SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 100th National Convention
- Son’s of the American Legion
- National Historian
- American Legion Baseball
- November DEC

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Highlights of the 100th National Convention

Photos courtesy of National Historian Fred Doten
Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

Just wanted to say thank you for all your support with recommending me for the Legion College this year. I look forward to working with your Districts and Posts in the next few years.

Thank You Again
Richard Eberly
2nd Vice Commander
Department of Nevada

Photos courtesy of Fred Doten
Several of us attended the 100th National Convention held in the first convention city of Minneapolis. We witnessed the dawn of a new era. It was very nice to have a large contingency representing the Department of Nevada. The convention committee did a fine job despite the weather and yes, we survived all of the rain and the Midwest humidity. The oddest activity was the indoor parade because of the threat of rain. Since the convention center was so big, we gathered in a hall at one end of the convention center, marched down the hallways to another convention hall where the reviewing stand was situated, and then marched back down another hallway back to the gathering hall. While we seemed to make lemonade from the lemons handed us, it turned out that it didn’t even rain that evening. Oh well, it will be definitely be something to remember.

Lately, Americanism, one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion, has been constantly under attack. Our U.S. Flag and National Anthem have been used as political pawns in the current civil discourse. This means that we need to promote and teach everyone, now more than ever, about proper flag etiquette and respect. We, as Legionnaires should be strong advocates for these National emblems.

Additionally, Americanism promotes several youth programs that offer great opportunities for the young people in our communities. These programs are Legion Baseball (Congratulations Post 40!), the Junior Shooting Sports, Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, and Legion Scouting. This last one is very near and dear to me. The Boy Scouts of America has been a part of The American Legion for 100 years and at the 100th National Convention, The American Legion stated that it will continue their commitment and support of this great youth program.

However, you may have heard of some of the changes happening within the Scouting Program. Rest assured that these changes are meant to make Scouting more inclusive rather than divisive. One of the changes is the departure of the LDS Church from the Boy Scouts of America. While the LDS Church will no longer sponsor Scout units, they have decided to continue to support the Scouting program. Their decision was based on the fact that the LDS Church has decided to expand their own youth program to be on a more global aspect since they are now considered a world religion. The Boy Scouts of “America” limits their global impact, even though they have been involved with the BSA for over 100 years. However, since the Scouts in their current units desire to continue their Scouting experience, these “Legacy” Scouts still want to earn their Eagle Scout Rank, just like their fathers, their grandfathers, and their great grandfathers. Although the LDS Church will not be nominally sponsoring these units, the church has stated that they will continue to support Scouting. This is a great opportunity for an American Legion Post. We can offer to take over as the Chartered Partner for these LDS units. All you need to do is ask if they wish to continue their Scouting experience. This should be a no brainer; you will already have eager Scouts wanting to earn their Eagle rank, you will already have their established leadership, and the LDS Church will continue to allow them to meet at their church. All the American Legion Post has to do is be the official sponsor, pay the annual $40 charter fee, and be active with the unit.

The second change is the introduction of girls within the Scouting program. First, girls have been involved in the Scouting program since 1972 in the older Scout programs. Additionally, women have been involved in Scouting since 1936...Remember the term “Den Mothers”? Personally, I believe that the impact of girls in the Scouting program will improve The American Legion’s involvement in Scouting and it is an opportunity for growth in the program. With either the introduction of girls into an existing Legion Cub Scout Pack or the creation of a brand new Scout unit for an all-girl Cub Scout Pack, we should see our membership numbers increase within our organization, nationwide. In 2019, we will have the opportunity of starting an all-girl Scout Troop for the older girls. In order to be very clear, the entire organization will remain as the “Boys Scouts of America”. So not to confuse matters, the new name for the Scouts, regardless of gender, in the age group from 10 to 18 years old, will now be “Scouts BSA”. With the introduction of girls into our Legion Scouting Family, this will allow The American Legion to have more visibility within our communities and have more of an impact within the lives of our young people. “Scout Me In!”

