



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 15 April 2016 — June 2016

Commanders Message

Another Legion year is coming after our Post elections this month. We hope to see you at our meeting and participate in electing your officers for next year. Any member of Post 76, in good standing is eligible to vote. The year ending has been a very successful year for us. Membership is up once again, we are involved in more community events and look forward to increasing our membership.

The near future presents many opportunities for all of us to volunteer in our community to support the 4 Pillars of the American Legion:

I Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, **II** National Security, **III** Americanism, and **IV** Children & Youth.

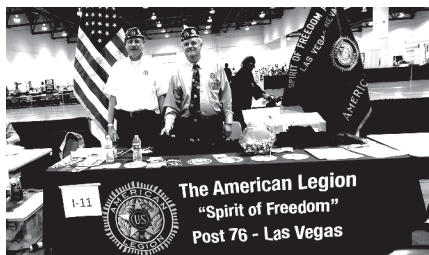
I invite everyone to come to the meetings, meet your comrades, become involved. You can be as active as you like on committees. The more active the committees are, the more we can do for our Veterans.

Joel Forman, Commander

Post 76 Participates in Veterans Stand Down

Post 76 Legionnaires Joel Forman (Commander), Steve Daugherty (Adjutant), Larry Eisenberg (Service Officer) and Andy Agan (Sergeant-at-Arms) manned the Post 76 Table at the 13th Annual Las Vegas Veterans Stand Down, organized by US Vets. It was held March 16-17 and was deemed a huge success! Over 965 veterans and their family members attended the event at the Cashman Center, where they received a host of services ranging from haircuts and eye care to housing and employment. More than 140 service providers, including Post 76, participated in the event, bringing a wide range of services to veterans, including housing, employment, education, healthcare, counseling, treatment, VA benefits handout, and many other forms of support.

Post 76 passed out glove liners and socks to those needy veterans seeking clothing items. The Veterans Stand Down is an event held annually in the Spring, while a similar event providing services for needy veterans is sponsored by Catholic War Veterans during its Veterans Service Fair in the Fall.



UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

E Board Meeting — MAY 12, 2016 4:30 pm .

GENERAL MEETING — May 15, 2016 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — June 9, 2016, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — [CHANGE] June 26, 2016, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — July 14, 2016, 4:30 pm .

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

E Board Meeting — August 11, 2016, 4:30 pm .

GENERAL MEETING — August 21, 2016 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

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Notice of General Elections / Request for Nomination of Candidates for Officers

Post 76 will be holding its annual elections during our regularly scheduled general meeting on April 17, 2016 at the Durango Hills YMCA. Complete position descriptions can be requested from the Adjutant. The nominating committee is now looking for additional qualified candidates to consider for all of the following elected positions:

COMMANDER - will preside over all meetings of the post and have general supervision over post affairs.

1st VICE COMMANDER - will assume and discharge the duties of the Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Commander and will be Chairman of the Membership.

2nd VICE COMMANDER - will assume and discharge the duties of the 1st Vice Commander in the absence or disability of the 1st Vice Commander and plan, schedule, and prepare for Post and patriotic events.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS - will be responsible for overseeing the set-up and tear-down as well as maintaining order at all meetings.

TRUSTEE - will be elected for a period of three (3) years and represent the interests of the general membership on the Executive Committee and shall have sufficient autonomy to deliberate and act in favor of the greater common good and national interests of the membership.

If you are interested in any of these positions, contact ADJUTANT Stephen Daugherty — Phone: (253) 691-0617 or stevedaugh@aol.com or e-mail NVPost76@gmail.com. The Executive Board has nominated a person for each of the elected offices (Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Trustees) and the slate will be brought forward to the membership for approval. Nominations from the floor are allowed by our bylaws.

We are also looking for individuals who would be appointed by the Commander to fill the following positions: Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Historian and Chaplain. There are openings for Legionnaires willing to volunteer to chair or serve on the following committees: Membership, Americanism, Children & Youth (which includes Boys State Representative), Finance, Public Relations, Service, and Ways & Means.

Newsletter Advertising

Do you have a business or event that you would like to have advertised in the Post Journal? This newsletter is published quarterly and goes out to over 600 Post 76 Legionnaires. The newsletter used to be funded by a grant from Nevada Power but after its merger, the grant was ended. Currently most of the newsletter cost is covered by generous donations to our general budget.

We can accommodate ads from business card size all the way up to full page ads. The pricing is negotiable as we have not had individual ads for a number of years. If you have something you would like to have included in future newsletters, please let the newsletter editor know by calling [702] 595-1795 or email at NVPost76@gmail.com. An example of a business card is displayed.

