



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
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Volume 96, No. 3

February — April 2019



Miles City Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl places a wreath on veteran Henry Hogan's grave. Henry was a recipient of two Medals of Honor for his service in the Indian Wars.



Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl places a wreath on the All Branches of Service Marker at the Custer County Cemetery. MILES CITY MT



Colonel (retired) Jen Dalrymple assisted by fellow Veteran Linda Cousineau place a few last wreaths.

HELENA — Around 100 volunteers gathered at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery Saturday Dec. 15 for Wreaths Across America Day and to honor those that served.

Veterans, families and community members placed 756 wreaths across the hallowed grounds after a service at the Fort William Henry Harrison Chapel.

Saturday's event coincides with events at Arlington National Cemetery and 1,400 additional locations across the United States.

Before laying the first wreath, retired Col. Jen Dalrymple with the United States Air Force thanked everyone present for their support.

"Thank you for helping us lay these wreaths. To remember, honor and teach," said Dalrymple.

Organizers say this year's turnout was fantastic and are glad to see so many people pay homage to our veterans.

"You know this is an opportunity for all of us to show our respect for our service members, our veterans, the families. It's a privilege," said Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator Linda Juvik.

Juvik said the event wouldn't be possible without the generous donors, volunteers and support they've received from the community.

Volunteers holding the branch of service wreaths at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Yellowstone National Cemetery.



Yellowstone National Cemetery, LAUREL MT



Montana POW/MIA Awareness Assn. President Layne Cope concludes the Ft. Henry Harrison Chapel Ceremony. HELENA MT



Alan Ashall is the only MIA listed from Yellowstone County and is MIA in Vietnam.

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb 13	85% Target
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 18	President's Day
Feb 24-27	Washington Conference
Feb 26-28	Department Service Officer's School – Washington DC
Mar 1	Eagle Scout of the Year Nomination Due to Dept HQ
Mar 9	Department Oratory – Belgrade
Mar 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 10	First District Meeting – District 7 Belgrade
Mar 13	90% Target Date
Mar 15-17	The American Legion Birthday
Mar 15	Constitutional Essay due to Education Chairman
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Apr 1	Montana Legionnaire May/Jun/July issue cutoff date
Apr 5-7	82nd Annual National Oratory Finals – Indianapolis, IN
Apr 11	95% Target Date, Renewal Cutoff Date
Apr 14	Palm Sunday
Apr 14	Post Data Forms due to Department Headquarters
Apr 15	Government Survey due to Education Chairman
Apr 15	990N due to IRS for Posts using calendar year for fiscal year
Apr 19	Good Friday
Apr 21	Easter
Apr 28	Last District Meeting – District 4 Ronan (Nat'l Commander Candidate)
May 1	Certification of Post Officers due to Dept HQ
May 6-9	Nat'l Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
May 8	100%Target Date
May 12	Mother's Day
May 15	Peace Officers' Memorial Day
May 15	Consolidated Post Report (CPR) Due to Dept HQ
May 19	Armed Forces Day
May 27	Memorial Day observed
May 30	Memorial Day

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K Early Bird Drawing for 2019 was won by Thompson Falls Post 52, Post 52's number was drawn by Lori Perko of Copper City Post 115 Butte.

The Big K \$400 winner for January 2019 was Sharon Hoyt of Choteau Post 6. Sharon's number was drawn by Bill White of Lewis & Clark Post 2 Helena.

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

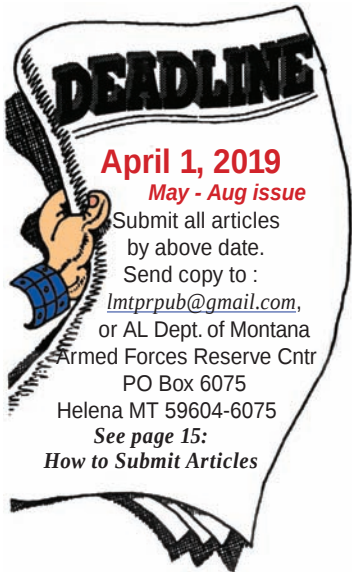
The next \$400 drawings will be in February and March, as well as the \$500 Legion Birthday drawing.

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

The Big K for 2019 is now open for new memberships and renewals until December 31, 2019. *See page 13.*

The American Legion of Montana 2019 Spring District Meetings

MAR 9.. DEPT ORATORY..BELGRADE
MAR 10 ..DIST 7 BELGRADE || MAR 16 ..DIST 6 | DILLON |
MAR 23 ..DIST 10	GLENDIVE
MAR 24 ..DIST 11	LAUREL
MAR 30 ..DIST 2	SACO
MAR 31 ..DIST 1	GLASGOW
APR 6	DIST 9 LEWISTOWN
APR 7	DISTs 8/3 VAUGHN
APR 27 ..DIST 5	MISSOULA #27
APR 28 ..DIST 4	RONAN
Monday April 29 will be the Pre-Department Convention Meeting in Polson for the Officers and Personnel Concerned.	



