



February 2024 Issue
NEVADA LEGION NEWS

The American Legion, Department of Nevada

AMERICAN
LEGION
**BE THE
ONE**

National Commander Seehafer is visiting Nevada!



AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

**NATIONAL COMMANDER
DANIEL SEEHAFER**

Visiting Nevada

ALL LEGION FAMILY
Welcomed to attend a meeting
in Boulder City on Tuesday 2/6/24
@10 AM.

American Legion Post 31
1641 Boulder City Pkwy
Boulder City NV 89005



Executive
Committee Meeting



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HOLDING

A MEETING ON

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024, STARTING AT 10:30AM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT

THE TUSCANY SUITES AND CASINO IN LAS VEGAS



The American Legion Department of Nevada
737 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

**DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA
Winter 2024 DEC
DINNER REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: _____ Post/Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

All events will be held at the **Tuscany Suites & Casino**
255 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169 Tel: (702) 893-8933

SATURDAY, March 2nd, 2024

American Legion Dinner \$45.00 / Person

6:00 pm - No Host Cocktails

7:00 pm - Plated BBQ Chicken Dinner

Number Attending _____ \$ _____

SEND REGISTRATION & CHECKS TO:

American Legion Department of Nevada
737 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Registration form must be received no later than **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16th, 2024**



Greetings American Legion Family!

So much excitement for the month of February! The National Commander will be visiting Las Vegas, Nevada early February. How very lucky for us.

I offer exciting news about the Southern Nevada Veterans Creative Arts Festival held September 2023. One of our SNVCAC artists, Tami Biniarz, was named a **National 1st Place Winner** for her quilt kit entry. Only our 2nd year being held in Las Vegas and we are to be represented at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Colorado this May! The VA is working with Tami to get her there. **Congratulations Veteran Tami Biniarz!!!**

As I am Administrator for the Department of Nevada Website, it gives me great pleasure to say the

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

Please take time to check it out and send me all of your feedback good or bad. We can only make it better together.

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 4-H Facility in Stateline, Nevada (Lake Tahoe).

Have a Happy Valentines Day American Legion Family.

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



Greetings fellow Legion members,

An article came out in the New York Post on Jan. 10, 2024 about the VA treating illegal immigrants which I found interesting.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs is facing blowback for helping pay out millions of dollars to medical providers who treat illegal immigrants while they are in federal custody — while a backlog of hundreds of thousands of claims from veterans has grown.

The VA’s Austin, Texas-based Financial Services Center (FSC) has been contracted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since 2002 to process reimbursement claims by providers who offer services to detained migrants.

In fiscal year 2022, which ended Sept. 30 of that year, FSC processed 161,538 such claims, with the ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC) paying out an average of \$584 — a total of \$94.3 million in taxpayer money, according to a July 2023 Department of Homeland Security report on “Healthcare Costs for Noncitizens in Detention.”

In the previous fiscal year, 2021, ICE’s health care arm budgeted more than \$74 million for the VA’s FSC to assist with “outside referral care” and “medical claims processing,” according to a report from July 2022.

Meanwhile, the pile of benefit claims by veterans and their families awaiting adjudication has grown to 417,855, according to the VA’s own website — up from around 150,000 as of late 2022.”

From there the article goes into politics but at the end of the article this was quoted:

“When contacted by The Post, the VA was adamant that the veteran claims backlog and the millions of dollars doled out to migrant health care providers were not related.

“VA does not provide or fund any health care to ICE detainees,” VA spokesman Terrence Hayes told The Post.

“This involves no more than 10 employees and is fully funded by ICE. This has no impact [on] veteran care or services,” Hayes added. “At no time are any VA health care professionals or VA funds used for this purpose.”

This issue was brought up at our recent Post meeting and we were reassured that the VA did not provide or fund any health care to ICE detainees. Rest assured the medical needs of our Veterans come first at the VA hospitals/clinics.

Always in service.
Brenda Horton
Department 1st Vice Commander.



Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment of Nevada is currently at 65.89% membership and just met the January 18th target of 60% which places us in 49th place in the nation; we need to step up the membership to meet to the February 14 target of 75% membership. 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)

This weekend marks the start of the 10th Annual Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous in Las Vegas from January 26-28 at Tuscany Suites. The Western Rendezvous is a great time to meet other members from around the western region and learn more about how the SAL operates. This is also an opportunity to bend a few ears if you have some ideas for improvement.

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.

I need a volunteer to improve the Nevada SAL web site (<https://nevadasal.org>). The current site is out of date and hosted on WordPress so anyone with the skills is asked to help. The position will require maintaining the site and coordinating with others around the state for content. This position will also need to manage our existing and new social media content (@nevadasons on Facebook and soon 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



