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

NOVEMBER 2016 EDITION

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

Winter Conference

March 3rd & 4th, 2017 in Sparks

Hosted by Department

Nugget Resort and Hotel

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99TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JULY 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2017 in Ely

Hosted by Post 3

Location To Be Determined

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Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans
FROM THE COMMANDER’S DESK

Well, the Elections are all over, and I hope that everyone voted for the Candidate of their choice. I know I’m sure glad that they are over, and all of the annoying phone calls have stopped for awhile. Lately, I’ve been fairly busy. Conducting Post visits and attending to Department affairs. I must say that the DEC at the first part of the month was rather interesting. I do believe that everyone had a wonderful visit with the Leading Candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan. I believe that Denise and Mike enjoyed themselves tremendously. I think that as a hosting Department, we did alright over the weekend. I was a little disappointed that there weren’t more Legionnaires from the local posts in attendance. Especially: at the meeting on Saturday. I realize that not everyone is required to be there, but you can attend to see what is going on. Well, that’s enough venting. Since last month, I have visited a number of Posts, and I am scheduled to visit several in the next week. The visits that myself and the Membership Chair Mitch Roach have been making, I believe have been making a positive impact albeit maybe a small one. I trust that everyone had an enjoyable Veterans Day. I know I sure did. On the 10th, I along with Ron Michalski, Jack Ford, Post 22 Commander Sonny Settles and Post Adjutant Peter Gnecco were representing the Department of Nevada and The American Legion for the opening and dedication of the new VA Outpatient Clinic. I was fortunate to be taken on a personal tour by Peggy Kearns the VA Director of the Southern Nevada VA. While I was there, I met Senator Dean Heller, and was even in a few photo shoots with others. The local Elks Lodge provided a wonderful BBQ after the dedication. I was also asked to take a photo with the local Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks that I was told would be in the National Magazine. Again there was very little representation from The American Legion. However there was plenty of representation from the DAV, VFW, and the Elks. On Veterans Day, I was at the Southern Nevada Veterans Home in Boulder City. What a wonderful experience. I really enjoyed meeting some of the Veterans that live there, and I believe that they enjoyed it also. There were certainly a lot of people there as well. I again found that there was very little representation from The American Legion. Hadn’t been for Ron Michalski, Bob Jagemann, and myself, then there wouldn’t have been any Legion Members there at all. Once again, there was plenty of VFW, and DAV members there; kind of sad when you think about it. Well that’s enough venting, and tears in the beer for this month. Before I sign off, I would like to “WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING”. Until next month.

Still Serving,
Bob Terhune
Message from the NEC

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) launched a new Health IT initiative that enables VA to share medical records electronically with social security disability processors. This secure process will save time and money resulting in better service for Veterans and dependents who apply for social security disability benefits. The SSA requests nearly 15 million medical records from health care organizations yearly to make medical decisions on about three million disability claims. For decades, SSA obtained medical records through a manual process. This new national initiative puts in place an automated process to obtain Veterans’ medical records entirely electronically.

“VA’s partnership with Social Security will ultimately improve the quality of life for Veterans and their dependents by enabling Veterans to share their health information within a safe and secure health-related consumer application,” said Dr. David Shulkin, VA’s Under Secretary for Health.

The joint venture is expected to significantly speed up social security disability decisions, utilizing VA’s VLER Health Exchange under the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Program. The VLER Health Exchange gives VA and participating community providers the ability to retrieve Veterans’ health information from each other for the purpose of treatment. Currently, VLER Health Exchange shares health data with over 79 community health care partners, representing 775 Hospitals, 427 Federally Qualified Health Centers, 142 Nursing Homes, 8441 Pharmacies and over 11,969 Clinics. The SSA now has access for the purpose of processing benefits for Veterans and their dependents.

“This SSA-VA partnership is another example of VA’s leadership in interoperability efforts among federal partners,” said VA Secretary, Robert McDonald. “Increasing federal partnerships to improve operation and resource coordination across agencies is among VA’s 12 Breakthrough Priorities for 2016.”

VA has partnership agreements with Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Treasury (DOT) among many others.

To learn more about VA health care visit: www.va.gov/health

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
Do you know the history of the American Legion?

