



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
P.O. Box 6075
HELENA, MT 59604-6075

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Permit No. 66
Great Falls, MT 59403



Volume 95, No. 4

May — July 2018

Mervin G. Gunderson ~ 1947 – 2018

Past National Vice Commander and Past Department Commander

Past Department Commander Merv Gunderson was born in Malta Montana. The family moved to Great Falls, headquarters for Montana Elevator Company, and built a home that remains there today. Merv attended Franklin Elementary School, West Junior High School, and Great Falls High School. Merv was in the first graduating class of newly constructed CM Russell High School in 1966. During his youth Merv participated in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts obtaining the rank of Life Scout and membership in the Order of the Arrow. In school, he participated in band, track, football, and choir. He was active in the Lutheran church where he served as an altar boy and received his confirmation.

Following high school, Merv went to work for the Anaconda Copper and Mining Company in Great Falls working in the zinc casting refinery. He attended Great Falls Commercial College during the day and worked nights. On April 2, 1968, Merv was drafted into the United States Army and set off for basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington, Helicopter Advanced Individual Training at Fort Rucker, Alabama and On the Job Training at Hunter Army Airfield, in Savannah, Georgia.

Merv served the remainder of his military obligation in South Korea with the 8th Army's 55th Aviation Company as a crew chief on UH-1B and UH-1D helicopters. He obtained the rank of Specialist E-5 and was honorably discharged in 1970.

Following his release from the military, Merv went back to work at his old job with the Anaconda company remaining there until 1971 when he used his GI bill to attend Mon-



tana State University to obtain a bachelor's degree. While attending the University, he worked for the University police as a building monitor and on December 17, 1973, he was hired as a police officer on campus until his retirement on December 31, 1997.

Merv became a charter member of The American Legion Post 30 in Belgrade and was the finance officer for his Post since its inception until 2016. He held the offices of Post Commander and Adjutant, District 7 Vice Commander and District 7 Commander twice. Merv served on the Department Public Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Americanism Chairman, Membership and Post Activities chairman. Merv was chairperson for the Department Convention in 2002 and 2009 and a graduate of The American Legion

Training Institute. He was also a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 30 and held the office of Detachment Adjutant for Montana. He was Chef de Train of the Montana 40&8 and also served as Chef de Gare. Merv eventually moved up to serve on the National Children and Youth Commission for The American Legion and was the Western Regional Chairman of that committee. Merv served as Alternate NEC for two years prior to National Vice Commander for the 2011–2012 year and was elected National Executive Committeeman at the 2013 Convention where he continued service until his passing. He also served

on the National Legion's Resolution Committee and as Legislative Liaison for Senator Jon Tester.

Merv passed away at his home just outside of Bozeman, Saturday, March 31, 2018, and his memorial service was held April 10, in Bozeman, Montana.

His final resting place is at Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena, Montana.



Roger A. Hagan, Vice-Chairman, Legislative Council representing Montana Department of The American Legion; Bill White, VA Hospital Volunteer Representative, Ft. Harrison; Patty Gunderson (Merv's Wife); Representative Gianforte; NEC Merv Gunderson; Dept of MT Service Officer Kelly Ackerman. Feb. 27, 2018.



Roger A. Hagan, Vice-Chairman, Legislative Council representing Montana Department of The American Legion; Representative Gianforte; NEC Merv Gunderson & his wife Patty; Bill White, VA Hospital Volunteer Representative, Ft. Harrison; and Senator Steve Daines.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 1 ...	Certification of Post Officers due to Dept. HQ
May 8-11	Nat'l Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
May 8.	Certification Form, Top Recruiter due to Department Headquarters
May 10.....	100%Target Date
May 13.....	Mother's Day
May 15...	Peace Officers' Memorial Day
.....	Consolidated Post Report (CPR) Due to Dept. HQ
May 15.....	Dept. Officers Convention Report due to Dept. Headquarters
May 19.....	Armed Forces Day
May 24.....	Department Convention Delegates Strength date
May 28.....	Memorial Day observed
May 30	Memorial Day
Jun 1.....	National Convention Registrations due to Department
Jun 4 -9 ...	American Legion Boys State Carroll College, Helena
Jun 10-16.....	AL Auxiliary Girls State
Jun 14	Flag Day
Jun 14.....	US Army Birthday
Jun 15.....	Dept. Convention Delegate Form due to Department
Jun 20-25	Department Headquarters Closed (Department Convention)
Jun 21.....	Dept. Finance Committee meeting, Billings
Jun 21-22.....	Dept. Legion College
Jun 22.....	Department Executive Committee Meeting, Billings
Jun 23-25	Dept. Convention, Billings
Jul 1	2018 Membership Year begins
Jul 1.....	2018 Big K Membership opens
Jul 4	4th of July
Aug 2 -6.....	American Legion Baseball Regional Tournaments
Aug 10-15	American Legion Baseball World Series
Aug 18-24	National Convention, Cincinnati, OH
Sep 4.....	Labor Day Observed

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COMMANDER DOBB

As I sit down to write this article, I am shocked by the death of our National Executive Committeeman Merv Gunderson this past Saturday, [March 31, 2018]. I just saw him that past Wednesday [March 28, 2018] evening at the opening of the GI Bill exhibit at the Military Museum at Fort Harrison, Mont. He was a friend and a mentor to not just me, but to many individuals across the Department of Montana and Nationally. Even after his serious accident and being confined to a wheelchair, he traveled widely on behalf of the American Legion and did more actual work than many others that are healthy. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

I want to thank the many Legionnaires across the Department who worked so hard to make the 90 percent Target and to attempt to make the next target of 95 percent. Whether we do or not is still to be seen as this goes to press. These hardworking members who spent countless hours making phone calls or personal contacts to renew or transfer members off the National DMS list are to be commended. These members include, in addition to the Department Membership Chairman, almost the entire Department Executive Committee from the District Commanders on up to the NEC. These membership lists, and other information have been available to Post level personnel, but a lack of action and falling membership numbers required many who already have many Legion duties to perform to take on work that should be being done at Post level. A sincere thank you to everyone who stepped up and helped in this special push. Montana had dropped to 23 in the National rankings and to third in the Western Region. The last report I saw on national rankings, showed we had moved back up to tenth among the fifty-five departments and first in the Western Region.

We are in the middle of our Spring District Meetings. We have five behind us and six more to go. So far, I am very pleased with the attendance and participation. This is my fourth cycle through the Departments District Meetings. To date participation is the best I have seen overall. Actual attendance is running around thirty Legionnaires and there are usually only one or two Posts not represented at all. I have seen Posts represented at meetings that I have



Dept. CDR Larry Dobb

not seen in the past three years. This is outstanding. Congratulations to the District Commanders for contacting their Posts and having them represented and to the Post Officers and members who attended. I was also very pleased to see some young energetic members at these meetings.

In my opening paragraph, I mentioned the GI Bill exhibit at Fort Harrison. This was a very nice event with media and representatives from National. There were a lot of American Legion members in attendance, primarily from the Helena, Townsend and Great Falls area. Everyone should attempt to make it to this exhibit during the time it will be at the museum. Montana is fortunate to have it. Its previous three showing were at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Los Angeles and in Las Vegas. I am sure that many of those reading this article have used the GI Bill to purchase a home or attend college. Its effects on this country were tremendous and continue to this day.

The Department Oratorical Contest was held in Great Falls in March. We had contestants from six of our eleven Districts. That's better than the past few years, but every District should be able to come up with one. It's one of our premier youth programs and tailor made for a small rural Post whose local high school does not have a lot of students. And remember home school and private school students are eligible to compete. The Department Adjutant's office has actually had calls from the public who have said the local Post told them we (The American Legion) do not have that program anymore. Wrong. We do, it's that the local Post has not taken the effort to implement it in their community.

Remember, the Department Convention will be in Great Falls and I encourage everyone who can to attend, even if you are not a Post officer. There will be a Department level American Legion College held just prior to the Convention to help train future leaders and better inform even us old-timers. And don't forget the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. I tell everyone who will listen that they should attend at least one National Convention. What could be better than the 100th? Last year we had 48 from Montana at Reno. Let's beat that number in Minneapolis.

VICE COMMANDER KLOSE

By now everyone should have heard of the passing of our NEC Merv Gunderson. Merv was a true



Richard Klose
Dept. Vice Commander

Legionnaire. He looked out for the good of The American Legion as well as all veterans. But most of all he was a great mentor to a lot of us.

Now on to business. The state of Montana has about 100,000 veterans, of that total about 15 percent are woman veterans. That means we should have about 15,000 women veterans here in Montana. I venture to say that the women American Legion membership is very small compared to the eligible numbers.

The next time you see a woman driving a big pickup truck into a parking lot with a veteran license plate, ask her if she is an American Legion member. You might find a new member. Just saying.

We have two good examples of woman veterans in our National Commander Denise Rohan and Western Region Vice Commander Paula Stephenson, so let the woman veterans know that they are wanted in The American Legion and that they can make a difference.

The members of the District 8 posts are working very hard to provide a great Department Convention June 21-24 in Great Falls. Take advantage of their hard work and attend at least part of the convention. If it's your first convention you may be surprised at how much fun there is and the great friendships you may form.

Thanks everyone for all your hard work and dedication to The American Legion of Montana.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

April 15 was tax day for many of us, and for most of our Posts as well. Remember it is a requirement that our Posts file a Form 990 to the IRS each year (date determined by your Post fiscal year). For the majority of our 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.

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. Unlike in the past, in an effort to save on postage costs the Department is no longer sending copies of all awards to the Posts; however, 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.

Post Data Reports were mailed in February. This form is used to generate dues renewal notices. If your Post does not 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) were 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 Legislator. 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, if your Post uses MyLegion.org they may do an online submission.

The Department is accepting applications for students to attend the National American Legion College, October 28- 2 November 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



DEADLINE

July 1, 2018
August - October 2018 issue
Submit all articles by above date.

Send copy to :
lmtpub@gmail.com, or

American Legion Dept. of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
PO Box 6075
Helena MT 59604-6075

See page 15: How to Submit Articles or Photos.

PUBLISHED BY THE
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER,
P.O. BOX 6075, HELENA, MT 59604-6075
TELEPHONE 324-3989/3990 - TOLL FREE 866-793-1257

E-MAIL: LMTPUB@GMAIL.COM
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 1ST DAY OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

COMMANDER - LARRY DOBB
VICE COMMANDER - RICHARD KLOSE
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Memorials

As Memorial Day approaches, by virtue of what it is, we focus on remembering our war dead. We thank God for their sacrifice and service. We pray for their families and loved ones. Memorial Day also serves to jog our memories to remember our own friends and family who have died.

The American Legion has a tradition of holding memorial services each year to remember our comrades who have been transferred to Post Everlasting. If you haven't yet attended one of these interfaith services at Department Convention, I encourage you to do so. During it, we read the names of American Legion Auxiliary members, Legion members, and Sons of The American Legion members who have departed our ranks since the Fall Conference. Last year, at Department Convention, that included 530 names to be read. We read 132 at Fall Conference in October 2017. If you would like to help read names at this year's God and Country Memorial Service, please contact me at karensem1@gmail.com to get on the list of readers. Correct phonetic pronunciations for unusual names will be provided. We can use your help!

In the meantime, I thought a meditation from the book, Gates of Prayer, might be meaningful. May you be well.



We Remember Them

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
We remember them.*

*In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We remember them.*

*In the opening of the buds and in the warmth of summer,
We remember them.*

*In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn,
We remember them.*

*In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We remember them.*

*When we are weary and in need of strength,
We remember them.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.*

*When we have joys we yearn to share,
We remember them.*

*So long as we live, they, too, shall live,
for they are now a part of us as
We remember them.*

TFA helps families in times of great need

DENISE H. ROHAN, NATIONAL COMMANDER

The Redhorn family didn't know who to turn to when they were left homeless after their rental home caught fire Jan. 10 in Great Falls, Mont. The family of eight were hundreds of miles away from their support network of family and friends.

In their time of despair, it was The American Legion that helped Ivan Redhorn, a U.S. Army combat veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, his wife, Shavonne, and their six children.

