

## MEMO FROM THE DESK OF KEN HAMILTON – NEVADA DAY PRESIDENT

**To: All Equestrian and Band Entrants in the Nevada Day Parade**  
**From: Ken Hamilton, Nevada Day President**  
**Subject: Official Nevada Day Policy Change Regard Awards and Trophies for Equestrian and Band Entries**

First off, we'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to all who participated in the 2011 Nevada Day Parade – an event which many are calling “the best parade ever!” Secondly, it has come to our attention that a policy change with regard to parade awards might not have trickled down to all entrants this year. With that in mind, I thought I'd take a minute to clearly state our new policy and the reasons behind the shift.

As of this year (2011), the Nevada Day Committee chose to discontinue issuing trophy awards to equestrian entries and band entries in the Nevada Day parade, opting instead to give each participant a beautiful framed award, acknowledging their participation in the parade. Our reasoning behind this is two fold:

### **1) Low Numbers of Entries in Relation to Categories**

Historically, there are about a dozen equestrian entries in any given Nevada Day parade. As a result, in past years every entry ended up winning an award in whatever category they fell in. This year's numbers were consistent with this pattern. So this year, instead of offering 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies, we opted for a framed award to every Equestrian participant.

The situation is quite similar with band entries. This year, to complicate matters, we unfortunately had far fewer bands participate as UNR held a competition for High School bands on the same day as the parade. As a result, no Reno High School bands participated in the Nevada Day parade. Like the equestrian entries, this year we gave all bands who participated a framed award – just as nice as last year's awards – however no 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

### **2) Budget Constraints**

Every year, Nevada Day budgets around \$4,000 for trophies, awards, certificates and ribbons. Like a lot of other businesses in Nevada, our annual budget shrank, so unfortunately we had to cut back. This seemed like a logical area to cut back on, as only about HALF of the expensive trophies we purchase each year actually get picked up. We literally have hundreds of trophies and awards stored in the Nevada Day office from years past that were never claimed, costing us thousands of dollars. Anyone who is interested can come down to the office to see our display of unclaimed trophies and awards.

We apologize if the policy change wasn't made clear to all applicants; we attempted to contact all entrants on an individual basis to explain the new policy. Those we were able to reach were actually quite supportive of the decision. To further clarify, we will alter to our Applications and Policies to clearly state this policy shift for those participating in future parades.

We hope this clears up any confusion with regard to awards from this year's parade. We are proud of all our band and equestrian entries in the Nevada Day parade; they are crowd favorites, and part of what makes this parade so special. We hope that these groups continue the tradition of participating in the Nevada Day parade – and making the crowd smile – for many years to come.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask for me directly at the Nevada Day Office: (775) 882-2600.

Sincerely,

Ken Hamilton  
Nevada Day President