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

JUNE 2016 EDITION

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“Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans”
As this will be my last Newsletter Article as Department Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to mention and thank, a number of Legionnaires. These Legionnaires have worked hard and have made this year as successful as possible, but they rarely get the credit for a job well done they so richly deserve.

First, I would like to thank National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Ron Michalski for the fine job he has done in representing the Department of Nevada at National American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis. He has been very successful in obtaining call-ins for Nevada Legionnaires who represent the Department of Nevada on various Commissions and Committees, enabling those Legionnaires to learn more about their Commissions/Committees and at the same time being able to participate in the strategic planning and implementation of those Committees and Commissions. As a conduit for information passed down from the National Executive Committee and National Headquarters, NEC Michalski been a valued asset in keeping the Department Headquarters informed on a variety of subjects. If his position as NEC is enough to keep him busy, comrade Michalski is also Vice Chairman of the Boys State Committee, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Chairman of Nevada American Legion Baseball, a member of the Department Finance Committee, a member of the Nevada Veterans Assistance League, the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service Representative for the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center. He also volunteers countless hours to provide service to veterans at the Southern Nevada Veterans Nursing Home and the Southern Nevada VA Hospital! National Executive Committeeman Michalski, for all that you have done in years past, and continued to provide service to the veterans of Nevada and to make the Department of Nevada successful - THANK YOU!

Alternate National Executive Committeeman (AltNEC) and Past Department Commander (PDC) John Warden also provides invaluable service to the Department of Nevada. As AltNEC, he attends National Executive Committee meetings if NEC Michalski is unable to attend. This means he must keep up to date with the happenings and the flow of information from National Headquarters. AltNEC Warden is a member of the Department’s Boys State Committee which is extremely busy in the months before the start of American Legion Nevada Boys State. These two positions are enough to keep most Legionnaires busy, but AltNEC Warden has another position – the President of the Nevada 2017 Convention Corporation, in which he coordinates the efforts of all the Legionnaires who help with preparations for the Department of Nevada to host the 2017 National American Legion Convention in Reno, Nevada. Alternate Executive Committeeman Warden, for all you continue to do to keep the Department of Nevada moving in the right directions, THANK YOU!

Past Department Commander / Department Membership Chairman Roach, has done a remarkable job as the Department’s first permanent Membership Chairman. Despite the challenges to recruiting and maintaining membership, PDC Roach has done a remarkable job this year. Though the Department did not achieve the membership goal established by the National Organization, I accept the responsibility for the shortfall. Had I been more effective in convincing the
National Membership Director to accept the goal PDC Roach proposed, I have no doubt that he and the membership team would have exceeded the more realistic goal. Still, PDC Roach, you did a remarkable job and I cannot THANK YOU enough for all you have done.

1st Vice Commander Terhune, 2nd Vice Commander Weigold and Sergeant-At-Arms Forman THANK YOU for all you have each contributed for the betterment of the Department and the veterans of Nevada. 2nd Vice Commander Weigold, you have been especially inspirational this year, accomplishing all you have done in view of the life-challenge you have faced – and always displaying your positive attitude with a smile. THANK YOU!

I would also like to thank all the Post, District and Department officers, committee chairpersons and all Nevada’s Legionnaires for all they have done for the veterans and communities of Nevada. You are all the heart and soul of The American Legion. THANK YOU!

There is one final thank you I need to make. Department Adjutant Motta, you have done so much to keep the Department of Nevada and me on focus this year I cannot begin to enumerate everything you have accomplished. Your major accomplishments go unseen to most Legionnaires, but include keeping me, as Department Commander, up to date on developing events while also providing pertinent perspectives from your years of experience as a Legionnaire and Department Adjutant. You have encouraged me to take initiative and to lead, but you have always provided insight, guidance and focus to insure I somehow manage to accomplish what is best for the Department of Nevada. You have also not been hesitant to let me know when I was wrong, but doing so in a manner that made me think I figured out my errors. For all you have done this year (and in previous years) for The American Legion, the Department of Nevada and for me – and for being my friend – THANK YOU!

For God and Country,

Still Serving,
Dave Evans
The House approved an amendment to the House version of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill (H.R. 4974) that would extend presumptive service connection for conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide by Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans. The House approved the bill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently presumes any service member who had boots on the ground or served on Vietnam's inland waterways was exposed to Agent Orange. If these veterans experience health problems related to that exposure, they are eligible for VA disability benefits. The policy, however, denies this presumption to veterans who served off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, even though many of these so-called "Blue Water Navy" veterans are experiencing the same health problems as those who served inland.

