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

AUGUST 2016 EDITION

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander                     Robert Terhune        (702) 382-2353   cmdrnv@nevadalegion.org
1st Vice Commander                    Yvette Weigold         (702) 576.6629   weigoldy63@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander                   Joel Forman              (702) 360.5833   akan01@centurylink.net
Sergeant-At-Arms                          Jim Stewart (775) 848.6072   controller@bordertowncasinorv.com
NEC                                              Ron Michalski            (702) 568.5322   ron1025@aol.com
Alternate NEC                             John Warden             (775) 219.7494   johnwardencpa@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain                                       Dan DePozo                 (702) 564.9499   anndan1@centurylink.net
Judge Advocate                           Tom Koch        (702) 382.2353    janv@nevadalegion.org
Finance Officer                            Jack Jakubik             (702) 837.4350    jackj875@aol.com
Historian                                      Fred Doten                 (702)-298,2492   fdoten@centurylink.net
Service Officer                             Mike Mader               (775) 321.4880   maderm@veterans.nv.gov
Adjutant                                       Lionel Motta              (702) 382.2353   taldon737@aol.com
Membership Chair          Mitch Roach               (702) 690.6145   mitch.roach@aol.com
Jr. Past Commander                  Dave Evans                 (775) 997.5823   hmes8425@att.net

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS CHAIRS

Americanism           Jim Stewart    (775) 848.6072    controller@bordertowncasinorv.com
Children & Youth                         Hal Sherwood        (775) 575.6219   nvcandy@sbcglobal.net
Finance                                           Yvette Weigold        (702) 576.6629   weigoldy63@gmail.com
Auxiliary Liaison                          Hal Sherwood       (775) 575.6219   nvcandy@sbcglobal.net
Detachment Commander             Stephen Silberkraus (702) 900.0988   stephen@silberkraus.com
Public Relations                            Fred Doten        (702)-298-2492  fdoten@centurylink.net
Legislative                                      John Warden          (775) 219.7494   johnwardencpa@sbcglobal.net
VA & R                                              Jeanette Rae            (775) 997.5874   retiredmsgt@att.net

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

1st District             Lionel Motta           (702) 561.4993   taldon737@gmail.com
2nd District                                     Joel Forman            (702) 360.5833   akan01@centurylink.net
3rd District                                     Carl Lincoln           (775) 738.7657   lincoln@frontiernet.net
4th District                                      Richard Eberly        (775)-434.3386   shadow_617@msn.com
5th District                          Vance Crowder (775)-296-2423 vance_87@yahoo.com

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

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 4th & 5th, 2016 in Reno
Hosted by Post 12
At the Nugget Hotel & Casino

&

FEBRUARY 24th & 25th, 2017 in North Las Vegas
Hosted by Post 51
Location To Be Determined

99TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JULY 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2017 in Ely
Hosted by Post 3
Location To Be Determined

Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans
Well, another year has come and gone, and time keeps marching on as does The American Legion. I’m really honored to serve in this great position as your Department Commander for the 2016-2017 year.

It will be my pleasure and honor to represent the Great State of Nevada and the Department of Nevada for The American Legion for the next year.

I’m looking forward to a great year, and I know that I will be able to count on each and every Legionnaire, and every Post to make that happen.

Membership as usual, will be one of the largest factors for the Department. I know that the Membership Chairman and PDC Mitch Roach will do all within his power to make sure that membership is the best it can be.

However, it is going to take each and every Legionnaire to get and maintain membership. One person can’t do all of the work.

When you are signing up a new member, or asking someone to renew and they complain about the price of membership dues, kindly respond by saying “It’s Not The Price You Pay To Be A Member, It’s The Price You Paid To Be Eligible”.

During the last part of July, PDC Mitch Roach and I were in Indianapolis for the membership workshop.

We were fortunate enough to secure a number for membership that I think we can all work with. I must admit, that when I walked into the meeting room with all of the membership leaders and then some, I felt as though I was the fatted calf being led to slaughter.

