



DECEMBER 2024, Issue 6
NEVADA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWS





AMERICAN LEGION

Department Commander

Season's Greetings Legionnaires!

During the month of December let us remember The Day of Infamy on December 7; Pearl Harbor Day in 1941. Let us remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who lost their lives on that day. Panama: Operation Just Cause in 1989. U.S. military action (December 1989–January 1990) that centered on the invasion of Panama for the purpose of removing Gen. Manuel Noriega, the country's dictatorial de facto ruler, from power. Let us remember the 23 soldiers who lost their lives.

December 11th our 75% membership target date. We can do this!!!

On October 26th, I was honored to participate in the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City. It's always a pleasure seeing my Legion Family.

Lionel and I participated in a zoom meeting with the Grouper Organization on November 5th. Veterans that are 65 years and older can sign up for this through Medicaid. They will pay seniors to be active. Please see the flyer in this newsletter. We need someone to be a point of contact for this. If you are interested, please contact Department.

On November 6th, there were two zoom meetings held; at 5:30 pm there was the NBS committee meeting. The updates on the website were discussed. Then at 6:30 pm there was the legislature committee meeting with Manny Garcia.

On November 8th, there was a VSO zoom with Sandy Schneeberger, to talk about the VSO's onboarding status.

On November 11th, I was honored to be the Grand Marshall for the Veterans Day Parade (asked by VFW Post 2350 in Elko). It was a great turnout to honor our Veterans. That evening Elko Post 7 and VFW Post 2350 held a joint Veterans Day Dinner. It was a great time of fellowship.

The winter DEC was held on November 16th at Post 30 in Sparks. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting. There were some interesting discussions on a couple of topics that were presented. One of the topics is tabled until the details are worked out. A Search committee was voted on that will be headed by past NEC Jeanette Evans, to find a replacement for Adjutant Motta when it is time for him to step down.

The dinner that evening held a special memory for me. When I was in my second year of being District 3 Commander under Department Commander Stewart while attending a DEC meeting/dinner at Post 30, I was asked by Dan DePozo if I would like to become Department Commander someday. I said yes. So it was only fitting to have my first DEC at the place where I made my decision to become Department Commander. A few tears were shed over this memory. There was over \$600 raised for the Commander's Project for the Veterans Guest House. Thank you everyone who has donated to this project this year! It is truly appreciated.

Brenda Horton, Department Commander
"Every Voice Matters"

Nevada Day Parade in Carson City



Veterans Day Parade: Was honored to be Grand Marshall this year



**Detachment Commander Shawn Horton helped carry the colors.
District 3 Commander Ron Petroski & Lincoln Litchfield walked the parade and handed out membership brochures.**



Veterans Day Dinner with the VFW Post 2350



DEC Dinner at Post 30 Residents of the Veterans Home



Article about the Palisades Cemetery Cleanup



Greetings Members,

Hoping you all had a wonderful Veterans Day & Thanksgiving! I did something different this year on Veterans Day and attended the Veterans Day Parade in Las Vegas rather than be in it. It was awesome to watch and cheer on everyone in it. I then attended Post 8's Veterans Day Event. It was a fantastic day.

I attended Unit 40's Girls State Fundraiser Painting Party, November 19th. We painted Pumpkins and mine didn't come out half bad...I can't even draw a good stick person. Fun was had by all.

November 20th, I collected the food donations from RC Willey in Henderson & met up with Dennis Christensen, Post 76 to collect the donations from the Summerlin store. I sorted all the food and repacked the car for the next day. At 6am my husband & I were off to Share Village and met up with Walter "Buzz" Cheatham, Post 76, who graciously volunteered to help. There were already people in line when we arrived and the food pantry didn't open till 8am. We packed over 50 bags of food. Channel 8, Smiths Food, RC Willey and the American Legion donated to this food drive where over 150 people were in line. Share Village provides Veterans Transitional Housing and a food pantry every Thursday.

November 27th, I stopped at Post 8 to pick up the floral arrangements I ordered. This was a fundraiser by the ALA Unit 14 juniors and what a beautiful job they did! I used it as my Thanksgiving Day centerpiece & it still looks great as of this article. Happy Holidays!

For God and Country,
Charmaine Meana
ALA Department President
American Legion Family – Be The Team!











