



The High Desert BUGLE



March / April 2012



Happy St. Patrick's Day

**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 March 8th 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	Gabe Koory	246-0907
2 nd Vice Commander	Chuck Rankin	267-9737
Adjutant	John Dickinson	246-4024
Finance Officer	Marco Manor	267-4794
Chaplain	Katherine Baran	888-2088
Sgt-at-Arms	Joe Hanus	883-5131
Historian	Del Dennis	887-7827

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	Dorothy Cole	841-4765
Sgt-at-Arms	Donna Duncan	882-7276
Historian	Jean Tomlinson	267-2408

SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

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

Commanders Comments

Comrades,

As you know, Post 56 will be hosting the 94th Annual Department of Nevada Convention in Reno June 22 through June 24. This is an opportunity for us to present our Post in a very positive manner to the entire state Legion Posts. We really want to put our best foot forward and make this event a great success. It is also an excellent opportunity for our Post to acquire additional funds that will help us in providing more support for the projects we support or underwrite.

Here are a couple of things that you can do to help us in this effort.

First, Post 56 will be providing a booklet to all attendees with event information, pictorials and advertising. The advertising is the key item that will give us the additional funds I mentioned above. We need you to assist us in this endeavor by helping in getting local businesses to buy some advertising. You can contact Marco Manor, who is heading up the convention project to get the necessary information and forms that you will need.

Second, we need volunteers to 'man' the registration tables at the convention. Again, please contact Marco Manor to find out what time slots are available.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, many things we do requires a team effort and the items I have mentioned are very easy to do...we just need a little time commitment from as many our Post members as possible. Please consider helping out YOUR Post.

Bill Martinez and his wife Dorothy attended January's Membership Meeting. It was a total surprise and a great thrill to see him return and we hope and pray his full recovery will be swift and that he returns to the Post and Honor Guard soon.

We still have quite a way to go to meet our membership goals. Please remember to encourage any members who have not yet renewed, to please do so now.

For God and Country.

Marty Martin
Commander

Adjutant's Report

Comrades,

Members of Post 56 need to step up and volunteer for some Post responsibilities. Your Honor/Color Guard needs new members. Thank you to the members that have taken on some Post responsibilities. We have a slate of Officers committed for the 2012/2013 year. Please, if you do not have a 2012 membership card, pay your dues.

John Dickinson
Adjutant

Honor/Color Guard Report

Things have been pretty slow these past two months with only seven burial ceremonies. However, when the weather clears up, history shows that our ceremonies also pick up. Last month we hit the 300 burial milestone which means that we are averaging about 50 ceremonies a year. Thankfully we have a very dedicated group of veterans that are doing an outstanding job.

Two of our new members received their Department of Defense Honor Guard pins this month. Congratulations to Leon Werner and Rick Kaspar. Both completed their on-the-job training and participated in at least ten military burial ceremonies.

We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please contact me and we will get you suited up.

Sick Call: Bill Martinez is still recovering from his accident last year. Fire Commander Jack Ralph is recovering from his surgery. Joe Hanus will be going under the knife next month. We are happy to see Chuck Rankin, Jim Kelly, and Gabe Koory back on active duty again.

Marco Manor
Captain of the Guard

Unit 56 President's Report

Greetings Ladies,

This has been a slow past two months with low attendance at our meetings.

Our membership for this year is now at 100%, with new members and transfers.

I attended the Department Executive Board meeting in Reno on February 17. I will give you a report on the meeting at our next meeting on March 8. The one thing that was decided was to not have the Presidents Dinner on Friday night at the June convention. We will only have one dinner, which will be for the outgoing Commander, on Saturday night. The date will be June 23, 2012.

We are having our St. Patrick's Dinner Feast at our next meeting on March 8, 2012 at 5.30 p.m. The cost is a \$5.00 donation at the door. Please respond to our Kitchen Queens when they call you. The unit will provide a cake. We plan on a large turnout for our corned beef and cabbage dinner and having a good time.

March 10, 2012 is the District 4 meeting at 10.a.m. in Fernley, Nevada.

In April, we will be reading the Americanism essays from the school children and giving out the prizes to the winners. We will also be working on the Girls State project in April.

In May, we will plan our trip to the Veterans Hospital in Reno. We will also be voting on our Officers for the next year at the May meeting.