Of course that feeling didn’t last long, because I had to start dodging all of the sharp teeth that was snapping at my back side about a simple thing called a “CPR” Consolidated Post Report.

It appears as though the Department has 40 Post Charters on file with the National Headquarters. However, there were only 13 Posts that even bothered to submit the CPR.

Trust me, it’s pretty hard to try and explain about something that you have no control over.

So at this time, I’m going to ask every Post Adjutant to make sure that when it’s time to submit the CPR’s, please make sure that they get turned in.

That way next year when the new Commander goes to the work shop they won’t have to try and explain why.

It has to come to my attention that I need to close this article for now.

For God and Country,

Still Serving,
Bob Terhune
Under a mandate to increase its use of renewable energy, the Department of Veterans Affairs has spent more than $408 million on solar panels over five years, despite significant delays and some projects not being operational years after construction began.

The agency's inspector general found that 11 of 15 projects awarded between fiscal 2010 and 2013 under the VA's "green management program" were still in progress as of May 2015, with only two systems completed. The VA subsequently reported last month that five solar projects have been completed at VA facilities, but three of the systems still are not generating power.

"This occurred because of planning errors, design changes, a lengthy interconnection process, and contractor delays," the inspector general said. "As a result, VA did not increase renewable energy for those solar projects in the time frame planned and incurred additional costs through needed contract modifications."

Of the total the administration has spent on solar panels for the VA, more than $48 million came from the Recovery Act of 2009. Under an executive order issued by President Obama in March 2015, the VA is required to increase its renewable energy consumption to 30 percent by 2025.

The agency has been dealing with a series of scandals in recent years, from massive cost overruns at a hospital construction project in Denver to veterans who died waiting for care while managers, for the sake of their performance bonuses, falsified wait times to make it appear the VA was treating patients more quickly.

The watchdog said the VA failed to manage some of its solar energy projects effectively, with solar panels installed at a facility in Little Rock, Arkansas, later removed two years later at a cost of more than $1 million to make way for construction of a parking garage. Those panels never generated electricity because there were incompatible with the local power grid, the report said.

The audit was requested by Rep. J. French and Sen. John Boozman, the Arkansas Republicans who wanted a review of an $8 million solar panel project at the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock. That project is now expected to
be finished in January 2017, four years behind schedule, with about $1.5 million in unexpected costs.

Investigators said all of the projects were to be completed in seven to 12 months, but actually took an average of 42 months to finish.

"Whether it is a project as complex as hospital construction or one as simple as the proper installation of solar panels, VA continues to waste large amounts of taxpayer funds as a result of its own ineptitude." Mr. Hill said.

In its response to the inspector general's findings, the VA said the investigation was "biased" because it ignored 41 completed solar projects that were awarded during the same time frame.

VA does not believe that selection of these projects is a representative example of our entire portfolio," the agency said.

VA officials also said the agency's combined solar energy projects provide saving of $10 million per year, which allows the department "to redirect those recurring funds to provide care and services to veterans."

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
Greetings Legionnaires, as this is my first newsletter since taking the 1st Vice position I just want to say thanks for believing in me and supporting me over the past 9 months of craziness! I am almost done with treatment and am looking forward to my trip to the National Convention in just a few more days! Lookout Cincinnati.

While I am on the topic of convention I would like to add a few notes from things I learned over the years.

**BRING COMFORTABLE SHOES!** If this is your first time at National Convention you may be surprised at just how much walking you will do. There are buses that run from most of the hotels (ours included) but there is still plenty of walking once in the convention center. Plus the PARADE! If you don’t know about the parade, be prepared for at least a mile walk once we get staged. This is not mandatory, so don’t be afraid to say you can’t walk it! I still haven’t decided! But, if you are joining in, then wear comfortable shoes and be advised that our “standard uniform” is khaki shorts/pants/skirt and branch of service shirt. If you don’t have the shirt you can get one at emblem sales at the convention or just wear a Legion polo. And don’t forget your cap! There’s a party afterwards and it’s usually pretty fun, but you may be exhausted by the time you get there!