2024 SAL Membership Report: January 22, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 75% TARGET 2/14/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-39	129	107.50%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-313	1,521	94.41%	81.93
3	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-184	990	92.09%	83.02
4	FRANCE	168	-27	153	91.07%	81.33
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-800	3,898	88.63%	80.13
6	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-156	1,333	84.90%	72.01
7	FLORIDA	23,066	-2,041	19,340	83.85%	71.00
8	LOUISIANA	1,821	-132	1,498	82.26%	75.92
9	OREGON	1,534	-78	1,228	80.05%	65.89
10	IOWA	4,914	-247	3,932	80.02%	74.00
11	MARYLAND	16,803	-837	13,439	79.98%	73.32
12	MINNESOTA	11,435	-456	9,032	78.99%	73.46
13	GEORGIA	4,887	-191	3,856	78.90%	69.66
14	OHIO	31,690	-1,141	24,908	78.60%	72.61
15	PUERTO RICO	156	-5	122	78.21%	73.20
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-85	2,162	78.05%	65.02
17	ILLINOIS	13,716	-385	10,672	77.81%	72.61
18	MICHIGAN	26,236	-694	20,371	77.65%	69.98
19	ALABAMA	2,100	-52	1,627	77.48%	67.02
20	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-39	1,438	77.10%	67.15
21	VERMONT	3,920	-75	3,015	76.91%	72.12
22	MISSISSIPPI	736	-14	566	76.90%	67.26
23	MONTANA	1,091	-20	838	76.81%	72.44
24	INDIANA	37,244	-558	28,491	76.50%	71.12
25	VIRGINIA	4,367	-63	3,338	76.44%	66.83
26	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-612	47,671	75.97%	70.89
27	NEW YORK	30,663	-164	23,161	75.53%	69.38
28	DELAWARE	2,596	-7	1,954	75.27%	67.51
29	NEBRASKA	6,992	4	5,240	74.94%	72.06
30	ARIZONA	8,595	19	6,427	74.78%	62.73
31	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	82	4,438	73.64%	65.66
32	DIST OF COL	91	1	67	73.63%	68.18
33	RHODE ISLAND	348	6	255	73.28%	62.93
34	TENNESSEE	1,792	36	1,308	72.99%	61.95
35	LATIN AMERICA	33	1	24	72.73%	34.38
36	IDAHO	659	15	479	72.69%	55.76
37	WYOMING	1,248	38	898	71.96%	64.21
38	KANSAS	6,055	191	4,350	71.84%	66.72
39	CALIFORNIA	11,292	398	8,071	71.48%	62.12
40	NEW JERSEY	9,662	369	6,878	71.19%	63.60
41	MISSOURI	3,337	135	2,368	70.96%	63.20
42	TEXAS	5,783	259	4,078	70.52%	60.96
43	ARKANSAS	406	19	286	70.44%	56.16
44	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	349	3,725	68.58%	62.13
45	MAINE	2,757	185	1,883	68.30%	60.30
46	ALASKA	1,740	122	1,183	67.99%	56.63
47	UTAH	460	39	306	66.52%	62.16
48	COLORADO	2,952	263	1,951	66.09%	57.03
49	NEVADA	387	35	255	65.89%	56.71
50	WASHINGTON	2,682	245	1,767	65.88%	53.05
51	NEW MEXICO	1,582	145	1,042	65.87%	51.22
52	OKLAHOMA	1,430	145	928	64.90%	52.28
53	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	287	1,658	63.94%	56.37
54	PHILIPPINES	79	15	44	55.70%	53.16
55	KENTUCKY	2,399	533	1,266	52.77%	45.05
Grand Totals:		382,111	-5,275	291,858	76.38%	69.16



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 8, 2024	Elko, NV	Armed Forces Day Ride





**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA'S
ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**BEING HELD AT
WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE
2201 W. COLLEGE PARKWAY
CARSON CITY, NEVADA**

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

STARTING AT 9:00AM

**PARTICIPANTS AND CONTESTANTS NEED TO ARRIVE
BY 8:00AM**

**FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING
LIONEL MOTTA
AT 702-382-2353**

**New for the Department of
Nevada:
Our New Website!
nvlegion.org**

Our New Facebook!



The Department Facebook page is available for viewing.

If you are on Facebook, please find the page.

Nevada Legion

"Like" or "Follow" and you'll be able to see the updates, postings, and pictures.

The first posting is announcing the National Commander visit to Southern Nevada.



Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of the nation's largest Veterans organization on Aug. 31, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C., during The American Legion's 104th national convention. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One" to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, Seehafer earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer has served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include district commander's new post achievement award, Silver Brigade membership recruiting award, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan's son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

How The American Legion impacts lives



A veteran who disputed his 10% VA disability rating finally turned to The American Legion. He'd fought an appeal since 2010. His Legion appeals representative, working out of the John H. Geiger Operations Center in Indianapolis, went to work – free of charge, as always.

A galaxy of details can affect a service-connected disability rating. The Legion representative studied the case carefully. It could be anything: a bad exam, incomplete documentation, a processing error. In this case, the appeals rep discovered an incorrect diagnostic code had been used in the decision and the veterans' entire medical record had not been considered. The result was a 100% service-connected disability rating and retroactive compensation of nearly \$450,000.

That makes a difference. That changes a life. In some cases, such work saves a life.

Last fall, I had the honor to meet with American Legion appeals representatives and five veterans representing 13,187 VA benefits disputes handled last year alone. The Legion employs 18 of these representatives, who in fiscal year 2023 had secured more than \$76 million in retroactive compensation for veterans whose claims had been incorrectly denied.

This issue of The American Legion Magazine highlights some of that work. Couple that success with free representation provided by more than 3,000 accredited Legion service officers across the country, and the results are jaw-dropping: more than 16.8 billion in VA disability compensation in 2023. That is no typo. Billion with a B.

Membership in The American Legion ensures this kind of help for disabled veterans and their families. Donations to the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) provide training needed for service officers and appeals reps to do all they do, at no cost to the veteran.

The next time you meet a veteran who asks why they should join the Legion, share that story. And the next time you're ambushed with offers to donate to other organizations, consider the VCF, which truly makes differences in the lives of our nation's veterans and their families.