



The High Desert BUGLE



July / August 2012



American Legion Post 56, Auxiliary Unit 56, & SAL Squadron 56
PO Box 2848, Carson City, Nevada 89702

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM [except for special events],
 Veterans Memorial Hall at the corner of Curry and 2nd Street, Carson City.
 Our next meeting will be held on July 12th at 6:30 PM.

Visit our website at <http://american-legion-post56-nv.us/>

POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Marty Martin	392-0327
1 st Vice Commander	Leon Werner	265-2621
2 nd Vice Commander	Gabe Koory	246-0907
Adjutant	John Dickinson	246-4024
Finance Officer	Marco Manor	267-4794
Chaplain	Katherine Baran	888-2088
Sgt-at-Arms	Rick Kaspar	684-9757
Historian	Vacant	

UNIT 56 OFFICERS

President	Nancy O'Malley	883-9640
1 st Vice President	Barbara Dickinson	246-4024
2 nd Vice President	Vacant	883-9640
Secretary	Irma Manor	267-4794
Treasurer	Christine St. Leger-Barter	783-0502
Chaplain	Ramona Long	885-7585
Sgt-at-Arms	Donna Duncan	882-7276
Historian	Vacant	

SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Mike Herlihy	434-8337
1 st Vice Commander	Jack Ralph	882-8269
Adjutant	Marco Manor	267-4794

Commander's Comments

Comrades,

As I begin my second year as Post Commander, I look forward to serving you, the Legion and our community in a variety of ways; from sponsoring Legion programs, special events, providing assistance to fellow veterans wherever and whenever possible and of course, finding ways to grow our Post membership and enhancing our presence throughout the state.

I would like to officially welcome Leon Werner, our new 1st Vice Commander, who will be spear-heading our membership drive. I know he will do an excellent job.

I would also like to welcome Rick Kaspar as our new Sergeant-at-Arms. As his specialty in the Air Force was security; he has all the necessary attributes to ensure the Post security at our meetings.

There is a need for a Post Historian. This position requires an individual who can attend the various events that our Post is involved with such as parades, funerals (from time-to-time), and other special events. Simply stated the need is "Have Camera Will Travel". If you are interested please contact myself or any Post officer. In order to increase our Post presence, we need to capture events and make them available not only in our Post newsletter, but other media as well.

As I look back on some of the events of the past year, I cannot help but reflect on some of the unique events that we experienced; some upbeat and some somber. The iHop and Reno Air Race tragedies that shook us all to the bone. We can be proud that Post 56 helped the victims of those events by raising funds to help assist their immediate needs. Members of the Post 56 Honor/Color Guard posted the colors at the 1st Annual Governor's Ball in Reno back in September and on December 7th the Governor called upon the Honor/Color Guard to post the colors at the special 70th Year Remembrance of Pearl Harbor at the Capitol. As most of you know, we recently and unexpectedly lost Diane Wright. She was a member of our Post and Honor/Color Guard. She is already being greatly missed. And now our Post Chaplain's husband, Mike Herlihy has been diagnosed with a terminal disease. Please keep Mike and Katherine in your prayers.

I am issuing a clarion call for members of our Post who would like to serve as a Post 56 officer for the 2013-2014 year. It is time that we rotate that honor to a new set of leaders that can help carry on the goals and mission of Post 56. Please give some serious thought about stepping up to help your Post 56 move forward.

For God and Country.

Marty Martin
Commander

First Vice Commander's Report

Fellow Legionnaires

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Leon Werner.

I am your new First Vice Commander. Part of my duties is to recruit new members and to introduce them to the many programs within the legion. With each and every one of the members of High Desert Post 56 we can make it a Post we are proud to be a part of.

