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

MARCH 2016 EDITION

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“Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans”
Department of Nevada 98th Annual Convention  
July 15, 16, 17, 2016  
Held at the Fiesta of Henderson, 777 W. Lake Mead Pkwy,  
Henderson, NV 89015  
702-558-7000  

Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary Members  

The Department of Nevada 98th convention is being held at the Fiesta of Henderson hotel and casino. Host for the convention is BMI post #40  

Lodging is recommended at the Fiesta of Henderson. Rates as follows: Thursday 7/14/16 $34.99, Friday and Saturday 7/15, 7/16 $69.99, Sunday 7/17 $34.99 and Monday 7/18 $34.99. All room rates are plus tax and the “Cutoff Date” is June 14, 2016.  

Reservation Phone # 888-899-7770 mention American Legion.  

Friday night dinner will be available at Post 40 from 5:30 to 7 PM.  
Saturday night Commanders Dinner will be at the Fiesta and it will be an Italian Buffet.  

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM No host Cocktails  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM- 8:00 PM Guest Speaker  
Entertainment will start at 8:00 PM  

(Ron and Lisa Smith)
FROM THE COMMANDER’S DESK

For this month’s Newsletter Article, I would like to focus on three events in which I participated on March 8th, 9th and 10th 2016. On these three days I was privileged to participate in a Veteran’s Town Hall, The American Legion’s System Worth Saving visit to the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center in Reno and the presentation to the Medical Center staff items purchased through an Operation Comfort Warriors grant to provide comfort and entertainment items for patients at the VA Medical Center and the Center’s Community Living Center.

The series of events began on Tuesday March 8th with a Veteran’s Town Hall event hosted by Darrell Dunkle Post 1. Approximately 25 – 30 Legionnaires and local veterans attended. Post 1 opened the meeting and then introduced the National Staff members who conducted the Town Hall Meeting. Mr. Roscoe Butler, National American Legion Deputy Director for Health Care, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, chaired the Town Hall and invited input from the veterans in attendance. The discussions were lively and, in some cases passionate. There were a few veterans who described negative interactions with either the VA’s Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) or Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Reno VA Medical Center Director Lisa Howard was present and addressed the negative responses to items under the purview of the VHA. An American Legion Service Officer was present, and assisted the few veterans having negative comments to claims issues. Far out-numbering the negative comments were the more numerous favorable comments. Mr. Butler ensured every veteran who had a comment was heard. Frankly, his ability to allow everyone to be heard, but still retain control of the meeting, was impressive.

On Wednesday March 9th, the System Worth Saving visit commenced at the Reno VA Medical Center. The System Worth Saving team consisted of Mr. Butler and Department of Nevada’s Past National Vice Commander Jeanette Rae. The visit was different than anything I experienced during my 26 year career in Navy medicine. Mr. Butler made sure that both the Medical Center staff, and we veterans who attended, were aware that the purpose of the visit was not an inspection or audit. The purpose of the visit was to review records and interview staff to confirm the facility was performing at expected levels of excellence. When opportunities for improvement were discovered, Mr. Butler suggested ideas. Additionally, the Medical Center leadership and staff was invited to bring up topics for discussion of how The American Legion might be able to assist through efforts to lobby congress for support of local, or VA-wide programs for the betterment of services to the veterans who utilize VA healthcare. In a short summary – I WAS IMPRESSED!

The site visit continued on Thursday March 10th with a visit to Capitol Hill, the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program complex where veterans in need are afforded assistance by Certified Licensed Social Workers in order to find housing and other services in order to escape life on the streets. Additionally, veterans in legal difficulties are provided assistance through the “veteran’s court.” The next stop on the visit was the City of Reno Homeless Shelter where facilities are
available for male and female veterans. Mr. Mark Walker, National American Legion Deputy Director of Employment and Education was able to provide both insight and suggestion for opportunities to improve the plight of the homeless veterans of Washoe County and surrounding rural areas. An area of concern was identified – there are extremely limited facilities available for homeless veterans having family members.

