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

JANUARY 2016 EDITION

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District 5                                         Vance Crowder      (775)-296-2423 vance_87@yahoo.com

“Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans”
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

American Legion
Department of Nevada

For God and Country

December 18, 2015

Legionnaires & Sons of the Legion,

The Department Executive Committee Meeting is being held at the Nugget Casino Resort at 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20, 2016. Host for this Department Executive Committee meeting is Dat-So-La-Lee Post 12.

Lodging is recommended at the Nugget Casino Resort and the rate for Friday and Saturday evening is $61.00 plus tax per night. Check in time is after 3 PM and check out time is by 11 AM. For reservations, please call 1-800-843-2427 or 1-800-648-1177. Be sure to mention the code GAL when calling in for reservations. Ensure room reservation is made by February 5th, 2016. The Nugget Casino Resort has free shuttle service to and from the Reno Tahoe International Airport.

Department Finance Committee (4:30 PM) members will meeting on Friday, February 19, 2016 in the Southern Pacific E Room at the Nugget Casino Resort. The Department Executive Committee Meeting (1:00 PM) will be on Saturday, February 20, 2016 in the Southern Pacific E Room at the Nugget Casino Resort. American Legion meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

The Legion Family Dinner will be held on at 7 PM on Friday, February 19th, 2016, evening in the Poolside Terrace Room at the Nugget Casino Resort. The dinner will be a Buffet style dinner with a two meats and fish selection along with bread, salad, vegetables and dessert. There will be a no-host bar which opens at 6:30 PM. Cost of the dinner is $35.00 per person and payments can be sent to Dat-So-La-Lee Post 12, P.O. Box 17412, Reno, NV. 89511 and make check out to AL POST 12 and in the memo line place “Legion Family Dinner”.

We look forward to seeing all of you.
FROM THE COMMANDER’S DESK

I hope everyone had a joyous Holiday Season and were able to spend time with family and friends. With the start of a new year, and as we once again refocus on what we do as Legionnaires, I would like to remind us all of some very important programs that need our attention – namely American Legion Nevada Boys State, the National Emergency Fund (NEF), the Child Welfare Foundation, Operation Comfort Warriors and Hear Today – Learn Tomorrow. These are programs under the Pillars of The American Legion to which we, as Legionnaires, are committed.

In our efforts to teach our youth and to further 100% Americanism, American Legion Nevada Boys State (ALNBS) is a premier program. As a Department of Nevada program, ALNBS instills knowledge, understanding and an appreciation of our American form of government in those young men who attend. It is vital that ALNBS continues to be the exemplary program it has been and needs to continue to grow to provide its message to more young Nevadans. In order for ALNBS to continue to be a premier program, it is essential that every American Legion Post (whether, or not, the Post chooses to sponsor individuals) provide financial support. In a recent conversation with the staff of ALNBS, it was brought to my attention that, in order insure the quality of this vital program and to insure sound business practices are followed, the Department of Nevada needs to provide anticipated funding information to the ALNBS staff in the near future. Legionnaires, please ensure that at your next Post meeting, your Post's contribution to ALNBS is discussed. Post Commanders, please inform your District Commander of the anticipated amount your Post will be able to donate to support ALNBS. District Commanders, please forward the information to the Department office as soon as possible so we can provide funding information to the staff of American Legion Nevada Boys State.

Though thankfully the State of Nevada has not been affected by major storms, fires, earthquakes or flooding, many areas of the United States have suffered these events. The American Legion has the National Emergency Fund (NEF) to assist Legionnaires and Legion Posts that have been affected. With all the recent declared emergencies, the NEF has provided unprecedented amounts to Legionnaires and Posts. In order to be able to continue to provide assistance when needed, we as
Legionnaires need to insure our Posts are as generous as possible in donating to the NEF. Hopefully, none of Nevada’s Legionnaires or Legion Posts will suffer losses due to declared emergencies, but should that occur, we need to make sure the NEF has the funds to provide assistance.

As part of our Children and Youth Pillar, the Child Welfare Fund (CWF) provides grants to organizations who provide care and programs for the safety and stability of America’s children. Recently, CWF announced that over $600,000 in grants were distributed as grants to a number of organizations. As Legionnaires and as American Legion Posts, it is our obligation to contribute generously so the Child Welfare Fund and continue to provide support to the children of America.