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LIT Form.....	6
Membership Challenge.....	12
Nat'l Convention Reg Form.....	15
New Lieutenants in Bozeman ...	12
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Post 94	3
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Post 341	12
Post Everlasting & Memorials.....	3
Sen Daines.....	14
Sen Tester	14
Stevi Students Visit Vets.....	5
Submitting articles/photos	15
Team Rubicon	7
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COMMANDER KLOSE

Happy New Year! There are two things that I'm going to address. First, as usual is membership.

This year National Commander Brett Reistad has introduced an incentive program that rewards both the Posts and the Departments. For every renewal from our expired lists (2014-2015-2016), the Post will receive \$5. If the Department gets to 100 percent by May 8th, it will receive \$2,500. If by the delegate strength date, the Department membership gets to 105 percent, it will receive \$5,000. So you can see that there is an opportunity to make some money and also make gains in our membership.

As I write this, there are 16 Posts in 8 Districts that have made their membership goal for the year. Membership numbers are important to keep pressure on our Legislature and members in Congress to provide the support needed for our veterans.

Here in Montana we have 124 Posts in 120 communities. These Posts are divided into 11 Districts and 4 Zones that make up Department of Montana. The Posts, Districts and Department operate under their own independent bylaws and charters.

If you take the time and get out your American Legion "OFFICERS GUIDE and MANUAL of CEREMONIES", in the front under section 1,



Richard Klose
Dept. Commander

Post Operations, is a good description of what a Post is. The Posts are responsible for electing their own Post officers and recruiting their members.

There are times when a Post, regardless of their membership size or size of their community, fall on hard times, either in membership or getting members to step up to be Post officers. One or two can lead by being commander and adjutant, however it is better if more members help. This can be done by having committees, even if it's a committee of one.

Montana has about 20 Posts that are not being responsible to their members as well as their communities, because they either have one or in most cases have no Post officers. That leaves no one local to run that Post. No one that the local veterans can turn to. The running of these Posts then falls on our Department Adjutant's office. The veterans in these communities deserve better and our Department Adjutant doesn't need the extra responsibility. From time to time one or more of these mentioned Posts either merge with another Post or have their charter pulled. This is something that I personally do not support. Why? Because to me we are telling the veterans in these communities that we are abandoning them and that they are no longer important to us. No matter the size of the Post or community the Post is located in, it's the first place that veterans can go to for help and to close a Post makes it harder for the veterans to get the personalized first-line support that they may need.

Every Post has someone whether they are officers or not, that others consider a leader. It is during challenging times when these individuals need to step up and get the Post back on track. Sometimes there is a personality problem between members but personal egos should be left at the door to do what is right for the Post and the community's Veterans.

In the next few months it will be time to hold Post elections. Now is the time to start looking for those people to lead your Posts. After your elections, don't forget to send the officers names and contact info to the Department.

Have a great 2019!

VICE COMMANDER NELSON

I want to start off by thanking everyone that made those contacts and phone calls to reach the 75 percent goal in December. There are still plenty of members out there that haven't renewed or been transferred yet. We just need to get one member at a time and look at it as a success till every Post is at 100 percent. There are still enough DMS members that could be transferred to make 100 percent goal for some post. Let's really make an effort to get them moved over.



Jeff Nelson
Dept. Vice Commander

For those of you attending the Department Convention this year, there will be a hospitality get together at our home on Wednesday evening, June 26th. There will be snacks and refreshments with some local microbrew beverages. We hope to see as many of you as can make it. Also, Polson hosts one of the few beer museums in the state and we have the owner, Steve Lozar, giving a detailed history of beer making in Montana, and showing us his display of memorabilia.

By the time this paper is published The American Legion Oratorical contest should be underway. It always gives me a sense of pride when I listen to the speakers give their oration at the Department contest. So many times, we wonder if the next generation will be there to lead our country and after hearing these speakers, I have no doubt in my mind our country will be in good hands. If you don't mind a drive to listen to some awesome speeches, take the opportunity to drive to Belgrade and listen to these outstanding young adults give us a lesson on the Constitution.

I look forward to this Springs' District Meetings and seeing so many of you again. For every Post that attends the Centennial Convention with a 100 percent membership, I will personally have something special for that Post. May God Bless us all and wishing everyone the best New Year in Montana.

