



April 2024 Issue

NEVADA LEGION NEWS

The American Legion, Department of Nevada

AMERICAN
LEGION
**BE THE
ONE**

RAPID FIRE

American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer addresses the 16th Student Veterans of America National Conference. Photo by Jeff Stoffer

VA to student veterans: 'File those claims'

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) could not have been more visible in Nashville, Tenn., for the 16th Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference Jan. 4-6.

No fewer than 10 booths in the exhibit hall were staffed with representatives, each offering information about a distinct arm of VA: readjustment counseling, benefits, minority and women services, mental health/suicide prevention and spouse talent engagement, to name a few. Claims specialists, assisted by accredited American Legion service officers, helped veterans file for VA benefits in a three-day clinic that served hundreds. Breakout sessions hit on VA-led topics that ranged from fraud prevention to new approaches in health care. A mobile VA Vet Center was parked outside the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center to provide personal support, and VA Secretary Denis McDonough delivered a clear message to about 2,000 student veterans from across the country: "File those claims."

McDonough and American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer were among the main-stage speakers in a general session focusing on government affairs. Seehafer used that platform to let student veterans using federal education benefits today know that, despite a long history of success since the GI Bill was first drafted and pushed to passage by The American Legion in 1944, more work must be done - especially in the area of equal value for National Guard and reserve veterans "who, like their active-duty counterparts, sacrifice and risk their lives in service to our nation too."



McDonough told students that more than 5 million veterans were screened through 2023 for conditions related to toxic contamination now recognized as service-connected through the PACT Act, which passed in August 2022 after strong support from The American Legion.

He said more than 1.3 million veterans had filed for VA disability benefits, but "we've got a lot of work left to do, especially with the cohort of vets you all represent: the post-9/11 vets. Younger vets trust VA less than your older counterparts, and you're applying for benefits and care at lower rates. That could be for a number of reasons. It could be that we lost your trust. It could be that you want to not take something from your battle buddy.

"Let me tell you, the most important thing you might be able to do for your battle buddy is to file your story in a claim, because the more we know about you and your service, the more we know about the people deployed with you. So please file those claims."

He also encouraged SVA members to consider careers at VA after college. "There is no more noble mission than ours: caring for America's veterans, their caregivers and survivors. We want you at VA. We need you at VA."

American Legion National Headquarters staff shared the organization's Be the One message in a booth at the conference and participated in panel discussions at breakout sessions. Visit legion.org for a full report on the Legion's presence at the conference.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

LETTERS OF INTENT ARE BEING ACCEPTED

FOR THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT ELECTED POSITIONS

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSON (2024 – 2026)

LETTERS OF INTENT CAN BE EMAILED

taldon737@aol.com

OR MAILED

737 Veterans Memorial Drive

Las Vegas, NV. 89101



Department Auxiliary President



Greetings American Legion Family!

I had the pleasure of volunteering for the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for the Honor Flight at The Fraternal Order of Eagles – Basic 2672 in Henderson. It was a wonderful turnout with many American Legion members attending. I had the pleasure of meeting Chef JB, retired, and a Veteran affiliated with the Veterans Transition Resource Center who hosts many Veteran related fundraisers at the Eagles Club. I also have met the coordinators of this awesome event and hope to bring more information to the American Legion Family who are not participating currently and putting out more information as to how we can help.

Just a reminder: If you know a creative Veteran, please have them register for the Southern Nevada Veterans Creative Arts Festival. There are over 150 categories to choose from. Such as: Dance, Sculpture, Paint by Number, and Kits to name a few. They only need to be a VA member to enter.

Our turnout in 2023 was poor and we can do so much more with your help. The competition will be September 14, 2024 at the NLV VA Medical Center. Remember, we did have one Veteran make it to the National Event and we are wishing her luck!

As I am Administrator for the Department of Nevada Website, this is my final reminder to you:

NEW DEPARTMENT WEBSITE IS LIVE! <https://www.nvlegion.org/>

NEW DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE: [NevedaLegion](#)

American Legion Family: Be the Team!

Remember to send me your upcoming events so that I can email the info to other Nevada Posts so that they too may attend or that it may be included in future Newsletters.

Girls State has a date: June 16-22, 2024 at the UNR.

Hope our American Legion Family had a wonderful Easter!

For God and Country,
Charmaine Meana
ALA Department President
charnvaux@gmail.com



Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

The American Legion VA & R is making headlines. **“Veterans Benefits Center Headlines:**

South Carolina Legion provides benefits help and other assistance to more than 1,100 veterans:

- Department’s third Veterans Experience Action Center brings VA staff, service officers and others face to face with veterans in need of assistance.

In March of 2023, the American Legion Department of South Carolina conducted its first Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC), taking the idea from what has been become an incredibly successful program in North Carolina. The VEAC brings together Veterans face to face with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs staff, state agencies and service officers to receive claims and appeals assistance, sometime providing decisions and disability ratings the spot.

South Carolina’s first VEAC was attended by 717 veterans. A smaller regional event in Spartanburg later in the resulted in 355 veterans getting some form of assistance, again showing the need for the program in the state. And that need was on full display during the department’s latest VEAC, which took place March 21-23 at the Bluff Road National Guard Armory in Columbia.