Great Falls Post 341 Commander and Adjutant Kim Kay McCarty-Martin met with Ivan and Shavonne and helped them fill out an American Legion Temporary

Financial Assistance (TFA) application and provided a roof over their heads until they found a new home. Post 341 and the Department of Montana paid for temporary housing for a week "so we weren't staying in



our car," Shavonne said. While living in temporary housing, the Redhorns found a new rental home; the TFA grant paid for the security deposit.

The Legion's TFA program has provided more than \$16 million in cash grants to Legion-eligible veterans with minor children since its inception in 1925. The grants – which benefited 433 veterans and 933 children in 2017 alone – help families in financial need meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food, clothing and medical expenses. TFA is my fundraising project during my tenure as your national commander, and the Redhorn family is a testament to the great program TFA is and the need to support its efforts.

"I know that (The American Legion) cares enough to help us in any and every aspect of our life. Having turmoil like this, The American Legion was almost like a hero for me," Ivan said. "The American Legion eased our financial burden and worry with their assistance to help us.

"If my parents (who live in Browning, Mont.) were here, they would be very thankful. Just knowing The American Legion came and assisted their son, their soldier, in a time of need."

Donations to TFA can be made to the Commander's Charity Fund online at www.legion.org/donate. Payments by check can be made payable to American Legion Charities and put "Commander's Charity Fund" on the memo line. Address is P.O. Box 361623, Indianapolis, IN 46236-1626.

Help The American Legion continue to be heroes to other veterans and their families.

Post Everlasting



Jan/Feb/Mar 2018

- ☆ BERGUM, LAWRENCE K., 1/8/2018 – Vietnam – Air Force
- ☆ ADAMS, CHARLES, 2/21/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 20-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BAKKE, SAM, 3/28/18 – Vietnam – US Marine – 19-year member of Post 25, White Sulphur Springs, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BANKA, FRED, 3/6/2018 – WWII – US Navy – 70-year member of Post 37, Conrad, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BANTA, NORMAN, 3/26/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 4-year member of Post 130, Vaughn, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BELL, HAROLD J., 1/16/18 – WWII – US Navy – 49-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BERGUM, LAWRENCE K., 1/8/2018 – Vietnam – Air Force – 14-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BRIGGS, ERNEST, 3/22/18 – WWII – US Army – 31-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BROWN, HAROLD, 12/2/17 – WWII – US Air Force – 71-year member of Post 45, Hinsdale, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BROWN, STANLEY, 3/17/18 – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 30, Belgrade, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ EDDY, JOEL, DOD – Korea – US Navy – 11-year member of Post 113, Arlee, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ENDRESON, HARRIS, 2/20/18 – WWII – US Navy – 4-year member of Post 72, Columbia Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FABIAN, JOSEPH, 4/23/17 – Korea – US Army – 66-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GUNDERSON, MERVIN, 3/31/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 24-year member of Post 30, Belgrade, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GUNSCH, MERLYN, 11/12/17 – Korea – US Navy – 20-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HELMICK, TROY, 2/20/18 – Korea – Unknown – 57-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HUFF, THOMAS, 2/16/18 – WWII – US Army – 69-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ JOHNSON, BURT, 2/26/18 – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 37, Conrad, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KELDSEN, KENNETH, 2/11/18 – Korea – US Army – 38-year member of Post 229, Westby, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KNAPP, JOHN, DOD – Vietnam – US Navy – 9-year member of Post 18, Roundup, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KNIPSCHILD, JOHN C, DOD – Vietnam – US Army – 17-year member of Post 36, Valier, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LEE, OSCAR L., 1/6/18 – WWII – US Army – 60-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MAGNUS, DARRELL, 1/1/2018 – Vietnam – US Marine – 14-year member of Post 123, Laurel, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MALCOM, RICHARD, 12/0/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 51-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MEYER, MARVIN, 2/12/18 – Korea – US Army – 11-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NICKELSON, CARL D., 12/30/17 – Korea – US Navy – 27-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ORR, CHARLES, DOD – Vietnam – US Air Force – 7-year member of Post 113, Arlee, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SEYDEL, ALAN, 12/22/17 – Lebanon/Grenada – US Air Force – 8-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SINGER, ROGER, 2/20/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 51-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STORDAHL, RICHARD, 12/6/17 – WWII – US Army – 30-year member of Post 45, Hinsdale, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WAGNER, THOMAS, 2/20/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 51-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WESTHOFF, FRANCIS, 1/15/18 – Vietnam – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WILCOX, THOMAS, 3/19/18 – Vietnam – US Navy – 15-year member of Post 130, Vaughn, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ YOUNGBAUER, KENNETH, 8/24/17 – WWII – US Army – 25-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors

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.



Memorials

Donor	Fund	In Memory of:
Bob & Sylvia Beals	Endowment Fund	Merv Gunderson
Ed Sperry.....	Endowment Fund	Merv Gunderson
ALA District 3.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Barbara Monroe.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Gary & Rose White.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Ed Sperry.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
American Legion Post 5	Endowment Fund	Merv Gunderson
Rick & Kay Dighans.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Kenneth & Maryann Case	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Dick & Leah Ellwein	Endowment Fund	Merv Gunderson
Thomas Lee Photography	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
David & Rebecca Gibson	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Earl Mainwaring.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
John Pellegrini	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Sandra Runkel.....	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
Diana Reilly	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson
ALA Unit 3	Merv Fund	Merv Gunderson

60-Year Legion Members recognized by Wheatland Post 15, and Hobson Post 76



Robert Willems, a member of Wheatland American Legion **Post 15**, was awarded a Continuous Membership Award of 60 years by the Post Commander, Kenton Barnhart. Post 15 also celebrated the Legion's 99th birthday.



Hobson American Legion **Post 76** was proud to present Cliff Blair with a 60-year membership certificate in the American Legion. Presenting the award is Post Cdr. Clay Killham.

Townsend Post 42 Celebrates 99 Years

BY SHARON DOIG, POST HISTORIAN

At the end of WWI on March 15, 1919 the first American Expeditionary Forces convened in Paris and formed The American Legion. Today they are the largest military service organization. In concert with the National effort, Veterans from Townsend/Broadwater County met on December 25, 1919 and American Legion Post 42 was formed. This year the American Legion birthday celebration was held in conjunction with St Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17th whereupon our Legion Family shared the traditional



Irish corned beef and cabbage dinner and dessert with the community. We thank the 40 plus visitors who purchased meals so 20 or so Veterans could also eat for free. At the end of the dinner the 50/50 was drawn and Ed Kaminski was the lucky winner. Thanks to all the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members who helped with cooking, working, and supplying desserts. Live music was graciously provided by Veterans Gary Ferguson, Virgil Henke, Bill Gillespie on spoons, and rounding out the group, Robin Folkvold. A wonderful time was had by all in attendance.



Ronan Post 138 Cohosts Community Clean Up Crew Appreciation

BY GLENN SHARBONO, VICE CC

The American Legion Ronan Post 138 in conjunction with Ronan VFW Post 5652 showed their appreciation to a group of selfless community servants who come out each year to clean up the Ronan City Park before the town's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, by inviting the group to have chili and hot dogs as a way to thank them for all the work they do at the park. Around 30 people raked and bagged litter and leaves filling; "a large truck load of stuff" that had accumulated over the winter. The children seemed to think it was a lot more fun than work and really appreciated Jesse Merwin's homemade cupcakes after the meal, provided of course they cleaned their plates first! So again, from The American Legion and VFW of Ronan, we thank you for another job well done.



Lewistown Post 16 announces the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Lewistown B-17 Satellite Airfield

BY JEFF MARTINEZ, LEWISTOWN POST 16

In conjunction with the Central Montana Pilots Association and the Lewistown American Legion Post 16 Family, the anniversary of the Lewistown B-17 training facility will be a very special weekend. On June 8th, The New Harold Nicholls Big Brass Band featuring John Gemberling and Beth Britton vocalists will provide 1940's era music in the B-17 hangar for dancing and entertainment. Vendor trailers will be serving up a variety of food options. Local memorabilia will be on display and we are pleased to announce we will have one of the few B-17 Bombers still in operation! The "Sentimental Journey" will be in Lewistown Friday and Saturday with opportunities for the public



to purchase or win tickets for a local flight tour! June 9th is the annual Lewistown Fly-in and Pancake Breakfast with opportunities to see a variety of local airplanes. Plus, just a short walk away, you can step even farther back in time at the Montana Flywheelers Pioneer Power Days Event. Want to keep with the historic theme? On Saturday night, you can schedule a ride on "Montana's Premier Dinner Train" the Charlie Russell Chew Choo. Presentation of our colors, dedications and honors for our veterans will be provided by the Lewistown American Legion. Come join the fun for this rare opportunity to see an amazing aircraft in a celebration of the history represented right here in central Montana. For more information on the events and the airfield history please visit b17lewisstown.com.



Junior Shooting Sports Competition for Montana 2017-2018 results

BY RAY READ

- Edison Howie, Mineral County 4-H Shooting Sports 1 shot 2nd in nation with score of 560. Top score 561. **State Champion**
- Elizabeth Lorenz, Hellgate Shooting Sports 1 shot 9th in Nation in Precision with a score of 590. Top score 598 **State Champion**
- Jonna Warken, Hellgate Shooting Sports 1 shot 25th in Nation in Precision with a score of 587. Top score 590.
- All three shot in the second round for possible placement in National Competition in August.
- Top Team (Precision) Montana Hellgate Shooting Sports 1 (17th in Nation).
- Top Team (Sporter) Mineral County Shooting Sports 1 (16th in Nation).
- Four Montana teams shot in Precision (Hellgate Junior Shooting Sports 1 and 2, Gallatin County 4-H Shooting Sports 1 and Yellowstone Club 1).
- Ten Montana teams shot in Sporter (Mineral County 1, Gallatin County 1 and 2, Lake County 4H 1, Phillips County Teams 1-5 and Flathead County Shooting Sports 1).

LIEAP & Energy Share Can Help

Thank goodness – it looks like winter is finally on its way out! But that doesn't mean everyone's heating bills didn't pile up over the winter. Are you or a friend worried about how those bills will get paid? If so, call the number below and explain the situation. Energy Share might be able to help. 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 Energy Share applications:

Energy Share of Montana at 1-888-779-7589
You can also find information at www.energysharemt.com

Livingston Park Post 23 Busy Bees

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY DEAN GILBERT, HISTORIAN

Park Post 23 has been as busy as ever with celebrations, memorials, honors and good-byes. The Americanism committee accepted an anonymous pledge and check to promote more flag presentations on our National Holidays. The Post placed an announcement in the Livingston Enterprise for anyone needing a flag and agreeing to fly it during the 4th of July celebration, Veterans Day, and other notable holidays.

Two young ladies were accepted for Girls State this year - Reagen Smith will be an Auxiliary sponsored delegate, and Kaitlyn Roberts, a past 2017 delegate, has been accepted as an executive assistant to the GS Director. The American Legion Baseball team spring training and baseball season has gotten underway with Jack Helben as the team's new coach. The Super Bowl party was an enjoyable gathering with treats, favors, and a lot of bantering between comrades. Prime rib and crab legs were a hit for the Valentine's Day dinner for members and the community. The American Legion Riders of Post 23 prepared and served a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for St Patrick's Day and Vietnam Veterans were honored at a spaghetti dinner March 29th.



Service Officer, Department of Montana



SERVICE OFFICER KELLY ACKERMAN

On August 23, 2017, the President signed into law the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-55), creating a new appeals and claims framework for pursuing VA benefits. The new law goes into effect in February 2019 and outlines a

new claims and appeals framework that includes new review options for Veterans dissatisfied with initial decisions on their disagreements. Veterans in the new process can pursue one of three different lanes: a Higher-Level Review Lane for review of the same evidence by a higher-level claims adjudicator, a Supplemental Claim Lane for submission of new and relevant evidence, and an appeal to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) for review by a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ).

Although the new law does not take effect until February 2019 at the earliest, VA will offer some Veterans access to the new modernized claims process through early participation. VBA’s Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) initiative allows eligible Veterans who have a pending compensation appeal to opt into the Supplemental Claim Lane or Higher-Level Review Lane in the new claims process. RAMP participants will benefit from early resolution and effective date protection features in the new process.

RAMP is a temporary program that allows Veterans to participate in the new Supplemental Claim and Higher-Level Review lanes. Participation in RAMP is voluntary and is open to any Veteran who meets the eligibility criteria. VA’s goal is to process supplemental claims and higher-level review requests in an average of 125 days.

