

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

NEVADA LEGION NEWS

The American Legion, Department of Nevada



The National Salute to Veteran Patients takes place during the week of February 14 every year. This year, it takes place from February 12 to 18. The purpose of the holiday is to honor and pay tribute to the brave military veterans who receive medical care at Veterans Affairs (V.A.) medical facilities. The holiday also seeks to create more awareness about the importance of these centers and encourage more people to visit and volunteer.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS

Though the history of National Salute to Veteran Patients is largely unclear, the basis for the holiday has been clearly set out. According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there are three main reasons behind the creation of this holiday, which are — to pay tribute to veterans, to encourage people to visit and volunteer their services to veteran medical centers, and finally, to increase community awareness about the role of the V.A medical centers.

According to statistics provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, just under 100,000 veterans visit the medical centers every single day. And each year, more than nine million veterans also receive medical treatment. These centers are run by the Veterans Health Administration (V.H.A), which is the largest integrated healthcare system in the United States. There are over 1,200 facilities run by the V.H.A, 171 of which are V.A. medical centers. In addition to this, there are also 1,112 outpatient centers as well. These statistics underscore the need for more helping hands in the program.

V.H.A medical centers offer a wide range of medical services to patients. These services include orthopedics, mental health care, surgery, critical care, radiology, pharmacy, physical therapy, speech pathology, neurology, and much more.

During the week, a host of activities to create awareness take place at various centers, such as recreational activities, Valentine's gifting, and school visits. This year, make it a point of duty to celebrate and appreciate the veterans whose selfless service has contributed to the safety and peace of our country.

Since our charter, the American 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.

NEVADA LEGION NEWS "Veterans Strengthening America"

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Department Commander

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Commander's Corner Valerie Scheuering—Hubbell

Happy New Year, Happy Groundhog's Day and Happy Valentines Day Legionnaires,

I know you're wondering why we didn't have a January Newsletter. Our very hard working Newsletter publisher took a much needed vacation so we decided to combine the January and February articles, hence my greetings to you all.

Here's hoping all of you stayed safe and had Happy Holiday. I was under the weather most of December however I'm looking forward to 2023. During the month of January, our California neighbors suffered through devastating floods as well as California and Nevada dealing with heavy snow in the Sierra's. Now the east is dealing with subzero temperatures, so lets keep everyone effected in our prayers.

The groundhog saw his shadow which means six more weeks of winter, I hope not!

I was honored to attend the 101st birthday of Evelyn Dennison, a WWII veteran in January and presented her with one of my coins as well as the Nevada Veterans Coalition presenting her with the American Flag. I can only hope when I'm 101 (if I'm lucky enough to live that long) that those who know me will brave a blizzard, as there was that day, to attend my birthday as so many did hers. I did let her know that I'd see her next year at her 102nd.

I attended the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) Summit in Reno to hear about the upcoming Legislative Session, how to attend and show support for the Veterans Bill's be presented this year. The Symposia is in March and Veterans Organizations and Veterans meet to recommend areas that should be brought before the Legislators in this session. The Veterans And Military Day At the Legislature (VAMDAL) is going to be held on March 15, 2023 in Carson City, NV. If you wish to sit with a Legislator contact the NDVS for information. I attended a couple of years ago and found it very interesting and enlightening.

Due to the weather and a accident involving my husband, I've had to rearrange my visitation schedule. I will begin visiting as many posts as possible in March, April and May and contacting the District Commanders with my proposed itinerary at the D.E.C. this month. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and seeing what your posts are accomplishing.

The Department of Nevada Oratorical Contest is fast approaching and we have two contestants this year. I'm looking forward to hearing their speeches and sending the winner to the National Contest. In closing, stay safe and healthy in 2023. Gob bless this Great Nation and the American Legion.







2ND VICE COMMANDER

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Department Membership Report

Greetings fellow Legionnaires! I trust all of you are staying safe and warm during this winter season.

Congratulations on meeting our target goal of 166 new members. We have 185!! This is awesome! Thank you for all of the hard work you do. Even though we met this target, do NOT stop recruiting. The hard part is renewals.

Our next target date is February 15th with a goal of 85% membership. We need 431 members to reach this target.

On the National level, we are in 44th place with 78.31% membership. We are slightly behind of where we were last year at 78.35% membership.

