

NEVADA LEGION NEWS

"Veterans Strengthening America"

Department Officers for 2021-2022

VOLUME 4. ISSUE9

15 IULY 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * American Legion flags
- * 300 Club
- * National Parks Pass

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Membership

Auxiliary



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Richard Eberly



First, I would like to thank Reed-Gregory Post #7 and W. W. Manning Post #32 for hosting the 102- Department of Nevada Convention in Elko, Nevada. Also, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected officers and newly appointed committee members.

This year will be a very busy year as we start moving out of the restrictions that were imposed during the pandemic and again start working on our Legion programs and, of course, membership. In order for the Department to increase its membership, we must first recognize that we need to work on retention and to continue working on recruiting new members.

This year my focus is going to be on service. The American Legion has over a century of service, patriotism and camaraderie. During this year, I will be focusing my attention on what The American Legion can do for our veterans through volunteering, mentoring and giving back to ensure that no veteran is left behind. As spoken by Edward Kennedy, "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives on, and the dream shall never die."

So, as you move forward this year, let us remember to make it a year dedicated to service as we continue to focus on our homeless population, goals of membership and the promotion of The American Legion programs in our communities.

During the year, I am going to be reaching out to all our Department of Nevada Legion Posts throughout the year to highlight what they are currently doing in their Posts.

Highlighted July Posts:

Post 3 White Pine (Ely)

July 17^{th} Had a celebration of life for a member, July 24^{th} will be completing a Flag retirement ceremony and on August 8^{th} Post 3 White Pine will be having their 100^{th} year celebration in Ely, NV.

Post 149 (Las Vegas): Post 149 takes pride in raising money and giving it away, by donating thousands of dollars annually to various causes, including the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, American Legion Baseball, Nevada Boys State, as well as numerous community organizations. Currently, Post 149 is involved in Walker Furniture's Help for Heroes program, that selects worthy veterans who receive free, specialized furniture from Walker Furniture. Post 149 is also taking the lead on raising money to build a storage building for the Southern Nevada VA Fisher House. The Post has currently raised nearly \$35,000 towards the estimated \$50-\$60k needed for construction and are accepting donations for the cause.



lst Vice Commander Valerie Scheuering

Hello My Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope all of you had a great Independence Day. I have been given the great honor to write about the history and traditions of The American Legion and have found all of it on legion.org. I will also give histories of the Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, etc. I hope you find this as interesting as I have.

"The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of warweary veterans of WWI into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The Posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth."

Lets begin where it all started, France.

"A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AFE) in France during WWI is credited with founding the Legion. Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop moral. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed and organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole Army.

About 1000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary Constitution and the name The American Legion. The group also elected and executive committee to complete the organizations work. It considered each soldier of the AFE a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

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

June 9, 1919, the National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem. September 16, 1919, Congress charters The American Legion.

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

Until next month, be healthy and safe.

For God and Country

Valerie Scheuering Department 1st Vice Commander





2nd Vice Commander, Robert Morris



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Providing World Class Care and Service to America's Heroes

June 29, 2021

In Reply Refer to: 654/00A/CAS

Dear VA Volunteers,

I hope this message finds you healthy and well. I would like to share a message from our Chief of Staff, Tanya J. Bradsher, US Department of Veterans Affairs.

The **Delta variant** of the virus that causes COVID-19, which has caused great devastation across India, spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. The Delta variant is now spreading across the United States and mostly impacts those who are either unvaccinated or have only received their first of two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Furthermore, until high levels of vaccination are achieved, additional variants are expected to arise.

Over the past month, the Delta variant has rapidly spread and expanded in the United States. We believe that this will soon become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 strain causing infections in the United States, and it is expected to lead to a rise in hospitalizations and deaths. In fact, we have received reports of hospitalizations, admissions to intensive care units and deaths of VA employees related to the outbreak of the Delta variant.

The good news is that the COVID-19 vaccines currently in use in the United States offer good protection against the COVID-19 causing virus variants we know the most about. Thus, full vaccination can prevent unnecessary deaths and hospitalizations. In the United Kingdom, COVID-19 vaccines have shown excellent effectiveness in preventing hospitalization from the Delta strain for persons who are fully vaccinated.

