



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 37 — July— September 2021

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



Greetings NV Post 76 Legionnaires!

This article was published in Legiontown online on 3 June 2021. I thought it was worthwhile to repeat it in this Newsletter.

Las Vegas Post 76 holds Memorial Day Service 76 - Las Vegas, NV

On Saturday, May 29, American Legion Spirit of Freedom Post 76 held its 19th annual Memorial Day service at the Lakes. The service included three speakers: Post 76 1st Vice Commander Pranava Moody, Legionnaire Brendan Vargas, speaking on behalf of Sen. Jacky Rosen, and Las Vegas Councilwoman Victoria Seaman. Also included in the service was the POW/MIA empty table ceremony, read by Post 14 Commander Joe Tasby and assisted by Post 14 Adjutant Don Freund.

The 13-fold-flag ceremony was conducted by Post 76 Legionnaire Bobi Oates, 2nd Vice Commander Buzz Cheatham and Finance Officer Dennis Christiansen. The service concluded with a wreath remembrance ceremony performed by World War II veteran and Post Director Jack Ford, Post Commander Tony Mascari and Seaman.

Submitted by: Commander Tony Mascari

I hope this message finds you all safe and healthy.

As we begin to return to our "normal" lives, I wanted to take a few minutes and say a hearty THANK YOU to all the Post 76 Legionnaires who worked so hard to get the post thru one of the most difficult times in Post history. Post 76 not only survived, but thrived. We found new ways to reach out to our members. We found new ways to serve our community. Although it was a difficult and often stressful time, I hope we all learned some things. I learned that this team is unbeatable. Whatever situation was put before us, it was handled and done with professionalism and pride.

A good example was our annual Memorial Day service at the Lakes. In 2020, when the pandemic was just getting started, we held a scaled down version, but we were able to honor our comrades with dignity and respect. This year, we were able to expand quite a bit, and the turnout was fantastic. So much went into putting this event together, especially since almost up until the very end, we didn't know if there would be restrictions or capacity limits. We had to have a plan, but remain flexible.

As I write this message, I was recently informed that our Post home (Humana) was still open by appointment only, but I am hopeful that in the very near future, we will once again be able to meet there.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and healthy summer, and I hope to see you all soon. May God bless you all.

Tony Mascari, Commander

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PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S/ POST 76 DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Welcome to the new Legion year! As of 1 July dues for 2022 may be paid online at legion.org and click on the renew tab or you can send in a check or money order to the Post P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV. 89133. By doing this now, you will not receive any renewal notices and you will be saving the Post money on printing and mailing them out. You will also be in good standing through 31 December 2022.

Included in Commander Tony's goals for this year are to be the most active in accordance with the four pillars of The American Legion, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth, also to be the largest Post in the Department of Nevada. We have already donated several trash bags of damaged American flags to our Scouts for their Flag Retirement Ceremony. Our Color Guard has participated in several ceremonies honoring Veterans in assisted care facilities with the NDVS and have several more scheduled. Several of our members volunteer at the VA Hospital and clinics on a regular basis.

Congratulations to Post Members director Jack Ford who was elected to the office of Alternate National Executive Board member, Tom Mahon, past adjutant and two time winner of "Adjutant of the Year" by the Department, appointed as adjutant of District 2. Finance Officer Dennis Christiansen appointed as Finance Officer of District 2 and Commander Tony Mascari elected as 2nd Vice Commander of District 2.

Our Post must be doing something right!

Renewal notices for 2022 have been sent out to all Post members. Last year, we were 4th in reaching 100% towards our goal of 817 paid members. We just missed receiving a gift certificate from Emblem & Flag Sales which were awarded by the Department for the first three Posts to reach 100%. You can help the Post by renewing your membership early either by going to LEGION.ORG and clicking on the RENEW tab or by sending your check to the address on your renewal notice. Your 2022 membership card will be sent to you within a few days.

Joel M. Forman — Past Post Commander, PDC & Director, NV Post 76

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2021

In 2021 Walter Cheatham, 2nd Vice Commander of Past 76 took over all responsibility of coordinating the ceremony, and there was a return to a fuller program. Because high schools were not able to participate due to Covid restrictions, the Post 76 Color Guard took over the duties of Presentation of Colors and the Flag Folding Ceremony, while Post 14 offered the POW/MIA Table Ceremony. The wreath was placed on the water by Las Vegas Councilwoman Victoria Seaman, Post 76 Commander Tony Mascari, and Past Post and Past Department Commander & Director Jack Ford, a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.



