



# The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 20 July 2017 — September 2017

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Michael Percival, former 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander. I have assumed the Commander's position for Post 76. It is a daunting task. My predecessor, Joel Forman, has provided exceptional leadership that has turned this Post into the best in the state of Nevada.

As your new Commander, I am looking forward to continuing along the same path. It will take, however, help from each member of our Post. I know that each member started out their journey with us in a limited capacity. Some of you have stepped up into roles that have insured our status of remaining the best. Many of you have not become as involved as we

would have hoped. I am going to focus my efforts on three directions this year. I desire to increase our membership, I desire improved participation of our membership, and I want to enhance our service to our fellow Veterans.

The first step in accomplishing this would be for each member to come to our next meeting so I can meet you and give you a chance to serve alongside with me.

Wishing everyone the best this year — **Michael Percival**

## FIRST VICE COMMANDER

Hello to all. If you do not know me, my name is Mike Shephard. I have been a member of The American Legion for almost 13 years. I served in the Army National Guard in Illinois. 2nd Battalion, HHC/130th Infantry. My MOS then was 11C, 81mm mortar gunner. Our unit was in line to be deployed to Vietnam when the President decided that would not be necessary. I volunteered for training at the Northern Warfare Training Center at Fort Greely, Alaska. I graduated in March of 1971. I was mobilized twice for riot duty and a state of emergency at the University of Illinois in 1970. I transferred to the California National Guard in 1972 where I was trained and became a Tank Commander. I gained the rank of SSG, E-6 and was honorably discharged in June of 1995.

I am honored to have been elected by you to the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander in Post 76. Post 76 is, what I consider, to be the best Post in Nevada. To be serving in a leadership capacity with the most giving and talented members in The American Legion of Nevada is truly a pleasure. I look forward to continuing the work done by former 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Mike Percival in the area of membership. I think this is an item we all must concentrate on and I am asking for your help to keep us on track. As many of you know, I am also involved in Boys State and The Oratorical Contest. I have been fortunate to have a few members step up and help with those two programs. Just so it does not come as a surprise, I will be looking for someone to take the reins for both of those programs. I plan to stay involved, but I need to concentrate on my new role as your Vice Commander. If at any time, I can be of service or answer a question any one has, please feel free to call me. Thanks for allowing me to serve you. — **Mike Shephard**



- Officer Reports P. 1
- Officer Reports P. 2
- UNLV AF ROTC Dining Out P. 3
- Creech Information Fair P. 3
- Memorial Day Ceremony P. 4
- Hellorado Parade P. 5
- Accomplishments last Quarter P. 5
- General Election Results P. 6
- Post 76 Ham Radio Club P. 6
- Youth Activities P. 7
- Upcoming Meetings P. 8

COMMANDER Mike Percival  
Phone: (702) 901-9413  
mgpercival7@gmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> VICE CMDR. Mike Shephard  
Phone: [702] 256-3106  
shephardsparks@aol.com

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CMDR. Stephen Daugherty  
Phone: (253) 691-0617  
stevedaugh@aol.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Andy Agan  
Phone: (702) 242-0602  
aaganjr@aol.com

ADJUTANT Daniel MacDonald  
Phone: (702) 449-8521  
peavy110-tec@yahoo.com

FINANCE OFFICER Barry Bashist  
Phone: (702) 210-3098  
bbvegas@yahoo.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Rick Foulon  
Phone: (702) 427-7185  
rickfoulon@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN Daniel MacDonald  
Phone: (702) 449-8521  
peavy110-tec@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN Walter Cheatham  
Phone: (702) 741-4415  
buzzcheatham@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER Frank Timbers  
Phone: (702) 228-0889  
ftimbers@centurylink.net

VETERANS ADVOCATES  
Larry Eisenberg  
Phone: (503) 351-0502  
LarryEisenberg@cox.net

