Legionnaire of the Year Larry Higgins, Post #60

Special Points of Interest:
- Son’s of the American Legion
- National Historian
- OCW Donations
- Commander’s Corner
- Legionnaire of the Year (NV)

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Department Executive Committee Meeting, North Las Vegas w/Councilman Cherchio
Carson City, Post 4, Veterans Day Parade
On Tuesday, 9 October, I was privileged to represent the Department at the Missing in Nevada ceremony at the SNVMC in Boulder City, the next day I helped Post 76 at the Fall Standdown. That Saturday I was an honored guest at the D.A.V. Color Guard ceremony in Henderson. Next it was off to the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis where I attended meetings with the National commander and the National Vice Commander for the West. Remember, "The West is the Brest!" There is so much to learn about our organization and I am honored to have that privilege. Next, it was the District Commanders Conference Call, the purpose of which is to get important information via the District Commanders out to the Posts and to be available to assist in any issues that may have arisen since the last call. The next morning it was helping Post 76 at the Spotlight Spectacular Senior Resource Fair at the Texas Hotel & Casino. This was a great opportunity to show our colors, network with other organizations and, of course, to recruit. All 3 missions were accomplished! Thursday, the 24th was the presentation of an Operation Comfort Warriors grant of $2500.00 to the Southern Nevada Veterans State Home in Boulder City. Thanks to NEC Ron and Jr PDC Yvette for their assistance in getting this grant. Next on Friday it was up to Creech AFB to represent The Department at their Hallowcreech event in Hangar 1000, another wonderful opportunity to show our young airmen that The American Legion is here for them. The Wing Commander searched me out to let me know how much they appreciate our being there and the support we have given, not only at Creech but also at Nellis AFB. On Monday, I was part of the Post 76 Color Guard at the Orleans Hotel & Casino for the Western Backflow Conference, where the Post was surprised with a very nice plaque and was able recruit 2 new members to The American Legion. Next it was the Department Executive Board Committee meeting at the V.A. Hospital. We tried a new slightly different format, with more information being available and in a shorter time frame, and it seemed to work out just fine. Many thanks to Jr PDC Yvette, Post 51, The V.A. Hospital, the city of N. Las Vegas for stepping up and making this a successful meeting. Next, there were two color Guard an assisted care facilities honoring the Veterans who live there. On Veterans Weekend, I attended the Veterans Annual Barbeque, car show and resource fair at the V.A. Hospital and was pleased to see so many Legion Rider vests there. On Sunday it was my Honor to represent The American Legion at the Southern Nevada Veterans State Home, and was the only Veterans organization Commander or President to be recognized by name during the formal ceremony. It was a wonderful tribute to our Veterans and to the memory of World War I. Many pictures of the event are all over Facebook. The young man in the Officers uniform from WW I is, I am proud to say, my grandson. Who is the only person I could find to wear the original 2nd Lieutenant's uniform which is over 100 years old! Both he and the Legionnaire who is wearing the Sergeant's uniform from the Revolutionary War, were asked to pose for several hundred photos! Finally yesterday, I was asked to be in the Post 76 Color Guard to represent the Department at a Veterans ceremony at Bishop Gorman High School, which had a mandatory assembly to honor Veterans, how cool is that.

As you can see, yes I have been busy, but more importantly, there are so many opportunities for us to get out of our Posts and show the communities that we are part of the communities and can help in so many ways. From what I can see, we are lacking in our responsibilities and in our adherence to the Four Pillars of our organization. I know we can all do better.
The Holiday Season is upon us! What a wonderful time for everyone to reflect on their relationships with their families, their friends, and their community. While it is the season to be merry, take the time to bring the Christmas spirit to those who do not have a lot to be merry about. Find it in your heart to reach out and help a veteran in need. Maybe you could visit a VA Hospital, a nursing home, or a long term care facility and share your time and joy with the veteran residents.

Also, please be aware of those who have lost someone recently, they usually have the hardest time during the holidays. That is when they miss their loved one the most. If you know of someone who is in this situation and see them becoming withdrawn and quiet, reach out to them and involve them in your activities. God will bless you for caring.

