



# The High Desert BUGLE



## September / October 2014

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and Curry Street, Carson City.

Our next meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

This will be preceded by the Unit 56 Meal beginning at 5:30 PM.

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

### POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Ben Casad	335-6927
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Rick Kaspar	684-9757
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	TJ Dennington	420-0151
Historian	John Riggs	358-7119

### UNIT 56 OFFICERS

President	Barbara Dickinson	246-4024
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Kendra Sherwood	575-6219
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Irma Manor	267-4794
Treasurer	Christine St. Leger-Barter	461-3526
Chaplain	Betty Sherwood	575-6219
Sgt-at-Arms	Dolly Jenkins	884-3147
Historian	Vacant	

### SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

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

### Commander's Comments

Comrades,

Two months of positive news near and far since our last newsletter.

First, the good news from afar, at the end of July I had the opportunity to travel across California. It was the first time in years I felt relaxed and comfortable while in the state. Knowing that law abiding and legal citizens have gun rights makes a difference. I was able to talk to several members of different law enforcement agencies. They are enjoying the change. When asked about the rights of Nevada citizens in California I was told they have no problem with recognizing our permits, but the state laws, have not made that recognition. For now, as far as I know, Nevada permits are not good in California.

In other law enforcement related good news. Our guest speakers information at the last meeting that there has been no gang activity in Carson City for over a year and the crime rate has dropped dramatically was welcome news not only in Carson City, but in outlying areas as well. I would like to thank Sheriff Furlong again for taking the time to speak and answer so many questions ranging from crime to medical marijuana. Again, post you all did a great job of keeping the questions and discussions within our guidelines. I would like to thank Ed Carson for inviting Katherine (Kat) Miller to be the speaker at our next meeting on September 11. Katherine is the Director of the Department of Veterans Services for the State of Nevada.

Our last meeting had over 30 members and guests in attendance. Joe has been telling me for months that we could never get over 30 members. You did it post. We still have room and would like to see more members and guests at our next meetings. I would like to thank Richard Maxwell for bringing his father, Bob Maxwell, of Canastota, New York, American Legion Post 140 to our meeting. Bob is 91 and a WWII Air Force veteran. Our membership is growing steadily. I would like to welcome our two new members: Ken Furlong and Ron Rieger.

The Honor Guard is increasing the number and variety of their events. Well done to all of you.

Thank you, Ladies Auxiliary, for the snacks provided at last meeting. The ladies auxiliary is planning a potluck of German food for our next meeting and expecting a good turnout. 5:30 for the potluck with the meeting at 6:30.

The picnic was a success. Thank you, members and guests for making the picnic a memorable occasion. Farewells were made to Past Commander Leon and his wife Donna. We will miss your friendship and support. Marco's cooking was as good as ever, thank you, Marco. Everyone was a winner at this picnic. I would like to point out several highlights in the dancing. Joe's waltz down memory lane was nearly divine. Marco's hot forked turns in the salsa were palatable. Irma and Dorothy were on their toes for a fulfilling event. Wound-up and letting-go was Donna in the Cha Cha. Looking forward to next year.

For God and Country  
Ben Casad  
Commander, High Desert Post 56

### Post Adjutant's Report

Fellow Legionnaires,

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for 2014/15. If you have not signed up for the Legion's free accident insurance policy, see me at the next meeting for an application. Remember it is free. The next mailing of membership renewals will be in October. Before complaining to your adjutant, check your dues card for the year 2015. It takes about 60 days for National to have your renewal in their records. I will be gone for the Sept. Meeting; I will be at the Sept. E-board meeting.

John Dickinson  
Adjutant  
775-246-4024

### Honor/Color Guard Report

From the Captain of the Guard

Since assuming the responsibility once again for the Guard in late June, we have participated in 14 military burials and two parades. Our TEAM continues to do an outstanding job with the utmost respect for our fallen brothers and sisters and their families.

On Monday, September the 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be leading the Labor Day Parade in Virginia City. After that we begin to get very busy with seven more funerals and parades scheduled.