The last stop on the agenda was the Reno Veterans Center. The Center is focused on support for combat veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as from the war in Vietnam. Upon our return to the Reno VA Medical Center, an “exit brief” was conducted. Then the “fun” began. Mr. Bruce Drake, Assistant Director of Troop and Family Support - American Legion Headquarters, along with five Post 1 Legionnaires brought to the Reno VA Medical Center, approximately $6,500 of items they purchased locally through a grant from Operation Comfort Warriors for use by patients at the Medical Center and the Community Living Center. The varied items included clothing, reading material, DVD movies, puzzles, craft items, electronics and other items to ease the discomforts of veterans recovering from illness and injuries. The value of every penny we Legionnaires have donated was made clear as we were able to see the amazement and awe on the faces of the VA staff when the OCW items were presented!

If you get the chance, please participate in a System Worth Saving visit. I promise you will understand how the VA staff and patients value the efforts of The American Legion!

I want to express a special “THANK YOU” to Commander Jack Edstrom, 1st Vice Commander Richard Dickerson and all the Legionnaires of Darrell Dunkle Post 1 who worked so hard to make the System Worth Saving visit and the related activities so successful! Their support and presence throughout the visit received comments of appreciation from the members of the System Worth Saving team for helping make the System Worth Saving visit a resounding success.

For God and Country,

Still Serving,
Dave Evans
Supreme Court hears case about veterans preference in government contracting

The first case the U.S. Supreme Court heard since the death of Associate Justice Scalia was a case of serious concern to many of America’s veterans. Kingdomware Technologies v. United States No. 14916 was expected to clarify how much of “veterans preference” preference in federal contracting was to be applied. But it now seems quite possible that the Court may send it back to the D.C. Circuit Court for further hearings. Whether the Supreme Court decides it this term or next it is becoming a more and more interesting case.

The 2006 Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 states that the Department of Veterans Affairs “shall award” contracts on the basis of competition restricted to small businesses owned by veterans if there is a “reasonable expectation” that two or more such businesses are available to bid on and properly complete the contract. (What is normally referred to as the 2 business rule throughout government contracting.

Kingdomware, a Service Disabled Veterans Owned Small Business, has filed several complaints arguing that the Department of Veterans Affairs has not been setting aside contracts for VOSBs (Veteran Owned Small Businesses) and SDVOSBs (Service Disabled Veterans Owned Small Businesses) as required but have been ordering goods and services through the Federal Supply Schedules.

The GAO has made several rulings in favor of Kingdomware but the Federal Court of Claims and DC Federal Circuit Court ruled that “the shall award” language in the statute was subordinate to the larger goal of hitting the VA’s targets for contracting with veteran-owned businesses, and that the “rule of two” requirement was not necessary for all procurements as long as VA was meeting those goals.” Surprisingly the Federal Government did not argue simply that the lower court’s order was correct but added a new argument saying that the 2006 only applies to new “contracts” not to “orders” placed under existing contracts.

This is unusual and it looked like Justice Ginsburg may urge her fellow Justices to remand the case back to the Circuit Court for further argument. During oral argument she asked the Assistant Solicitor General: “I mean, it’s really odd. I read the Federal Circuit decision, and I expected to open the government brief and say, yeah, the Federal Circuit was right. You’re telling us the Federal Circuit was wrong……The argument which you state very well is very complex. The Federal Circuit had a really simple take on it, and all of these regulations and provisions that you are mentioning didn’t figure at all in the Federal Circuit’s opinion. So you’re putting us in the position of being a court of first view in a rather dense area. This Court usually doesn’t do that. It likes to know what other judges have thought about it.”

While the government’s attorney seemed happy with the idea of a remand the company’s attorney was not. He said that “the veterans who are waiting for this law to be enforced as written have already waited a decade.” He further argued that the decision should be based on the simple question of whether an order was a contract.