On December 17th, the new Northern Nevada State Veterans Home will be having their ribbon cutting ceremony in Sparks, Nevada. This state of the art 100,000 square foot facility will offer highly skilled care but is trying not to feel like a hospital or institution. This new facility will offer 96 beds and several amenities to make the residents feel at home. Veterans will have their own private rooms and each building will share a living area, a theater, a den with a library, and a kitchen. The facility will also have a centralized Town Hall that will offer a restaurant, a coffee shop, a sports bar, a therapy gym, a commissary, and a beauty/barber shop. The Town Hall will also serve as a gathering space for Veterans Service Organizations and other Veteran Support groups. This new home is a much needed facility to the 80,000 veterans living in the Northern Nevada area.

I wish everyone a wonderful and joyous holiday season.
IT'S ABOUT EXECUTIVE BOARDS

As we move down the merry road of life and our association with The American Legion we get word via various media outlets of National, Department, District or Post Executive Board meetings. Have you ever wondered about their purpose and how they represent you as a Legion member. So, with this thought in mind, I would like to delve into a discussion on Executive Boards and how they impact the operation of organizations, especially, The American Legion. I should further state, that the information and thoughts discussed in this article are the sole beliefs and/or perceptions of me, the writer of this article. I will start the discussion by addressing the National Organization.

For those that follow Legion protocol, each year a National Commander and five Vice Commanders are elected. It should be noted that other officers such as the Adjutant, Finance Officer, etc. are appointed. However, the power at this level resides with the National Executive Committee (NEC). It should be noted that there is an NEC and an Alternate NEC from each department, who have been voted in by the Department membership.

Now if you look at the Department Executive Committee (DEC) this committee consists for the Department elected officers and the elected District Commanders. The Posts elect the officers and the District Commanders.

The next step down is the District Executive Committee. This committee consists of the elected officers and the Post Commanders. The District Officers are elected by the Posts and the Post Commanders are elected by the Post Members.

Going to the final layer – Posts, we find the Executive Committee elected by the Post Members. Again, these elected individuals, like all the rest discussed above, are voted in and are expected to bring to their committee the desires of the Post members.

Now where is this all leading to? Basically, this is a reminder to all that the purpose and function of each executive committee is to represent the members at each level of the Legion; and it all starts with Post members. Their desires are transmitted to the Post Commander who in turn relays them to the District. The District Commanders now relays these desires to the Department who in turn relays them to National. When a Post Commander or his representative (1st or 2nd Vice) misses a District meeting the Post members are not being represented. When a District Commander or his representative (again 1st or 2nd Vice) misses a department meeting then the members of the District are not being represented.

As a historian, I have had the privilege of attending executive committee meetings at all levels within the Legion; and have witnessed the lack of participation by commanders within the Department. What this means is information passed out at the meetings is not being transmitted back to Post membership. It also means that the desires of the membership are not being transmitted up through the leadership to Department. This lack of communication creates inefficiencies throughout an organization and impacts membership.

In conclusion being a Commander is not a position; it is a job with responsibilities. It requires dedication, sacrifice of personal time, and a commitment to the Veterans you represent and serve. It also means coming to meetings prepared to support your members to the best of your ability. If you are not willing to do this, then don’t take the job. The American Legion is an organization dedicated to supporting Veterans and their families. If we are not doing this then we need to reconsider the purpose of our existence.
I'm going to write an article this month that I really did not think I would ever have to write. Some will consider it out of line, some will think, he's having a bad day, who does he think he is, but many will understand where I'm coming from. In reality, all of those statements would be correct.

**We are The American Legion!** No one forced us into signing up for membership, none of us were drafted, we all volunteered for this assignment because we all are, **WAR TIME VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

This should not come as a surprise to anyone but our beloved Legion is taking a downward move, and it is our own fault. We have become lax in our participation in Legion programs, unwilling to put in just a little time and extra effort to make sure we stand out as a beacon to our families, friends, communities and our State and Nation. It seems the “let someone else do it” attitude has managed to work it's way into a once revered and respected organization. I have watched over the past couple of years and seen how we are no longer recognized for what we do, what we plan to do, or what we have done. Many people do not even know what The American Legion is or what we are all about.