During the event’s three days, 1,132 veterans were able to meet with VA and state staff, and service officers to discuss their disability claims and appeals, enroll in VA health care, receive housing assistance and guidance, and learn more about mental health counseling, and memorial and employment benefits. A mobile VA VET Center also was on site, as were representatives from other veteran service organizations and veteran-centric vendors. The event was a collaboration between the Department of South Carolina, VA and the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs. (Mar 27, 2024)

VA sets all-time record for benefits delivered to women veterans:

- 702,557 women veterans are receiving disability compensation benefits from VA — an all-time record and an increase of 180,959 women veterans over five years ago.
Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is delivering disability compensation benefits to a record number of women veterans. Right now, 702,557 women veterans are receiving disability compensation benefits from VA — an all-time record and an increase of 180,959 women veterans (or 26%) over five years ago.

The average woman veteran who receives disability compensation benefits from VA has a 68% combined disability rating, and they receive an average of \$26,809 in earned disability compensation benefits per year from VA. The average grant rate for women veterans is 89.2%, meaning that 89% of women veterans who have applied for disability benefits with VA have received benefits for at least one condition.

Women veterans are the fastest growing cohort at VA, and — in addition to delivering record levels of disability compensation benefits — VA is now serving more women veterans in its health-care system than ever before. The sharp increase in women veteran benefits in recent years is largely due to the PACT Act, which has empowered VA to expand health care and benefits to millions of veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving the country. (Mar 21, 2024)

VA hits 1 million 2024 processed benefits claims in record time:

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has processed more than 1 million veteran benefit claims in fiscal year 2024, the fastest rate in VA history.

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it has processed its one millionth veteran benefits claim in fiscal year 2024. VA reached this milestone March 4 — the earliest in VA history and nearly six weeks faster than the previous all-time record (from fiscal year 2023). VA has completed almost 35% more claims than at this point last year.

Through February of this fiscal year, VA provided \$69 billion in earned compensation and pension benefits to 6.5 million veterans and survivors. This milestone builds on last year’s historic pace, when VA delivered record amounts of earned benefits to veterans and survivors.

This increase in veteran benefits is largely due to the PACT Act, which has empowered VA to expand health care and benefits to millions of veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country. (Mar 19, 2024)”

To read the full articles, they can be found on <https://www.legion.org/headlines/veteransbenefits>

Always in service,
Brenda Horton
Department 1st Vice Commander

Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment of Nevada is currently at 72.35% membership and did not meet the March 13th target of 80%. And are seriously behind on meeting the 90% goal on April 10th while lagging in 53rd place nationally; we need to step up the membership efforts if we want to meet target. This is following a trend over the last two years where we have a surge to the end of the year and a delay until spring. Let's strive to bring those members forward because they are no longer current and in jeopardy of losing their membership. Membership is key and helps support the amazing things that the SAL does. Let's keep recruiting and renewing.

Commander Hall has issued a Commander's Challenge to all Squadrons to support the four pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, a Squadron needs to raise \$1/member for each of Operation Comfort Warrior (VA&R), CWF (Children and Youth), Department's Boys State (Americanism), and hold a blood drive (National Security). Achieving each of the above will result in an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. Forms have been sent to Squadron and Post leadership (if I have your information, hint, hint)

We are reviving Squadron 9999 for any potential member who doesn't have a local Squadron, much like Post 100 in The American Legion. I will send out more information as we get the Squadron into the national database. Squadron 9999 gives us the opportunity to expand membership in our rural areas and find a Squadron for those that are new to the area.

Adjutant Stewart and I will be sending a re-engagement letter to all members that have not renewed in the last cycle or two. I am waiting for a fix from National to create the correct addressing and salutations rather than showing mangled names. Once this is fixed, we will send it out with the correct contact information for the local Squadron.

I will be introducing the National Sons of The American Legion University (SAL U) over the next few months. This is a new leadership program, and the SAL U is launching a leadership program in 2024, aiming to train SAL members in effective leadership. The upcoming session is a pilot to refine the course content. Participants will test the program and offer feedback for future sessions. As the programs are introduced, I will present them to you.

As in past years, I have CWF and other challenge coins and pins to raise money for CWF and VCF, etc. I am happy to take \$10-20 donations for various causes in exchange for these. Colorado has been making waves about their amazing fundraising abilities so let's continue the streak and bring home the per-capita awards again and take the opportunity to show Colorado how it is really done by raising \$30/member. The Detachment of Nevada is currently leading the nation in CWF fundraising on a per-capita basis with \$9.71/member followed by Arizona with \$6.87/member. As a side note, Arizona is also leading the nation in total fundraising with nearly \$60,000, my hat is off to them for their dedication to the CWF.

I have confirmed that Eric Hoss will volunteer to improve the Nevada SAL web site (<https://nevadasal.org>). The current site is out of date and needs content. Contributors are always in need to keep web content engaging and relevant. Check out our social media as well @nevadasons on Facebook and @SALDetNV on Twitter.

Detachment EC meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 via Teams (when it cooperates).

Teams Meeting ID 272 911 810 647

Passcode D3p5ib

Phone in – 775-393-9964

Conference ID 796 285 50#

Please join us if you can.