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PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.
COMMANDER - RICHARD KLOSE
VICE COMMANDER - JEFF NELSON
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

Many of you may have heard that I am retiring on April 1, 2020; which is true. If there are any members interested in applying for the Department Adjutant position, there is more information to the right of this column. The deadline for submitting applications is 1 September 2020.



The next four months are when the Post Adjutants will need to get very busy, not just with membership, which is always their concern, but with all the reports and award nominations that will be coming due. Please give them all the assistance you can and be responsive to any request for information they may ask of you.

Each Post will soon be receiving its Consolidated Post Report (CPR); now is the time for the Commanders, Adjutants, Finance Officers and Post members to start gathering the information required, remember you Post can submit their CPR on line if the Post is using MyLegion.org. Additionally, you'll soon be receiving the Post Data Form which is used to report your Post's dues amount and the address where renewals for the 2020 membership year are to be sent.

More ADJUTANT page 13

American Legion Department of Montana Seeks to fill the Position of: Department Adjutant

The Department Adjutant is a term hire position for 3 years and serves as the Chief Administrator for The American Legion of Montana of approximately 11,000 members. The Adjutant supervises one paid person at Department Headquarters in Helena, Montana and is responsible for the efficient performance of their duties. Applicants will be considered by the Department of Montana Adjutant search committee and advanced to the Department Commander for approval by the Department Executive Committee.

The Adjutant reports directly to and through the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee. The Adjutant is subject to the policies, rules and regulations/guidelines contained in the Employee Handbook, The American Legion manuals and guides, the National Constitution/By-Laws, the Department Constitution/By-Laws, and the Department Executive Committee.

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Honorably discharged United States Military Veteran, copy of DD214 required
- Must be a United States Citizen
- Must be a member of The American Legion in good standing
- Undergraduate degree from an accredited University/College, work experience could be substituted
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

- Working knowledge in QuickBooks or related financial software
- Good oral and written skills
- Excellent personnel and stress handling skills
- Supervisory and Management experience required
- Possess professional work interaction with American Legion members/Officers and Politicians at Local/State/National levels
- Must live in Helena 90 days after job acceptance
- Possess valid Montana driver's license
- Applicant must submit copy of driving record prior to use of The American Legion Vehicle
- Air and Vehicle travel required
- Must pass background check, credit check, and drug screening
- Must have a passport
- Must be able to travel to all District meetings (Spring and Fall approximately 10 weekends a year) attend Fall Conference (end of October), Department Convention (end of June), National Convention (end of August) and any other meeting that may come up

Send résumé and contact information by September 1, 2019 to The American Legion Department of Montana, Po Box 6075, Helena MT, 59604 or amlegmt29@mtlegion.org. Also provide a short essay explaining your interest in the position and a brief salary history.

Roger Hagan receives Royal Canadian Legion Friendship Award

Roger Hagan was presented the Royal Canadian Legion Friendship Award from his Royal Canadian Legion affiliate - Coleman, AB/



NWT Branch 9 - recognizing his participation last Remembrance Day as their U.S. guest speaker.

Roger Hagan (cntr), to his left are: Wayne Shaw, District 6 Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion. Joining in the photo is the Montana American Legion contingent (l-r): NEC David Driver, Ray Stolp, Janice Dobb, Larry Dobb (in WWI uniform), Colter Landt, and far right Gary White. Hagan said, it was “such an honor to work with his veteran comrades to the north.”

Canadian Friendship Award to John Mahon



PHOTO BY GRAVEL ROAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Past Department Commander Jim Grosset presenting the **Friendship Award** to John Mahon at the Canadian Legion Alberta Northwest Territories fall meeting at the Calgary Military Museum.

Fort Owen Post 94

American Legion Post 94 members replaced the flag and added a solar power light to the flag pole at Ft. Owen State Park, as part of the restoration and clean up from September.



(l-r): Chuck Burgmeier, (Post Commander) Brad Smith and Travis Gardner raise the flag pole at Ft. Owen State Park.

Post 42 Townsend~ Celebrates Life of Ralph Morand, WWII Army Air Corps

Townsend Post 42 rendered honors at the Celebration of Life for longtime Townsend businessman and Veteran Ralph Morand on Dec. 22, 2018. Ralph took his final flight on November 30, 2018 just two weeks shy of his 99th birthday. Ralph loved aviation from early childhood and at 21, with the war growing in Europe, he was accepted in the first group of 20 for a civilian pilot training program. The program offered the training for free, if he agreed to volunteer for aviation in the US military if and when needed. It seemed a fair trade for a flying enthusiast. Ralph worked hard and got his private license. Then in November 1942, the government called in their note and Ralph entered the Army Air Corps eventually becoming a P-38 pilot in the 429th Fighter Squadron stationed in Warmwell, England. There he flew 65 combat missions over France and flew cover over the invasion fleet in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. He spent his final months of duty stationed in France and Belgium once France was liberated.