Thankfully, the reduced combat roles of American troops in the Middle East has resulted in fewer casualties. However, Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) continues to provide support to America’s warriors who have suffered injuries and need our assistance. OCW provides items to that are considered “non-essential” by health care delivery systems, but are items that help wounded warriors in their recovery. As your Post considers donations, please remember that we need continue to provide support to our Wounded Warriors.

Hear Today – Learn Tomorrow (HT-LT), our very own Nevada Program created by Legionnaire Hal Sherwood (Post 37), continues to be a success. For children to be able to develop language skills and be successful in school, the ability to hear is essential. HT-LT helps find children with hearing challenges, and assists in obtaining audiometric testing and hearing aids or other correction for hearing deficits. Please continue to support Hear Today – Learn Tomorrow with your generous donations.

Thank You for all you have done, and continue to do for our military veterans and America’s children and youth

For God and Country,

Still Serving,
Dave Evans
Gender Differences in Suicide Risk

According to a study of suicide risk among Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Veterans, in the seven years following separation from active duty service, the risk of suicide decreased over time for males, but varied over time for females. Overall, suicide risk was higher among male Veterans than females. Researchers looked at suicide risk among active duty, Reserve, and National Guard Veterans who deployed to OEF/OIF and separated between 2002 and 2011. Read the study abstract.

There were 62 suicides out of 164,333 female Veterans and 1,491 suicides out of 1,237,049 male Veterans. For males, suicides decreased by 6.1% on average per year. Among females the pattern varied, with a hazard rate of 9.1 in the first year following separation, 6.1 in the second year, 15.0 in the fourth year, and 9.9 in the seventh year.

Risk of Suicide by Number of Years since Separation from Military Service: OEF/OIF Veterans stratified by Gender

Please note that the study calculations depicted are not comparable to the general U.S. population. The vertical axis of the graph shows the “Hazard Rate” from 0-40 in increments of 5. The hazard rate is used to approximate suicide risk over time. The hazard rate is per 100,000 Veterans alive at the beginning of the interval. The horizontal axis of the graph shows “Years Since Separation” from 1-7 in single year intervals. Data points plotted for male Veterans include, 36.2 after 1 year, 31.1 after 2 years, 28.8 after 3 years, 28.2 after 4 years, 26.8 after 5 years, 29.3 after 6 years, and 20.7 after 7 years. Data points plotted for female Veterans include, 9.1 after 1 year, 6.1 after 2 years, 9.0 after 3 years, 15.0 after 4 years, 10.6 after 5 years, 6.8 after 6 years, and 9.9 after 7 years.

Hazard rate /A hazard rate is used to approximate suicide risk over time. It is a calculation of deaths by suicide per 100,000 Veterans alive for each year since separation from service.

Calculations are not comparable to the general population

The calculations for risk of suicide in this study cannot be compared to the risk of suicide in the general U.S. population. This study used separation from service as the starting point for a period of risk. A similar point in time is not available for the general U.S. population.

Related research

Researchers looked at suicide risk and risk of death among recent Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2007 and found that both deployed and non-deployed Veterans had a significantly higher suicide risk compared to the U.S. general population, but deployed Veterans had a lower risk of suicide compared to non-deployed Veterans.Veterans Crisis Line

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

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

JOEL FORMAN POST 76

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

JIM STEWART POST 30

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 ****
Happy New Year Everyone. Here it is the start of another year. I trust that everyone had a safe and wonderful New Year, and a great Christmas. I know I had a wonderful Christmas. I got to spend it with my Grandson once again.

As I’m sure that you have all noticed that this is an Election Year, and I’m sure that you have already been bombarded by people calling you to find out who you are voting for. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all that we all need to do our duty to vote for whom ever we want. However, we must all remember that when we go to a campaign for a candidate to make sure that the Emblem for The American Legion is not exposed or displayed. Also, if a post is used to host a candidate, that the American Legion Flag is not displayed.

Remember, it doesn’t matter who you vote for, just get out there and vote.

