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

SEPTMBER 2017 EDITION

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“Building for the Future by Veterans helping Veterans”
DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

American Legion
Department of Nevada

For God and Country

September 18, 2017

Legionnaires & Sons of the Legion,

The Department Winter Conference is being held at the Tonopah Station at 1137 Erie Street, Tonopah, Nevada on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Host for the Department Fall Conference is the Department of Nevada.

Lodging is recommended at the Tonopah Station and the rate for Friday evening is $79.03 (taxes included) per night. Check in time is after 3 PM and check out time is by 11 AM. For reservations, please call 1-775-482-9777. Be sure to mention you are attending the American Legion Dept. of NV’s meeting when calling in for reservations. Ensure room reservation is made by October 20, 2017.

The Department Executive Committee meeting will be at 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 4, 2017 in the main floor Meeting Room at the Tonopah Station. The Winter Conference will start immediately after the Department Executive Committee meeting. American Legion meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

We look forward to seeing all of you.
Greetings All,

This month marks the anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. September 16th is our anniversary and I am excited to celebrate it! I will be attending the Constitution Day event at the Grant Sawyer building in Las Vegas. I hope many of you will be able to join me there!

Last month we were all busy with hosting the National Convention in Reno and it was a very exciting time! If you didn’t hear it yet, we elected the first female National Commander the Legion has ever had! The VFW and the DAV did the same this year also! This reminds me that we should all remember to ask women if they ever served! WOMEN ARE VETS TOO!

I visited my home Post out at the Clark County shooting complex last weekend. Post 51 has had to move around a few times but they keep on trucking! Lots of great things happening there. And lots of new members! I have the Post coin available by donations if anyone is interested in owning an “alien” coin! (Post 51, Area 51…get it?)

Speaking of Area 51, I am taking names of those interested in joining me on a tour of the test site. I don’t have a date locked in yet but I need to know how many people are interested in joining us. Email me if you need more details or just to let me know you want to go! Here’s a link to check it out: https://www.nnss.gov/pages/PublicAffairsOutreach/NNSStours.html

I will be attending Post 40’s dinner to welcome the American Legion World Series champions from Basic High School! Our illustrious baseball chairman (NEC Ron Michalski) and his Post 40 sponsored the Henderson team and they came away the big winners! How exciting is that? I am also looking forward to heading down to Laughlin next month to join in their poker run! Let me know if you have upcoming events or meetings you would like me to attend! I’ll do what I can to get to as many events as possible!

I would like everyone who has not already taken the American Legion Extension course (now being called Basic Training) to consider taking the course online. If you took the previous course in the books, you may like this newer version with its updated information and video highlights. It only takes about 2 hours to complete, but you can do as much or as little at a time as you like. I am buying the graduate pins for the first 10 people to complete the new course (for the first time) and you have to send me your certificate of completion. Just email me when you’re done so I can track each participant! Here is the link to register for the course. IT’S FREE NOW! https://www.legion.org/alei

I am looking forward to more exciting months to come! And in November I hope to see all the District Commanders and any Post Commanders, officers or members who would like to join us for the Department Executive Committee meeting in Tonopah. As always I am here to serve so feel free to contact me! Email is best as my phone does not get signal when I am at work!

Yvette Weigold
With the two major weather disasters of hurricanes Harvey & Irma in recent days, this may be a good time to increase and speed up your donations to the NEF and TFA funds. Helping other Legionnaires, Posts, children and veterans is what we are about. Sure we donate to other causes, but now is the time to help our brothers and sisters in Texas and Florida.

Our recent National Convention in Reno was a grand time. It was a remarkable opportunity to network with Legionnaires from all over the 55 Departments worldwide.

The meetings were far from boring, listening to speakers updating their progress on topics such as The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (http://www.dpaa.mil), The Nevada state POW/MIA Association, The American Red Cross of Northern Nevada, and the United States Selective Service System (www.sss.gov), briefings on membership and an update on myLegion.org by Libby Vickers from National, to name just a few. So many Nevada Legionnaires worked so hard to make event as good as it was and they should be congratulated on their efforts. From set up and credentialing, through the Parade, and finally to the end of the Convention. It was a memorable event.