Leon Werner
First Vice Commander

Adjutant's Report

Fellow Legionnaires,

We are about to start a new legion year. 2013 Membership Dues Notices will be mailed from National in July. When you get your dues notice, please check the card you now have. It should indicate the 2012 membership year. If your card does *not* indicate 2012, you are in arrears!! The reason I make note of this in this newsletter is because every year I get letters informing me that the members' dues are paid and asking why are we billing again. It takes the National Department at least ninety days from the time I transmit your dues for them to note this on their records. So, if you remit in July you will probably not be mailed another notice. If you remit in August or September, you will receive another mailing in October. If you receive a dues notice and you have a "2013" membership card, destroy the notice. I hope this clears some confusion.

John Dickinson
Post 56 Adjutant

Honor Guard/Color Guard Report

First of all, I would like to welcome the three newest members to our team. At our last Post 56 meeting the call for volunteers went out and Teresa Dennington, Scott Fallis, and Bill Merian answered it. We are all looking forward to working with them.

These past two months have been very busy for our team. We participated in 8 funerals; had a Memorial Day ceremony at the Dayton Cemetery with the VFW; and then came back into Carson City to participate in their ceremony at Lone Mountain Cemetery. Our Color Guard marched in the Memorial Day Parade in Virginia City and almost got blown off the mountain. Our Color Guard also presented the Colors at a veteran's recognition night in Minden at a private school.

On top of all that, several of our members attended the District 4 meeting in Carson City that was hosted by our Post 56. Several members also attended and worked on the Department of Nevada's 94th Annual Convention held in Reno. The convention was hosted by Post 56 and was our second convention in the past 3 years.

We are still looking for more members to join our team. We can work around your work schedule, your vacation schedule, and just about anything else that comes up. Please contact me if you are interested.

For God and Country,

Marco Manor
Captain of the Guard

Unit 56 President's Report

Greetings Ladies:

Nevada has reached 110% of our membership goal for this year and is now number 2 in membership in the nation.

Thanks to everybody who worked on our last potluck, it was a great one as always. Our next potluck get together is our annual picnic in August. Please plan to attend ... it will be lots of fun.

The convention was a great success thanks to all the ladies who worked at the convention. Thanks to Irma for putting together all the raffle and guest baskets. I was told they were very lovely and our unit did very well with the raffle.

July 4th we plan to do poppies in Virginia City, meeting at Slot World that morning at 10 A.M. for the drive up to VC. I hope you can attend and help with the poppies.

Our next regular meeting is Thursday, July 12, 2012.

Our new officers are the same as last year. We still need someone to be our historian. It's a fun job to do with very little work involved. Please step up and take this office.

Thanks again.

Regards,

Nancy O'Malley
Unit 56 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 04 July: Independence Day – Post 56 Color Guard will lead the parade in Virginia City
- 12 July: Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 25 July: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 07 August: Purple Heart Day
- 09 August: Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 11 August: Post/Unit 56 Summer Picnic at James Lee Park
- 22 August: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM

The 2012 Post/Unit 56 Summer Picnic and Barbeque

It is almost time for the annual Post/Unit 56 Picnic and Barbeque. This year it will be held on Saturday, August 11th and once again it will be held at James Lee Park in Indian Hills. The details haven't been finalized yet but traditionally the Post buys and prepares steaks and chicken and the Unit provides side dishes, salads, desserts, and everything else. Since we need to know how much meat to buy, we will be passing around sign-up sheets at the next member meeting in July. If you plan to join us, we will ask you how many in your party and your choice of meat. Since the August meeting will be only two days before the picnic, we will need your information at least a week before then. If you are unable to attend the July meeting, we ask that you email us with the information we need. Please send your email message to picnic@american-legion-post56-nv.us. We hope you will be able to make it and have a good time with your fellow Legionnaires and their families. And don't forget the good food!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 56 ATTENDED THE ALA DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA'S 92ND CONVENTION

Members of ALA High Desert Unit 56 attended the department convention June 22-24, 2012 at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada. Those in attendance were Chris St. Leger-Barter, Greta Weyant, Betty Sherwood, Kendra Sherwood, and Irma Manor. Unit 56 worked with Marco Manor, Post 56, Chairman of the convention.

