



The High Desert BUGLE



May / June 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 May 10th 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	Ramona Long	885-7585
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,

Spring has sprung and I can hardly believe that a whole year has almost passed since becoming your Commander. The elections for the comrades who have been nominated for your Post 56 officers will take place in our next membership meeting (May10th) and the installation of the elected officers will be at the June 14th membership meeting. Please plan to attend these meetings and help support our Post.

A reminder that our Post picnic will be in a couple of months - we will have details regarding location and dates in our next newsletter.

It has been an extremely tough year in trying to meet our membership goals. It appears that we have renewed as many members as possible and we are currently at 182 paid members. Next year we need to expand our membership and we will need to be more creative in attracting new members. I would like to ask each of you to see if you could find and sign up just one new member over the next six to nine months. Every new member helps us better serve our fellow veterans and also helps keep our membership dues very low compared to most other American Legion Posts across America.

Thanks for your continued support,

For God and Country.

Marty Martin
Commander

Honor Guard/Color Guard Report

Our Post 56 Honor Guard has been pretty busy lately. We still have four more funerals scheduled for May and June. We are still looking for anyone interested in joining the Guard. Please contact me for more information.

Our post Color Guard will be marching in the Celebration of Heroes Parade in Virginia City on Saturday, May 26 at Noon. Please come up and join us for a great afternoon. Preceding the parade we will be participating in a Memorial Ceremony with the Dayton Valley VFW at 8:00 AM at the Dayton Valley Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On Monday, May 28th our rifle team will be participating in the Carson City Memorial Day celebration at Lone Mountain Cemetery. Please come out and support our team and pay tribute to our fallen heroes.

Marco Manor
Captain of the Guard

Unit 56 President's Report

Greetings to everyone,

We have a lot of fun things happening over the next few months.

We will have our regular meeting on May 10, 2012 at 6.30 P.M. and will elect our next year's officers.

We will be planning our trip to the Veterans Hospital Saturday May 19, 2012. We will be filling the bags on May 18, 2012 at the Veterans Hall at 10.A.M. We will need all the help we can get to haul over the supplies from Agnes Williams's house and back again.

I haven't got our poppy order in as yet so we have no plans to hand them out at Raley's market. I will let you all know when that will happen.

We plan to do poppies at the Memorial Day parade at the end of May.

In June we host the District 4 meeting on June 9, 2012. We will serve donuts at 9.A.M and lunch following the meeting.

We will be making our raffle baskets for the department convention next month and in June.

We have planned our installation of new officers on June 30, 2012 with a luncheon.

We have chosen two girls to go to Girls State this year from the Lutheran high school in Carson City.

We didn't receive any essays from the students from Carson City on Americanism this year, so no rewards will be handed out as planned.

Please try to attend our meeting on May 10th.

Thank you,

Nancy O'Malley
Unit 56 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10 May: Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 13 May: Mother's Day
- 19 May: Armed Forces Day – Unit 56 Visit to Veterans Hospital in Reno
- 23 May: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 26 May: Celebration of Heroes Memorial Day Parade in Virginia City
- 28 May: Memorial Day
- 06 June: D-Day
- 14 June: Flag Day
- 14 June: Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 17 June: Father's Day
- 20 June: Summer Begins
- 27 June: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 11 August: Post 56 Summer Picnic at James Lee Park – Details later

Reno Veterans Guest House wins \$250,000 in Home Depot Foundation contest



The Veterans Guest House in Reno won \$250,000 in the Home Depot Foundation's inaugural Aprons in Action contest, the foundation announced today.

People voted on Facebook and the Reno Veterans Guest House got the most votes to collect the top prize. It followed a \$25,000 prize for a monthly competition last month.

"We are so pleased and thankful for the support that we received from our community during the Aprons in Action finale and would like to thank The Home Depot Foundation for letting us be part of a contest that helped raise \$275,000 for our organization in two months," Noreen Leary, chief operating officer for the Veterans Guest House in Reno, said in a statement. "We plan to use the \$275,000 to add additional housing capacity at our facility to provide a 'home away from home' for veterans receiving care at nearby medical facilities."