Bobi Oates  
Phone: (702)498-3045  
boates4616@aol.com

### DIRECTORS:

Jack Ford, PDC (702) 228-4810  
acchieff@aol.com

Marvin Morgenthal (702) 395-4334  
nevadamarv@aol.com

Paul Hestand, PPC [702] 401-8089  
p4979h@gmail.com

JR. PAST COMMANDER Joel Forman  
Phone: (702) 360-5833  
akan01@centuryink.com

## **SECOND VICE COMMANDER**

I will be your Post 76 2nd Vice Commander for the next year. I have been a Post 76 member for 5 years, and served as your Adjutant for the past 3. I came to Las Vegas from Seattle 5 years ago, having retired from the Boeing Company there; in my previous life, I completed a 23-year career in the US Army.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander is responsible for helping make your Post into an atmosphere where Legionnaires have fun while doing the work of the Legion. He will run programs that spice up meetings and attract attendance; make a social and activities calendar that will interest all members; and see that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. In short, he helps provide an atmosphere of “I like my Legion Post because” atmosphere.

But, the 2nd Vice Commander has **no monopoly on ideas that enhance the fun aspect** of Post 76 membership. If any member has any notion of activities that can make the Post a fun and interesting atmosphere, get your ideas to me. See the contact information herein to reach me and get your ideas recorded. — **Steve Daugherty**



## **ADJUTANT**



Attention! My name is Daniel McDonald and I am your new Adjutant for Post 76 Spirit of Freedom. I am a Vietnam Veteran. I was a US Army Military Police Officer and Transportation Specialist. I am very proud to have served my country during times of conflict. I graduated from Military Police School, Leadership school and NCO Academy. I hold a MBA degree in Technology Management and a BS in Information Systems I am retired from the IT industry after 40 years of service. I look forward to my new position as your Adjutant as well as working with everyone in Post 76.

Item of Interest: REMEMBER TO RENEW/PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES EARLY. Invoices will be mailed to you in July when we begin our campaign for renewals for 2018. The best way to complete your renewal is online at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Stay tuned for further announcements' on this very important item. — Your Adjutant **Daniel McDonald** aka “Chaplain Danny”

## **JUDGE ADVOCATE**

I am your new Judge Advocate for American Legion Post 76. When I graduated from High School, I worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Company as an installer. In April of 1969 I took a military leave of absence from my job and enlisted in the Marine Corps. In December of 1969 I received orders for WestPac Ground Forces (aka Vietnam). Upon arrival I was assigned to a supply unit in Da Nang where I stayed until September or October of 1970. At that time I was transferred to an infantry unit, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, located on Fire Support Base Ross in the Quế Sơn Valley.

After discharge, I went back to work at Michigan Bell as soon as I returned to the States and became a foreman, then a Sales Manager, Product Development Manager, all the while attending Wayne State University at night. I received my Bachelor's Degree in 1985 and moved on to Detroit College of Law, which is now Michigan State University School of Law. I received my Juris Doctor degree in 1990 and was transferred into the Law Department at Michigan Bell after graduation. I ride a Harley-Davidson Road King, and I am currently the Assistant State Captain for the Southern Nevada Patriot Guard Riders. I am also a member of the Marine Riders Motorcycle Club of Nevada. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. Semper Fi -- **Rick Foulon**

## **FINANCE OFFICER**

I would like to introduce myself as your newly appointed Finance Officer. I served in Vietnam with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1968-1969. I earned an Associate's degree from Los Angeles City College and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from UNLV. I am experienced in both data processing and accounting and taxes. I ran my own booking and tax service since 1985. I hope to carry on what Stu Cohen has done for so many years. — **Barry Bashist**

## POST 76 MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN A DINING-OUT

Post 76 members were invited to attend the UNLV AF ROTC Dining-Out event on Thursday, 27 March at the UNLV campus. The AF ROTC Cadets and their cadre continue a long history of the dining-out event, where military unit members meet socially at a formal military function. It's intended to enhance the esprit de corps of units, lightens the load of demanding day-to-day work, give commanders an opportunity to meet socially with their subordinates and enable military members of all ranks to create bonds of friendship and better working relations through an atmosphere of good fellowship.