Hello Members,

December is a very special month. It is a time for us to think about eggnog, holiday parties, and family. It is also a time of being filled with the Christmas spirit. This is a perfect time to **BeThe One!** Take the time out of your busy schedule to slow down and enjoy those around you. Find it in your heart to reach out and help a veteran or your fellow neighbor during this holiday season. Visit the VA Hospital, a nursing home or a long term care facility and offer some holiday cheer and a smile. You would not believe how much it would mean to them. Also, please be aware of those who have lost someone recently, they usually have the hardest time during the holidays. That is when they miss them the most. If you know of someone who is in this situation and see them becoming withdrawn and quiet, reach out to them and involve them in your activities. God will bless you for caring.



Always in Service,

Jim Stewart

National Executive Committee
Past Department Commander
Department of Nevada



Department Executive Committee Meeting November 16, 2024 Duby Reid Post 30



Duby Reid Post 30 in Sparks, Nevada hosted the Fall Department Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, November 16th, 2024. Department Commander Brenda Horton was gracious to allow Post 30 to combine her Commander's Dinner with the Post's Annual Veterans Day Dinner.

Every year, Duby Reid Post 30 hosts a free dinner for the veterans of the community to show our appreciation for their service. Again this year, we were honored to have some residents from the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home, located in Sparks, Nevada. As you can see from the pictures, there were a number of veterans and their guests enjoying the catered dinner.

The Guest Speakers for this year were two of the Nevada Boys State staffers; Dillon Moss, the NBS Deputy Executive Director and Travis Terry, the NBS Programs Director. They addressed not only the Nevada Boys State program, they also illuminated how the Boys State program impacts the youth of our community and those around them. They further described all of the opportunities these young men have going forward.

We were also fortunate to have a few other veteran organizations attend. The Sparks VFW Silver State Post 3396 provided their shuttle van to run the transportation to and from the hotel and the Post Hall. The Post's Veterans Day Dinner has been growing each and every year.

Jim Stewart
Post Commander
Duby Reid Post 30


First, I wish everyone a safe and happy remainder of your holiday year. Before you know it, it will be 2025!

I was asked to talk about my experience that I had attending the National American Legion College in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 6-day class was held in the Legion Headquarters building and was very challenging. I arrived on a Saturday afternoon getting situated in my room then attending the orientation that evening. Sunday, class started at noon and that morning was the only free time there was. Days went from 0730 to 1730 and the first few days there was a couple hours in the evening. The activities were challenging and getting everyone settled in our group went well. Each day started with a test and a final on Thursday. The test results were revealed each day providing a high and low score between the 5 groups we were divided into.

All the exercises and lectures were very informative but one of the big benefits was the networking with all the other people. It was interesting to see how things are done in other states. During this class, you make lifelong friends and be there for each other when questions arise. If you progress through the post, district, and department, the Legion College is something to consider.

On Thursday evening was the banquet and we were honored to have both the current National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr and last year's National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer. Friday was graduation and class pictures then off, heading home.

The class was an adventure and I was very pleased to have attended. Thank you, Department of Nevada.

Robert "Bob" Bencsko

Commander, District 2, Dept Nevada

ALNVDIST2@amcben.com , www.nevadalegiond2.org

The logo for the American Legion, featuring a stylized American flag with three red stripes and a blue field with white stars, positioned to the left of the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "BE THE ONE" are written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "THE" in red.

Post 32 W.W. manning post has begun a beautification project on the exterior of the post. Commander Gillespie had some one donate the side walk for safety issues. The renovation of the post is coming along nicely for a small post. They achieved 100 percent membership for the Dept. They decided to do a sand bag retaining wall using just bags of cement. Post also has been working on the cemetery cleanup in the Palisades I can't wait to see what they do next.



Post 7 Reed-Gregory This post has been working on a special project that needed to be completed by the time winter set in. Dept 2nd vice and the Detachment of the Sons Commander, along with Post 32 Commander had set aside time to do a make shift roof patch to Ed and Sharon Nelson roof for a dry Thanksgiving. Working together from different posts has been a very rewarding.



Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander



The Detachment is in 17th place in the nation with 50.74% membership, with almost all being renewals (46.83%), exceeding the 45% Target ahead of the 12/11/2024 date. Please continue to focus on renewals as we can't be losing those who are already dedicating their time and efforts to the SAL. It is significantly harder to recruit someone new than it is to keep the members we have. If you know of someone on the fence about renewal, please, reach out to our membership chair, Pip Valentin, me, or any of the other officers for suggestions.