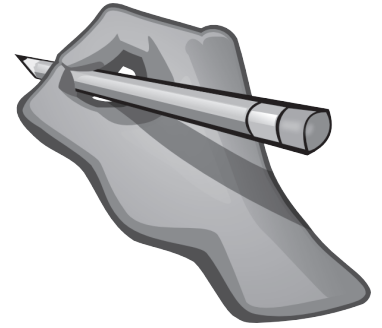


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Adjutant's Pen

The Post 76 General Meeting is your gateway to American Legion happenings around the Las Vegas Valley. Here you can rub elbows with veterans from every US Military Service and enjoy their camaraderie, meet your Veterans Service Officers, get an update on Veterans benefits and support from our monthly Guest Speaker Program (Agent Orange, Horses for Heroes, Nevada Veterans Services, VA Medical Center claims, Clark County Veterans Court, and Nevada Veterans Advocates are all recent topics), learn what activities Post 76 is getting involved with, and have a neat snack and drink afterwards. It's also the place you can make suggestions to help us to provide you the kind of meeting and activities that will make you feel good about paying your annual dues. Come to the meetings every 3rd Sunday of the month at the Durango Hills YMCA, at 1:30 PM, and you'll be glad you did.



Your Post 76 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. June is an exception because of Fathers Day, the meeting will be on the 4th Sunday, June 26, 2016.

Membership Factoids

With the publication of this Newsletter, the beginning of the 2017 dues year, 1 July 2016, is a bit over 2 months away. Membership dues are valid for the calendar year, for example, 1 January 2016-31 December 2016. However, National Headquarters begins to mail the invoices for the next calendar year on 1 July. So you will begin to receive invoices for the 2017 dues year after 1 July 2016. Everyone who pays their 2017 dues this early is considered an Early Bird, and you will get a pretty red bird stamped on your new Post 76 ID card. Be aware that your 2016 membership does not expire until 31 December 2016, but it helps everyone in the system if you pay early.



Speaking of membership expiration, there are still a few Post 76 members who have not paid their 2016 membership dues, so you're technically expired. However, National Headquarters has made a provision in membership policy such that an expired member can be reinstated if dues are paid before the next dues year's dues invoices are mailed—before 1 July 2016. So, get your 2016 dues paid!

And don't forget that 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 new member ID Card.

This is your receipt for payment of dues, and you know you can ignore any subsequent dues invoices from HQ.

It's an unpleasant fact that you've heard rumors about—membership dues are going up to \$40 per year for Post 76 membership renewals for 2017! The American Legion passed a recommendation at its National Convention last year to increase dues for all American Legion members by \$5, beginning 20 January 2016--the first national per capita dues increase for nearly a decade. Post 76 Executive Board agreed to pass this increase on to members for the 2017 dues year.

But, rest assured that your annual dues will support very important Veterans causes. Your dues help advocate for Veterans issues at the Congressional level and support programs in Las Vegas, Nevada, and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy and Etiquette, Junior ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others. Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, service members, and their families. Read through this Newsletter to see what Post 76 does at the local level.

Las Vegas to Become a Purple Heart City

On Wednesday, April 20, 2015 the Las Vegas City Council will officially proclaim Las Vegas as a "Purple Heart City" during its morning Council meeting at City Hall, 495 S. Main St., Las Vegas, NV. The Council convenes at 9:00 AM and, after routine business, the proclamation ceremony should occur at 9:45 AM. The public is invited to attend this patriotic ceremony.

In taking this action, the City of Las Vegas pays special homage to America's sons and daughters, and particularly those from the greater Las Vegas area, who have been killed or wounded in combat against the enemies of the United States or as a result of acts of international terrorism.

Representing all Purple Heart recipients in the area will be Chapter 711 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Commander John Waid will present Mayor Carolyn Goodman and the Council with a special plaque and other mementos to commemorate the day. The city will also be presented a Purple Heart flag to be flown on military holidays; especially on August 7th, National Purple Heart Day. Following the proclamation ceremony, Patriot Members of MOPH Chapter 711 will host a reception in the Now Café located in City Hall.

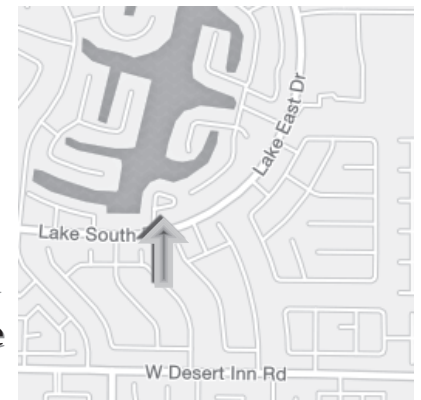
The "Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, through veteran service, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Programs of the MOPH include VA Volunteer Service, JROTC Leadership Awards, Scholarships, Americanism, Purple Heart Trail and Cities, Welfare, and numerous community service programs, all with the objective of service to Veterans and their families. Chapter 711 meets the first Saturday of each month at the I-Hop Restaurant, 9651 Trailwood Dr., Las Vegas.