Our TEAM has once again lost one of our key personnel. Our Post 56 Junior Past Commander and member of our TEAM have moved to Alabama to be closer to their family and especially their grandchildren. Leon and Donna Werner, you will be missed by all of us and everyone in the area that have grown to know and love you both. The best of luck and please stay in touch.

### **Post 56 Annual Christmas Party Update**

Second Vice Commander Gabe Koory and I have been working on getting everything set for our Annual Christmas Party. In the past Casino Fandango has been very helpful and co-operative. However, this year has not been the case. New management in the catering department has been very difficult to work with.

Therefore, this year we will be having our Christmas Party at the Gold Dust West Hotel and Casino. I have had an excellent relationship with the catering department for several years and they are giving us anything we want at no extra charge. Cathy, catering manager, is a joy to work with.

This year you will be enjoying a sit down dinner. The three choices that Gabe and I came up with are as follows:

1. Blackened Salmon with Sundried Tomato Sauce
2. Pan Seared Pork Loin Chop with Roasted Shallot Cream Sauce
3. Sliced Roast Beef with Mushroom Gravy

Your meal includes salad, baked potato, roll and dessert. All of this and the price has not increased one cent. You meals are only \$20.00 each, the same as years in the past.

The cocktail hour will be from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM. You must book your reservation no later than November 20<sup>th</sup> and you must pay for your meals prior to the event (not at the door). Once the meals are confirmed with the hotel, there will be no refunds for any reason! The signup sheet will be at each Post 56 meeting through

November.

This year's raffle should be very exciting with nearly 100 gifts valued at over \$2,000.00.

### **Christmas Candy and Nut Sales Start Soon**

We received the advance paperwork from Terry Lynn Candies and Nuts already. I will have your order forms and booklets available at the September meeting and go over the program with you then. We are starting our sales a month early this year so we can hopefully have everything in before Thanksgiving. We need everyone to get out and sell this year.

For God and Country,  
Marco Manor  
775-267-4794

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 01 September: Labor Day Parade in Virginia City – Noon
- 11 September: Patriot Day
- 11 September: Unit 56 Oktoberfest Meal – 5:30 PM
- 11 September: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 23 September: First day of Autumn
- 24 September: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 09 October: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 22 October: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 31 October: Halloween/Nevada Day

### **National Commander Helm: Stay the course**

By Steve B. Brooks - August 28, 2014



Past National Commander Jake Comer swears Mike Helm in as new American Legion national commander.  
(Photo by Tom Strattman)

Department of Nebraska Legionnaire Mike Helm wants his fellow Legionnaires to "stay the course" this year. But don't think for a minute that means maintain the status quo.

Helm, elected American Legion national commander Aug. 28 during the final day of the 96th Annual American Legion National Convention, said [during his acceptance speech](#) that he wants Legionnaires to stay true to the ideals of the organization's founders and use them as a guide toward future progress.

"That is the plan for this year: stay the course," Helm said. "And no, I do not mean that we shouldn't raise the bar and constantly seek to improve. What I mean by 'stay the course' is to continue to live and honor the great traditions and values established by our founders nearly a century ago. These policies and traditions that got us here will continue to guide us forward.

We are a God and country organization, and we will not apologize for that. We know that a veteran is a citizen of this country who has offered his or her life to honor this nation's commitment to justice freedom and democracy, and by that action has had his or her life radically and sometimes violently changed forever. We will not let this nation forget that we owe that individual respect and any help they need in making their lives whole again."

Helm, a U.S. Army Rangers veteran and member of Jack Helt Post 313 in Lebanon, Neb., has served as post, county, district, department and national vice commander, and has chaired the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Foreign Relations commissions.

He will use his VA&R experience this year to focus on current issues with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Under the leadership of our (immediate Past National Commander Dan Dellinger), we have drawn the line in the sand," Helm said. "We say now that the health-care needs of the individual veteran must be met in a timely manner. We say that the VA can do a better job in the claims and appeals process. At the same time, we will continue to seek out answers to what went wrong at the VA and why it went wrong." Those people involved in the scandals have to be held accountable, Helm said.