In the Western Region we are in 9th place. Out of the five regions, the Western Region is in last place with 77.82% membership.

District 1:

They are at 75.68% membership. They have two new members and have eight Post 100 transfers. There are two Posts at or above 80% membership.

District 2:

They are at 80.71% membership. They have 136 new members and have 46 Post 100 transfers. There are three Posts over 100% membership, one Post over 95% membership, and three Posts over 80% membership. Kudos to Post 40 that has recruited 33 new members. District 2 is leading the way with membership. Kudos to this District!

District 3:

They are at 69.53% membership. They have nine new members with two members pending and one Post 100 transfer. Kudos to Posts 3 and 7 for bringing in three new members to their Posts.

District 4:

They are at 65.87% membership. They have 24 new members and six Post 100 transfers. Kudos to Post 16 for bringing in 17 new members. They have two Posts over 85% membership.

At the end of November, each Post was sent a list of expired members from 2021 and a recruiting letter if requested. Your District will be contacting you for a follow-up.

If a Post is able to get five of these expired members to rejoin, they are eligible for the VETS Pin from the National Commander. To date, Post 7 in District 3, is the only Post that I know of that has qualified for this pin. Kudos to Post 7 for this achievement!!!

Now is the time to go through the Awards Points Manuel to see which awards your Post is eligible to receive.

I can see how hard all of you are working and the progress being made. Don't get discouraged if you are not seeing the results you want. All you can do is the best you can. I am proud of all of you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Always in service, Brenda Horton Department Membership Chair

"Breaking Down the Walls and Closing the Gap"

ALT NEC

Jim Stewart

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9th Annual Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous Jack Youngs, National Vice Commander

Western Region 2022 – 2023 Sons of The American Legion



Well, we held WWWR9 on 27 – 28 Jan 2023 at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. It turned out to be a very successful couple of days. Our goals were to build camaraderie and get some instruction in a couple of areas, which were: BE THE ONE (START - Suicide Training And Response Teams Program out of Idaho) with Abe Abrahamson, Department Adjutant ID, and Matt Wrobel, Department Commander ID, as instructors. Ron Roberts, SAL NVC South MS, was our instructor for Parliamentary Procedures, Making Meetings Work, Resolutions, and Implementing Change. Jim Stewart, SAL PNVC NV, was our Event Coordinator and Team Building Exercise Mentor where exercises were set up in between the different topics, which was fun and interesting.

Everyone's participation was very energetic and positive. We had some new SAL Members who had just started Squadron 22 located in Pahrump, NV and they were extremely eager to learn. Paradise Squadron 149 of Nevada made a donation to CWF in the amount of \$775.00. SAL Leading Candidate Don "JR" Hall received a donation from SAL PNC Michael Fox's campaign, SAL PNVC Ned Fox made a donation on behalf of the Detachment of California and the final donation came from Haggin Grant Squadron 521 in Rio Linda, California home of SAL PNC Michael Fox.

We had folks from Detachments across the country to include Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico, and Ohio. We had in attendance six SAL Past National Commanders, five SAL Past National Vice Commanders, the SAL Leading Candidate, the SAL Trailing Candidate, two SAL Regional National Vice Commanders, the National SAL Liaison, the TAL National Executive Director of Programs, and the Nevada Department Adjutant!

While WWWR9 was in full swing, CENTCOM was there working on a focus group from the West in which James Baca, Executive Director of Programs and Kevin Mook, SAL Liaison were in attendance. CENTCOM Chairman Jeff Vrabel, Sr. said it was great to get perspective from first year members, as well as hearing what members in the Western Region thought about the direction of the organization.

The most important and critical part to the weekend was something I did not learn about until I was back in Idaho. Once the training was completed from Be The One, our instructors were given a room so that if anyone needed or wanted to chat with them, they were afforded their privacy. While in their room, they received a call from someone in Idaho requesting that contact be made with an individual who was in need of a suicide intervention. As it turned out, they tried contacting the individual but to no avail, at which time, Abe left a message for the individual to contact him. On 30 Jan 2023, Abe received a call from the same person who needed the intervention and asked if he could bring another person who was in need of the same and Abe informed them to both meet up for a meal the following day. When Tuesday came, there wasn't one, or two individuals, but three people who were looking for help, all from the one call. IF THIS ISN'T A MIRACLE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!!!