Please Attend the 14th Annual Lakes Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday May 30th, 2016

Solemnly and Promptly at 9:30 AM

Held at the Lakes South Park [see map] [between Sahara and Desert Inn North-South and Durango and Ft. Apache East -West]



NJROTC Cadets and AFJOTC Cadets prepare to place the wreath of remembrance on the water.

Please consider attending our 14th Annual Memorial Day ceremony. The media label this day as the official beginning of summer. Some in the media say that it is a day to CELEBRATE and honor ALL the men and women who serve and have served, as well as those who paid the ultimate price. **They are incorrect.**

ARMED FORCES DAY is the day we honor all those who have served, are serving now or will serve the Country in Uniform. **VETERANS DAY** is the day we honor all Veterans. **MEMORIAL DAY** is that special day where we **DO NOT CELEBRATE but HONOR** and remember with humility and gratitude those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms and our way of life.

UPCOMING POST 76 EVENTS OF INTEREST TO YOU

1. Southern Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposium, at Cannery Craig Rd. Saturday, April 16 at 8:30 AM
2. Sun City Aliante Information Tuesday, April 19 at 7 PM.
3. Purple Heart Day Wednesday, April 20 @ L. V. City Hall, 495 S. Main St, 9:00 AM
4. Information Table at V.A. Hospital Vets Care Fair Saturday April 23, 10-2 Volunteers needed.
5. Honor Flight welcome home Sunday April 24 at 4PM at McCarran above baggage claim area. Volunteers needed.
6. Information Table at Creech AFB Thursday, April 28 9:30 -12.00. Volunteers needed.
7. UNLV Air Force ROTC Awards Ceremony Friday, May 6 8:30 - 10:20.
8. Unserviceable Flag Ceremony at SNVMC Saturday May 7 at 120 AM
9. Helldorado Parade Sat. May 14 @ 1000. Color Guard & Riders. Volunteers needed.
10. Asked to provide Color Guard for the 45th Reunion of the USS TICONDEROGA CVA14/ CVG47 WII Carrier & Cruiser at the Gold Coast on Sunday evening 22 May @6:15. Color Guard. Donation. Volunteers needed.
11. Veterans Memorial Dedication at Grant Sawyer Friday, May 27 at 10 AM.
12. Memorial Day Ceremony at the Lakes Monday, May 30th VOLUNTEERS Needed!!
13. July 4th Parade in Summerlin 8 AM. Riders and Color Guard Volunteers needed.

Please contact Commander Joel Forman if you can participate and/or for further information

Post 76 and the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program

Post 76 participated in the AFW2 Program activities held at Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) and Las Vegas 26 Feb-3 Mar 2016. The AFW2 Program is a Congressionally-mandated, federally-funded program that provides personalized care, services, and advocacy to seriously or very seriously wounded, ill or injured Total Force recovering service members and their Caregivers and families. AFW2 focuses on specific personal and family needs and includes programs that cover a gamut of situations throughout the recovery process and beyond.

Nonmedical care managers advocate for services on a wounded warrior's behalf with the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, and Social Security Administration.

Part of the 2016 Air Force athletic event trials were sponsored by Nellis AFB, where Post 76 member Bobbi Oates was instrumental in planning and supporting the activities there. Commander Joel Forman and Adjutant Steve Daugherty attended the CARE Fair on 4 Mar 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel to present American Legion information and material to Wounded Warrior participants in the week's activities.



(Left to right) Rhoden Galloway, Program Coordinator, Air Force Adaptive Sports; AFW2 Chris Ferrell; Adjutant Steve Daugherty; AFW2 Kari Miller

Your Post on the Internet — Report from the Webmaster

My name is Robert Serge and I am your web and Blog master and Life member Spirit of Freedom Post 76. The reason for this report is to introduce our website and blog to the membership of Post 76.

Web site: <http://www.nvpost76.webs.com/>

The web site was designed to introduce our American Legion Department of Nevada, Spirit of Freedom, Post 76 to membership and anyone that is looking for an American Legion post to join after moving to the Las Vegas area. Anyone with internet access from a PC, Tablet, or Smart phone can follow the link above for information on our American Legion post.

Welcome to the official website for American Legion Spirit of Freedom Post 76 in Las Vegas, Nevada! The purpose of this site is to present information for local veterans [of all eras] and their families, along with information which can be of use to veterans around the U.S. We will offer the ability to view our newsletter online, list local and national resources, and list events that Post 76 is involved with.