Let's have an exciting 2023-2024 and don't forget your buddy checks and watch out for our entire Legion Family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Horton

Commander, Detachment of Nevada

#SALStrong

#BeTheOne





**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
DONATIONS REPORT**



Detachment	2023 Donations (revised final)	2023 Membership (final)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
AL - ALABAMA	\$ 3,399.00	2,077	\$ 2,077.00	\$ 120.00	5.8%	\$ 0.06
AK - ALASKA	\$ 1,978.00	1,767	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 50.00	2.8%	\$ 0.03
AZ - ARIZONA	\$ 46,849.00	8,625	\$ 8,625.00	\$ 59,291.00	687.4%	\$ 6.87
AR - ARKANSAS	\$ 1,460.00	405	\$ 405.00	\$ 100.00	24.7%	\$ 0.25
CA - CALIFORNIA	\$ 4,480.56	11,362	\$ 11,362.00	\$ 2,133.00	18.8%	\$ 0.19
CO - COLORADO	\$ 26,105.20	2,985	\$ 2,985.00	\$ 4,950.00	165.8%	\$ 1.66
CT - CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,100.00	1,867	\$ 1,867.00		0.0%	\$ -
DE - DELAWARE	\$ 1,910.00	2,566	\$ 2,566.00	\$ 2,100.00	81.8%	\$ 0.82
DC - DIST OF COL	\$ -	88	\$ 88.00		0.0%	\$ -
FL - FLORIDA	\$ 41,980.00	23,326	\$ 23,326.00	\$ 16,431.00	70.4%	\$ 0.70
FR - FRANCE	\$ 400.00	166	\$ 166.00	\$ 50.00	30.1%	\$ 0.30
GA - GEORGIA	\$ 4,004.00	4,860	\$ 4,860.00	\$ 730.00	15.0%	\$ 0.15
HI - HAWAII	\$ 830.00	119	\$ 119.00		0.0%	\$ -
ID - IDAHO	\$ 200.00	661	\$ 661.00		0.0%	\$ -
IL - ILLINOIS	\$ 11,446.72	13,561	\$ 13,561.00	\$ 3,684.00	27.2%	\$ 0.27
IN - INDIANA	\$ 26,414.31	36,477	\$ 36,477.00	\$ 1,650.00	4.5%	\$ 0.05
IA - IOWA	\$ 2,004.00	4,900	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 547.75	11.2%	\$ 0.11
KS - KANSAS	\$ 6,602.20	5,957	\$ 5,957.00	\$ 852.00	14.3%	\$ 0.14
KY - KENTUCKY	\$ 50.00	2,378	\$ 2,378.00	\$ 500.00	21.0%	\$ 0.21
LT - LATIN AMERICA	\$ -	32	\$ 32.00	\$ 33.00	103.1%	\$ 1.03
LA - LOUISIANA	\$ 3,177.50	1,793	\$ 1,793.00	\$ 1,933.00	107.8%	\$ 1.08
ME - MAINE	\$ 3,501.00	2,757	\$ 2,757.00		0.0%	\$ -
MD - MARYLAND	\$ 5,432.00	16,708	\$ 16,708.00	\$ 2,884.00	17.3%	\$ 0.17
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 5,879.00	5,372	\$ 5,372.00	\$ 5,776.29	107.5%	\$ 1.08
MI - MICHIGAN	\$ 9,212.00	26,275	\$ 26,275.00	\$ 6,419.00	24.4%	\$ 0.24
MN - MINNESOTA	\$ 9,281.91	11,311	\$ 11,311.00	\$ 5,969.50	52.8%	\$ 0.53
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$ 5,143.90	730	\$ 730.00	\$ 1,291.26	176.9%	\$ 1.77
MO - MISSOURI	\$ 2,153.61	3,368	\$ 3,368.00	\$ 250.00	7.4%	\$ 0.07
MT - MONTANA	\$ 1,717.00	1,071	\$ 1,071.00		0.0%	\$ -
NE - NEBRASKA	\$ 5,735.00	6,926	\$ 6,926.00	\$ 435.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
NV - NEVADA	\$ 8,938.00	395	\$ 395.00	\$ 3,837.00	971.4%	\$ 9.71
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 4,376.78	6,154	\$ 6,154.00	\$ 3,445.82	56.0%	\$ 0.56
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,105.00	9,885	\$ 9,885.00	\$ 5,938.00	60.1%	\$ 0.60
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$ 4,930.00	1,642	\$ 1,642.00	\$ 1,100.00	67.0%	\$ 0.67
NY - NEW YORK	\$ 14,281.00	30,695	\$ 30,695.00	\$ 4,936.00	16.1%	\$ 0.16
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,931.75	2,720	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 2,915.50	107.2%	\$ 1.07
ND - NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	1,058	\$ 1,058.00		0.0%	\$ -
OH - OHIO	\$ 38,070.80	31,419	\$ 31,419.00	\$ 19,659.00	62.6%	\$ 0.63
OK - OKLAHOMA	\$ -	1,421	\$ 1,421.00	\$ 22.00	1.5%	\$ 0.02
OR - OREGON	\$ 3,201.00	1,541	\$ 1,541.00	\$ 1,657.00	107.5%	\$ 1.08
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 32,377.72	62,403	\$ 62,403.00	\$ 22,989.77	36.8%	\$ 0.37
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$ 175.00	78	\$ 78.00		0.0%	\$ -
PR - PUERTO RICO	\$ 185.00	153	\$ 153.00		0.0%	\$ -
RI - RHODE ISLAND	\$ 100.00	348	\$ 348.00	\$ 650.00	186.8%	\$ 1.87
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 3,500.00	1,578	\$ 1,578.00	\$ 2,155.00	136.6%	\$ 1.37
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,451.85	1,611	\$ 1,611.00		0.0%	\$ -
TN - TENNESSEE	\$ 1,693.44	1,769	\$ 1,769.00	\$ 4,561.60	257.9%	\$ 2.58
TX - TEXAS	\$ 15,669.14	5,769	\$ 5,769.00	\$ 9,490.00	164.5%	\$ 1.64
UT - UTAH	\$ 475.00	457	\$ 457.00	\$ 300.00	65.6%	\$ 0.66
VT - VERMONT	\$ 10,036.00	3,874	\$ 3,874.00	\$ 1,575.00	40.7%	\$ 0.41
VA - VIRGINIA	\$ 16,977.00	4,384	\$ 4,384.00	\$ 14,284.46	325.8%	\$ 3.26
WA - WASHINGTON	\$ 2,175.00	2,702	\$ 2,702.00	\$ 60.00	2.2%	\$ 0.02
WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,227.25	2,603	\$ 2,603.00	\$ 4,025.00	154.6%	\$ 1.55
WI - WISCONSIN	\$ 2,385.00	4,358	\$ 4,358.00	\$ 657.00	15.1%	\$ 0.15
WY - WYOMING	\$ 8,678.00	1,236	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 750.00	60.7%	\$ 0.61
NATIONAL HQ	\$ 4,674.91		\$ -	\$ 1,498.00	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
TOTALS:	\$ 425,060.55	380,743	\$ 380,743.00	\$ 224,685.95	59.0%	\$ 0.59



