



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER  
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# MONTANA LEGION FAMILY OBSERVES VETERANS DAY 2017 WITH PRIDE & SOLEMNITY

## Ravalli & Corvallis Legion Family

BY GREG MAROSE

Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society presented their 28th Annual Veterans Day Observance on 10 November 2017. The program began at the Doughboy Memorial with members of Hamilton Post 47 Color Guard, a three-round volley rifle salute by the Marine



Corps League Detachment #937, and taps by Ruth Cook, Post 47. The program continued with the laying of the Wreaths by AL Post 47 Auxiliary, AL

Post 91 Auxiliary, Corvallis and the Bitterroot Valley Historical Society,. and the Observance then continued inside the museum. Post 47 presented the POW/MIA Ceremony by Post members, Monica Ephrom, and Gregory Marose. Guest speakers were Deborah Fransden of Sen. Jon Tester's office, and Kate Hahn, Montana Veteran Service Officer. Coffee, cake and punch were served afterwards.



Post 47 Color Guard



## Townsend Post 42 Community Program

BY SHARON DOIG, HISTORIAN, MEDIA CHAIR, DEPT. CHAIR C&Y

Townsend Post 42 hosted a community program beginning with the presentation of colors, a prayer by Post Chaplain Dean Powers and singing of God Bless America. They were honored to host keynote speaker Brigadier General Bryan P. Fox, Montana Deputy Adjutant General, who gave a wonderful colorful history presentation about Montana's Air National Guard 70th Anniversary. The General's wife, Laurie, accompanied him for the evening and was a true pleasure to converse with.



After the keynote presentation, the 44 community attendees were invited to stay for chili for a small donation, with all attending Veterans and military eating at no cost.

Veterans Day is to thank all who have served, those presently serving and those who continue to serve veterans, children, the community and American Legion Post 42 members.

## Gallatin Post 14 'Simply Remember'

BY LEN ALBRIGHT AND DALLAS THOMPSON

Bozeman Post 14's annual Veterans Day services were held at the mini Vietnam War Wall located in Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. Services began at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month following the Post's annual breakfast of sausage, eggs and pancakes served at Post 14 Legion Hall. At 10:55 am it was still snowing heavily and at 11:01 am it quit and the sun came out. It was nice the rest of the day. Pictured is Post 14 Color Guard portion of the Honor Guard.



## Miles City Post 5 at Eastern MT State Veterans Cemetery

BY CAROL PRAHL, POST 5

Helping raise 55 large flags at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery on Nov. 11, 2017 are: second from left, Miles City Post 5 CDR Bob Prah; center is volunteer Jerry Schlepp, and Carol Prah, Post 5 Flag Chair.



### Important Upcoming Dates

|                 |                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb 14.....     | 85% Target                                                               |
| Feb 14.....     | Valentine's Day                                                          |
| Feb 19 .....    | President's Day                                                          |
| Feb 25-28 ..... | Washington Conference                                                    |
| Feb 27-28 ..... | Department Service Officer's School – Washington DC                      |
| Mar 1 .....     | <b>Eagle Scout of the Year Nomination</b> due to Department Headquarters |
| Mar 10 .....    | Department Oratory – Great Falls                                         |
| Mar 11 .....    | Daylight Savings Time Begins                                             |
| Mar 11 .....    | First District Meeting – Districts 3/8 Power                             |
| Mar 14 .....    | 90% Target Date                                                          |
| Mar 15-17.....  | The American Legion Birthday                                             |
| Mar 15 .....    | <b>Constitutional Essay</b> due to Education Chairman                    |
| Mar 17.....     | St. Patrick's Day                                                        |
| Mar 25 .....    | Palm Sunday                                                              |
| Mar 30 .....    | Good Friday                                                              |
| Apr 1 .....     | Easter                                                                   |
| Apr 1 .....     | Montana Legionnaire May / Jun / July issue cutoff date                   |
| Apr 11 .....    | 95% Target Date, Renewal Cutoff Date                                     |
| Apr 13-15 ..... | 81st Annual National Oratory Finals – Indianapolis, IN                   |
| Apr 14 .....    | <b>Post Data Forms</b> due to Dept. Headquarters                         |
| Apr 15 .....    | <b>Government Survey</b> due to Education Chairman                       |
| .....           | <b>990N due to IRS</b> for Posts using calendar year for fiscal year     |
| Apr 29...       | Last District Meeting – District 2, Big Sandy                            |
| May 1.....      | <b>Certification of Post Officers</b> due to Department Headquarters     |
| May 6-10 .....  | Nat'l Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN                                 |
| May 10.....     | 100%Target Date                                                          |
| May 13.....     | Mother's Day                                                             |
| May 15.....     | Peace Officers' Memorial Day                                             |
| .....           | <b>Consolidated Post Report (CPR)</b> Due to Department Headquarters     |
| May 19.....     | Armed Forces Day                                                         |
| May 28.....     | Memorial Day observed                                                    |
| May 30 .....    | Memorial Day                                                             |

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## THE AMERICAN LEGION Centennial celebration

The 100th American Legion National Convention in 2018 kicks off a 15-month commemoration to honor the organization's first century of service and propel it into the second.

Minneapolis, home of the 1st American Legion National Convention in 1919, will serve as host city of the 100th National Convention Aug. 24-30, 2018. Centennial events and activities will be conducted at the national, department and post levels through the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 23-29, 2019, and will culminate on Veterans Day 2019.

Please plan on attending the 100th in Minneapolis and representing Montana at this commemorative event. On the page 15 of this newspaper you will find the 2018 National Convention Reservation form which will need to be filled out and submitted to Gary White for your attendance request. We hope to see a good many of our Montana Legionnaires in Minneapolis.

# COMMANDER DOBB



Nat'l CDR Denise Rohan & Larry Dobb, Dept. CDR

I want to congratulate everyone for your hard work on membership. As I write this article, the target is currently 80 percent. The Department surpassed the 75 percent target finishing with over 79 percent. Nine of our Districts and 71 of our Posts made or exceeded the 75 percent target. Many others were very close. There are four Districts and nearly 60 Posts that have already passed the current target of 80 percent. We have less than 20 Posts that are well off pace and many of these have shown recent growth. Let's really push early in this new calendar year and put Montana at or near the top of the 55 departments.

While we still have a long way to go in the current membership year, it is not too early to start thinking about next year. Now's the time to figure out what you can do as an Early Bird incentive program to get your membership off to a good start. Last summer one Post jumped to nearly 80 percent in the first six weeks by

an excellent Early Bird program. But you have to be thinking about what you are going to do now.

I have addressed the following issues in the past, but we must communicate with our membership throughout the year. Not just when it is time to renew. There are some excellent examples of newsletters around the Department, from elaborate ones with color and pictures to simple one-page letters or even e-mail versions. And we must recognize those who renew faithfully every year. There are certificates, lapel pins and other continuous membership awards available through the National Emblem Sales. The cost is very reasonable and even cheap when one compares ten, twenty or more years of membership to having to chase people down and get them to renew every year. Some Posts have "Pin Nights," an annual occasion to recognize their long-term members.

Since the last *Legionnaire*, a lot has happened around the Department. We hosted a visit from our National Commander Denise Rohan, which coincided with the Department Fall Conference in Helena. Many of our members had the privilege of meeting her during the conference or at the dinners and luncheons held at the Posts in Townsend and Anaconda. Our National Vice Commander for the Western Region, Paula Stephenson also made a visit that coincided with the District Revitalization and Training held in Livingston. She also participated in a reconnect with

a National Guard unit in the area and a POW flag presentation ceremony in a Billings school named after WWII Veteran and POW Ben Steele.

I have also had the privilege of representing Montana at the Royal Canadian Legion Convention (Alberta Northwest Territories Command) in Edmonton in September and participating in Remembrance (Veterans) Day ceremonies at several locations in the Crowsnest Pass area of Alberta in November. I was also invited to represent The Department of Montana at a HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) Ceremony in Lethbridge, Alberta, where I was one of the speakers. A very moving event involving hundreds of cadets from the American Civil Air Patrol and Canadian Army, Navy and Air Cadet programs. It was a very well attended event, with many dignitaries to include some American Gold Star wives and Canadian Memorial Cross Families who had lost husbands, sons or daughters in the wars ranging from Vietnam to Afghanistan. I continue to be overwhelmed with the sense of honor I feel at the privilege of representing the Department of Montana at events such as these. The personal rewards of moving above the local Post level are enormous. I encourage anyone who thinks they may be interested to let their District Commanders know, the District level is a great place to start. Or feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss moving up in the organization. ●

## BIG K WINNERS

The Big K \$400 winner for January 2018 was Diana Reilly of Great Falls Auxiliary Unit 3. Diana's number was drawn by Lori Perkio of Copper City Post 115 Butte.

The February \$400 drawing was not yet conducted at the time of publication.

The next \$400 drawings will be in February and March, as well as the \$600 Legion Birthday drawing.

Disbursements to the Districts, Posts, Units and Squadrons will be done at the Spring District Meetings.

## VICE COMMANDER KLOSE



Richard Klose  
Dept. Vice Commander

Well here we are starting a new year. Happy new year.

Now as we start 2018 we have a lot of work coming up in the next few months, oratorical contests, Post reports and before we know it, it will be time for Posts to elect new officers.

Before we get that far though, we need to concentrate on our 2018 membership targets.

Some of our Posts have already met their target, some are close, and some need a lot of help. This brings me to a concern that I have regarding Posts that have trouble with retaining members, finding new members, and in some cases finding new Post officers.

Every year at our Department convention, our Department Adjutant distributes Post packets to each Post. One of the items is a new "American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies." This manual has very few changes from year to year. So, what do you do with the old ones? If you discard them shame on you. This publication has everything that a Post needs to run a successful Post. The past years

manual can be passed from member to member so that everyone has a good idea of what the American Legion is about and how meetings and ceremonies are to be performed. The regular meeting program tells a lot about the what the American Legion stands for and the program that should be used at all American Legion meetings. Repetition at every meeting is a good reminder to all. It is also important that Posts hold a monthly meeting. A lack of monthly meetings can cause members to lose interest, which can lead to loss of membership, and make it harder to do American Legion programs.

For 2018, let's all hold monthly meetings and follow the Post ceremony program, and let's see if that will help some, if not all Posts, with membership and an increase in attendance at Post meetings. Also, at the Post meetings each month some part of the "American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" could be discussed for training for the members. Another training program is The American Legion "Basic Training" program. This is a FREE online course; it takes about 3 hours to complete, but can be done a little at a time. The website is [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training). This course should be taken by all Legionnaires, but is a very important tool for Post, District and Department Officers to learn about The American Legion that they will be leading.

So, have a great New Year and a successful 2018 American Legion year. ●

## DEADLINE

**April 1, 2018**  
May -July 2018

Submit all articles by above date.  
Send copy to :  
[lmtprpub@gmail.com](mailto:lmtprpub@gmail.com), or  
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Armed Forces Reserve Center  
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**SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 PER YEAR.**  
**\$3.00 OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES GOES TO**  
**MONTANA LEGIONNAIRE SUBSCRIPTION.**  
**NOW PUBLISHED 4 TIMES PER YEAR**  
**IN THE MONTHS OF:**  
**FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER**  
**COPY DEADLINE IS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH**  
**PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.**  
**COMMANDER - LARRY DOBB**  
**VICE COMMANDER - RICHARD KLOSE**  
**ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE**

## From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

The Department Headquarters has received numerous phone calls and e-mails in regard to post cards and e-mails received by our members from Dallas, TX. Let me assure you these are legitimate and approved by the Department Executive Committee. On the front page of the November issue of the Montana Legionnaire there was an article informing our members of this program, but it appears it either wasn't read or was not informative enough. This effort is to gather information on our members to place in a book that will list all American Legion of Montana members during our centennial year; the book will then be made available for purchase by our members. During the information gathering process you will also be solicited to purchase a book. You are not required to purchase a book to be listed, you just have to be a 2018 paid member. A portion of the funds from the purchase of the book will go to the Department to fund various programs such as the Service Officers, Veterans Assistance and Department Oratory contests. For more information on this please go to the Department website at [www.mtlegion.org](http://www.mtlegion.org) and click on the [more info](#) for frequently asked questions or refer to the FAQs on page 4.

As you no doubt know by now it is that time of the year again where the Department sends out address labels to solicit donations for American Legion programs. Although, I am sure there are members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail, this program is the second largest source of revenue for the American Legion of Montana, without these funds it would be next to impossible to do what we do around the state. This program is also a great tool to keep our members addresses current; we probably receive more address changes through the label program than we do through Post Adjutants. We also receive numerous notices of members who are deceased. Without this program we would have additional mailing costs to those who are deceased or who have moved. When you receive your address labels please send the DONATION CARD portion with your address and member number back to Department, whether you donate or not. If you do not



# The Story of the Four Chaplains

SUBMITTED BY KAREN SEMPLE  
[INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION WEBSITE]



On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943 the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. Once a luxury coastal liner, the ship had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters, escorted by Coast Guard Cutters (CGC) Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Earlier in the day, the CGC Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. German U-boats were constantly prowling the sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk. The Dorchester was only 150 miles from its destination;

however, the captain ordered all men on board to sleep in their clothing and to keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship’s hold disregarded the order because of the engine’s heat, while others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a German U-223 submarine approached the convoy on the surface, and fired a fan of three torpedoes. The Dorchester was struck by one on the starboard side amid ship, far below the water line. When the ship’s Captain was alerted that the ship was taking water rapidly and sinking, he gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester slipped beneath the Atlantic’s icy waters.

Tragically, the torpedo hit also knocked out power in addition to radio contact with the three escort ships. Fortunately, CGC Comanche saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba also circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

The blast immediately killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more. Others, stunned by the explosion were left groping in the darkness. According to eyewitnesses, men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing. Rafts tossed into the Atlantic drifted away before soldiers could get into them.