Blog: <http://post76nv.blogspot.com/>

The Blog site was designed to introduce Spirit of Freedom Post 76 to membership and anyone that is looking for an American Legion post to join after moving to the Las Vegas area. So anyone with internet access from a PC, Tablet, or Smart phone could follow the link above for information on our American Legion post.

This Blog was developed so you will be better informed on what we are up to and all the events that we as a post are doing. This is being done in the hope that more of you will get involved so we can better help our fellow veterans that need our help. Both of these sites are linked together. You can follow our blog by e-mail on the right hand side there is a link just enter your e-mail address in and follow the instructions so every time I update the blog you will receive an e-mail letting you know . If you have any questions or need help on our sites you can contact me at rserge1@outlook.com.

Boys State Committee

The Boys State committee is always talking about the need for donations and you been doing your best as always. The money donated to the program is very much appreciated and still needed.

On March 19th and 20th, Boys State Chairman Mike Shephard arranged for an information/donation table to be set up at the Denny's restaurant at 4280 W. Craig St. This being a holiday weekend, it was a very successful event. The volunteers for both days were Mike Shephard, Larry Eisenberg, Mike Percival, Steve Dougherty, Leo Lamer, Joel Forman, Jack Ford, Marvin Morgenthal, and George Curcio. A huge thanks for all of their help. The manager of the Denny's is Alex Padilla. He was instrumental in letting us set up our table at his place of



business. If anyone gets the chance, please go in and have a cup of coffee or breakfast and let them know you are from Post 76 and we appreciated their help.

We were able to hand out plenty of information about both Boys State and The Oratorical Contest. The response from the community was very positive and it generated a great deal of interest. We were also able to present \$250.00 cash to the Boys State program. It was a very enjoyable group, lots of conversation and comradery. I believe we will be doing similar things in the future.

Thanks to you all for your help and your donations, Mike Shephard -- Chairman, The Boys State Committee -- Spirit of Freedom, Post #76

Splendor in the Glass

PBS Channel 10 — The American Legion Post 76 members donated their time recently to supporting Southern Nevada Public Television's 27th annual "Splendor in the Glass" fund-raising event on 20 February 2016. Members Mike Percival, Bill Knobloch, Mike Shephard, and Steve Daugherty volunteered to assist at the Wine/Beer Tasting and Silent Auction event, which is a major fund-raiser for PBS Channel 10. Held in the Grand Ballroom of the Westgate Hotel and Casino, the event featured a host of wine and beer retailers tempting their clients' palate with their offerings—many enthusiastic clients enjoyed the tempting nectar of the vine.



(Left to right) Adjutant Steve Daugherty, 1st Vice Commander Mike Percival, Boys State and Oratorical Contest Committee Chairman Mike Shephard



Sergeant-at-Arms Andy Agan lifts to 1st Place

Post 76 Legionnaire Lifts Self to Championship Status!

Post 76 Sergeant-at-Arms Andy Agan has lifted himself to world-class level in the State of Nevada Bench Press and Dead Lift Championships. He competed in trials in Pahrump on 27 February 2016 and won his age group and class weight category. He advances to the World Championship competition held in Las Vegas 15-20 November 2016. Great lifting Andy!

VA Secretary McDonald: "Thank a Vietnam Veteran and welcome them home"

Our nation is currently commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, a long overdue opportunity to honor our 7.2 million living Vietnam Veterans and the 9 million families of those of us who served from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. The Department of Veterans Affairs and more than 9,000 local, state and national organizations have joined the Department of Defense as Commemorative Partners in this important commemoration.

For us, this partnership holds special significance in light of our mission to serve those who "shall have borne the battle," their families and their survivors. Embracing our Vietnam Veterans and their families is in keeping with the intent and spirit of our MyVA transformation, focusing on our customers and improving their experience with the VA.

Please take advantage of the opportunity this commemoration presents to express your gratitude for the service and sacrifice of this generation of American Service members. Thank a Vietnam Veteran and welcome them home!

Editor's note: On March 29, the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Committee honored Vietnam Veterans with events at the Wall in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country. Post 76 is a Commemorative Partner and participated in a ceremony in Las Vegas.





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Post 76 on the Internet

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. See the article on Page 5 of this newsletter for more description of what is in each of these sites.



Web site: <http://www.nvpost76.webs.com/>

Blog: <http://post76nv.blogspot.com/>

Additional Legion Links of interest:

American Legion Department of Nevada website: <http://nevadalegion.org/>

American Legion National website: <http://www.legion.org/>

Online renewal: <http://www.legion.org/renew>