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
DONATIONS BY REGION**



Detachment	2023 Donations (revised-final)	2023 Membership (final)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
NORTHEAST REGION						
CT - CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,100.00	1,867	\$ 1,867.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
DE - DELAWARE	\$ 1,910.00	2,566	\$ 2,566.00	\$ 2,100.00	81.8%	\$ 0.82
DC - DIST OF COL	\$ -	88	\$ 88.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
FR - FRANCE	\$ 400.00	166	\$ 166.00	\$ 50.00	30.1%	\$ 0.30
ME - MAINE	\$ 3,501.00	2,757	\$ 2,757.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MD - MARYLAND	\$ 5,432.00	16,708	\$ 16,708.00	\$ 2,884.00	17.3%	\$ 0.17
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 5,879.00	5,372	\$ 5,372.00	\$ 5,776.29	107.5%	\$ 1.08
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 4,376.78	6,154	\$ 6,154.00	\$ 3,445.82	56.0%	\$ 0.56
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,105.00	9,885	\$ 9,885.00	\$ 5,938.00	60.1%	\$ 0.60
NY - NEW YORK	\$ 14,281.00	30,695	\$ 30,695.00	\$ 4,936.00	16.1%	\$ 0.16
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 32,377.72	62,403	\$ 62,403.00	\$ 22,989.77	36.8%	\$ 0.37
RI - RHODE ISLAND	\$ 100.00	348	\$ 348.00	\$ 650.00	186.8%	\$ 1.87
VT - VERMONT	\$ 10,036.00	3,874	\$ 3,874.00	\$ 1,575.00	40.7%	\$ 0.41
TOTAL:	\$ 88,498.50	142,883	\$ 142,883.00	\$ 50,344.88	35.2%	\$ 0.35

CENTRAL REGION						
IL - ILLINOIS	\$ 11,446.72	13,561	\$ 13,561.00	\$ 3,684.00	27.2%	\$ 0.27
IN - INDIANA	\$ 26,414.31	36,477	\$ 36,477.00	\$ 1,650.00	4.5%	\$ 0.05
KY - KENTUCKY	\$ 50.00	2,378	\$ 2,378.00	\$ 500.00	21.0%	\$ 0.21
MI - MICHIGAN	\$ 9,212.00	26,275	\$ 26,275.00	\$ 6,419.00	24.4%	\$ 0.24
MN - MINNESOTA	\$ 9,281.91	11,311	\$ 11,311.00	\$ 5,969.50	52.8%	\$ 0.53
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WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,227.25	2,603	\$ 2,603.00	\$ 4,025.00	154.6%	\$ 1.55
WI - WISCONSIN	\$ 2,385.00	4,358	\$ 4,358.00	\$ 657.00	15.1%	\$ 0.15
TOTAL:	\$ 101,087.99	128,382	\$ 128,382.00	\$ 42,563.50	33.2%	\$ 0.33

WESTERN REGION						
AK - ALASKA	\$ 1,978.00	1,767	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 50.00	2.8%	\$ 0.03
AZ - ARIZONA	\$ 46,849.00	8,625	\$ 8,625.00	\$ 59,291.00	687.4%	\$ 6.87
CA - CALIFORNIA	\$ 4,480.56	11,362	\$ 11,362.00	\$ 2,133.00	18.8%	\$ 0.19
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HI - HAWAII	\$ 830.00	119	\$ 119.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
ID - IDAHO	\$ 200.00	661	\$ 661.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
LT - LATIN AMERICA (44%)	\$ -	32	\$ 32.00	\$ 33.00	103.1%	\$ 1.03
MT - MONTANA	\$ 1,717.00	1,071	\$ 1,071.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NV - NEVADA	\$ 8,938.00	395	\$ 395.00	\$ 3,837.00	971.4%	\$ 9.71
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$ 4,930.00	1,642	\$ 1,642.00	\$ 1,100.00	67.0%	\$ 0.67
OR - OREGON	\$ 3,201.00	1,541	\$ 1,541.00	\$ 1,657.00	107.5%	\$ 1.08
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$ 175.00	78	\$ 78.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
UT - UTAH	\$ 475.00	457	\$ 457.00	\$ 300.00	65.6%	\$ 0.66
WA - WASHINGTON	\$ 2,175.00	2,702	\$ 2,702.00	\$ 60.00	2.2%	\$ 0.02
WY - WYOMING	\$ 8,678.00	1,236	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 750.00	60.7%	\$ 0.61
TOTAL:	\$ 110,731.76	34,673	\$ 34,673.00	\$ 74,161.00	213.9%	\$ 2.14

