



The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion Post 76, "The Spirit of Freedom"

ISSUE 13 October 2015 — December 2015



Commanders Message

It has been a hectic three months for Post 76, with two conventions over and two Flag Postings, along with representing the Post at the Tuskegee Airmen convention in town, and helping out at PBS Channel 10. The major story out of the National Convention is that dues will be going up \$5.00 as of January 16, 2016. However, our EBoard has voted to NOT increase Post 76 dues until fiscal year 2017. The other big story from the convention is that Nevada will be hosting the 2017 American Legion National Convention in Reno. I am pleased that more members have become involved in Post projects. If you would like to participate more, in the Color Guard, Veteran stand downs, Information Fairs and recruiting at Nellis and Creech or community events, like volunteering at PBS Channel 10. Let me know, it is a great way to make friends and help our local community.

Post 76 Legionnaires Attend Tuskegee Airmen Convention

American Legion Post 76 members George Curcio, Marvin Morgenthal, Joel Forman, and Steve Daugherty attended the 44th Annual Convention of the Tuskegee Airmen at the Rampart Casino Hotel (as visitors) on 19 August 2015. In their Legion uniforms with shirts and caps, the Post 76 members had a good rapport with the Airmen as many of them are Legionnaires as well.

Post 76 members were extremely fortunate to meet some of the original Airmen who flew many combat missions in WWII and some who later flew missions in the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts. The Legionnaires had an opportunity to thank the Airmen personally for their heroic service to our country, in spite of their having to endure the flagrant racism and bigotry of a segregated military at that time.

One Airmen at the Convention was Norman Artis, who, having been born a little later than the others, was one of the last to graduate from flight training at Tuskegee Airfield. He missed World War II but did see action as a fighter pilot in Korea and Vietnam. Another was Colonel Charles McGee, who will be 96 years young in December, although he appeared years younger. He holds the all-time record for combat missions, covering three wars, of all American fighter pilots in U.S. history! Yet, he was so humble--a true gem of a man.

It was awe-inspiring for the Legionnaires to be in the presence of these Airmen--men are true American heroes and a part of American history. It was a sincere honor to meet them. They all were very gracious to the Legionnaire visitors, and it was a true joy to be in their presence. . **Marv Morgenthal, Trustee**



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SICK CALL: Ted Pugh is at Las Ventanas Skilled Nursing Facility **Room 205**. He appreciates visitors!

POST EVERLASTING:

Elias J. Fulsom, US Army, Korea

Boy's State

On June, 21 2015, 2 buses left the American Legion Post 8 parking lot at 11:30 pm. With a load of young male high school students from La Vegas, and many surrounding areas headed for Reno and the campus of UNR. Little did I understand that in a matter of just a few days, those young students would change their attitude, their thinking, their mannerism's and even in some cases, their posture would make a dramatic change that will last a lifetime. I had heard the stories but now I was going to see for myself if they were accurate.

This was my first experience with the Boys' State week long program. I am happy to report, this was not my last trip. I cannot relate to you how amazing these kids truly are. They are intelligent, hard working, eager, and in every case I saw, respectful of the other delegates, their councilors, and to myself and my fellow Legionnaires. They were not only interested in the work they were doing for their respective cities, and soon to be elected positions, but they wanted to know, "what did you do in the service, where were you in the service, what did you learn, etc." The other thing they always said was "Thank you for your service" and they truly meant it, and a plus, they called us "Sir or Mr.". I was privileged to have meals with many of them and even when they were not performing their assigned duties, they were talking about how they were going to do things and invent programs for the positive effects on their cities and their state. Thinking, always thinking.

The comradeship these young people made in just a matter of hours and their ability to continue to function and adapt under stressful and in a very fatigued condition by the end of the week, convinced me that perhaps, our great country is going to be alright. We hear so many negative reports about our young people and usually we do not hear about the positive things and accomplishments that so many of them have made. I cannot tell you how many I spoke with that were, National Honor Society, President Student Council, JROTC members, Captain of various sports teams, musical awards, scholastic awards of many kinds, and the list could go on and on.

Was I impressed? No!! I was in awe. I have a new hope for the future and a much better understanding of the capabilities of our young men. If these are examples of what the next generation of our leaders will be, we should be just fine. The learning experience these delegates gained and the possibilities they have in their lives because of that learning not only was an inspiration to them but also to me. Many of them have applied to become councilors themselves in upcoming sessions. It left that "Oh Yeah" I'd do it again feeling with them.