Also according to eyewitnesses, four Army chaplains were lights in the darkness – who brought hope in the midst of chaos and despair. Those chaplains were: Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers where they worked to calm the frightened, guide the disoriented toward safety and tend the wounded.

“Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live,” said Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying,” Bednar recalls. “I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.” Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves. “Never mind,” Goode responded. “I have two pair.” The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized Rabbi Goode wasn’t conveniently carrying two pair of gloves, and that the rabbi had already decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, where the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life-jackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains’ selfless act. When giving away their life jackets, Rabbi Goode didn’t call out for a Jew; Father Washington didn’t call out for a Catholic; nor did Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. As the ship sank, survivors in nearby rafts saw the four chaplains with arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving only 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains. That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington became an enduring example of extraordinary courage, faith and selflessness.

On December 19, 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the Four Chaplains’ next of kin.

A one-time-only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded to next of kin by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

In 1988, February 3 was established by a unanimous act of Congress as an annual “Four Chaplains Day.” February 3, 2018 marks the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of the Dorchester.

From the Four Chaplains website: “We may never be asked to give up our own life jacket to save another person, but the story of the Four Chaplains can inspire us to reach out a helping hand in a time of need.”

American Legion Posts throughout the nation hold memorial services the first weekend of February to remember the Four Chaplains. If you don’t have one planned for this year, you have plenty of time to reach out to the faith leaders in your community to assist you (after all, it is an interfaith service) in having a Four Chaplains Memorial Service in February 2019.

## Post Everlasting



### Oct/Nov/Dec 2017

- ☆ ALLEN, JOSEPH, 11/01/17 – Vietnam – US Army  
4-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge
- ☆ ANDERSON, GEORGE, 10/16/17 – Unknown – US Army  
28-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
- ☆ ANDERSON, MICHAEL, 10/23/17 – Unknown – 6-year  
member of Post 83, Clinton
- ☆ BLADE, ARTHUR, 11/12/17 – Korea – US Army – 57-year  
member of Post 20, Dillon
- ☆ BROSIUS, GEORGE, 11/30/17 – Korea – US Army – 12-year  
member of Post 119, Billings
- ☆ CHRISKE, CLARENCE, 3/6/17 – WWII – US Army – 45-year  
member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ DARBY, PATRICK J, 11/26/17 – Vietnam – US Army  
74-year member of Post 89, Sheridan
- ☆ DEWOLF, WILLIAM G., 9/3/17 – WWII – US Navy – 32-year  
member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ DREYER, STANLEY, 8/14/17 – WWII – US Navy – 7-year  
member of Post 119, Billings
- ☆ FALLANG, ROBERT, 10/24/17 – Vietnam – US Army  
4-year member of Post 105, Helena
- ☆ GILLOTT, FRED E, 10/27/17 – Vietnam – US Navy – 8-year  
member of Post 13, Saint Regis
- ☆ HART, ORIN, 8/5/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 2-year member  
of Post 19, Big Timber
- ☆ HILLYARD, JAMES, 7/18/17 – Korea – USAF – 4-year  
member of Post 341, Great Falls
- ☆ HUDSON, DELBERT, 10/19/17 – Korea – US Marine  
11-year member of Post 23, Livingston
- ☆ JACOBS, THEODORE RAY, 8/17/17 – Vietnam – USAF  
13-year member of Post 27, Missoula
- ☆ JASSEK, JOHN, 8/14/17 – Korea – US Army – 5-year  
member of Post 27, Missoula
- ☆ LOVEL, MICHAEL, 12/1/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 43-year  
member of Post 35, Baker
- ☆ McCLURE, ALVIN, Unknown – WWII – US Army – 13-year  
member of Post 113, Arlee
- ☆ MONSON, PAUL, 9/13/17 – Unknown – US Army – 38-year  
member of Post 45, Hinsdale
- ☆ MOORE, HOYLE, 11/5/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 45-year  
member of Post 16, Lewistown
- ☆ NELSON, WORTH, 9/19/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 4-year  
member of Post 138, Ronan
- ☆ OAKLAND, OSCAR T, UNKNOWN – Korea – Branch  
37-year member of Post 114, Fairview
- ☆ ODDAN, OLIVER W., 12/1/17 – Vietnam – Unknown  
10-year member of Post 18, Roundup
- ☆ OMASTERS, DAVID, 10/16/17 – Vietnam – US Navy  
8-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
- ☆ PETERSON, JOHN, 10/10/17 – WWII – Unknown –  
29-year member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ PHEBUS, DRURY, 11/5/17 – WWII – US Army – 74-year  
member of Post 35, Baker
- ☆ RACZ, STEVE, 9/28/17 – WWII – US Army – 67-year  
member of Post 17, Red Lodge
- ☆ RASSLER, DARWIN A., 9/17/17 – WWII – US Marine  
15-year member of Post 42, Townsend
- ☆ SAVILLE, RON, 9/4/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 24-year member  
of Post 26, Fort Benton
- ☆ SHELHAMER, KENNETH, Unknown – Vietnam – US Navy  
16-year member of Post 109, location
- ☆ SINNICKS, PAULA, 11/2017 – Vietnam – US Army – 6-year  
member of Post CN20, Calgary
- ☆ SONNEK, KENNETH, 9/25/2017 – WWII – US Merchant  
Marine - 7 year member of Post 23, Livingston
- ☆ STEWARD, ROGER N. SR., Unknown – Vietnam – USAF  
14-year member of Post 100, Park City
- ☆ STROBIE, HERBERT, 10/19/17 – Korea – US Army – 2-year  
member of Post 52, Thompson Falls
- ☆ TODD, RICHARD, 11/1/17 – WWII – US Army – 53-year  
member of Post 89, Sheridan
- ☆ UPPER, MAX, Unknown – Vietnam – US Army – 12-year  
member of Post 131, Alberton
- ☆ WILCOXON, HAROLD, 8/30/17 – WWII – US Navy – 71-year  
member of Post 23, Livingston
- ☆ WOOD, CHARLES S., 11/2017 – WWII – US Army – 6-year  
member of Post CN20, Calgary

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely rest  
God is nigh  
Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar  
Drawing nigh  
Falls the night  
Thanks and praise  
For our days  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars  
Neath the sky  
As we go  
This we know  
God is nigh.



### Oratorical Due Date Reminders

- ☞ Post to finish no later than 25 Feb 2018
- ☞ District to finish no later than 4 March 2018
- ☞ Department is 10 March in Great Falls at Great Falls College, 2100 16th Avenue South
- ☞ National Finals 13-15 April 2018

## Memorials

| Donor                        | Fund     | In Memory of: |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Jim & Arlene Bouley .....    | TFA..... | Lois Schmitt  |
| Merv & Patty Gunderson ..... | TFA..... | Lois Schmitt  |
| Gary White.....              | TFA..... | Lois Schmitt  |

TFA = Temporary Financial Assistance Fund

# Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

## Loving our Neighbor

*“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (LEVITICUS 19:18)*

In this verse, we read the command to love your neighbor as yourself. In Leviticus, this was originally written in Hebrew. In Hebrew, the word for love, *ahava*, is a verb; it’s an action word. So, to love others, in the Biblical sense, we’re not commanded to feel something; we’re commanded to do something for them. It’s vastly different than what Hollywood, pulp fiction and our TV screens portray love to be.

We need to ask ourselves, “Who is my neighbor?” Yes, it’s the person or people living next door to you. It’s also the members of your family and the person sitting near you as you read this. It’s the members of your post and those who belong to another veteran’s organization. And, it’s the homeless person or veteran on the street, panhandling. In a nutshell, our neighbor is any person other than yourself living on this earth.

Since there are billions of people on this planet, to increase our effectiveness, we, as the Legion Family, have narrowed our focus to veterans and their families along with children and youth for our acts of kindness and acts of service – we love them through executing our programs and meeting their needs.

Remember, in the Bible, love is an action word. Then, there’s the suicidal veteran, veteran’s wife or parent, or veteran’s teenager. Unfortunately, most of us don’t know what to do in those situations. They’re often intense and scare us so we avoid them.

At Fall Conference, Dr. Kathy Berger, Director of Montana VA, told us there were 23 suicides and over a hundred attempted suicides in our Montana veteran population in the past year. I know at least one of those suicides was a Montana Legionnaire. The Post members had no idea he was so desperate after a medical diagnosis - it stunned them. It was unexpected. He was a prominent member of the community. They never thought he would commit suicide. Usually, someone in crisis just needs someone to pay attention, stop, probe a little deeper – not taking the generic “fine” or “I’ll be ok” for an answer when asking them how things are. They need to physically “be there” for them – even if they say they don’t need you, they do.

Remember, in the Bible, love is an action word.

Anyone in crisis needs someone to stop, care, listen deeply and be there physically so they know they’re heard and cared about. Often this alone helps relieve the emotional pressure before it boils over to suicide. It can take a lot of time. Be sure your phone is on silent and that you ignore the clock. It doesn’t mean talking to them or giving advice. It’s not about you and your story or stories. It’s about them. It can be messy. The veteran can be angry, crying, determined or yelling – it’s not directed at you – so don’t run away because they need you to be there to listen. They need you to care deeply. They need you to help them make a plan to keep them safe or to get help for them if needed. They need you to love them.

Remember, in the Bible, love is an action word. If you don’t already have it, enter the Suicide Hotline into your contacts on your phone so you have it – just in case. (800.273.8255, Press 1.) Better yet: create a shortcut on your phone’s screen so you can get to it fast. Take action to love them as you love yourself. You don’t have to have suicidal thoughts or even be with someone suicidal to call. You can call even if you’re concerned about someone or something that doesn’t feel right and you don’t know what to say or do – trained people are waiting to advise you. As a certain brand advertises: “Just Do It.”

Remember, in the Bible, love is an action word. In the Legion Family, our service often extends to our communities as we make a difference through our many Americanism and Children & Youth programs – in addition to the many, many other things we do every day to make our world a better place. Our National Commander, Denise Rohan, graciously demonstrated throughout Fall Conference activities by recalling specific instances of that concept of love in action through Legion service during her talks to us – and how it can make a life-altering impact on those whom we serve.

Remember, in the Bible, love is an action word. In the future, please pause a moment and if you only remember one thing about this article, make it this: love is a verb requiring action. Think, when you tell someone you love them, what are you doing for them? And, before you embark on your next act of kindness or service, no matter how large or small, take a deep breath, pause a moment, just a moment, to connect with God and pray, reaching out to Him, asking Him to empower you and to help you to show His love to others through your actions.

*May you be well.*

## Whitehall Post 24 Fifty-Year Membership Presentation

BY DAVID HANLEY, COMMANDER POST 24

Roger G. Stover of Whitehall (middle) was presented with a certificate of 50 years of continuous membership in the local American Legion Post 24. Roger was a member of the Navy during the Korean War era. He was presented the certificate by Post Adjutant Tom Harrington and Post Commander David Hanley.



## Malta Post 57 Fundraiser for Radio Station Generator

BY KEN RUZICKA

The early October 2017 snowstorm left many of the residents (and the local radio station) without electricity, so people did not receive the Public



Safety information that should have been broadcast. At the Post 57 October 17 meeting, retired electrician Jay Southwick suggested the Post try fundraising for a backup generator at the radio tower

south of town. After discussion and with the stipulation that the station owner covers any extra costs, the motion to proceed was approved. The special Fundraising night event was decided and date set, notices were posted in the local paper and shopper, businesses contacted, and generally spread the word to the community.

The response was enthusiastic and by the end of the special night (November 17th) the Post had over \$4000 donated. Several more donations have been received since the event night and the generator has been installed, propane tank, fencing and wiring at the tower site. Of the \$6,400 raised so far, there is money left over to cover part of the cost of a second generator for the downtown station site.

certified voucher from Award Headquarters so you can begin to make your travel arrangements.

- Basics of the certificate program:
  - The Discounted Companion Airline Certificate allows the holder to purchase two round trip tickets for a bundled rate.
- The Certificate is:
  - 200 US Destinations (continental US)
  - NO BLACKOUT DATES
  - 40 Plus Airline Carriers
  - 24/7 Online Booking
  - 7-Day Advance Purchase
  - Frequent Flier Miles for Both Passengers
  - Low Price Guarantee
  - Fully Transferable

### 7. Can I choose some or all of my information not to be printed in the directory?

When you call to update your information, you can tell the representative what information you would prefer to have excluded. You may also communicate this information to the PCI customer service desk (1.800.982.1590) or to the Department.

### 8. I ordered a directory/package over the phone and would like to cancel my order. How do I do this?

Call the PCI customer service help desk at 1.800.982.1590, and they will take care of this for you.



## Frequently Asked Questions By Members

### 1. I received an e-mail/postcard/phone call from a company asking for my personal information. They said they were working on a directory for The American Legion Department of Montana. Is this a legitimate project, or is it a scam?

We have partnered with **PCI** (also known as **Publishing Concepts**) to produce our new members directory. PCI is a company located in Dallas, TX that publishes directories for educational institutions, fraternities, sororities and military organizations across the nation. This project allows The American Legion Department of Montana to receive important updates to our database, so we know more about our members and how we can better serve you and future members.

### 2. How do I know my information will only be used for directory purposes?

The American Legion Department of Montana has a contractual agreement with PCI that states:

a. The names, addresses and information provided to PCI by The American Legion Department of Montana for the publication of the Directory will be held confidential by PCI, except to the extent that they are utilized in, or in the preparation of, the Directory and except as required by court order or law.

b. The Directory will be made available only to members of The American Legion Department of Montana. Upon completion of the project, PCI will return to The American Legion Department of Montana any and all electronic files that have been supplied by The American Legion Department of Montana or produced by PCI in connection with the production of the Directory.

### 3. I would like to verify and update my information. How may I do this?

If you have received a postcard or an e-mail with a telephone number, you may call the number to speak

with a dedicated representative for The American Legion Department of Montana project. The representative will verify all the information we have on file for you and make any updates where needed. One of the numbers for The American Legion Department of Montana members is 866-786-1604.

