



The High Desert BUGLE



November / December 2013

**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,
Veterans Memorial Hall at the corner of 2nd and Curry Street, Carson City.

Our next meeting will be held on November 14th at 6:30 PM.

This will be preceded by the Thanksgiving Meal at 5:30 PM.

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

POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Leon Werner	265-2621
1 st Vice Commander	Rick Kaspar	684-9757
2 nd Vice Commander	Ben Casad	335-6927
Adjutant	John Dickinson	246-4024
Finance Officer	Marco Manor	267-4794
Chaplain	Katherine Baran	888-2088
Sgt-at-Arms	TJ Dennington	420-0151
Historian	Vacant	

UNIT 56 OFFICERS

President	Barbara Dickinson	246-4024
1 st Vice President	Vacant	
2 nd Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Irma Manor	267-4794
Treasurer	Christine St. Leger-Barter	783-0502
Chaplain	Betty Sherwood	575-6219
Sgt-at-Arms	Dorothy Bolander	883-0345
Historian	Kendra Sherwood	575-6219

SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Matthew Sherwood	575-6219
1 st Vice Commander	Jack Ralph	882-8269
Adjutant	Marco Manor	267-4794

Commanders Comments

Comrades,

First I would like to thank each of you for being a member of High Desert Post 56.

Here are a few things that the American Legion does for the veterans because of your membership:

- They process more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- They give emergency financial assistance to Legion families hit by hurricanes, flood, tornadoes and other disasters.
- They urge Congress to provide enough VA funding to take care of veterans' medical needs.
- They raise funds to improve the quality of life for active duty troops with the wounded warrior recognition program and operation comfort warriors.

These are the American Legion Legislative priorities for the 113th Congress:

- Protect veterans and the DOD from the harmful cuts through sequestration. (H.R. 55)
- Oppose further increase in Tricare fees, including prescription drug fees.
- Properly fund VA to insure quality health care and benefits for veterans. (H.R. 813/5.932)
- Provide quality education through the Post 9/11 GI bill. (H.R.357/6.257)
- Create focus programs for assisting veterans with jobs. (H.R. 803)
- Support veteran entrepreneurs.
- End veterans' homelessness. (5.62/H.R. 385)
- Eliminate VA claims backlog.
- Repeal taxes that penalize disabled veterans and widows. (H.R. 303/H.R. 32)
- Protect the American flag. (H.J. Res. 47/S.J. Res 17)

As a veteran, the American Legion 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. To find out more about what the American Legion does, please visit <http://www.legion.org/>.

The Veterans Hall where we meet has been given a face lift. We have new paint, new lockers, and new tables and chairs. The kitchen has been renewed and now has all new appliances. Thank you State of Nevada for the remodel.

We are Veterans still serving America.

For God and Country,

Leon Werner
Commander

2nd Vice Commander's Report

Members of Post 56,

It is my honor and pleasure to be writing my first communication to you. I am a new member of the American Legion, joining this post in August.

In June of this year I was seeking a Color Guard for an event in Gardnerville and was directed to Post 56. When asked if I was a member my "no" was answered by "why not". I have wanted to do something with and for veterans for several years. Finding and becoming a member of a Post with an Honor/Color guard was ideal for me. Color and Honor Guards have always been special to me at all events. To find a Post membership that is as friendly and accommodating as this one is a big plus. To be asked and accepted as your Second Vice Commander is a special compliment to me.

I enlisted in the US Navy in the late '60's and became a torpedoman aboard a FBM (fleet ballistic missile) submarine, making two patrols, and held one of three scuba diving billets on the ship. I was also topside Petty Officer, Deck Division Petty Officer, Small Arms Petty Officer and in charge of pyrotechnics. I was later to add PH (photographer) to my TM2 job description.

I was a VFW Post 5144 Commander in the early 1980's. I am now a life member of the VFW with All American Post 3819. I am also a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. I may be seen later this year on middle school and high basketball courts as a NIAA official.