BE THE ONE = ALR = Ask, Listen, Reach Out to someone struggling.

SGT AT ARMS

Jan

Jan is the time to be thinking about Boys State and the Oratorical Contests. Oratorical contests are important to our youth in regards to opportunities for scholarships in increasing amounts for each level of achievements. It provides our youth an opportunity to study or Constitution in depth and come away with a greater understanding of our government and supporting our way of life. They can walk away from each event with pride in themselves and pride in their country. We must be going to our schools to promote this program and the Boys State program. We need to let these young men and women know that going to Boys State can give them a greater understanding of their government and communities. They will meet others who can help them achieve their goals in life. Plus make friends they otherwise wouldn't ['t meet. Remember this is part of our Four Pillars and we need to be making sure we are meeting our mission and goals. For God and Country Pam

Feb

As we move into February of our new year, we need to stay focused on our youth goals. We need to continue to push for our young men to sign up for Boys State. We need to be working within our Posts to ensure we are fund raising to ensure each one of their costs are covered. We need to promote this program to our members and seek out those who can assist in the training at camp and those who can provide transportation to posts for bus pickup and upon their return. We need to start thinking about how we can be mentors and examples to our communities young people. There is no greater feeling than knowing that you had a positive influence some young persons life. Remember the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, we need to be a factor in how they perceive our country when we may be long gone. For God and Country Pam



Hello everyone,

I hope you had a fantastic holiday season. I wanted to make everyone aware of a somewhat sophisticated new scam that's going around - I know because it happened to me. A few days ago I received a call on my cell phone, then a follow up email to my personal account from someone claiming to be a process server attempting to deliver me legal documents. This was immediately fishy, but I played along and called them back. The person on the other end of the line told me I had been named in a civil lawsuit, and that if I wanted to avoid being served at home or at work, I could contact the law firm responsible at 1800-xxx-xxxx.

Someone had gone as far as to create an elaborate fake website for the law firm, listing the phone number I had been given. Prior to calling, I checked with the State Bar that no such law firm actually existed (it did not). The "attorney" on the other end of the line claimed I was being sued by a well known bank for \$6500 in unpaid credit card bills from 2005 (I had never had a credit card with this bank), and they were going to file the suit next week if I did not settle out of court ahead of time. Still playing along, I asked for the supporting documentation, and I was sent a phony demand letter (from the phony law firm website) on legal letterhead outlining what was owed and why. It was requested that I sign it electronically via Docusign and submit a settlement payment of \$3500.

I reported everything to the State Bar Association and will also be filing a police report in hopes it might help these people be caught. Please be aware if you encounter something similar, that it is absolutely not real, no matter how convincing it sounds. Never provide or confirm personally identifying information to anyone over the phone or Internet (even if they have information about you). Lastly, never sign documents or send money to anyone you don't know, regardless of who or what they claim to be.



Department of Nevada 104th Annual Convention

June 24th and 25th 2023

Convention Brochure AD Request Form

Full Page 8 1/2 X 11	\$120.00
Half Page	\$60.00
Quarter Page	\$30.00
Business Card	\$25.00
Booster Signature	\$2.00
Those Who Served	\$2.00

Please submit no later than June 9th if you wish to make it into the Brochure

Have your "Camera Ready" ad and payment to:

Richard Eberly P.O. Box 2848 Carson City, NV 89702

Thank you for your continued support of our Veterans and Programs.

For God and Country

PDC Richard Eberly Convention Chair 775-434-3386 Eberlyrichard1967@gmail.com

Booster Page

John Hood	Carol Lambert	Charlie Shoemaker
Eva Hood	Jun Hill	Leon Avery
		Barb Avery
	1-507 BC 01	

Those Who Have Served Example

William BrownUS Army2/1942 - 3/1947Woodland, MEGerald GettsUS Army4/1953 - 3/1962Brownville, TXJohn HenryUS Marines2/1916 - 1/1919Bidderford, CAChuck HansonUS Air Force4/8/2012 -PresentLaughlin, NVMary JonesUS Coast Guard2/2/1996 - 1/31/2000Bullhead City, AZ

Please Submit no later than June 9th, 2023, your "Veteran" or "Booster" Information and payment to:

Richard Eberly P.O. Box 2848 Carson City, NV 89702 775-434-3386 Eberlyrichard1967@gmail.com

Department of Nevada 104th Annual Convention June 24th & 25th, 2023

Convention Brochure Ad Form. (See Attached for Pricing)

Organization/Person Placing Contact Information: Phone #		
Email Address Size Ad: (circle) Full Page; 1/2	2 Page: 1/4 Page: Bu	siness Card
Cost:	2 i ugo, n4 i ugo, Du	Siness oura
Booster Page: Name		Cost \$2.00
Those Who Served Page: Nar	ne	
Military Branch	Dates Served	
Hometown		_ Cost \$2.00
Total Cost Submitted with th	is page \$	
Send this Form, "Camera Rea	dy Ad" and your pay	ment to

Richard Eberly P.O. Box 2848 Carson City, NV 89702 775-434-3386 Eberlyrichard 1967@gmail.com



PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans-and their survivors-with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis. Chronic sinusitis. Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply online at VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction.

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387. M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ)

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.



The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file.

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received. VA will review the claim under the new law.



Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT Download the VA Health and Benefits App Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/



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Sons of the American Legion—Detachment Commander Shawn Horton





Membership is 74.51% placing us at 33° in the nation, on pace to meet our 75% goal on 2/15. We need 3 more members to hit target and I am certain that 3 more can be found. Retention is at 59.44%, we need to get this up to the 85-90% range. I

know a lot of members won't renew until later in the year and we need to work on changing this. By the rules, we are now in the suspension stages and members are not entitled to all the benefits of membership. There needs to be a strong focus on membership to succeed in achieving the "audacious" goal of 1 million members of the SAL by 2032.

We still have three new Squadrons in the works, 22, 76, and 32. We need two more to achieve the hardest part of the Triple Nickel Award. There is a discussion around a Squadron for Boys State and a discussion about both UNR and UNLV. If you are interested in helping organize a new Squadron, please contact me. We need to work together to make membership available to more people in Nevada.

Donations to the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) stand at \$1,075 (\$2.99/member) and short of the CWF goal for the Detachment of Nevada of \$5500 (\$15.40/member). No donations for the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF) have been received that I am aware of, but Squad-ron 7 received a donation from Auxiliary Unit 7 for \$2,000 that will be posted at the DEC. The VCF goal for the Detachment of Nevada is \$3000 (\$8.40/member). Squadrons must make this a focus as SAL National Commander Carlton has set a goal for the Sons of The American Legion to be the largest contributor to the \$2M goal set by Commander Troiola. No donations for the National Emergency Fund (NEF) have been received. The NEF goal for the Detachment of Nevada is \$2000 (\$5.60/member). All the goals are subject to change based on how other Detachments are doing. The fundraising goal is to be the highest per-capita in the nation in all three fundraising areas.

Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous was January 28th in Las Vegas at the Tuscany Suites & Casino. This is the first year where the Rendezvous is an official Detachment of Nevada sponsored event and we had an amazing turnout. In addition to the regional members attending we had 9 Past National Commanders at the Rendezvous and one additional that stopped in the day before the event. The focus was not well represented, and a change was made to include members from Squadron 22 to discuss their experiences in joining. There was discussion across the board including clarification on the membership rules regarding the ratio of SAL members to Legion members with the official guidance that this ratio is on a national basis and we need not limit our membership. With that guidance, get out and recruit!

The Detachment has been having monthly conference calls which are not well attended. There was a discussion at the Detachment Executive Meeting to discuss the low turnout and address the issue with the leadership. The meeting is the first Tuesday of each month and anyone may listen in. If you are interested and wish to use Teams, the following information is required: Meeting ID: 272 911 810 647 Passcode: D3p5iB You can also join by phone: +1 775-393-9964

796 285 50#

Squadrons, please submit a short summary of any events held each month so they can be included in the quarterly DEC report.

I ask each of the Posts and Districts to help their Squadrons be successful in our efforts to support Veterans through our unique positions of Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage.

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans.