If you have received an e-mail with an embedded link, you may go to the online site to review your information. If you have questions, you may call PCI’s customer service desk at 1.800.982.1590.

### 4. Can anyone purchase a directory?

The American Legion Department of Montana members Directory is available for sale only to The American Legion Department of Montana members.

### 5. When will I receive my directory?

The total duration of the directory project is about 12 months. Since we began the project in December of 2017, the directories will be distributed in December 2018.

### 6. I ordered a package containing the Discounted Companion Airline Certificate, but I haven’t received the post card requesting verification of my address.

For those who purchase a package containing the Discounted Companion Airline Certificate, they will receive a postcard within 2 -3 weeks and will direct them to go to the PCI website to initiate the certificate process by entering their ID # and order # (shown on the postcard) and verify their mailing address. Alternatively, the buyer can call a toll free number (also shown on the postcard) and leave a voicemail to initiate the certificate process.

You will receive a business envelope that contains the guidelines, terms and conditions, as well as the

# Service Officer, Department of Montana



SERVICE OFFICER KELLY ACKERMAN

As most of you have noticed, we have experienced quite a few changes in Technology. Some of these technological “improvements” are more helpful than others. I will share a few of the options that are available to assist veterans with the application of ben-

efits. I will preface this article by saying that Technology does not replace the benefit of working with an accredited Veterans Service Officer.

If you visit The American Legion Web Site, you will see a Claims Assistance program called the *Legion’s Benefit Calculator*. This program is very useful, and should be used as guidance through the information necessary for the benefits application process. It will prompt the veteran to input personal and service information which will lead to applicable available benefits.

Another program is *The American Legion Claims Coach* which is an organizational tool to help clarify the process of VA benefits application. The App does not replace personal contact with service officers, but it can help veterans understand the claims process, gather the right documentation for meetings and map out the steps in the journey. The App does not automatically set appointments for the user, nor does it directly file forms with VA. The claims Coach is an educational and organizational tool that streamlines the filing process and helps veterans make the most of time with their service officers. The Claims Coach is not computer software or a web page. It is designed for use on mobile devices such as smart phones or electronic tablets. Some features of the App connect to websites, but the Claims Coach, once downloaded onto your phone or tablet, is your own personal, safe and secure organizer.

The VA offers [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov) and the *myhealthvet* program by accessing [www.myhealthvet](http://www.myhealthvet)

[myhealth.va.gov](http://myhealth.va.gov). The *ebenefits* web page is extremely useful in assisting veterans gather information on all VA benefit programs, as well as requesting copies of service documents, requesting Home Loan Eligibility Certificates, complete changes of address and direct deposit information, and checking the status of a VA claim, etc. *Myhealthvet* is another very useful web page that allows the veteran to access information about their own healthcare, order medication prescriptions, check lab results, and communicate through secure messaging with your VHA primary provider. I would highly encourage all veterans to register with these two web sites, and know personally how helpful they can be.

These are just a few technological advancements available to veterans in assisting with the VA benefits programs, but in no way do they replace the help of an accredited Veterans Service Officer. In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices through the state. We will assist you with all of the paperwork necessary to apply for VA benefits, and will represent you as an advocate through the claims process.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

For additional information on this, and other VA Education programs, please visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices across the state. We can also assist you with questions specific to your area.

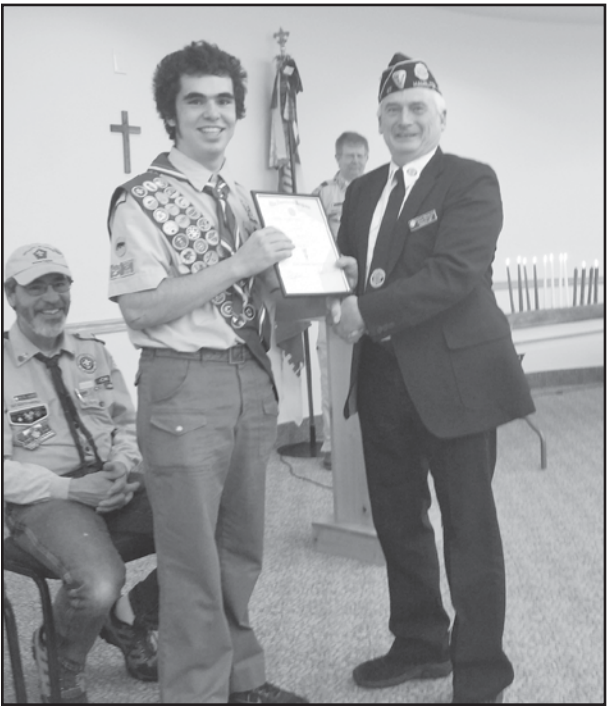
|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MVAD/AL offices throughout the state: |                          |
| Belgrade.....                         | (406) 388-4601           |
| Billings.....                         | (406) 248-8579           |
| Butte.....                            | (406) 533-0910           |
| Great Falls.....                      | (406) 452-2265           |
| Havre .....                           | (406) 265-4225           |
| Helena .....                          | (406) 495-2080/2081/2082 |
| Kalispell.....                        | (406) 755-3795           |
| Lewistown .....                       | (406) 538-3174           |
| Miles City .....                      | (406) 232-1203           |
| Missoula.....                         | (406) 542-2501           |

Thank you for your service  
to our great Country!

## Ravalli Post 47 Good Citizenship Citation Awarded to Eagle Scout

BY GREG MAROSE

Commander Gregory Marose, Sr., Ravalli American Legion Post 47, attended Boy Scout Troop 1976’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Timothy C. Morin. The Court was held on Sunday October 29, 2017 at St. Francis Catholic Church Pastoral Life Center, Hamilton, MT. Greg presented The American Legion Good Citizenship Citation to Tim upon his attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Tim’s service project was making 50 wooden white crosses to be placed at Veteran gravesites for Memorial Day and repairing many others.



## Long Time Coming”

BY WHITNEY BERMES | CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER  
SYNOPSIS OF ARTICLE FROM THE BOZEMAN CHRONICLE

This project has been over a decade in the making. In 2006, Don Derby, a Vietnam veteran, started spearheading an effort to create a kiosk to help people locate the names of veterans on Bozeman’s Vietnam Wall. That goal is now a reality. “It’s been a long time coming”, Derby said.

Recently, Derby showed a group of veterans the new kiosk, which sits under a stone shelter on the east side of the veterans memorials at Bozeman’s Sunset Hills Cemetery. At the kiosk a computer helps direct people to the location of the names of the 58,479 veterans who are listed on the replicated Vietnam War Memorial wall at the cemetery location. The computer will also help direct visitors to the location of the more than 16,000 people, including about 2,400 veterans buried at Sunset Hills. The kiosk was a joint effort between Derby and Sunset Hills Cemetery Veterans Memorial Fund, The American Legion, city cemetery staff, the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and veteran Dallas Thompson.



First Vice Commander of American Legion Post 14, Len Albright, President of the Friends of Sunset hills Veterans Memorial, Don Derby and local TV crew discuss the new cemetery and Vietnam Wall locator kiosk.

## MONTANA JOINS THE 40&8 IN 1922

### Grande Voiture Du Montana: La Société des Qaurante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

BY RAYMOND K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDANT

#### Part 2 of 3-Part Series

The original Call for the 40&8 organization of the Grande Voiture Du Montana was sent out by B. J. Conrad, Correspondant of Voiture Local 119 of Winnett, Montana, to all Locale Voitures in Montana. Locale Voitures were present in Winnett, Lewistown, Billings, Glendive, Miles City, Helena, Butte, Deer Lodge, Glasgow, Havre, Kalispell, Great Falls, Bozeman, Anaconda, Livingston, Red Lodge, Hamilton, Chinook, and Libby. The Call was for a meeting on April 1, 1922 in Lewistown, Montana of the Grande Voiture Du Montana of the “La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux”. This was nearly 96 years ago.



Forward to more recent times: At the American Legion Fall Conference 2016, the 40&8 Voiture Du Montana held a Grande Promenade in Helena, Montana with the following results. Less than a dozen Voyageurs reported in. This is out of a registered statewide membership of 96 to include those renewed, non-renewals, and those lost due to bad addresses, etc. The Grande Cheminot during the 99th American Legion Convention in Billings, Montana saw approximately twenty voyageurs attending to the business of the Grand.

The following report was presented to the respondents:

1. Grande Du Montana has five Voitures with a total of nearly 100. The highest number voyageur (members) in the Grande was 400 in the year 1960. The Grande has lost membership over the past 4 decades due to death, age, or other factors.
2. Grande Du Montana currently participates in recognized programs of the 40&8 Nationale. They are: Public Relations in the form of Le Clarion, currently a section in the Montana Legionnaire, Children and Youth in the form of the Child Welfare Foundation, The Nurses Training Club Program, the Box Car Association, Americanism, VAVS (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services), the Prisoner of War-Missing-In-Action program, and the Carville Star. Stay tuned for Part 3 of our 40&8 Series.

**Membership information:** Grande Du Montana currently has five Voitures. They are: Voiture 262, Anaconda/Butte; Voiture, 467, Missoula; Voiture 569, Billings; Voiture 718, Helena; and Voiture 922, Montana Highline. If you are interested in joining this 95-year-old honor society dedicated to justice, freedom and democracy, please call 406-458-9847 or e-mail [myfun51@msn.com](mailto:myfun51@msn.com).

## 2018 POOL (ZONE) & STATE DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL Sunday, March 11, 2018

9:00 am  
(Students must arrive by 8:00 am)

Great Falls College, 2100 16th Ave. S.  
Great Falls, Montana

National Oratorical Program  
April 13-15 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

One high school student from the Department Oratorical will represent Montana.

For further information, contact:  
Jeff Holmes, Chairman

e-mail: [broncojeff7@hotmail.com](mailto:broncojeff7@hotmail.com) or text:  
(406) 350-1347

Reference information at <http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA  
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER  
2018



|             |                   | Year end<br>Goal 2018 | Year To<br>Date Total | Year End<br>2017 | percent<br>of Goal |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| DISTRICT #1 |                   |                       |                       |                  |                    |
| 22          | WOLF POINT.....   | 44                    | 23                    | 32               | 52.27%             |
| 41          | GLASGOW.....      | 82                    | 75                    | 83               | 91.46%             |
| 45          | HINSDALE.....     | 58                    | 44                    | 56               | 75.86%             |
| 49★         | HOMESTEAD.....    | 10                    | 11                    | 11               | 110.00%            |
| 55          | POPLAR.....       | 35                    | 8                     | 32               | 22.86%             |
| 56          | SCOBAY.....       | 60                    | 39                    | 50               | 65.00%             |
| 58          | PLENTYWOOD.....   | 50                    | 35                    | 43               | 70.00%             |
| 61          | BROCKTON.....     | 49                    | 26                    | 31               | 53.06%             |
| 81★         | CULBERTSON.....   | 95                    | 103                   | 99               | 108.42%            |
| 85          | BAINVILLE.....    | 30                    | 23                    | 25               | 76.67%             |
| 104         | NASHUA.....       | 14                    | 11                    | 16               | 78.57%             |
| 122         | OPHEIM.....       | 35                    | 29                    | 34               | 82.86%             |
| 229★        | WESTBY.....       | 16                    | 16                    | 16               | 100.00%            |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>578</b>            | <b>443</b>            | <b>528</b>       | <b>76.64%</b>      |

|             |                   |            |            |            |               |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #2 |                   |            |            |            |               |
| 11          | HAVRE.....        | 129        | 64         | 98         | 49.61%        |
| 48          | CHINOOK.....      | 47         | 42         | 46         | 89.36%        |
| 50          | BIG SANDY.....    | 27         | 24         | 26         | 88.89%        |
| 57★         | MALTA.....        | 92         | 94         | 95         | 102.17%       |
| 67          | ROCKY BOY.....    | 35         | 12         | 34         | 34.29%        |
| 79          | SACO.....         | 12         | 10         | 16         | 83.33%        |
| 88          | CHESTER.....      | 39         | 32         | 37         | 82.05%        |
| 109         | TURNER.....       | 30         | 22         | 28         | 73.33%        |
| 110         | FORT BELKNAP..... | 13         | 9          | 13         | 69.23%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>424</b> | <b>309</b> | <b>393</b> | <b>72.88%</b> |

|             |                   |            |            |            |               |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #3 |                   |            |            |            |               |
| 36          | VALIER.....       | 55         | 52         | 55         | 94.55%        |
| 37          | CONRAD.....       | 59         | 44         | 61         | 74.58%        |
| 40          | CUT BANK.....     | 63         | 41         | 72         | 65.08%        |
| 43          | SHELBY.....       | 55         | 48         | 46         | 87.27%        |
| 69          | GALATA.....       | 37         | 25         | 36         | 67.57%        |
| 73          | SWEETGRASS.....   | 74         | 58         | 74         | 78.38%        |
| 127         | BROWNING.....     | 31         | 19         | 32         | 61.29%        |
| CN20        | CALGARY.....      | 47         | 40         | 50         | 85.11%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>421</b> | <b>327</b> | <b>426</b> | <b>77.67%</b> |

|             |                     |             |            |             |               |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #4 |                     |             |            |             |               |
| 52          | THOMPSON FALLS..... | 61          | 48         | 58          | 78.69%        |
| 72          | COLUMBIA FALLS..... | 87          | 72         | 101         | 82.76%        |
| 74★         | EUREKA.....         | 46          | 46         | 46          | 100.00%       |
| 86          | BIG FORK.....       | 65          | 47         | 52          | 72.31%        |
| 97          | LIBBY.....          | 172         | 148        | 181         | 86.05%        |
| 106         | ST IGNATIUS.....    | 70          | 45         | 58          | 64.29%        |
| 108         | WHITEFISH.....      | 66          | 53         | 65          | 80.30%        |
| 112         | POLSON.....         | 130         | 106        | 117         | 81.54%        |
| 113         | ARLEE.....          | 33          | 23         | 32          | 69.70%        |
| 126         | CHARLO.....         | 14          | 12         | 14          | 85.71%        |
| 129         | PARADISE.....       | 70          | 48         | 60          | 68.57%        |
| 137         | KALISPELL.....      | 214         | 178        | 221         | 83.18%        |
| 138★        | RONAN.....          | 55          | 59         | 58          | 107.27%       |
| 139         | TROY.....           | 20          | 12         | 20          | 60.00%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b>   | <b>1103</b> | <b>897</b> | <b>1083</b> | <b>81.32%</b> |