(Left to right) UNLV AF ROTC Commander, LTC Cory Jewell; Cadet Wing Commander, Carolyn Young; 57th Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Jeannie M. Leavitt; Post 76 Adjutant, Steve Daugherty; District 2 Commander Joel Forman

The practice of dining in is thought to have formally begun in 16th-century England, in monasteries and universities; though some records indicate that militaries have held formal dinners (dining-in) as far back as the Roman Legions. Customs and rules of the dining-in, or mess, were soon institutionalized as rules, known as the "Queen's Regulations" in British regiments. Americans military units, taking many of their traditions from the British military, began to hold mess nights in the 18th and 19th century. Thus, the practice has become an institution in all US Services, though with some have differing practices. When guests are invited, the event is called a **dining out**.

At some mess nights, violators of the mess are obliged to publicly drink from a grog bowl in front of the mess attendees. The grog bowl concocted by the AF ROTC Cadets was a conglomeration of sauces, peppers, juices, and other unmentionables mixed together. As a more disgusting effect, the grog may also contain floating solids, such as meatballs or raw oyster. Luckily, no Post 76 members, nor other guests in attendance, broke any rules of the mess and were not obliged to endure the grog.

Formal toasts are the heart of the formal dining-in, and the AF ROTC carried on the tradition. A junior officer, known as "Mr. Vice", proposed a toast to the guests. After this, various parties offered toasts to the Commander in Chief, to their branch of service, to the units, and to the fallen members of the military.

Portions of the event tended to become quite humorous in nature, as is the tradition, while others remain somber. Etiquette always requires a diner to know what is appropriate at any given time.

The Guest of Honor at the mess, Brig. Gen. Jeannie M. Leavitt 57th Wing Commander at Nellis AFB, was invited to speak, and she entertained the audience with a summary of her storied career in the US Air Force.

It was an entertaining and memorable evening to share with the AF ROTC Cadets at UNLV.

## CREECH AFB INFORMATION FAIR

Your Post 76 was invited again to participate in the Creech AFB Community Support Information Fair, held in conjunction with the Creech AFB "Bring Your Kids to Work Day." The Post 76 entourage manned a table to make available American Legion information to the active-duty service members and their families attending the event. The Fair is an effort to inform all the active duty military, civilian employees, and family members associated with Creech AFB of all the support agencies' capabilities to assist them in times of need. Organizations representing capabilities from medical, legal, and fun family activities to base facilities were present to advertise their roles in supporting the base personnel. The day is always special with the USAF drone arsenal is on display, as well as other USAF base security weaponry. It was a successful day for advertising American Legion's role to many Air Force members and their families, as well as sowing recruiting seeds.



The team ready for work (Left to right: Daniel McDonald, Joel Forman, Walter Cheatham, Steve Daugherty)

## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2017



Centennial Navy JROTC Color Guard presenting the colors for the pledge of allegiance.

Master of Ceremonies, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Mike Shepherd, presided over the emotionally moving ceremony that included a Musical Prelude by Ms. Cynthia Man and her Silver State Flute Choir; beautiful trumpet music (Taps, First Call, To the Colors) by Juanpablo Macias, Band Director at Greenspun Junior High School; an impressive Presentation of Colors by Centennial High School Navy JROTC students; an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem, sung by Mary Jo Wheeler, USAF, Retired; the Pledge of Allegiance by

The American Legion Post 76 sponsored its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day Ceremony at The Lakes South Park in Summerlin on 29 May 2017. The solemn ceremony was held under a sunny sky and attracted nearly 150 Nevada residents to the park.