There are plenty of activities and trips set up if you are interested but make sure you check with the Adjutant first to see if there is a meeting you need to attend. Remember, we are there to represent our positions within the Department. It’s not a vacation (sort of). And most of all HAVE FUN! My favorite activity is finding the delegates from the outlying territories and getting pictures!

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**Patriot Day** is recognized by US law as the official day of remembrance for the tragic events of 9/11 and has been observed every year since. Each year on this day, American flags are flown at half-staff to honor and commemorate those lives lost. The US President asks fellow Americans to observe a moment of silence at 8:46am (Eastern Daylight Time), the time of the first plane collision into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

This day is also celebrated as a day of Service and Remembrance. This is a great time to get involved and give back to your community. If you’re not sure what to do, you can check out this website with a list of many things you can do!

http://www.serve.gov/

Yvette
From the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Vice Commander

This is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your 2nd Vice Commander for 2016 - 2017. I thank you all for your support during the recent Department of Nevada Convention.

I have been attending Veteran Job Fairs for quite a while, both as an observer and as a participant, not as a job recruiter of course, but to offer information about the Legion to those clients who are not only job seekers, but are veterans, and to the other vendors who are recruiting, many of whom are veterans themselves.

Have we been successful? Yes, indeed, we have signed up new member, transferees from Post 100 and from other departments. And we have found several very interesting speakers for our meetings.

We are amazed how many veterans have no idea what the American Legion is, or what we are all about.

One added bonus from participating in events such as these, is networking. Which is so important. It provides information about additional events, services, and information that you can bring back to your membership.

Not all of the events are successful, some are only looking to advance their own agenda at the expense of using the word "veteran". It is worth your time to do some research before your commit to participating in such events. That goes without saying for events hosted by politicians running for office this year.

Joel
Welcome to the 2016-2017 "300 Club" lottery drawing. We are off to a slow start, with only 84 numbers being sold so far. Today we had Ron Davis drawing, with the office staff watching. Congratulations to our 2 lucky winners.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 42 - Jack Jakubik - Post 40

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 156 - Unsold

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 33 - William Pfeifer - Post 16

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 283 - Unsold

We still have 216 numbers. Fill out your form and send your money in now. You can't win if you don't play. There are still 11 months left of 4 drawings a month.
From the Desk of the Department Sergeant-At-Arms

Americanism / Children & Youth

I want to thank everyone for your support and confidence and I hope to do everyone proud as your new Department Sergeant at Arms. Additionally, as the incoming Americanism Chair, I am hoping to have a very productive year in promoting one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Growing up in an Air Force family, being a Scout and Scouter for over 49 years, and having served in the military for sixteen years, patriotism is within my heart and soul.

In these troubling times within our country today, we need to show our support of our American way of life by being more involved and active within our communities, state, and nation. There are many different ways for you to show your patriotism besides waving an American Flag.

We are in the midst of selecting our next President of the United States. Whomever your choice for President, Senator, Congressman, State, or local official...go out and promote your candidate and encourage everyone you know to go out and vote. You can’t complain about the Government if you don’t vote and have your voice heard!

Be active in supporting your Post’s events like Veteran’s Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day. Volunteer to assist in the Legion activities like the annual Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Legion Baseball, and Boy Scouts.

Americanism is also about education. Volunteer to be a “Vet in the Classroom” and tell your story of your experiences in the military. Teach proper flag etiquette to school children and other community groups. And, be involved in the annual JROTC awards selection process and presentations. If your Post does not have these programs or events, then be that person to start them!

Americanism is all about being proud of our Country and our way of life. Let’s show the rest of the world that we are not afraid of who we are and we will not bow down to the hate and radicalism of any terrorists, foreign or domestic.

God Bless America, God Bless our Troops, God Bless our Veterans who proudly served our Country, and God Bless those brave souls that gave their lives to keep us free!

Jim
Well folks, I'm back and I look forward to a great year in membership for this great organization, The American Legion!! As we get started I want to thank our new Commander (Bob) for placing his trust in me for another year to be an integral part of our great membership TEAM. I had the privilege of spending a few days with the Commander during our membership meetings at National Headquarters a few weeks back where he did an outstanding job representing the Department and getting us the attainable goal of 7,782 members for this Legion year's membership, thanks Bob.

