



The High Desert BUGLE



September / October 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 September 12th at 6:30 PM.

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

POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Leon Werner	265-2621
1 st Vice Commander	Michael Juckett	883-1424
2 nd Vice Commander	Rick Kaspar	684-9757
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,

Your membership and why it's important.

Your membership in the American Legion plays a significant role in the welfare of Veterans and the Youth of America. Because of your involvement, your annual dues go a long way in supporting the basic principle of the American Legion. These funds allow our organization, from Post to National Headquarters, to pursue legislation that is beneficial to our Veterans and to fight against those that are detrimental.

You are one of the 7,677 members within Nevada that causes our State officials to listen to Veteran needs. But more importantly, you are part of the 2.4 million plus Veterans that the National Commander states he is representing when he appears before a legislative committee fighting for our benefits.

Hopefully this helps you understand the importance of getting your dues in on time. You were committed to our country when you were on Active duty. Your involvement with The American Legion is a continuation of your service to our great country, Thank you for staying involved.

If you want to know how the Affordable Care Act will affect you and your family, visit www.va.gov/aca. You can enroll in VA health care at any time at www.va.gov/health or call 1-877-222-8387. Eligibility information is available at www.va.gov/opa/publication/benefits_book.

Hope everyone is having a great summer and I hope to soon see all 100 plus members at our meetings.

For God and Country,
Leon Werner
Commander

1st Vice Commander's Report

Memberships are the vital part of The American Legion and that makes your membership very important to us. Thank you for being a member of Post 56. The American Legion is a social and mutual-aid veterans' organization including members of the United States Armed Forces. In addition to organizing commemorative events and volunteer veteran support activities, the American Legion is active in issue-oriented U.S. politics. Its primary political activity is lobbying on behalf of the interests of veterans and service members, including support for veterans' benefits such as pensions and the Veterans Affairs hospital system. Post 56 is "fully volunteer active" in the Honor Guard/Color Guard. Other than that I know of no other "volunteer active" undertaking we as a Post are involved in.

I have asked for help in starting a membership committee, no takers. I have asked for help in brain storming what would or could entice a younger membership, no one had any ideas. I had come up with ideas that were balked at. Come on, fellows! Let's go 56. "Success" is the result of combined effort, not the liability of the same few volunteers; it is harmony and not discord. Today some 30 per cent of the ex-service men and women are carrying the burden of the 100 per cent. Wake up, you fellows who compose the 70 per cent benefit, are glorious, work is tedious. There is something wrong somewhere. "He who hesitates is lost." If the veterans would only consider for a few moments what the Legion has done, and what it proposes to do, then the membership would swell. Let the former patriotic spirit and energy resurrect itself and inspire you to perform a duty, and urge upon the ex-service men and woman the vital importance and benefits of the membership in the American Legion.

At the inception of the GI Bill of Rights in 1943, the Legion was 3.3 million members strong but now sadly The American Legion has dwindled to roughly 2.4 million worldwide, all sworn and dedicated to help fellow veterans. We Legionaries have done a most superlative and commendable job throughout our illustrious history in helping all American veterans in need. Our aid and support goes forward without caveats predicated on whether or not they have honorably served our country during time of war or served our country in time of peace. All have written and signed that blank check to America; all served and paid the price of and for freedom as was required of us at the time. We are all American veterans.

In a time when it is getting exponentially more difficult to bring in new members, we are sorely losing members through attrition and as a consequence, local community posts. There was a time when each member took membership and their passion for The American Legion personally, asked folks to join them, and then gave them a reason to stay. A shrinking membership base affects everything, resulting in fewer activities, fewer new leaders, fewer new ideas, fewer volunteers, and less clout in Washington, D.C.

I have been told constantly by Post officers and members that our ranks are old and unwilling to partake in volunteerism. I have heard that our Post will be dead in a few years without new members or even current members willing to volunteer. We might be getting older, and with far fewer volunteers and yes we may die out in some not so distant future; but I'm still committed to our organization. So yes, we are holding our own for now. Yes, we face problems getting new members and yes, our current membership volunteers are growing older. But, I have confidence in our organization and in our younger Veterans.

'Nuf ced'

---Michael Juckett, 1st Vice Commander

Adjutant's Report

Thank you to all members who have remitted their 2014 dues. We are currently ahead of the Department of Nevada goal for renewals. From now until the end of the Legion Year is the hard task for getting the balance of the renewals in.

The next National mailing of renewal notices will be in October. Please check your membership card for the year "2014". Any renewals that are submitted between now and October will not change the mailing, so before complaining and writing negative comments on your renewal notice, make sure you have a "2014" card. If you do, then discard the October mailing.

John Dickinson
Adjutant

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11 September: Patriot Day
- 12 September: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 20 September: POW-MIA Recognition Day
- 22 September: Autumn Begins
- 10 October: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 25 October: Nevada Day Observed
- 26 October: Nevada Day Parade
- 31 October: Halloween

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

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