On the other hand Justice Kagan seemed to be siding with the company. She said: “I understand your policy concerns and the way you think this will damage procurement practices. But the statute just seems pretty clear. Once you say that this is a contract, what you’ve said in your brief and right now. And once you say that, the statute says, ‘A contracting officer of the department shall award contracts on the basis of competition restricted to veterans’ small businesses.’ So that seems to kind of answer the case, whatever the policy identifications are.” The Company’s attorney did not need to add that another 2 appellate arguments would be very expensive in both time and money. Indeed, it is very interesting that this case could have gone all the way up to the Supreme Court over a $33,000 contract.

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
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

2016 – 2017
LETTERS OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

BOB TERHUNE                POST 3

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE COMMANDER

YVETTE WEIGOLD             POST 51

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

JOEL FORMAN                POST 76

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

JIM STEWART                POST 30
RICHARD EBERLY             POST 56

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSON
(2016 – 2018)

RON MICHALSKI              POST 40

**** LETTERS OF INTENT AND ELIGIBILITY SOURCE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE ON FILE AT THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE ****
1st Vice Commander

It is that time once again, time for another article. I recently returned from a visit to Washington, DC where I was honored to attend the Washington conference. I must say I was quite impressed. I was rather concerned with some of the responses’ that we received from some of our Senators and Congressmen. That will be another story.

After being in Washington for that short period of time, I can sort of understand why so many people want to go to work for the Government there. It kind of falls in line with what is happening with all of these VA Officials that should be in Prison, not being allowed to retire.

Action is being demanded after a top Department of Veterans Affairs official involved in misconduct was allowed to retire with benefits intact.

“That’s Washington bureaucratic kind of cover-up stuff and Hoosiers are tired of it,” Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.) said in an interview with CBS4.

Jack Hetrick oversaw the care of more than 500,000 veterans in parts of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana as the network regional director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 10.

The VA was investigating Hetrick for his management of the VA medical Center in Cincinnati, and last week the investigation revealed misconduct by Hetrick, along with the center’s chief of staff.

VA officials recommended Hetrick be removed from his position, but he was allowed to retire.

“This is part of the problem that we’ve been talking about with no accountability with the VA,” Walorski said. “That you can actually be involved in all kinds of wrongdoing, enough wrongdoing to actually be dismissed from your job and have all your authority taken away. But then they let you retire with all your benefits. And don’t forget these are tax dollars.”

Those federal benefits include social security, annuity and a thrift savings plan, which is somewhat similar to a 401K in the private sector.

“Frankly I think it’s outrageous he was allowed to retire,” Rep. Luke Messer (R-Ind.) said.

Walorski, who sits on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said last summer lawmakers proposed giving greater authority to the VA to fire bad executives. The measure, though, has stalled in the Senate.

“The Senate needs to take action on this bill precisely for moments like this,” she said. “When you have this over-the-top wrongdoing and folks dismissed from their jobs, and they go off into the sunset with their retirement. That does not happen in the real world.”

Congressman Todd Rokita (R-Ind.) wants to go even further. He’s drafting legislation that would classify all federal government employees as "at will," which would give greater authority to either fire or reward federal employees immediately.

“This goes back to something that’s a foundational problem in the federal government,” he said. “And that is we cannot fire people when they do bad things.”

Rokita, who called the proposal “radical” knows this type of sweeping legislation will be a tough sell.

“I’ll even have some Republican opposition on that,” he said. “Because the truth be told, Republicans that have districts where there’s a lot of federal employees on the East Coast will be very sensitive to this. But we’ll introduce it in the right way.”

Rep. Luke Messer (R-Ind.) will receive a briefing on the Cincinnati investigation Wednesday, along with other VA-related issues. Messer said he will press officials to ensure the transition to a new network regional director, overseeing hundreds-of-thousands of veterans, will not impact care.

“This is a problem that’s gone on far too long,” he said. “It’s way past time to fix it. We need to get the VA under control and we need to make sure our veterans are getting quality care.”

I’m not too sure how things went, or are going for you at your place of employment, but I would have ended up behind the very doors that I was keeping inmates behind. At this time, I would like to ask that everyone contact their Senators and Congressmen and ask them to get behind the drive to be allowed to punish these white collar criminals, and make them pay their fair share of their crime.