Detachment	2023 Donations (revised-final)	2023 Membership (final)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
SOUTHEAST REGION						
AL - ALABAMA	\$ 3,399.00	2,077	\$ 2,077.00	\$ 120.00	5.8%	\$ 0.06
AR - ARKANSAS	\$ 1,460.00	405	\$ 405.00	\$ 100.00	24.7%	\$ 0.25
FL - FLORIDA	\$ 41,980.00	23,326	\$ 23,326.00	\$ 16,431.00	70.4%	\$ 0.70
GA - GEORGIA	\$ 4,004.00	4,860	\$ 4,860.00	\$ 730.00	15.0%	\$ 0.15
LA - LOUISIANA	\$ 3,177.50	1,793	\$ 1,793.00	\$ 1,933.00	107.8%	\$ 1.08
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$ 5,143.90	730	\$ 730.00	\$ 1,291.26	176.9%	\$ 1.77
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,931.75	2,720	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 2,915.50	107.2%	\$ 1.07
PR - PUERTO RICO	\$ 185.00	153	\$ 153.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 3,500.00	1,578	\$ 1,578.00	\$ 2,155.00	136.6%	\$ 1.37
TN - TENNESSEE	\$ 1,693.44	1,769	\$ 1,769.00	\$ 4,561.60	257.9%	\$ 2.58
TX - TEXAS	\$ 15,669.14	5,769	\$ 5,769.00	\$ 9,490.00	164.5%	\$ 1.64
VA - VIRGINIA	\$ 16,977.00	4,384	\$ 4,384.00	\$ 14,284.46	325.8%	\$ 3.26
TOTAL:	\$ 102,120.73	49,564	\$ 49,564.00	\$ 54,011.82	109.0%	\$ 1.09

MIDWEST REGION						
IA - IOWA	\$ 2,004.00	4,900	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 547.75	11.2%	\$ 0.11
KS - KANSAS	\$ 6,602.20	5,957	\$ 5,957.00	\$ 852.00	14.3%	\$ 0.14
MO - MISSOURI	\$ 2,153.61	3,368	\$ 3,368.00	\$ 250.00	7.4%	\$ 0.07
NE - NEBRASKA	\$ 5,735.00	6,926	\$ 6,926.00	\$ 435.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
ND - NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	1,058	\$ 1,058.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OK - OKLAHOMA	\$ -	1,421	\$ 1,421.00	\$ 22.00	1.5%	\$ 0.02
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,451.85	1,611	\$ 1,611.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
TOTAL:	\$ 17,946.66	25,241	\$ 25,241.00	\$ 2,106.75	8.3%	\$ 0.08

NATIONAL HQ:	\$ 4,674.91		\$ -	\$ 1,498.00		
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GRAND TOTALS:	\$ 425,060.55	380,743	\$ 380,743.00	\$ 224,685.95	59.0%	\$ 0.59
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SAL DONATIONS AS OF: **MARCH 22, 2024**

2023 SAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF: **DECEMBER 31, 2023 (FINAL)**

2024 SAL Membership Report: February 19, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 80% TARGET 3/13/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-24	120	100.00%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-321	1,610	99.94%	84.03
3	PUERTO RICO	156	-24	149	95.51%	89.54
4	FRANCE	168	-26	160	95.24%	83.13
5	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-151	1,011	94.05%	84.72
6	WISCONSIN	4,398	-600	4,118	93.63%	83.14
7	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-185	1,441	91.78%	76.94
8	FLORIDA	23,066	-2,595	21,048	91.25%	76.13
9	RHODE ISLAND	348	-27	305	87.64%	74.64
10	IOWA	4,914	-367	4,298	87.46%	79.91
11	OREGON	1,534	-108	1,335	87.03%	71.55
12	MARYLAND	16,803	-1,163	14,605	86.92%	79.14
13	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-399	5,221	86.63%	76.95
14	ILLINOIS	13,716	-825	11,798	86.02%	79.70
15	OHIO	31,690	-1,755	27,107	85.54%	78.68
16	MICHIGAN	26,236	-1,431	22,420	85.46%	76.40
17	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-3,416	53,613	85.44%	79.35
18	NEW YORK	30,663	-1,523	26,053	84.97%	77.71
19	MINNESOTA	11,435	-558	9,706	84.88%	78.45
20	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-91	1,583	84.88%	74.48
21	LOUISIANA	1,821	-87	1,544	84.79%	78.21
22	NEBRASKA	6,992	-314	5,908	84.50%	80.55
23	NEW MEXICO	1,582	-69	1,335	84.39%	66.71
24	ARIZONA	8,595	-336	7,212	83.91%	69.63
25	ALABAMA	2,100	-81	1,761	83.86%	72.27
26	GEORGIA	4,887	-172	4,082	83.53%	72.62
27	DIST OF COL	91	-3	76	83.52%	76.14
28	INDIANA	37,244	-1,192	30,987	83.20%	76.80
29	VERMONT	3,920	-125	3,261	83.19%	77.41
30	VIRGINIA	4,367	-118	3,612	82.71%	71.64
31	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-70	2,296	82.53%	68.18
32	TENNESSEE	1,792	-44	1,478	82.48%	68.66
33	MISSISSIPPI	736	-17	606	82.34%	70.86
34	WYOMING	1,248	-13	1,011	81.01%	71.76
35	TEXAS	5,783	-55	4,681	80.94%	69.36
36	DELAWARE	2,596	-24	2,101	80.93%	72.17
37	KANSAS	6,055	-28	4,872	80.46%	73.93
38	MAINE	2,757	20	2,186	79.29%	70.31
39	COLORADO	2,952	22	2,340	79.27%	68.15
40	NEW JERSEY	9,662	95	7,635	79.02%	70.58
41	MONTANA	1,091	11	862	79.01%	74.05
42	CALIFORNIA	11,292	127	8,907	78.88%	67.75
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	99	4,247	78.18%	70.53
44	ARKANSAS	406	8	317	78.08%	62.16
45	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	62	2,012	77.59%	67.80
46	UTAH	460	13	355	77.17%	66.00
47	IDAHO	659	19	508	77.09%	59.30
48	WASHINGTON	2,682	110	2,036	75.91%	60.87
49	ALASKA	1,740	73	1,319	75.80%	63.25
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	1	25	75.76%	37.50
51	MISSOURI	3,337	158	2,512	75.28%	67.18
52	NEVADA	387	36	274	70.80%	60.61
53	OKLAHOMA	1,430	145	999	69.86%	56.69
54	KENTUCKY	2,399	306	1,613	67.24%	57.39
55	PHILIPPINES	79	19	44	55.70%	53.16
Grand Totals:		382,111	-17,016	322,705	84.45%	75.95



