



# FRA 137 Shot Line

Official Newsletter of the Sierra Tahoe Branch of the  
Fleet Reserve Association

May 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From the Desk of Rick Athenour*

Yes, I'm angry. The V.A. Scandal is both disgusting and infuriating. Secret waiting lists for our fellow veterans thus enabling bureaucrats to collect bonuses on top of their already excessive salaries. Where is the shame? What's amazing to me, is this is looking like "Business as Usual" across the entire federal government. How did we get to this point of abject failure at the top of our governmental institutions? We elect managers and send them to D.C. to represent our interests. Managers by nature do not seek to make waves. They much prefer the status quo, with just enough lip service to get re-elected every couple years. We as veterans need to ignore that lip service and elect real leaders. It is leadership that MADE this nation great and only leadership can return us to greatness.

From the earliest days of our first enlistments we were groomed to become leaders. Many reading this message made the military their careers. You could not have done that had your potential not been recognized by those above you as you led the more junior personnel below. Eventually we all left our military service behind, confident we had done our part for the betterment of this nation. We have lived our lives with honor, taking pride in our achievements. Somewhere along the line, while assimilating ourselves with the civilian population we stopped leading. Wasn't that our right? Had we not done enough already? For the answer we must look to our national history. All of our greatest leaders were in the military first. From George Washington through George W. Bush ( not talking politics here ), they all led, and were loved, by the troops.

It is time once more for we veterans to stand up and assert ourselves. To *NOT* allow this mess at the V.A. to get swept under the rug. We must hold those responsible accountable from the top down! To date I have seen the heads of the American

Legion and the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America speaking out. I am now calling on our National Executive Director, and our National President to add their voices as well. To do anything less at this time will only help to hasten the decline of this proud organization. For this brief moment we *HAVE* the people's attention, indeed they are looking to US for leadership! This is a call for bold action in D.C., time to step out from the shadows of the Military Veterans Coalition. We *MUST* plant our flag on *THIS* hill and *DEMAND* accountability! Visibility on the national stage equals viability for us at the branch/local level. Mr. Snee, shipmate President, do this for us and we will get you the new membership this organization needs.

Yours in LOYALTY, PROTECTION, &  
SERVICE Rick Athenour. 266-9289

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## FRA BRANCH 137 CALENDAR

June 7	Installation of Officers, Reno (3 branches & 2 units)	
June 11	Monthly Meeting	1830
June 12-15	Carson Valley Days	
June 28	Independence Day Pot Luck Picnic	
July 10	Monthly Meeting	1830
July 20	Bingo	1700
Aug 16	Adopt a Vet Motorcycle Poker Run	
Aug 21-24	West Coast Regional Convention Carson City, NV	

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## WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

Nick Brumley      Anthony Spitek  
Mark Millis        Josh Wilkerson  
Lon Smith

All new Branch & Unit members will be formally inducted at the Independence Day Picnic.

## 2014-15 BRANCH 137 OFFICERS

### President

Rick Athenour

### Vice-President

Verne Horton

### Secretary

Nikka Filippi

### Treasurer

John Nosek

### Master at Arms

Bob Higgins

### Chaplain/Parliamentarian

Dick Bonebrake

### Board of Directors

Kelly Kollar

Skip Read

Victor Biskup

Don Bishop

Bob Higgins

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## DR. JAMES, THE DENTIST

A shout out to Dr. David James for his support of veterans. Dr. James has made a generous contribution to the FRA Branch 137 Essay Contest, two years running. He he is also a valued participant in the Adopt a Vet Dental Program program, providing low income veterans with pro bono dental care. Dr. James is located in Minden at 1664 Hwy 395. [\(775\)782-7799](tel:775782-7799).

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## CARSON VALLEY DAYS

**JUNE 12 - 15**

FRA Branch 137 will be setting up a booth at the annual Carson Valley Days event in Lampe Park. This is the largest event of its kind in the valley every year. This will be a first for us in this event and we will require participation from as many shipmates as possible, as the booth will be set up for 4 days. We need riders for the truck in the parade on Saturday. Please come to the June 11 monthly meeting for planning and discussion of our participation in this event. If you cannot make it to the meeting and are still interested, please email [fleetreserve137@gmail.com](mailto:fleetreserve137@gmail.com) or contact:

Rick Athenour 775-266-9289

John Nosek 775-392-0116

## ADOPT A VET PROGRAM

As many of you may know, LA-FRA member Brenda Horton also serves as the Carson Area Case Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Vet Dental Program. The program provides dental treatment - free of cost, to low income veterans in Northern Nevada.

