



January 2024 Issue NEVADA LEGION NEWS

The American Legion, Department of Nevada

AMERICAN
LEGION
**BE THE
ONE**



2024

Happy New Year



**THE FEBRAURY 17, 2024 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING
IS BEING CHANGED
DUE TO THE SUPER BOWL BEING PLAYED IN LAS VEGAS
TO
MARCH 2, 2024
THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
THE TUSCANY SUITES AND CASINO
IN LAS VEGAS**

Please mark your Calendars!





Happy 2024 American Legion Family!

I am hoping each and every one of our American Legion Family had a happy and healthy Holiday Season! We are off to the start of a great New Year Nevada!

I will repeat what I wrote in the December Newsletter in part. I am hoping now that the Newsletter has been revived since November, that more members are reading it and sharing it. I'm hoping that you send me photos of events you are hosting in January 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 February 2024 Newsletter filled with all we did and do.

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.

We are excited to be hosting Mission Training for our members and our ALA Junior Meeting. The Event will be January 27, 2024 at the Tuscany Suites and Casino.

Happy New Year American Legion Family.

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



ANNOUNCEMENT**PLEASE HELP GET THE WORD OUT**

Under the Cleland/Dole Act ALL WWII Veterans are now eligible to enroll for VA Healthcare.

Just as was done with WW1 Veterans a number of years ago and will likely be done for the other generations as they age out, the VA will now enroll and provide healthcare to any remaining WWII veterans regardless of their income or other eligibility. Even if previously denied enrollment – they need to reapply. They will be automatically enrolled in Priority Group 6 unless other eligibilities exist that allow for a higher Group.

The VA Golden Age Games will be held in Salt Lake City August 24-29, 2024. The VA is looking for Athletes wising to compete as well as volunteers to work at the event.

Many of you may have seen news about the VA treating persons here illegally. Of course, this so called ‘news’ went viral. The VA immediately issued a Statement of Fact that explained what was actually happening – but that ‘news’ did not gain the traction that the ‘mis’ information garnered.

The true story is (put in as simple terms as possible):

- ICE is budget a certain amount of money to hire medical professionals to examine and treat people coming across the border. However – The ICE department does not have a Fiscal Department of their own to pay the medical personnel they hire. So – as many Federal agencies do – the sought another Federal agency to do this payment task for them.
- ICE transferred the dollars in their budget to the VA and then the VA used those dollars to pay the medical providers that ICE had hired.
- Absolutely NO VA Medical personnel treated any illegal aliens.
- Absolutely NO VA money was spent treating any illegal aliens. (I guess you could make an argument that the VA Fiscal Dept expended man-hours to complete this function for ICE – but really – how petty).

And now – that there has been such a media outcry – ICE will have to set up its own Fiscal Department and hire personnel and increase their budget accordingly – thus using more tax dollars to do what was already being done much cheaper.

Always in Service,

Jeanette Rae Evans

NEC



Season's Greetings Fellow Legionnaires!!!

This news article addresses the following under Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation.
Health Administration Committee James Stanko, Colorado, Chairman

Purpose:

■ To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs to ensure that veterans and military personnel are receiving timely and quality care at VA Regional Medical Centers, community-based outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities and any other medical functions under VA Health Care;

■ To review and make recommendations on the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and all volunteer programs at these facilities;

■ To review and recommend policy as to veterans state homes (VHA);

■ To ensure that VHA research is fully funded and that the VHA affiliation with medical universities remains robust;

■ To ensure that the VHA budget can meet these objectives;

■ Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee. Source: <https://www.legion.org/commissions/veterans-affairs-rehabilitation-commission>

As we all know that it seems like it takes an act of Congress to get an appointment with a VA hospital/clinic in a timely manner. Many communities have outreach clinics that are available. Now, there are many local doctors willing to treat Veterans and receive pay from the VA. Thus, the wait time to see a local doctor is minimal. Local care is supposed to respond within ten days' time once the VA puts in for it. There are walk in clinics that take pay from the VA therefore, the Veteran can be seen at once. However, getting doctors to work with the VA is problematic at best. There is only one orthopedic doctor in Elko that is willing to see Veterans. That is pretty sad. The pay isn't the greatest and that is part of the problem.

We have all heard the horror stories of Veterans dying in the VA hospital waiting room or parking lot waiting to be seen. Many times the doctors at the hospital/clinic run up to two hours behind. The system is not perfect, but community-based outpatient clinics have come a long way to ensure our Veterans receive medical care in a timely manner.

If you are having trouble being seen in a timely manner on a regular basis, please contact a patient advocate at the VA Hospital/clinic near you. These advocates are there to support you.

Always in service,
Brenda Horton
Department 1 st Vice Commander



Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment of Nevada is currently at 59.95% membership and in 25th place in the nation; this is well on the way to the January 18 target of 60% and ahead of last year. I don't know what is happening but keep it up! 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. 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 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.

