



# December 2023 Issue NEVADA LEGION NEWS

The American Legion, Department of Nevada

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
**BE THE  
ONE**



# Merry Christmas

**& HAPPY NEW YEAR**







## Veterans & Children Foundation: Key Points

≡≡≡ The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, formerly known as The American Legion Endowment Fund, provides financial resources for the organization's Temporary Financial Assistance Program and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation support, including training for accredited service officers.

≡≡≡ The Temporary Financial Assistance Program helps military and veteran families with minor children at home when they are hit with unexpected financial hardships, from sudden health-care emergencies to delayed military pay. Funds are disbursed as cash grants solely to be used for essential household costs.

≡≡≡ Over \$6 million in Temporary Financial Assistance grants has been provided over the last decade alone.

≡≡≡ More than 3,000 trained American Legion service officers provide VA benefits representation and other forms of assistance to some 750,000 veterans at any one time, all the time, free of charge.

≡≡≡ American Legion service officers are directly responsible for veterans disability compensation of more than \$14 billion per year.

≡≡≡ The need for more service officers, and more accreditation training, is essential as a new generation of wartime veterans returns to civilian life and becomes eligible for state and federal disability and health-care services and benefits.

≡≡≡ The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has provided tens of millions of dollars for disabled veterans and families since 1925, and funds must now be replenished in order to continue making life-changing differences in their lives.

≡≡≡ Charitable gifts to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation are 100% tax-deductible because the foundation is its own 501c3.

≡≡≡ Donors who make substantial contributions to the foundation may be recognized as members of the prestigious 1919 Society.

≡≡≡ The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation is carefully governed by its own non-profit endowment corporation, led by the national commander of The American Legion.

Holiday Greetings!

As we all recover from Thanksgiving joy, the Yuletide Season is upon us. So much to do and so little time. I'm sure your American Legion Family is planning many things for our Veterans and their families. From Toys for Tots to local community endeavors I think the real question is:

How should our Nevada American Legion Family donate for our Veterans and their families and do local community work as well. I don't have the answer to that. What I'm proposing is that you send me photos of events you are hosting in December with info. Perhaps we can help our fellow Posts by doing something we haven't thought of, but you have. Perhaps you might find something you might like to try. I'm asking that the Nevada American Legion Family collectively work together to make Nevada the best state in the West. Let's make the January 2024 Newsletter filled with all we did and do.

American Legion Family: Be the Team!

Remember to send me you upcoming events so that I can email the info to other Nevada Posts so that they too may attend.

Wishing all your events for the month of December prosperous and enjoyable! Let's ring in the New Year with better ideas that we can share. I look forward to your emails! Below is an example of what I'm talking about. Hope to see you & the kids at our Holiday Bazaar! We will be serving breakfast 8am – 10am & lunch 11am – 3pm.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year American Legion Family.

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



**American Legion BMI Unit 40**  
Auxiliary presents  
**Holiday Bazaar**

*Come create your own ornaments and visit craft vendors*

Sunday, December 3rd  
11 AM - 3PM

FREE Admission to Public

American Legion BMI Post 40  
425 E. Van Wagenen St.  
Henderson NV 89015

For More Info or to be a vendor email:  
alabmiunit40events@gmail.com

The Auxiliary will be also serving breakfast at the Post from 8 am to 10 am

Season's Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

The article this month will focus on TBI/PTSD/Suicide Prevention Committee under VA & R.

TBI/PTSD/Suicide Prevention Committee  
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman

#### Purpose

To continue to investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious;

To evaluate the therapies for treating TBI and PTSD currently employed by DoD and VA;

To make an annual report to the full Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the National Executive Committee concerning the TBI/PTSD Committee's findings and recommendations;

Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

(<https://www.legion.org/commissions/veterans-affairs-rehabilitation-commission>)

As we all know "Be The One" has been a National Program for a couple of years. The American Legion Changes Lives and Saves Lives one Veteran at a Time.

For many Veterans who live alone and don't have family close by, the holidays are very lonely and stressful for them. Oftentimes, suicide rates increase during the holidays.

What can we do? If you notice a Veteran not acting like their usual self, ask them out for coffee/a bike ride/fishing etc., and talk with them. Be the One to be there for that Veteran; to lend a listening ear.

You can also invite a Veteran over for Thanksgiving or Christmas Dinner. Let them know they are important. Every year, my husband and I open our home to Post members who are alone during this time.

Do your Buddy Checks. Make sure your Post members or other Veterans in the community are ok. I recently participated in Military Rites for a young Veteran for killed himself; but he wasn't found for five days. Very sad that no one noticed him missing. Please check on your members and other Veterans.

May your holidays be filled with love, laughter, and peace.

Always in service.

Brenda Horton  
Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander





As December is upon us, now is a good time for The American Legion Posts and Squadrons to reach out to the Families. Just to find out how the families are doing during the holidays. They can also sponsor families for Christmas dinners. Or just ask the family what they might need. Many of us know what it was like when we were deployed and how our families missed us at the dinner table.