Our meetings began on Friday, June 22nd, with a joint session with the American Legion members. At the auxiliary meeting, we took care of our own business. We had the appointment of committee chairpersons to the convention. The department officers gave their reports. We had the first report of the Credentials Committee.

On Saturday, June 23rd, we started our morning with the Presidents Parley breakfast meeting at Mel's diner inside The Sands Hotel. Everyone seemed to enjoy the gathering and food.

Afterwards, we met at 9:15 a.m. to take care of more business. We had many more reports and the second report of the Credentials Committee and took nominations from the floor for new department officers. Unit 56 had a total of 8 votes out of 166 covering the units of Nevada. Marine Veteran and Nevada State Trooper, Chuck Allen surprised us with a visit.

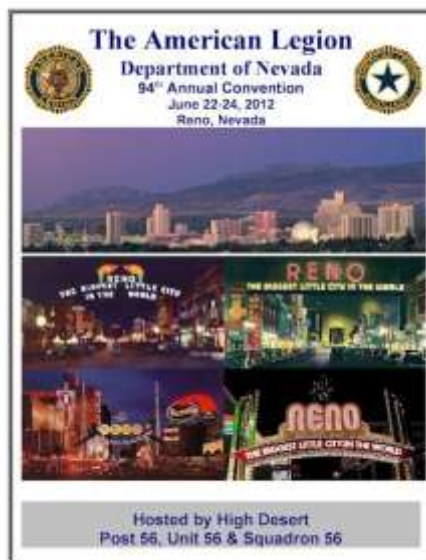
On Saturday evening, we attended the AL Dept. of Nevada Commander's dinner for Jeanette Rae and Dave. Guest speaker was Lt. Col. Michael Manor, son of Marco and Irma Manor. He is stationed at Schriever AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He made a nice evening more enjoyable, mostly speaking about his views and experiences with the Veterans of The American Legion, Department of Nevada. He is a member of High Desert Post 56. Glynis Seeley gave a power point on the auxiliary's "Mission". It was Interesting and very well presented!

On Sunday, June 24th, we had our election of officers for 2012-2013. Our new officers are:

President-Glynis Seeley
1st VP-Jean Belingheri
2nd VP-Ganise Vance
Secretary/Treasurer-Daela Gibson
Sgt-at-Arms-Linda Smith
Chaplain-Judy Cobb
Historian-Agnes Williams

Congratulations to Marco and Post 56 for a great convention!! And kudos go to Jack Ralph for a wonderful convention book and to Gabe Koory for his hard work selling ads.