Participation in RAMP is only open to Veterans with a pending legacy disability compensation appeal. From November 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 RAMP is only open to Veterans who meet the eligibility requirements and are invited to participate in the program. VBA invites Veterans to participate through a RAMP Opt-in Notice Letter sent by VBA in monthly mass mailings or through notice given to authorized representatives representing Veterans in the jurisdiction of the following regional offices (ROs): Phoenix, Denver, San Diego, and Seattle.

As of April 2, 2018, Veterans are no longer required to receive an invitation to participate in RAMP. VA will accept a RAMP Opt-in Election from any Veteran that meets the eligibility requirements as follows:

To be eligible for RAMP Veterans must:

- Have an active appeal pending for a compensation claim in one of the following appeals stages:
 - » NOD
 - » Form 9
 - » Certified to Board (not activated)
 - » Remand
- Submit the approved written RAMP Opt-in Election document, withdrawing his or her pending eligible disability compensation appeal(s) and substituting the review options set forth in Public Law 115-55

The following appeals are not eligible for RAMP and can be timely worked in the legacy appeals process.

- Compensation appeals in the following stages:
- Certified to the Board (Activated: formally placed on the Board’s docket)
- Remands returned to the Board
- * Other issues on appeal, such as pension claims, survivor claims, insurance claims, and loan guaranty claims

Ineligible appeals will remain pending in the legacy appeals process. I recommend that any veteran who currently has an appeal pending, please contact your service officer to discuss your options.

PSO Training

I will be conducting Post Service Officer Training during the Department Convention in Great Falls, MT on June 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM. The Department has generously offered to pay Per Diem of \$35.00 (only for those without a call in) for one day to any PSO that attends. The training should take no more than 1 hour.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to me at the email listed below NLT May 14, 2018.

Due to state budget cuts, we have had to close our Lewistown office. Our Belgrade and Great Falls service offices will continue to provide outreach to the locations previously offered by the Lewistown office. To see the current outreach schedule, visit our state website at mt.gov under Veterans Affairs.

The goal of our 9 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.

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!



Calling All American Legion Family Quilters! Quilts of Caring Needed!

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN & UNIT 2 AMERICANISM CHAIR

What: The Residential Behavioral Health Unit at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital NEEDS quilts inside coordinating/matching pillowcases for their patients who can stay inpatient from weeks to months for mental health treatment. The supply of donated quilts for patients is running low. Twin-sized quilts down to large lap robe-size quilts with a pillowcase are gratefully accepted by patients struggling with PTSD or other severe mental health diagnosis that requires an extended stay in residential treatment.

When/Where: Please place home-made quilts inside coordinating/matching pillowcases. Then, please place inside a plastic bag to keep them clean during transport. Quilts will be collected at the check-in table at Department Convention in Great Falls this coming June for transportation to the Fort Harrison VA. Please be sure to log your contact information on the Quilt Log when you leave your quilt at Check-In.

Why: To bring tangible care, comfort and a “touch of home” to patients hospitalized long term - to remove some of the clinical feel from their situation. The quilts are stored in their matching pillowcase in a secure closet until chosen by a patient.

How: Quilts may be patriotic, small block floral (“reminds them of their grandmothers”), Irish Chain, Log Cabin, Rail Fence and other classic designs are appreciated as they can bring good memories of home in days gone past. Wild animal/outdoor scene quilts are also appreciated. The quilts may be quilted (This is best so that the quilt holds up to many washings’) or tied. 100% cotton is preferred. Flannel is also acceptable. **The Behavioral Health Residential Unit cannot accept fleece quilts of any kind.**

To protect the quilters’ privacy, please do not place any name or other personal information on the quilt or the pillowcase. A caring note of well wishes letting the recipient know they are cared about along with your Post/Squadron/Unit name and address may inscribed on a label and also be in a card pinned to the quilt for them to keep and reread. Some patients have sent thank-you notes in the past.

Thank you for caring!
May you be well.

Fort Owen Post 94 sponsors trip to Fort Harrison VA

Fort Owen Post 94 again sponsored a Stevensville School student trip to Ft. Harrison on February 14, 2018. The High School Key Club students toured the hospital visiting with veterans and handed out Valentines which had been created by Elementary

students. The students gained a better appreciation for who veterans are and the medical problems many of them face. Most veterans were very appreciative of the attention.

The students were given an orientation briefing by hospital employee Kevin Danz. He not only provided an in-depth explanation of who veterans are and why we should honor them, but also challenged the students to be in charge of their own destinies by pursuing their dreams.

Kevin also told the students about his drone business, IFLYBIGSKY, and then demonstrated the drone capabilities by taking a video of them outside of the hospital.

Back inside the hospital, the students and patients were treated to an ice-cream social



Gianforte Congratulates Harlowton West Point Appointee Amanda Martin

Congressman Greg Gianforte was at the Harlowton High School on Wednesday, 21 February, to announce that senior Amanda Martin has been accepted into West Point Academy. Amanda’s sister is in the freshman class at West Point.



Congressman Gianforte with Amanda and her parents Craig and Tonya, and grandmother.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2018

		Year end Goal 2018	Year To Date Total	Year End 2017	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1					
22	WOLF POINT.....	44	33	32	75.00%
41 ☆	GLASGOW.....	82	87	83	106.10%
45	HINSDALE.....	58	47	56	81.03%
49 ☆	HOMESTEAD.....	10	11	11	110.00%
55	POPLAR.....	35	9	32	25.71%
56	SCOBAY.....	60	45	50	75.00%
58	PLENTYWOOD.....	50	41	43	82.00%
61	BROCKTON.....	49	28	31	57.14%
81 ☆	CULBERTSON.....	95	105	99	110.53%
85	BAINVILLE.....	30	24	25	80.00%
104 ☆	NASHUA.....	14	15	16	107.14%
122	OPHEIM.....	35	29	34	82.86%
229 ☆	WESTBY.....	16	16	16	100.00%
	TOTAL.....	5578	490	528	84.78%

DISTRICT #2					
11	HAVRE.....	129	72	98	55.81%
48	CHINOOK.....	47	44	46	93.62%
50	BIG SANDY.....	27	26	26	96.30%
57 ☆	MALTA.....	92	97	95	105.43%
67	ROCKY BOY.....	35	14	34	40.00%
79 ☆	SACO.....	12	15	16	125.00%
88	CHESTER.....	39	34	37	87.18%
109	TURNER.....	30	22	28	73.33%
110	FORT BELKNAP.....	13	9	13	69.23%
	TOTAL.....	424	333	393	78.54%

DISTRICT #3					
36 ☆	VALIER.....	55	55	55	100.00%
37	CONRAD.....	59	53	61	89.83%
40	CUT BANK.....	63	50	72	79.37%
43	SHELBY.....	55	50	46	90.91%
69	GALATA.....	37	27	36	72.97%
73	SWEETGRASS.....	74	70	74	94.59%
127	BROWNING.....	31	22	32	70.97%
CN20	CALGARY.....	47	43	50	91.49%
	TOTAL.....	421	370	426	87.89%

DISTRICT #4					
52	THOMPSON FALLS.....	61	56	58	91.80%
72 ☆	COLUMBIA FALLS.....	87	102	101	117.24%
74 ☆	EUREKA.....	46	53	47	115.22%
86	BIG FORK.....	65	51	52	78.46%
97	LIBBY.....	172	165	181	95.93%
106	ST IGNATIUS.....	70	51	58	72.86%
108	WHITEFISH.....	66	58	65	87.88%
112	POLSON.....	130	116	117	89.23%
113	ARLEE.....	33	24	32	72.73%
126 ☆	CHARLO.....	14	14	14	100.00%
129	PARADISE.....	70	53	60	75.71%
137	KALISPELL.....	214	198	221	92.52%
138 ☆	RONAN.....	55	64	58	116.36%
139	TROY.....	20	12	20	60.00%
	TOTAL.....	1103	1017	1084	92.20%

DISTRICT #5					
13	ST REGIS.....	59	49	57	83.05%
27	MISSOULA.....	358	351	347	98.04%
38	DARBY.....	13	12	14	92.31%
47 ☆	HAMILTON.....	107	108	117	100.93%
63 ☆	CONDON.....	45	46	52	102.22%
68	MISSOULA.....	36	29	33	80.56%
83	CLINTON.....	16	13	15	81.25%
91 ☆	CORVALLIS.....	119	162	136	136.13%
94	STEVENSVILLE.....	220	203	216	92.27%
101	MISSOULA.....	53	52	57	98.11%
124	FRENCHTOWN.....	40	33	39	82.50%
125	DRUMMOND.....	57	50	56	87.72%
131	ALBERTON.....	49	25	40	51.02%
134 ☆	FLORENCE.....	48	60	49	125.00%
135	LOLO.....	142	134	135	94.37%
	TOTAL.....	1,362	1,327	1,363	97.43%

DISTRICT #6					
1	BUTTE.....	193	162	195	83.94%
2 ☆	HELENA.....	743	762	745	102.56%
9 ☆	LINCOLN.....	54	59	57	109.26%
10	DEER LODGE.....	72	59	58	81.94%
20	DILLON.....	185	161	171	87.03%
21	ANACONDA.....	245	227	235	92.65%
24	WHITEHALL.....	91	87	90	95.60%
31	TWIN BRIDGES.....	43	37	46	86.05%
33 ☆	PHILIPSBURG.....	10	10	10	100.00%
42	TOWNSEND.....	117	101	118	86.32%
46	BOULDER.....	23	22	32	95.65%
89 ☆	SHERIDAN.....	63	73	66	115.87%
115	BUTTE.....	104	81	89	77.88%
	TOTAL.....	1943	1841	1912	94.75%

AT LARGE					
105	HELENA.....	185	104	135	56%

DISTRICT #7					
14	BOZEMAN.....	353	352	355	99.72%
19	BIG TIMBER.....	194	171	176	88.14%
23 ☆	LIVINGSTON.....	169	175	172	103.55%
25 ☆	WHITE SULPHUR.....	63	65	62	103.17%
30	BELGRADE.....	262	229	247	87.40%
65 ☆	ENNIS.....	35	50	45	142.86%
78 ☆	W YELLOWSTONE.....	29	30	28	103.45%
87	MANHATTAN.....	176	157	176	89.20%
93 ☆	THREE FORKS.....	42	44	43	104.76%
99 ☆	BIG SKY.....	55	59	55	107.27%
118	GARDINER.....	36	34	36	94.44%
	TOTAL.....	1414	1366	1395	96.61%

DISTRICT #8					
3	GREAT FALLS.....	257	240	256	93.39%
6 ☆	CHOTEAU.....	102	102	90	100.00%
26	FORT BENTON.....	50	35	42	70.00%
51	AUGUSTA.....	50	36	42	72.00%
64	DUTTON.....	62	49	55	79.03%
80	FAIRFIELD.....	33	30	30	90.91%
102	GERALDINE.....	114	113	114	99.12%
103	POWER.....	32	29	28	90.63%
130	VAUGHN.....	48	41	47	85.42%
133 ☆	CASCADE.....	29	33	32	113.79%
341	MALMSTROM.....	154	139	116	90.26%
	TOTAL.....	931	847	852	90.98%

☆DISTRICT #9					
15	HARLOWTON.....	103	102	111	99.03%
16 ☆	LEWISTOWN.....	382	461	465	120.68%
18	ROUNDUP.....	62	60	61	96.77%
53	STANFORD.....	26	20	20	76.92%
62 ☆	DENTON.....	23	24	22	104.35%
70	JUDITH GAP.....	67	57	66	85.07%
76	HOBSON.....	47	43	48	91.49%
96 ☆	ROY.....	20	23	20	115.00%
120 ☆	WINIFRED.....	31	31	30	100.00%
	TOTAL.....	761	821	843	107.88%

DISTRICT #10					
5	MILES CITY.....	82	69	74	84.15%
12	SIDNEY.....	44	34	35	77.27%
28	GLENDIVE.....	123	95	103	77.24%
29	CIRCLE.....	18	15	17	83.33%
32 ☆	TERRY.....	101	96	104	95.05%
35	BAKER.....	136	108	108	79.41%
39	FORSYTH.....	97	85	93	87.63%
44 ☆	COLSTRIP.....	30	36	30	120.00%
60	EKALAKA.....	15	14	13	93.33%
77	LAME DEER.....	11	5	12	45.45%
114 ☆	FAIRVIEW.....	37	37	37	100.00%
128 ☆	BROADUS.....	13	14	12	107.69%
	TOTAL.....	707	608	638	86.00%

DISTRICT #11					
4	BILLINGS.....	503	418	481	83.10%
8 ☆	HARDIN.....	51	52	53	101.96%
17	RED LODGE.....	61	57	54	93.44%
34	COLUMBUS.....	62	61	58	98.39%
71	FROMBERG.....	23	19	18	82.61%
84	BELFRY.....	39	33	38	84.62%
92	HYSHAM.....	24	18	21	75.00%
100	PARK CITY.....	61	56	64	91.80%
111 ☆	CUSTER.....	59	63	60	106.78%
117 ☆	BILLINGS.....	122	173	196	141.80%
119	BILLINGS HGTS.....	174	167	174	95.98%
123 ☆	LAUREL.....	108	109	113	100.93%
	TOTAL.....	1287	1226	1330	95.26%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2018 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	11,116
2018 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	10350
2017 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	10899
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	93.11%

Time...
is
running
out!