The passage of this amendment, sponsored by Rep. Chris Gibson (NY) is a major step forward for Blue Water Navy veterans, who should be eligible for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. The Senate has passed its version of the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations (spending) bill, without this provision. There will be a conference committee appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to ask their Senators to support this House provision in the final version of the bill that will be voted on by both chambers and if approved sent to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.

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

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 ****
I’m told that this will be the last newsletter for this fiscal year. I guess that means that there going to be some changes. If only the changes in our VA medical care could be as easy. It really gets my dander up when I hear of all of the problems that are going on in the world, and someone always wants to point the fingers at the other guy and say “it’s his fault, not mine.” I recently visited the VA hospital in Las Vegas, along with several other members of the American Legion. I was impressed with many of the things that they are doing there, and that they have accomplished. What really kind of disturbed me was that they are so understaffed there, and that before they can hire a new Doctor that is really needed, they have to let another doctor go. That to me is really lame. Everyday on the news we hear about all of the problems that are going on in the VA system. Then we end up having to deal with all of this wait time, or the fact that you live it a different part of the district, so you have to go to another state for treatment. That is if you have survived the wait time. Then we are having to deal with this idea of privatization. Can you spell insanity. I’m going to include an article on wait times. Sometimes I often wonder who our Senators and Legislators are working for, not to mention the insane idea of privatization.

When clinical psychiatrist Cher Morrow-Bradley and other health care providers call the Veterans Choice program, they are greeted with a recorded, 90-second "thank you" from Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald. It's not having the intended effect. "Why don't you make this easier? The process is so cumbersome, and I have to listen to you thanking me for spending all this time and then I get put on hold," says Morrow-Bradley, adding that she hasn't figured out how to skip the message. She and many others say this is emblematic of the Veterans Choice program that was intended to quickly work through the backlog of vets waiting for medical care. Anyone more than 40 miles from a Veterans Affairs facility or waiting more than 30 days for an appointment could go get private care outside the VA system. But nearly two years in, there are more vets waiting than before. Health care providers are frustrated with the program, which makes it hard to keep them in the network. Without enough providers to see them, vets end up waiting anyway. Or, in Morrow-Bradley's case, the vets get the care and the doctors don't get paid in a timely fashion, if at all. She moved to North Carolina to work with veterans, first at the VA and now in a small private practice. Previously she gave VA patients care as a private doctor through a program called PC3. When Veterans Choice started in 2014, she was happy to participate, because she knows VA mental health specialists are overwhelmed.

A Satisfied Patient

One Afghanistan vet, Jacob Hansel, gives Morrow-Bradley a rave review. "I believe therapy is stronger than medicine," says the former Marine, who returned from deployment with serious anxiety and depression issues. When the local VA told him it would be a four-month wait for a therapist, he used the Choice program to see Morrow-Bradley. "I have days when I almost have panic attacks. ... A lot of it is just realizing when the anxiety comes; she's helped me figure how to keep it under control," says Hansel. Morrow-Bradley has treated Hansel since last year, along with others in the Choice program. She has submitted her bills to a company called Health Net, which administers Veterans Choice across most of the Eastern United States. "I just assumed I was being paid. I found out six months later I had five, six [thousand dollars] outstanding to Veterans Choice," says Morrow-Bradley. It took her most of a year to get paid. Health Net refused requests for an interview.

Dr. David Shulkin, the head of the Veterans Health Administration, acknowledges this problem has hindered the Choice program in getting providers big and small.
From the 2nd Vice Commander

Happy Flag Day and Happy Birthday to the Army! It’s almost time for our annual Department Convention. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am. See you in Henderson next month!

Here is a list of a few job fairs coming up. Save this info for later!

Sunset Station June 23rd, Las Vegas, Register here: https://choicecareerfairs.com/e/las-vegas-career-fair-june-23-2016

Texas Station July 28th, Las Vegas, Register here: http://lasvegasjobs.com/job-fairs
You'll meet face to face with hiring decision-makers from some of the area's top employers. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they are there to hire. Just walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. You can save time, money and effort interviewing with up to 50 companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with you. You will no longer be just a piece of paper. You can get right in front of the decision makers attending this event.