Well enough ranting and raving for this month. I hope to see you all in Henderson for the Department Convention in July.

Bob
From the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Vice Commander

Dear Legionnaires,

I’d like to point out a resource available to everyone with internet access. This site is called LINKEDIN. Some of you may already be familiar with it, but if you’re not or if you aren’t utilizing it to its fullest, you might want to take a look.

It’s pretty easy to set up a profile and then you can look for jobs, network with others in your field of interest or just connect with folks who have similar interests. Check it out.

Yvette
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA’S
300 CLUB RAFFLE

We sprung forward on daylight savings time, and picked all winners this month. A couple of new ones as well as a couple of familiar names who purchased multiple numbers.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 123 - Tom Talamante - Post 9

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 83 - Fred Doten - Post 60

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 170 - Jeanette Rae - Post 12

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 65 - Stephen Daughtery - Post 76

Congratulations to our 4 winners. See you next month.
Happy Birthday to the American Legion 97 years young on the 15th of March!! It takes a strong membership for any organization to be around for 97 years and that my friends is why the American legion is still alive and doing well (it's membership) !! I want to thank and congratulate Post # 14 for joining the ranks of 100% post for this year good job Legionaries. As of this printing we have some more post that are right on the verge of gaining that elusive 100% membership goal, keep on trying I know it can be done. As I stated last month I don't know what else there is I can say or do to motivate any one to keep pushing for that 100% goal but we still have time so DON'T GIVE UP YET (JUST ASK)!! We just missed our 90% goal on the 9th of March, Thanks for all the hard work, we still have time to catch up and continue on with posts, districts and the Department goal of 100%.

Let me go off script for just a little bit and speak on the 2017 National Convention which will be held right here in the great state of Nevada (Reno). I am in the process of contacting all posts and districts with volunteer sign-up sheets, it may seem a tad early but with everything that must and needs to be done, now is the time. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes at a convention and a lot of Department Legionnaires are and will be needed to accomplish the mission ahead. Just a few examples are drivers for dignitaries, guides, parade workers, after party workers and so forth, so if you think there is something you would like to do please don't hesitate to contact your post or district and volunteer. If you would like you may contact me directly at mitch.roach@aol.com.

I'm not going to drag this on so in closing I would like for all post and district commanders to check your records to see if you have any one in your post or district that may qualify for a recruitment award offered by National Headquarters, Check out the requirements which can be located in the Legion magazine. I want to close by thanking all post and district's for the effort that you have already taken for the betterment of the American Legion

**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](http://www.legion.org/renew#sthash.DX0t4fN8.dpuf)

Mitch
Americanism / Children & Youth

The season is here for Americanism, Children and Youth. We should all be thinking of how we as Legionnaires and our Posts can get involved in our community and have the community involved with us.

The School Awards Program is a unique opportunity for us to, not only recognize the achievements of our youth, but, it gives us the chance to speak to their parents at the same time. When we present the awards during the ceremony, realize that there may be as many as 200 or more parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors who will have your attention for a few minutes. It is very important to take advantage of this chance to read, perhaps four or five paragraphs explaining what Legion is, what your Post does in the community, what the requirements of earning the Medal are, and lastly, thanking the school and the faculty for allowing us to participate.

This year we are also including a letter to the parents of each recipient, inviting them to get their child involved in Boys State or Girls State and the Legion Oratorical Contest in their area.

I hope all the Posts take advantage of this rare opportunity to reach out to as many people in their community as possible, and not just show up to "hang a medal" on a student.

For further information and suggested letter, please contact me.

The Annual Boy Scout Expo is fast approaching. It will be held at Floyd Lamb Park, 9200 Tule Springs Road, Las Vegas, 89131 from Friday, April 22 through Sunday April 24. Scouts from all over will be attending and volunteers are always needed to teach for badge certifications and to assist in various ways. Wear your colors and volunteer for a few hours and help our community and youth.