Our children miss us the most overall. If you know of any service members stationed overseas, contact their ombudsman for their contact information to send Christmas cards. A simple card assures those members we are thinking of them. The American Legion has programs to help those families in financial need as well. Please show your support during the Holidays by donating...Cards, Gifts or just your company/time. It goes a long way. Happy Holidays to you all.

Department Sergeant at Arms  
Ron Petroski



## Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment of Nevada is currently at 50.9% membership and in 17<sup>th</sup> place in the nation; this is well beyond the 12/13/23 target of 45% and ahead of last year. Keeping this pace puts us at 105% membership by the end of year. 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. I will be sending the forms out in an email soon.

Make your plans for the western Rendezvous in Las Vegas from January 26-28 at the Tuscany Suites, get your reservations in now. 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.

It is starting to get cold, and the snow will be flying soon, this might be our last good opportunity in 2023 to get flags placed for Flying Flags for Heroes, remember, this is a year-round program, don't wait for Memorial Day. I keep a handful of flags in my vehicle and have stopped in small towns to place flags as I am driving to or from work or meetings. Take those opportunities and remember our deceased Veterans.

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. Let's continue the streak and bring home the per-capita awards again and take the opportunity to show Colorado how it is done by raising \$30/member.

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 as of: November 20, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/13/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-41	95	79.17%	71.43
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-470	1,195	74.18%	65.53
3	FRANCE	168	-47	123	73.21%	66.67
4	LOUISIANA	1,821	-440	1,259	69.14%	64.06
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-956	2,935	66.73%	60.68
6	GEORGIA	4,887	-789	2,988	61.14%	54.59
7	MONTANA	1,091	-142	633	58.02%	54.94
8	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,742	7,914	57.70%	54.66
9	IOWA	4,914	-557	2,768	56.33%	52.52
10	MISSISSIPPI	736	-80	411	55.84%	51.79
11	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-274	1,520	54.87%	45.99
12	ALABAMA	2,100	-189	1,134	54.00%	46.98
13	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-93	577	53.67%	48.20
14	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-128	834	53.12%	43.91
15	IDAHO	659	-49	346	52.50%	39.73
16	PUERTO RICO	156	-10	80	51.28%	47.71
17	NEVADA	387	-23	197	50.90%	43.04
18	UTAH	460	-27	234	50.87%	48.19
19	FLORIDA	23,066	-1,154	11,534	50.00%	41.54
20	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-49	692	48.39%	38.22
21	OREGON	1,534	-50	740	48.24%	38.82
22	TENNESSEE	1,792	-25	831	46.37%	39.49
23	MARYLAND	16,803	-193	7,754	46.15%	41.67
24	WYOMING	1,248	-13	575	46.07%	40.93
25	TEXAS	5,783	-44	2,646	45.75%	39.79
26	INDIANA	37,244	-230	16,990	45.62%	42.00
27	VIRGINIA	4,367	-24	1,989	45.55%	39.10
28	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-53	5,134	45.47%	39.49
29	MINNESOTA	11,435	-16	5,162	45.14%	42.03
30	ARKANSAS	406	3	180	44.33%	34.90
31	NEW JERSEY	9,662	135	4,213	43.80%	39.03
32	RHODE ISLAND	348	7	150	43.10%	36.99
33	KANSAS	6,055	119	2,606	43.04%	39.77
34	CONNECTICUT	1,865	51	788	42.25%	36.37
35	NEW YORK	30,663	1,295	12,503	40.78%	37.29
36	OHIO	31,690	1,350	12,911	40.74%	37.22
37	MICHIGAN	26,236	1,225	10,581	40.33%	35.52
38	NEBRASKA	6,992	330	2,816	40.27%	38.51
39	VERMONT	3,920	205	1,559	39.77%	36.83
40	MISSOURI	3,337	183	1,319	39.53%	34.39
41	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	318	2,126	39.14%	35.23
42	DELAWARE	2,596	175	993	38.25%	32.05
43	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	410	2,302	38.19%	34.19
44	ARIZONA	8,595	624	3,244	37.74%	30.56
45	ALASKA	1,740	138	645	37.07%	30.03
46	COLORADO	2,952	246	1,082	36.65%	30.92
47	WASHINGTON	2,682	313	894	33.33%	25.38
48	KENTUCKY	2,399	306	774	32.26%	27.59
49	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	8,467	19,769	31.51%	28.57
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	5	10	30.30%	12.50
51	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	455	712	27.46%	22.51
52	NEW MEXICO	1,582	290	422	26.68%	19.57
53	MAINE	2,757	909	332	12.04%	10.08
54	DIST OF COL	91	32	9	9.89%	9.09
55	PHILIPPINES	79	31	5	6.33%	5.06
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>382,111</b>	<b>9,715</b>	<b>162,235</b>	<b>42.46%</b>	<b>37.97</b>

As we approach the end of the physical year, and the halfway point of our Legion year District is looking good. Our membership is moving in the right direction with 50% of the posts over the 70% mark and 71% over the 65% mark. If the trend continues the District should be well over the 90% mark by the end of the Legion year.

