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

MAY 2016 EDITION

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander                   Dave Evans                (702) 382-2353  cmdrnv@nevadalegion.org
1st Vice Commander          Robert Terhune         (775) 289-4096  terhunes1637@sbcglobal.net
2nd Vice Commander          Yvette Weigold          (702) 576-6629  weigoldv@cox.net
Sergeant-At-Arms            Joel Forman               (702) 360-5833  akan01@centurylink.net
NEC                         Ron Michalski            (702) 568.5322    ronan1025@aol.com
Alternate NEC               John Warden             (775)-219-7494   johnwardencpa@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain                    Dan DePozo                (702) 564.9499    annedan1@centurylink.net
Judge Advocate              Tony Vaughn        (775) 382.2353    janc@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
Jr. Past Commander          Mitch Roach               (702) 690-6145  mitch.roach@aol.com

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS CHAIRS

Americanism                Yvette Weigold         (702) 576.6629  weigoldv@cox.net
Children & Youth          Hal Sherwood            (775) 575.6219  nvunday@sbglobal.net
Finance                   Robert Terhune         (775) 289.4096   terhunes1637@sbglobal.net
Membership                 Mitch Roach               (702) 690.6145  mitch.roach@aol.com
Auxiliary Liaison          Hal Sherwood            (775) 575.6219  nvunday@sbglobal.net
S.A.L. Detachment Commander Joe Keiser                (702) 331.0164  vegassall@yahoo.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

District 1                  Gerry Gruen           (775) 851.1094  vets4thewall2@charter.net
District 2                  Joel Forman               (702) 360.5833  akan01@centurylink.net
District 3                  Carl Lincoln             (775) 738.7657   lincoln@frontiernet.net
District 4                  Richard Eberly            (775)-434.3386  shadow_617@msn.com
District 5                  Vance Crowder               (775)-296-2423   vance 87@yahoo.com

“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 a  
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

This month, I would like to mention a few upcoming events worthy of note:

On May 23rd through 25th, members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, A System Worth Saving Task Force, will be conducting a site visit at the Southern Nevada Veterans Medical Center. The visit will begin with a veterans town hall that will be held starting at 7:00 PM June 22nd at the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 17, located at 6424 W Cheyenne Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89108. The town hall is an opportunity for all veterans to share their experiences, good or bad, at the Southern Nevada Health Care System Medical Center with the System Worth Saving Task Force. Please feel free to invite any veterans you may know who obtain health care at the VA medical center to attend.

Friday, May 27th will bring the long awaited dedication of the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at the State of Nevada Grant Sawyer Building Complex at 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89101. I have seen some of the statutes and have been briefed on the layout of the Memorial. I also attended the ground-breaking ceremony. It should be a great tribute to veterans from all conflicts in United States history. If you have an invitation, I hope to see you there.

American Legion Nevada Boys State will start on Sunday, June 19th at University of Nevada (Reno), ending on Saturday, June 25th. The American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett will visit the Department on the afternoon of June 19th and depart on June 21st. On Monday June 20th, at approximately 10:00 AM, National Commander Barnett will address the delegates at American Legion Nevada Boys State. Immediately after his address, National Commander Barnett, interested members of the American Legion Family and the staff and delegates of American Legion Nevada Boys State will participate in a Veterans Awareness Walk – one National Commander Barnett’s preferred public activities. If you have the opportunity, please come join us.

The 98th Department of Nevada Convention will be held July 15th, 16th and 17th, 2016 at the Fiesta Hotel and Casino, 777 W. Lake Mead Pkwy, Henderson, NV. 89015, hosted by BMI Post 40. Please make plans to join us for the Convention. Please also consider supporting the Convention efforts by purchasing an advertisement of your Post, District, or yourself in the 98th Department of Nevada Convention Brochure. Department Adjutant Motta has sent out numerous email reminders to Post and District Commanders providing information about the Department Convention. Attachments to those emails provide the details for registration for the Convention and related events. Don’t be left out - get your registration in today! Please support BMI Post 40’s efforts as they host the Department Convention by purchasing an ad in the Convention Brochure. An attachment to the email reminders sent by Department Adjutant Motta includes information of how you can advertise in the Convention Brochure.

For God and Country,

Still Serving,
Dave Evans
May is American Stroke Month!

The focus of American Stroke Month is to make sure there are plenty of "stroke heroes" ready to save lives - and quality of life - from stroke. We hope you'll join in by learning the F.A.S.T. signs and sharing them with as many people as possible. Teach your family, friends and coworkers to spot a stroke F.A.S.T. and call 9-1-1 immediately. Remember: the sooner stroke is treated, the better the odds of survival and a full recovery.

