



# The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 23 April 2018 — June 2018

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



February has been a memorable month to say the least. It brought some excitement to our post. We welcomed the American Legion National Commander, Denise Rohan, to our February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Not only is she the first female National Commander, but could have visited over 13,000 posts, but chose ours. She was quite impressed with our meeting and she talked about family and the importance of total commitment to the Legion. It is good to know that we are doing the right thing for the Legion and the vets. I hope more of you can attend some of our meetings to see what we are about.

This is also the time of year when we are gearing up for the end of school year award ceremonies. We will be attending 20 ceremonies, 7 High Schools and 13 Middle Schools. We need many veterans to sign up to "hang a medal" on a well-deserved student. May 17<sup>th</sup> is the most crucial night. There is one high school and 5 Middle School ceremonies on that night. The other schools are no more than one or two on any given date. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. So check your calendars and help us out at the award ceremonies.

**The last item of importance to discuss is the upcoming election of officers at our April Meeting.** There are 7 elected officers and 6 appointed officers. If any member in good standing seeks a position within the post, notify the Adjutant at the upcoming March meeting. Regardless if any officer wishes to stay on, anyone can seek the position. **-Mike Percival, Commander**

## YOUTH ACTIVITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Again this year, Post 76 Legionnaires are volunteering at the Boy Scout Expo. We are doing the First Aid Merit badge on Saturday 28 April 2018 from 07:30-17:30 and need your help. No previous knowledge of first aid is necessary because pre-training of merit badge task is available. Past Commander Paul Hestand teaches the class, and then volunteers take small groups of scouts aside after each technique is shown to practice the skill.

If you are able to volunteer, send your T-shirt size to Paul at p4979h@gmail.com or call (702) 401-8089.



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 Thomas Mahon  
Phone: (702) 619-2873  
pilot121@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 Tony Mascari  
Phone: (702) 218-0689  
bm1mascari@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  
acchief@aol.com

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

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

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

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S ACTIVITIES

I was asked to be a judge at an event called "Future City". It is a State and National Contest for young people in middle school age grades. They must design a city, complete with infrastructure, roads, buildings, transportation etc. and build a scale model of the city. Here is the tough part, this city is to be built 100 years in the future so all of the new industry, medical, engineering, buildings etc. is to be designed keeping the future changes in our lives over the next 100 years. Also, the city was to have the focus of being built with "seniors" as the principle occupants.



They were unbelievable in their presentations both verbal and physical model examples. The contest was a full day and it had 18 teams from as far away as Elko and Reno. It was another way we can be recognized as The American Legion and we were listed as such in the program and I was dressed in colors. We were also on local and National news broadcasts. It was an experience I will not forget. I've been asked to be a judge again next year. Interaction with these young adults is so important to them with a plus for our Legion as well. The winner of all States entered in the contest go to Washington DC for the finals. Only one team from each State is chosen

Our Oratorical contest was a success again this year. Post 76 had 2 contestants, Mr. Dawson Mullen, and Mr. Zachary Marks. The District 2 contest was won by Kaitlyn Willoughby from Post 14. Mr. Mullen was 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Mr. Marks was 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the Department contest, 1 Boys State contestant was from also

from Post 76, Mr. Connor Leeming. At the Department final, Ms. Lea Gifford from Post 4 won 1<sup>st</sup> place and Mr. Dawson Mullen Post 76 took 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our membership and our participation and volunteering needs work. There are so many worthwhile projects and functions that ask for our help. We have a very small group that seems to fill in the spots every time. We need to expand that group. We need your help. Volunteer to be in just a few of the list of events. We can make a difference if we work as a team. — **Mike Shephard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER

Your Post 76 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander strives to arrange activities that will be interesting for you to participate in, while supporting The American Legion Pillars. I am charged with planning, scheduling, and preparing for Post 76 patriotic events, recommending guest speakers for the General meeting, and arranging for member participation in Post 76 events coinciding with national or military holidays and other veteran affairs. Post 76 is one of the most active in Nevada in this respect, but I do not have a monopoly on bright ideas it takes to keep members engaged with the Post and making membership a rewarding experience.