|             |                   |              |              |              |               |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #5 |                   |              |              |              |               |
| 113         | ST REGIS.....     | 59           | 43           | 57           | 72.88%        |
| 27          | MISSOULA.....     | 358          | 296          | 347          | 82.68%        |
| 38          | DARBY.....        | 13           | 11           | 14           | 84.62%        |
| 47          | HAMILTON.....     | 107          | 93           | 117          | 86.92%        |
| 63          | CONDON.....       | 45           | 39           | 52           | 86.67%        |
| 68          | MISSOULA.....     | 36           | 25           | 33           | 69.44%        |
| 83          | CLINTON.....      | 16           | 13           | 15           | 81.25%        |
| 91★         | CORVALLIS.....    | 119          | 126          | 136          | 105.88%       |
| 94          | STEVENSVILLE..... | 220          | 180          | 216          | 81.82%        |
| 101         | MISSOULA.....     | 53           | 42           | 57           | 79.25%        |
| 124         | FRENCHTOWN.....   | 40           | 28           | 39           | 70.00%        |
| 125         | DRUMMOND.....     | 57           | 49           | 56           | 85.96%        |
| 131         | ALBERTON.....     | 49           | 25           | 40           | 51.02%        |
| 134★        | FLORENCE.....     | 48           | 51           | 49           | 106.25%       |
| 135         | LOLO.....         | 142          | 104          | 135          | 73.24%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>1,362</b> | <b>1,125</b> | <b>1,363</b> | <b>82.60%</b> |

|             |                   |             |             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #6 |                   |             |             |             |               |
| 1           | BUTTE.....        | 193         | 134         | 195         | 69.43%        |
| 2           | HELENA.....       | 743         | 659         | 745         | 88.69%        |
| 9★          | LINCOLN.....      | 54          | 56          | 57          | 103.70%       |
| 10          | DEER LODGE.....   | 72          | 52          | 58          | 72.22%        |
| 20          | DILLON.....       | 185         | 147         | 171         | 79.46%        |
| 21          | ANACONDA.....     | 245         | 211         | 235         | 86.12%        |
| 24          | WHITEHALL.....    | 91          | 76          | 90          | 83.52%        |
| 31          | TWIN BRIDGES..... | 43          | 33          | 46          | 76.74%        |
| 33          | PHILIPSBURG.....  | 10          | 9           | 10          | 90.00%        |
| 42          | TOWNSEND.....     | 117         | 96          | 118         | 82.05%        |
| 46          | BOULDER.....      | 23          | 19          | 32          | 82.61%        |
| 89★         | SHERIDAN.....     | 63          | 68          | 66          | 107.94%       |
| 115         | BUTTE.....        | 104         | 70          | 89          | 67.31%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>1943</b> | <b>1630</b> | <b>1912</b> | <b>83.89%</b> |

|          |             |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AT LARGE |             |     |     |     |     |
| 105      | HELENA..... | 185 | 117 | 135 | 63% |

|             |                    |             |             |             |               |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #7 |                    |             |             |             |               |
| 14          | BOZEMAN.....       | 353         | 299         | 354         | 84.70%        |
| 19          | BIG TIMBER.....    | 194         | 147         | 176         | 75.77%        |
| 23          | LIVINGSTON.....    | 169         | 158         | 172         | 93.49%        |
| 25          | WHITE SULPHUR..... | 63          | 62          | 62          | 98.41%        |
| 30          | BELGRADE.....      | 262         | 192         | 246         | 73.28%        |
| 65★         | ENNIS.....         | 35          | 50          | 45          | 142.86%       |
| 78          | W YELLOWSTONE..... | 29          | 27          | 28          | 93.10%        |
| 87          | MANHATTAN.....     | 176         | 131         | 176         | 74.43%        |
| 93          | THREE FORKS.....   | 42          | 38          | 43          | 90.48%        |
| 99★         | BIG SKY.....       | 55          | 56          | 55          | 101.82%       |
| 118         | GARDINER.....      | 36          | 32          | 36          | 88.89%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b>  | <b>1414</b> | <b>1192</b> | <b>1393</b> | <b>84.30%</b> |

|             |                   |            |            |            |               |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #8 |                   |            |            |            |               |
| 3           | GREAT FALLS.....  | 257        | 221        | 256        | 85.99%        |
| 6           | CHOTEAU.....      | 102        | 96         | 90         | 94.12%        |
| 26          | FORT BENTON.....  | 50         | 32         | 42         | 64.00%        |
| 51          | AUGUSTA.....      | 50         | 30         | 42         | 60.00%        |
| 64          | DUTTON.....       | 62         | 46         | 55         | 74.19%        |
| 80          | FAIRFIELD.....    | 33         | 29         | 30         | 87.88%        |
| 102         | GERALDINE.....    | 114        | 94         | 114        | 82.46%        |
| 103         | POWER.....        | 32         | 27         | 28         | 84.38%        |
| 130         | VAUGHN.....       | 48         | 36         | 47         | 75.00%        |
| 133         | CASCADE.....      | 29         | 28         | 32         | 96.55%        |
| 341         | MALMSTROM.....    | 154        | 116        | 116        | 75.32%        |
|             | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>931</b> | <b>755</b> | <b>852</b> | <b>81.10%</b> |

|              |                   |            |            |            |                |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| ★DISTRICT #9 |                   |            |            |            |                |
| 15           | HARLOWTON.....    | 103        | 93         | 111        | 90.29%         |
| 16★          | LEWISTOWN.....    | 382        | 436        | 465        | 114.14%        |
| 18           | ROUNDUP.....      | 62         | 51         | 61         | 82.26%         |
| 53           | STANFORD.....     | 26         | 21         | 20         | 80.77%         |
| 62★          | DENTON.....       | 23         | 23         | 22         | 100.00%        |
| 70           | JUDITH GAP.....   | 67         | 54         | 66         | 80.60%         |
| 76           | HOBSON.....       | 47         | 39         | 48         | 82.98%         |
| 96★          | ROY.....          | 20         | 21         | 20         | 105.00%        |
| 120          | WINIFRED.....     | 31         | 30         | 30         | 96.77%         |
|              | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>761</b> | <b>768</b> | <b>843</b> | <b>100.92%</b> |

|              |                   |            |            |            |               |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #10 |                   |            |            |            |               |
| 5            | MILES CITY.....   | 82         | 64         | 74         | 78.05%        |
| 12           | SIDNEY.....       | 44         | 29         | 35         | 65.91%        |
| 28           | GLENDIVE.....     | 123        | 89         | 103        | 72.36%        |
| 29           | CIRCLE.....       | 18         | 12         | 17         | 66.67%        |
| 32           | TERRY.....        | 101        | 86         | 104        | 85.15%        |
| 35           | BAKER.....        | 136        | 106        | 107        | 77.94%        |
| 39           | FORSYTH.....      | 97         | 78         | 93         | 80.41%        |
| 44★          | COLSTRIP.....     | 30         | 33         | 30         | 110.00%       |
| 60           | EKALAKA.....      | 15         | 11         | 13         | 73.33%        |
| 77           | LAME DEER.....    | 11         | 5          | 12         | 45.45%        |
| 114★         | FAIRVIEW.....     | 37         | 37         | 37         | 100.00%       |
| 128          | BROADUS.....      | 13         | 12         | 12         | 92.31%        |
|              | <b>TOTAL.....</b> | <b>707</b> | <b>562</b> | <b>637</b> | <b>79.49%</b> |

|              |                    |             |             |             |               |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT #11 |                    |             |             |             |               |
| 4            | BILLINGS.....      | 503         | 371         | 481         | 73.76%        |
| 8            | HARDIN.....        | 51          | 44          | 53          | 86.27%        |
| 17           | RED LODGE.....     | 61          | 55          | 54          | 90.16%        |
| 34           | COLUMBUS.....      | 62          | 50          | 58          | 80.65%        |
| 71           | FROMBERG.....      | 23          | 16          | 18          | 69.57%        |
| 84           | BELFRY.....        | 39          | 32          | 38          | 82.05%        |
| 92           | HYSHAM.....        | 24          | 18          | 21          | 75.00%        |
| 100          | PARK CITY.....     | 61          | 53          | 64          | 86.89%        |
| 111★         | CUSTER.....        | 59          | 61          | 60          | 103.39%       |
| 117★         | BILLINGS.....      | 122         | 161         | 196         | 131.97%       |
| 119          | BILLINGS HGTS..... | 174         | 154         | 174         | 88.51%        |
| 123          | LAUREL.....        | 108         | 96          | 113         | 88.89%        |
|              | <b>TOTAL.....</b>  | <b>1287</b> | <b>1111</b> | <b>1330</b> | <b>86.32%</b> |

★ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 2018 INCENTIVE GOAL.....     | 11,116 |
| 2018 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE..... | 9236   |
| 2017 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....   | 10895  |
| TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....        | 83.09% |



2018  
Renew your  
membership  
today!



<http://www.legion.org/renew>

Go Ahead — Relax...

LET THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM  
HANDLE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS.  
Don't waste your time shopping for insurance — the best deals are right here. Thanks to the group buying power of millions of Legionnaires like you, we have negotiated with leading insurance companies to bring you the best rates and coverage. Get the insurance you need at a price you can afford. Even if you are over age 65, you can protect yourself and your family from today's soaring premium costs and increasing risks. It's easy. Just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust's full range of plans endorsed by Your Department and tailored to the needs of Legionnaires and their families.

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM  
Fill in your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Then check off the plans that interest you, and we will do the rest!  
☒ Yes! Please send me complete details about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

ENDORSED PLANS  

|                                        |                                                      |                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Help               | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Accident Protection      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto          | <input type="checkbox"/> No Cost Accident Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeowners    | <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Protection         | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity Theft Protection       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Care   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Supplement         | <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Disability             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discount Card |                                                      |                                                          |



Send your completed coupon to:  
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P.O. Box 26720, Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720

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|                   |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| TEN LARGEST POSTS |                   |             |
| Post.....2.....   | HELENA.....       | 640 MEMBERS |
| Post.....16.....  | LEWISTOWN.....    | 436 MEMBERS |
| Post.....4.....   | BILLINGS.....     | 371 MEMBERS |
| Post.....14.....  | BOZEMAN.....      | 299 MEMBERS |
| Post.....27.....  | MISSOULA.....     | 296 MEMBERS |
| Post.....3.....   | GREAT FALLS.....  | 216 MEMBERS |
| Post.....21.....  | ANACONDA.....     | 211 MEMBERS |
| Post.....30.....  | BELGRADE.....     | 188 MEMBERS |
| Post.....94.....  | STEVENSVILLE..... | 180 MEMBERS |
| Post...137.....   | KALISPELL.....    | 176 MEMBERS |

|               |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| DISTRICT..... | PERCENTAGE..... | COMMANDER.....  |
| 9.....        | 101.05%.....    | Demorise Allen  |
| 11.....       | 86.40%.....     | Jim Bossen      |
| 7.....        | 83.88%.....     | Randy Kemp      |
| 6.....        | 82.92%.....     | Josh Clement    |
| 5.....        | 82.82%.....     | Greg Marose     |
| 8.....        | 80.56%.....     | Kim Kay         |
| 4.....        | 79.51%.....     | Gen Sharbono    |
| 10.....       | 79.35%.....     | Clancee Collins |
| 3.....        | 77.91%.....     | Charlie Coutts  |
| 1.....        | 76.47%.....     | Joe Yeoman      |
| 2.....        | 72.64%.....     | Lowell Long     |

|                                                |                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION<br>January 8, 2018 |                  |            |
| SQUADRON.....                                  | GOAL 2018.....   | TO DATE    |
| WOLF POINT #22.....                            | 10.....          | 0          |
| ★GLASGOW #41.....                              | 10.....          | 33         |
| PLENTYWOOD #58.....                            | 10.....          | 9          |
| CULBERTSON #81.....                            | 23.....          | 20         |
| NASHUA #104.....                               | 10.....          | 8          |
| HAVRE #11.....                                 | 16.....          | 9          |
| ★CHINOOK #48.....                              | 19.....          | 20         |
| ★MALTA #57.....                                | 10.....          | 25         |
| GALATA #69.....                                | 42.....          | 28         |
| LIBBY #97.....                                 | 10.....          | 6          |
| POLSON #112.....                               | 10.....          | 9          |
| MISSOULA #27.....                              | 17.....          | 3          |
| HAMILTON #47.....                              | 10.....          | 3          |
| CONDON #63.....                                | 10.....          | 3          |
| CORVALLIS #91.....                             | 10.....          | 7          |
| ★STEVENSVILLE #94.....                         | 21.....          | 21         |
| LOLO #135.....                                 | 34.....          | 1          |
| BUTTE #1.....                                  | 29.....          | 10         |
| ★HELENA #2.....                                | 76.....          | 86         |
| ANACONDA #21.....                              | 33.....          | 18         |
| TOWNSEND #42.....                              | 18.....          | 17         |
| BUTTE #115.....                                | 19.....          | 4          |
| ★BOZEMAN #14.....                              | 51.....          | 62         |
| BIG TIMBER #19.....                            | 22.....          | 10         |
| BELGRADE #30.....                              | 64.....          | 22         |
| LIVINGSTON #23.....                            | 10.....          | 24         |
| ★MANHATTAN #87.....                            | 27.....          | 29         |
| ★BIG SKY #99.....                              | 12.....          | 20         |
| ★GREAT FALLS #3.....                           | 16.....          | 17         |
| ★CHOTEAU #6.....                               | 16.....          | 25         |
| ★GERALDINE #102.....                           | 53.....          | 54         |
| VAUGHN #130.....                               | 17.....          | 12         |
| HARLOWTON #15.....                             | 22.....          | 18         |
| LEWISTOWN #16.....                             | 128.....         | 67         |
| MILES CITY #5.....                             | 11.....          | 4          |
| BAKER #35.....                                 | 34.....          | 22         |
| FORSYTH #39.....                               | 45.....          | 43         |
| BILLINGS #4.....                               | 27.....          | 16         |
| BELFRY #84.....                                | 23.....          | 0          |
| BILLINGS #117.....                             | 10.....          | 0          |
| ★CUSTER #111.....                              | 11.....          | 11         |
| LAUREL #123.....                               | 10.....          | 11         |
| HQS POST #9999.....                            | 0.....           | 0          |
| <b>TOTALS.....</b>                             | <b>1046.....</b> | <b>807</b> |
| ★ SQUADRON GOAL MET                            |                  |            |



# American Legion Uniform Cap Etiquette

SUBMITTED BY JEFF HOLMES

The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district or state lettering.