At the dinner for the Department of Nevada Executive Committee meeting/ Veterans Day Dinner, there was over \$300 raised for the Department Commander's program to fund the Fisher House and Nevada Veterans Guest House. This amount was matched by Jim Stewart to bring over \$600 for the night

More information about the Wild Willie's Western Rendezvous (WWWR) is coming soon, keep the end of January (24th and 25th) open. This event is a Department and Detachment of Nevada event, and is an opportunity to share ideas for improving the SAL with members of the Western Region and possibly even past National Commanders.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays coming up, this time of year is especially difficult for veterans and the time should be used to Be The One and take some time to talk to your veterans, even non-members. Help make their holidays better by being there and letting them know that they matter.

Remember that Thee American Legion CWF bord of directors changed the name of the foundation to the Child Well-Being Foundation to better encompass the overall needs of the whole child and their entire wellbeing. Please keep this in mind when asking for donations as it might be confusing until the name change is more broadly known.

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.

It was my pleasure to be your Detachment Commander for the 2023-2024 year and don't forget your buddy checks and watch out for our entire Legion Family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Horton
Commander, Detachment of Nevada
#SALStrong
#BeTheOne



Sons of the American Legion – Detachment Commander, Cont.

2025 Membership Report as of: November 21, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2025 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/11/2024	2025 ACTUAL MBSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2025 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	134	-51	111	82.84%	78.79
2	WISCONSIN	4,772	-1,054	3,201	67.08%	62.68
3	LOUISIANA	1,869	-354	1,195	63.94%	60.98
4	IOWA	5,264	-682	3,051	57.96%	55.00
5	GEORGIA	5,018	-627	2,885	57.49%	52.50
6	MONTANA	1,060	-131	608	57.36%	53.85
7	ILLINOIS	14,244	-1,734	8,144	57.17%	53.87
8	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,985	-236	1,129	56.88%	52.39
9	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,716	-187	959	55.89%	48.83
10	MISSISSIPPI	791	-85	441	55.75%	51.60
11	NORTH CAROLINA	2,904	-249	1,556	53.58%	46.52
12	ALABAMA	2,170	-163	1,139	52.49%	47.32
13	IDAHO	720	-45	369	51.25%	41.48
14	MARYLAND	17,777	-1,058	9,058	50.95%	46.39
15	FRANCE	179	-10	91	50.84%	45.40
16	TENNESSEE	1,852	-107	940	50.76%	42.33
17	NEVADA	339	-19	172	50.74%	46.83
18	PUERTO RICO	180	-10	91	50.56%	48.59
19	NORTH DAKOTA	1,128	-55	563	49.91%	47.57
20	KANSAS	6,127	-284	3,041	49.63%	46.46
21	TEXAS	6,089	-280	3,020	49.60%	41.66
22	OREGON	1,883	-61	818	48.60%	40.65
23	FLORIDA	25,736	-789	12,370	48.06%	41.33
24	WYOMING	1,289	-38	618	47.94%	42.75
25	VIRGINIA	4,558	-4	2,055	45.09%	38.50
26	INDIANA	38,183	171	17,011	44.55%	40.91
27	MISSOURI	3,287	19	1,460	44.42%	40.01
28	NEW JERSEY	10,203	65	4,526	44.36%	41.16
29	OHIO	32,881	284	14,512	44.13%	40.61
30	OKLAHOMA	1,303	16	570	43.75%	36.09
31	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,467	96	2,814	43.51%	39.93
32	CALIFORNIA	11,696	225	5,038	43.07%	37.94
33	UTAH	465	11	198	42.58%	37.78
34	MINNESOTA	11,821	346	4,973	42.07%	39.24
35	DELAWARE	2,708	81	1,138	42.02%	37.14
36	NEBRASKA	7,080	212	2,974	42.01%	40.84
37	VERMONT	4,051	155	1,668	41.18%	38.47
38	WASHINGTON	2,876	114	1,180	41.03%	34.00
39	NEW YORK	32,363	1,307	13,256	40.96%	38.33
40	CONNECTICUT	2,027	118	794	39.17%	34.71
41	ALASKA	1,856	110	725	39.06%	34.67
42	MICHIGAN	28,189	1,827	10,858	38.52%	33.91
43	DIST OF COL	102	7	39	38.24%	23.53
44	ARKANSAS	396	32	146	36.87%	33.16
45	MASSACHUSETTS	5,758	542	2,049	35.59%	32.76
46	MAINE	2,888	281	1,019	35.28%	31.47
47	ARIZONA	9,643	983	3,356	34.80%	29.06
48	COLORADO	3,095	368	1,025	33.12%	29.42
49	PENNSYLVANIA	64,916	7,759	21,453	33.05%	30.38
50	KENTUCKY	2,250	301	712	31.64%	27.46
51	LATIN AMERICA	40	6	12	30.00%	15.38
52	RHODE ISLAND	373	59	109	29.22%	27.64
53	WEST VIRGINIA	2,728	439	789	28.92%	23.59
54	NEW MEXICO	1,986	461	433	21.80%	17.34
55	PHILIPPINES	48	18	4	8.33%	8.51
Totals:		401,263	8,102	172,466	42.98%	39.00