Las Vegas Career Fair, July 26th, Texas Station, Register here: http://www.nationalcareerfairs.com/career-fairs/las-vegas-career-fairs/20160726/

Reno Career Fair, Grand Sierra Resort, Aug 23rd, register here:
http://www.nationalcareerfairs.com/career-fairs/reno-career-fairs/
Are you looking for a job? Are you tired of sending resumes left and right and never getting an answer? If you are, dress in your best professional clothes, bring resumes and visit our Reno career fairs. You will have the opportunity to meet top employers and to interview for several positions during the course of the day, meeting the people who make the hiring decisions. You will save a lot of time since there will be no need to craft a customized personal statement for each company you visit: You'll be able to tell them why you wish to work for them, and you'll have the chance to sell yourself.

Our employers send their managers to carry out onsite interviews. Don’t wait for someone to call you for an interview. Sign up for our next career fair and give off a first impression that makes a lasting career.

Happy Hunting!

Yvette
As we come nearer to the end of this Legion year let's take a look at some facts and figures that we more than likely will end up with. As of this printing we currently stand at # 37 with in the National scope of things, our goal this past year was and is 8,124, our current standing is 91.765% that is a total of 7,455, so we are 669 short of our goal. Let's look at a few other facts, currently there are only three (3) Departments that have reached their goal of 100%, So what does that mean? Just ask yourself a few questions, could we have done better? (maybe) should we have done better? (probably) are there things we could have and should have done better to reach our goal (for sure). Bottom line is what we need to do is look at what we didn't do this past year and make a concerted effort to make sure we do better next year. For as you all know membership is the life blood of this great organization and with out us I can see many veterans that need our support will be left on the side lines. Just one more thing to look at is this time last year we were # 19 in the nation our goal was the same 8,124, we were standing at 7,727, which was 95.113% and we were behind by 545, all I'm saying we have some work ahead of us and I know we can do it, all we have to do is JUST ASK!!

As of this date I want to congratulate the post that did make their goal of 100% or better. Post # 30 Sparks 100%, post # 14 Las Vegas 107%, post # 60 Laughlin 100%, post # 76 Las Vegas 115%, post # 7 Elko 101%, post # 9 Yerrington 106%, post # 37 Fernley 101% and post # 45 in Austin 100%. Along with this post # 100 which is the Department post had a goal of 1,118 and yes they made 100%. My question is why are there 1,118 people in post 100 and not transferred to a local post?? This would be one of the easiest ways to get each and every post within the Department to 100% Just a thought!! It could be done and is not really that hard to do again if they understand what the individual post do and accomplish I know they would jump at the chance again what is needed yes. JUST ASK!!

One more thing that is worth looking into is (PUFL) paid up for life membership. Anyone who is currently an American Legion member who is eligible for membership may become a PUFL member. Legionnaires can apply for membership at www.legion.org/puf!. After providing a name and member ID number, the member will receive a price quote, he / she can pay by credit card, or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check, money order or credit card information. Those without a member ID number can contact Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 for their personalized offer. As everyone knows or should know by this time the prices have gone up. Here is Paid Up for Life Pricing-Effective June 2016 (this is for post dues of $48.00 or less) the first numbers will be the age and the second numbers will be the fee: 18-29= $1,535, 30-39= $1,399, 40-49= $1,229, 50-59= $1,025, 60-69= $ 815, 70-79= $599, 80-89= $ 429 and if you are 90+ $329. If there are any questions please contact the web site above or the toll free #.

In closing I hope to see each and every one of you at the Department Convention this July in Henderson NV, hopefully the weather will be less than 100 degrees, and thank you all for what you have done for not only your post, and districts. but for what you have done for the Department and the veterans of this great 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>92%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/12/16</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,069</strong></td>
<td><strong>995</strong></td>
<td><strong>93%</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
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<th>District #5</th>
<th>Post #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Last Transmittal</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/10/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2/25/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Caliente</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Pioche</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>12/7/15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>270</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
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<th>Post #100</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>1,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>101%</strong></td>
<td><strong>92%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,026</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,349</strong></td>
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DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA - 2016 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGES
"BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE - VETERANS HELPING VETERANS"

6/18/2016
6:29 AM
Flag Etiquette*

As posts prepare for the Flag Day holiday, of which many will conduct disposal of unserviceable flag ceremonies, we call your attention to the following –

Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony as part of a patriotic holiday such as Flag Day. This Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the understanding by the public for the honor and respect due the flag of the United States.

American Legion posts are encouraged to conduct the ceremony as yet another part of the flag education program of the Americanism Commission. It is a great community service project that is not difficult to undertake. More information can be found at www.legion.org/flag/ceremony.

Does The American Legion endorse sending flag stars to troops?