- If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:
  - A. additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post, or to an officer title (such as "Past Commander"),
  - B. cap insignias or badges (for Past or Present officers),
  - C. consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military services decorations.
- Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.
- The Legion Uniform Cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.
- **A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion Uniform Cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.**
- The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.
- Legion Posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the Post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship, and recover after marching through the door.
- Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service, and will recover after leaving the place of worship.
- When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard). At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.
- In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.
- Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

## Oratorical Due Date Reminders

- Post to finish **no later than 25 Feb 2018**
- District to finish **no later than 4 March 2018**
- Department is **10 March** in Great Falls
- Dept. Oratory Winner Certifications due to National on or before March 18
- National **Finals 13-15 April 2018**

## Education Due Date Reminders

- 7 & 8 Grade Essay Contest starts Sept 16th and **must be postmarked** by March 15, 2018.
- High School Essay Contest starts Sept 16th and **must be postmarked** by March 15, 2018.
- Senior Survey **must be postmarked** by April 15, 2018.
- Junior High Survey **must be postmarked** by April 15, 2018.

*Please send all entries to:*

Jeff Holmes  
Box 723  
Harlowton, MT 59036  
[broncojeff7@hotmail.com](mailto:broncojeff7@hotmail.com)

# Nat'l Commander's Goals

## Leadership Teams

Below are the goals National Commander Denise Rohan reported on at the national Membership Workshop in August 2017, and several times since taking office. These are goals and programs that will positively affect your Post's efforts with Department membership. They are part of your **"tool box"** to utilize.

1. Increase Retention Rates by 5% in each Department
2. Contact *NOW* the Legionnaires who routinely pay after December 31, well before that date *NOTE:* The cost to National with Renewal notice cycles is approximately \$250,000.
3. Transfer members out of Holding Posts into Post Homes
4. Invite the community for Veterans Day with #SalutingService, #Legion, #VeteransDay on social media
5. Apply for 100% Family Ribbons for reaching 100% membership with a goal of 1,500 Ribbons in 2018 vs. 841 ribbons in 2017 worldwide
6. Post Excellence Awards with goal of 5% increase in each Department
7. Report RECONNECT activity and challenge each other for events; goal of 5,000 points for each Department
8. Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) goal of 100% for each Department. Make sure you get on for the Department's Holding Post
9. Get involved with Yellow Ribbon Programs
10. Get involved with Job Fairs
11. Get involved with Transition Assistance Programs (Active, Guard/Reserve)
12. Get to know your Family Readiness Group Leaders (Active, Guard/Reserve)
13. Get to know the State Adjutant General
14. If there are Forts/Bases in your state—Get to know the Commanders
15. Obtain a 10% increase in each Department of American Legion Education Institute (ALEI)-BASIC TRAINING graduates. The on-line course is FREE to the American Legion Family
16. Welcome Everyone and Recruit for the entire American Legion Family

# Post / Unit 138 receives AL FAMILY Ribbon

Ronan Post 138 and Ronan Unit 138 receive 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbons at District 4 meeting in Libby on October 14, 2017. The American Legion Family Ribbon is only awarded when two or more Legion Families obtain 100 percent membership in the same year. An American Legion Family is The American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, or The Legion Riders Chapter. Pictured are Lorie Noble President of Ronan Unit 138 and District 4 Commander Glen Sharbono accepting on behalf of Ronan Post 138. This is the 3rd year in a row that Ronan Post 138 and it's Auxiliary Unit 138 have received the award.



*Proudly displaying their American Legion Family Ribbon are: Lorie Noble President of Ronan Unit 138, and District 4 Commander Glen Sharbono accepting the award Ribbon on behalf of Ronan Post 138.*

# Ready A New Resolution

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

KAREN SEMPLE  
DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Many Posts throughout The American Legion sponsor Boy Scout Troops. Many of our members were or still are Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. For those who may not know, the motto of both organizations is *"Be Prepared!"* This motto is ingrained in the Scouts' members as a way for them to be ready for just about anything – accidents, floods, storms, earthquakes, or other disasters; and family, friend or a stranger's medical emergency, or even just getting lost. You name it, and you will find Scouts of all ages the world over actively preparing to deal with these situations in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Sometimes as veterans, we become complacent due to all we have learned through hard experience during our time in the Service. Some of our members have had more "field experience" than others; however, it does not always necessarily apply in real life. I am dismayed at the attitude displayed by some members who responded when I asked them about preparedness for their Post – as one said, "Honey, after what I saw in Korea, (or Vietnam, or wherever they saw action) I can handle anything. I don't need to prepare for it." That bravado may serve them fine but could be detrimental to their Post and its members' possible hurt or loss should an emergency or disaster suddenly strike and the Post as a whole is not adequately prepared.

For example, ask the members of Bozeman and Paradise, whose Posts burned to the ground; or Manhattan, whose members never thought their Post would be flooded. There was much all of them did not know beforehand that could have eased the pain of disaster immensely. No vital records were duplicated and kept off-site. Pre-agreements for an alternate meeting location had not been accomplished, to say nothing of even being pre-determined. No organized notification system was in place to let their members know where to go and what to do for future meetings or to assist in recovery.

From Randall Brown at Post 87: *"6 March 2014, the Manhattan American Legion Club received considerable damage when more than three feet of water swept through the building during a raging flood. Approximately two inches of dirt and sludge covered the entire floor of the building. Over 2,300 gallons of water was pumped out of the crawl space under the building and many of our supplies were ruined, in addition to the building damage. Fortunately, our members pulled together and cleaned up the mess and we were able to reopen the club within three weeks. Donations from our members, this community and The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF) were essential to this effort. Since then, we have started a savings program where we put money aside each month for any emergency that could possibly happen." This is just one Post's "lesson learned."*

Let us say the emergency or disaster is on a larger scale and the members themselves are affected or displaced. What plans does your Post have in place to support them? Can the Post deal with it financially? Even a good insurance policy does not cover everything.

This past year saw many Montana citizens affected by floods, tornados and wildfires. Thankfully, few of our members were seriously impacted (aside from most of us breathing very unhealthy smoke for months!) Rather than learning lessons the hard way, as the saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." What is your Post doing to be prepared for the unexpected? What preventative steps can you take to alleviate, preserve, and protect your Post facility and its members from the awful stress a disaster can bring? When was the last time you or your Post donated to the NEF?

In 2018, resolve to be prepared and ready for anything. Go to <http://serve.mt.gov/ready-montana> for links to free preparedness planning resources or contact me at [karensem1@gmail.com](mailto:karensem1@gmail.com) if you have preparedness planning questions you need answered.

*May you be well.*



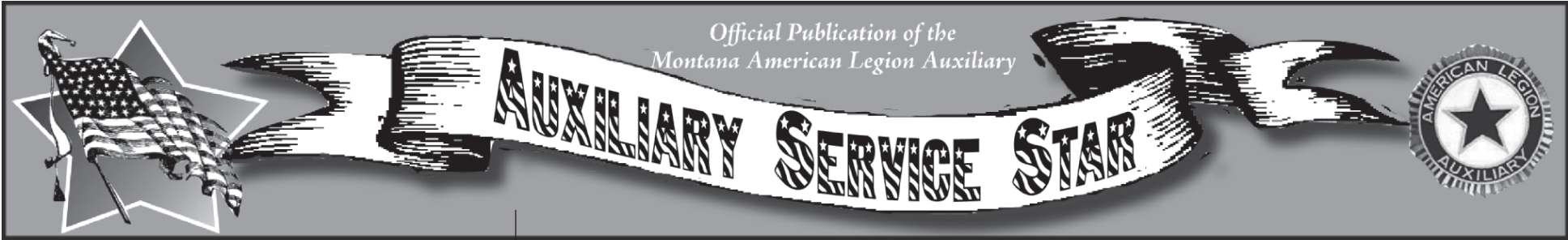
# Nat'l Commander Rohan visit Highlights

## National Commander Rohan's Made in Montana Memories

BY JEN DALRYMPLE

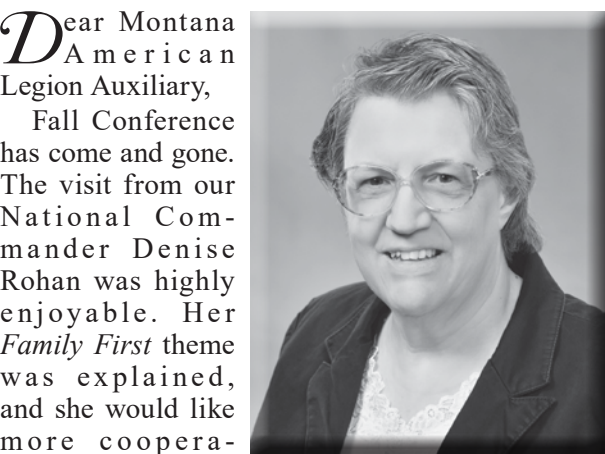
Despite flight delays, National Commander Rohan finally arrived in Montana still in time to enjoy dinner at Townsend Post 42 with 62 happy attendees and Mayor Mike Evans presenting her with a symbolic Key to the City. The next morning in Helena Commander Rohan met with various Montana National Guard individuals to include MT Adjutant General, Major General Matthew T. Quinn and with the VA Director and Veterans Service Officer before attending the Fall Montana Department Conference. At the Conference, she gave an inspirational address to both The American Legion members and Auxiliary attendees in separate sessions. During her visit, the Commander took some time to stroll through the Fort Harrison Military Museum and the State Capitol. Her days were filled with meet and greets, shared meals, receptions and banquets, tours and sights shared with many gracious Montanans; Department Commander's reception hosted by Helena Post 2, dinner at Clancy's Legal Tender, Past Department Commander's breakfast, Legion Family Banquet, God and Country Prayer Service, Anaconda Post 21 lunch, and a Berkley Pit tour. I am happy to say Commander Rohan arrived home safe and thoroughly Montana tuckered out. Thank you to all who made her visit so informative and enjoyable. If you want to view additional photos and revisit memories of her time with us visit her Aide's photo archive link at <http://imageevent.com/nationalcommander/departmentofmontana>.





**President**

KATHRYN LONG



**D**ear Montana American Legion Auxiliary, Fall Conference has come and gone. The visit from our National Commander Denise Rohan was highly enjoyable. Her *Family First* theme was explained, and she would like more cooperation between The Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons

(at least that is the message I received). What does that mean for Montana? I believe that means more communication between the organizations and a better working relationship. How can we do this? If there are problems between the organizations, still send a message to the organizations so we can have a better working relationship if that message does affect the other organizations.

In the next few months, remember to get your Americanism essays into Stacy Bear. Do a Valentine party for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion Birthday Party. Help with the oratory competition at whatever level you can help. Get the Poppy Poster Contest information into the schools. Help with getting more school supplies into the schools, as after the New Year kids find they need more paper, pencils and pens and they cannot always supply their own.

Over the Christmas holiday, Lowell and I went to Missoula and on the way home; we stopped to help a motorist. Several other vehicles also stopped to help. By the time they stopped to help though – all that was need was a shovel. We had everything else. We did get the motorist out of the ditch, but the shovel would have come in very handy. I am telling you this, so you can stop and think about what you have in your vehicle. Could you stop and help a motorist with what you have in your vehicle? I know most women cannot stop to help, but maybe what you have in your vehicle could help someone else if you felt comfortable to stop to help.

Girl State is enrolling girls now. I hope to hear that we have more girls enrolled than last year. Please check the information Jennifer Dalrymple sent out to insure all girls can be enrolled.

We are looking at starting a committee for our 100th anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary of Montana. If you would like to work on this committee contact Terri Kemp or myself. We are forming this committee together since the committee will be ongoing until after our 100th anniversary takes place.

☺ In service for God and Country ☺

## Ryan Wins Aloha Scholarship

The 2017 Aloha Scholarship winner is Katara Ryan of Sunburst, MT. Katara, a 2016 graduate of North Toole County High School, is attending Carroll College in Helena. Katara would like to specialize in Pediatric and Neonatal Nursing. During her four years of high school she took extra classes, including: Intro to Nursing, Medical Terminology and Health Occupations to prepare her for the medical field. “Thank you again for the generous scholarship!” Katara is the granddaughter of Joyce Ryan, a Border Unit 73 member.



**Secretary**

JAIMIE DeBATES

**I**send warmest New Year wishes your way. Now join me in digging in for another successful Auxiliary year.

I talk a great deal about the importance of using the correct forms. The next one coming your way is likely the most important piece of every membership year. The Unit Officer Reporting Form will be out to you in the first quarter of 2018. That’s where you report who your new Unit officers will be, and I need that for the Department Roster. You also report the mailing address and name, if applicable to be printed on the renewal notices your members receive. That’s the only way to assure the dues get sent to the correct person in your Unit. The form also notifies Department when you meet. And last but perhaps most important for accuracy, is the amount your Unit is charging for dues.