Palo Verde Color Guard flag folding ceremony



**Wreath of Remembrance Presenters** [with war era they are representing from right to left] *Society of Military Widows of S. Nevada Chapter #34* Su Phelps; *Las Vegas Valley Chapter of the Gold Star Wives*, Taunya Offdenkamp; *World War II*, William Knapp, US Army; *Korea*, Frank Hamell, US Air Force; *Vietnam*, Roger Henning, US Army; *Lebanon / Grenada*, Capt. (Ret.) Gordon Doughty, US Air Force; *Panama*, Steve Daugherty, US Army; *Persian Gulf/War on Terror*, 1<sup>st</sup>Lt. Karen Beck, US Air Force; Palo Verde High School Air Force JROTC and Centennial High School Navy JROTC



JROTC Commanders laying the wreath.

The American Legion "L.D. Lockhart" Auxiliary Unit 14; a powerful POW/MIA Ceremony presided over by American Legion Post 14; a strikingly impressive Flag Folding Ceremony by Palo Verde Air Force JROTC Honor Guard students; a Wreath of Remembrance Service featuring a veteran representing each of the US war eras since WWII; and a Tolling of the Bell Service, where the Wreath was placed in the water, for a final tribute to the fallen.

Guest speakers for the occasion were The Honorable Barbara Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State and Ms. Yvette Weigold, The American Legion Department of Nevada 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander. The Keynote Speaker was Ms. Peggy Kearns, Director, VA Southern Nevada Medical Center. All paid tribute to those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and our way of life.

MC Mike Shepherd closed the ceremony by asking the audience to "As a tribute to their sacrifice, let us renew our resolve to remain strong enough to deter aggression, wise enough to preserve and protect our freedom, and thoughtful enough to promote lasting peace throughout the world."

## **HELLDORADO PARADE — DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS**

Your Post 76 Color Guard marched proudly in the HELLDORADO Parade on Saturday, 14 May, 2017 in downtown Las Vegas. Horse groups, high school bands, civic groups, political organizations, and Post 76 were among the organizations displaying their talents and wares. This was the 3rd consecutive year that Post 76 has fielded a Color Guard to show the Flag and share in the fun event. The Color Guard was accompanied by an Army 2.5 ton truck for riders, driven by Hank Rafalski, a USMC Veteran, and member of the Oasis Chapter of the Southern Nevada Military Vehicle Association.



The "War Horse" driven by Hank Rafalski

The Helldorado Parade event began in 1934 when the Hoover Dam construction was in full swing. It was a rowdy event in those days as the construction workers participated in the festivities to blow off steam. It has since evolved into an opportunity for the Town Fathers to provide a community event for local and area families to experience some hometown fun. Post 76 is proud to have shared in the community festivities.



The Post 76 Color Guard (Left to right: Buzz Cheatham, 1st Lt Karen Beck, Earl Stitt, Joel Forman, Steve Daugherty, Andy Agan)