I would be remised if I didn't thank each and every one of our Department of Nevada members for their untiring efforts last year supporting our Department's membership program. THANK YOU ALL!! I would also like to congratulate two members of Las Vegas Post # 8 both who made Gold Brigade recruiters this past year, Terry Esterbrook and Robert Morris (# 4 in the nation). Excellent job to both. If you are interested in how to gain this prestige's award check with your membership chairperson they can give you all the details, it all comes down to what? JUST ASK! Along with this I want to also congratulate the Detachment of Nevada Sons of the Legion on their great year in membership they ended up the year with 162% of their membership goal. GREAT JOB.

As I mentioned before our goal for this Legion year is 7,782 members, this is less than last year and as the Commander has stated this is a goal that can be reached if only we all do our part. The membership meetings at National were very productive and informative, a lot of ideas were presented by the National Organization's Staff and other Legionaries from across the nation. Many of these we will try and get implemented during this coming year. As in any thing we do some may or may not work but all ideas are worth a try. I will be setting up a conference call in the very near future with each District's membership person and of course the District Commanders to discuss some ideas that came from the meetings, and your ideas as well. You'll note that I've included this year's membership “Target Dates” listing in this Department Newsletter edition.

I will be closing for now as I'm sure by the end of the year you will be saying" doesn't that man ever shut up" well the answer is NO when it comes to getting new members and it seems the hardest part RETAINING existing members so let's put our thinking caps on and get down to the business at hand MEMBERSHIP!! Each post has their goals set for the year so let’s get to it and make this a 100% membership Department, How great would that be to have our Department Commander on stage at the National Convention next year.

With that in mind guess what is happening just about this time next year? You are right the Department of Nevada is sponsoring the American Legion National Convention right here in the Great State of Nevada. Reno will be the place to be and with that being said we (the Department of Nevada) will need a lot of assistance in making this the best convention that National has seen since the last time it was held here in Nevada (2007) more to follow in future issues. Thanks for all of your support.

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
# 2016 - 2017 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF</strong></td>
<td>September 14, 2016</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>FALL MEETINGS</td>
<td>October 12, 2016</td>
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<td>VETERANS DAY</td>
<td>November 16, 2016</td>
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<td>PEARL HARBOR DAY</td>
<td>December 14, 2016</td>
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<td>MID-WINTER</td>
<td>January 19, 2017</td>
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<td>PRESIDENT’S DAY</td>
<td>February 8, 2017</td>
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<td>LEGION BIRTHDAY</td>
<td>March 8, 2017</td>
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<td>CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</td>
<td>April 12, 2017</td>
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<td>ARMED FORCES DAY</td>
<td>May 10, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>DELEGATE STRENGTH</strong></td>
<td>30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION</td>
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Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday 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 that previous Friday.
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<th>Post #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Last Transmittal</th>
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<td>459</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sparks</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>Pahrump</td>
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<td>Henderson</td>
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<td>149</td>
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<td>Carlin</td>
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<td>Pioche</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Austin</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>17%</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Last Transmittal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District #1</td>
<td>6,664</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>8/12/16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #4</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</td>
<td>7,782</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8/12/16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nevada State Veterans Home
Boulder City, Nevada
"Caring for Nevada's Heroes"
admissions@veterans.nv.gov
702-332-6784

The Nevada State Veterans Home is the only veteran's home in Nevada, located 23 miles southeast of Las Vegas in Boulder City, Nevada. NSVH is a State-owned and State-operated facility receiving support from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Nevada State Veterans Home is 82,000 square foot facility and accommodates 180 residents in three residential neighborhoods, including 24 beds for individuals suffering from advanced cognitive impairment. Each unit has dedicated professional staff providing 24 hour skilled nursing care with a clinical team committed to "Caring for Nevada's Heroes".

Services include short and long term care, respite care, hospice, rehabilitation services, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy, on-site Social Workers, laboratory and pharmacy services, radiology and diagnostic services, activities for the unique interests of veterans, a full service kitchen and dining, and transportation to appointments.

