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

AUGUST 2017 EDITION

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“Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans”
PLAN TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE
IT’S OUR DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAMS

Fall Conference
November 4, 2017

&

Winter Conference
February 24th, 2018

Hosted by Department

Tonopah Station Hotel
1137 Erie Street
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

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100TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JULY 13th, 14th, & 15th, 2018 in Reno, Nevada

Hosted by High Desert Post 56

Sands Regency Casino Hotel
345 N. Arlington Avenue
Reno, Nevada 89501

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Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans
Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

It has been just about 30 days since I was sworn in as the Department Commander. I must say it has been a busy 30 days already! On July 25th I was honored to go out to UNLV and help the American Legion Baseball teams get started in their tournament! Our baseball chairman and NEC Ron Michalski does a great job with these kids and I have to apologize to him because apparently I jinxed the game and the water line promptly broke after we finished reading the Creed. This resulted in the field being flooded and delaying the game by at least a few hours! I guess I won’t be getting invited back! LOL!

Next, I jetted off to Indianapolis with Membership Chair Roach so we could brief the incoming Commander on our plan for the year. As you will see from the picture, we are using the theme “Under Construction” to describe our membership plan! We need to improve our communication (talk to each other), develop a better infrastructure (social media platforms) and share new ideas on education and so this year I hope to for all of us to learn more about the market our programs so the rest of the State can see why they should be joining us.

We could take a few minutes of downtime and enjoy a delicious BBQ meal put on by Post 64 in Indianapolis. We snapped a quick picture with National Commander Schmidt and then we got back to work! I am looking forward to seeing all of you on my travels this year and if you are at the National Convention please say HI! Or wave to us in the parade on Sunday!

Best wishes
Yvette
It was a damp, cloudy, rainy day when we left on our mission yesterday. None of us knew really what to expect. We were invited to present the Colors at a graduation ceremony. But, it was not what you think. One doesn't correlate graduation with the confines of a high security correctional facility, or a prison.

Upon arrival at the High Desert Correctional Facility, we were greeted by one of many armed correctional officers. Once inside the facility, we were instructed to exchange our licenses for a visitors pass. All cell phones, pens, sunglasses and wallets were to be locked up in a locker with the lock and key provided. The flag cases, the suitcase with harnesses and gloves and our replica Springfield 03's were thoroughly inspected and we all went through a metal detector, which constantly "beeped" because of our pins and badges.

There were representatives from the NDVS and one from the VFW as well as perhaps a dozen or so other dignitaries seated in the auditorium.

On cue, we presented the Colors along with 3 other flags and the 2 rifles and after we led the guests and the graduates in the Pledge of Allegiance, we marched off to the rear of the room. We did not leave, as we usually do after presenting. We decided to stay and learn something.

Fourteen inmates would be graduating today, but they would not be leaving today. They were relatively "short timers" from a couple of days to a couple of months. They were all veterans who completed a special program, tailored to them in preparation of returning to society. In exchange, their release date would be moved up. After the ceremony, several of the graduates thanked us for coming up, and appreciated the fact that we "did not forget them". One individual has spent 38 years of his life incarcerated. I can not even imagine that.

That particular facility houses approximately 4000 inmates! The Low Desert facility, about a mile or so down the road houses some 2500 inmates. 14% OF THE PRISON POPULATION ARE VETERANS. That means that there are some 900 potential Legionnaires in a very small area. And that does not include the 467 staff.

I had a chance to speak to one of the Assistant Wardens about leaving pamphlets and applications at their Veteran Resource Office and about having someone speak with her about starting an incarcerated post at that facility and she was very receptive of the idea and wanted to know if we could mail the information to her as soon as possible.

If you are concerned about name recognition, volunteering, helping our fellow veterans, this is just one way you could activate the 4 Pillars of The American Legion. The days of waiting for veterans to knock on your door, waving a dues check & a dd214 are over. It is time for the District Commanders and their Post Commanders to think outside of the comfort of their own Posts. There are nearly 20 Department of Correction facilities through ought the State of Nevada, the website: http://doc.nv.gov/Facilities/Home lists them all and one may be in your area. Make a contact and see what you can do for the veterans who are there. Everyone will benefit.