Stroke Telemedicine Act

Time is of the essence in treating stroke - for every minute that a patient isn't treated, millions of brain cells die. Telemedicine - commonly referred to as "telestroke" - is highly effective in improving patient access to quality stroke care and thereby reducing disability. We support the FAST Act (Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine Act, S. 1465/H.R. 2799). The FAST Act would provide Medicare reimbursement for telestroke services when the patient presents with stroke symptoms in an urban or suburban hospital. About 94 percent of all strokes occur in urban or suburban areas, and people in these areas deserve access to the improved care that telestroke provides. Take action today!

World Hypertension Day is May 17th

80 Million Americans have high blood pressure, but just half of those with the condition have it controlled within a healthy range. High blood pressure has a domino effect on health, leading to heart attack, heart failure, stroke, and even kidney disease. Taking control of blood pressure, can have a huge impact on the rates of CVD and kidney disease.

In honor of World Hypertension Day on May 17, we're asking you to get your blood pressure checked as part of a global effort to reach 3 million blood pressure checks. Check your blood pressure now through May 17 and then click the "I checked my blood pressure" button.

Protect Physical Education for Kids

The benefits of physical education ring clear as a school bell. With daily PE, we can keep kids' hearts healthy and their minds in gear to do their best at school. The fact is, active kids learn better. And the benefits don't end there. Physical education has positive impacts on their physical, mental, and emotional health. Yet competing priorities are making effective PE programs less and less common. But with your help, we can change that. Find out how you can take action and join the nation in protecting physical education.

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.
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 ****
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.”
From the 2nd Vice Commander

I just returned from the Women Veteran’s Summit put on by the Women’s clinic at the VA in North Las Vegas. If you haven’t been around this hospital yet, you are missing out on the newest, most modern facility in the country. This article is not about touting the VA, this is just to let you know that they do have some great programs available. Not just for women veterans, but if you are a Veteran and not taking advantage of the benefits available then you are losing out! There are plenty of free programs available even if you aren’t eligible for everything you shouldn’t completely write it off!

Today’s program consisted of a health provider panel which told us all about the various programs and also about some new things coming down the pike! I thought I knew what was happening around here being that I am a frequent flier, but there is so much more happening. Today I participated in a drum circle which is something they have every Friday to help promote healing and wellness! It was FUN! There are yoga classes and meditation and even acupuncture!

We had a great lunch and then the afternoon was an Employment and Education panel. There were several speakers from different offices in the community to help Veterans find jobs. Two key things I took away were that many women do not identify as veterans and so there is a move in the legislation to have government documents read “HAVE YOU EVER SERVED?” as opposed to are you a Veteran. We all know there are different definitions of Veteran depending on where you are and what you are trying to do. This should help many women and also non combat vets feel more comfortable answering the question and getting their benefits. The second point was made by Doreen Owens from Department of Labor and she suggested that when applying for a job on www.USAJOBS.gov you make sure to include the entire State of Nevada in the job search and not just Las Vegas because many times jobs are listed as being in Reno when they actually intend to fill the position in Las Vegas or elsewhere.

I hope they do this up North soon and if I get the information I will be sure to share it! AS always if you have question please feel free to contact me.

Yvette Weigold
Department 2nd Vice Commander
Weigoldy63@gmail.com
As we near the end of the current American Legion membership year, I want to congratulate Post # 60 on obtaining 100% of their membership goal. We all know that as the year goes by it's harder to obtain suggested goals. Not much more I can say at this point in time that hasn't already been said about membership so I guess I will just give out some comparison statistics.

This time last year May 15th 2015 National has us listed at 7,528 and we were # 11 in the nation, this year May 15th 2016 National has us listed at 7,376 and we are currently at # 40 in the nation our current membership stands at 90.7 % we should be at 100%. I will let the numbers speak for them self. The leading Candidate for Department Commander Bob Terhune and myself will be going to National in late July to discuss with the powers to be next year’s membership goals. Trust me Bob and I both will be doing our best to ensure that the national staff knows how we feel about the way that Department goals are dished out. We all know that we are losing veterans and potential members at an alarming rate, there is no way to stop the loss of our valued veterans but we can stop kidding ourselves that we can get more with less! All I can say is keep the faith knowing we will fight hard to get numbers that each post can live with.

One thing that does concern me some what is the dates when transmittals are submitted, going through the dates shows me that sometimes we have up to 2-3 months between transmittals, this tells me that maybe we are not out there beating the bushes for renewals or new members as we should. enough said, as I have said before membership is a post function and responsibility and we at Department are here to offer guidance and assistance.