Wild Willy's
WESTERN
Rendezvous
Number 11

Tuscany Suites & Casino
Reservations 1-877-887-2261
Room Rates to be Determined
SAL Rendezvous Reservation Code: Sons of the American Legion



Social Gathering @ Pub 365,
Your Cost On Friday Night, January 24th, 2025

Leadership Training On Saturday, January 25th, 2025
Lunch Is Served During Lunch Break On Saturday

Saturday Night Dinner Planned at a Local Restaurant
(Your Cost)

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$40
Contact Jim Stewart to Register for the event

664 SHEFFIELD COURT, SPARKS, NEVADA 89431

Contact: Jim Stewart: (775) 848-6072 | controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

American Legion Riders

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.



At the DEC and in recent weeks there have been questions about how the Department can give guidance on the Post ALR chapter. Nevada is one of the Departments where the ALR program is not chartered by the Department and every chapter is completely managed by the individual Post. That is not to say that there are no rules to be followed; there are a handful of rules as determined by National and summarized in Resolution 5 (<https://www.legion.org/getmedia/28a26a18-369e-47da-a82b-77100edcb32a/ALR-Resolution-5-2021.pdf>) that must be followed to be an ALR Chapter. While it would be nice to have uniformity between Chapters, the lack of a Department Charter is useful in allowing each Chapter to be operated in a way that works for their respective location. What works in the Las Vegas area may not work in Elko. I am always available if you need general guidance on developing your charter.

Please send feedback, what would you like to see in future newsletter articles? What would you like to see done differently by the Legion Riders?

I can always be reached via email (commander@nevadasal.org) or phone (720-394-5965), just leave a message if I don't answer.

Sincerely,

Shawn Horton
Commander, Detachment of Nevada
American Legion Riders Department of Nevada Liaison

Event Schedule		
Date	Where	What



Greetings Legionnaires,

More than 9,000 mail-in ballots across Nevada were not counted because voters did not verify their signatures before the curing deadline.

On Election Day, Democratic Nevada Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar said signature issues swayed toward younger voters who rarely signed their names. Nevada law allows a voter to cure their ballot until six days after Election Day.

County clerks are required to alert voters to a ballot signature issue. In 2022, 5,979 ballots statewide needing a signature cure were not counted — 2% of the total of mail-in ballots.

Close margins often decide Nevada elections: This election, Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen won re-elected by about 23,000 votes. In 2022, Nevada Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo won by about 15,000 votes; Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto won by about 8,000 votes.

Nevada broke its record for signature cures completed of mail ballots, as well as for votes that were not counted because of ineligible signatures in this month's election.