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding the Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary constitution and the name The American Legion. The group also elected an executive committee to complete the organization’s work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

In May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion a national charter in September 1919. The first national convention convened in Minneapolis on November 10-12, 1919, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization. Delegates also voted to locate the Legion’s national headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Legion continues to support the four pillars of service and advocacy upon which it was founded: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

Our Centennial celebration is coming up and we need to be planning a big party! Are any Posts already planning celebrations? I would love for you to share this information so I can let National know what we are doing and also try to plan to attend as many events as possible! Thanks for your support! Department Commanders and members of the Centennial committee, I am thinking of having a photography competition, with the pictures to be used in a Centennial Calendar! Send me your thoughts please!

Yvette
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA’S
300 CLUB RAFFLE

On Tuesday, November 15 we had the task of drawing the lucky numbers to Past Department Commander Jack Ford, who stopped by for a chat. He started off with a bang. Then no matter where in the barrel he would reach, he couldn't find another. Congratulations to our single lucky winner.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 9 - Dave Cairns - Post 1

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 163 - Unsold

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 248 - Unsold

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 238 - Unsold

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all. Next month we will again try to provide 4 Christmas presents. Good luck to everyone. Have a great holiday.
From the 2nd Vice Commander

Over the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to attend several Job Fair hiring events specifically aimed at Veterans. One was held at a local college campus, one at a television studio and the third event was held at a local casino. Each event was sponsored by different organizations, but all had one goal in common, to make available employment opportunities to active military who will be transitioning to civilian life in the coming months, reservists and National Guard personnel and veterans, both unemployed and those seeking a change in their work environment.

All of the venues provided friendly environments for those job seekers to feel comfortable and at ease. Refreshments and light snacks were provided/donated. For an employer to attend, they had to have had at least one job opening. Many had a large number of job opportunities available. The more specific the job, the fewer opening the number of openings, and the less specific had more opportunities.

There were also some enterprising vendors there who seemed to be more interested in selling their product than offering opportunities within their organization. I suppose the fee that they paid was needed to offset some of the costs of having the event.

Many of the employers held interviews there, some were setting up interviews at a later time and place, and many were hiring on the spot. Nearly all the applicants came fully prepared with all necessary paperwork and were dressed properly for the purpose at hand.

We as Legionnaires can help our fellow brothers and sisters by being on the watch for these hiring events in our communities and promote them to our members. If you see or hear of one, contact the sponsors and have them send you all the information, send it out and have the information available at your upcoming meetings.

While you are speaking to the sponsors, ask them if your Post can provide the Color Guard for the opening ceremony, or if your Post can have an information table at the event to hand out information about The American Legion. Explain what and who we are and what we do for the community.

And do not forget to bring along some membership applications or Member Data Forms. You may be pleasantly surprised at how many Veterans you will run in to there, not only the job seekers, but many of the vendors in the room are Veterans also, some may be Post 100 members who have been looking for you!

Your involvement in these worthwhile programs is a most helpful and gratifying experience.

For further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Joel
This year we are remembering the ultimate sacrifice of so many and those who survived on the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a day that will live in infamy. Let’s take the time to observe and remember an unprovoked attack on our sovereign soil that began our involvement in a war that encompassed the entire world.

It is time for us to promote and conduct our Oratorical Contest at the Post level. For the details of the rules for the Oratorical Contest, please go to the following link: http://www.legion.org/oratorical/rules. For this year’s topics, go to the following link: http://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics. Let’s make this year’s contest the best yet by having each Post conduct an Oratorical Contest.

There is a new youth program for Posts to consider, the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement. This program provides youth with first hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement. The program engages local Posts to work with their local law enforcement agencies to work closely with our local youth. The program also affords young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. If your Post is interested in this new program, please contact me.

In 2019, The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating a 100 year relationship. If your Post is interested in sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scout Ship, please contact me. I know the right people in both of the Las Vegas Area Council and the Nevada Area Council, the two Councils in Nevada. There is nothing that is intimidating in sponsoring a Scout unit. In fact, my home Post, Duby Reid Post 30, sponsors 14 units, three Cub Scout Packs, two Boy Scout Troops, and nine Scout Reach Cub Scout Packs. We find that hosting these Scout units is a rewarding experience for our Post Legionnaires and is a positive influence with the youth of our community.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and safe holiday season.