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 as of: December 18, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 60% TARGET 1/18/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-31	103	85.83%	76.47
2	FRANCE	168	-41	142	84.52%	76.36
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-392	1,359	84.36%	73.61
4	WISCONSIN	4,398	-765	3,404	77.40%	70.45
5	LOUISIANA	1,821	-316	1,409	77.38%	71.67
6	IOWA	4,914	-545	3,493	71.08%	66.20
7	MISSISSIPPI	736	-72	514	69.84%	62.91
8	ALABAMA	2,100	-195	1,455	69.29%	60.22
9	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-142	1,084	69.04%	57.51
10	GEORGIA	4,887	-414	3,346	68.47%	60.82
11	FLORIDA	23,066	-1,882	15,722	68.16%	57.74
12	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,032	9,262	67.53%	63.62
13	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-69	714	66.42%	58.85
14	MONTANA	1,091	-63	718	65.81%	62.13
15	IDAHO	659	-37	432	65.55%	50.91
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-130	1,792	64.69%	54.21
17	OREGON	1,534	-70	990	64.54%	53.21
18	MARYLAND	16,803	-696	10,778	64.14%	58.84
19	TENNESSEE	1,792	-69	1,144	63.84%	54.04
20	MINNESOTA	11,435	-308	7,169	62.69%	58.65
21	PUERTO RICO	156	-2	96	61.54%	56.21
22	ARKANSAS	406	-2	246	60.59%	48.52
23	OHIO	31,690	-8	19,022	60.03%	55.47
24	TEXAS	5,783	2	3,468	59.97%	52.22
25	NEVADA	387	0	232	59.95%	51.39
26	INDIANA	37,244	38	22,308	59.90%	55.66
27	CALIFORNIA	11,292	61	6,714	59.46%	52.11
28	NEBRASKA	6,992	39	4,156	59.44%	57.07
29	NEW JERSEY	9,662	72	5,725	59.25%	53.03
30	VIRGINIA	4,367	34	2,586	59.22%	51.56
31	DELAWARE	2,596	21	1,537	59.21%	52.59
32	CONNECTICUT	1,865	24	1,095	58.71%	50.86
33	NEW YORK	30,663	454	17,944	58.52%	53.85
34	MICHIGAN	26,236	403	15,339	58.47%	52.51
35	VERMONT	3,920	85	2,267	57.83%	54.07
36	WYOMING	1,248	30	719	57.61%	51.08
37	OKLAHOMA	1,430	45	813	56.85%	46.02
38	RHODE ISLAND	348	13	196	56.32%	47.41
39	KANSAS	6,055	252	3,381	55.84%	51.76
40	UTAH	460	21	255	55.43%	52.03
41	DIST OF COL	91	5	50	54.95%	51.14
42	COLORADO	2,952	151	1,620	54.88%	47.27
43	ARIZONA	8,595	460	4,697	54.65%	45.74
44	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	348	3,268	54.22%	48.58
45	MISSOURI	3,337	276	1,726	51.72%	45.60
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	455	2,804	51.62%	46.41
47	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	5,386	32,262	51.42%	47.65
48	WASHINGTON	2,682	259	1,350	50.34%	39.61
49	ALASKA	1,740	200	844	48.51%	40.34
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	4	16	48.48%	18.75
51	KENTUCKY	2,399	295	1,144	47.69%	40.69
52	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	334	1,222	47.13%	40.41
53	MAINE	2,757	437	1,217	44.14%	39.53
54	NEW MEXICO	1,582	253	696	43.99%	33.96
55	PHILIPPINES	79	40	7	8.86%	7.59
	Grand Totals:	382,111	3,215	226,052	59.16%	53.51

An excerpt out of the Headquarters Membership Planning Guide:

“Commanders often follow a formula for success by assigning an energetic and motivated Legionnaire to be the Post Membership Officer (or chairman) to supervise the following post membership teams:

- Contact team
- New Member team
- Retention team

The Contact team concentrates on developing leads to areas with a likely concentration of veterans. The geographical borders of the local post community should cover not only the local business zones and residential neighborhoods, but should reach out to neighboring communities and counties that are underserved by American Legion posts.

Some features of the expanded area should give it high potential for successful membership development, including:

- Convenience in travel time to the post and scheduled post events.
- A sense of community awareness about the post, its location and positive contributions.
- A willingness in the community to help boost post membership through poster and countertop displays, public-service announcement outlets, local advertising buyers, etc.).
- A high number of prospective members.

The contact team should restrict itself to building a list of areas and neighborhoods where potential members might be located. With post leaders, the membership chairman coordinates specific events to host in these local communities throughout the year.”

Use this as a tool to achieve that 100% membership by June.

If you have any questions, always feel free to reach out.

Paul “Pip” Valentin

Department Membership Chairman



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) 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



ANNUAL DONATIONS TO VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND LAS VEGAS FISHER HOUSE

Pictured are Post 76 Adjutant Steve Daugherty, 2nd V.C. Walter Cheatham, Legionnaire Jon Asdourian PDC, Department VAVS Representative and Post Director Jack Ford (Santa), and PDC, Department VAVS Deputy Representative and Post 76 Commander Joel Forman. Receiving donations for the Hospital from The American Legion Department of Nevada, and Post 76 for VAVS & Fisher House is Robert Johnson, Director of the Center for Development and Civic Engagement and his Elves.





BE THE ONE THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH

Per an American Legion resolution, the first of each month is Be the One Day. As posts plan activities for 2024, they're encouraged to promote the Legion's initiative to reduce the number of veteran suicides. Examples of ways posts can participate include:

COORDIINATE A WALK, RUN AND OR HIKE

Fitness is an integral part of dealing with the challenges of PTSD. Such events build camaraderie and engage younger eligible members.

CONDUCT BUDDY CHECKS

Any time of the month is a good time for a wellness check on veterans. Planning a Buddy Check event for the first day of the month also underscores the Legion's commitment to the care of our veterans.

LEAD A COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR, SYMPOSIUM OR SIMILAR AWARENESS EVENT

American Legion posts have brought together community leaders to share information about local resources available to those struggling with PTSD, TBI, addiction, suicide ideation and other issues.

DOWNLOAD, LISTEN TO AND OR SHARE AMERICAN LEGION'S SPECIAL MONTHLY PODCAST DEDICATED TO Be the One

A new episode drops on the first day of each month. Subscribe to Apple Podcasts and other major podcast hosting sites.

Visit betheone.org for resources, videos and more. Share how your post is contributing to the Be The One mission at taldon737@aol.com and I