Following his military service Ralph had many adventures and business ventures that finally landed him in Townsend where he employed many locals in his Chicken farm. Ralph will be remembered by his faithful employees and by all those Townsend folks who moved chickens for him as teens. He will be greatly missed by all those lucky enough to have known him and by his extensive family.

Post Everlasting



Oct/Nov/Dec 2018

- ☆ ALBERTSON, DAVID, 9/15/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 4-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ART, MICHAEL, 10/25/2017 – Korea – US Army – 20-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CHINI, ALDO, 9/7/17 – WWII – US Navy – 66-year member of Post 71, Fromberg, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ COLLINS, DAN, 11/15/2018 – WWII – US Navy – 21-year member of Post 41, Glasgow, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ COLLINS, LEE R, 12/18/2018 – WWII – US Army – 53-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ COPPLE, CHARLES E, 11/3/2018 – Korea – Branch – 9-year member of Post 41, Glasgow, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ DELLWO, ROBERT, 12/9/2018 – WWII – US Navy – 74-year member of Post 6, Choteau, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ERICKSON, RAYMOND, 9/24/18 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 27, location, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FERGUSON, RICHARD T, 10/10/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 7-year member of Post 63, Condon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FROEHLICH, FRED, 11/27/2018 – Korea – US Navy – 16-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GROAT, ROBERT, 9/20/18 – Korea – US Air Force – 2-year member of Post 22, Wolf Point, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HAWKINSON, ROBERT, 8/16/17 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 3-year member of Post 134, location, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HINES, JERRY, 10/26/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 1-year member of Post 111, Custer, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HOLT, KENNETH R, 9/7/18 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 5-year member of Post 11, Havre, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ JACKSON, CLINTON, 12/15/2018 – Korea – US Army – 14-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KLUNDT, MERRILL H, 11/5/18 – Korea – US Army – 8-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KOLSTE, LES, 9/30/18 – Korea – US Navy – 6-year member of Post 87, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MEYER, BRICE, 1/5/2018 – Korea – US Air Force – 12-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MILEY, LARRY, 9/16/18 – Korea – US Navy – 23-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MORSETTE, JOHN, 11/30/2018 – Vietnam – US Marine – 35-year member of Post 61, Brockton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NEUSENDORFER, ROLAND, 10/16/18 – Korea – US Army – 43-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PAYNE, ROLAND, 12/7/2018 – Korea – US Army – 64-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PETERSCHICK, JEROME B, 9/20/18 – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ REIDY, JOHN, 11/3/2018 – WWII – US Army Air – 51-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SCHOTTELKORB, ROBERT, 11/27/2018 – WWII – US Army Air – 63-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SCHULER, JOHN, 12/8/2018 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 11-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SIMON, ELMER, 10/20/18 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SLETTON, JACK A, 10/16/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 21-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STANFIELD, KERMIT, 11/26/2018 – Korea – US Navy – 18-year member of Post 130, Vaughn, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STEINKE, DUANE, 11/5/2018 – WWII – US Marine – 7-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ TANGEDAL, ELTON G, 11/20/2018 – Korea – US Army – 60-year member of Post 229, Westby, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ THORMAHLEN, GEORGE, 3/19/2018 – WWII – US Army – 54-year member of Post 71, Fromberg, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ TRASK, GEORGE W, 1/19/2018 – Korea – US Army – 24-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ VAN NICE, RICHARD, 4/5/2018 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 14-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WALTON, DAVID E, 10/8/18 – Vietnam – US Navy – 45-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WEISS, RONALD J., 11/27/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 38-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WHITE, THOMAS, 11/16/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WILSON, CLAUDE C., 10/18/2018 – WWII – US Army – 16-year member of Post 119, Billings, 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.



2019 Chaplain Conference!

Calling all District Chaplains, Post Chaplains, and aspiring Legion Chaplains! Plan now to attend the 2019 Chaplain Conference in Polson on Thursday, June 27th, prior to the Department Convention.

The conference will begin promptly Thursday, June 27 at 1 pm at the KwaTaqNuk Resort in Polson and last until 4 pm. You do not have to register for Department Convention to attend this informative and spiritually inclusive training opportunity.