This must change for us to survive. Again, I can see the looks and the shrugged shoulders with the I've done my deal, “let some one else do it” attitude. This is a change that must happen with all of our Posts, Districts, and Department. The time has passed for Posts to simply not participate in providing leadership, member involvement, and financial help to our programs and fellow Veterans and Legion members. I believe these facts to be taken in the spirit in which they are given. I truly love being a member of The American Legion. I have never had the comradeship I have now since I was wearing the uniform of our United States Army. I am truly concerned about our viability if we don't wake up and take the steps to change our downward trajectory. Please don’t look at this article as an butt chewing, instead consider it a cry out for HELP. We truly need your help and now, not later.

Thanks and I wish you all and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless.

Mike Shepheard
Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to thank everyone involved with me being able to attend the American Legion College this year it was a great experience and will do whatever I can to bring it to our Department of Nevada. If anyone would like the information that I have please contact me at 775-434-3386 please leave me a message if I don’t answer. And my email is shadow_617@msn.com wish you all the best for the upcoming holidays. Hope to see all of you at the DÈC in Reno, Nevada in February location is the Sands Hotel. Again hope everyone is well.

Thank You

Richard Eberly
2nd Vice Commander
American Legion
Department of Nevada
775-434-3386
Shadow_617@msn.com
A Little Trivia:

Did you know that Lowe’s was started by 2 GI’s returning from World War II? Yes 75 years ago 2 GI’s started Lowes’s and it is now a Veteran’s friendly store where military, active and those who served, get 10% off every day.

Resolutions One and Two

During the fall meeting of the NEC two resolutions were passed that in the past never made it out of their respective committee.

The first one being very detrimental to the membership of The American Legion and if the first one gets passed by Congress then the second one would take effect. They are as follows:

Resolution #1:

Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, That all of these aforementioned previously unrecognized armed hostile events requiring activation of United State military personnel are acknowledged; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion recognizes the nearly 1,600 causalities of the U.S. Armed Forces in service to the nation; and, be it further

Resolved, That The American Legion call on the Congress of the United States to declare that the United States of America has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the United States Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as “war-time veteran” all military service personnel who served honorably under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during said period.

Resolution 2 is too long to write but it will not take effect unless resolutions 1 gets approved by Congress as it has to do with eligibility dates for both the Legion and Auxiliaries.

Remember it is Membership that makes The American Legion Strong and also keeps the Department per capita at a rate were it does not have to increase!!

Ron Michalski NEC
The Merriam Webster dictionary defines “Mother Lode” as “the principle vein or lode of a region or a principle source of supply”. Using that definition as applied to membership for The American Legion, we have a “Mother Lode” of untapped members just waiting to be asked. Probably never since the end of WWII have we had so many Veterans in our country and in the state of Nevada. The US Census Bureau shows Nevada has a Veteran population of approximately 226,555 individuals with 75% of them being eligible for membership in our great organization. Of those Veterans, 7.7% are female Veterans. With a current membership of only around 7400 and very few females you can see we need to start digging into the “Mother Lode” with a little more fervor!

Every Legion member needs to become a ‘miner’ of that “Mother Lode”. This can be accomplished in a couple of major ways. First, just ask everyone that we meet if they are a veteran or the son or daughter of a veteran. If they answer yes to either of those questions we need to find out if they belong to the Legion, the Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion. Then you need to explain why their voice is necessary and crucial to ensuring that our returning troops are provided with the support and programs that enable them to transition back into society as effective and productive citizens.

“Legion.org” is a great source of information if your knowledge of benefits or programs needs to be refreshed. During my year as Department Commander, 2005-2006 my membership theme was “Just Ask” and it proved highly successful in allowing the Department to reach an all time high for membership.

Another “Mother Lode” of membership that is untapped by most Posts are in the DMS members that can be accessed through MyLegion.org. These are veterans that have become Legion members through direct mail solicitations. All you need to do is offer them the friendship and support of your post. This can be done as easily as calling or writing a letter and extending the hand of comradeship, and explaining what your Post does for the veterans and citizens of your community and state. You might tell them that unless you hear a negative response within two weeks you will proceed to transfer them into your Post.

Start mining that “Mother Lode” today, and lets all go for 100-4-100.