Joel
From the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Vice Commander

I hope everyone survived the National Convention held within our own Department. I want to thank everyone for all the efforts made to see that the Department of Nevada shined as the hosting Department. I know that we could not have done such a great job if it wasn't for all the volunteers before and during the convention in Reno. Again; thank you.

This year my voice has now turned to Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) and Veterans Employment. Bottom line, isn't this what The American Legion is all about, serving our veterans in our communities, in our state, and in the nation. Who better to understand the issues that a veteran must endure but another veteran? We all must take time to reflect on that point. We are Veterans helping Veterans.

Our own Senator Dean Heller has been very busy trying to take care of the veterans of our state and nation. Senator Heller has been urging the VA Secretary, David Shulkin, to fulfill their commitment to provide the matching funds to complete the 96 bed veterans nursing facility in Northern Nevada. This needed facility, which is slated to be completed by December 2018, will offer our veterans in Northern Nevada a place to be closer to their families while they are convalescing, especially since currently the only Veterans Home in Nevada is located in Boulder City.

Some of the other legislation Senator Heller has been working on has been the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act which will improve our veteran’s educational benefits and enhance the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The Act updates the coverage for reservists, Purple Heart recipients, and veterans who have faced school closures while enrolled. This legislation will also now cover assistance to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, as well as computer programming and technical training. Additionally, this bill will eliminate the 15 year period a veteran must use their GI Bill.

Senator Heller has also worked on the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act which will overhaul the VA appeals process. A veteran would be able to seek a higher level of review using the same evidence, will be able to file a supplemental claim, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

Jim
Message from the NEC

Baseball Report
As of this newsletter our State Champions, Basic High School, won the Western Regionals and as of now in Shelby N.C. participating in the American Legion World Series. Hopefully this team can pull out the wins they need and win the Series. This would be great for Nevada. I would also like to thank all posts and individuals that participated in donating to the Nevada baseball program this year. Thank You, Thank You!!!
Remember this is one program and the Legion has many so your support is also requested for the other programs.

Legislative
As you know, the Senate passed our Centennial Coin bill last week and our attention has turned to building the largest number of cosponsors in the House before Congress returns in September. We are now at 289 cosponsors in the House, so we need just two more to meet the minimum requirement of 291. With all the Council activity around the country, there is no question in my mind we will pass 300 cosponsors soon enough. Another milestone at hand! All Nevada Congress representatives are on board as I write this except for one, Ruben Kihuen. I hope you in his District would put the importance of this bill on his phone or desk. Remember the National Convention in Reno this year!!! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!
August 20 thru the 24th.

Are you a Veteran or concerned about one? The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders. Veterans and their loved ones can anonymously:
• Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
• Chat online
• Send a text message to 838255
Confidential help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Ron
Well July 1st has come and gone and with that being said we are one month into the new Legion Membership year. I would like to give you a short tutorial on how our membership and the legion year tie together, and why dues are important. The Legion year starts on the first day of July and ends on the last day of June the following year. So Legion year 2018 starts in July 1st, 2017 and ends June 30th, 2018. The new card you receive will have 2018 on it. The current card you have has 217 on it and is a valid card until 31 December 2017, after 31 December 2017 that card is no longer any good.

For those not aware, National printed our new membership cards and post rosters in May 2017 for all Legion posts throughout the world and sent them to all Departments. The Department of Nevada passes out these new cards at the Department Convention each year to the District Commander. Now along with the printing of the new cards, National will be generating renewal notices for each member who is not a "paid up for life" member or has signed up for automatic renewal. These renewals will be mailed the first week of July.

Now a member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1st shall be classified as delinquent. If the members’ dues are paid on or before February 1st the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the members’ dues are still delinquent after the 1st of February they shall be suspended from all privileges, if they are still under such suspension on June 30th their membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited and they lose their continuous years of membership.