Thank you,

Nancy O'Malley
Unit 56 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 08 March: 5:30 PM – Unit 56 St. Patrick's Dinner Feast - \$5 donation requested
- 08 March: 6:30 PM – Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting
- 11 March: Daylight Savings Begins
- 15 March: American Legion's 93rd Birthday
- 17 March: Saint Patrick's Day
- 20 March: Spring Begins
- 21 March: 6:00 PM – Post 56 Executive Board Meeting
- 01 April: All Fools Day
- 08 April: Easter Sunday
- 12 April: 6:30 PM – Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting
- 25 April: 6:00 PM – Post 56 Executive Board Meeting
- 11 August: Post 56 Summer Picnic at James Lee Park – Details later

What The American Legion Does:

- Processes more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- Gives emergency financial assistance to Legion Families hit by Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other disasters.
- Urges Congress to provide enough VA funding to take care of veterans' medical needs - and provide it in advance.
- Awards college scholarships to children whose mothers or fathers have sacrificed their lives in the global war on terrorism.
- Volunteers about one million hours every year at about 160 VA Medical Facilities nationwide.
- Helps families of deployed troops through the Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach.
- Through its Temporary Financial Assistance program, helps the children of veterans who are suffering hardships.
- Donates about 100,000 pints of blood annually to the American Red Cross.
- Lobbies Congress to upgrade and improve Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits (Legion wrote the original 1944 GI Bill that educated 8 million veterans).
- Through its Heroes to Hometowns program works with communities to welcome back their returning veterans and help them make the transition to civilian life.
- Sponsors more than 5,000 American Legion Baseball Teams, which are made up by more than 100,000 ballplayers.
- Raises funds to improve quality of life for active duty troops with the Wounded Warrior Recognition Program and Operation Comfort Warriors.
- Offers community programs that encourage the intellectual and social growth of America's children (Boys State, National Oratorical Competition, and Boy Scouts).

In a Nutshell: If you're a Veteran, the American Legion will help you. It will help you with VA health care, GI Bill benefits, sudden emergencies and the needs of your children. And the American Legion does it all for free, because we have an army of volunteers - each one a wartime veteran. So we understand. That's why we're here now - helping veterans, service members and their families.

To find out much more about what the American Legion does, please visit www.legion.org

Veterans Guest House wins \$25,000

The Veterans Guest House in Reno won \$25,000 in Home Depot gift cards as the winner of February's round of Aprons in Action, the Home Depot Foundation's Facebook voting program.

In March, each of the monthly winners will be in the running for the grand prize of \$250,000.

The organization that receives the second and third most votes will receive \$150,000 and \$100,000 from the Home Depot, respectively. Voting begins again at 6 a.m. March 1 and ends March 31.

Veterans Guest House and Team Depot associates have already worked together on earlier projects, including providing and installing doors, kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, toilets and appliances.

In its proposal to use the \$250,000, the group will be able to complete work that was left unfinished on the expansion home.

In the February round of the competition, Veterans Guest House competed against United Methodist Children's Home of the North Georgia Conference.

The Veterans Guest House, at Locust and Taylor streets just north of the VA Medical Center in Reno, provides a place to stay for U.S. military service veterans receiving medical treatment and for families of veterans receiving care at facilities in the Reno-Sparks area.

National Commander Fang Wong visited Northern Nevada in January of this year and some Post 56 Members were able to meet him.



Post 56 Commander Marty Martin



District 4 Commander Marco Manor



Post 56 Adjutant John Dickinson



Department Commander Jeanette Rae and District 4 Chaplain Katherine Baran

Legion in media spotlight over Stolen Valor Act

The American Legion's position in support of the Stolen Valor Act - 2005 legislation which makes it illegal to lie about military service - drew national media attention February 22nd when an opinion piece written by National Commander Fang A. Wong appeared in USA Today. The Supreme Court heard arguments on the law's constitutionality that day and a decision isn't expected for several months.

National Public Radio also aired a segment on the case and quoted an American Legion attorney representing the organization and its friend-of-the-court brief supporting the constitutionality of prosecuting those who make false claims of fact about their military service, such as claiming to have received combat decorations in order to advance a career

The Legion's position holds that the Court has never ruled that intentional false statements of fact are protected under the First Amendment, unless necessary to protect other more valuable free speech, so Stolen Valor doesn't chill protected speech. The "intent to deceive," which is a requirement for a Stolen Valor Act case, keeps mass prosecutions for telling tall tales out of court, and counters the argument that a white lie at a local watering hole could land someone in prison.

As it always has maintained, the Legion believes that false claims to military heroism diminish the sacrifices of our country's true military heroes and lend credibility, which normally comes with donning the uniform, to fraudsters.

Wong to Congress: Address vet employment!



As the federal government deals with a trillion dollar budget deficit, many difficult spending and reduction decisions will need to be made. And while The American Legion completely understands this predicament, it doesn't want those decisions to strip away or pare down benefits that America's veterans truly have earned.

National Commander Fang A. Wong presented that message during a recent hearing in front of a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Wong presented the Legion's legislative priorities during the hearing, focusing on veterans employment, the Department of Veterans Affairs' claims backlog, and the treatment of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries.

But before he finished, Wong made it clear the Legion's stance on dealing with the budget crisis.

"The American Legion understands the financial challenges our nation now faces," he said. "The Legion understands that tough spending decisions are coming. That is why the Legion greatly appreciates the assurances our veterans have been given - from members of Congress, (VA Secretary Eric Shinseki) and the president himself at our national convention - that benefits earned by those who've served our country in uniform won't be sacrificed to achieve budget goals. Our veterans have sacrificed enough. They have paid in full their debt to society. However, the debt society owes them is quite another matter, and it's a matter that The American Legion strongly believes this committee is willing to address."