As this is an evolving situation, I strongly urge you to practice good hygiene, stay home when feeling unwell, and call your health care provider if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Many of you have asked when our facility will relax physical distancing requirements, screening procedures and masks. The simple answer is, we are a health care facility protecting Veterans, our staff and those in the VA community, remains our top priority. Though the CDC relaxed its masking mandates for fully vaccinated individuals it was not intended for health care settings. For the time being, COVID-19 precautions remain in place for both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated employees and visitors to Veterans Health Administration buildings providing health care.

Ioannis A. Lougaris VA Medical Center 975 Kirman Avenue Reno, NV 89502 Carson Valley VA Clinic 1330 Waterloo Lane, Suite 101 Gardnerville, NV 89410 Diamond View VA Clinic 110 Bella Way Susanville, CA 96130 East Campus VA Clinic 1201 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 100 Reno, NV 89502 Lahontan Valley VA Clinic 1020 New River Parkway, Suite 304 Fallon, NV 89406

National Park Access Pass



National Park Access Pass

The Access Pass, part of the America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series, is available free for US citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Applicants must provide documentation of permanent disability and residency or citizenship. The pass may be obtained in person at a federal recreation site or through the mail using an application form. (Note: While the pass itself is free, the cost of obtaining an Access Pass through the mail is \$10 for processing the application.) Read more about the Access Pass, and other passes, below. Please note that passes are not available at all national parks; see a <u>list of all federal recreation sites (PDF)</u>, including national parks, where the passes are issued.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability (does not have to be a 100% disability) may get a free, lifetime pass that provides admittance to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies, including Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Access Passes are available online.

Required documentation: A copy of ID issued by an authorized U.S. agency such as your driver's license, passport or state-issued ID and documentation that proves permanent disability such as:

- Statement by a licensed physician (Statement must include: that the individual has a PERMANENT disability, that it limits one or more aspects of their daily life, and the nature of those limitations.)
- Document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income
- Document issued by a state agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency



Historian







National Executive Committeeperson, Jeanette Rae Evans



And so, we begin another Legion year with new officers in our Posts, Districts and Department. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the comrades in these positions on our Department website – http://nevadalegion.org. That said – I was elected at the Department Convention as your new National Executive Committeeperson. God Bless Ron Michalski for all the years of service and guidance in our Department in this position – shoes that will never be completely filled.

Did you know that the group Operation Battle Born here in NV is planning a Ruck in recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9-11? They will be 'rucking' from Las Vegas to the Capitol in Carson. To find out more or sign up for a leg go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QPBTvwqbxA

The VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System in Reno has posted information on their website about COVID vaccines. If want to research more information – go here: https://www.reno.va.gov/services/covid-19-vaccines.asp

VA Southern Nevada Health Care System COVID vaccine information can be found here: https://www.lasvegas.va.gov/services/covid-19-vaccines.asp

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System COVID vaccine information can be found here: https://www.saltlakecity.va.gov/services/covid-19-vaccines.asp

Neither chamber of Congress was in session the week afterthe 4th of July. Upon their return July 12, Congress will only have 3 weeks before the extended August recess. However, Senate Majority Leader Schumer warned Senators the Senate won't recess for its summer break without considering a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions and bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The following House Bills are related to VA Healthcare are being heard in committees:

- H.R. 913, Build a Better VA Act
- H.R. 2587, SERVE Act
- H.R. 2775, VA Quality Health Care Accountability and Transparency Act
- H.R. 2797, National Green Alert Act of 2021
- H.R. 3027, Veterans Improved Act to Care of 2021
- H.R. 3452, Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- H.R. 3674, Vet Center Support Act
- H.R. 3693, VA CPE Modernization Act
- H.R. 4233, Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act

Senate bills The American Legion is leading the effort on:

- S.B. 144, Buddy Check Week Act
- S.B. 1040, Expands eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to include veterans of World War II who are not already covered

If you want more in-depth information about the Legion's Legislative efforts visit: <u>https://www.legion.org/legislative</u>

That's all for now - Stay Safe and Stay Cool

Still Serving, Jeanette Rae Evans

Membership Jerry Bootzin

Membership

My name is Jerry Bootzin. 1st District Commander and Department Membership Chairman for this next year. We have many challenges ahead of us. We are just recovering from most of the Covid restrictions of the past year. As of today we, as a Department, are at about 86% of membership goal which puts us close to the bottom of all American Legion Departments when it comes to meeting membership goals. There are some of our Department Posts that are at or exceed 100% of 2021 membership goals. However, there are many below that figure. Every Department Post still needs to work their 2021 renewals until the end of 2021. District 3 is the only District at 100% of goal.