Not only will we get acquainted and share best practices, a wide variety of pertinent topics will be covered and discussed. You are not required to be currently appointed or ordained to attend; however, you **must register by May 31st** so there will be enough materials and seating for everyone.

A refundable \$10 fee (refunded upon completion) will hold your seat. Please register soon!

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Polson!

May you be well.
Karen Semple
Department Chaplain

Chaplain Conference Registration
Thursday, June 27, 1-4 PM

(Please Print Legibly)

Name _____ Post: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ (Email needed to confirm receipt of registration)

Appointed as Chaplain for 2019-2020 Year? (Please circle one) Yes No

Please enclose a check for \$10 made out to Montana American Legion with your registration.

Please mail your registration **NOT LATER THAN May 31st** to:
Chaplain Karen Semple, 34 Mergenthaler RD, Montana City, MT 59634



Post 14 Legion Family Provides Kids Christmas Party and Hope & The Holidays for Gallatin Veterans

SUBMITTED BY RICK GALE AND LEN ALBRIGHT

Kids Christmas Party December 8, 2018 | Bozeman Elks Lodge 463



Gallatin Post 14 Legion Family sponsored a Kids Christmas Party on December 8, 2018, at Bozeman Elks Lodge #463 with support from members of the Bozeman Elks Lodge #463 and the Eagles Auxiliary. American Legion Post 14 provided the Santa and \$500 dollars for toys, food, and crafts. Grant monies from the Elks National Foundation - Promise Grant also helped to make this special event possible.

Post 14 member (Vietnam Vet) Dick Rusch was Santas helper for the kids.



Hope & The Holidays

Members from Gallatin American Legion Post 14 - Kiwanis International - Lions - Marine Corps League - Vietnam Veterans of America all teamed up to provide gifts, food and support to families in and around Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley during the holiday season and all year long.



PHOTOS BY POST 14 MEMBER & VIETNAM MARINE RICK GALE

American Legion Teams Up To Help Veteran

By GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Hells A-Roarin' Outfitters in Gardiner, MT has been raising money every year during their wild horse roundup to provide Action Trac Chairs for disabled Veterans and civilians alike. The last two years they have reached out to Andrew Pearson Post 117 for assistance in finding a Veteran who would benefit from receiving an Action Trac Chair. Last year the recipient was a War on Terrorism Veteran from Great Falls and this year it was a Vietnam Veteran from Billings.



After Veteran Bob Crandall agreed to receive the chair, the good folks from Action Outside met with Bob and showed him what he would be getting. While they can customize the chairs to make it easier for users to fish or hunt or perform any number of tasks, Bob said he wanted to be able to use his chair to better perform his duties as a volunteer for Horses Spirits Healing, an equine therapy organization outside of Billings. Given the opportunity to have something customized to suit him personally, he chose to use it to help others and that sums up what kind of person Bob is.



The chair they demonstrated to Bob was a version that allows the user to be raised to an upright position and Bob really liked that feature. It was just what he needed to allow him to work more efficiently with the horses, the only problem was that feature would have to come at an added cost as it was not included with the initial donation. Hells A-Roarin' Outfitters and Action Outside reached out to

Post 117 to see if they could raise the additional money to get the chair that would work best for Bob and Post 117 set out to accomplish the task.

With the help of Forsyth Post 39 Legion Riders, Andrew Pearson Post 117, Gallatin Post 14, The American Legion Department of Montana, District Eleven, A.C. Buckner Post 11, Treasure Post 92, Lewis & Clark Post 2, and Elks Lodge 394 the mission was completed. Because everyone pitched in to help, and because of an unexpected donation from the Second Chance Foundation, we were able to not only finish paying off the chair, we were able to purchase an enclosed trailer for Bob to store and transport the chair in.

The day that the chair and trailer were delivered, Bob was very excited yet very humble as usual. With a small gathering of people and KULR8 television of Billings looking on, Bob took the chair for a spin around his yard. He hit the appropriate buttons and the chair raised him to the standing position and a smile broke out on his face that went from ear



to ear. It was exhilarating to see him so happy but the best part and the moment that really drove home how significant the whole thing was, is when Bob motored over to one of his best friends and stuck his hand out saying "Hi, I'm Bob!" and shook his friend's hand while looking him straight in the eye. That handshake was followed by a hug and we witnessed the first handshake and hug Bob was able to give in the standing position in over thirty years.

This story likely would not have turned out this way if it were not for the cooperation of a bunch of Legionnaires from different Posts and Districts and our Department Headquarters.