As we get closer to Veterans Day, more and more opportunities are on the very near horizon for all of us to not only get the message of The American Legion out in our communities, but to participate in as few or as many of these events as possible. "The Vietnam War" documentary by Ken Burns will begin its 18 part airing on PBS Beginning on 17 September. The Nevada Fisher House will be celebrating its 1 year anniversary on 23 Sept. Retiree Appreciation Day at Nellis AFB will be on 30 Sept. The Veterans Benefit Fair (Stand down) will be in Las Vegas at the Dula Gym on 11 Oct. PBS Veterans Job Fair on 25 Oct.

Remembrance Walk Dedication, 17 October 2017,
Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1900 Veterans Memorial Dr. Boulder City, NV 89005

(1)
After almost two years, this memorial has been installed at the location we have fought for so hard. The dedication itself is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 1000 hours (10:00). If you are available to attend the service, we would be honored to have you join us in this celebration to be held beginning in the chapel at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, then removing outside for conclusion of Military Honors and the unveiling.

The Remembrance Walk Memorial Committee is working diligently to put together a program that will further honor “our” Veterans. We have a special speaker who has accepted and a special proclamation in honor of these Veterans. A very special flag will be used for the Flag Folding Ceremony which will later be housed in the chapel lobby along with a plaque. Military honors and protocol have been addressed with some very special features.

A number of Veteran organizations have contributed to the creation of this memorial – American Legion Posts 8 and 76, Marine Riders of Las Vegas, Southern Nevada Patriot Guard Riders, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 17 & 1076, Women Veterans of Nevada. Private donations have been made as well.

Those of us who stand for these very special Veterans realized that their story needed to be told and that a memorial dedicated to them would accomplish that need for the following reasons:

It would raise awareness of the thousands of Veterans who currently reside here and will eventually reside here who are alone, forgotten, have no one who cares. Outside of those of us who attend and participate every week in the Thursday Morning Services for these Veterans and they are placed in their final resting place, there is no thought given to them except by those of us who take them Home. No flowers or flags to be placed on their graves for birthdays, special occasions, anniversaries, holidays, to show that anyone cares or remembers or that they even existed.

It is our hope that this memorial will be highly visually accessible so that awareness of their plight is raised. That they WILL be remembered, as they should be, for the price they paid to serve their country. This is probably the only opportunity they will ever have to bring awareness of their plight into the public eye. Also this memorial would help our living Veterans to heal knowing that “none have been forgotten” – no matter their life circumstances. We ALL feel the sadness of the circumstances of “our” Veterans.

It is also our hope that this memorial will bring an awareness to our younger and future generations, that many of us forgot to honor and take care of those Veterans in need. And that they will fill the void our eventual absences will create.

For more information about this journey visit: www.remembrancewalk.wordpress.com

It is so important for us, all of us, to let our communities know we are here to help. When you attend any of these events, and I hope you will, be sure to wear your American Legion Uniform (Cap).
From the 2nd Vice Commander

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we will have an opportunity to volunteer to help those who cannot help themselves. If your Post is not participating in any VAVS projects at your local VA hospital, veteran’s homes, or any veteran outreach programs, encourage your Post leadership to get involved. You can setup a BBQ, a dinner, a game night, or just conduct plain old visitations. When you are actively participating in these activities, you will see that the recipients will be very appreciative and responsive to your activity. Just remember to record your hours and the projects you are doing for your Consolidate Post Report at the end of the program year.

While September was Suicide Prevention Month, this serious crisis should be on everyone’s mind every month, in fact, every day! We lose 22 veterans every day from this very real problem. If you know someone that is struggling with their time in service, no matter what conflict they were involved in, get them the help they need. If they don’t want the help, please don’t give up.

The upcoming holiday season is always a troubling time for many that struggle with depression. If you have a veteran that has a change in his or her manner, speech, or behavior during this period, talk to them. Sometimes all they need to know is that someone cares and is there for them. If they need more help than you can provide, please remember that the Veterans Crisis Line is a resource that can really help. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year…in other words, they never close! Additionally, one thing most people don’t realize, you don’t have to be the one that is thinking of suicide to call! If you have a concern about someone, the Veterans Crisis Line is available to provide you with assistance and information to get your friend the help they need.

The Veterans Crisis Line is (800) 273-8255, Press 1. You can also chat with someone Online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or you can Text them at 838255.

Remember, we ARE Veterans helping Veterans.

Always in Service,

Jim
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA’S
300 CLUB RAFFLE

Today we asked Glynis to try her hand at drawing out 4 poker chips from the barrel. She did pretty good. Congratulations to our 3 lucky winners.