AAVD, which was created in 2010 and was initially solely administered in the Reno/Sparks area, began its expansion of the Greater Carson City area and adjacent counties when the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 388 undertook sponsoring a satellite operation in March of 2013.

Since that time Brenda (who is also a VVA member) has been able to increase the area's participating dentists from 6 to 30. To date, those dentists have provided over \$192,436.99 in pro bono treatment to 49 needy veterans. Geographical expansion has also been obtained, for the covered area is as far north as Winnemucca and as far south as Goldfield with the exception of Reno/Sparks and Fallon being administered by the Reno office. The program involves a "start to finish" treatment plan that at the conclusion of his/her dental treatment the veteran is in the highest possible dental health.

To qualify for care under the program, a veteran must meet several criteria.

- Be able to veterans status (DD-214 or VA medical card),
- Have a total monthly verifiable income of less than: \$1,458.75 if single or 1,938.75 if married/partner,
- Declare any and all Public Assistance they are receiving.

For more information, or if you know of, or run across a veteran (regardless of their branch of service, or time of service) who needs dental care and meets the above qualifications, please call, or have the veteran call Brenda at [\(775\) 883-6708](tel:775883-6708) or e-mail her at [bmhorton@charter.net](mailto:bmhorton@charter.net)

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*There will be a fresh batch of*

*Jerky*

*at the June meeting.*

## BINGO

May 17<sup>th</sup> Bingo was a lot of fun; raised funds for the Branch & Unit. thank you to the ladies who came early to cook the hot dogs and set up. Fun new games were played.



Because of the multiple events in June, there will be no Bingo in June. The next Bingo will be July

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## VOTE, JUNE 10

Please get out and vote Tuesday, June 10. Regardless of your party or political persuasion, this is a right we have that is meaningless unless we exercise it. Although we hear much rhetoric and complaining, the best way to express your opinion is at the ballot box. Remember local offices are as important as the national ones, and actually may impact us more on a day to day basis.

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## BIG MAMA'S CAR SHOW

F R A Branch 137 had a successful two days with its recruiting booth at Big Mama's



Show and Shine at Lampe Park. We signed up two new members and collected another 13 cards from interested parties. Shown in the photo staffing the booth are: Dave Morris, Bruce Ravenscroft, Verne & Brenda Horton and Max Ravenscroft.

## LA FRA NOTES

The convention is fast approaching and we still need help with baskets. Anyone willing to contribute or solicit merchants, please contact Sue Higgins at 775-265-7898 or [gramasu@aol.com](mailto:gramasu@aol.com)

The donated items for the Reno VA Guest House were greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Installation of new officers for the Branch and Unit will be held at the Girl Scout Center in Reno. Lunch is \$10; please let Jan know if you are going.

June 28<sup>th</sup> is the Branch & Unit Independence Day Picnic. The Unit will be providing the side dishes, so please contact Jan Solberg at 775-265-4784 or [JandLeif@aol.com](mailto:JandLeif@aol.com) or PJ Nosek 775-392-0116 or [pjnosek@gmail.com](mailto:pjnosek@gmail.com) with the item you will be bringing. Friends and family are welcome. Installation of new members will be held at the picnic.

There will be no official June meeting due to the Installation of Officers in Reno. But there will be a working get together at the Vet Hall on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to put together the Goody Bags for the August Convention. If you have items for Convention baskets, please bring them with you.

Next Unit meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Vet Hall at 6:30 pm.

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## HONOR GUARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

American Legion Post 56 continues to seek out any members looking to join the Honor Guard. Here are the requirements:

1. Reasonably fair shape
2. It would help if availability most any day (not a requirement)
3. Want to provide Honor Guard services to departed Vets (who deserve the honor)
4. You do not have to belong to the American Legion post 56. (it would help in order to get the latest info) You can remain in FRA Branch 137
5. It costs \$100 deposit up front for the uniform except boots.
6. Not much training needed (usually 5 min before an event)
7. If interested or more info contact Bob Higgins, 775-265-7898 who is the MAA of FRA Branch 137