You’ll recall Department increased our Senior dues for this current (2018) membership year. If you failed to increase yours and wish to do so, now is the time and the form provides you that opportunity. In addition, we voted at Fall Conference to increase Junior dues for the 2019 membership year. Don’t get caught unprepared. Use the form and we’ll have reliable results.

I love a new year and I look forward to clearing out the old, including getting my income tax done. Where are you with your Unit’s 990? We had another workshop at Fall Conference and continue to provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to file so if you’re not current please make it a priority right away.

By the time this issue is in your hands I’ll have been to Indianapolis. The Secretary’s Conference is always full of valuable information and I look forward to being able to share it all. ☺



Jamie DeBates

## District 5 brightens Christmas for Veterans

CHERYL HANSON, PRESIDENT

The Units of District 5 (Alberton 131, Corvallis 91, Hamilton 47, Lolo 135, Missoula 27, Swan Valley 63, & Stevensville 94) teamed up to brighten this Christmas for the residents of Valor House in Missoula. Some of the items we collected of personal toiletries to clothing items and kitchen linens. We give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped to donate.

So often at this busy time, people forget about those special veterans who gave so that we can be free. This was fun project and we should do this again. My husband and I delivered all that was collected to the veterans. A very special thank you to Stevensville Unit 94 who went above and beyond.



Photo provided by Cheryl Hanson, District 5 President

## Americanism

STACY (MONROE) BEAR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

First of all, what is Americanism? Americanism promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship. It is a great thing! One thing we can do as Units, is to promote Americanism by encouraging participation in the Americanism Essay contest.

It is important to get the essay information packets to the interested participants in a timely fashion, so they can have time to write them, return them, get them judged and sent in to me by the deadline of April 1.

Here are some other thoughts for getting participation in the Americanism Essay contest:

Encourage your children/grandchildren to participate; Contact local schools (administration, History teachers, counselors); Contact homeschool groups; Contact other organizations such as 4-H, Boys/Girls Scouts, etc.; Send information to your Junior members; Create information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, theme and award opportunities; Contact the winners and their families to come to an ALA event such as a meeting or a dinner to read their winning essay; Present the winners their awards at a school assembly or homeschool meeting

This year’s theme is: “What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community.”

If you do not have a copy of the essay requirements for this year and a guide to writing successful essays, please get in touch with me, and I will get those to you. Remember that each essay submitted must include the cover sheet. Encourage those in charge of the essay writing to urge participants to follow all rules for the contest and to check their essays for any errors prior to submitting.

Deadline is April 1, 2018. Your Unit’s winning essays can be mailed or e-mailed at the following contact information:

Stacy (Monroe) Bear,  
Dept. of MT Americanism Chairman  
1175 Lane 10 - Powell, WY 82435  
Email: [sjbear@hotmail.com](mailto:sjbear@hotmail.com)

I then must select our Department winners and have them to the National Division Chairman by April 15, 2018. You can see that it is a tight window, so please be prompt in getting them to me or a viable candidate for going on to the next level may be left behind.

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

## Judith Gap Unit 70 awarded building remodel Grant

SUBMITTED BY FRAN ALLEN

Theresa Abegglen (far right) presented a check on behalf of Northwest Farm Credit Services to the Judith Gap American Legion Auxiliary. Accepting the check was Judy Lode, Unit Treasurer; Patti Lemmon and Debbie Hajenga Grant, Committee members. The Judith Gap Legionnaires have been working hard on fixing up the Legion Hall, which is an old bank building from the early 1900's. The Legion has repaired the roof, replaced part of the ceiling and replaced ceiling tiles in the kitchen, painted the new ceiling, and replaced the front door. The Auxiliary applied for the grant to help with replacing the flooring in the Hall.



## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

KAREN SUSAG, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN



Did you make a difference today in the life of a Veteran? Your “*Power of One*” can make a big difference, even a smile can make someone’s day.

In this new year of 2018 let us reach out to Veterans and their families. Check the *Plan of Action* for many ways to do this and... *PLEASE* keep track of your time, money, and the number of veterans served. “Rosey”

## Gallatin Unit 14 co-hosts Annual Children’s Christmas Party

SUBMITTED BY LEGIONNAIRE LEN ALBRIGHT, POST 14 BOZEMAN

The American Legion Auxiliary Gallatin Unit 14 in Bozeman, Bozeman Elks Lodge, and the Bozeman Eagles Club hosted their Annual Children’s Christmas Party. It was held at the Elks Lodge on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 1-3 pm. The feature was a visit from Santa who gave out gifts to the dozens of children that attended.

Post 14’s own William “Bill” “Scrub” Johnson (WWII Vet) was Santa again and as Scrub says, “He has been doing this for more years than he can remember.” There were snacks, cookies, games and lots of activities all provided by the three women’s clubs. A special thanks to all of them for their hard work and efforts on another successful event.



## Park City Unit 100 supporting veterans

ALA Unit 100 held a Veterans Day dinner for our local Veterans. It was a Potluck that the community joined in.



Unit 100 along with American Legion Post 100 put up wreaths at our cemetery to honor our fallen Veterans for the Christmas holiday.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JEAN BOSSEN, UNIT 100 MEMBER

## Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service at Fort Harrison VA Hospital

BY SANDY RUNKEL

The 2017 Christmas gift shop at Fort Harrison VA Hospital was a great success this year. There were 70 veterans and their families shopping during the 2 days of the shop. Many picked things for themselves as well as for family members. Gifts were wrapped by our crew of Santa's helpers. Many packages were mailed as well.



PHOTO TAKEN BY TERRI CASEY  
*Volunteers of the Christmas Shop: back row: Anne Hall, Marian Collins, Cyndi Routzahn, Robert Volf; front: Reba Johnson, Sandy Runkel, Bailey Bergum, Helen Bunkowske, Debra Crider, Vicki Mauer*

The tables were filled to the edges with nice gift items. Value of the donations was \$6,726. There were 13 volunteers who provided 82 hours unpacking



boxes, helped the veterans select gifts, wrapped packages, offered coffee & cookies, and packed up at the end of the day. Thanks and appreciation to all units, posts and individuals who donated cash, gifts and their time to make this project a success.

The Christmas shop brings much happiness to our veterans and their families. We feel the true spirit of Christmas during these days at the hospital.

## Border Unit 73 activities

### Girls State delegates

Katlyn Larson and Abbi Fitzpatrick of Cut Bank, are the girls whom the Legion Cut Bank Post paid their fees, and Border Unit 73 sponsored for Girls State 2017. Congratulations and thank you for coming to the potluck and telling us about your experience.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STACY BEAR BORDER UNIT 73

### Junior Members Tea and Service Project Afternoon

SUBMITTED BY STACY BEAR, UNIT SECRETARY/TREASURE

Three Junior Members of Border Unit 73 had a Tea Party and made boxes for donations for the four different organizations: *Box Tops for Education*; used eye glasses/lenses for *Lion's Club* project; Pop tabs for *Ronald McDonald House*, and used postage stamps cut with 1/4" diameter to send to a group that uses the proceeds from the project to assist the poor in eight different countries. The Junior girls are Emma, Aubrey, and Jaden. A senior guest, Ruth Gutshall who recently turned 90. Helpers besides Stacy Bear were the two mothers and Ruth who is now interested in becoming a member!



## Deceased Members

APRIL 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

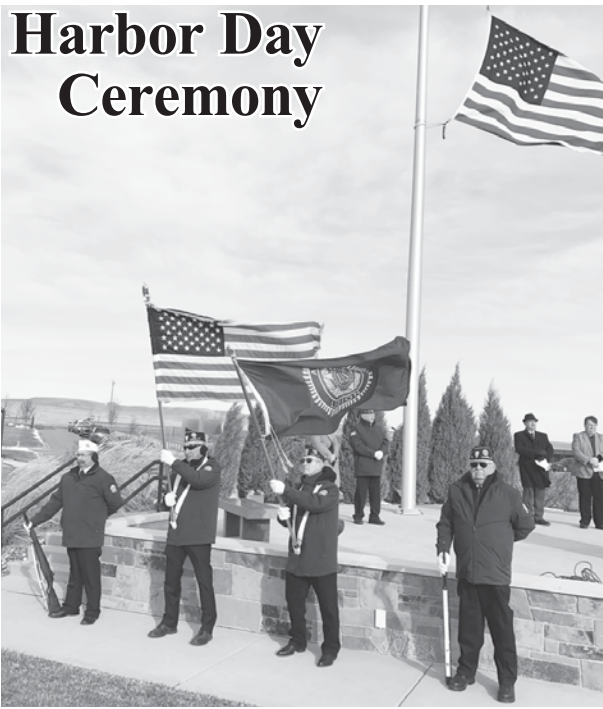
| Unit    | Unit City   | Name                        | Unit     | Unit City      | Name                    |
|---------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Unit 2  | Helena      | Pamela R Pennington         | Unit 56  | Scobey         | Sylvia Tryan            |
|         |             | Rose M Storey               | Unit 64  | Dutton         | Audrey Omholt           |
|         |             | Alma J Dickey               |          |                | Gloria S Sundquist      |
|         |             | Lois C Schmitt              | Unit 69  | Galata         | Anna Buechler           |
| Unit 3  | Great Falls | Marie Mares                 |          |                | Ione M Kincaid          |
| Unit 14 | Bozeman     | Ruth Metcalf                |          |                | Ruth Jud Kins           |
|         |             | Donna Daems, Alice Miller   |          |                | Sylvia A. Shepherd      |
| Unit 15 | Harlowton   | Miriam G Simpson            | Unit 72  | Columbia Falls | Kasey J. Browning-Faulk |
|         |             | Mary Tuss                   | Unit 73  | Sweetgrass     | Myrtle M Fitzpatrick    |
| Unit 21 | Anaconda    | Dorothy Matthew             | Unit 76  | Hobson         | Donna Gottlob           |
|         |             | Catherine Alger             | Unit 81  | Culbertson     | Phyllis Romo            |
| Unit 23 | Livingston  | June L Nickelson            | Unit 91  | Corvallis      | Frances Curdy           |
| Unit 32 | Terry       | Arlene Hubbert-Thompson     |          |                | Betty L Tudahl          |
| Unit 35 | Baker       | Pamela Hickey               | Unit 92  | Hysham         | Mae Krone               |
| Unit 36 | Valier      | Margaret M Christiaens      | Unit 94  | Stevensville   | Loretta Ruffatto        |
|         |             | Margery I Geiger            | Unit 100 | Park City      | Shirley Adams           |
| Unit 37 | Conrad      | Ruthe M Kronebusch          |          |                | Karen L. Kraft          |
|         |             | Georgia Garnett             | Unit 102 | Geraldine      | Flo I. Epperson         |
|         |             | Lucille Petersen            | Unit 104 | Nashua         | Darlene H Johnson       |
| Unit 41 | Glasgow     | Lois Markle, Elaine Etchart | Unit 105 | Department     | Phyllis B Butterfield   |
| Unit 45 | Hinsdale    | Delila J Holderman          | Unit 106 | St. Ignatius   | Elizabeth Younger       |
| Unit 47 | Hamilton    | Elizabeth Fullerton         | Unit 107 | Peerless       | Louise R Nieskens       |
|         |             | Doris Guhrt                 |          |                | Marlene Machart         |
|         |             | Bernita D Lackman           | Unit 122 | Opheim         | Inez Bailey             |
|         |             | Violet Nelson               |          |                | Gertrude Eliason        |
| Unit 48 | Chinook     | Jane Pehrson                | Unit 129 | Plains         | Carol Bates             |
| Unit 51 | Augusta     | June Brant, Doris Weisner   | Unit 138 | Ronan          | Marian S. Garcia        |
| Unit 53 | Stanford    | Julia Barber                |          |                |                         |

# Laurel Post 123 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD KLOSE

Each year the Laurel American Legion Post 123 holds a ceremony on December 7 to honor those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor.

Edward Chlapowski, who is buried in the Yellowstone National Cemetery at Laurel was the Navy person who sent out the message that Pearl Harbor was under attack. His daughter Sue Gillespie is a member of the Laurel Post 123.



Below: Laurel Post 123 provided color guard at the *Unattended Ceremony* at the Yellowstone National Cemetery.



## Anaconda Post 21 - Uniform Tribute

BY BARRY DECHAIINE

Veterans and family members gathered at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Courthouse on December 8, 2017, to celebrate and honor the uniform of retired U.S. Army Major General (Ret.) William T. McLean. General McLean served the Army for over 31 years. He served as the 40th Quartermaster General from 1987-1989. His uniform is the 20th to be honored.



PHOTO BY ANACONDA LEADER EDITOR KATHIE MILLER  
General McLean (Ret.) and his wife Arlene.

## Small Town...Huge Heart

BY RICH PAUL, LINCOLN POST 9 HISTORIAN AND SERVICE OFFICER

Let's go all the way back to July. Earthquakes, Forest Fires, more Earthquakes, more fires, and wind. Finally, in September very welcomed rain and snow brought things back to some kind of normal. The snow came just in time for the Post 9 September meeting, where it was decided that the Post would make a \$500 donation to the National Emergency Fund. The Lincoln Post 9 Commander Rick Foreman and Adjutant Doug Vulcan personally presented the check to the National Commander, Denise Rohan.

The Blackfoot Valley is a rather tight-knit group of small towns that depend on each other for many things. One of the most important is The American Legion activities and services. On Nov. 10, 2017, a team of Post 9 members traveled from Lincoln to Helmville and Ovando to provide some Flag Etiquette and History along with Veterans Day history to the students enrolled. They loved it and the teachers probably learned a thing or two as well.

On Veterans Day 2017, Post 9 hosted their Annual Veterans Day Program and Chili Feed. This has become an event that continues to grow each year. They perform the main portion of the program and then do an open mic forum for the Veterans; the community gets to hear some pretty fantastic stories and memories every year. Prior to serving the family-style meal they dedicated the POW/MIA table and the Chaplain led the group in prayer. This year



they welcomed more than 60 Lincolniters to include Veterans, business owners, hunters, grandparents, parents and kids of all ages.