Post 112 Members Deliver Gifts to Veterans Home

BY DOTTIE GOODWIN



Members of Hardwick Post 112, Polson, visited the Columbia Falls Veterans Home on December 7, 2018, to deliver gifts for Christmas. While visiting with residents they were invited to have lunch at the facility and share stories and conversation. The staff at Columbia Falls Veterans Home are to be commended for the outstanding service they provide for the residents there. We recommend every Post make an effort to visit a home in their community and share a moment with veterans sometime during the year.

Post 112-Polson Ace Hardware relief fund

BY DOTTIE GOODWIN



L-R: Gerald Roat, Elizabeth Fox, (store Manager), Jeff Nelson

Polson Post 112 has set up a fund for Veteran's Relief in case of emergencies. Every year for the last four years Montana Ace Hardware has raffled off an item and donated the proceeds to help veterans in need throughout the Mission Valley. So far the fund has generated over \$7000 to help veterans and their families.

When we work together, there is no task too large, and nothing that we cannot accomplish. Thank you to every Legionnaire in Montana because by being a dues paying member, you were a part of this too.

Service Officer, Department of Montana

TIMOTHY R. INGRAHAM
Department Service Officer

Originally the first page of all the news media outlets stated in essence “The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) tells Congressional staffers that they would not repay student Veterans whose GI Bill benefits it underpaid?” The backlash was intense as Senators, Service Organizations and Veterans met with VA Representatives about the above issue. In light of the firestorm, Secretary of the VA Robert Wilkie has since assured the public that each Veteran would be paid their authorized housing benefits for the academic year. Keep in mind, VA rates are computed off the Forever GI Bill, not the Post 9-11 GI Bill. Veterans need to realize that new implemented programs look great on paper, as the program is unveiled, logistical inexactness soon becomes apparent and it takes time to work out the issues. Be patient and continue to monitor your status. Veterans using VA educational benefits for the first time need to save money as it could take a few months for the first VA check to hit your account. Students need to know that any changes to full-time status or transfers to other universities without prior communication could accrue a debt and prolonged waiting for any

monthly financial check to be deposited. Bottom line is to communicate with a VA Education Liaison at your educational institute and prepare to be patient waiting for results.

Please notify one of our local VSO’s for questions or assistance. The goal of our 9 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependents with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

Listed below are the MVAD/ AL offices throughout the state:

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
Miles City	(406) 232-1203
Missoula	(406) 542-2501

*Thank you for your service
to our great Country!*



Oratorical program: Back to the basics

BY CAMERAN RICHARDSON

American Legion Department Oratorical chairmen gathered in Indianapolis Sept. 28-30 for the 20th annual National Combined Americanism Conference. The focus of their program session was “Back to Our Oratorical Basics.” The chairmen took a test that challenged their knowledge of the Oratorical program such as the history of the contest, contestant participation, contest rules and procedures, and more.

The questions for the test were gathered from The American Legion’s High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, “A Constitutional Speech Contest,” Chairman’s Guide brochure. Many of the answers to the questions brought forth great discussion and served as a good reminder about the rules of the contest.

“We create new leaders. That’s what this contest does,” said Tina Burney, discussion moderator and Department of Georgia Oratorical chairwoman. “Citizenship, duty and responsibility is the underlying thing that we’re trying to get them to understand.”

The following are a few highlights from the test answers and discussion:

Assigned topic card. During the contest, the assigned topic card (there are four) is to be drawn prior to the last contestant’s prepared oration. Conference Chairman David King of the Department of Kentucky advised that about six to seven minutes after the last speaker starts, hand the assigned topic to the first speaker. They have five minutes to prepare.

Contest outcome dispute. Following the contest, if a teacher or parent of one of the contestants disputes the outcome of the contest and demands to see the judges’ scorecards, indicate that the scorecards are the property of The American Legion and policy dictates that they are not to be released to the public. The decision of the judges is final.

Contest disruption. If there is a disruption to the contest when a contestant is speaking, like a fire alarm prompting an evacuation, allow the contestant to start over upon return to the competition.

Missed competition. If a contestant cannot compete in the contest at either the post, district or department level for a specified reason, but can compete the following day, conduct the contest as scheduled. And if a contestant competed they cannot do so again. “We had a student who lived on the Georgia-Tennessee line and wanted to compete and did not win (in Georgia) and wanted to go into Tennessee and we said ‘No, you’ve already competed,’” Burney said.

Number of prepared speeches. In preparing for the Oratorical Contest, the contestants need to prepare five speeches – one prepared oration and four assigned topic speeches. “It’s real important that we tell them that they have to prepare five speeches. It doesn’t matter if they have a canned beginning and then fill in the end on the assigned topic. They have to have five,” Burney said.