Now some folks complain that they pay their dues still get another renewal notice. There is a reason behind this. There are five renewal notices sent out each year. One in July, the 2nd in October, the 3rd in January, the 4th in March and the last in May. It takes 4-6 weeks for the payment to get recorded at National. If you delay getting your dues in once a renewal notice is sent, you may get caught in the situation where the next renewal is printed prior to your renewal being recorded at National. Once a renewal notice is printed it will be sent. The solution?? Pay your dues as soon as possible after getting a renewal. If you don’t want to receive renewal notices become a PUFL or get on automatic pay.

Now why is important to send in your dues early? The main reason is because of budgeting requirements. Each of you receives funds at a specific time monthly. Because of this, you know when you can pay your bills, etc. For the Post, Department and National it is a different story. In each of their cases they must guess estimate when they will receive their dues consequently, funding activities can be delayed or eliminated altogether. So, getting your dues in early helps these levels of The American Legion plan their year's activities.

Your membership in The American Legion plays a significant role in the welfare of veterans and youth of America. Because of your involvement, your annual dues go a long way in supporting the basic principles of The American Legion. These funds allow our
organization, from post to National Headquarters, to pursue legislation that is beneficial to our veterans and to fight against those that are detrimental. But more importantly you are part of the 2 million + veterans that the National Commander states he is representing when he appears before a legislative committee fighting for our veterans. So paying your dues early is important. When on active duty you took an oath to defend our country: now as a Legionnaire you continue to serve. Remember, we do it for God and Country. Thanks to Fred Doten post # 60 in assistance with this portion of this article.

In closing I would like to say I recently had the privilege to accompany the Department Commander to the Membership Training sessions at National headquarters. What a great job she did representing the Department of Nevada. After presenting the facts and figures we the Department of Nevada ended up with a goal of 7,350 that is a drop of 432 from last year. I along with the Commander feel this is a goal that we all can reach. Along with this article you will find a copy of the new Membership Challenges for each Post and District within the Department. This is an attainable number but we will still need to get out and beat the bush for our new members and keep up the work to maintain our current membership, There will be more to follow on membership but for now just remember all you have to do is JUST ASK. Hope to see you all at the National Convention in Reno next week no better time than now it's in your state.

RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others. Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, service members, their families, and communities across the nation. - See more at: http://www.legion.org/renew#sthash.DX0t4fN8.dpuf

Mitch
# Department of Nevada
## 2018 Membership Challenges

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2017–2018 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 50%

FALL MEETINGS OCTOBER 11, 2017 55%

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 15, 2017 65%

PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 13, 2017 75%

MID-WINTER JANUARY 18, 2018 80%

PRESIDENTS DAY FEBRUARY 14, 2018 85%

LEGION BIRTHDAY MARCH 14, 2018 90%

CHILDREN & YOUTH APRIL 11, 2018 95%

ARMED FORCES DAY MAY 9, 2018 100%

DELEGATE STRENGTH 30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Target dates are the second Wednesday of the month unless a holiday falls on that day or at the beginning of that week.

The November target date will be on the third Wednesday due to Veterans Day falling on the previous Saturday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, and allow for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the January target date will be the third Thursday of the month.
Annually the Department of Nevada holds their Department Convention. Each are unique in their own way, and the 99th was no exception. For many years this event was held in June; however, it was different this year in that it was held in July. The rationale for the change was a conflict with Boy State; however, in reflection, this change created other issues that impacted the membership. In 2019, the convention will return to the June timeline.

This year, White Pine Post 3 hosted the convention in Ely; and by anyone’s standards, made it an event to remember. How often can one opt to stay at the jailhouse? The dinners and Commanders’ Breakfast were held in the Postal Palace, a converted Post Office. Throw in a Welcome Home dinner for outgoing Department Commander Bob Terhune and there were fun times for all who came. As is usual at these events, the Host Post family was everywhere ensuring every facet of the event was running smoothly; and their outreach and support to all the attendees was outstanding. Kudos to those who made it all come together.