Jim
I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable Veterans Day, and I hope a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. As I've stated before I have had a chance to do some post visit's with the Department Commander and I keep finding a reoccurring theme. That is not all Districts and Posts are using or even have their 5 year strategic plans in use or even know that they should have one. A few years back National put out that all Departments, Districts and Posts should develop a five year strategic plan for continued membership growth. I know back in the 2013/2014 membership Past Department Commander spent some time developing the Department plan which consisted of Mission Statement: “To increase membership and post development by creating a culture of growth”. The overall objective was as follows. Grow membership progressively over the next five years and beyond using the following strategies: Create Brand Awareness; Communication; Training/Education/Leadership Development; Post Development and Revitalization; Membership Recruiting and Retention. Of the five elements of the five year plan I believe that one area that needs particular attention is BRAND AWARENESS. Many years ago you mention American Legion and people knew what you were talking about, today not so much. Brand Awareness targets members and non members to create awareness of who we are and what we do!! Bottom line is we need to get the word out and let people know what the American Legion is all about. One of the best publications is the pamphlet titled "WHY YOU SHOULD BELONG". If Districts or post have problem getting these please feel free to contact me.

Speaking of District Revitalization we will be conducting a District # 2 revitalization on December 16th,17th and 18th at the National Guard center in north east Las Vegas. This will be a great opportunity to work with the National Staff and if all goes well we will boost the District and post membership programs. More detailed information will be provided at the District # 2 meeting on December 3rd at Post # 40 in Henderson Nevada at 1000 hrs.

A quick update on the upcoming National Convention that will be held in Reno Nevada the 18th though the 24th 2017. It looks like we will be needing around 115 Department Legion members to assist us with all the task that will be needed to make this the best convention that the American Legion has ever seen. Right after the first of the year I will be sending a list of the different task and the approximate amount of personnel that will be needed to accomplish this mission, This will allow personnel to select the type of activities that you may want to work on. More to come after the Holidays.

In closing I want to congratulate the 4 Districts and 18 post that made the 65+% that was the goal for the 16th of November. With all of your hard work that allowed the Department to be one of Departments that obtained that goal. Keep up the good work, our next goal is December 14th and that is 75%, we can do it. Again hope all have a great Thanksgiving.

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
## Department of Nevada

### 2017 Membership Challenges

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<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/7/16</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>251</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

### District Totals

- **District Totals**: 6,664<br>**Paid**: 4,127<br>**% of Goal**: 62%<br>**Last Transmittal**: 11/9/16

### DEPARTMENT TOTALS

- **Post #100**: 1,118<br>**Paid**: 796<br>**% of Goal**: 71%

- **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**: 7,782<br>**Paid**: 4,923<br>**% of Goal**: 63%
HISTORIAN’S ARTICLE

FALL DEC MEETING – A PAGE IN NEVADA HISTORY

On 4 November members of the Department of Nevada converged on the Nugget Casino in Sparks, NV for the Fall Department Executive Board Conference. It was a beautiful day in northern Nevada with sunshine and nice temperatures; and not a great day for being indoors.

Friday events started with a Budget Committee meeting and then quickly transitioned into a “Welcome Home” dinner for Junior Past Department Commander Dave Evans. There was only a small gathering; however, it was a fun group. Circulating within the group was Past National Commander Jimmie Foster and leading Candidate for National Commander Denise H Rohan from the Department of Wisconsin. Dinner was buffet style and the Nugget Staff out did themselves as the food was outstanding; and if anyone left hungry it was their own fault. The desert table was a popular place as several decided that was the place to go before standing in line for the main course.

Leading Candidate Rohan was the Guest Speaker for the evening. Her talk on the Legion Family was both thought provoking and interesting. There was also a historical significance associated with this Conference. The leading candidate will be the first female to command The American Legion. Also, of significance is the fact that our Department Commander as well as our National Commander, are females, makes this a unique event in the History of The American Legion. It will be interesting as the year plays to know how many other Department will fit into this category.

The meeting on Saturday started after lunch with the intent of being finished before dark; however, this did not happen. The discussions were longer than anticipated; however, the information passed along worth the extra time. Both guest speakers did a splendid job. As is always the case, the reports demonstrate that our Legion Family is doing an outstanding job supporting our Youth, our Veterans, our communities and our State. We can stand proud. Past Department Commander Mitch Roach as Department Membership Chair stressed the importance of Brand Awareness. He is committed to the belief that if folks are aware of the work of the Legion they will want to get involved and be part of our great organization.

For those of you not there, you missed a fun time; and the opportunity to be proud of what our State Legionnaires are doing for communities, the state and The American Legion. Remember, the Department of Nevada is your organization. Support it by getting involved. Hope to see you in North Las Vegas for the next Department of Nevada Executive Committee Conference.

Fred
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

2017 – 2018
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

ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSON

(2017 – 2019)

JOHN WARDEN                                         POST 4

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