As always, I am available by email (commander@nevadasal.org) 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 Page 10

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Brenda Horton

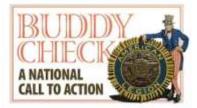
2022–2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/ NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 14, 2022	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 13, 2022	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 9, 2022	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 14, 2022	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 19, 2023	80%
PRESIDENTS DAY	FEBRUARY 15, 2023	85%
AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 15, 2023	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 19, 2023	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 17, 2023	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless a holiday falls on that day or at the beginning of that week. The February to May target dates moved to the third week to maximize end-of-year renewal notices.

Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Thursday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, **the January target date** will be the third Wednesday of the month due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.





DISTRICT 1 HAPPENINGS

The District 1 Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for January 14 in Lovelock was canceled due to questionable weather for travel. District 1 has been covered in snow since New Year's Eve. The temperatures have been in the single digits overnight and most days have been at/or near freezing. A break seems to have come to the area this week.

Thank you to Post Commanders Chuck Trousdale (who is recovering nicely from a weather related icy fall and three broken ribs), Jim Stewart, Larry Rackley and Lionel Motta for providing details for this report.

POST 1 RENO

Post 1 members will notice a long awaited safety improvement to the Post building. New entrance doors have been purchased and installed, featuring push panic bars and a change to open-out operation to improve occupant safety. This is a major improvement, as the building was moved when the USAF took over Stead Army Airfield, to the current location in 1948, as two surplus government barracks structures (you all remember those).

Also, the first phase of other major projects are in progress to improve the Post Home. Including conversion from boiler heat to wall mounted heater / air HVAC system was completed. The Associated General Contractors, and local contractors, led by Clark and Sullivan Construction and RHP Mechanical, have donated this work and equipment.

Members of Post 1, assisted by Post 37 in Fernley, will again conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, on February 18. All Post members are encouraged to participate in these activities.

Post members will present a"Luv A Vet" information booth at PJ and Company restaurant in Reno for the purpose of community and Membership outreach on February 10 during breakfast and lunch.

On March 10, Post 1 will host an American Legion Family Birthday party for dinner and camaraderie. Be prepared to celebrate.

POST 12 RENO

Post 12's February activities and upcoming March events will include contacting Post 12 members who have been placed into the expired membership status because they have not renewed by December 31.

The Post Will send Birthday Cards to members enjoying "one more "who have birthdays from February 14 to March 15.

Post members will be conducting the quarterly maintenance and visitation to PNC Miller's and PDC Scrugham's grave sites at Mountain View Cemetery in West Reno. Post volunteers are needed to present American Legion medals for four area High Schools JROTC Awards Ceremonies in April.

POST 30 SPARKS

Post 30 is busy with normal Post functions and Boy Scout activities during this reporting period. There are no planned special activities for the month of February.

The Post will host a dinner to celebrate the American Legion Birthday on the second Wednesday of March.

The Post continues to work on membership renewal, retention and new legionnaires. Post donations to National and Department charities are also on the agenda for the next month.

American Legion

Jack Edstrom

District 1 Commander

Let me start this month's article by welcoming you all to 2023. May you have an enjoyable and prosperous New Year.

It's that time of the year when we are contemplating goals and accomplishments of the past year. So, with that in mind, let's look at some of District 2's accomplishments. I will start off with membership.

So far this year the district has picked up 141 new members; and, we are at 82% of our annual membership goal. My membership experience substantiates that 75% of our goal at year's end is realistic. I have contended for years that because of PUFLs, autopay, and early Birds the first 50% is a slam-dunk effort. The next 25% is easy so 75% makes sense. I have found the next 15% is hard and that is where the Post membership team must spend considerable effort to make it. We have just about reached that goal. Now the last 10% is difficult due to deaths, transfers, and disenchantment with post activities. So, when I look at our membership record for the year, we are where we should be. Now on the other side of the ledger is our renewal rate.

We finished last year with 3587 members. As of the beginning of February we have renewed 2804 members which is 78%. This tells me we are tracking renewals as well as our annual goal. I believe by the end of the 3rd quarter, thanks to the excellent effort of our Post Commanders and 1st Vices we will be into the final 10%. And, that's where challenge begins, and I am positive District 2 can meet it. I should note, our district has 644 PUFL members which is just short of 18% of our annual goal.