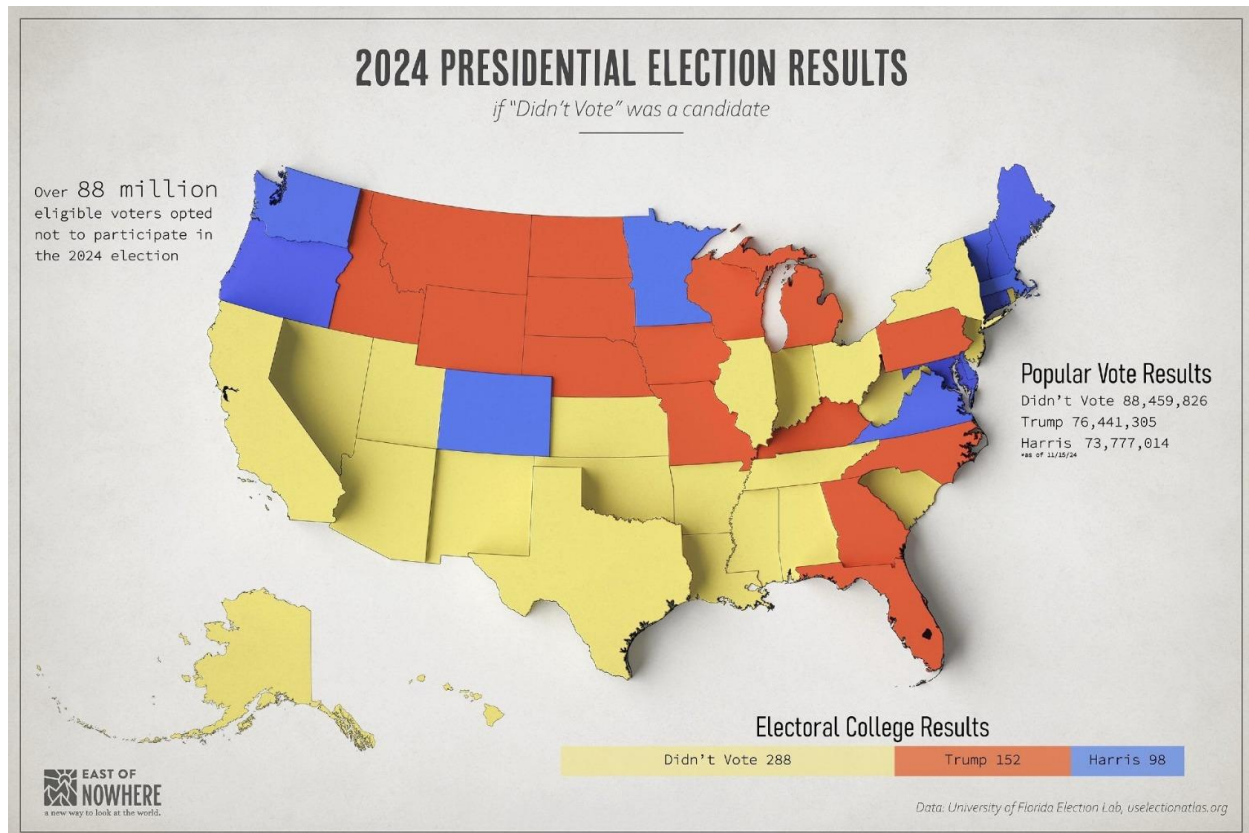
The signatures on more than 23,000 mail ballots were successfully cured in last month's election — meaning election officials confirmed an eligible voter was linked to a ballot with a signature not matching the one in the state's voter file, and the issue was resolved.

The total number of amended signatures exceeded the combined cures completed in 2020 and 2022, the only other general elections with widespread mail voting. In all, about 1.5 million votes were cast in the general election. The votes that were not counted mostly came from registered nonpartisans, while about 40 percent of the successfully cured ballots were from Democrats and about a quarter coming from Republicans.


The bigger issue was voter turnout. There are 2,042,607 active registered voters in Nevada, 1,487,887 (72.84%) voted. Nationally, 88,000,000 eligible voters did not cast a ballot, that's 11,500,000 more people than who voted for Trump. None-of-the-above won the election. People don't feel that either party represents them or reflect their values. A major culprit is closed partisan primaries, which produce candidates that only appeal to a third of voters.

The bright side, as far as Legion politics are concerned, having one party control all three houses should make it easier to pass veteran specific legislation. This doesn't mean its time to slacken our resolve. We need to engage our representatives, & congressional leadership, in order to keep our goals in the forefront.