Please send me your events so we can get them online for others to see.

We need more engagement from the riders, it is well known that the Legion Riders events can be great membership opportunities. Always carry a packet of membership forms with you for the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary, you never know when they might be handy.

Please send feedback, what would you like to see in future newsletter articles? What would you like to see done differently by the Legion Riders?

I can always be reached via email (commander@nevadasal.org) or phone (720-394-5965), just leave a message if I don't answer.

Sincerely,

Shawn Horton

Commander, Detachment of Nevada

American Legion Riders Department of Nevada Liaison

Event Schedule		
Date	Where	What
May 18, 2024	Elko, NV	Armed Forces Day Ride



Greetings!

In response to your request for DON Newsletter articles.

I received this disabled veteran benefit information from our new VSO Joe Meyer (LV-Post 149) to share with the Department of Nevada membership. I also referenced the Veterans Resource Guide with additional details:

DISABLED VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION:

The State of Nevada offers a property tax exemption to any veteran with a service-connected disability of 60 percent or more. The amount of the exemption can be up to \$20,000 and can be applied to a veterans' vehicle tax or personal property tax.

Veterans may also "donate" their exempted tax directly to the Nevada Veterans Home account which will contribute the amount toward the operation of a Veteran's Home in Nevada.

Veteran eligibility for this benefit is as follows:

- * Honorable discharge
- * 60 percent service-connect disabled
- * Widow or widower of a veteran who qualified for the tax exemption.

For the DMV tax exemption, take the attached SP10 form and the VA decision letter of your disability rating that has the breakdown of each percentage of your disabilities. As long as the total of those **cumulative** percentages add up to 100% or more, then check the 2nd box and you can get the disabled veteran plates.

To obtain the property tax exemption, take your county property tax document, your VA decision letter of your disability rating that has the breakdown of each percentage of your disabilities. The **cumulative** percentages should add up to 100% or more. To determine the actual value of this benefit or to obtain further information, please contact your local County Assessor's office.

This should be good news for our disabled Veterans members. Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday with your families!

Sandy Schneeberger
The American Legion - Department of Nevada
Department Service Officer
310 560-5400
sandra.schneeberger@va.gov
sschneeberger.tal2020@gmail.com

Bill Allowing Disabled Veterans to Collect Full Benefits Gets New Push from Supporters on Capitol Hill



Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., at a news conference touting the Major Richard Star Act. (U.S. Senate photo)

Military.com | By [Rebecca Kheel](#)

Published March 06, 2024 at 12:20pm ET

Leading lawmakers and Veterans groups are renewing their push for a bill that would dramatically expand benefits for veterans injured in combat.

The Major Richard Star Act, as the bill is called, would ensure all service members who medically retire have full access to both [military retirement pay](#) and [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) disability benefits. The bill had some momentum last year but has since stalled.

But veterans service organizations on Capitol Hill this week and lawmakers from both parties who are sponsoring the bill are now vowing to keep fighting until the bill crosses the finish line.

Read Next: [Top Marine Returns to Full Duty Status as Commandant After Cardiac Arrest Last Year](#)

"We're not going to stop until we fix this injustice for our veterans and their loved ones," Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon alongside a throng of veterans.

"I know that the VSOs and the veteran community can come together, and they can help us get this done," Tester added. "We saw it with the [PACT Act](#). We saw veterans step up and

make a big difference and actually, the truth is, got the bill passed in the United States Senate. We're going to have to do it again with the Major Richard Star Act."

Right now, veterans with fewer than 20 years of service and a disability rating of less than 50% have their retirement pay reduced by a dollar for every dollar of [disability pay](#) they get.

Those rules mean an estimated 50,000 retirees are ineligible for concurrent benefits. The average offset was about \$1,900 per month in 2022, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The Major Richard Star Act would remove those restrictions so that all retirees with combat-related disabilities can collect their full retirement and disability benefits.

The bill's namesake was an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who was forced to retire before 20 years of service after he was diagnosed with lung cancer he developed following burn pit exposure. Star died from cancer in 2021.

"By far, Richard's greatest goal was to pass this," his widow, Tonya Star, said at Tuesday's news conference. "These men and women earned their retirements the hard way, and Richard made myself, along with many of you, promise that we would not stop until we got this done. It hasn't been an easy road to travel. I know many of you, like myself, were in offices today advocating for this bill. I cannot thank you enough for all of your support. We are closer than we have ever been. We're going to get it done this year."