I am looking forward to taking on the duties of Second Vice Commander to increase interaction with civic and veterans groups; to promote those programs offered by the American Legion; and meeting these objectives while still maintaining the friendly and fun attitude of the post. I would like to help make this an outstanding post.

Current events....

November 11 is the Veterans Day Parade in Virginia City. Check with Katherine for time and place of departure.

The Christmas party is the 12th of December at the Fandango Casino. The cost is \$20 per person payable in advance. I hope to see you there.

Saving the jokes for later, I would like to give a special thank you to Marco for asking me to join and seeing me quickly through the process of Post membership and membership in the Honor Guard, and to all of you for your friendship and support.

For God and country.

Ben Casad
Second Vice Commander

Jr. Past Commander's Report

Comrades,

As we approach Veterans Day here are some thoughts to ponder and perhaps to pass on to your children and grandchildren:

WHAT IS A VET?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She (or he) is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU".

*It's the soldier, not the reporter,
who gave us our freedom of the press.*

*It's the soldier, not the poet,
who gave us our freedom of speech.*

*It's the soldier, not the campus organizer,
who gave us our freedom to demonstrate.*

*It's the soldier, who salutes the flag,
who serves others with respect for the flag,
who allows the protester to burn the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag.*

If you can, on Veteran's Day, come to Virginia City, join with your Honor Guard and march proudly in the Veteran's Day Parade.

For God and Country,

Marty Martin
Past Commander

Adjutant's Report

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for 2014. We are still about 30 short of our goal. Welcome to eighteen (18) transferring members, most coming from Post 100.

Happy holidays to all.

John Dickinson
Adjutant

Finance Officer's Report

I am sorry to inform all of you that we will not be selling Post 56 Calendars this year. The American Legion Flag & Emblem informed me that they are not printing them up this year due to a lack of participation from other Posts around the country. They did tell me that they may bring them back next year.

We are still doing the candy and nut fund raiser this year. I would like to thank all of you on behalf of our chairperson, Terry Anderson, for participating again this year. This is our only fund raiser so far and the income from it helps keep all of our annual dues at only \$25.00. All of your order forms need to be turned in at our next meeting on November 14th. Terry and I will get the order together and purchase everything on Friday the 15th. This year we are purchasing everything with a credit card which should expedite the delivery. Be sure that you put your name on the top of the order form before turning it in.

The post finances are doing very well thanks to the Honor Guard getting donations for their services. Your dues also help keep us in the black. Thank all of you that have currently paid their 2014 dues and I hope to get the remainder in before the first of the year.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on November the 14th. The Ladies Auxiliary will be preparing their annual Thanksgiving dinner, and dinner will be served at 5:30 PM.

For God and Country.

Marco Manor
Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

Katherine did not submit a report.

Honor/Color Guard Report

Katherine did not submit a report.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 01 November: All Saints Day
- 03 November: Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 11 November: Veterans Day – Color Guard will lead parade in Virginia City
- 14 November: Unit 56 Thanksgiving Meal – 5:30 PM at the Hall - \$5 donation requested
- 14 November: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 20 November: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 28 November: Thanksgiving Day
- 07 December: Pearl Harbor Day
- 12 December: Post 56/Unit 56 Christmas Party at Casino Fandango – 5:00 PM
- 18 December: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 21 December: Winter Begins
- 25 December: Christmas Day
- 31 December: New Years Eve

The Post 56 Commanders' Color Guard performed at the 2013 Governor's Banquet on October 24th.





left to right
Leon Werner, Katherine Baran, Jack Ralph, Marty Martin
(*Sorry Leon, I didn't take the picture.*)



Marty, Jack, and Leon with Piper Robert Bledsaw



Marty, Leon, and Jack with Miss Nevada and Miss Nevada's Teen

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

RENEW ONLINE NOW!

Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!
Simply visit the web address shown below, and follow the easy instructions.
You can renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card.
Quick and secure credit card payment.

VISA MasterCard Discover

www.legion.org/renew