 under several feet of water. Drywall, furniture, wiring and flooring were damaged or destroyed.

The post has reopened and is back to serving its community.

“(The NEF grant) kept us going while I was still trying to get other funds raised,” Past Post Commander Mark Erskine said. “If it wasn’t for (the grant), we would have been doing nothing.”

Family First. Denise Rohan, National Commander
Election Boards  

The Department 1st Vice Commander is charged with covering various topics in the Newsletter. Among them are, National Affairs, Flag Advocacy, National Convention, Washington Conference, National Security, Citizenship and Get Out the Vote, among other subjects which may occur unexpectedly.

I have been a member of the Clark County Election Department, and have served over the past 10 election cycles as an election clerk. I have looked forward to my two days of work each year as a member of my community and giving back as a Veteran and as a member of The American Legion.

Training consisted of attending a 2 hour class and going over the same material each year. This year, the training lasted 5 hours because there are some major changes coming. There are no more "clerks", we are laptop operators. Gone are the days of assigned voting precincts. Now, you will be able to vote at any designated voting facility. The laptop operators are now capable of pulling up your name and information quite easily. A bit quicker if one brings their sample ballot with them. Some needed corrections, if needed can be handled by the operator. Others will require assistance from the "team leader". If you are asked to step aside for the team leader, it does not mean that you are in any trouble. They are trained in remedying any more complex situations. We will also now be responsible for the set up of the laptop, printer, card reader and scanner as well as the breakdown of same and getting all those pieces into that tiny suitcase.

The pay has gone up a bit for the extra work. You may notice that the ballot cards may be in an additional language, other than English, Spanish and Tagalog.

If you are interested in working the elections, call the Election Department at 702-455-2815. This is for Clark County. I am sure the other counties in Nevada are in need of volunteers also.

I hope you had a chance to attend the Vietnam Veterans Day events that occurred on 29 March and were able to watch special on PBS that evening of the personal stories of Vietnam Veterans, many of whom are members of The American Legion. Promotion of this national day was a bit scarce, but we can only hope that it will be advertised better in the future.

Joel M. Forman  
1st Vice Commander  
Department of Nevada  
(9 Apr 2018)
THIS MONTH IS SPECIAL

The month’s half over; however, the month is special in the eyes of the American Legion as it is Children and Youth Month. In case you are not aware of it, the American Legion 80 years ago declared via a Resolution that April would be Child Welfare month. The title of this month was revised to Children and Youth month in order to comply with the changing ideology of the American Legion. It should be noted that the American Legion started its involvement with Children in the early 1920s and has been, over the years, a significant contributor to Child Welfare at the federal, state and local Levels. An excellent example is the Department’s Hear Today – Learn Tomorrow program, which is unique and only available in Nevada. And if you carry this even further, you will find at the Post Level within Nevada other unique activities that demonstrate our State’s commitment to our Youth.

At the National level, the Children and Youth Committee focuses on three areas of Concern. They are Child Health, Child Safety and Family Support. Under each of these areas of concern are specific programs that cover a large spectrum of topics. National has an excellent pamphlet that delves into the various topics and should be a starting point for Posts with a desire to implement their own unique set of Youth programs.

Although National aspires to cover a significant spectrum of child concerns, the same approach at the Post level is not feasible and should not be the goal. Each Post exists to support its community and this fact dictates the Post’s activities. It should be noted that the needs of a community in a large urban area is different than the needs of a community in a rural area. Community infrastructure, employment opportunities, wage structure and other demographics dictate what is needed short and long term for all Legion programs. For example, Post 60 in Laughlin is presently supporting the Elementary School in constructing a playground area for the 4th and 5th grade classes. The Post will donate money, time and technical assistance to the committee in charge of the construction. This same type support would probably not be necessary in Las Vegas or Reno.

Although April is Children and Youth Month, it should not be a criterion in generating programs in support of our Youth. Programs should be on-going year-round; however, receive significant exposure during the month of April. Start or end programs during April. Include citizens and government officials at special events; and make sure children are highlighted.

As a closing comment, Post 60 has Legionnaires that grew up where the Legion was a major factor in their development, life experience and memories. They treasure those days and are vocal today as to how the Legion changed their lives. We, in today’s world, have an opportunity to establish and mentor relationships with our Youth. Don’t let it slip away.
Greetings from the 4th District.

What a month! The District has currently achieved 99% of its goal for membership. The hard work and dedication of the Post Commanders and members shows in these results. Letting current and prospective members know what the American Legion does for them locally and in Washington DC.

The Nevada Veterans Coalition has services for the Missing-In Nevada (MIN) veterans, forgotten on mortuary shelves in the Reno/Sparks area. These services are held on the 2nd Friday of each month. The next MIN is scheduled for April 13, 2018 at 2:00 pm. May’s is scheduled for May 11th at 2 p.m. The Unaccompanied services are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, the next one is scheduled for April 26, 2018 at 3:00 pm. May’s ceremony is scheduled for May 24th. Both services are conducted at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley, NV. Please come and show your respect for these fallen comrades.