Submitted By,
Irma Manor
Secretary Unit 56



The 2012 Department of Nevada 94th Annual Convention



Post 56 Commander Marty Martin opening the Convention



District Chaplin Katherine Baran



Commander Martin listening to Reno Mayor Bob Cashell



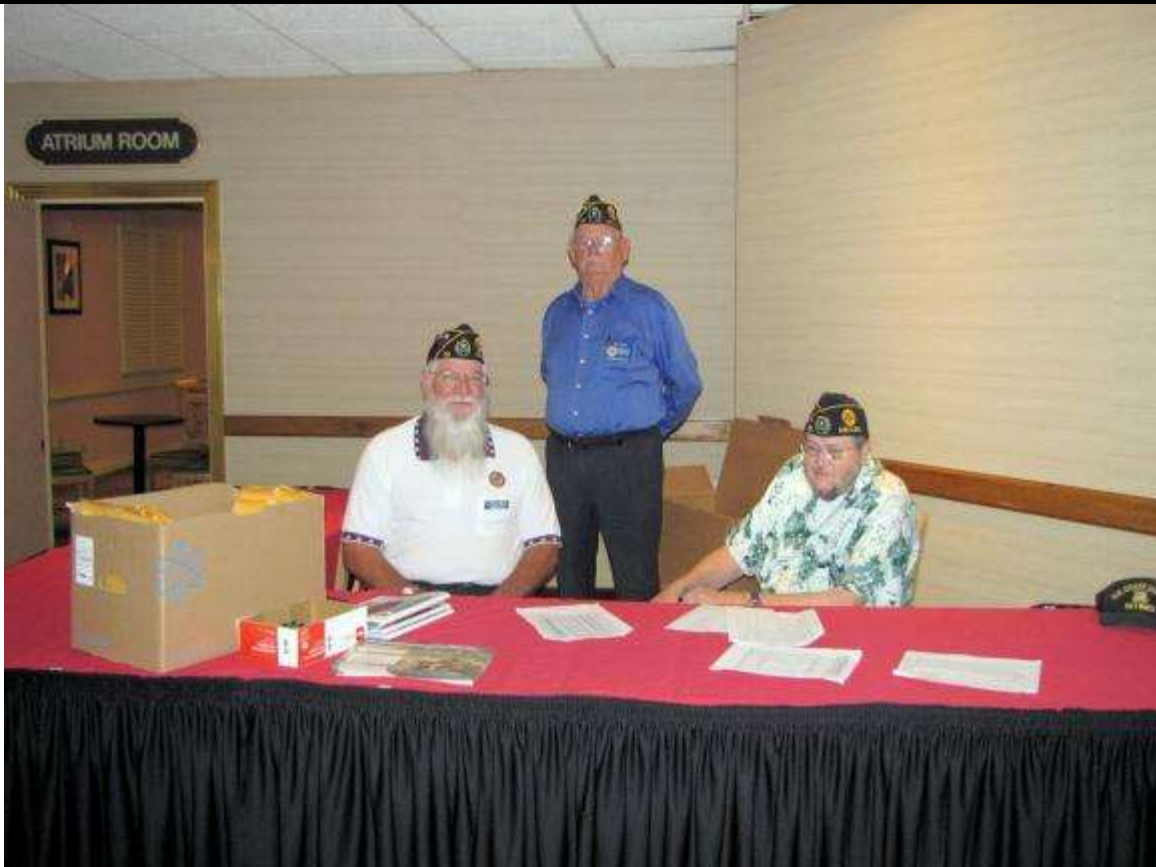
Katherine Baran reading the Proclamation from the Governor



Commander Martin with outgoing Commander Rae and outgoing NEC Ron Gutzman



Irma Manor receiving flowers from Commander Rae for all her hard work



Legionnaires Terry Anderson, Joe Hanus, and Bob Wright manning the front desk

POST 56 DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$25.00 PER YEAR.



American Legion Helps With Claims

Eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) can come from injuries suffered during armed conflict or training that simulates war, while on hazardous duty, or from an instrumentality of war, such as exposure to Agent Orange or while in a combat vehicle. To be eligible for CRSC, applicants must: (1) be entitled to and/or be receiving military retired pay, (2) be rated at least 10 percent by VA, (3) waive all or a portion of their military retired pay, and (4) file a CRSC application with their respective branch of service. The American Legion can help with filing claims for CRSC through its [network of department service officers](#) and at no cost to the applicant. For more information, visit the DFAS [Combat-Related Special Compensation webpage](#) at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html>.

Supreme Court strikes down Stolen Valor Act

The Supreme Court on Thursday (June 28th) rejected a 2005 federal law that punishes people who lie about medals and military service, concluding it had a sweeping and chilling effect on free speech.

The 6-3 decision in *United States vs. Alvarez* involves the case of a California water board member, Xavier Alvarez, who falsely claimed to have received the Medal of Honor.

He was prosecuted under the Stolen Valor Act. He pleaded guilty but reserved the right to appeal. His sentence was three years probation, a \$5,000 fine and community service.

"Though few might find (Alvarez's) statements anything but contemptible, his right to make those statements is protected by the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech and expression," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority.

He wrote that the First Amendment "protects the speech we detest as well as the speech we embrace."