Always in Service,
Jim Stewart
ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER CENTURY

It was just another convention if you read the reviews or participated in it; but, in reality, it culminated a century of labor by Veteran families who created the greatest Veteran’s organization on earth. However, as National Conventions go, this one, like all those of the past, was unique in its own right. It was the end of a century’s worth of dedication to our Veterans; it was the end of the tenure of our first female National Commander; and it probably was the last parade to be held inside a convention center.

And speaking of parades, this one was different as the day was long. Weather projections at 7am on Sunday called for thunderstorms with lightening during the scheduled parade. Common sense prevailed, and a decision was made to hold the parade inside the convention center. Although chaotic at times, all the states finally converged on an empty exhibit hall, formed up under the guidance of parade committee members, and then marched down the corridor in front of the exhibit halls to the convention hall. The NEC and dignitaries were assembled on the Convention stage and saluted the marchers as they passed. The Nevada group, 25 plus strong, spent their time prior to the march taking pictures and enjoying the comradery of being with friends and trying to sort out what was going on. And Mother Nature called off the rain and made the afternoon one of the prettiest days of the convention.

Highlights of the convention included meeting with the incoming commander, attending a baseball game and watching the National Commander throw the first pitch (a first in the history of the Legion), walking to dinner in a thunderstorm, attending the National Commander’s banquet, and visiting the Exhibit Hall with vendors and Emblem Sales. A highlight of the Commander’s Banquet was the entertainment of the “Three Dog Night” group. They captured the hearts of attendees and provided a performance that had folks dancing and staying to the bitter end. A great tribute to a group of artists who performed outstandingly.

And yes, there were two days of committee meetings with the plethora of resolutions for review, passage or rejections. For the Legion Riders, they came through with flying colors raising over $1.5 million during their Legacy Run. Janette Rae Evans was center stage and accepted a plaque for our Department for holding the Legion’s 99th National Convention in Reno.

Was the Convention a success, Yes. Did those in attendance have fun, Yes. Are we ready to do it again, Yes. We will be back again in Indianapolis for the beginning of the second century. Hopefully after a year of centennial celebration there will be a little more hoopla, a bigger crowd, and more to write about.
Hello comrades! I just got back last week from the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion National Convention. 100 years!!! As this was my first trip to our Convention, I learned more than I can put into this short article. I will hit on a couple of items I learned.

My focus is on Americanism and Youth. Both of these words need to be strongly associated with each other. One word should go with the other when we are talking about our youth. It seems we are losing our youth to their cell phones and emails. We need to step up to the reality that the way things were done when many of us were their age, their (our youth) methods are the new mode of communication. The way we did things are different now. I really noticed this during our trip to Minnesota. Everywhere was the same. Airports, stores, restaurants, or just walking down the street. It seemed 90% of everyone I saw was either talking on their cell phone or texting with it. So be it. We have a few programs that can put the communication and hands on experience back into the realm of our youth.

The American Legion Boys State. I can think of no other program that demands so much from these young people. They work so very hard and the physical and mental stress, along with lack of sleep really push them to the limit. Guess what, they overcome. I have seen these young people get involved almost as soon as they arrive. Some have already tested the waters of what they want to make happen. We should all be proud of the work they all do. By the end of the week they are all exhausted. The bus ride home is very quiet. And yes, that’s a Cheeto.

Too tired to chew.

Get involved with our youth programs, Boys State, The Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, Youth marksmanship, the list can go on. We speak about membership and how we need to help increase the amount of new members. They are waiting out there, they just need to grow a little and they will be the new members. In the meantime, by helping the youth now, it can give an incentive to the parents that are Veterans, but have not joined, but see that The American Legion is willing to help my Son or Daughter, maybe I should look into joining. Thanks for your support.
Commander’s Corner

By Joel Forman, Department Commander

Congratulations to Past Post 60 Commander, Department and 2nd District Historian, Fred Doten on his appointment as National Historian, a position well deserved. Congratulations are also in order for Department 2nd Vice Commander Richard Eberly on his acceptance to The National American Legion College in Indianapolis next month.