As for other accomplishments, the district had two Post Commanders attend the National American Legion College. This is the first time in several years the Department received two slots for the college, and both our attendees were successful in completing the program. And with COVID federal and state restrictions being rolled back activities at the Posts have really picked up. This means our members are out in their communities; and I expect this has been a factor in our having 141 new members. We also had our National Commander here in Southern Nevada. He attended the Department executive Committee (DEC) meeting in Laughlin, a first for Post 60. The district also has started the process for a couple new SAL squadrons and possibly a couple new ALR chapters. So, 2022 was a good year and 2023 should be a better one.

As for goals for the upcoming year, first on our agenda was the District Oratorical contest. We were finally able to find a location to hold it; however, fell short on getting anyone to compete. We had several candidates, but they all backed out at the last minute. I believe a little more attention to detail we can and will do better next year.

Next on the agenda will be a first for the district and that is a District American Legion College. We will be holding this event in conjunction with our District Convention the first weekend in June. More on this will be coming out in the next month or so.

The next two activities deal with Posts. We will be working to get Post 75 up and running again plus getting a new Post in Amargosa Valley at a new veteran housing development being constructed there. So, it should be a fun and exciting year.

And last but not least is the Consolidated Post Reports. A couple years ago before COVID reared its ugly head we had 100% submittal in District 2. I believe our commanders are up to doing it again. I feel with a little effort the Departments should be able to meet that goal.

As for highlighting post activities, the honors go to Post 27 in Sandy Valley. For the past few years, 1st Vice Mark Potes and his wife, Sue, have gone all out decorating their home and property. This year they added an additional touch by having Post 27 as part of their overall display. Not only did Santa show up but so did the carolers from a local church. So, thank you Mark and Sue for making Post 27 a part of the Christmas celebration.

As a parting reminder, it's time for all of us to consider donating to the Department and National Charities. All these charities are for our Veterans and families so are important. Remember, you don't have to break the bank; just give 100% even if it only means a dollar to each. With 12,500 posts in the Legion giving, it means many will benefit. Who knows, you may be one of them.









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American Legion Riders



I have received no information from any Riders Chapters. If you want to have your events included in the newsletter, please, email me. As an incentive to improve this newsletter article, I will donate \$100 to the Legacy Fund in the name of the Chapter that provides the most valuable input to the monthly newsletter between January and June. I will be the sole judge on the value so make it worthwhile. This is an opportunity to earn recognition for your Chapter and support a worthy cause.

Some Rider's chapter is missing out on a free \$100 donation.

I am happy to announce that Post 16 has started an American Legion Riders Chapter. Welcome to the club (Can I say that?)

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

> ***NEW*** Feb 4: American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training at the Flamingo Hotel. For info or to sign up, go to https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training

> Feb 12: Monthly Meetings: Join us for our monthly breakfast meetings at the Leatherneck Club. Doors open at 0830 and the meeting begins at 0930. The Auxiliary Unit 149 also meets at the same time as the Post. Come early for a small breakfast buffet that's available before and during the meetings.

> Feb 21: Legion Night at the Leatherneck Club. Join us for our monthly social, get-together on Taco Tuesday from 1700-2100.

> Mar 12: Monthly Meetings; Join us for our monthly breakfast meetings at the Leatherneck Club. Doors open at 0830 and the meeting begins at 0930. The Auxiliary Unit 149 also meets at the same time as the Post. Come early for a small breakfast buffet that's available before and during the meetings.

> ""NEW"" Mar 10-11: Auxiliary Yard Sale. Time to clean out your garage and closets to help a good cause. Items can be taken to our Adjutant's home at 4008 W Bonanza Rd on Mar 8-9. Most household items are welcomed, but no clothing or large furniture.

> Mar 21: Legion Night at the Leatherneck Club. Join us for our monthly social, get-together on Taco Tuesday from 1700-2100.

> Mar 25: Rock the Troops Poker Run. This is our main fundraiser of the year, so will need your support. Details to come.

Over the Horizon:

May 18-21: Armed Forces Weekend. Join us for a trip to Hawthome, NV for the largest Armed Forces Day celebration, west of the Mississippi. Make reservations early.

Sep 14-17 ALR Western ROMP in Tombstone, AZ. The ROMP stands for Riding on Military Pride. ROMPs are a chance to meet other American Legion Riders, do some great riding, and have some fun for a weekend. We have reservations at the Tombstone Grand Hotel. Make reservations early, as you can always cancel them later.