Hawthorne Post 19 continues to sponsor State Service and Department of Education/Rehabilitation Representatives on the 1st Thursday of each month from 10 am - 2 pm.

Fernley Post 37 is having a rummage sale on April 27 – 29, 2018.

As a reminder High Desert Post 56 is sponsoring the Department of Nevada 100th Convention in Reno, NV. The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington, D.C., will be on display at Eastside Memorial Park from May 31, 2018 to June 4, 2018.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA
2018-2019
LETTERS OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

JOEL FORMAN
POST 76

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE

JAMES STEWART
POST 30

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE

RICHARD EBERLY
POST 56

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT AT ARMS

VALERIE SCHEUERING
POST 37

MIKE SHEPHEARD
POST 76

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSON (2018 – 2020)

RON MICHALSKI
POST 40
Commander’s Travels

By Yvette Weigold, Department Commander

Greetings Nevada Legionnaires! This past month has again been busy! The time sure does fly by. I can’t believe we’ll be having the Department Convention in just a few months. I hope to see many of you in attendance. Remember, all Posts are required to have representation at the Department Convention!

This past month I attended the Nevada Veteran’s Legislative Symposium in Reno. After I went to District 1’s meeting and then onto meet with the folks from the Veteran’s Healing Camp regarding the start of a new Post. I am happy to announce that Post 1775 now has a full complement of officers! Later membership chair Mitch Roach and I went to Squadron 16 in Fallon for their annual crab feed! What a fantastic time!

I’ve also been to Post 30 where Commander Connors presented the Department with their donations for Legion programs. Post 56 was up next and they presented me with the Centennial coin they had made!

I also made it out to Fernley to attend the Missing in Nevada ceremony at the Northern Nevada Veteran’s Cemetery. It’s been a whirlwind month and I look forward to a few more Post visits still!
Greetings Comrades,

There’s still time to register for the 6th Annual Western Region ROMP (Ride On Military Pride). It’s coming up on May 31 – June 3 in Bellingham, WA. Details, schedule, online registration, etc. is available at [http://www.bellinghamlegion.com/](http://www.bellinghamlegion.com/)

The American Legion Legacy Run is set for August. The dates are set - August 19th – 23rd. The route is set - We will travel through the Departments of Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota – 5 Departments in 5 Days. Online registration is also now open at [http://www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

- National World War I Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, MO
- A stop (TBD) at the American Legion Memorial Fountain, Kansas City, MO
- Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence, MO
- A visit to Polaris and the Indian Motorcycle Factory Customer Appreciation Center
- A visit to The Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial, Spam Museum, Hormel Historic Home, Mower County Historical Society and a few surprises!
- Travel to Ft. Snelling Cemetery and Veterans Home
- As we approach our final destination, a brief ride through the Eagles Healing Nest in Anoka, MN
- The Ride ends at Post 102 in Anoka, MN

This year we are encouraging any American Legion Riders and supporters who cannot attend the Legacy Run to register as a “Supporter” for $20.00. All Supporter registrants will receive a specially minted 2018- 2019 Centennial Legacy Run Pin, patch set and some surprises!

If you have an activity you’d like to share, please let us know.

Ride Safe,

Trevor McCall
ALR Program Liaison, Department of Nevada
(402) 740-2794
blackjackmac68@yahoo.com

_The American Legion Riders today are an important part of the Legion family in support of virtually all programs of The American Legion._
As we come closer to the end of this portion of the legion membership year and with all that has changed for this year as far as member processing is concerned I find it a little difficult to believe there are still some post out there that have not gotten with the program and even signed onto My-Legion. I know the Adjutant and others have passed out to all posts how the new membership program works, yet there are some who think that this doesn’t apply to their post. (wrong).

At this point in time all of the posts with the exception of the two new ones must comply with the new procedure. Again I stress that if a post is having problems with this please contact someone from your District and or the Department for assistance as this is not going away!! Everyone that I have spoken with so far is in favor of this program and are finding it a plus to their membership programs. We all agree that there are still a few bugs in the system but over all everything is good.

With that being said we again did not accomplish the published goal from National Headquarters of 95% by the 11th of April, all I can say is overall we gave it our best shot and thanks to all that gave it their best effort. Our next scheduled goal is 100% by the 9th of May I know for a fact that I or the Department staff cannot do this for your post. Membership is each and every ones responsibility and I am a firm believer that it’s time to get out and knock on doors and or get on those phones and contact all of those members that have yet to renew and there are many.

I know you are tired of me ranting about membership but the bottom line is if we keep letting the Legion numbers decline we will soon not be the GREAT organization that our fore fathers envisioned 100 years ago.

In closing I wish all of the mothers of the American Legion Family a very Happy Mother’s Day.