New 2022 Membership Renewal notices are already out which may make it more difficult to get 2020 members to renew 2021 dues and then turn around and pay 2022 dues. TIME IS OF THE ESSENSE to recapture 2021 renewal members and still recruit new members for 2021.

Keep in mind that 2020 members who have not renewed for 2021 are no longer full members of your post. They are "delinquent" If they just pay the 2022 dues and not the 2021 dues then they will have a laps in their continuous years of legion membership.

All the leadership in the Department, Districts and Posts understand that the MyLegion online information from National is not yet operating as we expected or need in order to do our jobs effectively. That does not mean we stop contacting the 2020 members who have not yet renewed. That information is on current Post Rosters available on the MyLegion site.

We also need to continue to use Post 100 transfers as they will eventually be recognized once the MyLegion is operating fully. Do not stop trying to get membership information into the online system. By contacting all those 2020 Members, you will have the opportunity to clean up your rosters with anyone who has Died, moved away or is having financial issues that maybe the Post could help resolve for the cost of a membership.

EVERY POST AND DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF "WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERS" if you do not already have this publication. IT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT legion.org/membership/retentiontips

I will be working closely with your District Commanders and District Membership Chairman on the details of how each Post can move ahead. Our emphasis over the next 30 days should be on getting those 2020 members to renew NOW!

If you have questions about membership, contact your District Commanders or District Membership Chairman.

Jerry Bootzin
Department Membership Chairman
303-589-6314
jbootzin72@gmail.com



Department of Nevada Children and Youth Program



Julia Edie, 5, received hearing aids thanks to the Department of Nevada's Hear Today - Learn Tomorrow program, on Friday, March 25, 2016. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion

DO YOU OR A FRIEND NEED HELP IN OBTAINING HEARING AIDS FOR A HEARING IMPAIRED CHILD?

HEAR TODAY-LEARN TOMORROW

(IRS 501(c) Non -Profit)

We issue grant funds to Audiologists to complete hearing aid funding! OUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: family must be Nevada residents; child is less than

18 years old: family needs funding help to obtain hearing aids.

APPLICATION PROCEEDURES/ NEED MORE INFORMATION: Obtain an application from

Department of Nevada HQ's 702-382-2353

TALDON737@AOL.COM

THE LEGIONNAIRE TRUST?

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

For over 50 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



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 over \$91 million
to support state
department activities and
VA&R efforts

Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts

Visit TheLIT.com
to see the programs and services available to you.



Dear Members of the American Legion Family,

I hope you are all doing well!

This month, I want to give you an updated about Nevada Girls State. We had an excellent virtual session with 14 delegates, including 2 from New Mexico (New Mexico did not have enough delegates to host their own session). Through the week, our delegates heard from wonderful guest speakers, ran for office, and wrote legislation (18 pieces total). At the end of our Friday legislative session, 11 bills had passed and been signed by the Nevada Girls State governor, 2 bills did not pass, 1 bill was vetoed by the Governor, and 4 failed when the time for our session expired. Our Nevada Girls State governor represented Eldorado High School and her attendance was sponsored by L.D. Lockhart Unit 14. Our ALA Girls Nation Senators represent Clark High School and the Coral Academy of Science-Reno and were both sponsored by their schools. It was our honor to meet and work with this outstanding group of young women. We certainly look forward to seeing many of them again as counselors at our next (and hopefully in-person) session of Nevada Girls State!

Additionally, as you begin to meet in person and attend and host events again, why not work on collecting your Post and Unit histories? As we move into our second century as an organization, keeping track of those who came before us is more important than ever. Like any history, ours is more than simply names and dates. The documents, photos, and stories you can collect now will help to connect future members to the past and can help us re-connect to it. Here are some ways in which you can help to preserve your Post and/or Unit history:

Collect documents. These can be things such as meeting minutes, copies of reports, letters sent or received, or awards received by the Post/Unit or its members.