December brings Post 9 to the Santa's workshop held at Lincoln School. Post 9 donates all the materials, time and assistance needed for students to create a beautiful handmade Christmas gift. Since Post 9 is known for hammers and nails, this year they helped kids create a really nice hanging note pad. Some boards, nails, rip strip and a roll of accounting paper was just what the workshop needed! Harry Arvidson, a 58-year Legion member, has helped every year; a picture of him with a student is included. Post 9 has been participating in the program for ten years now and it never gets old!



liking to. The Post hangs 77 flags along the major roadways and some private residences throughout the area. The Post provides the flags, holders and maintenance and places them on ten important dates of our nation's history.

The Post also continues to erect, maintain and care for 71 Highway Fatality Markers between Mile Markers 44 and 125 along Highway 200.

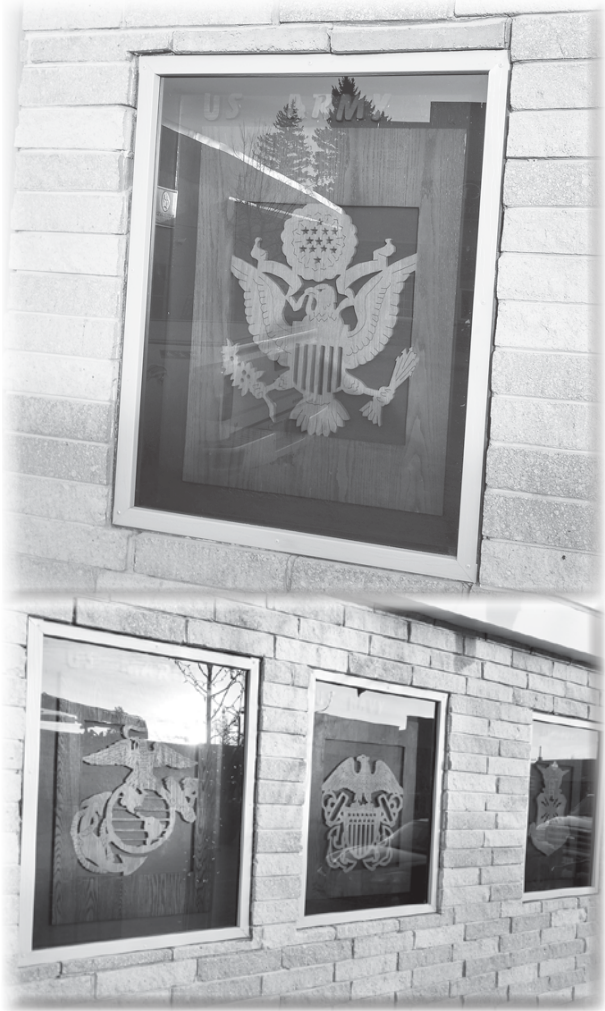
Don't forget, Post 9 will be hosting the District 6 Meeting on April 28, 2018! They guarantee it will be one to remember.

That's all for now folks. Enjoy a prosperous New Year!

# Townsend-Broadwater Post 42 Receives Grant for Storefront Renovation

BY JEN DALRYMPLE

Townsend's Broadwater Post 42 recently received a storefront facelift courtesy of a match grant from Broadwater Community Development Corporation. The Post's Legion Hall has four new Service emblem window boxes and metal clad soffit thanks to BCDC's generous storefront grant program to enhance business storefronts along the main streets of town. This is the second time Post 42 received the matching grant to spruce up their 1800's era building.



The previous grant was used to rebuild the large American Legion sign, two flagpoles and respective lights about five years ago. Thank you to BCDC and all those that helped Post 42 raise the matching funds for its new windows and soffit.

## WWII Veteran Wesley Bull Army

SUBMITTED BY DEAN GILBERT, PARK POST 23 HISTORIAN

Wesley Bull was drafted in Livingston, Montana and sent to Camp Roberts California for basic training preparing for war.

He was assigned to a Headquarters Company motor pool. The fighting was mostly over in Europe and because of his age was assigned to an Occupational Force driving a 6x6 truck for service in the South Pacific on various Islands' containment and clean-up.

Wes achieved the rank of Tec 5 in the motor pool. Their next assignment was the Island of Japan which was well fortified and prepared for an invasion, a battle that would create a huge loss of life and would last until the last man standing, fell. President Harry Truman ordered the newly created H-Bomb to be dropped on Japan. When the dust settled, Wesley Bulls' company drove into Japan. There was no fight to be found. Wes summed it up that the H-Bomb probably saved his life. He observed that the farmers and residence of Japan had no knowledge of the war. It was created by the military leaders of Japan and their idea to bomb Pearl Harbor.

Wesley Bull is a 26-year member of Livingston Post 23.



# Home is where the heart is: *From Helena to Seoul, Montanans never forget their roots*

BY ANTWAUN J. PARRISH | FAR EAST DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 9,000 miles away from a city with a population of 31,000 people, two United States Army Colonels from the same hometown, working in the same technical field and similar positions, cross paths yet again. Col. Teresa Schlosser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Commander [member of Helena Post 2], and Col. Andrew “Andy” Liffing, Eighth Army assistant chief of staff engineer, are natives of Helena, Mont., and although they both are senior ranking officers their small town Montana roots keep them grounded.

“Helena is a town where you know everybody, and it’s pretty cool,” said Liffing. “It produces people with high values similar to those in the Army such as honesty, trust, and loyalty.”

After attending high school in Helena and completing their college educations, they first reunited in the Engineer Officer Basic Course. More than a decade later they would eventually attend the U.S. Army War College together.

“When I saw her at Army War College, I knew exactly who she was,” said Liffing.

Liffing came to Korea this summer and succeeded Schlosser as Eighth Army assistant chief of staff engineer. So how did these two Montanans end up in the same country and same position? Well, it wasn’t by chance. Schlosser called Liffing to take over once she moved to the Far East District.

“She called and told me the challenges here at Eighth Army,” said Liffing. “This has been one of the most intellectually stimulating jobs I’ve ever held and one of the best in the Army.” Liffing described their working relationship as cooperative. He also emphasized that the culture in Montana is to be thankful for each individual’s career success. “It’s a hard work culture state which fits in the military,” said Liffing. “Our career achievements are a great example of

our school system, culture, values, and community of Montana.” Recalling the reunion with Liffing at the U.S. Army War College, Schlosser said she initially failed to remember him after so much time had passed since the Basic Course.

“In Carlisle Barracks, Young Hall you have 26 colonel families living in this one building,” said Schlosser. “So Andy was there as a geographical bachelor and he moved in next door to us with another geographical bachelor. We went in to say hello and meet the new neighbors, and as I walk in the door, he says, ‘you’re Teresa Schlosser’. Then he said we went to the basic course together. To some extent it’s easier for guys to remember the women, because there were only two or three of us at the basic course.” Schlosser knew that she would only be at Eighth Army for one year and would take command of the Far East District in her next assignment. She wanted input in who succeeded her and in no time she immediately knew that Andy was the right fit for the position.

“He has the right construction background, engineering background, disposition,” said Schlosser. “This is the job he’s built for.”

Schlosser said whenever she leaves she wants to ensure her subordinates are taken care of and she knew that Liffing would do just that and be a great battle buddy for her while she’s in command at the District. “Because Eighth Army is one of my biggest customers,” said Schlosser. “It benefits me and the district if I know I have this great guy over there who knows his stuff.”

The Army is the largest branch in the armed services with people stationed in locations all over the globe. The fact that two colonels from the same small hometown end up as close colleagues is extremely rare. Schlosser said the longer you stay in the Army you begin to realize one thing. “The Army becomes a smaller place.”



(FED FILE PHOTO)  
Col. Teresa A. Schlosser,  
Commander (36th Commander),  
Far East District, US Army  
Corps of Engineers



(FED FILE PHOTO)  
Col. Andrew “Andy” Liffing,  
Eighth Army assistant chief of  
staff engineer.

## Adjutant continued from pg. 2

send this portion back and you don’t donate you’ll receive a second mailing, so please send it back. Additionally, if you do not want to receive certain kinds of mail, notify Department Headquarters (toll free 866-793-1257) and we can stop the mail you don’t want. **Thank you for your donations and participation in this important program.**

The next four months are when the Post Adjutants will need to get very busy, not just with membership, which is always their concern, but with all the reports and award nominations that will be coming due, such as Scouting Awards, Best Newsletter Awards, Top Recruiter, CPRs and Post Data Forms.

Post Data Reports will be mailed in February. This form is used to generate dues renewal notices. If your Post doesn’t submit a Post Data Form, then all dues renewal notices could be wrong for the 2019 membership year (which starts 1 July 2018). The Post Data Form includes information on dues amounts, the address dues are to be sent to and other information on the Post. The Post Data Forms are due to Department Headquarters by April 14. Please ensure your Post has submitted theirs.

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) will be mailed in March for the 2017 - 2018 year. At first glance, the CPR may appear complicated and something you don’t want to be troubled with, but perhaps it is the most important document your Post can complete and submit. This information will be combined with that of other Posts, which submit forms to be put into the report annually sent to Congress. Your Post is encouraged to send a photocopy to our own U.S. Representative, Senators and your local Legislators. This summary is “US” when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of the American Legion and all veterans. Each Post has a story to tell, and when

we speak collectively, our strength is magnified... your Post needs to be a part of that *united force*. If you have volunteered or done some other service, make sure your Post Commander and Adjutant know so they can include your efforts on the CPR. Consolidated Post Reports are due to Department Headquarters by 15 May 2018.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that the membership take an active part in the selection process for our awards. The awards are available on the Department website (mtlegion.org), and in the Department publication “Post Leadership & Planning Manual, which each Post receives two copies of at Department Convention, or upon request.

Remember your recruiting awards; there are individual and Post recruiting awards which require submission – most due by May 15.

April 15 is Tax Day for many of us, and for most of our Posts as well. Remember it is a requirement that our Districts and Posts file a Form 990 to the IRS each year (date determined by your Post fiscal year). For the majority of our Districts and Posts you can file online using the 990N which requires you to answer only six questions. Regardless of when you file and what form of the 990 form you use it is imperative that you file annually. If you fail to file, your Post will lose its nonprofit status, and it is a bureaucratic nightmare and costly to get it reinstated. Districts, also remember you must file as well. Once you have filed your IRS Form 990, make sure you complete your annual corporate report to the Montana Secretary of State’s office.

As you can see the Adjutants will be very busy with numerous other endeavors besides taking min-



## LIEAP & Energy Share Can Help

Winter is here and heating bills can pile up fast. Do you know someone who is worried about how they’re going to pay those bills? If so, call one of the numbers below to see what’s available for help, either for your friend or for you. In Montana, it’s about neighbors helping neighbors. That can be as simple as going with a friend to complete an application. Call now to find the office nearest you that handles both LIEAP and Energy Share applications:

Montana Citizens’ Advocate at 1-800-332-2272  
Energy Share of Montana at 1-888-779-7589

You can also find information at  
[www.energysharemt.com](http://www.energysharemt.com), and  
[http://mt.bridgetobenefits.org/Low\\_Income\\_Energy\\_Assistance\\_Program.html](http://mt.bridgetobenefits.org/Low_Income_Energy_Assistance_Program.html)

### Yes, Your Heat CAN Be Turned Off In The Winter!

Many people think the utility company cannot shut a person off in the winter. However, under certain circumstances that can happen. There are special rules in the winter time though. From November 1 to April 1 a regulated utility may not shut off gas, underground propane, or electric service without prior approval from the Public Service Commission (PSC – the state agency that regulates some utility companies such as NorthWestern Energy, Energy West and Montana-Dakota Utilities). The PSC does not approve winter shutoffs if the customer is unable to pay (as demonstrated by being a recipient of a public assistance program) or if a member of the customer’s household is either at least 62 years old or handicapped. Remember, **it is the customer’s responsibility to inform the utility** if one or more of these circumstances exist in the household. For more information visit the website of the Public Service Commission, <http://psc.mt.gov/consumers/energy/pdf/UtilityRules03012001.pdf> or call them at 406-444-6199 or 1-800-646-6150.

Additionally, electric cooperatives and propane vendors are not regulated by the PSC; each one has their own rules so be sure to check with your energy provider on what those are.

Every 10 minutes, someone dies from an accident . . .

**Accident Facts to Know:**

- Accidents are the **leading cause** of premature deaths
- Men are at **higher risk**
- **Living in an urban area** increases risks
- About half **happen at home**

Protect your family with extra  
**Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accident Benefits**

Sources: National Safety Council, Injury Facts, 2014  
[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/factsheets/factsheet\\_injury.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/factsheets/factsheet_injury.pdf) 3745B

utes at meetings and processing membership, please give your Adjutants all the assistance you can, so they will be able to make all the reporting deadlines.

American Legion Boys State packets were mailed in January to the Post Chairman that the Department had on file. If your Post did not receive an American Legion Boys State packet it was sent to the high school in your community. The fee for this year has increased to \$300, the online registrations and fees are due by 15 May. Please advise any interested boys to **obtain a copy of their parent’s or grandparent’s discharge so they will have time to compete for the Samsung Scholarship.**

The Department is accepting applications for students to attend the National American Legion College, October 28- November 2, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All costs are paid by Department and National; to be eligible you must be a graduate of the American Legion Extension Institute and a veteran of Lebanon or Grenada or later (a candidate from any earlier war era may be considered based upon the Departments successful submission of a candidate with service during or after Lebanon/Grenada period). Applications are available on line or from Department Headquarters. Submission date to Department is no later than 15 June 2018.

Don’t forget the Department Oratory finals are Saturday March 10 in Great Falls.