Bob
From the 2nd Vice Commander

Sadly Veteran unemployment rates are rising again. With the holiday hiring frenzy over we will see a slight slump in overall unemployment. Hopefully with the coming warm weather the jobs will appear again. I know in Vegas there are several new businesses opening and they are currently hiring. One such place is called SPEED VEGAS and they plan to hire over 800 people. Just look them up online and see what days they are open for interviews!

I wish I had more news for the North or rural areas but I am not well connected up there. As always I suggest you stop by the National Guard Centers where there are employment counselors available. Also Job Connect is open to Veterans for all job assistance. Check them out too!

Hope to see you all next month at the Department Executive Committee meeting in Sparks! Everyone is welcome!

Yvette
Today we had the 2nd District Commander and a few members from Post 76 in the office. So we put them to work shaking up the barrel of poker chips and accomplishing the monthly drawing. Mike Shepheard from Post 76 did the actual honors. Congratulations to all 4 of our winners.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 145 - Jeanette Rae - Post 12

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 9 - Steven Smith - Post 6

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 124 - Fred Doten - Post 60

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 96 - David Whitehead - Post 60

Hope you all had a great New Year and look forward to a great 2016. Best of luck to all.
Americanism / Children & Youth

Now that the holidays are over and most of us have had a chance to catch our breath, albeit a short chance, it is time to address the issue of lack of participation in the Oratorical Contests, not only by too many of our Posts, but too many schools and too many potential contestants. Contacting the school districts has not helped, nor has contacting teachers and guidance counselors. It is almost impossible to contact the students. That leaves one area that we should focus on, the parents. How do we inform the parents about our Oratorical contests and of Boys State? Two programs that their children can earn scholarship money and valuable lessons in becoming a contributing adult in our society? Should we pass out flyers to the parents when they drop off or pick up their children before and after they return from Boys State? Is there any time devoted in the Boys State curriculum mentioning the opportunity for scholarship money by participating in the Legion Oratorical Contests? It seems that we have a captive audience of young men who wish to advance in our society. Why not tap into that resource? Even if a small percentage sign up, that would make the program worthwhile.

I had the most enjoyable assignment of representing the Legion at two Veteran of the Month ceremonies at the Grant Sawyer Building here in Las Vegas, one in December honoring Legionnaire Bobi Oates from Post 76 and in January, honoring Legionnaire Richard Keirn from Post 40. Congratulations to both of them. Meeting Governor Sandoval and the new Deputy Director for Benefits of the NDVS was an added bonus. Why only a handful of not only Legionnaires, but representatives from all the Veteran organizations do not make the time nor take pride in attending these events is beyond me. There is no cost involved, no special dress codes, just one's colors.

I miss the America I grew up in.

Joel
As we start another calendar year I hope all had a very Merry Christmas, and that your New Year has started off in a grand manner!! As I mentioned last month I was in the process of moving to Carson City, well the move is done and didn’t go so well. I would like to take a couple of lines for a personnel note. I want to thank everyone that sent cards and phoned when I had my little battle with my heart and spent sometime in the hospital. I especially want to thank Robyn and Lionel Motta, PDC John Warden and Todd Jennings for with out there assistance all of my belongings would still be sitting out front of my mobile home, I can't say anything but THANK YOU SO MUCH!! I would also be remise if I didn't thank Ms Agnes Williams for her assistance in finding me a place to live when I moved here to Carson City. She helped me make the move so much easier than you can imagine. Thanks Agnes!! So the bottom line is I am following the doctor’s orders and right now I feel fine.

Now let's take a look at how we stand on membership! I see the Department currently stands at 81.4 % and this is about 5 days ahead of the 20 January goal date of 80% I knew we could do it great job Legionnaries!! February 10th is our next goal date of 85% so let's keep up the good work and hit that goal ahead of time as we did this month. Take a close look at the enclosed membership challenge sheet and see how your post stands along with the others in the Department. With that being said I would like to add my congratulations and thanks to post # 76 and post # 9 for their hard work on obtaining 100% membership, GREAT JOB.