1st Prize - $250.00 - # 68 - Carl Lincoln - Post 7

2nd Prize - $125.00 - # 113 - Mitch Roach - Post 60

3rd Prize - $75.00 - # 189 - Jim Stewart - Post 30

4th Prize - $50.00 - # 223 - still Unsold

There are numbers left so try your luck and purchase one! See you next month.
Message from the NEC

I would like to "THANK" All the Volunteers that made the 99th National Convention in Reno a Huge success. It takes hard work No sleep and tempers shorten to make this happen. You all did a Great Job!!

Congratulations to our New National Commander, Denise Rohan, for being the First Female National Commander. She will need our support for this year and hopefully we can all do this.

Following her for the next National Commander the candidate is Brett P. Reistad from Virginia. If elected he will be the Commander for the Legion's 100th anniversary.

Next in line is a candidate from North Carolina, James W. "Bill" Oxford and his campaign manager is Jim Quinlan, formerly Director of American Legion Baseball.

If you haven't heard, our Basic High School from Henderson won the World Series of the American Legion Baseball season. Considered out of the tournament, they were fortunate to get into the semis because of weather and a tie breaking ruling. Because of the rain that happened after the first day of play, the runs scored against were not counted, first day was 9 innings and the rest only 7, and they got in by just allowing one run scored against in the remaining games. Then they woke up and beat a undefeated Arkansas team and then the team that beat them the first game, Creighton Prep for the Championship in a thriller of a ball game. A new record was accomplished by the Basic pitcher who threw a one hitter and lost. This was the first time in the history of the American Legion baseball program that this happened.

Congratulations once again to Basic Blue Sox!!!
Well we made it; the 99th National Convention is now history and as it turned out great history for the Department of Nevada. I want to thank our fellow Legionaries that assisted with making this, I'm sure, a Convention that all who attended will remember fondly! My special thanks to all the volunteers that took time out of there busy schedules from all over the state to come to Reno to work on this project. Each and everyone needs to be proud of what you accomplished.

Now let's get down to the business at hand, MEMBERSHIP for the Department of Nevada. It appears that the Department did reach is goal of 50% by the 13th of this month, but just barely. A special congratulation goes out to 4th District as all of their post did reach 50% or above by the 13th, great job. I know there may be some in the 2th District that may say that due to their size they are at a disadvantage when it comes to all posts making their goals. All I can say to that is take a close hard look at what it is the District or as far as that goes any District does to reach their objectives. It could just be you don't set the goals or how to reach their goals as a priority, just saying. Our next objective is October 11th and at that point we should be at 55% or higher. I know we can do it if we try. Some of you may say what does he mean by WE, well I know for a fact there is not one Department officer from the Commander on down that will not do anything it takes to ensure that every Post and District reach their respective goals. This is a team effort and we all must work together!!

I have spoken with the Commander and it seems to me that her thoughts for this year is better communication between Post, and Districts up and down the line, and maybe we could use more and better training in what it is the American Legion is about!! I do believe it will be in October the American Legion Institute which at this time cost $4.00 and change will be free, I encourage each and every one of you go on line and take this course, It deals with all aspects of the American Legion and you will be surprised at how little each of us really know about the Legion and it's history. And for many of you that have plans to go up the chairs this is a requirement for the offices.

One final thought, many of you are country western fans and for those of you who are not, just take a moment out of your busy schedules and listen really listen to a song by George Jones entitled "Who's going to fill their shoes" It should make each and every one of you think about the future of your Post and Districts. What will happen to this great organization if we fail to keep the shoes filled with members renewing or new members we will soon find ourselves with nothing. Just a thought all for now.

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
HISTORIAN’S ARTICLE

WE DID IT – AGAIN

It started almost two years ago and the Department of Nevada stepped up to the Plate. Kentucky, who was scheduled to host the 2017 National Convention, had to back out. Their Convention Center would not be available. Nevada was called to the plate as a Pinch Hitter. Although the schedule was tight, John Warden and his team developed a plan and executed it to perfection. Come convention week you would have never known that the dry-run rehearsal was the real thing. Everything flowed during the four or five days before the convention. Packets and Badges were distributed, the VIP lounge was in full operation, drivers were available to move dignitaries, and the last minute preparations were done and done well. The bus services between casinos were functioning on an excellent schedule, and there were no individuals waiting impatiently for a bus. Then you throw in a Presidential Visit with its associated security measures, an outstanding parade, an impromptu graveside ceremony, and an outstanding Exhibit Hall you have the makings of a memorable and successful National Convention. Our 2017 Convention Corporation members made us proud and need to be commended for a job well done.

