



Department of Nevada Veterans of Foreign Wars

June 9, 2019

Senior Vice Commander
Report
Mesquite, Nevada

1. The primary focus of the Department has been reaching 100%+ before the Mid- Winter Conference, and to assist any Post &/or District to be All-State qualified. There were a lot of doubters, since we have struggled for many years, but with the leadership of Commander Peterson and PSC Hagen's extraordinary efforts, their hard work paid off. They led the way, and made it happen. They will tell you they did not do it alone.
2. We reached the goal, and the numbers continue to climb. So far, Nevada is holding #2 Nationally, and nearing toward #1! There was very many Posts and Districts that kept raising the question of membership renewal, and worked very hard to help reach the almost unbelievable goal.
3. While driving higher membership, it was just a part of the requirement for All-state. Among the biggest barrier almost every Post faced was with VOD/PP/TOY entries. Since the Post entries filter through the District, they were affected as well. Some Posts became very creative and found a way to get some entries.
4. When attending the National SVC/QM training which represented every state, the topic of accessing schools was huge, and discussed extensively. Several ideas about the "how-to" were presented even in the face of school districts who were banning and military or veterans on campuses.
5. As I was representing nearly 500,000 veterans, military, families and advocates at the Nevada State Legislature, I was able to encounter significant influencers. I had an appointment with the newly appointed Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jhone Ebert, and explained the VFW perspective regarding our overall Education programs that include VOD/PP/TOY. Dr. Ebert and her staff connected me to their TOY coordinator, KellyLynn Charles. We are collaborating to link both the VFW and the DOE programs.

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6. Otherwise I'm seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Nevada Superintendent's Association through Mary Pierczynski, consisting of every school district Superintendent in Nevada. Here I'll present the entire VFW education program, its personal value to the students and teachers, and the school/district recognition.
7. I've learned there are generally two (2) reasons that Veterans are being held out of schools. The first is the federal law similar to HIPPA, called Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The second is, due to the school incidents all schools that are in a near-lockdown condition, they screen every outsider carefully. There still remains a stigma about any veteran with PTSD/TBI, etc. being dangerous to the community. Therefore, they are very cautious about any veterans. Psycharmor Institute developed an excellent video called, "15 Things Veterans Want You To Know" that I intend to use to counter this kind of thinking.
8. Finally, aside for the anything-but-routine preparation for assuming State command (whew!), I've been pursuing the best ways to increase Department revenue through Chris Sehnert (Ways & Means), and dramatically improve Department communications through the website with the help of Don Pettyjohn (Webmaster) .
9. This concludes my report if there are no questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Yarbrough
Department of Nevada
Senior Vice Commander

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