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 ____/____/____

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☐ Dental	☐ Hospital Help	☐ Travel Accident Protection
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Send your completed coupon to:
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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post.....2.....	HELENA.....	755 MEMBERS
Post.....16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	460 MEMBERS
Post.....4.....	BILLINGS.....	411 MEMBERS
Post....27.....	MISSOULA.....	348 MEMBERS
Post.....14.....	BOZEMAN.....	347 MEMBERS
Post.....3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	237 MEMBERS
Post.....30.....	BELGRADE.....	227 MEMBERS
Post.....21.....	ANACONDA.....	227 MEMBERS
Post.....94.....	STEVENSVILLE.....	202 MEMBERS
Post...137.....	KALISPELL.....	198 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT.....	PERCENTAGE.....	COMMANDER.....
9.....	107.36%.....	Demorise Allen
5.....	96.77%.....	Greg Marose
7.....	95.69%.....	Randy Kemp
11.....	94.41%.....	Jim Bossen
6.....	94.13%.....	Josh Clement
4.....	91.93%.....	Glen Sharbono
8.....	90.12%.....	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
3.....	87.89%.....	Charlie Coutts
10.....	85.71%.....	Clancee Collins
1.....	84.78%.....	Joe Yeoman
2.....	78.54%.....	Lowell Long

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
April 5, 2018

SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2018.....	TO DATE
WOLF POINT #22.....	10.....	
☆ 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.....	13
GALATA #69.....	42.....	28
☆ LIBBY #97.....	10.....	12
☆ POLSON #112.....	10.....	13
MISSOULA #27.....	17.....	14
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	3
CONDON #63.....	10.....	3
☆ CORVALLIS #91.....	10.....	16
☆ STEVENSVILLE #94.....	21.....	35
LOLO #135.....	34.....	26
BUTTE #1.....	29.....	14
☆ HELENA #2.....	76.....	97
ANACONDA #21.....	33.....	18
☆ TOWNSEND #42.....	18.....	19
BUTTE #115.....	19.....	4
☆ BOZEMAN #14.....	51.....	68
BIG TIMBER #19.....	22.....	14
☆ LIVINGSTON #23.....	10.....	28
BELGRADE #30.....	64.....	39
☆ MANHATTAN #87.....	27.....	33
☆ BIG SKY #99.....	12.....	20
☆ GREAT FALLS #3.....	16.....	17
☆ CHOTEAU #6.....	16.....	25
☆ GERALDINE #102.....	53.....	61
VAUGHN #130.....	17.....	14
HARLOWTON #15.....	22.....	21
LEWISTOWN #16.....	128.....	107
MILES CITY #5.....	11.....	6
BAKER #35.....	34.....	28
☆ FORSYTH #39.....	45.....	59
BILLINGS #4.....	27.....	20
BELFRY #84.....	23.....	16
☆ CUSTER #111.....	11.....	11
BILLINGS #117.....	10.....	0
☆ LAUREL #123.....	10.....	12
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1046.....	807
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		

CALL TO CONVENTION

TO: Officers and members of the American Legion Posts in Montana
GREETINGS

The 100th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Montana is hereby called to meet and assemble at Great Falls, Montana June 22, 23, 24 2018 to transact and consider such matters as are included in this call and any other business which may properly come before it.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers to the ensuing year, electing delegates to the National Convention, amending the Department Constitution, presentation of annual reports, and the transactions of such other business as may be brought before it in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitution.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Representation in the Convention will be by Posts. Each Post in good standing shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates and in addition shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, whose dues have been received by the Department thirty days prior to the date of the Convention, or May 23, 2018. A Post, to be in good standing must have a minimum of ten paid members and no indebtedness to the Department.

CREDENTIALS

Posts shall submit to Department Headquarters in Helena prior to June 10, the names of delegates and alternates. Cards for voting delegates will be in the Convention office. Each Post delegation should select a Chairman prior to departure of delegates for the Convention.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A regular meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 3:00 P.M. The first stated meeting of the Department Executive Committee following the Department Convention will be held immediately upon adjournment of the Convention. The term of office of the newly elected members will commence immediately with the adjournment of the Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All Department Officers and District Commanders will be sworn into office at the conclusion of the session on Sunday morning, June 24, 2018 and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committees.

Any inquiries for information with reference to the Convention will be answered from Department Headquarters.

Gary A. White
Department Adjutant

Larry Dobb
Department Commander



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 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... 406-564-9705
Mike Mehegan... mimeheh4@aol.com ... 406-750-0822
Kim Kay McCarty Martin... IDiDiND@hotmail.com...701-260-2833

2018 Dept. Legion College in the Electric City

JOSHUA CLEMENT, DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER & DEAN OF DEPT. COLLEGE

In 2017, Department of Montana conducted our initial Department of Montana Legion College at the Department Convention in Billings. We are excited to have this opportunity again for Legionnaires of all levels to grow in their abilities and knowledge of our great organization. Our primary focus remains the same as we look to provide core knowledge of The American Legion beyond the American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) or the new Basic Training. Our curriculum for this year will focus on Post and District assessments, leadership via team building, program generation, resolution writing, parliamentary procedures and meeting execution. In addition

to developing ourselves to be better Legionnaires, this will be an excellent venue to network and collaborate on successes various Posts or Districts are having.
Registration is a simple email sent to: legionnaire.clement@gmail.com with your contact information, Post number, current position, desired future positions, number of years with The American Legion and completion of the new American Legion Basic Training. This is a requirement for all attendees.
Check-in begins at 5:30pm on 20th of June, with class starting at 6pm. Training will recess by 10pm and

More LEGION COLLEGE page 12

Past National Commander Helm to Speak at GF Convention

Michael D. Helm was elected national commander of the 2.4 million-member American Legion on Aug. 28, 2014 in Charlotte, N.C., during the 96th national convention of the nation’s largest veterans organization.

A U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab in 1972. He has been a member of Jack Helt American Legion Post 313 at Lebanon, Neb., since 1972. Born in McCook, Neb., he grew up in Norcatur, Kansas, where he currently resides. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

Helm served as commander of the Department of Nebraska from 1987 to 1988 and as a national vice commander from 2003 to 2004. He also served as the national commander’s representative to the National Legislative Commission, the chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.

During his service as chairman of the VA&R Commission, Helm chaired the System Worth Saving Task Force, a team of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, providing in-depth and up-to-date analysis of the status of VA Healthcare to Congress and to veteran’s advocates nation-



wide. He also served as a member of the Veteran’s Planning and Coordination Committee and of The American Legion Ad Hoc Committee studying the Military and Veteran’s Affairs response to Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress.

At the local and state levels, Helm has served as post adjutant, post commander, county commander, district commander, department area and senior vice commander, in addition to numerous committee assignments and chairmanships. He was Nebraska’s first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve as Nebraska’s official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

Mike's wife Debbie is active in The American Legion Auxiliary having served as District 9 president and as the Department Junior Activities Chairwoman. They are the parents of five young Legion family members. Aaron and his wife Robie, both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; Rebecca and her husband Jaron Cox, both graduates of Kansas State University; Jacob, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and his wife, Michelle; Matthew, and Timothy.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
June 20– 24, 2018**

SCHEDULE
Subject to Change
All Events Will Be at The Holiday Inn Unless Otherwise Noted

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
2:30 PM – Finance Committee – *Executive*
5:30 PM – Montana Legion College – *Missouri*

Thursday, June 21, 2018
8:00 AM – Montana Legion College – *Missouri*
10:00 AM – Forty & Eight Promenade – *Russell*
1:30 PM – Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Meeting – *Russell*
3:00 PM – Department Executive Committee – *Aronson*
6:00 PM – 40 & 8 Barbeque –

Friday, June 22, 2018
7:30 AM – Past Dept. Commanders Breakfast – *Russell*
8:45 AM – Call To Order - Department Commander Larry Dobb
Introduction of Heads of Montana Veterans Organizations,
Other Distinguished Guests – *Aronson / Mansfield*
10:00 AM – Convention Committee Assignments - Gary White, Department Adjutant
10:20 AM – Awards
12:10 PM – Children and Youth Luncheon – *Atrium*
1:15 PM – Convention Committees Meet – *Executive, Russell, Missouri, Mansfield, Catering Office*
2:15 PM – Post Online Transmittal Training – *Aronson*
3:30 PM – District Caucus (If Needed) – *Aronson*
3:20 PM – Coordinated Children & Youth Committee – *Executive*
4:00 PM – Hospitality Rooms
4:00 PM – National Convention Attendees Meeting – *Trigg*
6:00 PM – Cocktail Hour – Auxiliary Banquet – *Atrium*
7:00 PM – Auxiliary Past Presidents Banquet; Open to All – *Trails End*

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018
7:00 AM – Go Getters BREAKFAST - *Russell*
9:00 AM – Business Meeting – Reports – *Aronson / Mansfield*
1:15 PM – Women Veterans Meeting – *Trigg*
2:00 PM – POPST Service Officers Training - *Executive*
2:00 PM – District and Zone Commander Training – *Russell*
3:00 PM – Legion Riders - *Executive*
4:00 PM – Hospitality Rooms
6:00 PM – Cocktail Hour - *Atrium*
7:00 PM – Joint Banquet – *Mansfield / Aronson / Trails End*

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018
8:00 AM – Joint Service to God and Country – *Trails End*
9:00 AM – Final Business Session – *Mansfield / Aronson*
Unfinished Business
New Business
Election of Department Officers
Commander
Vice Commander
Zone Commander 1 & 10
Zone Commander 2, 3 & 8
NEC
Alt NEC
Historian

Election of National Convention Delegates
Selection of Year 2021 Convention City
Installation of New Department Officers

12:00 PM – Meeting of New Department Executive Committee – *Aronson / Mansfield*

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Drive Carefully on Your Way Home!



THE AMERICAN LEGION

District 4 announces Oratorical Winners

BY GLEN SHARBONO DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

Sierra Dilworth of Flathead High school wins the District 4 American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest and will advance to the Department level in Great Falls on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Glen Sharbono, District 4 Commander, substituted this year for Jeff Nelson, Oratorical Chairman.

For 1st place, Sierra Dilworth, a Junior from Flathead High school in Kalispell received a \$150 Scholarship with her prepared Oration titled "Ignorance Is Not Bliss."

2nd place and a \$75 Scholarship to Chloe Coberley, a Freshman from Columbia Falls High school for her prepared Oration titled "Freedom Isn't Free."

3rd place and a \$50 Scholarship to Kenton Sisler, a Sophomore from Polson High school for his prepared Oration titled "Constitutional Duties."

The Assigned Topic this round was Amendment 15 Section 1. *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State of account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*



Contestants were judged on their knowledge of the Constitution and how they presented their Oration.

Each contestant also received a Bronze, Silver and Gold District Oratorical medal and Certificates of Distinction. The family of the winner was also given \$100 from the District to help in the costs of accompanying their child to the Department contest in Great Falls on March 10.

All District winners who appear for the Department preliminary pool (morning 10 March) receives \$175. Each preliminary pool will send two contestants to the Department finals (afternoon 10 March) Pool 1st place receives \$285, Pool 2nd receives \$175. Department awards are \$1500 for 1st place,

\$750 for 2nd place, \$450 for 3rd place and \$400 for 4th place.