For God and Country

Vic "Doc" Moss Adjutant, American Legion Paradise Post 149 PO Box 70184 Las Vegas, NV 89170 Ph. 702-493-3028

American Legion Post 149: http://post149.org/

Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/paradise149/

International Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers: http://bmc.org/



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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

MAY 6-7, 1998

Resolution No. 1: The American Legion Data Base and Name and Address Information Protection

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The name and address list of members of The American Legion is a very valuable asset; and

WHEREAS, Technological changes may place the security of this asset at risk; and WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee, by Resolution No. 1 adopted August 23, 1976, established standards to protect said asset; and

WHEREAS, It is advisable to reiterate and bring to date the protection and standards for use of said asset; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 1998, That it hereby reaffirms, reiterates and amends Resolution No. 1, adopted by the National Executive Committee August 23, 1976, to take into account changes in technology; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the data base of The American Legion, which includes lists of names and addresses of individuals and Posts in electronic media, is a very valuable asset of The American Legion which the National Adjutant is hereby directed to protect as a paramount duty; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each Department of The American Legion is strongly urged to adopt procedures and standards to protect data base information which may come into the custody or control of a Department; and, be it further

RESOLVED, Under no circumstances shall the names and addresses of individual Legionnaires be released or lists of Posts be released to any outside person, firm or corporation for a purpose not directly connected with a program or activity of The American Legion, except that nothing contained herein shall restrict the distribution of such names and addresses to Departments and Posts as may be necessary to the administration of programs of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the authority previously extended is re-affirmed to permit administrative officials of The American Legion to furnish lists of American Legion Posts to Government agencies to assist in carrying out programs which have this expressed approval of The American Legion or which, in the judgment of the National Adjutant, are related to or in accordance with such expressed actions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when an inquiry is received concerning an individual Legionnaire, the National Headquarters may forward such inquiry to the individual concerned so that direct contact may be made by the Legionnaires with the person making the inquiry, but National Headquarters will not provide any information to the inquiry, beyond an acknowledgment of the inquiry and a statement that if the person in question is

found to be a member of The American Legion, the inquiry will be forwarded to that person; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above restrictions will not apply to official inquiries received in writing from recognized law enforcement agencies on the stationery of such agencies, and that National Headquarters personnel are authorized and directed to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and to provide the information sought in compliance with official requests of such agencies.



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

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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3rd District Lincoln Litchfield	(775) 934-1058	lincoln.litchfield@gmail.com
4th District Richard Eberly	(775) 434-3386	eberlyrichard1967@gmail.com

The American Legion August 2022 - July 2023 "300 Club" Lottery

FILL OUT THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT

YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER (S) FOR THE "300 CLUB" WILL BE ISSUED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED

Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:		Post #
Quantity of Numbers :		50.00 Each = \$	

1st # Drawn = \$250.00 3rd # Drawn = \$75.00 2nd # Drawn = \$125.00 4th # Drawn = \$50.00

> Send Check or Money Order Payable to: 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 ONLY \$50.00 Per Number

OK TO COPY THIS FORM

4 Numbers are Drawn on the 15th of each Month

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PACT Act Fraud Prevention

On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed <u>the Sergeant First Class Heath</u> <u>Robinson Honoring Our</u> <u>Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act of 2022</u> (PACT Act) — possibly the largest expansion of Veterans benefits in history — into law.

The PACT Act expands Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances, and it helps VA provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

However, predatory companies are targeting Veterans' retroactive benefit payments and VA needs your continued support to help us educate Veterans and their survivors about the types of fraud tactics being used against them – especially now that the PACT Act has been passed.

Some predatory companies, not accredited by VA, are targeting Veterans by offering to assist them with their VA benefit claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require those applying to pay a portion of their VA benefits for this 'help'. VA will <u>never</u> charge Veterans or their family members to apply for the benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Please share the following information with Veterans and their survivors to help them guard against fraud and scams:

- Apply directly to VA. You may submit your application securely <u>online</u> via VA.gov or in person at any regional office. You may file your claim directly with VA, and VA will help gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- Be suspicious of media advertisements from companies which provide information about the PACT Act and suggest you can only obtain benefits with their help. These companies may not be accredited with VA and may be attempting to charge you illegal fees.
- Use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) <u>Accreditation Search</u> to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.
 Be cautious of aggressive law firms or companies expressing a sense of urgency and insisting you must act now.
- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are <u>accredited Veterans Service</u> <u>Organizations</u>, <u>agents and attorneys</u> who may assist you.
- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the fully completed form.