I always welcome any suggestions with which we can accomplish the serious business of our Post, while we all still have lots of fun. You can always contact me at phone number (253) 691-0617, or email [stevedaugh@aol.com](mailto:stevedaugh@aol.com). See you at the meetings! — **Steve Daugherty**



## **VIETNAM VETERAN LAPEL PIN**

**MARK THE DATE!** To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, the US Secretary of Defense authorized a special recognition for all Veterans who served on active duty during the period **1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975.**

Your Post 76 will sponsor an award ceremony for all eligible Veterans to receive a specially designed lapel pin for this occasion to recognize, thank, and honor Veterans who served during the Vietnam War. The ceremony will be in conjunction with the Post 76 General meeting on **Sunday, 20 May** and **Sunday, 17 June** at the Durango Hills YMCA, 3521 N Durango Dr at 1330.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, a pin may be presented in a private ceremony. We cannot simply mail the lapel pins—it must be awarded in a dignified manner by a recognized Commemorative Partner. Please inform the Post 76 Adjutant (Tom Mahon) by email (**[pilot121@yahoo.com](mailto:pilot121@yahoo.com)**) or phone ([**702**] **619-2873**, leave voice mail) of your desire to be included in this ceremony.

## **OPT OUT OF PAPER NEWSLETTER?**

As always, if you are a member that appreciates and would like to continue receiving paper copies of this newsletter, you do not need to do anything. If you would consider opting out of the paper newsletter, there are two ways to do so.

- Get all the information on Post activities from Social Media sites (see above) or from our web and blog sites (see the last page below the address block).
- Receive the current newsletter as a PDF attachment to an email.

If either of these options would be acceptable to you, send an email to the Post email address:

[NevadaPost76@gmail.com](mailto:NevadaPost76@gmail.com).

## **POST 76 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

**Please Attend the 16th Annual Lakes Memorial Day Ceremony**  
**— Monday May 28th, 2018**

**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]



Please consider attending our 16th 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.

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.



## ONE OF MY BEST MOMENTS AS A LEGIONNAIRE

On February 17, 2018, I was a member of our Spirit of Freedom, Post 76, Color Guard, Flag Posting ceremony at The Andre Agassi Academy. The ceremony was being held for a basketball game between teams from Henderson and Nellis AFB.

Prior to the ceremony, there were 3 of us in the parking lot, unloading our equipment. Two young children, ages of +/- 8 yrs-10 yrs old on bicycles. Both bicycles were both painted the same with highly visible yellow florescent paint. Another Legionnaire, Earl Stitts and myself walked over to the two young kids and started talking with them. PPC Joel Forman then walked up behind us. We were just glad to see them and their interest in us. Legionnaire Stitts asked them if they knew the Pledge of Allegiance. They both said "yes". We told them if they would recite it we would salute (since we were all in full Legion uniform) while they gave the Pledge. They did and they were in awe while we stood at attention and saluted. After, we both told them what a great job they did and "manly" hand shakes were given to both. We were talking about what a great time that was to interact with those two kids.

We did not know the Coach for the school was watching us from the gymnasium door entrance. When we got to the door he stopped us. He told us what a great and honorable thing we had done with those two kids. He explained that he, the coach, could relate to what took place, since he was black just like the two young kids. He said that the neighborhood, and pointed to across the street, that they came from was extremely distressed. He was amazed that they would relate to Earl and myself since we are both white. He said the fact they even talked to us was unheard of. He said we could have made a huge difference in their minds as we did not care if they were black or white, to us they were and are just kids. We all commented on how much we wish more experiences like this could happen. We as Veterans know when the facts are known, color has no place, only friendship and respect for one another matters. Makes me proud to be in the company of Legionnaires. — *Mike Shephard*



## POST 76 COLOR GUARD SPREADS THE PATRIOTISM SPIRIT



Post 76 Color Guard looking SHARP

Your Post 76 Color Guard continues to stay active in showing the Colors around the Las Vegas Valley. Recently, the entourage presented the Flag at a Sun City Summerlin Military Club meeting, a Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) Veterans in Care (VIC) Program event, and the opening ceremony of a local amateur basketball league game.