"We know that what happened wasn't an accident or a circumstance. There is an entrenchment in VA that is not helpful to veterans' health care or compensation. We will find it and get rid of it. At the same time, we will continue to support the VA as a national provider of veterans' health care. We need our VA medical facilities because we know it can be and is the best care anywhere if administrated properly. "Those calling for the end of the VA and privatization of veterans health care are wrong. We continue to see The American Legion as partners and friends of the VA. We know they can and will do better."

National security also is on Helm's radar. "We cannot continue to see the mounting crises erupting in the world and still think it is a prudent thing to reduce our military force and training," he said. "Those forces of evil and hate are enemies of our way of life. This nation must be ready to answer that challenge.

"We will also continue our efforts to end illegal immigration. It is a national security issue of great importance. Fair and legal immigration is a good thing that has helped build this country into a great nation. We must continue that process. Anything else is a constant danger – especially amnesty proposals which seek to reward illegal behavior and penalize those who have waited patiently to immigrate the legal way."

Helm said the Legion will continue to support its youth and Americanism programs, saying those programs "make up the fabric that keeps us strong as a nation." And rather than focusing on a specific fundraising program, Helm has set a goal for the Legion family to raise a combined \$4 million for the various Legion charitable programs.

"I am leaving the choice of fundraising to you," he said. "All I ask is that you give. America is paying attention to The American Legion not just because we are right on the issues, but because we are doing these great things in our communities."

Many of those charities benefit not only members of the military and veterans, but also their families – which matters, Helm said. "Most veterans believe that the nicest thing you can do for them is to be kind to their families," he said. "The most common request of a soldier who is dying on the battlefield is 'tell my wife I love her.' Nothing will be appreciated

by a veteran more than taking care of his or her family. And that's exactly what these programs are intended to do."

When it comes to membership growth, Helm said he wants Legionnaires to focus on the four Rs: recruiting, revitalization, renewals and reconnecting.

"We will always be about service first, but folks, we can't provide the programs or the service without the membership," Helm said. "Practice those four Rs. Recruit every eligible veteran that you come in contact. Recruit their sons, grandsons, wives, daughters and granddaughters into the American Legion family.

"You don't need to be near a military base to reconnect with servicemembers. Reserve and Guard units have deployed in record numbers since 9/11, and most are eligible for American Legion membership.

"Renewal efforts shouldn't just include those who left your post in the past year, but check back on those who might have left five or even 10 years ago. They might have had a change of heart or simply forgot to renew because nobody was pro-active enough to take an interest in them. And National Headquarters also offers plenty of resources available for posts that wish to revitalize. Think of it as a 5-Hour ENERGY Shot for a tired post."

Helm took time to honor Jerry Hedrick, the longtime National Executive Committeeman from North Carolina who passed away unexpectedly Aug. 25 during the convention. "Jerry Hedrick ... was a presence in this organization for so many years that he has touched the lives of us all in a very good way," Helm said. "Jerry was always positive. I don't believe I ever heard Jerry say a harsh word about anyone. He would look at an issue and give you an honest course of action that he thought was best for you and best for the organization."

Helm was surrounded by many members of his family on the stage – and by two others from more than 6,800 miles away. Helm's son Aaron and his wife, Robie – both currently stationed at U.S. Army Camp Arifjan in Kuwait – were able to watch Helm be sworn in via Skype.

Elected as national vice commanders were Doug Haggan, Department of France; Paul O. Sanford, Department of Kansas; Richard W. Neville, Department of North Carolina; William R. Bryant, Department of Virginia; and Gerald L. Jacobs, of Wyoming.

Also appointed were National Historian Sue Mason, Department of California, National Sergeant-at-Arms Leon Hagan, Department of Nebraska; National Chaplain Randy Cash, Department of South Carolina.

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



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