Wong said Congress needs to pass the Military Construction and VA Appropriations measure by Oct. 1 to assure a seamless transmission of benefits to veterans. "Don't condemn VA to another round of uncertainty through a series of continuing resolutions," Wong said. "You are so close to the finish line. Help start this fiscal year off on the right foot for veterans."

Wong spoke at length about the job crisis facing the country's veterans - a figure of more than 1 million veterans without employment, including 632,000, ages 35-60. Congress can pass legislation creating incentives to promote the hiring of veterans to help reduce those figures. "Civilian licensing agencies must recognize military training, education and experience when a veteran transitions to the civilian workforce," Wong said. "A soldier who drives a truck in a convoy through hazardous routes in Iraq can drive a truck to get eggs to market on time in the American Midwest. A Navy corpsman who saved Marines on the battlefields of Afghanistan has the skills to render emergency aid as an EMT back home. Yet the education, training and experience garnered from military service is not recognized by civilian licensing and certification agencies.



American Legion
High Desert Post 56
961 Desert Court, Carson City, NV 89701-8089
For God and Country

February 26, 2012

Comrades,

The 94th Annual Department of Nevada Convention is being hosted by High Desert Post 56 in Reno, NV on June 22nd thru June 24th 2012. The convention will be held at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel located at 345 North Arlington Avenue. Post 56 Legionnaires and Unit 56 Auxiliary members looking forward to making sure all of you enjoy your stay in Reno.

We are planning a hospitality room where you can relax and enjoy coffee and rolls in the morning before the meetings begin and again in the afternoon with refreshments and snacks before going to dinner. The hospitality room will be in the Atrium Lounge located directly behind the registration table on the second floor. Donations are gladly accepted in the hospitality room.

The Department Commander's Banquet will be on Saturday, June 23rd. There will be no-host cocktails served from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM. You will have a choice of Filet Mignon or Chicken Marsala for \$30.00 each which includes salad, rolls, dessert, and drink. Please circle your choice on the registration form.

Lodging has been secured at the Sands Regency for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening. The rate for Thursday, including all of the taxes, will be \$41.72. Friday and Saturday rates, including all of the taxes, will be \$70.10. For reservations, please call 1-800-233-4939. Be sure to mention **AME621** when calling in for reservations. Rooms not reserved by June 1st will be released.

Each Post is required to pay their delegation fee prior to the Post's delegation being able to vote at the convention. Each delegate is required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee for attending the convention. This can easily be done on the registration form.

American Legion High Desert Post 56 is looking forward to providing you a great convention.

For God and Country,
Marco Manor, District 4 Commander
Convention Chairperson



American Legion
High Desert Post 56
 961 Desert Court
 Carson City, Nevada 89705-8089

94th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Post/Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

All events will be held at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel in Reno		After 6/8/2012	Number Attending	Total \$ Amount
--	--	--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012

Dinner On Your Own				
---------------------------	--	--	--	--

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012

Commanders Banquet 6:00 PM Cocktails-7:00 PM Dinner Filet Mignon or Chicken Marsala (circle one)	\$30.00	\$35.00		
--	---------	---------	--	--

Legionnaire Registration Fee		\$2.00		
-------------------------------------	--	--------	--	--

TOTAL	
--------------	--

SEND REGISTRATION AND FEES TO:
HIGH DESERT POST 56
961 DESERT COURT-CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89705-8089

REGISTRATIONS FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JUNE 8TH

NO DINNER TICKETS WILL BE SOLD THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT



American Legion High Desert Post 56

PO Box 2848
Carson City, Nevada 89702
775-267-4794
For God and Country

Department of Nevada 94th Annual Convention
June 22, 23, 24, 2012

Convention Book Ad Request Form

Full Page 8 ½ X 11	\$110.00
Half Page	\$ 60.00
Quarter Page	\$ 30.00
Booster Signature	\$ 2.00

Please submit your "Camera Ready" ad and payment to Post 56, 961 Desert Court, Carson City, NV 89705-8089, no later than May 26, 2012. Thank you for your continued support of our veterans and programs.

For God and Country,

Marco Manor
Convention Chairperson



American Legion High Desert Post 56

961 Desert Court

Carson City, Nevada 89705-8089

Date:

Invoice number:

Received From:

Donation Amount:

**Thank you for placing your ad in the 94th Department of Nevada Annual
Convention Brochure**

You have purchased a _____ page ad

Thank you for your continued support of our veterans

Please visit our web site: <http://american-legion-post56-nv.us>

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2011/2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES,
PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE AMERICAN LEGION AND POST 56 NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
IN ORDER TO HELP VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$25.00 PER YEAR.



NOW AVAILABLE
RENEW ONLINE!



Now you can renew your American Legion membership online!
Simply visit the web address shown below and follow the
easy instructions.
You'll be able to renew your membership and even print out a
temporary membership card.

 www.legion.org/renew

DIR-ONLX-SP-05/2011