The convention started at 1pm on Friday and ended late morning on Saturday. The agenda was substantial; however, well-orchestrated by Department Commander Terhune and Department Adjutant Motta. There were briefings, guest speakers, awards, and the changing of command filling the time line. Nothing was left to chance, and speaks well of the organizational skills of the Department leadership.

The convention Saturday evening banquet lived up to past conventions. A unique touch was having it at the Postal Palace, a converted Post Office. The buffet provided was excellent and no one left hungry. A special thanks to the catering staff in getting the food to the facility and arranging the buffet line for an excellent meal.

The Key Note Speaker for Saturday’s meeting was Western Region National Vice Commander (NVC), Paul Espinoza. As part of the Certificate presentation to NVC Espinoza he was also presented with a Nevada Tie. Department NEC Ron Michalski demonstrated that one cannot tie a tie around another person’s neck. Needless to say the humor of the event was enjoyed by all. After a brief intermission as Ron tied the tie around his neck, the tie was presented to NVC Espinoza.

As with every convention, the swearing in of the new Department officers is an event worth watching. This year it was a unique event in that the Department had its fourth female commander sworn in. What makes this ceremony historical is the fact that during the month of August the first female National Commander will be installed. The fact that is taking place in Reno, NV makes this a special historic moment in the history of the Department of Nevada. We hope many will show up to be part of this unique occasion.
My name is Trevor McCall and I've been appointed as the ALR program liaison for the Department of Nevada. What does that mean to you? The ALR in Nevada is a Post program, and that will not change.

12 Posts in Nevada are listed on legion.org as having an active Legion Riders Program. I've reached out to everyone listed, but only received responses from four. I'd like to get correct information for all Programs, then ask you for ALR meeting times & locations.

Hopefully we can begin a dialogue within the Department and share ideas, events, etc. If you're interested in starting an ALR Program in your Post, I'd like to hear from you as well.

As liaison, I need to be able to answer questions about the ALR in our Department. I'd like to hear from you and learn more about what you do. Hopefully, we can foster some comradeship and mutual helpfulness.

As of this writing, my wife & I are en-route to the Legion Legacy Run 2017 in Ft. Dodge, KS. More info about this year's run is available at https://www.legion.org/riders/legacyrun. Hopefully we'll be able to meet face-to-face somewhere along the way.

Thanks for your time & ride safe,

Trevor McCall
402-740-2794
blackjackmac68@yahoo.com
Hello Nevada Legion family members. I bring you greetings from the Detachment of Nevada Sons of the Legion. I want to thank the Ely Legionnaires and their volunteers for a great 99th Convention last month.

I was honored to be elected as the new Detachment Commander for 2017-2018. Thank you all for trusting me with the responsibility to help all our squadrons grow as well as the Detachment. I would also like to welcome our new Detachment Officers and appointees and thank all of you for stepping up and taking on the duties and responsibilities of your new offices.

The 46th Annual National Convention of the Sons of the Legion is a little over a week away. The convention will take place at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center-Hall 3-Street level. There will be numerous seminars offered on Friday the 18th starting at 8:30 AM and the opening ceremonies will begin at 1:00 PM on the 18th.

We need volunteers to help sell our 2017 Convention Pins on the 18th -20th. Available times vary so if you can assist it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me as soon as possible. All or the proceeds from the selling of the pins will be donated to the Child Welfare Foundation from the Detachment of Nevada Sons of the Legion.

Future articles will be submitted by our Detachment Officers, as well as our appointees, to give all of you a better idea of what each officer’s duties are as well as how they are progressing with the Detachments goals for the year.

I am looking forward to having a better relationship with our new Department Commander, Yvette Weigold, and her new staff as well as all the new Post Commanders.

Look for future information about our next DEC meeting in Tonopah as well as our 4th Annual Rendezvous next year in Las Vegas.

Marco Manor- Detachment Commander