The Color Guard typically carries the US flag, Nevada State flag, and The American Legion flag, along with 2 M-16 rifles. It is a fun way for Post 76 to interface with the public and infect citizens with the patriotism spirit—Patriotism is one of the 4 American Legion Pillars.

The Color Guard also marches in all the local Las Vegas parades to

reach out to even more of the general public to display the Colors. Upcoming parades include the Summerlin Patriotic Parade, Helldorado Days Parade, and the Veterans Day Parade. We are always looking for a few good women and men to help us tote the rifles and flags—we provide training to help stay in formation. Let us know if you'd like to join in the fun and support your Post 76.



Post 76 Color Guard supports NDVS Veterans-in-Care Program

## **MEMBERSHIP FACTOIDS**

With the publication of this Newsletter, the beginning of the 2019 dues year, 1 July 2018, is not too far away. Membership dues are valid for the calendar year, for example, 1 January 2019-31 December 2019. 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 2019 dues year after 1 July 2018. Everyone who pays their 2019 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 2018 membership does not expire until 31 December 2018, 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 2018 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 2018. 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.**

Rest assured that your annual dues 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.



### **ADJUTANT'S NOTES**

The annual election and installation of Post 76 officers will be held at the General meeting on Sunday, 15 April 2018. The Executive Board will nominate a person for each elected office (Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Sergeant-at-Arms, and one Director), and this slate will be brought before the Post 76 membership for a vote by the membership. Nominations are also accepted from the floor. There are 7 elected officers, but Directors serve a three-year term, so only one is up for election each year.

The Post 76 General Meeting is your connection 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, learn what activities Post 76 is getting involved with, and have a tasty snack and drink afterwards. It's also where 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, or suggestions that 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 **Tom Mahon, (702) 619-2873** anytime 24/7.

## **AMERICAN LEGION POST 76 HOSTS NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Sunday, 4 February was a “day to remember” as your Post 76 had the honor of hosting The American Legion National Commander, Denise Rohan, at its General Meeting. Commander Rohan, the first female National Commander in the history of The American Legion, was in Nevada consulting with the American Legion Department of Nevada, and Post 76 was selected to showcase the strength of American Legion in Las Vegas. Post 76 Commander Mike Percival welcomed Commander Rohan to the meeting, where a host of members and other Department of Nevada dignitaries were in attendance.

Commander Rohan made an inspirational presentation to the forum, in which she touted The American Legion’s strength in numbers. She asserted, “Combine American Legion dedication and strength though numbers, and we have a time-honored formula for meaningful advocacy for the values we share: support for veterans, our troops, our young people, and patriotism.” She further encouraged all members to renew their efforts to recruit new members and retain those already on the rolls “to continue effectively serving our communities, states, and nation in ways only The American Legion Family can.”

Commander Rohan was quite impressed with all she saw and experienced at the General Meeting and thanked the Post members for making it a successful engagement.

It was a memorable day for Post 76.

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COLLEGE SEEKS CANDIDATES**

The American Legion National Headquarters has sent applications for The American Legion National College to all Post Commanders & Adjutants. The date for this year's college is October 28th through November 2. Applicants will be accepted from war periods August 24, 1982 through the present time. Once an applicant has been accepted by National from a Department to attend, that same Department may send one (1) additional applicant from a previous war period. There is no cost to the applicant to attend the College. Department will pay the \$600.00 per applicant. Lodging and transportation to and from Indianapolis, IN are paid by National. Meals and other costs are the responsibility of the applicant. It is recommended that anyone seeking higher office in The American Legion consider applying to the College. You may contact the Post Commander or the Post Adjutant or me for the application or for additional information.