Utah State Veterans Home in Salt Lake City took second place and won \$150,000 and LifeBUILDERS of Detroit got third place and received \$100,000, the foundation said.

Forty-four organizations overall competed.

"Aprons in Action is our \$1 million effort to raise awareness of non-profit causes in over 40 different communities throughout the United States during a 12-month period," Kelly Caffarelli, president of The Home Depot Foundation, said in a statement. "It has been rewarding to watch local communities rally together to support these important organizations, both by voting for them in Aprons in Action and by inquiring about future ways to be involved in their efforts."

Team Depot, the company's associate-led volunteer force, has already helped the Veterans Guest House in Reno. Home Depot associates installed doors, kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, toilets and appliances at the newly remodeled facility.

About the winner:

- Reno Veterans Guest House – The Veterans Guest House provides U.S. military service veterans and their families temporary overnight accommodations while receiving treatment at a medical facility in the Reno area. The majority of guests receive treatment at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. For more information, visit www.veteransguesthouse.org.

City hosts annual American Legion Riders state convention



HANFORD (CA) — The Fox Theatre on Irwin Street proclaimed "Welcome American Legion Riders" on its prominent marquee Saturday as a legion of leather vest-clad patriotic riders descended upon the heart of downtown Hanford.

Against a backdrop of the American flag, more than 300 American Legion Riders delegates and members from across the state gathered inside the Hanford Civic Auditorium for their annual California convention.

It was the first time Hanford American Legion Post 3 and its associated Legion Riders Chapter 3 were given the honor of hosting the statewide meeting for the largest motorcycle enthusiast group presenting veterans and their family members. Enthusiasm was palpable among local American Legion rider group officials, who said they wanted an opportunity to promote the beauty of Hanford and what their hometown has to offer.

"It's wonderful. We've been working on this all year. It's a lot of undertakings," said Robert "Smokey" Stover, vice president of Hanford's American Legion Riders Chapter 3. "We thought it would be a great place. We consider ourselves the heart of California ... and our downtown area is the heart of what this city's all about."

Wet, stormy weather overnight Friday did affect the number of motorcycles at the convention, Stover said.

Still, an impressive fleet of motorcycles made an eye-catching display at the park, while members attended a formal open ceremony Saturday morning to honor senior members, recognize veterans lost this year and, most importantly, celebrate a growing network of bikers interested in veteran advocacy.

The American Legion Riders is a collection of American Legion members who share interests in motorcycles. Rider members are primarily veterans of the American armed services, but they are also members of Sons of the Legion and the Auxiliary, which is a spousal organization associated with the Legion.

This get-together is about one big family, Stover said.

"It's actually a family activity," Stover said. "It's not just a bunch of guys hanging out riding bikes. Everything we do is very geared toward a family activity."

Riding motorcycle is sort of a socializing vehicle for many Legion members who work as a team in local communities to act as a resource for veterans, advocate for veterans in need and promote youth education.

The Legion post in Hanford, for example, has members who are veteran services officers who get the message out to the veterans in the area who may not be receiving benefits they are eligible for. The organization also helps veterans in need of assistance. But motorcycle riding is also about getting the word out about the organization and what it does, Stover said.

"We think the more the veterans issues are in front of the public, the more they are noticed," Stover said. "There is a lot of camaraderie among veterans. When you put your life on the line next to somebody, it's a big deal. It lasts a lifetime."

The American Legion also sponsors Boys State delegates each year. Boys State is a longtime American Legion program designed to educate young Americans about core civic values. During the mock political convention, delegates create their own pseudo cities, county and state government, including passing laws and making a budget. A Hanford delegate, Tor Gudmundsson, was named governor at last year's Boy State convention.

