Legion's 100th birthday and centennial coins

The American Legion
FEB 04, 2019

Legion birthday
March 15-17 will mark The American Legion’s 100th birthday. American Legion posts nationwide are planning activities and events to mark the occasion, and are encouraged to share those events on the Legiontown website, www.legiontown.org.

A suggested centennial birthday speech for posts to use during their celebration event is available at www.legion.org/publications under Media & Communications.

Additionally, the 100th Anniversary Media Toolkit contains the centennial speech at three lengths of 15, 10 and 5 minutes of speaking time. The 100th Anniversary Media Toolkit helps posts, districts and departments celebrate their history by sharing it with their community with easy-to-use media templates, event ideas and suggestions materials. The goal is to get the message out in front of the public, using all media tools available.

Download the centennial media kit at www.centennial.legion.org under “Tools.” Also available in this section is the centennial logo for media usage.

American Legion centennial coins
The American Legion’s three commemorative centennial coins are scheduled to go on sale March 14. To be added to the mailing list for updates, visit www.legion.org/coin. For ordering information, prices and other information as the coins become available from the U.S. Mint, visit www.usmint.gov.
From time to time I ask members of our Department, District and Posts to attend various events all around our State. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have answered my call. It does make a difference when our uniform is seen to show we care about our Veterans.

The ongoing monthly Commander Call with the District Commanders has proven to be a helpful tool not only for the Districts but for us at Department. The monthly Commanders meetings at the V.A. Hospital here in North Las Vegas are always interesting and informative. They provide an opportunity for all the organizations to announce different events and for the hospital to let us know what is going on with the V.A. and at the Hospital. Unfortunately we received some sad news that Director Peggy Kearns is going to be retiring. She will be missed by many, including me.

On Saturday, 2 February we were invited to participate in the V.A. Resource Fair in conjunction with the quarterly Town Hall meetings at the Hospital. This is always a wonderful opportunity to promote The American Legion to the many veterans who stop by our information table. It is also a great chance to "network" with other groups, organizations, and vendors. Recruiting new members is always a bonus when participation in these ventures. And this particular event turned out to be very successful!

NDVS is gearing up for more visits to assisted care facilities throughout our State after a Holiday layoff. I participated in two such events on the Thursday just before the D.E.C. in Reno.

The Department Oratorical Contest was very successful on Saturday, four contestants vied for 3 scholarship prizes. I wish we could have given out four to these wonderful young men and lady, they were all deserving. The contest was extremely well attended by Legionnaires in our Department, Districts and local Posts. The weather was relatively cold and lots of snow on the ground, with the forecast for a many more inches that evening into Sunday morning.

The D.E.C. on Sunday morning did have some attendance issues, but a quorum was attained. The forecast for heavy snow amounts came true and no one can blame those for leaving early before the snow came and wanting to get home before travel would be impacted even more. I thank every one who attended.

We wanted to make our keynote speaker National Vice Commander for the Western Region Jim Pisa, who hails from Alaska, feel at home. I think with several areas in Reno and surrounding areas getting as much as two feet of snow, we accomplished our goal!

A lot of material was covered at the D.E.C. and I am pleased to report that all reports that were on the agenda were given and a "No Report" was not given. NVC brought us greeting from National and gave a brief talk. Guest Speaker Noreen Leary, CEO of the Veterans Guest House gave us an update on that wonderful facility. Unfortunately, Wendy Simons, Deputy Director of Health and Wellness from NDVS could not make the meeting due to weather conditions.

Department Chaplain and nominee for National Chaplain Dan DePozo opened the meeting with a poignant salute in remembrance of the Story of The Four Chaplains.

Several approvals and updates were approved.

Highlights were the reports of Finance, by 1st VC Jim Stewart, progress on The Department Legion College by 2nd VC Richard Eberly, Boys State by NEC Michalski.

and Membership by myself. Department Membership Chairman Jack Ford having been excused for health reasons.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the District 2 meeting to be held at Post 24 in Mesquite, where our guest speaker will be Mr. Bill Oxford (Department of N. Carolina), leading candidate for National Commander.