We thank all the Judges, Time Keepers, Tabulators and Ushers that helped to make this year's event a success, as well as the contestants and their parents for a job well done.

The Contestants along with District 4 Commander are pictured in reverse order in which they placed 3rd place Kenton Sisler, 2nd place Chloe Coberley, 1st place Sierra Dilworth.

Jacob Dresen wins Gold for Ronan Post 138



Jacob Dresen of Ronan High School, took 1st place in the local Post level of the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest with his prepared oration

titled: "Knowing Your Rights"

The contest consists of an 8-10-minute prepared oration which must be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The second part of the competition is 3-5-minute speech on 1 of 4 assigned topics of the Constitution in a blind draw by a random spectator. Although there are only 4 topics in the assigned part they can change with

each level. The prepared speech will remain the same from Post level to the National level. 1st Place at the National level is \$18,000 adding this with the awards from all previous levels can add up to quite a bit in scholarship monies. Post 138 awarded Jacob a \$75 scholarship, a certificate of distinction, a Gold Patrick Henry Oratory Medal and lapel pin. Jacob will attend the District level of the competition in Polson at the Masonic Hall at 1pm on March 4th, where he will compete with other contestants from Lake County, Sanders County, Flathead County and Lincoln County that make up the 4th District. The top three will also be awarded scholarships and medals. The winner there will advance on to the Department level in Great Falls on March 10th. Post 138 would like to thank Jacob and wish him the best of luck as he progresses throughout The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest.

Helena Capital High School Junior Wins the Montana American Legion Oratorical Contest

GREAT FALLS, MT – MARCH 10, 2018

The Montana American Legion High School Oratorical Competition sponsored by The American Legion of Montana and its 129 Posts located throughout Montana concluded in Great Falls on Saturday March 10. Norris Blossom of Helena who attends Capital High School prevailed over five other contestants for the right to represent Montana at the American Legion National Finals. The National competition will take place April 14-15, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN.

Blossom won the local competition sponsored by Lewis and Clark Post 2 and then went on to take the District contest in Boulder a week later for the chance to compete in the state finals. Garret Nielson of Bozeman took second place followed by Michael McKay of Corvallis for third followed by Sierra Dilworth of Kalispell in fourth.

The American Legion established the annual oratorical contest in 1939 as part of its multi-faceted Americanism Program. The focus of the competition has always been the United States Constitution.

The subject of the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared oration must be an original effort of each contestant and should be 8 – 10 minutes in length.

The Montana state winners 1st through 4th places are eligible for monetary scholarships from The American Legion of Montana. Also, as part of The American Legion program fee waiver scholarships are available from the various units of the Montana University system as well as Carroll College. Information on these scholarships is available from high school guidance counselors or The American Legion.



In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of the National Competition, university scholarships of \$18,000, 16,000 and \$14,000 will be awarded to the 1st through 3rd place winners in the National Finals.

Each state winner who competes in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$1500 scholarship.

Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national Final round will receive and additional \$1500 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous rounds will vie for the top honors in the National contest.

The American Legion pays the expenses of the state winner and a parent to travel to the National Contest.

The American Legion State Oratorical Chairman is Jeff Holmes, Harlowton, Montana

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Columbia Falls Post 72 Oratorical Contest

Columbia Falls American Legion Freedom Post 72 held its Oratorical Contest on the US Constitution on 27 February. Speech topics ranged all over the Document itself, and the winning speech was done by Chloe Coberley. Pictured are the contestants with Past Legion Commander and Oratorical Chairman Michael Shepard (l-r): Noah Golan, Sam Lovering, Shepard, Chloe Coberley and Tre Finley. All four presented excellent speeches, and were awarded prizes of \$250 1st Place, \$150 2nd Place, and \$100 each for 3rd and 4th Place. Chloe Coberley represents our Columbia Falls Post in District competition.



Harlowton Post 15 Oratorical Winners

Harlowton Post 15 had three individuals for their Post Oratorical Contest. Commander Kenton Barnhart presented the awards to 1st place Emmy Martin, freshman (left); 2nd place Amanda Martin, senior (left bottom); 3rd place Eric Reed, senior (below). Note: Eric was Post 15 first place at Post and District and 2nd place at State. He was also Boys State delegate. Amanda Martin was Post 15 2nd place last year.



GI Bill exhibit makes stop at Montana Military Museum

BY JEFF STOFFER | MAR 30, 2018

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Montana Military Museum at Fort William Henry Harrison in Helena, Mont., last Wednesday [March 28, 2018] to welcome "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill," a traveling multi-media display honoring the veterans benefits program established by the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, which was drafted and pushed to passage by The American Legion.

"It touches everyone's lives," said American Legion Department of Montana Commander Larry Dobb, a U.S. Air Force veteran. "My dad bought a house with it, I've had two homes, and my wife bought one, and we couldn't have bought those homes without the GI Bill." His wife Janice, also an Air Force veteran, used her GI Bill benefits to earn a master's degree."

"I used the GI Bill – every bit of it," added Ray Read, American Legion Department of Montana historian and Montana Military Museum director.

World War II veteran Dave Armstrong told the crowd he benefited from the GI Bill's education provisions after his service as a sled-dog trainer at Camp Rimini near Helena. He later went on to serve as director of Montana's state veterans affairs division.

Diane Carlson Evans of Helena, a Vietnam War combat nurse who serves on The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee, was the



keynote speaker at the reception to welcome the exhibit.

"The theme of legacy and vision is well-represented here," said Carlson Evans, who in February received The American Legion's prestigious Patriot Award for her work to install the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and for her continuing advocacy for all who have served in the U.S. armed forces. "We are sharing The American Legion story not just of what The American Legion did, but what The American Legion is still doing – fighting for a better GI Bill."

The exhibit traces the story of the GI Bill from its roots in the fall of 1943 when medically discharged

World War II GIs were returning to their home communities at a clip of about 75,000 per month and were greeted with limited, slow and inefficient services to help them adjust to civilian lives. Through illustrated panels, videos and artifacts, the display follows The American Legion through the challenge of distilling all the needs of returning veterans into 10 key provisions, the battle to get the measure passed and signed into law, the massive economic and social effects that followed, and the continuing work to deliver a GI Bill for new generations of veterans.

The most recent rendition, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," was signed by President Trump last August and is named for the American Legion past national commander who assembled the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

"We've come a long way since that first battle to get the GI Bill passed," Read told the crowd.

"It's nice to have an exhibit of this magnitude here in Montana," Dobb added. "The GI Bill has had a tremendous impact."

The traveling exhibit is on display at the Montana Military Museum through April 26. The museum is open every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and other days by appointment by calling Read at (406) 235-0290. Learn more about the museum at www.montanamilitarymuseum.org.

Vietnam War nurse and leading voice for women veterans receives The American Legion Patriot Award for 2018

(WASHINGTON—FEBRUARY 27, 2018)—U.S. Army combat veteran Diane Carlson Evans of Helena, Mont., who led the movement to place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., a memorial honoring women who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, received The American Legion's prestigious Patriot Award for 2018 Tuesday at the organization's 58th Washington Conference.

Carlson Evans, a member of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee, was a combat nurse in 1968 and 1969 and later served in stateside military medical facilities. Supported by a 1985 American Legion national resolution, she spent eight years raising money and clearing bureaucratic hurdles to get the Vietnam Women's Memorial dedicated on Veterans Day 1993.

She has since been a leading national voice for women veterans and all who served during the Vietnam War.

"Diane Carlson Evans is, first and foremost, a wartime veteran," American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan said before presenting the award to Carlson Evans. "She volunteered to serve deep in the combat theater of Vietnam. She put her life on the line – often in terrible conditions and under deadly enemy fire – to save others. When others in



our country were looking for ways to get out of the war, she was asking for ways to get into it."

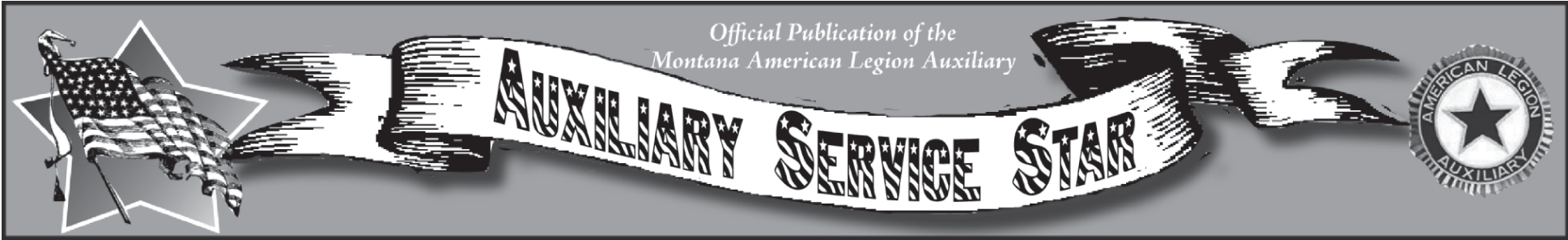
In the early 1980s, Carlson Evans introduced a resolution at her local American Legion post in River Falls, Wis., and shepherded the idea of a women's memorial on the National Mall through The American Legion's Department of Wisconsin and to the

organization's National Executive Committee, whose resolution fueled the effort.

"My vision needed a champion," Carlson Evans told hundreds of American Legion Family members gathered Tuesday for the conference. "I knew I couldn't do this alone. The American Legion never hesitated."

"It is wholly within her character ... how she single-handedly led a difficult movement that continues today to honor the wartime service of women in the military, to reverse stereotypes and inspire future generations," American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee Chairman Ted Roosevelt IV said at the award presentation. "Diane Carlson Evans, I salute you."

"I want you to know, and hope you know, how much your investment has ensured the legacy of women veterans, particularly of the Vietnam War, how much it has contributed to our personal healing, and that it leaves a shining beacon for future generations of American women," Carlson Evans said. "I humbly accept your Patriot Award – on behalf of the women veterans I sought to honor and on behalf of all those on a team – that's you – who made this dream come true."



**President**
KATHRYN LONG

This past fall I traveled around the state explaining my theme for the year. I hope you enjoyed listening to my interpretation of the song “Old Army Hat” by Bill Anderson.

I also hope you decided to follow the old gentleman from the song in not taking things personally when people complained about things you do and say. I know I did not always do this, but each new day I start over and try to quit taking things personally. I also tried to take to heart my scripture reading for the year of 1 Corinthians 13. Did not always follow it but I did meditate on it several times through the year. All anyone can do is try each day in showing love by their actions.

Having said that; how do we show love and patriotism for our country and our fellowman? One way is by obeying our laws and spreading our love for our country by doing the activities of The American Legion Auxiliary. Yes, there are other ways, but by sharing our love of our country by the activities of the ALA we can join together and have a larger voice and people can hear us. If we do our activities by ourselves, will people listen to us as well as if we join together. Since we have joined The American Legion Auxiliary more people should listen and want to do what we advocate.

Since we are members of The American Legion Auxiliary and people might be listening to us (only if we tell people what and who we are), we always need to get together to plan (Fall Conference) and in turn celebrate our accomplishments. With this in mind, we, The Department of Montana American Legion Auxiliary, is having our convention in Great Falls to hear reports and celebrate the accomplishments mentioned in the reports. Did you know that each Unit is supposed to be represented at our Convention? Did you know that each Unit is supposed to be represented by a certain number of delegates? In fact, for the first 50 members; each Unit gets 2 delegates, one more delegate for each 50 members thereafter or fraction there of; so, for example if you have 88 members you can send 3 delegates to convention or if you have 108 members you can send 4 delegates to convention. I hope these two examples give you the idea how many members can attend convention for your Unit. *(This paragraph is for those members who do not know who and how many are to be attending convention.)*

Please remember that Diane Duscheck, National President of The American Legion Auxiliary will be attending our Convention this June. Please bring your questions for her as we will have time on Friday of Convention to ask them.

✪ In service for God and Country ✪

**APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SECRETARY / TREASURER**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana is currently accepting applications for the position of Department Secretary-Treasurer for the fiscal year 2018-2022. Please forward a letter of interest outlining your qualifications and a current resumé to: Department 1st Vice-President Terry Kemp, at 5570 Durston Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718.