In closing I hope everyone spends time with family and friends over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend and please don't forget what the real meaning of this Holiday is all about. Also next month is Boys State and we have the privilege of having the National Commander joining us. We will be doing one of the veterans walk along with the Commander, would be a great time to show what the veterans of Nevada are made of by having a great turn out, and just think what an impression that it would make with the boys! If you've never seen what goes on at Boys State you don't know what your, missing what a week!! Just one other note and that is don't forget we have the Department Convention in July in Henderson. This is in the South in District # 2 so there should be no reason that the convention isn't packed this year. Thanks for everything that each and every one of you do for the veterans and families here in Nevada

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Last Transmittal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District #1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5/9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lovelock</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/8/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/26/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sparks</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2/9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>820</strong></td>
<td><strong>739</strong></td>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District #2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>4/21/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4/12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>107%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5/13/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Alamo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pahrump</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/26/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mesquite</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5/13/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Amargosa Valley</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/26/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sandy Valley</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/21/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Boulder City</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/5/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>5/10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>North Las Vegas</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4/14/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Laughlin</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5/6/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Logandale</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/28/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>115%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5/11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5/2/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,646</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,219</strong></td>
<td><strong>91%</strong></td>
<td><strong>322</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District #3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Winnemucca</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/14/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Elko</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>101%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4/27/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Carlin</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
<td>11/23/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Owyhee</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/19/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>201</strong></td>
<td><strong>183</strong></td>
<td><strong>91%</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District #4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5/6/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yerington</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/26/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fallon</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4/15/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12/1/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Fernley</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4/27/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>High Desert</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5/12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,069</strong></td>
<td><strong>985</strong></td>
<td><strong>92%</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District #5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12/10/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/25/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Caliente</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/29/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>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><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>270</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>District Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Post #100</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,026</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,292</strong></td>
<td><strong>99%</strong></td>
<td><strong>5/3/16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Americanism Defined - by The American Legion:

Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.

How can we, as Legionnaires, follow these guidelines? There is no better an opportunity than during the Month of May. This month is the month when schools prepare for graduation and award ceremonies. Posts should have prepared for the awarding of the Legion Medals and Ribars (ribbons) to be given at the awards ceremonies, whether they be ROTC, JR ROTC, or middle/high school. Not only is this a wonderful time to see and experienced the good young men and women in our neighborhoods, but also for us to be seen in our "Colors".

Also, this month, is Memorial Day. How many of us make a point to attend a ceremony that day, even if your Post does not have one. Attending a Memorial Day event, where ever it may be will make you feel good. Display your flag, if it can not be lowered to half staff, place a black ribbon and let it hang along with the flag. This is another time to wear you Legion cap and let your neighbors know that you are The American Legion.

For those of you who are planning to attend the Veterans Memorial Dedication at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas, it will be held on Friday, 27 May, by invitation only. It will be open to the public on Saturday, 28 May.

Joel
NEWS FROM THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary With The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

CHICAGO, Illinois (April 2016) - The Board of Directors of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) held their 50th annual meeting on April 19, 2016 in Laguna Niguel, California. Forty-six of the forty-nine participating Departments – state organizations of The American Legion – were represented at the meeting.

Since its inception in 1966, the LIT has returned over one billion dollars in benefits to insured Legion families and nearly $78,000,000 to the participating Departments for their use in areas such as veterans' affairs & rehabilitation. The meeting was presided over by Frank Barrett of Maryland – Chairman of the LIT. This year, the Board met to receive the financial report for the past year, and to distribute over $4 million to participating departments. The report outlined both the 2015 activities and 2016 plans on behalf of the Trust and introduced the proposed changes and additions to the Trust’s portfolio of products.

The Board Meeting also included the annual presentation of the John J. “Jack” Flynn Plaque from the agent/administrator – AGIA Affinity Services – to honor the Department that excelled in promoting the programs and services of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust in the prior year. The 2015 winner of the Jack Flynn Trophy was the Department of Indiana.

At the closing dinner of the 50th anniversary celebration, Colonel John J. Gamelin from Camp Pendleton presented on the history of the Marine Corps and Camp Pendleton. AGIA Affinity Services provided him with a gift of $1,000 to “The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society” as well as a Paid Up For Life membership in the American Legion Department of his choosing.
Sons of the Legion

It has been a very busy and active year for the Detachment of Nevada of The Sons of the American Legion. Currently, the Detachment of Nevada is leading the entire organization in membership by exceeding 150% of our membership goals for this year! Our Detachment is now over 500 members! Everyone has been asking what our secret is for achieving such a remarkable level. All we could tell them is that we just simply ask people if they are a son or grandson of a veteran and if they wanted to honor their service by being a member of the Sons of the American Legion! Another achievement the Detachment of Nevada is very proud of is that we are one squadron away from having 100% of all of the squadrons in the Detachment to achieve 100% of their membership goals and that one squadron is only 10 members away from achieving that goal! We also are looking at possibly receiving recognition for FOUR Blue Brigades for recruiting 30 or more members to their squadrons.

Yet another achievement for the Detachment of Nevada is that we have raised over $10,000 for the Child Welfare Fund which puts us well over $28 per member for our Detachment. This far exceeds any other detachment in the nation!

As I previously stated, the Detachment of Nevada has been really busy and working to make the Department of Nevada stronger in our commitment to the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

Jim Stewart
National Executive Committeeman
Detachment of Nevada
The Sons of the American Legion