Early graduates. Contestants who have graduated early from high school are eligible to compete as long as they are not enrolled in college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning.

Placement of judges. Judges should not sit together during a contest. Responses given to this is so they don’t collude, look at each other’s notes and so the contestants have to look at different people in the audience. And contestants should not be told who the judges are and where they will be seated.

Copies of speeches. Contestants may have a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room.

“Some people question whether or not we should change some of the structure. We have been doing it this way for 83 years. And we have been doing it well,” Burney said. “While National Speech and Debate do it one way, while other organizations do it another way, we do our contest in a way that is now a legacy. It is a legacy of something that we are keeping alive.”

Additional tips shared:

- Allowing contestants to have cell phones or smartwatches is not advised. An example given of why is that what if a parent or speech coach sends a text to the contestant on the assigned

Changes to Boy Scouts of America

BY ROGER HANCOCK, BOY SCOUT CHAIRMAN



There are some changes in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

First, the name changes to Scouts BSA in 2019.

Second, girls are now welcome in all areas of Scouts BSA. In the past girls could join Venture, Sea Scouts, and Explorer Scouting but were not allowed in the Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs. As of February 2019 girls will have access to all that scouting can offer. Girls will form their own troops and packs and have the same curriculum as the boys. The Girls will be known as Scouts, not Girl Scouts which is a different organization not associated with Scouts BSA! For further information on Family Scouting initiatives go to <https://scoutingwire.org/3-places-to-get-answers-to-your-questions-about-family-scouting/>.

Third, the LDS Church cut its ties with Scouts BSA as of December 31, 2018. If the Troops and Packs want to continue with Scouts BSA, they will need a new Charter Organization. This need, plus the addition of girl troops and packs, will present a great opportunity for The American Legion to have a bigger impact with scouting.

Finally, Eagle Scout of the Year applications are due to Department no later than March 1, 2019. Forms can be found at www.legion.org/scholarships. Also, Eagle Scout Recognition certificates are now available for download by Department and District personnel. The availability of this certificate makes it easier for you to obtain and present the certificate. Simply go to www.legion.org/scouting/certificates and log in or create a [Legion.org](http://www.legion.org) account to access the forms for the BSA certificate. Once you have entered the requested information, you will be allowed to fill in and download the BSA Certificate of Recognition. Simply print to a colored printer with margins set to narrow.

topic that is pulled, giving them advance notice and preparation.

- While a sound system is not allowed for contestants to use, do let the kids do a voice check so they know how loud to project.
- Timekeeping for the contest is conducted with numbered time cards that are held up on the minute mark. Let them know there isn’t a half-minute warning mark as many expect that.
- Encourage contestants to end their speech with “thank you” or some type of closure so the timers know they’re finished, rather than just wander off or stand there while the time is running.

Stevi Students honored for Visiting Veterans Hospital

BY MICHAEL HOWELL



Bill White, a member of The American Legion, was one of a host of Legionnaires who showed up at Stevensville High School last week to show his appreciation for what several of the students do twice annually, that is, visit the veterans at the State Veterans Hospital in Helena.

“I’ve volunteered at the Veterans Hospital for nine years,” said White, “and that bus load of students from Stevensville always shows up. They may have been a little late a couple of times but they always showed up twice a year. It’s amazing. They are the only school in the state that does this.”

Terri Cury from Volunteer Services said that she has seen veterans break into tears when the kids show up. “For some of them without friends and family, it is the only visitors that they have for the whole year,” she said.

The students who made the trip this year said, “It was a great experience. It’s an opportunity to thank them for their service and what they did. It makes a difference, especially for those who can’t go and see their families.”

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2019

	Year end Goal 2019	Year To Date Total	Year End 2018	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
222	WOLF POINT.....	43.....18.....	35.....	41.86%
41 ☆	GLASGOW.....	82.....82.....	91.....	100.00%
45	HINSDALE.....	58.....41.....	49.....	70.69%
49	HOMESTEAD.....	10.....9.....	12.....	90.00%
55	POPLAR.....	35.....17.....	34.....	48.57%
56	SCOBAY.....	60.....43.....	48.....	71.67%
58 ☆	PLENTYWOOD.....	50.....56.....	49.....	112.00%
61	BROCKTON.....	49.....19.....	28.....	38.78%
81	CULBERTSON.....	95.....67.....	105.....	70.53%
85	BAINVILLE.....	30.....22.....	24.....	73.33%
104	NASHUA.....	14.....6.....	15.....	42.86%
122	OPHEIM.....	34.....27.....	29.....	79.41%
229	WESTBY.....	15.....14.....	16.....	93.33%
	TOTAL.....	575.....421.....	535.....	73.22%