Proponents of the law, including the nation's largest veterans organization, the 2.4-million member American Legion, expressed dismay over the ruling. But they held out hope that a different version might survive legal review.

"We felt good about portions of the decision which suggest that a more narrowly tailored bill which incorporates traditional fraud elements would be upheld," says Fang Wong, national commander of the American Legion.

Allowing lies about medals to go unpunished "is in fact a degradation of the value and honor of those that earn the medal," says Harold Fritz, a Medal of Honor recipient and president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Kennedy said that the law as written would criminalize any false speech, even "personal, whispered conversations within a home" and this was granting the government too much power.

Fordham University Law Professor Abner Greene said the majority appeared to leave open the possibility of a law that would penalize lies about valor if they were shown to be a basis for fraud or monetary gain.

"I think that some sort of revision could be constitutional," Greene says.

Kennedy's plurality opinion was signed by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. A concurring judgment by Justice Stephen Breyer was joined by Justice Elena Kagan.

Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas dissented, arguing that the law poses no threat to free speech, but rather punishes lies that if allowed to continue, are "undermining our country's system of military honors and inflicting real harm on actual medal recipients and their families."

Upcoming Hiring Heroes Career Fairs

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is to host 100 hiring fairs across the country in connection with the organization's Hiring Our Heroes Program. Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide initiative to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. The program works with the organization's 1,600 state and local chambers and other strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. For more information, visit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Hiring Fairs webpage at <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events> and the Hiring Our Heroes website at <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes>.

Email scam targets vets, service members

Emails are being sent to individuals – including military members, military retirees, and civilian employees – that appear to be sent by Defense Finance and Accounting Services. Although the email appears to come from DFAS and displays a .mil email address it is actually from a non-government email account.

The emails indicate that individuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs may be able to obtain additional funds from the IRS. These emails are not issued by DFAS.

The email indicates that individuals receiving VA disability compensation can receive additional funds from the IRS by sending copies of VA award letters, income tax returns, 1099-Rs, Retiree Account Statements and DD 214s, to a retired colonel at an address in Florida.

These schemes can be quite costly for victims. Promoters may charge exorbitant upfront fees to file these claims and are often long gone when victims discover they've been scammed.

Taxpayers should be careful of these scams because, regardless of who prepared their tax return, the taxpayer is legally responsible for the accuracy of their tax return and must repay any refunds received in error, plus any penalties and interest. They may even face criminal prosecution.

To avoid becoming ensnared in these schemes, taxpayers should beware of any of the following:

- Fictitious claims for refunds or rebates based on false statements of entitlement to tax credits.
- Emails from unfamiliar senders asking for personal information .
- Internet solicitations that direct individuals to toll-free numbers and then solicit Social Security numbers or other personal information.

If you receive a notice from the IRS, respond immediately. If you believe someone may have used your Social Security number fraudulently, please notify IRS immediately by responding to the name and number printed on the notice or letter. You will need to fill out the **IRS Identity Theft Affidavit, Form 14039**.

Take the American Legion Extension Institute Online Training

American Legion members, officers, friends and staff who seek a comprehensive, concise understanding of the organization, its history, values and ways in which they can participate at the local, state and national levels have a new online education tool. The American Legion Extension Institute is now offered on the Web.

The program includes a timeline of significant American Legion events and milestones through history, videos, photos and other information vital for those who seek leadership positions and enlightening to those who simply want to know more about the nation's largest veterans service organization. Completion of the online course is a prerequisite for enrollment in American Legion College at national headquarters.

Graduates will receive certificates of completion, pins and a clear understanding of all the ways in which they can apply the organization's values at every level. Each chapter in the course is followed by a quiz. Once the quiz is successfully completed, another new chapter is accessible, until the course is successfully completed.

Fees to take the online course can be paid safely and conveniently online using a credit card. Members: \$4.95 Non-members: \$9.95. <https://www.legion.org/alei>