I'm not sure what more I can say about membership that would make you work any harder than you already are on membership so let me address another subject that may or may not relate to membership but here goes. Post 100 membership!! We the Department currently stand at 1,020 members assigned to Post # 100, My question to all of you is WHY?? Why are not these members associated and affiliated with a post?? I hear all the time post saying we need more members, it's always the same people doing everything, Well here are a 1,000+ people that already belong to the Department of Nevada that if asked may be your next post commander, adjutant or whatever but here they are just card caring members. I agree some of these you may never get to join your post but you will never know until you do what; the same as getting a new member is JUST ASK!! Enough said but think about it all that help just a phone call away.

In closing I would like to pass on my best wish to our 2nd Vice Commander for a speedy recovery and hope to see her bright eyed and bushy tailed at the DEC in February, Get better Yvette we all LOVE you and want the best for you. I will also remind you that this is now 2016 so the National Convention is just a short year away. We the Department will need a lot of help so don't be afraid to contact PDC Warden and offer your assistance. Have a great month and I look forward seeing you around the 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](http://www.legion.org/renew#sthash.DX0t4fN8.dpuf)
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<td>Paid</td>
<td>% of Goal</td>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>Last Transmittal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12/10/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12/18/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Caliente</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/21/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Pioche</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12/7/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>270</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,026</td>
<td>5,701</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Post #100</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/14/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,144</td>
<td>6,724</td>
<td>83%</td>
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HISTORIAN’S ARTICLE

DECEMBER’S VETERAN OF THE MONTH

On December 3, 2015 at the Grant Sawyer building in Downtown Las Vegas, Governor Brian Sandoval presented Roberta “Bobi” Pike-Oates with the Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) award for being selected as the December Nevada’s Veteran of the Month. This award was established by Governor Sandoval on Veterans Day in 2011; and has become a highly valued monthly event ever since. Kat Miller, Director of the NDVS, explained, “that candidates are chosen for their assistance to veterans, as well as their support of active duty personnel and service organizations. After leaving military service, volunteer work performed on behalf of their peers and for those who may be less fortunate speaks to their character, their dedication to the community and their willingness to unselfishly help others”. Bobi is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and an American Legion Legionnaire with Post 76 in Las Vegas. Bobi retired from the Air Force in 1999 as a Senior Master Sergeant. At the height of her military career, Bobi was selected as one of four to establish the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron of unmanned aerial Vehicles at Creech Air Force Base. Today her world revolves around Nevada’s Women Veterans. Starting with her initial involvement as a volunteer with “Women Veterans of Nevada” she is now part of the five-member Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee, a statewide group charged with advocating on the behalf of the State’s female veterans. A major obstacle in fulfilling this task is locating all the Women Veterans within Nevada. This is because only 2500 out of 21,000 plus Women Veterans in the state have been located by Veterans Services. Bobi has a goal of getting them all identified so they can get the support and services they deserve. Today, she also serves on the Executive Board and the Ceremonial team that handles the weekly funerals at Boulder Cemetery for Veterans who have died and are homeless or without loved ones.

From L to Right: Junior Past Department Cmdr Mitch Roach, Governor Brian Sandoval, Bobi Pike-Oakes, Post 76 Adjutant Steve Dougherty, and Post 76 Cmdr Joel Forman

Fred Doten
Sons of the Legion Corner

Howdy SAL Members. This is my 1st note or article to our Nevada as we enter winter. I would like to recommend the movie: “Sons of the Legion:” 1938 Paramount Productions, starring Lynn Overman, Evelyn Keyes, Donald O’Conner and Tim Holt. It is interesting and pre-World War II in the subject matter of the Sons. I watched it and learned about the concepts and goals of our group in that era after the Great War.

My father served in WW II as an Infantryman: PFC Robert C. (Bob) Riggs. He was in the “Battle of the Bulge” with the 99th Infantry Division. His unit liberated Hadamar Mental Institution and Dachau 3b Concentration Camp. He also was a member of the occupation forces with his unit.

Our membership is strong and growing. If you know of any of your friends, coworkers or students in any classes whose fathers or grandfathers served in the military during wartime, ask them to join the Sons. We need to build the patriotic base in Nevada by educating the youth and the public on Americanism.
The four pillars of service are Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth.

John A. Riggs, Northern Junior Vice Commander