At the beginning of this article I mentioned the next four months would be busy, now you see what I mean, and I left out the District Meetings – the first Spring District Meeting starts Sunday March 11 in Power and the last one is Sunday April 29 in Big Sandy. Please come and join your fellow Legionnaires and be involved in electing your new District Officers and meeting the candidates for Department officers and in voting on any resolutions that may come before the District. I hope to see you there. ●

# Steve Daines

## United States Senator for Montana



Lester Crouse served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He bailed out of a disabled plane and was held as a prisoner by the Germans. When his camp was finally liberated, he described the tanks entering the compound as so covered by prisoners hanging on to the tank, that you could hardly even tell what it was. I recently shared his story, and 49 other Montana veterans’ stories, with the Library of Congress. Watch my remarks at the presentation, here.

My U.S. Senate office participates in the Veterans History Project, a project run by the Library of Congress with the goal of preserving stories of America’s veterans for future

generations. I firmly believe that the sacrifices and heroism of Montana’s veterans must not be lost with the passage of time. It was my honor to submit these stories of 50 Montana veterans, which were collected in large part by collaboration with the Billings Gazette and Darrell Ehrlick, through their Vietnam Voices project.

If you have a veteran story to share – or know someone who does – please visit [my website](#) to get more information about participating in the Veterans History Project.

As always, I encourage you to contact my office to express your concerns or opinions on policy issues important to you. And if we’re not already connected on social media, I invite you to follow my daily updates on [Facebook](#).

It’s my number one priority in Congress to represent the values and interests of the people of Montana, and your input is very helpful as I do. I also invite you to

visit my website, [www.daines.senate.gov](http://www.daines.senate.gov), so we can stay in close touch.

Best Wishes,  
Steve Daines, United States Senate



# Eureka Post 74 recognizes Kalispell Vets Clinic

SUBMITTED BY STONEY FUGATE, COMMANDER POST 74

Post 74, of Eureka, presented a framed print titled “Not this one, Not today” by Joonho ‘JK’ Kim, on January 10, 2018, to the Kalispell Veterans Administration Clinic. The print was presented on behalf of all veterans in northwest Montana and in appreciation of the great care the clinic provides to our veterans. The print was presented by Stoney Fugate, Commander of Post 74, and accepted by Jose Saenz, Lab Technician. Post 74 members present were Melvin Lee, Sergeant at Arms, and Legion member Dan Stewart. There were approximately 8-9 employees of the Clinic attending the presentation and all present expressed their gratitude at being recognized for what they do. At one point one employee said, “I’ve been working here 18 years, and this is the first time we have been recognized.”



# Laurel Post 123 Flag folding presentation



Laurel American Legion members, Post Vice Commander Ray Southworth, Dept. Vice Commander Richard Klose, and Post Commander Ken Gomer conducts a flag folding presentation, telling the meaning of each fold.



Legion Post 123 and Auxiliary doing a flag presentation at the Graff middle school. Betty Saxbury, Roxy Roberts, Terry Fox, Ed Holmes, Bob Saxbury, Don Hedges, and Ken Gomer.

# Townsend Post 42 6th Annual Surf ‘n’ Turf a Rousing Success

BY JEN DALRYMPLE

November 4, 2017, saw 62 satisfied happy attendees for the Post 42 6th annual surf n turf fundraising dinner. Despite the challenging weather which caused a few to call in and cancel, the crowd enjoyed the wonderful food and comradery, netting the Post a nice amount of funds for its Americanism and Youth programs; the designated recipient program this year.



# VA Revises Regulations on Reimbursement for Emergency Treatment of Veterans

WASHINGTON | JANUARY 10, 2018 — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has, through a Federal Register notice, revised its regulations concerning payment or reimbursement for emergency treatment for non-service connected conditions at non-VA facilities.

VA will begin processing claims for reimbursement of reasonable costs that were only partially paid by the Veteran’s other health insurance (OHI). Those costs may include hospital charges, professional fees and emergency transportation, such as ambulances.

This change comes on the heels of an earlier announcement that VA was taking immediate action to address delayed payments to community providers, [found here](#).

Effective Jan. 9, VA updated a portion of its regulations in response to an April 2016 U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims [decision](#) that stated VA could no longer deny reimbursement when OHI pays a portion of the treatment expenses.

VA will apply the updated regulations to claims pending with VA on or after April 8, 2016, and to new claims. By law, VA still may not reimburse Veterans for the costs of copayments, cost shares and deductibles required by their OHI.

VA will work directly with community providers to get additional information needed to review and process these claims. Previous claims do not have to be resubmitted unless requested by VA.

More information on the amended regulation along with guidance may be [found here](#). [[https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency\\_Care.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency_Care.asp)]

| MILITARY ID CARD STATIONS in MONTANA<br>(DEERS/RAPIDS)                        |                            |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LOCATION                                                                      | PHONE #S                   | HOURS                                                                     |
| HELENA<br>JFHQ bld.<br>FT. HARRISON, MT                                       | ID CARDS: 324-3249         | MON, TUES, THURS -<br>WALK IN WED AND FRI<br>BY APPT ONLY<br>1100 TO 1530 |
| BELGRADE<br>ARMY NATIONAL GUARD<br>350 Airport Road<br>BELGRADE, MT           | 324-5008/5026              | WEDNESDAY BY APPT                                                         |
| KALISPELL<br>ARMY NATIONAL GUARD<br>2989 US Highway 93 North<br>KALISPELL, MT | 324-5167/324-5162/324-5150 | TUES & THURS BY APPT                                                      |
| MISSOULA<br>ARMY RESERVE CENTER<br>9383 Running W. Road<br>MISSOULA, MT       | 324-5129/324-5113/324-5101 | TUESDAY/WED BY APPT<br>0900-1500                                          |
| GREAT FALLS<br>AIR NATIONAL GUARD<br>BESIDE AIRPORT<br>GREAT FALLS, MT        | 791-0284                   | MONDAY-FRIDAY<br>0800 TO 1630                                             |
| GREAT FALLS<br>MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE<br>GREAT FALLS, MT                    | 731-4155                   | MONDAY thru FRIDAY<br>0730 TO 1630                                        |
| BILLINGS<br>ARMED FORCES RES CENTER<br>2915 Gable Road<br>BILLINGS, MT        | 324-5408/324-5409          | TUESDAY AND<br>THURSDAYS<br>CALL FOR APPT                                 |
| BILLINGS<br>NAVY RESERVE CENTER<br>2915 Gable Road<br>BILLINGS, MT            | 406-591-1633/406-373-8647  | CALL FOR APPT                                                             |
| BILLINGS<br>MARINE RESERVE CENTER<br>2915 Gable Road<br>BILLINGS, MT          | 406-671-3546/406-373-8405  | CALL FOR APPT                                                             |
| BUTTE<br>BUTTE MEPS STATION<br>BUTTE, MT                                      | 723-8883 EXT 230           | PIN # RESET ONLY<br>CALL FOR APPT                                         |
| BUTTE<br>1889th RSG<br>600 Gilman Avenue<br>BUTTE, MT                         | 324-5217/324-5220          | BY APPT ON<br>WEDNESDAYS<br>0800-1630                                     |

DEERS/RAPIDS 800-538-9552



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

CONVENTION 2018

JUNE 21 - 24

Great Falls, MT

Hosted by District 8

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL  
☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration..... \$20 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 early registration drawing — (early registration ends April 30)**

40&8 Barbeque..... \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Past Dept. Comdrs Breakfast - *Past Cmdrs Only* ..... \$18 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children & Youth Luncheon ..... \$18 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Banquet..... \$23 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Past Dept. President’s Luncheon - *Past Only* ..... \$18 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming District President’s Luncheon ..... \$18 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Joint Banquet..... \$29 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

 **CONVENTON HOTEL**

1100 5th Street South  
Great Falls, MT ..... Rate: \$98 +Tax  
..... Phone: (406) 727-7200

**SEND REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK TO: AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION 2018**

Convention 2018  
Mike Mehegan  
215 29th St S  
Great Falls MT 59405

**QUESTIONS**

David Driver... [davidandshirley@hotmail.com](mailto:davidandshirley@hotmail.com)... 406-564-9705  
Mike Mehegan... [mimeheh4@aol.com](mailto:mimeheh4@aol.com) ... 406-750-0822  
Kim Kay McCarty Martin... [IDiDiND@hotmail.com](mailto:IDiDiND@hotmail.com)... 701-260-2833

**2018 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

**AUGUST 24 – 30, 2018**

**HILTON MINNEAPOLIS**

**1001 MARQUETTE AVE.**

**National Convention Reservation form for Legion, SAL & Auxiliary**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the following accommodations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons. I will be sharing a room with \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

\_\_\_\_\_ King (1 or 2 persons) \$155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Double (1 or 2 persons) \$155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Commanders Banquet @ \$48 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Parking Rate – Self \$18 / Valet \$27 per day \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality Room - \$16 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration (non-delegates only; delegates are paid) \$25 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: ALL Convention attendees must be registered and have a Convention badge to ride busses, attend convention functions and enter the convention hall) If you are attending Commander’s Banquet please advise Department by 25 February, 2018.

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I / We will arrive (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_ (TIME) \_\_\_\_\_ **Do not leave blank**

I / We will depart (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_ (TIME) \_\_\_\_\_ **Do not leave blank**

**LEGION ONLY** – I would like to be a delegate and would serve on the following Committee, (official delegates must be nominated and elected at the Department Convention in Great Falls, June 22 – 24, 2018).

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JULY 1, 2018, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation**

Please send check payable to the American Legion of Montana and this form to:  
Department Adjutant  
PO Box 6075  
Helena, MT 59604-6075

**How to Submit Articles or Photos?**

**Deadline: April 1, 2018**

**Preferences:**

**Text** – No formatting such as, **multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text**

☐ Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as *All formatting has to be removed before placing into paper.*

☐ Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)

☐ Provide Post *City* as well as Post/Unit number

☐ Post, Unit & Department are capitalized

☐ It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.

☐ **Acronyms.** Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)*. The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, use the acronym.

☐ Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.

☐ If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.

☐ DO NOT submit articles in PDF format.

☐ If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.

**Photos** – send as e-mail **attachments** – **PLEASE!!**

☐ **JPG format, as an attachment**

☐ Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.

☐ **Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo.**  
If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.

☐ **Captions should be noted in the e-mail:**  
Photo# *caption which includes Post/ Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.*

☐ **Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE**  
*Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.*

☐ **Do Not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attach)**  
*See above (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.*

**News articles**

☐ Sending a hyperlink to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)  
*Helps ensure article can be found (sometimes older articles are archived and cannot be found) and also to give proper credit to the author and newspaper to avoid plagiarizing.*

**Corrections** to previously-sent articles

☐ Send an e-mail with the corrections only  
*Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing. Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.*

**ByLine...** remember... always include the submitters name for articles.

**Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to:**  
**[lmtpub@gmail.com](mailto:lmtpub@gmail.com)**

**Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!**

 **BIG 1,000 CLUB**

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$600 and one to win \$2,000? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age. This is a fund raiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State as well as membership programs. If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2018 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2018, \$600 on the Legion Birthday and \$2,000 at Department Convention.

 **BIG 1,000 CLUB**

Submit completed form with  
\$25 Membership Fee!  
TO DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Unit/Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Buddies in Business



PAID ADS ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT  
OF PERSON, PRODUCT OR BUSINESS

2 inch ads: \$55 per year  
3 1/2 inch ads: \$85 per year



*Big Timber  
American Legion  
Post #19*

*Drop in to see us!*

110 E 3RD AVENUE, BIG TIMBER, MT

**Post Meetings - 1st Wed. 7 p.m.**

*Open 7 days a week*

*M-F 1 p.m. to close*

*S-S 10 a.m. to close*

*Pizza Every Day – Friday Night Burgers & Sandwiches*



*Chuck & Kim  
Ballard  
Owners*

8:00 am to 6 pm Mon - Fri  
8:00 am to 4 pm Sat  
610 Custer Ave • Helena

**442-9589**



MEMBER POST #2

***This  
Space  
Available***

***Silver Bow Post #1  
and Auxiliary***

American Legion of Montana



*Welcome*

MEETINGS:  
FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 8:00 P.M.  
DINNER: THIRD WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 P.M.  
LEGION HALL IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM RAMADA COPPER KING

**Liberty County  
American Legion  
Post #88**

*Welcome to our Post Meeting  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7 p.m.*

Liberty Co. Community &  
Senior Center  
618 East Adams  
Chester, Montana



**AMERICAN LEGION  
POST #4**

OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM

**HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN**

1540 BROADWATER AVE.  
BILLINGS, MT

***This  
Space  
Available***

**American Legion  
Post #2**

3095 Villard Ave.  
Helena, MT

*Monday thru Saturday  
Open at 10 a.m.*

*Sunday - Open at Noon  
all meetings 2nd  
Thursday each month*



**Americanism**



**American Legion  
Gallatin Post #14**

*Striving for Legiontown USA*

225 East Main Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Open daily  
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m. to Midnight



**Defense**



**406-586-8400**

**Veterans**



**We Salute Our Servicemen & Women**

**Welcome To  
American Legion  
Club 30**

**We invite all veterans to stop  
in and support YOUR club.**



**31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430**

**DAN R. STEWART**

***Fine Firearms for 31 Years***

***Wholesale Prices to All Legion,  
Auxiliary & SAL Members***

**(406) 889-9720**

**Member Post #74**

**Eureka, MT**



**Montana Legionnaires!**

Visit the **Montana Military Museum**

At historic Fort Harrison,  
just west of Helena.

Fort William Henry Harrison Museum  
Foundation & Montana Military Museum

For more information write to:  
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator  
P.O. Box 125  
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125  
[myfun51@msn.com](mailto:myfun51@msn.com) • 406-324-3550

***This  
Space  
Available***

**Sons Of The  
American Legion**

Detachment Of Montana



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
MEMBERSHIP CALL:  
(406) 324-3989  
or (406) 324-3990  
Or Write to P.O. Box 6075,  
Helena, MT 59604.



**Jerome's  
Band & Violin Repair**



**Jerome Faith  
Owner**

Located at Quality Piano  
617 Central  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
w: 406-761-5507  
h: 406-965-3176