Since our last Department Newsletter, I, along with many of your Department Officers attended the 100th National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis, MN. There were many highlights for me during the event. I was able to meet other Department Commanders from the Western Region primarily and discuss issues that we are all facing, though each Department is different, very different. WE were challenged by the Department of North Carolina to see which department finishes with the higher percentage of membership against their goal by the start of next year’s convention. To beat them, we have to work together reaching and surpassing our goal of 7389 PAID members. I was fortunate to be on one of the membership committees and was able to witness and participate in the resolution process, by which The American Legion operates. Meeting and greeting National Officers, past National Commanders, people who are on the other end of national Emails and phone calls, as well as Legionnaires such as Theodore Roosevelt IV. The parade was cancelled due to impending severe thunderstorms, however they never materialized and the parade was held indoors at the convention center. It went very well, and it was a much shorter parade route, many of us were glad of that. The best thing, for me, was the camaraderie between our delegates; and the renewed friendships between the members of my class at Legion College. There were eleven of us in our "district" and 8 were at the Convention and are now Department officers, including our facilitator. It was a good time!

I have represented the Department at the 16th Anniversary of the Southern Nevada Veterans Home in Boulder City. Attended two Thursday morning interment ceremonies at the Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City. I attended the monthly commanders meeting at the V.A. Hospital in North Las Vegas and the Veteran & Veteran Supporter presentation at the Grant Sawyer Building. I attended my first District meeting as Department Commander for 2nd District, hosted by Post 8 and then attended The Veterans and First Responders event at Craig Ranch Park on the same day and was able to sign up 2 new members.

Space is limiting me on:

Please look up The Million Veterans Program (V.A.). This will help you, your family and your children. You do not have to have been "Boots on the Ground" to enroll!! Also there is legalization coming to require all physicians and health care providers to ask each patient if they were ever in the military. If so, written information would be required to be handed out on V.A., benefits, etc. Also, a bill that would afford Blue Water Navy benefits, under the Agent Orange umbrella is currently stalled in committee.

We need to support all of these programs to benefit us and our brothers and sisters.

Joel Forman
Department Commander
Well this year is starting off quickly as our Baseball team finished in the runner-up position at the Legion World Series but what a game, Losing 1-0 in 8 innings with some great defensive plays by both teams. Congratulations to Desert Oasis Aces, Aces and to Delaware for winning their first ever Series Championship.

Now to the National Convention, I was expecting more for our 100th convention and was a little disappointed with the circumstances it was just a convention.

Our new National Commander is Brett Reistad from the Department of Virginia and our National Vice Commander for the Western Region is James Pisa from Alaska. The other Vice Commanders are Paul Spedaliere from Connecticut, John Milburn from Maryland, James Wallace from Michigan and Steve Sweet from Mississippi.

The Auxiliary elected Kathy Duncan from Mississippi and the Sons, (SAL), elected Greg”Doc” Gibbs from Buffalo New York.

The convention passed 336 resolutions which included all those that were passed at the previous National Executive meetings in Indianapolis.

We had some great speakers including the Vice President of the United States, Mr. Mike Pence who gave a wonderful speech about Veteran’s care and the progress that is happening in Washington.

Now for the latest: Fred Doten from Post 60 in Laughlin has been appointed National Historian for 2018-2019! Congratulations Fred!!! This should be one heck of a year to be Historian.

Thanks to all of the Nevada delegation for attending and making this a successful convention.

Ron Michalski

N.E.C.
### Membership

**By Jack Ford Department Membership Chairman**

#### Department of Nevada

**2019 Membership Challenges**

<table>
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<th>District #1</th>
<th>Post #</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
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<th>Last Transmittal</th>
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<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Last Transmittal</th>
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<td>9/5/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>9/7/18</strong></td>
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**District Totals** | **6,346** | **3,135** | **49%** | **9/10/18** |
**Post #100** | **1,043** | **441** | **42%** | **9/10/18** |
**DEPARTMENT TOTALS** | **7,389** | **3,576** | **47%** | **-** |