What is more American than volunteering for our youth at school and Scouting?

*Election Year Reminders on Partisan Politics and Voting*

Article II, Section 2, of the constitution of The American Legion states, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.” The National Charter, approved by Congress, also stipulates The American Legion as an organization that is nonpolitical. The term “nonpolitical” been interpreted by the National Judge Advocate as “nonpartisan” in modern terms. The American Legion is allowed by Congress to lobby for veterans benefits and a strong United States of America Therefore, The American Legion as an organization, is prohibited from contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate; however, a member, as a private citizen, and not representing the organization, can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate.*

Voting season is fast approaching and you can help your community by volunteering as an Election Department Registrar, to aid voters in your community in changing their voting information, such as name or address change, party affiliation, etc. Also signing up to be a clerk at any of the voting facility during both the Primary & General Elections is always a satisfying experience. And your community will appreciate you for doing it.
March 2016

Dear Legion Family Members:

The Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA) was founded 30 years ago in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In only a few weeks, the community raised $100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. But the child died before an organ was found. Those community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using the funds they raised to help other transplant families. That was the beginning of COTA, and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

Since that time COTA, with the help of the men and women of The American Legion Family, has assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to a lack of funds.

Sadly, 22 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant. Every 10 minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month and COTA is asking everyone within The American Legion Family to register to be a donor by going to donatelife.net where each state’s registry can be found.

You can become a COTA Miracle Maker. Find out how your Post, Unit or Squadron can help a COTA family near you by visiting COTA.org and clicking on the Support COTA Families box at the top of the home page.

Thank you,

Doug Lippert
COTA Director of Development
Member, Squadron 155; Carmel, Indiana
doug@cota.org 800.366.2682

The Children’s Organ Transplant Association is a national charity based in Bloomington, Indiana, dedicated to guiding communities in raising funds for transplant-related expenses. COTA’s priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant due to lack of funds. 100% of funds raised in honor of patients are used for transplant-related expenses.
Carson City, Nevada March 11, 2016 the Capital City celebrated the centennial of the Battleship USS Nevada’s commissioning. Recognized by Governor Brian Sandoval was 93 year old “USS Nevada” sailor and Pearl Harbor survivor Charles Sehe who proudly displayed his American Legion affiliation. Legionnaire Sehe is a member of Post 75 of Geneva, IL. and was a guest of the Governor.

The USS Nevada was one of the most seaworthy battleships in the history of America’s modern Navy fleet. The Nevada was launched on July 11, 1941, and was commissioned on March 11, 2016.

On December 7, 1941, the Nevada had been in service more than 25 years and was one of nine battleships in the fleet at that time. The Nevada was aft of the Arizona that morning, moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. Being able to maneuver, the Nevada got under way and took a torpedo almost immediately. Being one of the few ships to get under way, the Nevada became a prime target for the Japanese war planes. Taking at least a minimum of six bomb hits, there was concern that she would sink and block the channel out of Pearl Harbor.

She was ordered grounded on the west side of Ford Island at 10:30am at a place known as Hospital Point. She was responsible for the downing of at least seven aircraft. Today that place is marked by a memorial that is an exact duplicate of the one located at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the State Capital in Carson City. Inscribed on both memorial plaques are the names of the sailors and marines who lost their lives on the ship that day.

The Nevada was refloated, repaired and immediately sailed to Alaska where she supported troops who were retaking Attu, one of the Aleutian Islands, from the Japanese.

During the Normandy invasion, the Nevada supported forces ashore at Utah Beach from June 6-17, 1944. The range of her guns was 17 miles and the crew was later praised for her incredibly accurate fire in support of the troops, as some of the targets she hit were just 600 yards from the front lines of the Allies. She was “shot on” 27 times from shore batteries but was never hit.

The Nevada was the only battleship present at both Pearl Harbor and the Normandy landings. She supported allied troops in the Mediterranean before heading for the Pacific. Fitted with some new guns salvaged from the Arizona, she avenged her sister ship with the bombardment of Iwo Jima on Feb. 16, 1945 and Okinawa on March 24, 1945. In the battle for Okinawa she was hit by a Kamikaze which resulted in the loss of 10 sailors.