Joel M. Forman, Department Commander

NEVADA LEGION NEWS
The month of February is considered **Scout Month** because on February 8th, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was officially founded. In an historical move by the Boy Scouts of America, this year, on February 1st, the BSA will be nationally registering girls into the **Scouts BSA** program, which is the program for the older Scouts. Last August, the Boys Scouts of America officially launched the Family Scouting program by registering girls into the Cub Scout program. Currently, there are over 70,000 girls registered nationally in the Cub Scout program. On a side note, young females have already been in the Venturing, Exploring and Sea Scout programs since 1972.

Additionally, since it is Scout Month, I would like to take the opportunity remind everyone that each year, The American Legion conducts the annual **Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship Contest**. Nominations for this scholarship must be received by the Department Headquarters no later than **March 1, 2019**. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year receives a $10,000 scholarship from The American Legion and there are three runner-up scholarship winners that receive a $2,500 award each. An Eagle Scout of the Year nominee must be a registered and active member of a Scout BSA Troop or Venturing Crew chartered by an American Legion Post, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or a Sons of The American Legion Squadron; **OR** be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop or Venturing Crew, **AND** the child or grandchild of a Legionnaire, a member of the Sons of The American Legion, or an Auxiliary member.

In addition, the nominee must do the following:
- Received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of their religious institution and must have received the appropriate Scouting religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community.
- Have reached their 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.
- Reside in the Department to which they apply.
- Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

To download a copy of the Eagle Scout of the Year application, use the following link: [https://www.legion.org/publications/243344/eagle-scout-year-nomination-form](https://www.legion.org/publications/243344/eagle-scout-year-nomination-form)

Always in Service,
Jim Stewart
1st Vice Commander
Department of Nevada
Commander Forman attends the VA Transition and Resource Fair 2 February 2019.
Hello all,

I'm afraid my report this month will be short, (which many will be grateful) due to the problems I'm having with my recent eye surgery's. I have had the unfortunate chance to experience first hand how the loss of sight effects almost every activity. I thank all of you for your support and best wishes.

My report is a plea to all Posts and Districts. We need to reaffirm our dedication and our commitment to Veterans helping Veterans and our Veteran family. Young people, sons and daughters of our Veterans, have American Legion programs that stand in jeopardy if we as Legionnaires don't step up and support them by our getting involved. Our programs are in need of your participation and financial support. We all have a tendency to say, “it's working alright, what is the problem”. Lack of physical support by our members. We need your help and support to grow and help our young people. They are our future.

Thanks,

Mike Shepheard
## Department of Nevada
### 2019 Membership Challenges

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### District Totals
- **Department Totals**: 7,389
- **Post 100**: 6,346
- **Post 100 (DEPARTMENT)**: 1,043
- **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**: 5,996

* Posts have Temporary Charters and are not eligible for Department Membership Awards

** Post is under Reorganization and is not eligible for Department Membership Awards
Appeals Modernization Act Goes into Effect in February

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 is effective February 19, 2019. Under the new law, any Veteran who receives an initial VA claim decision after February 2019 can choose from three, easy-to-understand review choices. All three choices provide Veterans with faster resolution of disagreements with VA decisions.

What are the new options for review?

You have three options for review:

Option 1: Higher-level Review

Your claim is reviewed by a more senior claims adjudicator and involves:

- A higher-level de novo review (new look) of the decision
- No submission of new evidence allowed
- The possibility of overturning the decision based on:
  - A difference of opinion
  - A clear and unmistakable error

The reviewer, who identifies or learns of a duty to assist error, can return the claim to the regional office for correction. You or your representative can request an informal phone call to identify specific issues.

Option 2: A Supplemental Claim Lane

You can submit or identify new and relevant evidence to support your claim. VA will provide assistance in developing the evidence.