Attendance in 2021 has increased to well over 200 attendees. Even during the Covid year of 2020 about 100 guests came together. There have been many military, government, and civic dignitaries who have presented messages during the programs, and several Las Vegas Strip celebrities have also participated in this solemn event. Each year many requests are received from important members of the city and state who wish to be involved in this event. We have been honored to include Scout

troops and packs, JROTC color guards, local young musicians, various Veteran organizations, and several American Legion Posts. In summary, Memorial Day at the Lakes has become, from its very humble beginnings, an important and anticipated event in the community and it is still growing!

On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, Post 76 was honored at Las Vegas City Hall, and received a plaque commemorating our dedication in presenting the Lakes Memorial Day Ceremony each year. The Post also was presented a Certificate of Achievement for its service to the community and to veterans.

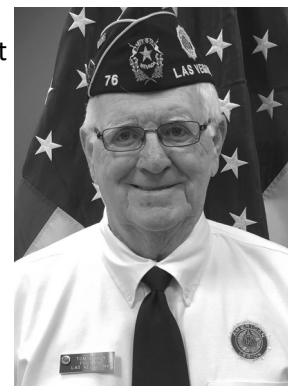


DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA CONVENTION

This year the 102nd department Convention was held at Stockman's Hotel and Casino, Elko NV 26-27 June, 2021.

During Committee reports, the relevant parts are as follows:

- The 2021-2022 Department convention will be held in Las Vegas with 2nd District sponsoring.
- Our own Tom Mahon was named 2020-2021 Adjutant of the Year. Tom is now a Director of Post 76.



Post 76 Director
Tom Mahon

Under Department chair reports, the relevant parts are as follows:

- There will be a Legion baseball season. Currently going on in Henderson.
- There was a virtual Boys State held (thru the Dept of California), where nine participants were involved. This came as a surprise to many of the Post Commanders, as we did not know of it. Girls State had fourteen participants (also thru Dept of California).
- The state Oratorical winner was Elinore Reynolds from Palo Verde HS. As there was no National contest, all state winners received a \$5000 scholarship from National.
- Membership awards for 100% were given out and Post 76 received one.
- Flag and Emblem gift certificates were given out to the top three Posts, and the winners were Post 7, Post 4, and Post 5. Post 76 came in 4th place. (note: The COMBINED memberships of those Post's is 443. Seems fair we're in the same bracket as them.)

Then the Auxiliary and SAL gave their reports. SAL continues to struggle with membership.

There was no unfinished or new business and we convened for the evening.

The Legion Family Banquet was held that night and the featured speaker was Kat Miller. She gave a great speech on service. There were door prizes and raffles held and two Post 76 members won. Fred Wagar won a nice basket of assorted prizes, and Tony Mascari won a hat (which was given to someone who actually knew who the sponsor on the hat was).

On Sunday 27 June, The meeting reconvened at 0830.



Post 76 Director
Jack Ford

The only business left was the election of the officers for 2021-2022. They are as follows:

- Commander – Richard Eberly from Post 56
- 1st Vice Commander – Valerie Scheuering from Post 37
- 2nd Vice Commander – Robert Morris from Post 8
- Sgt at Arms – Brenda Horton from Post 7
- National Executive Committee Person – Jeanette Ray from Post 7
- Alternate National Executive Committee Person – Jack Ford from Post 76.

The officers were then sworn in by Mitch Roach. Once the new Department Commander took the podium, he gave a recess, and said only the Executive Committee needed to return.

Over the course of the 2 day convention, Commander Mascari and Adjutant LeDuc made a lot of contacts, and learned how the convention runs. One contact, in particular, was Doug Williams, who is with the HR department of the state, and he is the Veterans Coordinator. We discussed helping the vets in our post who are currently in High Desert State Prison, and he said he would be able to assist them in finding employment, or training once they are released.

The National Legion College in Indianapolis, IN prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. We are always looking for volunteers to learn about what officers in our Post do and how you can join us, and learn OJT and be mentored as assistants/ committee members.

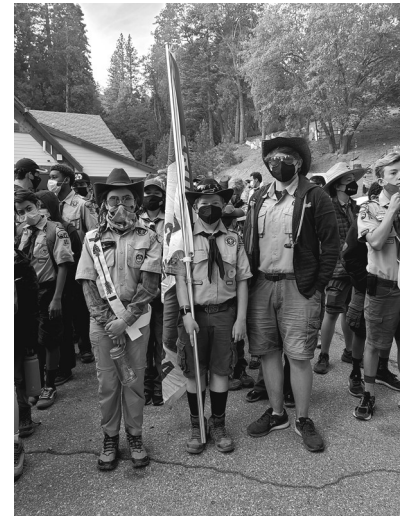
TROOPS 312 AND PACK 312 — “X” MARKS THE SPOT!