Catalog photographs. Just having photos is amazing! It's even better if we can document who appears in a photo and what's going on. Go through old photo albums and document as much as you can about the people, places, and events in them. Make sure that documentation stays with each photograph so that future viewers will be better able to connect with the history it preserves.

Gather oral history. Ask other members to tell their stories and record them (either audio or video). And tell yours too!

Additionally, the Department would love to help digitize Unit (and Post!) histories. You can send anything you gather to us and we'd be happy to scan and upload the items so that you can access the files online (and, of course, we'll send you back the originals).

ALA Department of Nevada 4030 Bobolink Cir. Reno, NV 89508 NevadaAuxiliary@gmail.com

As always, thank you all for your continued dedication.

Best, Courtenay

Courtenay Burns, Ph.D.
President
ALA Department of Nevada



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

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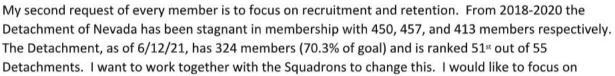
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Commander, Shawn Horton

I am honored to be given the opportunity to represent the Sons of The American Legion as the Nevada Detachment Commander for 2021-2022. I look forward to a year where the Sons of The American Legion can focus on growth and strengthen our ability to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires and all Veterans and their families.

Years ago, I watched a keynote speech by Capt. Charlie Plumb (Vietnam POW, and prisoner at the Hanoi Hilton) and it had a small impact on me. In the last two months I watched that same keynote speech half a dozen times and walked away with a new understanding of what honor really means. I ask that every

member of the Sons look up Captain Plumb and watch one of his keynotes and reflect on what honor means to him. (https://youtu.be/CP8JVVG34rk)



driving membership numbers up to at least 450 and a stretch of 461, our 100% target membership goal. I know we can do it and I will be reaching out to Squadron Commanders and Adjutants to discuss strategy.

The table to the right shows how many Squadron members there are vs. Post members and the percentage; if each Squadron increases membership to 11% of the Post membership we will exceed our goal of 450 members as well as the stretch goal of 461.

Some Squadrons have more work to do than others, but we are all members of the Detachment of Nevada and in this together. Commanders, Adjutants, and members, talk to each other and bring us to the top of the National rankings. Let's make Nevada a leader in Honoring our Veterans.

Membership Stats				
Post/ Squadron	Squadron Members	Post Members	% of Post	
1	27	281	9.69	
4	1	312	0.39	
7	19	119	16.09	
8	47	757	6.29	
16	25	234	10.79	
19	11	56	19.69	
30	19	156	12.29	
37	6	122	4.99	
40	59	870	6.89	
51	7	162	4.39	
56	9	126	7.19	
60	65	319	20.49	
149	29	307	9.49	
Nevada	324	3.821	8.59	

I am always available by email (shawn.horton@chezhorton.com) or telephone (720-394-5965), I don't always answer numbers I don't recognize but leave a message and I will get back to you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Horton
Commander, Detachment of Nevada

The American Legion August 2021 - July 2022 "300 Club" Lottery

FILL OUT THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT

YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER (S) FOR THE "360 CLUB" WILL BE ISSUED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED

City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:	- F-2	Post #
Quantity of Numbers : _	@ S	50.00 Each =	s
1st # Drawn	= \$250.00	0	3rd # Drawn = \$75.0
2nd # Draw	n = \$125.	.00	4th Drawn = \$50.00



Name:

The American Legion
737 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Attn: 300 Club



Open To All Legion & S.A.L. Members Only
Support The American Legion Department of Nevada
Buy Your Lottery Numbers Today
Only 300 Are To Be Sold

48 CHANCES TO WIN

4 Numbers are Drawn on the 15th of each Month \$50.00 Per Number

OK TO COPY THIS FORM



The American Legion Department of Nevada

737 Veteran's Memorial Drive Las Vegas, NV 89103 702-382-2353 TALDON737@AOL.COM

The mission of Nevada's Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow Veterans, their Families and their communities. Legion Department of Nevada has been welcoming VETERANS from all branches of our Armed Forces. Today, we continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country. Joining a Post in our State enables you to continue serving your God, Country and Community. Our mission is to implement the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace and blessings for our country, friends and families embodied in our preamble.



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