## **WHAT POST 76 ACCOMPLISHED LAST QUARTER**

- \* Provided Color Guard on 9 occasions throughout Las Vegas Valley, including 3 for NDVS Veterans-in-Care Program.
- \* Marched with Color Guard in Helldorado Parade in downtown Las Vegas.
- \* Participated with Information table at VA Health and Wellness Fair, PBS Channel 10 Job Fair, and Creech AFB Bring Your Kids to Work Day.
- \* Attended planning meetings and participated in US Vets Spring Stand Down for needy Veterans and their families, as well as planning meeting for Fall Stand Down.
- \* Attended Veteran-related events in Las Vegas Valley (Nevada Honor Flight Pancake Breakfast, Veterans of the Month Awards, Daughters of American Revolution Flag Retirement Ceremony, Moving Wall in Craig Ranch Park, PBS Channel 10 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, UNLV AF ROTC Dining Out event and Awards Ceremony. Memorial Monument planning meeting,
- \* Planned and sponsored Memorial Day Ceremony at The Lakes South Park.
- \* Assisted NDVS and VIC program with awards at Southern Nevada Veterans Home.
- \* Supported Boy Scout youth programs.
- \* Participated in memorial services for deceased Legion member.
- \* Planned and implemented School Awards Program for 21 schools.
- \* Continued planning for Nevada Boy State event and Oratorical Contest.
- \* Patriotism vigil outside Creech AFB main gate.
- \* Participated in No Veterans Alone ceremonies at SNVMC.
- \* Supported Nevada Veterans Foundation.
- \* Participated in VA State Commanders Advisory Board.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- \* 18- 25 June, Boys State at UNR in Reno (National Commander will visit. This is your chance to meet him.)
- \* 28 June, Wednesday. PBS Job Fair at PBS Studio, 1100-1400, 3050 W Flamingo.
- \* 4 July, Tuesday, Patriotic Parade in Summerlin.
- \* 5 July, Wednesday. Color Guard at The Bridge at Paradise Valley Assisted Living, 2205 E Harmon. Contact Color Guard Chairman Walter Cheatham to participate.
- \* 14, 15 & 16 July. Nevada State American Legion Convention in Ely, hosted by Post 3.
- \* National American Legion Convention in Reno 18 - 24 August. Volunteers NEEDED to make this a function a success for Nevada.
- \* August 13 -14 Army Navy Expo @ Tuscany Suites Hotel
- \* 9 September, Saturday. North Las Vegas Armed Forces & Veterans Appreciation Day featuring this year, a Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration and recognition of all Vietnam Era Vets at Craig Ranch Park. [co-sponsored by Vegas PBS and NLVEvents4Military].
- \* 17 September, Sunday. A documentary entitled The Vietnam War by Ken Burns (18 hours) will air on PBS.
- \* 17 October, Tuesday. Monument dedication at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 1000

## GENERAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Post 76 elected its new slate of officers during its General Meeting on 23 April. The normal meeting protocol was diverted to the election process, led by Director Jack Ford. He introduced the slate of new officers presented by the Election Committee, certified to be qualified to serve, and approved by the Executive Board: Mike Percival, Commander; Mike Shephard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander; Steve Daugherty, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; Andy Agan, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Jack Ford / Paul Hestand, Directors. A motion declaring each candidate to be duly elected per the Post 76 Constitution and By-Laws was made, seconded, discussed, and voted on by the membership.

At the April meeting, American Legion Department of Nevada 1st Vice Commander Yvette Weigold administered the oath for installation of all the elected officers before turning the podium over to the newly installed Post 76 Commander, Mike Percival, to continue the normal business meeting.

Post 76 staff officers were appointed by the Commander, and confirmed by the Executive Committee, and were voted in at the 21 May Meeting. They were administered the oath of office by Past Department Commander, and Department Membership Chairman, Mitch Roach: Daniel McDonald, Adjutant; Barry Bashist, Finance Officer; Frank Timbers, Service Officer; Daniel McDonald, Chaplain; Walter Cheatham, Historian, and Rick Foulon, Judge Advocate.

There are openings for Legionnaires willing to volunteer to chair or serve on the following committees: Membership, Americanism, Children & Youth, Nominations, Finance, Public Relations, Service, and Ways & Means.



Joel Forman, Jr. Past Commander; Andy Agan, Sergeant at Arms; Steve Daugherty, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; Mike Shephard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander; Paul Hestand, Director, Jack Ford, Director; Mike Percival, Commander

## POST 76 HAM RADIO CLUB COMES OF AGE



Can You Hear Me Now? (Left to right: Steve Daugherty, Larry Eisenberg, Frank Timbers)

The newly formed Post 76 amateur radio club came of age recently with its attendance at the Nevada Amateur Radio Exposition at Eastside Cannery Casino 30 March 2017. The Post 76 ham radio club, which is formed within The American Legion National organization's American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC), had an information table at the Cannery and interfaced with many Nevada State and Clark County radio clubs to share techniques and objectives. Many amateur radio equipment vendors were present as well to tout their new, high tech amateur radios and accessories.

Anyone interested in joining the Post 76 ham radio club should contact Larry Eisenberg at (503) 351-0502. One need not be a member of Post 76 to join the radio club.