The news conference was held ahead of Wednesday's start of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees' annual veterans service organizations hearings, where the groups were expected to advocate for the bill. Veterans groups also held private meetings with several congressional offices Tuesday to lobby for the bill.

The bill, which falls under the jurisdiction of both the Veterans Affairs and Armed Services committees, [was advanced out](#) of the House Armed Services Committee last year. It has also garnered more than 320 co-sponsors in the House and more than 70 in the Senate.

Despite the broad bipartisan support, there has been no movement on the bill since the House committee vote amid questions about how it would be paid for. The Congressional Budget Office has projected the legislation could cost an estimated \$9.75 billion in what's known as mandatory spending over the next decade.

But supporters of the bill argue the country owes the benefits to its veterans, regardless of cost. Supporters said they are hoping to get the legislation attached to the annual defense policy bill that will move through Congress later this year and, if that doesn't work, look for any other legislative vehicle they can find.

"We're not going to rest until we pass the Richard Star Act," Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., the lead House sponsor, said at the news conference. "This is a righteous cause."



DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE APPLICATION

NRS 482.0962, 482.377, 482.384 and 484B.463

A Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, as a result of his/her service, has suffered a qualifying, service-connected disability and receives compensation from the United States for the disability; may apply for up to two sets of Disabled Veteran license plates for their personal use. Disabled female veterans may apply for Disabled Female Veteran plates inscribed with the words "Disabled Female Veteran."

QUALIFICATIONS – TO APPLY:

A certificate or letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense must be presented with the application indicating that as a result of his or her service, applicant has suffered from (NRS 482.384):

- A 100% service-connected disability rating;
- More than one (1) service-connected disability, the combined ratings of which add up to at least 100%; or
- A service-connected disability of any rating and that qualifies a person for a special license plate pursuant to NRS 482.0962. *This qualifying event requires Sections 1-3 be completed and remitted with this application.*
- I currently have or previously had a set of Nevada Disabled Veteran plates and qualify for an additional set of Nevada Disabled Veteran plates. Plate #: _____

The vehicle bearing Disabled Veteran license plates is exempt from the payment of parking fees, including those collected through parking meters, charged by the State of Nevada, or any political subdivision or other public body within the State. Vehicles that are allowed to display Disabled Veteran License Plates: private passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, and motor homes/RVs. Light commercial vehicles are not eligible. Disabled Veteran license plates do not authorize the parking of the motor vehicle in any privately or municipally owned facility.

PARKING PRIVILEGES

An owner or operator of a motor vehicle displaying special plates for a disabled veteran issued pursuant to NRS 482.377 may park in a parking space designated for the handicapped (NRS 484B.463) if:

- (a) The parking is done by a disabled veteran with a disability.
- (b) The disabled veteran to whom the vehicle is registered is a passenger in the motor vehicle being parked.

NOTE: These parking privileges are unique to Nevada and may not be applicable or honored in other states.

FEES

Plate: \$6.00 Plate Production: \$5.00 per plate Prison Industry: \$.50 per plate

Applicable Registration Fees: Governmental Services Taxes and Supplemental Governmental Services Taxes (where applicable) are assessed for the issuance or renewal of Disabled Veteran License Plates.

If your vehicle is currently registered, you have the option to maintain your current vehicle registration expiration date or renew for a full 12-month period. Credit for any unused portion of your current registration will be applied. In applicable counties, if you choose to renew for a full 12-month period, a passing emissions inspection dated within the last 90 days must be submitted. Disabled Veteran and Disabled Female Veteran plates cannot be personalized.

SECTION 1 – APPLICANT	Complete this section in its entirety (print or type):
License Plate Style: <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Female Veteran	
Full Legal Name (First, Middle, and Last): _____	
NV Driver's License, ID Card Number, or Date of Birth: _____	
Physical Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code): _____	
Mailing Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code): _____	
Telephone No.: _____ Email Address: _____	
I declare under penalty of perjury that the information on this application is true and correct. I hereby make application for a Disabled Veteran License Plate. I have read and understand the conditions under which these license plate(s) are to be issued.	
Signature of Applicant: _____	Date: _____



Full Legal Name of Patient/Applicant (print or type):

First Middle Last

SECTION 2 - MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION		Complete this section in its entirety (print or type):	
Medical Professionals: Licensed Physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or Physician's Assistant (P.A.) only.			
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Physician <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Practice Registered Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> Physician's Assistant			
Practice Name: _____			
Full Legal Name (First, Middle, Last): _____			
Physician's (or other) License No.: _____			State: _____
Mailing Address: _____		City	State
Address		Zip Code	Telephone No.

SECTION 3 - MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION		Complete this section in its entirety (print or type):	
As a Physician, A.P.R.N., or Physician's Assistant for the above-named patient, I hereby certify that the applicant:			
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot walk two hundred (200) feet without stopping to rest.	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cannot walk without the use of a brace, cane, crutch, wheelchair, prosthetic, assistive device, or another person.	
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a cardiac condition to the extent that functional limitations are classified as Class III or Class IV according to standards adopted by the American Heart Association.	
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's expiratory volume for 1 second, when measured by a spirometer, is less than 1 liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air while the person is at rest.	
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is severely limited in his/her ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.	
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a visual disability.	
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses portable oxygen.	
I certify that my patient's condition is a Permanent Disability (irreversible, permanently disabled in his/her ability to walk certification is valid indefinitely).			
_____ Physician's, APRN's, or Physician's Assistant Signature		_____ Date	

**The American Legion Department of Nevada
Congratulates our National High School Oratorical Contest Winner**



Alexander Hetey

Sons of The American Legion Member

Proudly representing American Legion BMI Post 40

Wellcare partnership with The American Legion



Wellcare, the Medicare brand of Centene Corporation (NYSE: CNC), announced a partnership with The American Legion, America’s largest veterans service organization. Through the multi-year partnership, Wellcare will serve as the exclusive Medicare partner, connecting aged 65+ veterans, their spouses and the greater military community with innovative products and solutions that complement the benefits eligible veterans receive through their Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare, as well as host joint events at Legion posts nationwide and virtually to connect and educate about opportunities for Medicare Advantage Plans.