Post 76 Immediate Past Post Commander and Department of Nevada 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Joel Forman (702-360—5833) is an alumni of the Class of 2016, and he can advise any potential candidate on the details.



Post 76 Commander presents Certificate of Appreciation to National Commander Rohan



## **IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**

Post 76 was one of the first Posts in the Department to use the new Processing of Membership renewals and transfers. This should help to solve the issue of receiving renewal notices after you have paid by check. It will reduce processing time from 6-8 weeks to 5-9 days!

Being a member in good standing in The American Legion offers you FREE accidental life insurance. All you have to do is go to theLit.com, follow the easy instructions, and you will be covered for \$1000.00 accidental death, and \$5000.00 if you are on official American Legion business. Did I mention that it was absolutely free?

The membership in Post 76 has been increasing, and we are well past where we were last year! However, there is a large number of members in our Post who have allowed their membership to expire. We need you back so that the Post and The American Legion can help our Veterans. Our numbers speak for themselves when National goes before Congress, to not only to insure our benefits are not decreased, but additional benefits for all our Veterans are implemented. This can only happen with your membership. Take a moment and check your ID card if it does not say 2018, you are "EXPIRED" and should renew today, either by online payment at LEGION.ORG or by sending your payment to the our Post Office Box number 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133.

We still have some Department Centennial Challenge Coins available for \$10.00 each available at the meetings. The Department Convention is rapidly approaching and information is also available at our meetings. I hope to see all of you there! — **Joel M. Forman, Immediate Past Commander**

## **POST 76 INFORMATION TABLE REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY**



Information Tables spread the word on American Legion benefits

Your Post 76 Information Table program reaches out directly to Veterans and their families to spread word on the benefits of American Legion membership. Setting up and manning Information Tables around the Las Vegas area at public venues provides a means to meet and interact with Veterans who may not know what the American Legion has done and can do for them. Centered between the US and American Legion flags, tables displaying Veterans information booklets, American Legion information brochures, membership forms, and kiddie trinkets are setup in public forums. Recently, members were at a VA Medical Center Town Hall Meeting, PBS Channel 10 Job Fair for Veterans, and the Air Force Wounded Warrior CARE Program Fair. If you would like to get out and have fun with your comrades at these forums, contact 2nd Vice Commander Steve Daugherty at 253-691-0617.

## **NO MORE PRESENCE OF A PATRIOT AT THE GATE OF CREECH AFB**

Post 76 Legionnaire, Jim Lenz has moved on to Post Everlasting. He used to show up at the entrance of Creech AFB anytime anti-military protesters are present and let them know that they are NOT going to be unopposed. Whether by himself or with a few neighbors the protesters quickly came to realize that their actions were in vain and that their presence showed them that many people support the work and the personnel of Creech Air Force Base in particular and our military in general. Once, there was some minor problem about where he was going to park since Nevada Department Of Transportation made his usual spot a "no parking" zone but he worked it out quite cordially with Las Vegas Metro and the Nevada Highway Patrol. They, along with the vast majority of Creech personnel, apparently recognize, honor and support what he did out there. He will be missed, both by Creech and Post 76.





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

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**

*E Board Meeting — 12 April 2018, 4:30 pm*

**GENERAL MEETING** — 15 April 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

*E Board Meeting — 10 May 2018, 4:30 pm*

**GENERAL MEETING** — 20 May 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

**Memorial Day Service — 28 May 2018 Lakes South Park 9:30 am**

*E Board Meeting — 14 June 2018, 4:30 pm*

**GENERAL MEETING** — 17 June 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

**Summerlin Patriotic Parade — 4 July 2018 starts on Hillpointe Rd. 7:30 am**

*E Board Meeting — 12 July 2018, 4:30 pm*

**GENERAL MEETING** — 15 July 2018, 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://alPost76lv.blogspot.com/>**

**You may have renewed already for 2018, but if not, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY!**