* Posts have Temporary Charters and are not eligible for Department Membership Awards
** Post is under Revitalization and is not eligible for Department Membership Awards
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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2nd Vice Commander Richard Eberly  (775) 434-3386  shadow_617@msn.com  
Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Shepheard  (702) 256-3106  shepheardsparks@aol.com  
NEC Ron Michalski  (702) 568-5322  ronan1025@aol.com  
Alternate NEC Jeanette Rae Evans  (775) 997-5874  retiredmsgt@att.net  
Chaplain Dan DePozo  (702) 564.9499  annedan1@centurylink.net  
Judge Advocate James Beecher  (702) 382-2353  jnv@nevadalegion.org  
Finance Officer Jack Jakubik  (702) 837-4350  jackj875@aol.com  
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Service Officer Mike Mader  (775) 813-7871  jmmader@aiinc.com  
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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,

The 2018 Legacy Run raised a record $1,256,930.43. I’m proud to have participated in this year’s run. In an open letter from our recent Past National Commander Denise Rohan: “The Riders drew the public’s attention to The American Legion and what we do every day for veterans, their families and their communities. Please pass to our Legion Riders my thanks for what they do on a daily basis as they work within their communities.”

I encourage you to attend next year’s Legacy Run. Rumor has it the run will start again in the central U.S. & make its way to Indianapolis for the National Convention. I’ll post updates as I get them.

Here’s a few upcoming events I’ve heard about: Oct 20th Post 60 is holding their Spook-tacular Poker Run open to all wheels. Nov 10th Post 8 is co-sponsoring a Military Pride Run with a portion of the proceeds going to the Child Welfare Fund. It’s not too soon to start promoting next year’s ALR Western Region ROMP on May 30th – Jun 2nd. Post 60 will be hosting Riders from 10 western states & Mexico.

If you have an event 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 important part of the Legion family in support of virtually all programs of The American Legion.
Post 51 and The Department of Nevada invite you to join us for the Department Executive Committee meeting on 3 NOVEMBER 2018. The meeting will be held at the VA Hospital auditorium located at 6900 N. Pecos Rd, North Las Vegas, NV 89086

Friday, 2 November at 6:00PM there will be an informal dinner (at your own expense) at TGI Friday's inside Aliante Hotel/Casino.

This will be Jr Past Department Commander Weigold's homecoming dinner, so everyone is invited to attend. Spouses, SO's, etc. are all invited. Please RSVP to JPDC Weigold for headcount only. You will pay for your meal at the restaurant.

Saturday, 3 November the DEC will begin at 0830. DEC will be in the auditorium and SAL will be in classroom at 0800. Water, coffee and snacks will be available.

The closest hotel to the hospital is Aliante Hotel/Casino. The Cannery is also nearby, as are the Fiesta and Texas Station. If you make reservations through Hotels.com you will get a better rate. The Department is not reserving these rooms. You need to do this on your own and reimbursement is per Department guidelines.

Contact Department Adjutant Lionel Metta with questions regarding the DEC.
(702) 383-2353
taliden737@aol.com

OR
JPDC Weigold for dinner reservations and directions to any of the events.
(702) 576-2429
weigoldy63@gmail.com
I was happy to represent the Detachment of Nevada at the 47th National Convention for the Sons of The American Legion in Minneapolis. Gus Gustafson, Commander from Squadron 60, also attended as a delegate. During the convention, the Detachment of Nevada received the National Child Welfare Foundation Award of Excellence for Achieving the Highest in Per Capita Giving for 2017-2018. From the National Sons of The American Legion, we also received the Child Welfare Foundation 2018 Certificate of Recognition for Exceeding $2.00 per Capita for a Detachment and also received the National Sons of The American Legion 2018 Highest Per Capita Award.

There was only one resolution to be considered on the floor of the convention and that was SAL Resolution #1, Update Membership Qualification, Article IV-Eligibility, Section I. This resolution, which originated in the Detachment of California, attempted to change the eligibility requirements for membership into the Sons of The American Legion. Numerous delegates argued that this would change the focus of the organization and then reinforced the premise that we are the “Sons” of “The American Legion”. While some of the resolutions had some merit, the resolution, with a resounding roll call vote, was clearly defeated. After the defeat, it was asked that the Detachment of California, restructure the resolution and resubmit it, keeping in mind that we are a program of The American Legion.

The convention ended with the election of the National Commander and the National Vice Commanders. As expected, Greg “Doc” Gibbs from New York was unanimously elected as our new National Commander 2018-2019.