Wellcare will also support The American Legion’s **Be the One** initiative, a long-term priority to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide resources to save veterans, and ultimately, eliminate veteran suicide. Today, **veteran suicide rates** are more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults, and nearly 6,000 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each year. Wellcare and The American Legion are committed to driving awareness of this critical work through leadership and event activations.

About Wellcare

For more than 20 years, Wellcare has offered a range of Medicare products, including Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDP), which offer affordable coverage beyond Original Medicare. Wellcare is the Medicare brand of **Centene Corporation**, a leading healthcare enterprise committed to transforming the health of the community, one person at a time. For more information about Wellcare, visit **www.wellcare.com**.



Veterans' Voices Reception

Join us for drinks and appetizers
Learn more about the project and celebrate with our Veteran narrators

Date: April 24, 2024

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Place: UNLV Tam Alumni Center
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89154

bit.ly/VeteransVoicesVegas



Contact us at vwi@unlv.edu or 702-895-4297 to reserve your spot at the event and for sponsorship information and questions

Southern Nevada Veterans Creative Arts Competition

Sept. 14, 2024

North Las Vegas VA Medical Center
6900 North Pecos Road
North Las Vegas, NV 89086



Over 130 categories including visual fine art, creative writing, dance, drama, and vocal and instrumental music. Veterans must be enrolled to receive care at a VA medical facility before entering a local competition. The top entry in each category will be submitted to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Each Veteran can enter up to 3 works in different categories.

To sign up, send your submission to vhalaspao@va.gov or Cynthia Ferris - ala76president@gmail.com and add "SNVCAC sign ups" to the subject line

CITY OF LAS VEGAS
Discover the Arts



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Southern Nevada Healthcare System

The American Legion



105th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Post / Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email (optional): _____

Phone: _____

All convention events will be held at the Sunset Casino

Friday, June 28th

Dinner on your own

Saturday, June 29th

American Legion Family Dinner

\$55.00 per person

6:00pm Cocktails – 7:00 Dinner (Buffet)

Attending _____

\$ _____

Sunday, June 30th

Past Commander Breakfast

\$35.00 per person

\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

SEND REGISTRATION AND FEES TO:

American Legion Post 40

425 E Vanwageningen St

Henderson, NV 89015

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 15TH
NO DINNER TICKETS WILL BE SOLD THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA



2024 Annual Department Convention Brochure Ad Request Information

Full Page:	\$120
Half Page:	\$60
Quarter Page:	\$30
Business Card:	\$25
Booster Signature or Those Who Served:	\$2 per name

BOOSTERS EXAMPLE			
Bill Brown	John Hood	Carol Lambert	Charlie Shoemaker
Mary Brown	Eva Hood	Jun Hill	Leon Avery
Ken Brown			Barb Avery

THOSE WHO SERVED EXAMPLE			
WILLIAM BROWN	US Army	2/1942 - 3/1947	WOODLAND, ME
GERALD GETTS	US Navy	4/1953 - 3/1962	BROWNVILLE, TX
JOHN HENRY	US Marines	2/1916 - 1/1919	BIDDERFORD, CA
CHUCK HANSON	US Air Force	4/2012 - Present	LAUGHLIN, NV
MARY JONES	US Coast Guard	2/1996 - 1/2000	BULLHEAD, AZ

Ads AND Payments must be received no later than 5 June 2024:

Email DIGITAL ad to:
NevadaAuxiliary@gmail.com
Subject: AL Convention Ad

Send payment to:
Dr. Courtenay Burns
attn: Convention Book Office
4030 Bobolink Cir
Reno, NV 89508

DO NOT REQUIRE SIGNATURE FOR DELIVERY

Questions or Concerns? Contact Us!
Courtenay Burns
775-513-4681
NevadaAuxiliary@gmail.com



****MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO****
American Legion Post 40





THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA



2024 Annual Department Convention Brochure Ad Request Information

See previous page for pricing

Organization/Person Placing Ad: _____

Contact Information:

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Ad(s) Being Purchased:

Full Page	# _____	\$ _____
Half Page	# _____	\$ _____
Quarter Page	# _____	\$ _____
Business Card	# _____	\$ _____
Booster (<i>see below</i>)	# _____	\$ _____
Those Who Served (<i>see below</i>)	# _____	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Booster Name(s) (if purchased): _____

Those Who Served Information (if purchased):

Name: _____ Dates: _____

Branch: _____ Home Town: _____

Name: _____ Dates: _____

Branch: _____ Home Town: _____

Name: _____ Dates: _____

Branch: _____ Home Town: _____

Send this form and payment to:

Dr. Courtenay Burns | attn: Convention Book Office | 4030 Bobolink Cir | Reno, NV 89508

Email your completed ad or request for ad design to:

NevadaAuxiliary@gmail.com

Subject: AL Convention Ad