## POST 76 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

On 22 April, 2017 , several Post 76 members taught the First Aid Merit Badge to 111 Boy Scouts at the annual Scout Expo held at Floyd Lamb park. The veteran instructors included Paul Hestand, Steve Daugherty, Larry Eisenberg, George Ford, and Earle Wagner .



Past Commander Paul Hestand teaching first aid at the Scout Expo.

There are still upcoming activities that Post 76 members have an opportunity to support youth activities in our community with the Boys Scout and Cub Scout . Help is needed at the Del Webb Scout camp this summer. Paul Hestand is looking for help on a 22 rifle range 23-28 July and is looking for someone with medical training (EMT, Nurse, etc) to Run the first aid station 9-29 July. If interested contact Paul. 702-401-8089, [p4979f@gmail.com](mailto:p4979f@gmail.com) —**Paul Hestand**



## M1 RIFLE COMPETITION

PPC Hestand is also looking for interested parties to represent Post 76 in an M1 Garand rifle competition with other Posts in the valley. Rifle , training and ammunition will be provided. If interested contact Paul Hestand 702-401-8089, [p4979h@gmail.com](mailto:p4979h@gmail.com).

## NO COST LEGIONCARE ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE AGAIN AVAILABLE

I am happy to announce that a new No Cost LegionCare Accidental Death insurance product will be available in our state as of 1 July, 2017. This will provide a death benefit of \$2,500 in the event of an accidental death which occurs within 365 days of the accident. This coverage will be provided by Securian Life, formerly known as Minnesota Life.

Nevada Legionnaires will be able to sign up for coverage either on the internet at [www.theLIT.com](http://www.theLIT.com) or by calling the LIT Customer Service number, 800-235-6943 to enroll over the phone. The new plan provides coverage for 5 years. A Postcard mailing is planned to provide all of our members with information about this new plan. Any Nevada Legionnaire or Sons of the Legion member who is already enrolled in the old plan remains in that plan.

Members will also be able to purchase additional paid coverage. Information on that will be shown on the website or available also by calling. Your members can choose accidental death coverage at 4 levels: \$50,000, \$100,000, \$200,000, or \$300,000 at member or family rates. There is a 50% face value reduction at age 70.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Department LIT Director, **Lionel-Motta**



**Legionnaire Insurance Trust**

## HOW DOES THE VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WORK FOR YOU?

Past Department Commander **Jack Ford** is a member of the Southern Nevada Health Care Hospitals' Commanders Advisory Board and the Veterans Family Advisory Council. As such he is interested in Veterans experiences at either the Clinics or Hospital, both pleasurable and not so pleasurable. If you have an experience that you would like to share please E-mail it to him at [ACChief@aol.com](mailto:ACChief@aol.com). The current Hospital Administration is working hard to improve every veterans experience in dealing with the VA. As an experienced manager and former Work Measurement Analysts with the California Department of Motor Vehicles Jack is well aware that in any large wide reaching organization management cannot solve problems if they are not made aware of them. So please take this opportunity to share your VA Roses or Thorns with him. — **Jack Ford**





American Legion Post 76  
P.O. Box 34012  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**

**Summerlin Patriotic Parade — 4 July, 2017 starts on Hillpointe Rd. 7:30 am**

**E Board Meeting — 13 July, 2017, 4:30 pm**

**GENERAL MEETING — 16 July, 2017 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

**E Board Meeting — 10 August, 2017, 4:30 pm**

**GENERAL MEETING — 20 August, 2017 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

**E Board Meeting — 14 September, 2017, 4:30 pm**

**GENERAL MEETING — 17 September, 2017 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

**POST 76 HAS A STRONG PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET.**

Take a minute and add these internet addresses to your favorites and when you get online, be sure to join and/or subscribe to these sites so you will be notified when updates with new information are made.

**Web — <http://www.nvPost76.webs.com/> Blog — <http://Post76nv.blogspot.com/>**

**If you have not renewed for 2017, THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!**