I must recognize the Councilors from Boys State. They did an outstanding job and I was proud to be a part of the team. They knew how to handle different problems and adapt to changes very quickly so it seemed the program functioned without any pause or disruption in the daily events. A well deserved GREAT JOB and a huge THANK YOU for all you are doing.



As your new chairman of the Boys' State program for our Post, I feel it is necessary to ask you for your help to further this program. I have not been so impressed by a group of young men in almost 45 years. This year we are planning to sponsor 10 young men again. The cost for our Post is \$260.00 for each candidate. We have almost 400 paid members in our Post. Any and all donations are gratefully appreciated. If we can just donate the cost of a soda or cup of coffee, I think it is little to pay for an investment in our country's future leaders.

I would like to tell you more about this experience but instead I invite you to get involved and attend this Legion Program. Our young people deserve it and we can help to further it by your personal involvement and financial backing. I'll be happy to talk with any and all of you about this most appreciated experience.

Mike Shepheard, Boys State Committee Chairman

Fiscal Year End 2015

June 30, 2015 signaled the end of the 2nd quarter for 2015, but for Post 76 it signaled the end of our Fiscal Year and it was a great year to be a member of our Post. Although I have been a member for only 3 years, from my understanding it is one of the best financial years for our post. Although I went over these numbers in our last General Meeting I thought it was important to relay to the members at large how we fared. Dues collected \$13,112. We donated \$6,918 to 11 different organizations with the largest dollar amount of \$2,750 going to Nevada Boys State. We received \$2,085 in donations from various activities the Post has been actively doing like Flag Posting from conventions. In addition we received \$254 donated to our new program Battle Buddies which helps members who are unable to pay their yearly dues. The Raffle program generated \$610 back to the post and of the \$610 that went to the winners, 90% or \$549, was donated back to the Post. \$1,357 was donated to Nevada Boys State as our Post sent 9 Boys to the enriching program held every year in Reno. All of these numbers are higher than they were in 2014 and 2013. Our Post had over 500 members pay their dues which enabled us to donate to Veterans groups and Youth programs which is exactly the purpose of the Legion. Every member should be extremely proud of what we accomplished financially in 2015, looking forward to an even better 2016. As always if I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

Stu Cohen, Finance Officer

Nevada Veterans Advocates

Post 76 now has 2 members who have achieved status as Certified Veterans Advocates. **Bobi Oates**, 18-year Legionnaire and USAF Veteran, and **Larry Eisenberg**, 8-year Legionnaire, and USAF Veteran both recently completed a rigorous training course to attain the Certified Nevada Veterans Advocate ranking. The training covers 20 areas of detailed information required to assist Veterans in navigating through and applying for the myriad benefits available to veterans through the Veterans Administration and Nevada State. The training covers topics such as VA Compensation, Nevada Legal and Financial Assistance, CHAMPVET, VA Death Benefits, Employment Programs, "Green Zone" Training, Advocacy and Support Terms, and much more. The Veterans Advocate is a volunteer position, and the Advocate assists Service Officers associated with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. Either of these Veterans Advocates can help you with questions you may have on VA benefits and offer guidance on expedient paths to their solutions. You can contact Post 76 Service Officer representatives by email at nvpost76@gmail.com or phone at (253) 691-0617.

New Memorial in Las Vegas to Honor America's Veterans

The Las Vegas Veterans Memorial Foundation is sponsoring the design and future construction of a world-class national memorial to recognize and honor the sacrifices of all American veterans and their families. **The Las Vegas Memorial—A National Tribute**, featuring 18 larger-than-life statues, will span over 200 years of our nation's history and bridge one generation of veterans to the next—from the Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror. The statues, 18 in total and standing over 7 feet tall, will collectively contribute to the dual themes of the memorial's design. The memorial will be located at the Grant Sawyer State Building, just north of downtown Las Vegas, at 555 E Washington Street. Construction is scheduled to start about November 2015 and be completed by about June 2016. For detailed information about this memorial, you can visit or the Las Vegas Veteran Memorial website at www.LasVegasVeteransMemorial.org.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

E Board Meeting — October 8, 2015, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Center.

GENERAL MEETING — October 18, 2015, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

VETERANS DAY PARADE Wednesday November 11, 2015 at 10am [meet at 9 am location TBD]

E Board Meeting — November 12, 2015, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Center

GENERAL MEETING — November 15, 2015, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — December 10, 2015, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Center.

GENERAL MEETING — December 20, 2015 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — January 14, 2016, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Center.