On November 18th, H.R. 8371 – The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act passed the House and was received by the Senate the next day. All Legionnaires are asked to contact their Senators through the Voter Voice action center and urge them to pass this legislation. <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/119092/Respond>

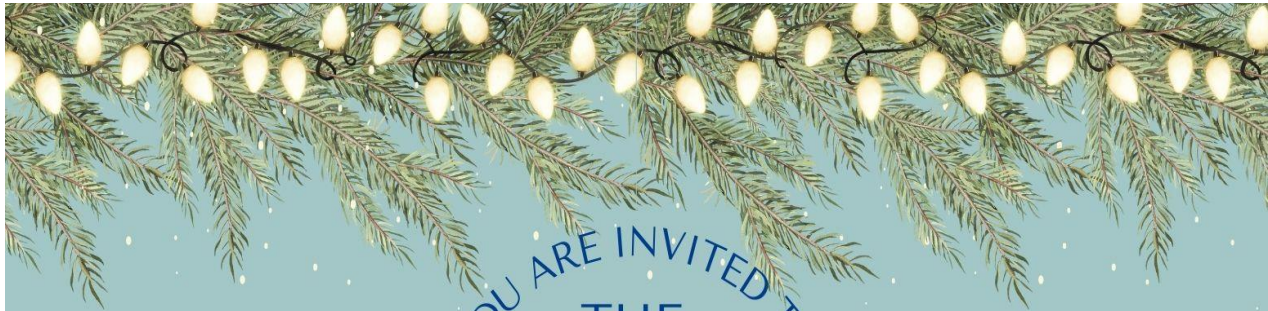


I hope everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

 Manny Garcia

Chair, Nevada Delegation

National Legislative Council



YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE

Legion Family HOLIDAY PARTY

50/50 Raffle

DECEMBER

Door Prizes

SUNDAY

08

4 PM - 8 PM

733 N VETERANS MEMORIAL DR LAS VEGAS NV 89101

Rsvp Trishia Eubanks by 12/1/24

at 725-339-5436 or Honor4OurVets@gmail.com

Catered Meal

\$10 ADULTS
\$5 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

- TURKEY AND HAM
- STUFFING
- MASHED POTATOES
- GRAVY

Potluck

- APPETIZERS
- ADDITIONAL SIDES
- DESSERTS

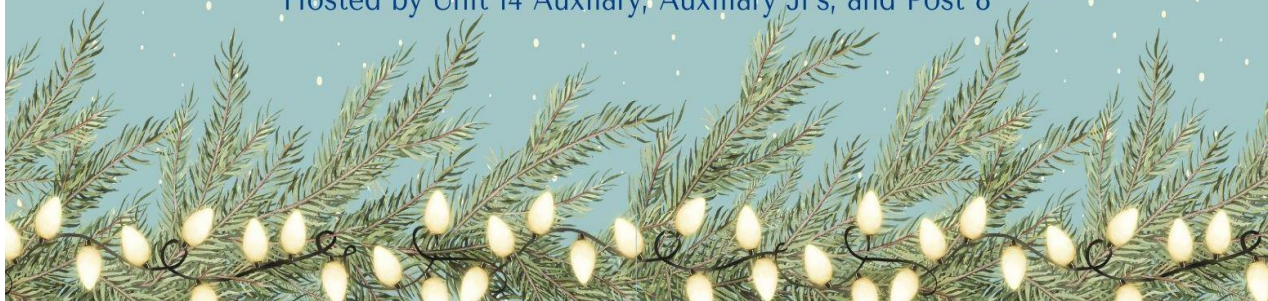
NON ALCOHOLIC
AND ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE
AT THE BAR

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY IS ASKING FOR
DONATION GIFTS FOR THE 160 VETERANS AT
BOULDER CITY VETERANS HOME TO MAKE
THEIR HOLIDAYS BETTER!

- REQUESTED ITEMS INCLUDE
- TOILETRIES LIKE SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER,
LOTION (SCENTED AND NON SCENTED), BODY
WASH, PERFUME/COLOGNE
 - FUZZY WARM SOCKS
 - THROW/LAP BLANKETS
 - TRAVEL MUGS
 - ANY WARM CLOTHES IN DIFFERENT SIZES

Let's celebrate the Legion Family together!

Hosted by Unit 14 Auxilary, Auxiliary Jr's, and Post 8



Life's Too Long Not to Belong



Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health.

The American Legion and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!



LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:

✔ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility

✔ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities



Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email info@helogrouper.com

To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

GrouperGroups.com/NV-Legion



No personal information needed to check eligibility - just your health plan name and your age!