Option 3: Appeal Lane for Appeals to the Board

This option allows you to appeal directly to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. You can choose between three options:

- Direct review: You have no new evidence and do not want a hearing.
- Evidence submission: You have new evidence, but do not want a hearing.
- Hearing: You have new evidence and want to testify before a Veterans Law Judge.
During a recent Commanders Conference call, the Adjutant commented on the fact that our National Organization is going more and more into the digital information age and that we need to prepare our Districts and Posts to be onboard for these changes. This comment made me start thinking about just how removed we appear to have become from our original membership outreach methods. National Commander Reistad recently wrote, “The American Legion was built on the power of personal contact”. A Century ago, when our organization was established, and for a long time thereafter there was no other way to grow and fulfill our purpose. As a former work measure analyst I appreciate the benefits that can be gained through new and innovative procedures that allow us to operate more productively and cost efficiently. However it seems important to me that as a service organization we should be careful in accepting and adapting to new methods that we not discard that important element of personal contact.

Department outreach to Districts appears to be more and more through emails or phone calls; the same applies to communications between Districts and Posts, and also between Posts and their membership. Personal visits and contact seem to have largely become a thing of the past. I cannot remember the last time that a Department 1st or 2nd Vice Commander visited our Post unless they were from our District. When I was Department Sgt-at-Arms, I was informed that it was my responsibility to accompany the Department Commander on as many Post visits as possible. These personal visits to the Post then and as I continued to move through the chairs gave me an intimate knowledge of the issues facing the Posts and their Communities. To be an effective leader you need to have firsthand knowledge of what is taking place on the actual battlefield. That is not knowledge that can be gained through emails and phone calls. I would ask that everyone wearing whatever color cap take a look in the mirror and ask themselves if they are really doing all that they can in support of their Post, District or Department or National goals. In the military we were taught to lead, follow or get out of the way.

Probably the vast majority of Legion members, as I did, joined because a friend or acquaintance asked them to. Early on in this membership year I asked you to remember that membership was everyone’s responsibility, and requested that you “Just Ask” everyone that you have contact with to see if they were eligible to become a part of The American Legion Family. If they want to know what The American Legion is and what it does, be ready to let them know we are the nation’s largest and most prominent voice for effective VA health care and disability benefits and GI Bill education career opportunities. American Legion service officers are handling over 200,000 veteran cases at any one time, across the country and around the world. No other organization provides as much free service for veterans and their families. Tell them how The American Legion mentors thousands of children and youth through healthy, educational, competitive and patriotic programs such as Boys State and Nation, Oratorical Contests, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting, Junior ROTC, Flag Education, and whatever else you do in your community. And, make sure that you also let them know that The American Legion stands strong in support of our nation’s troops and a strong Department of Defense though innumerable programs and services for active duty, National Guard and Reserve components, as well as providing resources for military families and survivors and advocacy for military retirees. We have a great organization with a proud history of service through a healthy and vibrant membership. Membership is the key ingredient in our business of service. There is an old saying in business that if you are not growing, you’re dying. Please don’t let it die on our watch, make it personal and do your part. “Just Ask” Thank you for all that you do but on this one hundredth anniversary of our founding please reach deep and give a little more. Let’s make every Post 100-4-100.
Today we got a nosebleed from the 3 out of 4 very high numbers that were drawn. We shook up the barrel before each number was drawn? Congratulations to our winners. And a thank you from the Department for the donation from 1st place winner Dave Evans who designated TALDON (The American Legion Department of Nevada) as the recipient.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 56 - Dave Evans - Post 12 for TALDON
2nd Prize - 125.00 - # 252 - Fred Doten - Post 60
3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 270 - Jim Stewart - Post 30
4th Prize - $50.00 # 242 - Fred Doten - Post 60