GENERAL MEETING — January 17, 2016 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

Adjutant's Pen

Thinking about membership renewal? Efforts to reach out to all Post 76 members to renew their membership for 2016 are now in full swing. At this point, Post 76 is well over 70% of the Post 76 goal for Paid Members for the 2016 dues year, and we thank all those members who have renewed early in the season. We encourage **each and every member** to renew their membership while it's fresh in the minds, so there'll be no chance of having a membership expire due to the notion getting lost.



The American Legion recently passed a resolution at its National Convention recently to increase dues for **all** American Legion members by \$5, beginning 16 January 2016. This is the first national per-capita dues increase for nearly a decade. Your Post 76 Executive Board, however, voted not to increase member dues until the beginning of the 2017 dues year—1 July 2016. Don't let your dues renewal go that far! Also, if you are thinking about applying for a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) member, it might be advantageous to do it **now**, before HQ changes its PUFL calculator because of its dues increase.

There is always an unavoidable time delay from when you renew your membership online or by mail and when you actually get your renewal logged at Headquarters; so you may receive another dues invoice, even though you know you've paid. All Legionnaires who have renewed their membership receive a Welcome Letter from the Post 76 Commander with their **2016 Member ID Card**. **This is your receipt for payment of dues, and you know you can ignore any subsequent dues invoices from HQ.**

Thinking about our General Meetings? Post 76 General Meetings have become the Highlight of the Month for many Post 76 members as they are finding the meetings to be full of interesting activities and lots of camaraderie. Every month we strive to have a guest speaker who has an area of expertise unique in the world of Veterans Benefits, and we always hope it will help many of our members get to the root of their particular issues. Agent Orange, Horses for Heroes, Nevada Veterans Services, VA Medical Center claims, Clark County Veterans Court, and Nevada Veterans Advocates are all recent topics you heard presented at our General Meetings. Keep coming to the meetings every 3rd Sunday of the month at the Durango Hills YMCA, and you will continue hear topics presented that you will find helpful to you.



Thinking about answers to your administrative questions? The Adjutant is the person to whom you can turn for answers on any questions you may have regarding your membership status, or any other issues/concerns/suggestions you have with Post 76 operations. He is the person who can get you straight answers and help make your membership in Post 76 a more rewarding experience. Contact Steve Daugherty, (253) 691-0617 any time 24/7.

YMCA and Post 76 Partner to Help Veterans' Wellness and Fitness!



Meet new friends, stay in shape and have fun at the Durango Hills Community YMCA, our monthly meeting place for the past 10 years. The YMCA offers a wide variety of fitness classes and social activities, including water fitness classes, all tailored for active older adults including veterans of all ages, and featuring individual and group easy workout exercise classes, and walking, card & game clubs, as well as interesting off-site field trips such as the upcoming day trip by bus to the Pahrump wine country & vineyards.

The \$55 member initiation fees will be waived, and regular \$32 monthly dues will be generously discounted for us 50% to only \$16 for all veterans and active military and their spouses. Use of the facilities at the other 3 state-of-the-art equipped YMCA locations in Las Vegas is included. Something at the Y for everyone. Join your fellow veterans!

Please contact Post 76 Trustee BobJagemann@aol.com or the YMCA at [702] 240-9622 for further information or to join. If there are any questions, suggestions or comments, please let me know.

Your Post Supporting Your Community



Post 76 members spent the morning of Wednesday, 9 September attaching labels to books at Channel 10 PBS. The children's books were donated to the PBS' Ready to Learn program and are destined for use by volunteer teams that visit youngsters in school environments in the Las Vegas Valley and Nevada throughout the year. The Post 76 team managed to stick several thousand labels to the various types of books.



Left to right: James Little, Jim Lenz, Andy Agan, Joel Forman, Steve Daugherty, Mike Shepherd

Flag Postings

This past quarter, the Post 76 Color Guard performed Flag Posting Ceremonies at a number of local conventions. This included the Military Order of the Purple Heart [MOPH] at the Rampart Resort, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers [IBEW] at the Paris Resort. Legionnaires at the MOPH ceremony included Joel Forman, Mike Percival, Marv Morgenthal, Larry Eisenberg, Paul Hestand, Bill Garrard and Roger Henning.

At the IBEW ceremony, the Legionnaires were Joel Forman [not pictured], then from left to right: Stephen Daugherty, Daniel McDonald, Roger Henning, Larry Eisenberg, Roberta (Bobi) Oates, and Andy Agan.