POST COMMANDERS: ORDER BIG, SAVE BIG!

WE'VE HEAVILY DISCOUNTED

our 5LB bulk bags in all your favorite flavors— priced to compete with major retailers!

YOUR POST IS ALREADY PURCHASING COFFEE

why not switch to premium coffee at a competitive price and support your fellow veterans? Every subscription helps fund The American Legion's Be The One initiative to help end veteran suicide.

FLASH SALE:
5LB BULK BAGS



Subscribe now at www.betheonecoffee.com
Use code LEGION for 15% off and free shipping!

JOIN OTHER POST COMMANDERS WHO'VE MADE THE SWITCH.



Nevada Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county, and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. American Legion posts select High School Juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business, or another community-based organization. Boys State programs currently exist in all Legion departments in the United States except Hawaii. As separate corporations, Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

Nevada Boys State Eligibility

The American Legion has certain qualifications for prospective Boys State citizens. Following are the recommended guidelines employed by most Boys State programs. Students in high school are considered. Previous participants of a Boys State competition are not allowed to attend a second session. Only those who illustrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community should be considered. Merit and ability are the basis for evaluation during the actual citizens selection process. Boys State competitions are in compliance with Federal handicap laws. The program requires a medical/parental consent certificate signed by a parent and registered doctor. The selection process often differs in Legion departments. The ideal method is for schools to recommend lists of eligible candidates to local Legion posts. The post would then conduct interviews and select their representative(s) for the program.

Boys Nation

Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys State programs represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government. The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946.



The 1946 American Legion National Convention adopted the event as an official youth activity. Three years later, it became American Legion Boys Nation. At the event, each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. The young lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, then organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by program delegates. Senators learn the proper method of handling bills, according to U.S. Senate rules. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including organization of party conventions and nominating and electing a president and vice president. The week of government training also includes lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, national shrines, institutions, memorials, and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states. Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

Nevada Boys State Website and Dates

Please use the weblink to go to Nevada's website where you can find more information about the Nevada Boys State program and contact information.

<https://nevadaboysstate.org/home>

University of Nevada, Reno

June 13, 2025 to June 20, 2025



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Budd Cote` Unit 51 partnered with Texas Road House to give Mojave High School staff members who are Veterans, a gift box with a dinner for 2, peanuts and their steak rub. National Western Division Education Chairman and Unit member Nicky Flores—Ninmer delivered the boxes to 13 staff members.



Jennifer Jones, U.S. Navy
Enjoying her steak dinner.



ROTC Instructors

U.S. Army Veterans

SGM Wright

LTC Addison

1SG Tiedeman



Inside of the gift box.



Thank you card that was attached to each gift box.

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51 of North Las Vegas, held its fall Poppy Drive. The Unit does a Poppy Drive twice a year – once in May, close to Memorial Day, and another in November, close to Veterans Day.

The November 9th Poppy Drive was held at the Smith's Grocery Store in Aliante, a division of North Las Vegas. It began around 7:00 am and ended around noon.

This was a really good drive for Unit 51. Total collected was \$885.00. As Poppy funds must be used to directly benefit veterans or active-duty personnel, the decision was made to send half to Fisher House, and the other half to Trees for Troops.

Fisher House is a facility on the grounds of the VA Hospital in North Las Vegas that provides housing to patients of the VA Hospital and their families while a veteran is undergoing medical treatment. Fisher House provides a “wish list” of things that their residents can use, such as paper products (think Kleenex), laundry detergent, toiletries, and snack items.

Trees for Troops provides a Christmas Trees to U.S. Military Families at Camp Pendleton. One of the advantages of Trees for Troops is that it is sponsored in part by FedEx, and FedEx is making a donation to American Legion Baseball for every tree purchased. Trees for Troops report that since 2005, they have provided over 309,000 Christmas trees for active-duty personnel.

A photo of the November 9, 2024 Poppy Drive accompanies this article. We also include Legionnaires who want to help; this year we had two husbands. Pictured in the photo is Nicky's husband, Curtis Nimmer. From left to right are Nicky Flores, Laurie Diefenbach, and Phyllis Knudson. Phyllis's husband, Ken Knudson, also would sit at the table. We are very grateful to the men who provided us with “muscle.” Collecting money in an ammo can (and selling Service hats) can be risky business for three women!