We honor our veterans, spouses, and gold star parents by providing the very best care and advocacy. We achieve this by our innovative delivery of services, our skilled and compassionate staff and volunteers, and our commitment to make all residents and their families feel like members of the Nevada State Veterans Home.

Admission is dependent on a variety of factors and must meet the following requirements:

- Must complete an admission application
- Provide documentation of state residency
- Have a military discharge other than dishonorable
- Be a spouse of a veteran who meets the above requirements or a Gold Star parent
- Not require medical care the Home is unable to provide
- Not exhibit traits that may be dangerous to the applicant, residents, staff, or visitors
- Have a minimum of 90 days military federal service
- Current, signed admission order from a licensed physician verifying the need for 24 hour nursing care

Daily Cost of Basic Care: $125 for a veteran, $187 for a spouse or Gold Star parent and private rooms are additional $25 per day. Medication and ancillary charges are not included in the daily rates. There are some exceptions to the rates for veterans with service-connected disability ratings between 70%-100%, for recipients of Medicare and for State-funded Medicaid programs. Residents must agree to pay daily per diem and additional ancillary charges, such as physician visits, medication, and supplies. Charges will vary over time and between residents, depending on each resident's situation.

Some applicants may be eligible for VA benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, military retirement, and or Social Security. Interested applicants please visit: http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veterans-home
98th CONVENTION – MISSION COMPLETED

Every year the Department of Nevada has their annual convention; and, as typical, each one is different and unique unto itself. This year the BMI Post 40 Legion Family in Henderson, NV put on a convention we will all remember. From the first rap of the gavel to its final bang, the event went smoothly without a hitch. Kudos to the Family members who orchestrated it all. As usual at these events, the Host Post family was every-where ensuring every facet of the event was running smoothly; and their outreach and support to all the attendees was outstanding.

It goes without saying that folks at their Post Home Friday night made sure all attending the Meatloaf dinner had plenty to eat. They added a nice touch by making it a sit-down dinner where all you had to worry about was beverages. The bar was open and flowing with your choice of beverage and without long lines. Thank you all for making it a fun evening. It should be noted our NEC Ron Michalski, living up to Legion magazine article, was in the kitchen making sure the food going to the tables was well prepared and plentiful. Give him a high five the next time you see him. Another nice touch was DJ Jack Jakubik on stage making sure music was available and applicable to the folks in the room.

The convention followed an agenda that was aggressive but doable. Briefings, guest speakers, awards, and the changing of command flowed from Friday through Sunday. Department Commander Evans, with the assistance of Department Adjutant, Lionel Motta, made the convention a major success. Those in attendance should have fond memories of their visit to Henderson and the Fiesta. Casino

As with every convention, a banquet is a prerequisite. Post 40 put on a memorial evening with a no host bar, exceptional food, excellent service and an “Empty Table” ceremony. The crowning activity of the evening was the entertainment after dinner. The couple who performed were outstanding. They had an excellent selection of songs and their interaction with the audience was superb. It was an excellent ending for a busy day. The Auxiliary added a nice touch with the baskets they raffled off. Everyone wanted the wagon load of booze; however, only one walked away with it.

The Commander’s breakfast held Sunday morning was again a fun event and well conducted by Past Department Cmdr Janette Rae. Fines were collected from those noncompliant to the rules of the moment. This fundraiser added to the collection jars from the banquet the evening before.

Annually, there is the passing of command. The convention ended with the election of new officers for Legion year 2016. Picking up the gavel as Department Commander is Bob Terhune. Officers assisting Commander Terhune include 1st Vice Commander Yvette Weigold, 2nd Vice Commander Joel Forman, and Sgt-at-Arms Jim Stewart. Ron Michalski was elected as the Department of Nevada’s National Executive Committee member. National Vice Commander George Cushing, Western Region, conducted the swearing in of Department Officers. Meet your Department Officers pictured on the right. When you see them at their or your Post Homes give them a high-5 and thank them for stepping up and leading our great Department.