Mitch
American Legion Department of Nevada 300 CLUB RAFFLE

Not a cloud in the sky, yet lightning struck us here at 737 Veterans Memorial Drive. We are so pleased to announce our 4 winners of this month’s 300 Club drawing.

1st Prize - $250 - #70 Kathleen Whitehead—Post 60
2nd Prize - $125 - #52—Lou Lisardi—Post 6
3rd Prize—$75—Bill Sullivan Post 30
4th Prize—$50—Richard Eberly on behalf of Post 56

Adjutant Motta,
Lionel
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

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Children and Youth Month:

As you know the month of April has been designated as Children and Youth Month. So what can you do? Support your Posts, Districts, Departments and National Programs. How do I do that? Get involved with your local schools to spread the "Word" about the programs that are offered by the Legion and Auxiliary. Just don't take it for granted that they all KNOW about them because they don't. I know that the Oratorical is done but there is always next year and I can guarantee you that all schools don't have the faintest idea what the program is about. We have Boys State and Girls State which turn young boys and girls into young men and women. If you have a chance, spend some time at the program even if it for only a day or two as you will be enlightened to find out what the programs are all about and how they affect our younger generation. The Legion baseball program is the best in the country and you can support it by supporting your local school or team and your departments program. Be kind but be Generous!

This is also the month that All Posts should be completing their CPR (Consolidated Post Report). This report is more important than what you think. When the National Commander's give their report to Congress in the month of February, they are asked as to how many posts that the Legion has and how many reports have been turned in. This could be very embarrassing, and it has, when the percentage is very low. We all need to make sure that we are supporting our National organization by completing this form as we are Strength in Numbers!! It takes hardly no time to fill this out as it is now on My Legion and you can do this daily or weekly and save it until it needs to be turned in which is now the Month of April.

Thank You All
For God and Country

Ron Michalski
National Executive Committeeman
Dept.of Nevada
Don't be shy folks! Only 15 Legion family members have completed the incentive form and turned it in! NATIONAL IS KEEPING TRACK! So let's show them what we are made of! It only takes signing up 3 Legion family members to receive the pin! Ask your Commander if you don't know where to get the form.
Comrades,

The 100th Annual Department of Nevada Convention is being hosted by High Desert Post 56 in Reno, NV on July 13th thru July 15th 2018. The convention will be held at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel located at 345 North Arlington Avenue. Post 56 Legionnaires, Unit 56 Auxiliary, and Squadron 56 members are looking forward to making sure all of you enjoy your stay in Reno.

We are planning a hospitality room where you can relax and enjoy coffee and rolls in the morning before the meetings begin and again in the afternoon with refreshments and snacks before going to dinner. The hospitality room will be in the Atrium Lounge located directly behind the registration table on the second floor. Donations are gladly accepted in the hospitality room.

The Department Commander’s Banquet will be on Saturday, July 14th. There will be no-host cocktails served from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM. You will have a choice of Filet Mignon or Roasted Salmon for $35.00 each which will include salad, rolls, dessert, and drink. Please circle your choice on the registration form.

The Past Commander’s breakfast will be on Sunday morning at 7:30 AM. The cost will be $15.00 per person. This will be a sit down breakfast. Lodging has been secured at the Sands Regency for Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. The rate for Thursday, including all of the taxes, will be $58.61. Friday and Saturday rates, including all of the taxes, will be $99.47. For reservations, please call 1-800-233-4939. Be sure to mention American Legion 100th when calling in for reservations. Rooms not reserved by July 1st will be released.

Each Post is required to pay their delegation fee prior to the Post’s delegation being able to vote at the convention. Each delegate is required to pay a $2.00 registration fee for attending the convention. This can easily be done on the registration form.

American Legion High Desert Post 56 is looking forward to providing you a great convention.

For God and Country,
Marco Manor,
Convention Chairperson
Since our charter, our American Legion Department of Nevada has been welcoming VETERANS from all branches of our Armed Forces. Today, we continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country. Joining a Post in our state enables you to continue serving your God, Country and Community. Our mission is to implement the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace and blessings for our country, friends and families embodied in our preamble.

Hello American Legion family members of Nevada, I bring greetings from the S.A.L Detachment member. I must say how time is flying by it is now April going on into May. Out of our squadrons we have 6 of them at 100% in membership or higher that will be receiving an award for their efforts. There are four squadrons that can also achieve their 100% award with a little effort. Its not to late for the rest of our Squadrons to join this group lets get our membership in and show them how we have done it in the past.

As mentioned before our annual S.A.L convention is quickly approaching in July in Reno. Need to be making plans to attend this as we will be electing our new officers for the upcoming year as well as wrapping up our last-minute business for the year we are currently in now. As of now we have only received 1 letter of intent for Detachment Commander from Ben Casad. We need to have these officer positions and letters of intent in, so the commander can come up with a plan of attack for his year so that he can be successful!! All positions are open with the exception of NEC and Alt NEC.

Looking forward to seeing many of you all at the convention and let’s finish this year like we have done in the past, on top.