The Americanism Commission does not subscribe to the practice of cutting the United States flag into individual pieces prior to its proper disposal no matter what the reason or occasion may be. The Commission is of the opinion that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it should be disposed in its entirety, preferably by burning. The flag began as a whole; therefore it is to be disposed of as a whole.

We are aware of organizations such as "Stars for Our Troops" that takes in old, tattered and worn-out American Flags, has volunteers cut each embroidered star from the flag, disposes of the stripes properly, and places each star into a tiny plastic bag with a card for members of the Armed Forces at home or overseas. Contrary to what is found on some websites, The American Legion does not endorse the use of the flag in this manner.

* Copied from Americanism Newsletter spring 2016

The American Legion

Americanism Division

More and more as we traveled to public schools during this past school awards season awarding the American Legion Medals for scholastic excellence, it has become common to see the absence of The American Flag either in the auditorium or on the stage where the presentation occurs. One of the criteria for being awarded the medal is Patriotism. The definition of which, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary is: love for or devotion to one's country.

The best way to show this love and devotion is by displaying the American Flag.

Joel
Did you know the meaning of the American Legion Emblem?

Daily, as one views the Emblem of The American Legion, have you ever really looked at it and understood the meaning of its parts. It is said that an emblem is a pattern that is used to represent an idea and crystalize in concrete via visual terms some abstraction such as an organization or a virtue. Our American Legion Emblem has stood the Passage of Time – 90 years – and still stands for what it was originally designed for. The designer, Eric Fisher Wood, of this great emblem understood the meaning of symbolism and how each element must portray the essence of the total. The Legion emblem was adopted on June 9, 1919 by the Committee of 34 at its monthly meeting; and patented on December 9, 1919. Eric Wood relinquished the rights of the patent to the American Legion.

For those of you who have never read about your American Legion Emblem, enjoy.

"There shines the Emblem of The American Legion, it is your badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning.

Elements of the Emblem

The rays of the sun
The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggest the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

The wreath
The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

The star
The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.

Outer rings
The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. Inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.

Inner rings
The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.

American Legion
The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veteran’s affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

Fred
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA’S
300 CLUB RAFFLE

Today (June 13, 2016) was a tough one for our players. Ron Davis pulled the numbers and did his best to mix them up with each draw. Glynis and Jack observed.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 268 – Unsold

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 285 – Unsold

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 13 - Paul Diefenbach - Post 51

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 291 - Unsold

There is only 1 more month to go on this year's drawings. The 2016-2017 Club Raffle applications are available through your post commanders and adjutants for you to get your new numbers for the 2016-2017 "300 Club Raffle" with drawings starting in August 2016.
Hello to all of Nevada’s American Legion family I bring greetings to you from the #1 Sons of the American Legion Detachment in the Continental US. As of now we are at 153% of membership, Wow that is incredible with 539 members. And we are the only Detachment with 100% in renewals I have had several past National Commander call me and tell me that they have never seen that done and asked me how did we accomplish this feat. My response was that we just got on the phones, we used email and we got it done because we all know that without our returning members to meet our membership goals would be more difficult to accomplish. Also something that we should be proud is that all 11 of our squadrons within the detachment has gotten to 100% or higher in members that is an amazing accomplishment to do in just 2 years, so every squadron commander who is coming to the Detachment Convention will be taking back with him a plaque to hang in their Squadron home.

Now let’s move on to our Detachment’s yearly donations. Our National Commander Kevin Collier project was NEF and I was able to present at the spring NEC meeting in Indianapolis a check for $150 on behalf of the Detachment towards this project. And within our own state we were able to raise money and help out our own Department with supporting some Boys State Delegates. Finely: let’s talk about CWF. We all know that this is the Sons of the American Legion’s biggest project of the year. Our Detachment has turned in over $10,000 in donations from the various Squadrons throughout the Detachment that gives us a per-captia rate of $28.49 according to the latest and final CWF report from National. That is the highest in the country, so when we travel back to National Convention in July our Detachment will be recognized for this effort.

I know that the Detachment Convention is quickly approaching and I hope to see as many Sons of the American Legion members who can attend there. We will be electing our new Detachment Officers at this meeting for the coming year. So as I finish up my last Department newsletter article as the Detachment commander for the last 2 years I can say that it has been a very rewarding experience and a learning time and would ask that you all continue supporting the Detachment Officers.

Thank you all

Joseph Keiser
S.A.L Detachment Commander
Department of Nevada