**Applications must be received by
June 20, 2018.**



Kathryn Long

**Secretary**
JAIMIE DeBATES

DEADLINES?
GIRLS STATE – ANNUAL REPORTING – 990 FILING – POPPY REPORTS... It goes on and on and each one has a little different deadline. You were all given Programs Action Plans at your Fall District meetings, or they were mailed by your District President. No. I can’t do it electronically. Each chairman and their plan, contact information and report forms if applicable are included. It’s not the “same old-same old.” A tremendous amount of thought, time and expense goes into preparing these for you so please pull them out of the pile on your desk and get to work. The only thing repetitive about the annual reports is that they’re due annually! Give these hard-working chairmen your attention and support. They’ve volunteered to represent you and this information goes all the way to Congress.

Our National President Diane Duscheck is coming to our convention in Great Falls. If you haven’t had the pleasure of meeting her yet, please try to get to convention for one day at least. She’s a treasure. It’s been years since we had a national president attend.

About dues? While we were proactive about the senior dues being increased, we weren’t expecting National to raise juniors too. Beginning with the new membership materials coming out in late August, juniors will reflect an increase. I will pass the amount along when I see it in print myself. It was certainly nice to have a year head start on the senior dues. It helped our treasury quite a bit.

The Department Raffle tickets are slowly coming in and I hope you’re still intending to buy tickets at convention if you haven’t already. We absolutely depend on it to help maintain financial stability and the prizes are great again this year. We aren’t making our goals, hence not making budget. The only way to survive is through fundraisers and dues increases. If you have better ideas present those please?

Last reminder about UNIT officer reporting forms. Those are critical for the preparation of the new department roster. It also contains your NEW DUES RATES, your meeting day and time, along with your officer information. PLEASE INCLUDE EMAILS since that’s the format I use to send the weekly membership report and any information for the Units to stay current with news and changes at both National and Department levels. If you don’t attend our meetings and fail to provide an email, you’re missing out on loads of vital information.

Throughout the course of a normal week I never know what odd items will float across the desk. This week we had two separate instances where Department was asked to intervene in a problem between a Post and a Unit. I’m sorry ladies. We don’t do that and it’s not our place. While we are a family, all families will have disagreements. It’s the nature of the beast. Under NO circumstances are we going to allow American Legion members to interfere with our business. The same holds true for them. We have no rights and no say in the affairs of the American Legion. We exist because of them, however as a separately, federally chartered organization, that’s where it stops. I’m not pointing this out to cause further discord. I want family harmony as much as you do. I’m asking you to stay out of the Legion’s business as they must stay out of ours. Of most concern is your finances. Nobody outside the Auxiliary Unit has a say in your financial affairs. If you have any questions about this, call me – before the lawsuits start.

Let’s get on to our good works. Get your reports in and we’ll see you at Convention. ✪



Jaimie DeBates

**Historian**
CHRIS NELSON

Our National Auxiliary Plan of Action tells us “History is more than artifacts, and/or a summary of events listed in a dusty book somewhere. As we look back on our achievements, let us make history come alive!” The ALA history is contained in newspaper articles, publications, meeting minutes, photos, newsletters, written histories, artifacts, our documents, etc. We do this to honor those members who have made differences in our organization at all levels. History allows us to build a stronger organization based upon those experiences.

Here are suggestions from our Department Plan for ways your Unit can contribute:

- Assemble a scrapbook of recent years’ activities to share at the department convention in June 2018.
- Have a “History Night” where members can share some of their memorabilia or stories from the past. (Doesn’t have to be “old,” just of interest). Invite Juniors so they can connect with their history.
- Create displays and offer to local organizations for temporary use. Highlight historical/important/interesting events in your Unit/Department. Include memorabilia of your honorary Junior presidents.
- Use new technology to create and maintain digital images and records.
- Make an inventory of your Unit’s memorabilia, including organizational documents, written histories, scrapbooks, who donated the item and when, etc.
- Write an article about an important time in the Unit’s history for your local newspaper.
- Contact former Girls State delegates from your communities to invite to sit in or speak at a meeting.
- Create a display of women in your communities who have achieved personal success.

Thank you to all you who have been sending me information on what your Units are doing this past year and I look forward to seeing you in June.

Convention Reminder!

~Current Membership Card Needed~

**When attending Department
Convention you must have your
Current Membership card.**

**This shows you are in good standing.
Credential will be checked at the start
of each morning session.**

**Without a current card, you will not be
allowed into the convention floor.**

**Hysham Unit/Post 92
commemorates Legion
birthday**

On Monday evening, March 5, 2018, the Hysham American Legion Auxiliary Unit #92 served Birthday Cake and Ice Cream to the Hysham American Legion Post #92 to celebrate The American Legion’s 99th year. Pictured from left to right is: Bill Cunningham, Morris Spannagel, Skip White, Roger Bara Dennis Marks and Ralph Sutich.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORKY MARKS.



Call To Convention

TO: Officers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary Units in Montana

GREETINGS

The 98th Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana is hereby called to meet and assemble at Great Falls, Montana June 22, 23, 24, 2018 to transact and consider such matters as are included in this call and any other business which may properly come before it.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers to the ensuing year, electing delegates to the National Convention, amending the Department Constitution, presentation of annual reports, and the transactions of such other business as may be brought before it in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitution.

REPRESENTATION

Representation in the Convention will be by Units. Each Unit in good standing and not delinquent in State and National Dues shall be eligible to representation at the Department Convention. Representation is based up on the paid-up Unit Membership as of the beginning of Department Convention as follows: *[next column]*

Jamie DeBates
DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER

Kathryn Long
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Units having up to 50 members are entitled to two (2) delegates; and one additional delegate for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof.

A Unit, to be in good standing must have a minimum of ten paid members and no indebtedness to the Department.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A regular meeting of the committee will be held on Friday, June 22, 2018 at 8:00 A.M. The first stated meeting of the Department Executive Committee following the Department Convention will be held immediately upon adjournment of the Convention. The term of office of the newly elected members will commence immediately with the adjournment of the Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All Department Officers and District Presidents will be sworn into office at the conclusion of the session on Sunday morning, June 24, 2018 and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committees.

Any inquiries for information with reference to the Convention will be answered from Department Headquarters.

Harlowton Unit 15 Junior Member takes Oratorical

Emmy Martin, an Junior Member of Harlowton Unit 15 won first place at Post 15 Oratorical Contest. Emmy is a Freshman at Harlowton High School. Post 15 Commander Kenton Barnhart presents to Emmy Martin her first place certificate. Photo by Mechelle Holmes Unit 15 Harlowton.



Deceased Members

JANUARY 1, 2018 - MARCH 31, 2018

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 3	Great Falls	Myra Davis
Unit 19	Big Timber	Carol B Deegan
Unit 32	Terry	Alice Pehl
Unit 35	Baker	Donnetta Schaefer Mae Bohle
Unit 41	Glasgow	Pearl Wesen
Unit 42	Townsend	Doris L McCoy Lucia Ferrat
Unit 73	Sweetgrass	Mardell Conway Nell McLouth
Unit 87	Manhattan	Marilyn J Edwards
Unit 94	Stevensville	Audrey Kershner Maxine Johnson
Unit 102	Geraldine	Georgianna R. Johnstone
Unit 105	Department	Harriet Speelmon
Unit 112	Polson	Esther Bocksnick
Unit 122	Opheim	Gladys Hoffman

Nat'l Auxiliary President Duscheck to visit Montana Convention

FROM MICHELLE KANDEL, SERVICE STAR EDITOR: We are honored to have the 2017-2018 National President Diane Duscheck coming to visit our Department Convention in Great Falls. Please help spread the word to all members who would like to meet and listen to her encouraging words on our organization. We hope to see many, if not all of you in Great Falls in June!

Diane Duscheck, of Markesan, Wisc., was elected national president of The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization's 97th National Convention held Aug. 18-24, 2017, in Reno, Nev. Duscheck serves the world's largest women's patriotic service organization as national president for a one-year term.

Duscheck has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she chaired many committees and served special appointments, including work on the ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan and as a member of the ALA Foundation's Board of Directors.

"There's an old great proverb that says, 'Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.' ... Areas of emphasis this year will be projects where we plant seeds to make a difference in the Auxiliary both today and in the future. The first is the [ALA 5-Year] Centennial Strategic Plan and the second is the ALA Foundation Endowment Fund," Duscheck said. Reflecting on the Foundation's 10 year anniversary,



she added, "We have seeds to sow and trees to plant so the Endowment [Fund] can be a healthy fund that will provide support and mission outreach so that the future generations in the Auxiliary will be able to sit in the shade of trees and reflect on the insight of the women who started the Foundation in 2007."

Duscheck has been actively involved in non-profit work for most of her life. She worked at Easter Seals Society of Wisconsin for more than 10 years, where she was responsible for the personal care of physically handicapped campers and was also a cook, and still volunteers for

fundraisers and special events. As part of her professional career, Duscheck taught seventh and eighth grade science for 34 years at St. Eugene Catholic School and Maple Dale Grade School, respectively, retiring from the latter in June 2014. Duscheck earned both her Bachelor of Science in P.E. with Pre-Physical Therapy Option and a Secondary Teaching Certification in Science from Montana State University, and earned her Master of Science in Education from Viterbo University. She holds a Department of Public Instruction Licensure in computer science, science (all), and health. In addition to the American Legion Auxiliary, Duscheck is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, Montana State University Alumni Association, and Friends of the Domes.

Duscheck, an ALA member for 56 years, is eligible for membership through her father Roland Duscheck, a World War II Army veteran, who was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. She is a member of Abendroth-Connolly Unit 282 in Markesan.

Department Fundraiser

Three Top Prizes of \$500!
Plus More!

Tickets:
\$5/ea. or 6/\$25



If you have not purchased your tickets for the Department fundraiser – please send them in. The raffle is open to EVERYONE. Sell to friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.

Even one ticket per month helps the Auxiliary, plus increases your chances of winning. Tickets can be mailed or e-mailed to you by contacting Jamie DeBates, or in your Unit. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

Drawing at 2018 Department Convention in Great Falls.



Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Flooding!

KAREN SEMPLE
DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

By the time you’re reading this there will already have been flooding somewhere in Montana. Record snowpack in some areas of the state produces a lot of water as snow melts throughout the spring and summer to feed our rivers and streams. When spring rains join that melting snowpack or abnormally high temperatures persist with warm winds overnight, flooding is often the result. Contrary to popular belief, you don’t need to live near water to experience flooding. I live at 5,000’ elevation and our home was flooded (14”) in May 2011 by runoff from heavy spring rains rushing down our road and then onto our property. Thankfully, we had few material possessions in our crawl space to lose; however, we then got to deal with the resulting mold infestation. No fun at all! Whether it’s snow melting and/or heavy rains falling, almost any place in Montana can be flooded.

Preparing for a flood

1. **Get this saying in your head: “Turn around – don’t drown!”** The vast majority of drowning deaths in Montana occur in vehicles when drivers feel they can cross moving water on a road. It’s not about the height of your vehicle body or the size of your tires. Moving water as shallow as 6” can lift a vehicle from a road surface. If you see water moving over a road, be smart, turn around, and don’t drown!
2. **View flood maps of your area.** These can usually be found through your county website. Are you vulnerable? Some mortgage companies require flood insurance up front. If you live in a flood-prone area (last flood could’ve been 30 years ago or more) consider and then buy flood insurance if you don’t have it. Unlike home or vehicle insurance, it takes 30 days from purchase date for the policy to become active. There are a variety of coverages and exclusions – go to fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program to learn more.
3. **Gather sandbags.** Find a reliable source and stage them on a wooden pallet off the ground covered by a water-proof tarp (to keep dry and prevent degradation by sun exposure) near the place where you’ve observed water entering your property in the past. Depending upon your available resources, sandbags may come empty for you to fill or be full already. If they’re empty, you need to have a reliable source of sand – and the time to fill them. It’s slow going, so find some family or friends to help. Filled sandbags typically weigh anywhere from 40-60 lbs, depending upon their size. Get them wet and they weigh even more! Sandbags are also “scarce as hen’s teeth” when flooding is forecast or occurring. Be sure to line up some strong friends to help you put them down as it is a physically exhausting endeavor. I know from first-hand experience! Measure where the sandbags will need to be, divide that by the length of a sandbag (the part containing the sand) to determine how many sandbags you will need. Then double or triple that number, depending upon how deep the water may become. Don’t forget to calculate weight before you haul filled sandbags home so you don’t damage your vehicle’s suspension. It may take several trips to get them all.
4. **Gather some simple supplies** together in one easily accessible place in addition to having medications and important papers handy to grab if you must evacuate in a hurry. Do you have non-perishable food and at least one gallon of water per-person-per-day for at least three days? A week is even better. Don’t plan on anyone bringing you food and/or water in the midst of a flooding disaster. What about your pets or other animals? How about spare cash? Do you keep at least half a tank of gas in your car so you can evacuate before the flooding gets too bad?