Sixteen boys and ten girls along with four leaders from Troops 312 attended Camp Bighorn at Circle X by Lake Arrowhead, CA in June. The troops earned many Merit Badges and worked on rank advancement while they were there. They had five new scouts complete the Pathfinder program, seventeen of them froze during the Polar Bear plunge at 5:30 in the morning at the pool, twenty two of them braved the heights of the zip line while at camp, the leaders participated in underwater basket weaving, and everyone had a wonderful time, even our Scoutmaster who came upon a 3-foot rattlesnake at the campsite while the Scouts were doing their activities. To top off a wonderful week at camp, the troops were honored with the Honor Troop Award for the week! Eight Scouts swam the Mile while at camp



Lucia E. passed her Eagle Board of Review on June 8th, and will be Girl Troop 312's second Eagle Scout! We are all so proud of Lucia's hard work and her wonderful project benefitting the Ronald McDonald House in Las Vegas.

Our Pack celebrated the end of the year with a family picnic and field day hosted by the two troops. The Cub Scouts received their awards for the year and were promoted to their next ranks. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a group outdoors after a long year of online and small in-person meetings. Ten Cub Scouts participated in the various day camps that the Las Vegas Area Council offered and were happy to start their summer doing fun stuff. The pack is going to the movies for the July activity and is planning on going bowling in August before they kick off the new school year.



Two of our scout adults jumped off the Strat in support of a Las Vegas Area Council fundraiser supporting local scouts and families who cannot afford the program.



Troop 312 Instagram: [Instagram.com/lvtroop312](https://www.instagram.com/lvtroop312)

Contact **Pranava Moody**, 1st Vice Commander, NV Post 76 for more information.

Mrs. Moody's info can be found on page 1.



POST FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

At the end of this month our Fiscal Year 2020 ends. All bills and charities have been paid. We are starting off our Fiscal Year 2021 in a very good financial position. Thank you all for your generosity and support you have given our Post.

I would also like to thank our Post Officers, Directors, and Committees for making our Post an outstanding example in The American Legion organization, I am very proud to be a member of this post.

Thank you all for your time and if anyone has any questions for me about the Post Finances, please contact me and I will answer them to the best of my ability.

Please know that any member in good standing may view the financial records of our Post if they so desire.

Would you like to Help Military Veterans?

Can you do simple math?

Does it make you feel good when things balance?

Are you a "Penny Processor (aka Accountant)"

Then **Please consider volunteering** to learn the Finance Officer position as Assistant Finance Officer.

It is very rewarding and if you can balance your checkbook you can become a Finance officer.

Dennis Christiansen – NV Post 76 Finance Officer

NV POST 76 ENCOURAGES BUDDY CHECKS!

The Buddy Check program encourages Legionnaires to make contact, lend a listening ear, and help fellow veterans locate critical services. NV Post 76 officers are dedicated to making calls to our members just to find out how they are doing, and if there is anything the Post can do for them.

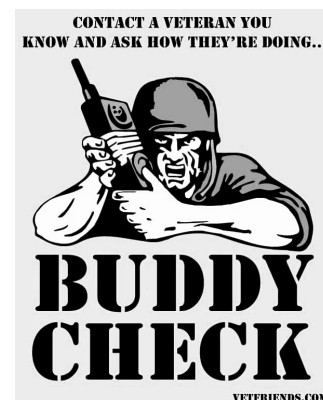
The American Legion is encouraging posts and members to shift their Buddy Check programs to assist veterans coping with mental health and well-being challenges.

“The nation’s largest veterans organization is also urging Congress to pass the Buddy Check Week bill which will make wellness checks a national priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs. With military suicides up 20 percent over this time last year, Legionnaires are urged to make check-in calls to at-risk veterans across the nation and offer support and access to wellness programs in the week surrounding Veterans Day and into the winter months ahead.

Veterans can be at particular risk for depression and suicide . . . , and many are disproportionately hard-hit by the pandemic due to age, chronic health issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and isolation. The Buddy Check program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversation, assess risks and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services.”

For Buddy Check information, visit legion.org/buddy-check. For urgent help, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.

Our Post intends to continue these contacts. If you have not yet been contact by our Post, we may have an incorrect number. Contact our Adjutant (see officer list on front page) to make sure we have your correct phone number. In addition, this is meant to be a two-way conversation. If there is any information you could use or if you have a need for obtaining contact information on organizations that can help you, at any time, feel free to give us a call. We are here to serve our Veteran Community to the best of our ability.



***When you don't know who to call at the Veterans Administration —
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is the one number to call.***

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 76 NEWS

Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 76!

Our Auxiliary is starting out a fiscal year and haven't had a chance to have a meeting yet to find out what our members are interested in becoming active with.



American Legion Auxiliary

We are hosting a fundraiser at **Summerlin Hash House a Go Go, 10810 W. Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89135 from 5 pm until 8 pm on July 23, 2021.** Please tell you friends and family. We will receive 20% of every dinner that is served during this time.