The big news in the District is our oratorical contest effort this year. Bob Bencsko, Post 149 Commander, and District 2 Vice Commander is leading the charge in an outstanding manner. He has partnered with the School District's debating Association and is establishing unique processing for the program. A first is having the contest at one of the local high schools and utilizing the association's registration program to track contestants. Thanks, Bob, for your effort and innovation ideas.

Veterans Day was a big event this year throughout the District. Legionnaires were on the move with parades, public ceremonies, and BBQs. It is my personal opinion that without the Legion's involvement Veterans Day would not be what it is today. So, thanks to all who participated.

This month Post 60 in Laughlin is my highlight of the month. Annually the Laughlin Chamber organizes what is known as the Community Achievement Awards. The event culminates with a black-tie \$100 a plate banquet that honors citizens and businesses from within the Tristate area. There are 17 categories; and Legionnaires and Veterans are among those honored annually for their services within the community. Monies raised by this event goes to the River Fund, which is an organization like United Way but restricted to the Tristate area. Thank you Post 60 for your involvement supporting your community and our veterans.

Laughlin Chamber of Commerce Presents:  
The 20th Annual  
*Community Achievement Awards*

HOSTED BY  
**AQUARIUS**  
CASINO RESORT  
**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

**Premier Sponsor**  
Richard Springston  
American Legion Post 60  
Honoring local citizens, organizations, and businesses in our Colorado River Region!

**Premier Sponsor**

With the utmost gratitude, we thank the Richard Springston American Legion Post 60 for their generosity in being our premier sponsor again this year!

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**RICHARD SPRINGSTON POST 60**  
1510 BRICE WOODBURY DR., LAUGHLIN, NV  
(702) 299-1510 - WWW.POST60LAUGHLIN.COM

**HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, VETERANS & COMMUNITY!**

**Friday Night Fish Fry!**  
"Best *Friday.com* West of the Mississippi"  
**Sunday Breakfast!**  
"Wake up with the Legionnaires"  
Every 1st & 3rd Sunday!

**Banquet Hall Rental** FOR AVAILABLE DATES & DETAILS  
Available to the public PLEASE CONTACT (702) 299-1510  
HARDWARES - WEDDINGS - SPORTS BANQUETS - SHOWERS - BIRTHDAYS  
Full Video Poker Bar! Complimentary drinks for players! OPEN 24/7!

**JOIN OUR LEGION family**

- American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of the American Legion

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
Schedule of Events

5:30 P.M. DOORS OPEN  
6:00 P.M. TAKE YOUR SEAT PROGRAM BEGINS  
-INVOCATION  
-PLEDGE  
-MISSING MANTLE  
-MEMORIAM  
6:30 P.M. DINNER IS SERVED  
6:50 P.M. INTRODUCTIONS AND DIGNITARIES  
7:00 P.M. JUDGE'S APPRECIATION  
7:30 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY BEGINS

**BUSINESS EXPANSION AND RETENTION AWARD**  
**COMMUNICATIONS AWARD**  
**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**  
**ENTREPRENEUR AWARD**  
**SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**  
**LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**  
**LOYD SHIRTS TOURISM AWARD**  
**NICK SESSIONS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
**COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION AWARD**  
**VETERAN SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**  
**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**  
**YOUNG WONDER AWARD**  
**CONNIE DAVIS YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**  
**SPIRIT OF ARIZONA AWARD**  
**SPIRIT OF NEVADA AWARD**  
**SPIRIT OF THE COLORADO RIVER AWARD**  
**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

**GROUP PHOTO OF ALL WINNERS AT STAGE**

This event will be announced by Dominic Dragone from Murphy Broadcasting and live streamed with The Bee News Media Company.  
**Congratulations to our top achievers!**





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.

I can always be reached via email ([commander@nevadasal.org](mailto: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





# WHAT IS THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST?

We're inspired by the community of veterans still serving in America.

For over 55 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of the American Legion.

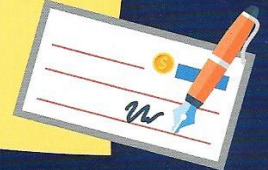
We craft benefit programs that help veterans protect what they value most.

## The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)

Provides products and services to protect Legion members and their families since 1966



Paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion



Provides financial support of nearly \$95 million to support state department activities and VA&R efforts



Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts



**Visit [TheLIT.com](http://TheLIT.com)**  
to see the programs and services available to you.



LEGIONNAIRE  
INSURANCE TRUST





## Albertson's & Vons

offer to our Veterans & those serving: 10% off all food groceries on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you are 50 years of age, they offer 10% off all food groceries on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. Start Saving!



Did you know that Veterans and those serving can receive cheap tickets for all kinds of events?

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

Check them out and sign up at: <https://www.vettix.org/>