Summerlin Patriotic Parade

This year, Post 76 really made a splash at the Summerlin Patriotic Parade! Not only did we have Santa Claus riding in one of our Model Ts [supplied by the Las Vegas Model T Club], but we won two prestigious awards. We were awarded **3rd Place by the judges for Best Community Organization**. Then due to the conscientious voting by many of our members, we won **1st Place** for the **Summerlin Resident Choice Award**.



The color guard included [from left to right] Mike Percival, Stu Cohen, Steve



Daugherty, Joel Forman, George Meyer and Frank Timbers. Many other Legionnaires [Marv Morgenthal, Dan McDonald, Ken Gossett, Roger Henning, Bob Martin, Bob Jagemann and Mike Shepherd, just to name a few] rode along in the Model Ts leading to the award winning entry. We were one of the only entries that included a color guard as well as riding Legionnaires, and, of course, Santa Claus! Add all this up and you have the most successful parade entry in Post 76 HISTORY!

Legionnaire Insurance Trust [LIT]

LegionCare program now improved!

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) is pleased to announce some important changes to the LegionCare program just revealed at the 97th Annual American Legion National Convention earlier this month.

The first of these exciting updates – starting for enrollments after 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they remain a member of The Legion Family. No need to re-enroll every 5 years!

The second change, and what we think is the most important - All “Legion Family” members – Legion, senior ALA, and senior SAL – in good standing are now eligible for the coverage. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard to provide valuable benefits to your entire family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans’ insurance needs.

Those “Legion Family” members stopping by our booth were able to enroll in the LIT’s LegionCare program and have their coverage become effective immediately, but this opportunity is not restricted to just those who were at the National Convention. Every eligible “Legion Family” member may enroll, but the member must sign-up to be covered. Please keep the momentum going after the convention and spread the word about these exciting changes to LegionCare.

Reminder about LegionCare:

What is LegionCare? LegionCare provides up to \$1,000 of 24 hours accidental death coverage to an enrolled member. And if an enrolled members suffers a covered loss while performing “official Legion Family business”, there is an additional \$4,000 benefit --bringing the total to up to \$5,000.

How do I enroll? Just go online to www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare and fill in the requested information. By enrolling on-line, your coverage will begin immediately and you will get an e-mail confirmation within minutes. Those without access to the internet may enroll by calling the LIT’s toll-free number – (800) 235-6943 – and our customer service area will process your enrollment over the phone.

Don’t delay – sign-up today!

If you have no computer access, contact an officer [see right block on first page] and provide them with this information and they can enroll for you.

- 1. Legionnaire's State of Residence**
- 2. Date of Birth**
- 3. Department [Nevada]**
- 4. Email [if none, then**
- 5. First, MI, Last Name**

- 6. Street Address**
- 7. City**
- 8. Zip**
- 9. Gender**



Wheelchair and Handicapped Equipment Available

Do you know anyone who could benefit from a wheelchair, electric scooter, rollator walker [those with wheels and a seat], walker, or crutches? Our local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America 17 serves as a collection and distribution center for this type of equipment as part of their community outreach program.

You can call the program coordinator **Peter Fabiani** directly. His telephone number is **[702] 480-7221**. If you give him specifics of what you could use, he will see what they have in their inventory and get together with you. There is no charge for this program.



In addition, if you know of anyone who has this type of equipment and is no longer using it and would like to donate it, please contact Peter. It is not necessary for the equipment to be in working order as the Chapter has allocated budget for new batteries or repairs to allow this critical equipment to be returned to use for those who need it.

The American Legion **August 2015 - July 2016** **“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



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American Legion Post 76

P.O. Box 34012

Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

Club 300 Raffle (see application on Page 7)

Do you want to be one an exclusive club? The application for the 2015-2016 Club 300 raffle is now available. Only 300 tickets will be sold, so your chances of winning are about 1 in 6! There will be 4 numbers drawn each month for 48 chances to win. If you win, you are not done. Your number is still in the drawing so there are more chances to win in subsequent months. Those odds are not available anywhere else. This money helps fund the Department of Nevada so that our per capita tax is kept to a minimum. Now is the time to enter. Checks are made out to The American Legion. You can mail them to the Department office listed on the form, or give to any officer of the Post, and they will make sure they get delivered to the Department next time they go down, and get back to you with your number. The winners are notified, as well as documented in the monthly Department of Nevada newsletter that is delivered to you via email from our Adjutant. You can also check the winners by getting online at the website <http://nevadalegion.org/> and choosing the “Newsletter” link in the left dark blue box.