We will discuss the possibility of a Nothing Bundt Cake fundraiser at our next membership meeting.

Jennifer Holmes and I attended a meeting at Unit 8 to check out protocol and basically learn about the Auxiliary functions. It was very informative. Thank you Glynis Seeley for inviting us.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Location is still undetermined.

We will be discussing everything listed above and also an event to help and/or benefit veterans. Details will be forthcoming as soon as it is approved.

Linda LeDuc

President

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 76

NV POST 76 WELCOMES INCARCERATED VETERANS

In November of 2019 representatives of Post 76 met with staff members of High Desert State Prison (HDSP) with the intention of starting an American Legion Post in the newly created Veterans Services Unit in the Prison. After discussion, it was decided that it would be better for the incarcerated veterans to join Post 76 in lieu of chartering a new post. The first cadre of new Legionnaires consisted of eight members.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, things slowed down quite a bit, due to the institution being on quarantine lockdown. With the re-opening of the State, a vigorous recruitment campaign has begun, resulting in more than 10 new members and counting. As the Veterans Unit grows, so does the Legion membership. The great working relationship between Past Commander Joel Forman and Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) Veterans Services Coordinator, USAF MSgt (Ret) Michael Williams, a PUFL member of the Post, has resulted in great things happening at HDSP and Spirit of Freedom Post 76.

Submitted by Michael [Mic] Williams

Lakeview Bay Club
Private Lakefront Event Venue
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Near Sahara and Ft. Apache

Sissy Carrasquilla - Director of Operations
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2902 Lake East Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89117
(702)483-7320 (corporate)
www.LakeviewBayClub.com
Event Options for EVERY Budget

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

WHAT'S AN UNACCOMPANIED VETERAN FUNERAL?



A MILITARY FUNERAL WITH NO KNOWN NEXT OF KIN.

SO A BUNCH OF VETS SHOW UP TO A FUNERAL FOR SOMEONE THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW?



EVERY VETERAN DESERVES TO BE BURIED WITH HONOR AND DIGNITY.

VETS FROM ALL ERAS SHOW UP TO PAY RESPECTS TO SHOW THAT IF NO ONE FIGHTS ALONE, NO ONE WILL DIE ALONE EITHER.



I DON'T GET IT...



THEN I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO EXPLAIN IT.

Narda Mery
2019

Join our Post 76 legionnaires and the Southern Nevada Patriot Guard that routinely attend the funerals for unaccompanied veterans at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on some Thursday mornings.

Contact Director Joel Forman



Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER?

A: A veterans service officer (VSO) is an individual who advocates for veterans benefits. They should never take an action which they believe to have a negative impact on the veteran or family of the veteran. The VSO is also responsible for being proficient in the areas of customer service, technical knowledge of regulation and law as it pertains to VA matters, and proper disposition of claims and appeals. They too should be empathetic, understanding and helpful.

It is very important when seeking a professional VSO that you take several factors into consideration. First, verify that the service officer is accredited by a veterans service organization, such as The American Legion. Second, if a VSO attempts to charge you money for services rendered, either covertly or overtly, they should be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Third, you should make an appointment with the prospective representative to explain your case and get a feel for how well they do their job. If you are not satisfied, find another VSO that you feel comfortable with. The VSO is your lifeline to VA benefits, and you must ensure that they are providing everything you deserve.

Contact our local American Legion service officer to assist with a VA claim or benefits:

WILLIE BARRON

Wilmer.barron@va.gov

(702) 224-6827





American Legion NV Post 76

P.O. Box 34012

Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

There is a chance that we will be able to have in-person meetings at Humana during the last quarter of 2021. Due to the pandemic and uncertainty in size of groups allowed, we do not when, as well as if, we can report upon scheduled upcoming in person meeting dates and times here as we usually do in newsletters. Our officers are looking for alternative locations to hold in-person meetings that would allow our members to get out and about.

We will continue to notify Legionnaires of meetings via email and our Facebook page. Please check your SPAM or JUNK folders for email from NVPost76@gmail.com. If it is there, please add it to your safe senders list depending on how your email system works.

If you have not been receiving emails from us, please send an email to NVPost76@gmail.com to be added to our list. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV/>



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

If you **have not renewed for 2022** it is now time **to early-bird renew**. Membership renewal notices for the 2022 year have been sent out during July, 2021.

The easiest way to do renew, is to go online to www.Legion.org and click on **RENEW**, and pay with a credit card. If it is more convenient for you, checks are always fine mailed to the address above after you receive your renewal in the mail. IF you pay and receive your new 2022 membership card, **disregard any renewal notices** that may come afterwards.