The Nevada was decommissioned Aug. 29, 1946. She represented her namesake very well and lived up to our state’s motto “All for Our Country.” The Nevada was honored with seven battle stars and was the most decorated ship During World War II.

By: John Warden
Department Alternate NEC
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING – AGAIN A SUCCESS

It was a great weekend in Sparks when we had our Department Executive Committee meeting. Needless to say, Department made it a very busy time with a mix of venues that offered a lot to most and something for everyone.

The weekend started off with a finance meeting and then progressed to an outstanding social hour; and a great dinner. The Nugget went out of their way with a lineup of food that had folks returning to the buffet for “Just a Little bit More”. Thank you Post 12 for hosting such a fine dining experience.

Saturday morning was awesome with the Department Oratorical contest. Under the able direction of Jerry Finley all in attendance had the opportunity of listening to well delivered and thought provoking speeches. Judges who participated really had a difficult task in selecting the winners. The standings of the three participants in this year’s contest are as follows.

1st Place: Joko Cailles - Wooster High School Reno, NV. District 1
2nd Place: Sawyer Barnett - Carson High School, Carson City, NV. District 4
3rd Place: Ivan Lopez - Clark High School, Las Vegas, NV. Boys State

The DEC meeting after the Oratorical continued with an abundance of information passed to the audience. The reports provided were, as usual, indicative of a Department on the move. There are many activities on-going that would make any Legionnaire proud of what our Posts within the Department are doing. A highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by John Prescott, a member of the ALR National Advisory Committee (Western Region). He provided a detail discussion on the do’s and don’ts of the ALR. For those Posts thinking of starting a Legion Riders Chapter this is info worth knowing.

All in all, it was a very productive and fast weekend. Those that showed up, learned a lot about our great Department. Those who did not, we hope you will make it to the next one. It’s worth your time.
Happy March, hello to all of the Nevada’s American Legion family members. I bring greetings this month from your Sons of the American Legion Detachment. Not sure how many of you are paying attention to the membership reports of the Sons but let me tell you our members are the best in the country. Right now we are 3rd in the nation and we only need 25 more to either renew or sign up as new members and we will be # 1. Can we do it, I think that we can do this before the end of the next months trip for the Spring NEC meetings in Indianapolis. The date of the American Legion birthday is quickly approaching and right now we have 6 squadrons who exceeded their membership from the previous year. I will be sending a request out to the Department Leadership asking them to please send a request to National HQ for the Citation of Achievement Award for those squadrons to be presented at our Detachment Convention in July of 2016.

Now let’s talk briefly about how our detachment annual donations are coming along. Right now I know that the members of the detachment have turned in $5989.00 to the Department for CWF and I know more will be going in before the end of this month. With what we have in there will give us $16.49 per-capita that is awesome. Like I stated before, I know we are going to be higher than that and I have faith that we will be the detachment with the highest Per-capita when we are done. The next thing in our contributions to Nevada Boys State program, last that I looked we have donations totaling $600 for this program, if anyone of our squadrons have more to turn in I do know that Department will gladly accept them. The last information is our National Commanders project for NEF. $200 has been turned in toward this project. Thanks for all these donations that have been sent into department and if anyone has more to give or donate please send those in soon.

The last thing that I would like to talk about is my time as your Detachment Commander is soon going to come to an end. And in the next few months I am looking forward to working with the leading candidate for Detachment Commander and his team of officers to insure that the growth we have had continues to go forward. In fact, I have talked and asked our leading candidate to put together next month’s article for the Department newsletter introducing himself to the Department members and giving a little preview of some of his ideas that he would like to see come about.

That’s all for this month thank you for all you do to help make our Department and Detachment a great success.

(P.S.) in April we will be having the last Detachment Phone Conference of this year I would invite all who would like to join us to do so.

Joseph Keiser, S.A.L Detachment Commander