The Legion Riders members were scheduled to break out into different committees Saturday morning to discuss organizational issues, goals and projects and were scheduled to have a short ride across Kings County in the afternoon.

On Saturday night, the Legion was to entertain the Riders members with the showing of the comedy film "Wild Hogs" at the Fox Theatre.

The convention was to wrap up Sunday with the selection of officers for the coming year, Stover said.

Military Votes Don't Count

Obama Justice Department excuses failure to deliver ballots to troops

Military voters must feel like Bill Murray's character in Groundhog Day. Election after election, certain state and local election officials fail to meet the deadline for sending absentee ballots. The outcome is often the same - thousands of ballots are received too close to the election to be returned or, if they are returned, the ballots arrive after the deadline to be counted. In either case, the military voter is disenfranchised.

Congress attempted to fix this time loop in 2009. The MOVE Act was a new law that created a simple requirement: State and local election officials had to send absentee ballots to military voters at least 45 days before an election. Yet, this simple requirement has been hard to follow.

In 2010, for example, local election officials in at least 14 states failed to comply with the new law. The worst offenders, counties and boroughs in New York and Illinois, missed the deadline by more than two weeks. More than 40,000 military and overseas ballots were impacted by this failure with many of the ballots being sent only 25 days before the election.

Two years later, military voters are waking to the same rotten story in the presidential primaries.

Thus far, at least three states - Alabama, Ohio and Wisconsin - have had local election officials that failed to mail their absentee military ballots on time. Wisconsin and Alabama are repeat offenders from 2010.

Much of the blame for this recurring nightmare rests with the Department of Justice and its Voting Section. Time and again, the Voting Section has been dilatory in its investigations and has failed to take timely action. These failures were well documented in 2010.

But, even when the Voting Section does act, the negotiated settlements with states often lack meaningful relief or real consequences for the local election officials who missed the deadline.

Take, for example, the case against New York in 2010. Even though standard mail delivery to a war zone may take 30 or more days for the one-way delivery of a ballot, the Voting Section negotiated a settlement that allowed counties and New York City to mail absentee ballots using standard mail delivery. In other words, many of the ballots sent under the agreement would not arrive before the election.

The flawed nature of the New York settlement soon became evident. According to New York's official data, local election officials rejected more than 30 percent of the absentee ballots that were returned by military voters in 2010. These voters should have been protected by the Voting Section, but they weren't.

Nor has the Voting Section learned anything from 2010. Like the New York case, the Voting Section is once again allowing local election officials to mail absentee ballots to war zones less than 30 days before the election. In Wisconsin, many of the ballots were sent less than 25 days before the election. That is simply not enough time.

The problem in Wisconsin, however, may be much worse than reported. According to settlement agreement, there were at least 350 municipalities that failed to disclose whether they mailed their ballots or whether they mailed them on time. In other words, it is unclear whether nearly 20 percent of the municipalities in Wisconsin sent absentee ballots at all or on time. Shockingly, the Voting Section took no real action against these nonreporting municipalities. The consent decree required the state to issue an order demanding the data, but provided no consequence for noncompliance. Not surprisingly, 56 municipalities didn't bother to respond before the election. Their service members in these towns were abandoned by the Voting Section.

Ultimately, if military voters have any hope of ending this time loop, the Voting Section must be willing to demand relief that fully protects our military members and provides real consequences for those election officials failing to comply with the law.

For example, in both Wisconsin and New York, the Voting Section should have demanded that counties and municipalities send all absentee military ballots via express mail delivery - especially if they were being sent to a war zone. That remedy not only would have provided additional protection for the troops, it would have provided a real incentive to avoid future violations.

To the extent that local jurisdictions are unwilling to respond to official requests by state and federal officials, as was the case in Wisconsin, they should be hauled to court. That, too, will provide a little incentive to avoid future violations.

Unfortunately, the Voting Section failed to achieve either outcome and, thus, no one should be surprised when these same violations occur in November.



**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-00143-SP-06-2011