Helpful Resources and Tools

Veterans and their survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to <u>www.va.gov/PACT</u> or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

To report suspected fraud or predatory companies, please contact VA OIG (OIG) Hotline (va.gov).

Veterans and their survivors who suspect a company is using predatory practices, should file a complaint with the <u>Federal Trade Commission</u> and the <u>Better</u> <u>Business Bureau</u>. For more information on how to avoid scams, go to <u>https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams</u>.

Although there's still a lot of work to be done, we appreciate your partnering with us to help protect Veterans and their survivors against fraudsters and PACT Act scams!



American Legion Department of Nevada Executive Committee Meeting

Hello Everyone,

(DEC) Department Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Carson City Nevada.

Western Nevada College Meeting will be after Oratorical Contest on 02/18/2023 Oratorical starts at 9:00AM

Son's Will meet 02/18/2023 at 8:00AM

To Book a room your code will be American Legion (775) 885-9000 Gold Dust West

Room cost Total includes Taxes and Resort Fees.

Friday 02/17/2023 \$111.89 Saturday 02/18/2023 \$111.89

Make sure you book your room soon, so you don't lose the discounted rate.

Saturday Night Dinner \$40.00 Located at Gold Dust West

Time: 6:00PM Social Hour Cash Bar Available

Time: 7:00PM Dinner (Last date for tickets is (1/20/2023) need to let Chef, staff know).

No dinner tickets will be sold at the door due to total meals made for the event.

A National Visitor will be at our DEC all are invited to attend the meeting and dinner contacts will be:

 Richard Eberly
 (775) 434-3386

 Kimberly Eberly
 (775) 315-5784

 Lionel Motta
 (702) 885-4468

Send payments for dinner to:

American Legion Post 56 P.O. Box 2848 Carson City, NV. 89702



As a member of The American Legion, you have access to discounted contract pricing wherever business takes you. Your discount never expires and can be used for personal, school or business purchases such as ink, toner, paper, cleaning and classroom supplies! Find all the essential items you need to keep running as efficiently as possible.

To shop online or to print your Store Purchasing Card, visit officediscounts.org/tal.



and cannot be combined with other afters or promotions. No

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American Legion Members Receive a \$250 Travel Credit at Signup



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United States Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) began on July 31, 2001 with the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) implementation of Part B. Part E implementation began on October 28, 2004.

Part B of the EEOICPA provides lump-sum compensation of \$150,000 and medical benefits to current and former workers who have been diagnosed with cancers, beryllium disease, or chronic silicosis and whose illnesses were caused by exposure to radiation, beryllium, or silica while working directly for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), its contractors or subcontractors, a designated Atomic Weapons Employer, or a beryllium vendor. Under Part B, compensation of \$50,000 and payment of medical expenses from the date a claim is filed is available to uranium workers (or their survivors) previously awarded benefits by the Department of Justice under Section 5 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).

Part E of the EEOICPA provides federal compensation and medical benefits to DOE contractor and subcontractor employees who worked at covered facilities and developed an illness as a result of exposure to toxic substances. Under Part E, monetary compensation of up to \$250,000 per employee may be available for the employee's whole-body impairment and/or wage loss due to an accepted condition.

Under the EEOICPA, if the employee is no longer living, survivors of qualified workers may also be entitled to benefits.

Contact a DEEOIC Resource Center

DOL established 11 Resource Centers nationwide to assist workers and their families apply for benefits under the EEOICPA. The Resource Center staff provides valuable information about the claims process to claimants and assists claimants in completing the necessary forms to file an EEOICPA claim. The Resource Center staff can provide assistance either in-person or over the telephone, and thus is able to assist individuals who are outside the immediate geographical area. You can find the complete list of Resource Centers, including regional jurisdictions, contact information, and toll-free numbers at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/energy or call toll-free at (866) 888-3322. The DEEOIC Resource Center to contact in your area is:

Las Vegas Resource Center Flamingo Grand Plaza Suite W-156 Las Vegas, NV 89119 Las Vegas, NV 89119 Phone: 702-697-0841; Toll-free: 866-697-0841