Next month as we look forward to St. Patrick’s Day, we’ll see who the luck of the Irish smiles upon. Good fortune to all.
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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Membership Chair Jack Ford (702) 493-2252 acchief@aol.com
Jr. Past Commander Yvette Weigold (702) 576-6629 weigoldy63@gmail.com

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Legislative Dave Evans (775) 997-5874 hmcs8425@att.net
VA & R Jeanette Rae (775) 997.5874 retiredmsgt@att.net

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

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3rd District Brenda Horton (720) 394-5696 bannhorton3@aol.com
4th District Valerie Scheuering (775) 722-6516 nvnative1959@sbcglobal.net
5th District Dennis Lowe (775) 455-5590 dennisglowe@hotmail.com
Congresswoman Susie Lee’s Veterans Roundtable. American Legion and numerous other Veteran’s organizations represented.
Greetings Comrades,

The Legion stepped up to help Coast Guard members during the recent government shutdown. Help came from local Posts as well as grants from The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program. Now the program needs our help. Please consider passing the hat around one more time. You can donate directly through www.legion.org/donate and designate contributions to TFA by selecting “The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation”.

March 16th is the first ever “Hoody Hoo Throwdown”. It’s a motorcycle scavenger hunt through Las Vegas. This is not an ALR event, but the proceeds go to Veterans Charity Ride. More info on the event is available at www.hhthrowdown.com or Facebook at “Hoody Hoo Throwdown”. Learn more about the Veterans Charity Ride at www.veteranscharityride.org

On April 6th Post 149 is hosting Rock the Troops XV. Registration and additional info is available on their website www.post149.org, their Facebook page “American Legion Paradise Post #149 Las Vegas”, or go to www.rockthetroopslv.com

Registration for this year’s ALR Western Region R.O.M.P. is open. The R.O.M.P. is May 30th – Jun 2nd. Registration is available through Facebook at “AmericanLegionRidersPost60”, on the web at www.riderspost60.com or follow the Facebook event at “American Legion Riders Western Romp 2019”.

The starting point for the 2019 Legacy Run has been “unofficially” released. The Run will begin at American Legion Post 347 in Lady Lake FL.

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
August 2018 - July 2019
“300 Club” Lottery

FILL OUT THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT

YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER (S) FOR THE “300 CLUB”
WILL BE ISSUED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED

Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________ Post # ______

Quantity of Numbers: _______ @ $50.00 Each = $____________

1st # Drawn = $250.00  
2nd # Drawn = $125.00  
3rd # Drawn = $75.00  
4th # Drawn = $50.00

Send Check or Money Order
Payable to:

The American Legion
737 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Attn: 300 Club

Open To All Legion & S.A.L. Members Only
Support The American Legion Department of Nevada
Buy Your Lottery Numbers Today
Only 300 Are To Be Sold

48
CHANCES
TO WIN

4 Numbers are Drawn on the
15th of each Month

ONLY
$50.00
Per Number
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.

The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow Veterans, their Families and their communities.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Detachment Commander Ben Casad

Adjutants,

Annually here at headquarters we review all publications from books to brochures and assess whether they are up to date, need editing or still relevant to the organization. We also look at the demand for publication for bulk mailing and determine if national should still print or make it available only online to download as needed. This year two publications will no longer be published, but they will be available online for download.

1. **SAL Ceremony and Prayer book** – will be available online only. Downloading is free and available at the Sons website tab **SAL Manual of Ceremony & Prayer**. If you still want a hard copy of the prayer book, there is a similar version available through Emblem Sales, it is called the “Chaplains Prayer Book” - **Emblem Sales**

2. **SAL New Squadron Brochure** – will be available online only. Downloading is free and available at the Sons website tab **New Squadron Brochure** and on the legion publications website tab **New Squadron Brochure - Publications**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

 Regards,

Ken A. George
Member Engagement Coordinator
National SAL & ALR Liaison
Phone 317.630.1376 :: Fax 317.655.1509