And this convention added something that happened only once in the history of Legion Baseball. Back in 1950 when California hosted the National Convention their Legion Baseball team from Oakland won the Legion Baseball Championship. In 2017, 67 years later, Nevada did a repeat. The Henderson Legion ball team sponsored by Post 40 went to Shelby, NC and brought the trophy home. In the history of American Legion baseball, only five teams have won the championship in consecutive years. Henderson is capable of being the sixth team; however, need your support in the stands. Hope to see you at the games next year.

As we move on to our Centennial Year there will be many opportunities for Nevada Legionnaire to excel. We will not be the host of the Convention, but I am sure we will be participating in the many meetings, events, and activities. In closing I would like to add, “As a Department we are excellent. As a family, We make a different. Keep up the good work.
Greetings Comrades,

My highlight of last month was participating in the 2017 Legion Legacy Run. It was a wonderful experience to meet & ride with American Legion Riders (ALR) from across the country. Thank you to everyone that participated from the Department of Nevada. Hopefully we can continue to grow our support for this worthy cause in the future. Rumors are that the 2018 Legacy Run will begin in Great Bend, KS. This will allow again for easier participation from western states.

Natural disasters are in the headlines of late, from wildfires in the Northwest to flooding and hurricanes in the South. Please consider this as you carry out your fundraising efforts this year. Our National Emergency Fund and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund are going to take a big hit and they will need our assistance. For more information on these funds & how you can help, check the following links: https://www.legion.org/emergency and https://www.alaforveterans.org/Donate/

Post 60 in Laughlin is holding their Spooktacular Poker Run on Saturday, October 28th. For more info, contact riderspost60@gmail.com If your ALR program is holding an event, please promote it. If your Post would like assistance with promoting an event consider sharing it with the appropriate District Commander and the Department of Nevada, which in turn will advise me, and I'll share with my contacts and hopefully drum up support for your efforts.

Thank you to the those who have contacted me thus far. I’d still like to hear from the rest of the ALR programs in the Department, as well as anyone wishing to start an ALR program in their Post.

Ride safe,

Department ALR Program Liaison
Trevor
Hello Department of Nevada American Legion Family members. I bring greetings to all of you from the Sons of the American Legion Detachment members. After spending last year as your Western Region National Vice Commander, which by the way was quite the honor and I enjoyed the job very much, I return to my own Detachment to help assist and train our members so that we will continue to lead our region and stay on Top.

It has been a busy last month with our state hosting the 99th National Convention of the American Legion. I want to thank those that was able to attend and I do hope that they enjoyed themselves it is not often that you can attend a convention in your home state. For those who could not attend I hope that you did have to opportunity to watch online and see and witness history being made as the American Legion elected its very 1st woman veteran National Commander in 99 years, Denise Rohan from the Department of Wisconsin. Our Detachment was rewarded during the S.A.L convention for all its hard work from last year with many awards and achievements both in membership and CWF, and I am happy to report that the Detachment of Nevada and squadron 40 received the very 1st ever snapshots of service award for the category of Americanism, Awesome!!!! These will be on display during our 1st DEC meeting in November.

Please make and prepare to attend our 1st Detachment DEC meeting on November 4th, 2017 @ Tonopah, NV. We would like to see as many Son’s members attend this event as we are expecting our newly elected National Commander Danny Smith from the Detachment of Nebraska to attend. Also, there will be training presented during the DEC meeting that will hopefully help the squadrons. There will be no phone conference call available during this and future DEC meetings.

In between the time of now and our upcoming DEC meeting I would highly suggest to our squadrons to work on getting the membership renewals up and turned into Department. Our Commanders membership goal of 614 members is very achievable and we need our renewal percentage in the 95% area. Also, please keep track of what you’re doing within your squadrons it will make it easier to fill out the CS reports at the end of our year. Please keep your eyes open for the Detachment monthly phone conference call invite to be held September 21st of this month.

Again, thank you for all you do for not just the Sons of the American Legion but for our entire Legion family here in Nevada and if anyone needs anything please feel free to contact and reach out to your Detachment officers.

Joseph Keiser, PNVC
Detachment Adjutant