You can get an easy Emergency Preparedness Kit checklist at ready.gov

5. **Do you have a plan?** Do you have a weather radio? With batteries that work? How about a battery-operated radio, with spare batteries, to listen to the emergency alert station on AM and find out what’s going on. What are you going to do if communications are down and your family is spread in different directions? Typically, in large events like disasters, (think massive flooding spread over a very large inhabited area) phone communication is available to call out of state as local calls overwhelm local phone lines and bandwidth of cell phone towers. Do you have a designated contact person out of state with whom everyone can call and check in? Has that person even agreed to be your point of contact? Do all family members know who that is and have their phone number? Do you have a pre-designated meeting place should no one be able to return home? Are you prepared to shelter-in-place if advised to do so? If you evacuate, the emergency alert radio station will tell you where the evacuation centers are so you can check in – registering doesn’t obligate you to stay there, but it does give your out-of-state/out-of-town family and friends the chance to find out you’re okay without you having to call all of them yourself. And, there will be drinks and snacks to calm your nerves. The American Red Cross has a “Safe and Well” website – <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php> upon which you can register so friends and family (or even your employer) can check to find out if you’re okay. If you don’t have a “smart phone” with internet access, it’s easiest to register at an evacuation center. Registering also speeds up the process to apply for disaster relief should your home become inhabitable due to flooding. Have you had any family drills to practice your plan?
6. **If you’re disabled, elderly or no longer drive,** have you arranged with a neighbor or nearby friend to come and get you out of harm’s way? The government won’t be sending anyone to save you. Flooding and other disasters, when they happen, are chaotic. In Montana, they often happen without much warning. If you don’t have to leave, do you have someone who will physically check to make sure you’re okay?
7. **Donate to the National Emergency Fund (NEF).** It’s all about members helping members during disasters of all kinds. Does your Post work to raise funds for the NEF? The point of the NEF is to get financial help to current Legion members and current Sons of The American Legion affected by a Declaration of Disaster (County, State, Presidential) as soon as possible – in the form of a grant to help with out-of-pocket expenses in the immediate aftermath of the event. Even if you have insurance! Eligible grant applicants’ homes must be uninhabitable as a result of damage from the flood or other disaster to apply. The grant is only for personal out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Every penny donated to the NEF goes directly to a current member (up to \$1,500) or Post (up to \$5,000) displaced by disaster. To learn more about how the NEF is helping members and Posts affected by disaster, go to legion.org/emergency and click on any of the videos or articles. It’s inspiring to see how easily we can help each other. By donating, you can be a force for good in a fellow Legionnaire’s or Son’s life!
- For a Post to apply for a grant, the commander needs to demonstrate how the Post contributed to the community and how the community is harmed when their Post is damaged or destroyed. Providing cheap beers and drinks for veterans doesn’t suffice. How is your Post pivotal in your community life? Is it used as a disaster relief center? Do you host blood drawings? Senior lunches? Do scouts meet there? These are the kinds of things National Headquarters looks for when reviewing grant applications from Posts.

May you be well.

MONTANA JOINS THE 40&8 IN 1922

Grande Voiture Du Montana 1922-2017: La Société des Qaurante Hommes et Huit Chevaux 40&8 Society.

BY RAYMOND K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDANT

Part 3 of 4-Part Series



- The 40&8 Society of Montana is involved in several charitable causes:
- **Child Welfare:** La Societé’s first program established in 1923 was designed to provide care and scholarships for the children of servicemen not returning home after World War I. Today, the Child Welfare program is mostly involved with providing help for any family with children under 18 that have been devastated by some disaster. Currently our efforts touch over 1,300,000 children annually with annual investments of over 8 million dollars. Grand Du Montana participated in the Children Welfare Committee sponsored by the American Legion of Montana.
 - **Nurses Training:** La Societé provides scholarships to people desiring to become nurses under the Nurses Training program. A prospective nurse need not be a military veteran to receive aid under this program. Voyageurs have granted more than 20 million dollars and graduated over 23,000 registered nurses since the inception of this program in 1955. Du Montana has provided three scholarships over the last 61 years estimated over \$30,500.
 - **Youth Sports:** La Societé helps to finance sports programs for children who are disadvantaged in some way, such as through mental or physical challenges or lack of money. People who receive this aid need not be military veterans.
 - **Americanism:** Voyageurs sponsor various Americanism projects including ‘Flags for First Graders,’ respect of the flag, and annual Law Officer of the Year and Hero of the Year Awards. Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Voyageurs, called Deputy Representatives, visit the Veterans Administration hospitals on a regular basis where they give comfort and assistance to, or just visit with hospitalized veterans.
 - **POW-MIA:** Voyageurs raise funds to maintain a scholarship trust fund for the direct descendants of verifiable POW/MIA servicemen and women.
 - **Carville Star:** As one of their ongoing programs, the Voyageurs Militaire offer continuing support of the publication, “The Carville Star,” which disseminates the information regarding research into Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy) taking place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There they have been successful in isolating, controlling and soon, through their research, the developing a vaccine to prevent Hansen’s Disease. “The Star” is published at the former United States Public Health Service Hospital located in Carville, Louisiana. This patient-published publication carries the research works of not only this center, but those of the rest of the world, and is translated and forwarded to 128 countries with a circulation of more than 60,000 in the United States alone.
 - **Box Car Association:** La Societé provides support to most of the charitable programs of the 40&8 through the National Box Car Association.
- Stay tuned for the last installment of the 40&8 series which continues with discussion of the significance of the **Box Car**.
- 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.

LEGION COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

continued from pg. 7

reconvene at 8am on Thursday 21st of June. Hosted, working lunch provided on Thursday. This course is open to any Legion family members with the desire to understand The American Legion based on four pillars and other key aspects of our great organization. This training is ideal for any Post level officers and ones inspiring to serve above the Post level. Only prerequisite is the completion of the new Basic Training.

This training is no cost to the participants beyond the cost to bring you to Great Falls, two nights prior

to Department convention. The Department has not authorized any compensation for this training. Students will receive Certificate of Completion and be part of the Montana Legion College family. Finally, this training assist Department Leaders in the selection of future committee assignments or other positions with in the Legion.

Our Department College is not a substitute to the National American Legion College, merely a bridge that is open to all Legion members. Along with my fellow Legion College Graduates, I strongly

encourage anyone to apply for attendance to the National American Legion College conducted annually the last week of October in Indianapolis with all expenses paid. These applications are due to Department prior to Convention. For more information about application process. Contact our Adjutant – Gary White.

Montana has made a name for its self as Department driven to share and develop our Legionnaires.

Any question, please feel free to email me or call me at 406-431-1803.

Adjutant continued from pg. 2

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.

I would like to thank all members who have donated to the Department address label fundraiser, your generous donations are much appreciated by the Department Leadership.

The 2018 Department Convention in Great Falls is fast approaching, and I hope every Post has made arrangements to send a delegate. Remember delegates are apportioned according to the paid membership of your Post 30 days prior to Convention, **May 23rd**, for this year. Each Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates, plus an additional delegate and alternate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof (51 or more). Therefore, a Post with 151 members would be entitled to four delegates and four alternates.

The Department Convention is the governing body of The American Legion of Montana (the Executive Committee when not in convention), if your Post is not represented at convention then your Post will have no voice in the operation of the Department. If your Post only sends one delegate, but is authorized four, then the one delegate will cast all four votes. Remember you must elect your delegates at your Post meeting and then submit your delegate list to Department Headquarters no later than **June 15, 2018**. Your Post must be in good a standing in order to seat a delegate; good standing means at least ten members and owes no money to the Department.

You need not be a delegate to attend convention, any 2018 paid members can attend and voice their

opinion at any committee meeting or general session, however they will not be allowed a vote. At convention there will be votes on resolutions, committee reports, the 2021 Department Convention site, National Convention delegates and election of Department officers.

As you can see there are many votes that will be required, if you want a say in how The American Legion of Montana operates, it is imperative that you attend convention and let your voice be heard and your vote count.

The 2019 Post packets will be available for pick up at the Department Headquarters office at the hotel in Great Falls starting June 20. If you will not be at Convention your new District Commander will get your packet and is responsible for delivering it to the Post. Post packets will contain your new 2019 membership cards and roster, and all publications and printed material for Post operations. If you want to make other arrangements for delivery contact me at Department Headquarters in Helena prior to June 18.

New District Commanders will receive training and material at this Convention as well.

For more information on Department Convention contact Department Headquarters at 866-793-1257 (toll free).

The Department Education Committee is offering a Legion College training session to anyone who wishes to attend June 20 5:00 PM-9:00 PM, continuing June 21 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. at the Convention hotel.

Department Headquarters will be closed for Department Convention June 20 – June 24. ●

District 4 recognizes Raquel Davis for Healing Wall Wreath

American Legion District 4 presented Raquel “Rocky” Davis of Ronan with a certificate of appreciation. Last September the “Healing Wall” came to Kalispell and all the Veterans Service Groups in the Area were asked to place a wreath in honor of all those lost in the Vietnam War. Upon



Dist. 4 CDR Glen Sharbono presents Certificate of Appreciation to Raquel (Rocky) Davis.

learning that Rocky made wreaths she was asked to make one with an American Legion theme for the ceremony and she accepted as a tribute to her father, a Vietnam War Veteran, she said “He didn’t die there, but we still lost him to the war.” So, a lot of heart went into making the wreath which was placed at the wall on behalf of The American Legion by Commander Mike Shepard of Columbia Falls Post 72, and District 4 Commander

Glen Sharbono of Ronan. To show the grateful appreciation of the whole District and himself, Commander Sharbono had all the Commanders or a representative of each Post within the District, sign the certificate. It took some time to acquire all the signatures. The certificate is signed by 12 Post Officers, in addition to the District Commander and Mike Shepard, and reads as follows.

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to:

RAQUEL DAVIS

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country. For the heartfelt wreath she made at the request of the District #4 Commander to be presented at the “Healing Wall”

PRESENTED BY DISTRICT #4
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

Brasfield awarded ANAVICUS Scholarship

LESLIE OLSEN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CARROLL COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

Carroll Sophomore Environmental Policy and Project Management major, Fiona Brasfield of Mercer Island, WA has received a \$1,500 Reverend Frank Lawrence Harrington (ANAVICUS) Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. The award is in recognition of academic achievement, leadership potential and spiritual conduct in keeping with the best traditions of The American Legion and Carroll College. The Reverend Frank L. Harrington Scholarship was established in 1987 by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States Unit, to honor Father Harrington, National Chaplain of The American Legion in 1947-48. Father Harrington was a spiritual leader, teacher and patriot, as shown by his service to Mount St. Charles College (*later renamed Carroll College*) as dean of men and professor of mathematics. His spiritual leadership and close liaison with Canadian veterans, as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, helped develop a close relationship which led to the awarding of honorary life membership in the Canadian group’s United States Unit to members of The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.



ANAVICUS Recipient Fiona Brasfield (center) receives scholarship award from Dept, CDR Larry Dobb. From left: Bill White, VA Hospital Volunteer Representative, Ft. Harrison; Adj. Gary White; Leslie Olsen, Associate Director, Carroll College Financial Aid; Janice Dobb (behind); Fiona Brasfield; CDR Larry Dobb; and Legion members Dick Ellwein, and Ray Stolp.