Jack L. Ford, PDC
Membership Chairman
Round and round the barrel went, and 4 numbered poker chips were drawn. It's always the luck of the draw. Congratulations to our 2 winners.

1st Prize - $250 - # 80 - Jim Stewart - Post 30
2nd Prize - $125 - # 149 - Unsold
3rd Prize - $75 - # 69 - Jeanette Evans - Post 12
4th Prize - $50 - # 40 - Jim Stewart - Post 30

Happy Thanksgiving to all. See you next month.
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander Joel Forman  (702) 360-5833  cmdrnv@nevadalegion.org
1st Vice Commander Jim Stewart  (775) 848-6072  controller@bordertowncasinorv.com
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Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Shepheard  (702) 256-3106  shepheardsparks@aol.com
NEC Ron Michalski  (702) 568-5322  ronan1025@aol.com
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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

1st District Michael Mancebo  (775) 770-7924  mmancebo@sbcglobal.net
2nd District Joe Tasby  (702) 869.8637  jtasby2003@yahoo.com
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
Legion Shortcuts

To visit the Department website
Go to www.Legion.org/Nevada

To view the Nevada Legion Facebook page
Go to www.facebook.com/TALDONV

To visit the National website
Go to www.Legion.org

To take the Legion Basic Training course
Go to www.Legion.org/ALEI
Greetings Comrades,

NO REPORT

Ride Safe,

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

The American Legion Riders today are important part of the Legion family in support of virtually all programs of The American Legion.
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  3rd # Drawn = $75.00
2nd # Drawn = $125.00  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
## Department of Nevada
### 2019 Membership Challenges

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<th>District #1</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>Member(s)</th>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Laughlin</td>
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<td>73%</td>
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<td>Owyhee</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District #5</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>Member(s)</th>
<th>Transmittal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11/2/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/26/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11/3/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**: 6,346, 3,948, 62% | **Post #100**: 1,043, 659, 63% | **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**: 7,389, 4,607, 62%

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

**Post is under Revitalization and is not eligible for Department Membership Awards**
As I said before, the SAL can serve to assist with post activities. November is here, and election season is over. Many of us have spent Veterans Day with our families, friends, and comrades, and we are all now looking forward. With a little over a month and a half left this year, the Detachment of Nevada is sitting at 41% of our membership goal for 2019—overall, that comes out to being #10 in the nation. Not too bad, all things considered.

As we come into the Christmas season, many of us are looking at buying gifts for the family and finding ways to celebrate the holiday. What better way to do so, than to provide someone with a membership in the Sons of the American Legion!

Membership in the Sons of the American Legion is a gift worth receiving—it brings folks into the American Legion Family. Our Legion family is ever expanding, and a healthy SAL Squadron can do a lot to help a post. Nationally, the Sons have raised millions of dollars for the Child Welfare Fund and given countless hours in service at Veterans Administration hospitals and homes.

On a local level, the Sons can serve to supplement the ranks of your local post. Whether it be in parades and color guards or while conducting service events, additional resources are always needed. As we focus on growing posts, why not also work on the squadrons?

Recruiting for the Sons of the American Legion is not rocket science, and many would be surprised by how many qualify for it. The baseline qualification is that a prospect must be a male descendent of an individual who was in the American Legion, or, if deceased, who would have qualified for membership in the American Legion. With that in mind, odds are many of us come in contact with an eligible individual several times a day or week.

External recruiting is not our only option either! Dual membership in both the Legion and SAL is common and encouraged. Legion National Commander Brett Reistad is a member of Manassas Squadron 10 in Virginia.

s. Members of the SAL can also serve as active recruiters for the American Legion and Auxiliary as well. In fact, all members of the Legion family can recruit for the other two organizations.

As we celebrate 100 years of service with the American Legion, let us all branch out to find the newest members of the Legion Family who are just waiting to become a part of the outstanding devotion to mutual helpfulness that all of our organizations exemplify every day.
The American Legion
Department of Nevada
737 Veteran’s Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103
702-382-2353
TALDON737@AOL.COM

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

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.

Operation Comfort Warrior gift card donation to Southern Nevada Veterans Home

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TALDONV/
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