Women Veterans Coordinator

BY KIM KAY MACCARTY MARTIN

Happy Spring everyone! I have been attending our Spring District meetings and I am enjoying visiting with so many. I have been going to the Spring and Fall District meetings ever since I became the Women’s Coordinator back in 2014. I do not have computer access to anyone’s information nor do I obtain any information from the Department. I have been trying over the years to gather a data base of women veterans in the MT American Legion and have come to a standstill due to the privacy act. I understand about privacy; I’ve had ID theft 3 times in my adult life and it is almost impossible to get everything straightened out afterwards. I hope though that over the years you have understood that the only way I can communicate with women veterans is by either obtaining an address, phone

number, or email address. Montana is a big state and there is a lot of land to cover so I have relied heavily in the past on District and Post Commanders and individuals in providing me with contact information, so I may be able to reach out to women veterans and assist them in any way I can. The resources and information I have I want to be able to pass on to everyone to make things easier and accessible for all. Therefore, in that regard, please pass the word that there will be Women Veteran Recognition Luncheons again this year in various parts of MT that will be informative and fun. Open to all Women Veterans not just Legionnaires. Registration will be at 0900, lunch at 1200 and closing at 2 pm. Please spread the word and I hope to see many there!

You are cordially invited
COMPLIMENTARY 2018 WOMEN’S VETERANS
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON RSVP

I will be attending the luncheon on:

___ 5 May – Kalispell ___ 12 May – Forsyth ___ 19 May – Billings
___ 2 June – Glasgow ___ 9 June – Missoula

NAME _____ SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Mail or Email RSVP to:

Kim Kay c McCarty Martin, PO Box 2081, Great Falls MT 59403
Or Email: IDIDinND@hotmail.com
Or Call: 701.260.2833

Ronan Post 138 AL Junior Shooting Sports

Ronan Post 138 introduces its new Junior Shooting Sports Team! In conjunction with the Lake County 4-H Shooting and Archery club. Post 138 of Ronan now has a crack shooting team.

On January 20, 2018 the team held its first Postal Match. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then sent to The American Legion for scoring and ranking for awards. The three positions are Prone, Standing and Kneeling. These are timed events and the targets are engaged with .177 caliber pellet air rifles that are usually acquired through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The rifles are either pump or CO2, and must have a velocity of less than 600 fps. And the cost for each rifle must be \$600 or less. This team not only has some great shots, but



Chairman Melvin Quakenbush, Conner Cornwell, Colter Cornwell, Mesa Mckee, Sackett Andres, & Asst. Chair. Richard Tobel.

they are very nice and polite group of kids that participate. Conner Cornwell set three state records last year and has several very nice medals that he has shown the Post. Shooting Sports is less about creating a great shooter and more about the discipline and commitment involved. While the Team awaited the results of their match they attended a tournament on February 10, 2018 at the William K. Harvey Gym.

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Results-Ronan

- Lake County 4-H sponsored by Ronan Post 138 placed 4th as a team with a score of 1837 out of a possible 2400.
- Colter Cornwell, 8th place with score of 500
- Conner Cornwell, 12th place with score of 478
- Mesa Mckee, 14th place with score of 446
- Sackett Andres, 17th place with score of 413

Post 15 awards Certificate of Appreciation

Commander Kenton Barnhart, of American Legion Post 15, presents a **Certificate of Appreciation** to Emilie Whitcomb of the Stage Stop Diner in Shawmut, Mont. Emilie has sold numerous *Cash Calendars* for The American Legion of Montana. Also present were members of American Legion Post 15.



Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana



Tax Cuts Update

What's new?

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center today issued a report indicating that Montanans will receive an average tax cut of \$1,180 under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. TPC projects that over 65% of Montanans will receive a tax cut under the law.

The tax cuts are largely the result of lowering rates, increasing the standard deduction, and increasing the child tax credit, while retaining retirement savings options. In addition to the tax cuts, many Montanans are also benefiting from bonuses and higher wages, and new job opportunities spurred by the new law.

Why it matters?

Opponents have tried to diminish the importance of these tax cuts. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi even called them "crumbs." But I think most everyday Montanans who are paying bills or investing in their children's education would disagree. Having over \$1,000 more in your pocketbooks can improve your quality of life and bring greater financial peace. And plus, I'm certain you can use that money—which is your money to begin with—much better than bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

What's next?

Our economy under President Trump is showing signs of stronger economic growth, higher wages, and sustained job creation. I support making all of these tax cuts permanent and rolling back more heavy-handed government regulations so that we can keep this momentum going.

Take a look at your most recent paycheck. Did you pay lower federal taxes than last year?

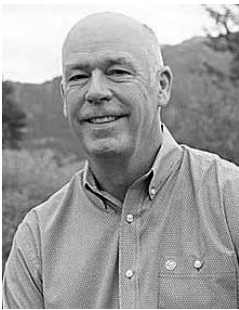
Take my survey here.

Tell me how the tax cuts are benefiting you! <https://daines.eneews.senate.gov/mail/util.cfm?gpiv=2100147864.265945.39&gen=1>

U.S. © CONGRESSMAN

Greg Gianforte

REPRESENTING THE STATE OF MONTANA



Gianforte, Daines, Tester Announce 2018 Academy and ROTC Days in Montana

U.S. CONGRESS – Congressman Greg Gianforte and Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester have announced the dates and times of their annual Academy and ROTC Days this year. The free events will take place in Great Falls, Missoula and Billings and are open to Montana students interested in attending a military academy or pursuing a career in the military.

These events give students and their families the opportunity to discuss the military academy application process with representatives from Gianforte's, Daines', and Tester's offices, as well as officials from the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and ROTC opportunities.

MISSOULA

Saturday, May 19, 2018
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Missoula Armed Forces Reserve Center
9283 Running West Road

BILLINGS

Saturday, May 12, 2018
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Billings Army Reserve Center
1430 Broadwater Avenue

Applying to a military academy can be a long and complex process and requires at least one nomination, usually from a member of Congress. Academy Days give students, parents and educators the ability to meet with academy experts so they can get the information and advice they need to successfully navigate this process.

For more information about applying to a military academy you can visit Gianforte's, Daines', or Tester's websites. If students or parents have any questions regarding these events please contact:

Gilda Clancy: 406.443.3189 (DAINES)
Bruce Knutson 406.449.5401 (TESTER)
Mike Waters 406.969.1736 (GIANFORTE)



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.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I've been very disappointed in the instability and uncertainty at the VA. The chaos of the White House has bled over to the VA and is jeopardizing the VA's ability to serve our veterans.

David Shulkin served our nation's veterans honorably as both a physician and Secretary of the VA. He made progress in improving the VA's delivery of health care and benefits to our veterans. Moving forward, the VA needs a strong leader at the top who will listen to veterans, strengthen the VA, and work with Veteran Service Organizations and Congress to implement bipartisan reforms.

I'll meet with Dr. Ronny Jackson soon to see if he is up for the job and I'll hold him accountable not just for the quality of veterans' health care, but also the delivery of benefits and management of the VA's 135 national cemeteries.

I won't support any nominee who will put the VA on a path to privatization.

And I expect the next Secretary to hit the ground running and work with Chairman Johnny Isakson and myself to reform the VA's community care programs.

Our bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act replaces the VA's seven community care programs, including the Veterans Choice Program, with one,

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER



easy-to-navigate community health care program with one set of rules. Our bill empowers veterans to better choose where they receive health, invests in medical staff to better serve rural veterans and it expands the VA Caregiver Support Program to veterans of all eras.

It's time to end the Veterans Choice Program and cut out the bureaucracy that has delayed and prevented Montanans veterans from getting the care they deserve. Veterans agree, and that's why our bill has earned the support of 26 Veterans Service Organizations that represent millions of people across the country—including The American Legion.

Veterans who were injured or disabled while serving our country deserve the best support that we can give them—regardless of when they served or what battlefield they set foot on. That's why I'm working to expand the VA Caregiver Support Program to veterans—and those who care for them—of all eras.

There is no room for error or political agendas at the VA. Veterans need to be able to turn to the VA with confidence and know that they'll get top notch care and services. That starts with believing in the folks at the top.

As the confirmation process moves forward, I will be asking the tough questions to make sure that the VA has leaders in place who a voice for veterans are, and not special interests. Anything less than that is a disgrace to veterans who have served our nation.

As always, it's an honor to serve you and please don't hesitate to contact my office with questions or concerns.

Navy Submarine Montana Command Team Announced

SUBMITTED BY KAYLA TURNBOW | NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

An experienced and distinguished command team has been announced for Pre-Commissioning Unit Montana (SSN 794). The VIRGINIA Class nuclear-powered attack submarine is under construction at Newport News Shipbuilding and is expected to be commissioned as part of the U.S. Navy fleet in 2020.

The first commanding officer will be Cmdr. Michael F. Delaney. The other members of the command team will be executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Kahn, and chief of the boat, Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael D. Dassau.

On being named the first commanding officer, Delaney said, “All of us who will serve aboard Montana have a deep appreciation for the values, courage, heritage and history of our boat’s namesake state. These Montana attributes contribute to the strength and purpose of our crew as we defend our nation.”

An experienced and decorated officer, Delaney is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Hackensack, New Jersey, native,

who has served aboard both ballistic missile and attack submarines. His shore assignments included key positions on the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear/Missile Defense Policy and the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. He also served as



the Submarine Junior Officer Detailer at Navy Personnel Command and the Submarine Squadron 12 Deputy for Readiness.

Kahn, a Las Vegas, Nevada, native is the second in command and brings unique skills and perspectives to his position. He began his Navy career in the enlisted ranks, serving aboard

a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Commissioned as an officer in 2004, he served aboard a nuclear ballistic missile submarine and three nuclear-powered fast attack submarines. Shore tours included instructing Prospective Nuclear Engineer Officers and serving as a Strategic Planner with the U.S. Strategic Command.

Dassau, a Jacksonville, North Carolina, native, is the senior enlisted advisor onboard and brings along exceptional leadership experience. He served aboard nuclear ballistic missile submarines and nuclear-powered fast attack submarines. His previous shore assignments include Strategic Weapons Facility specializing in electronic system security and instructing at a Submarine Training Facility.

The command team reported to PCU Montana (SSN 794) earlier this month.

According to Dr. Bill Whitsitt, Chairman of the USS Montana commissioning committee, Montanans are eager to welcome the leadership team and crew members to the Treasure State.

“Our citizens want Montana’s first crew and their successors to know how much we appreciate their service to our nation, and that we look forward to supporting the state’s namesake warship and crews for her entire service life,” said Whitsitt.

More information about the USS Montana Committee and progress toward commissioning of Montana’s namesake warship may be found at www.ussmontanacommittee.us

How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: July 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

Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA AT THE BALL PARK

21 JUNE – 6:30 PM



VS



American Legion night at Centene Stadium, home of the Great Falls Voyagers and The American Legion Chargers. Watch a great game between the Billings Mustangs and the Great Falls Voyagers and enjoy an all you can eat meal* for \$20 each adult, \$17 each child. Sign up before 14 June.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

*Meal consist of Hot Dog, Cheeseburger, Brat, Potato Salad, Chips, Cookie, Pepsi Product. Meal starts serving at 6:30 PM and lasts until the end of the 4th Inning.

Send checks to: American Legion Post 3, P.O. Box 1288, Great Falls, MT 59403-1288

Tickets will be held by name at the Ticket Window at Centene Stadium

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).

1st Choice _____

2nd 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

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K \$400 winner for February 2018 was George Bunker of Butte Post 1. George’s number was drawn by Denny Lenoir of Lewis & Clark Post 2 Helena.

The March drawing was won by Pete Olson of Culbertson Post 81, Pete’s name was drawn by Jen Dalrymple of Townsend Post 42. The American Legion Birthday drawing was won by John Angwin of Missoula Post 27. John’s number was drawn by Linda Cousineau of Townsend Post 42.

The April drawing was won by Delores Davis of Livingston Unit 23, Delores’ name was drawn by Department Commander Larry Dobb of Harlowton Post 15.

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

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
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8:00 am to 4 pm Sat
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442-9589



MEMBER POST #2

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www.wolfcreekknives.com | P.O. Box 287
wolfcreekknives@yahoo.com | Wolf Creek, MT 59848

**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 1st 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



**American Legion
Post #3**



Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM
September thru May
at the Elks Lodge
500 1st Ave South
Great Falls MT
(406) 453-8822

**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*

**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



406-586-8400

Americanism

Youth

Defense

Veterans

We Salute Our Servicemen & Women

**Welcome To
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Club 30**

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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 • 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.



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