11	HAVRE.....	127.....76.....	98.....	59.84%
48	CHINOOK.....	46.....42.....	47.....	91.30%
50	BIG SANDY.....	26.....22.....	27.....	84.62%
57 ☆	MALTA.....	91.....93.....	102.....	102.20%
67	ROCKY BOY.....	33.....19.....	14.....	57.58%
79 ☆	SACO.....	11.....11.....	17.....	100.00%
88	CHESTER.....	38.....30.....	35.....	78.95%
109	TURNER.....	28.....22.....	22.....	78.57%
110	FORT BELKNAP.....	12.....7.....	12.....	58.33%
	TOTAL.....	412.....322.....	374.....	78.16%

36	VALIER.....	55.....51.....	56.....	92.73%
37	CONRAD.....	56.....43.....	53.....	76.79%
40	CUT BANK.....	62.....38.....	50.....	61.29%
43	SHELBY.....	55.....36.....	55.....	65.45%
69	GALATA.....	36.....23.....	27.....	63.89%
73	SWEETGRASS.....	74.....61.....	74.....	82.43%
127	BROWNING.....	30.....19.....	27.....	63.33%
CN20	CALGARY.....	47.....45.....	47.....	95.74%
	TOTAL.....	415.....316.....	389.....	76.14%

52	THOMPSON FALLS.....	61.....52.....	59.....	85.25%
72	COLUMBIA FALLS.....	98.....80.....	117.....	81.63%
74 ☆	EUREKA.....	47.....47.....	53.....	100.00%
86	BIG FORK.....	57.....54.....	56.....	94.74%
97	LIBBY.....	198.....173.....	189.....	87.37%
106	ST IGNATIUS.....	58.....42.....	54.....	72.41%
108	WHITEFISH.....	66.....58.....	66.....	87.88%
112	POLSON.....	125.....116.....	120.....	92.80%
113	ARLEE.....	32.....18.....	25.....	56.25%
126	CHARLO.....	14.....11.....	14.....	78.57%
129	PARADISE.....	67.....63.....	60.....	94.03%
137	KALISPELL.....	225.....174.....	208.....	77.33%
138 ☆	RONAN.....	57.....59.....	68.....	103.51%
	TOTAL.....	1105.....947.....	1089.....	85.70%

13	ST REGIS.....	53.....52.....	54.....	98.11%
27	MISSOULA.....	361.....284.....	378.....	78.67%
47	HAMILTON.....	121.....106.....	120.....	87.60%
63	CONDON.....	46.....40.....	48.....	86.96%
68 ☆	MISSOULA.....	37.....43.....	35.....	116.22%
83	CLINTON.....	16.....12.....	15.....	75.00%
91	CORVALLIS.....	162.....137.....	168.....	84.57%
94	STEVENSVILLE.....	216.....157.....	220.....	72.69%
101	MISSOULA.....	54.....24.....	58.....	44.44%
124	FRENCHTOWN.....	67.....56.....	70.....	83.58%
125 ☆	DRUMMOND.....	51.....52.....	50.....	101.96%
134	FLORENCE.....	61.....50.....	64.....	81.97%
135	LOLO.....	136.....116.....	139.....	85.29%
	TOTAL.....	1381.....1129.....	1419.....	81.75%

1	BUTTE.....	193.....135.....	194.....	69.95%
2	HELENA.....	748.....693.....	804.....	92.65%
9 ☆	LINCOLN.....	54.....56.....	61.....	103.70%
10	DEER LODGE.....	72.....51.....	63.....	70.83%
20	DILLON.....	185.....134.....	167.....	72.43%
21	ANACONDA.....	245.....201.....	237.....	82.04%
24	WHITEHALL.....	91.....58.....	92.....	63.74%
31	TWIN BRIDGES.....	43.....24.....	37.....	55.81%
32 ☆	PHILIPSBURG.....	10.....10.....	10.....	100.00%
43	TOWNSEND.....	117.....85.....	119.....	72.65%
46	BOULDER.....	23.....21.....	25.....	91.30%
89 ☆	SHERIDAN.....	68.....81.....	78.....	119.12%
115	BUTTE.....	104.....70.....	105.....	67.31%
	TOTAL.....	1953.....1619.....	1992.....	82.90%

AT LARGE				
105	HELENA.....	172.....90.....	101.....	52%

14	BOZEMAN.....	350.....309.....	371.....	88.29%
19	BIG TIMBER.....	189.....138.....	173.....	73.02%
23	LIVINGSTON.....	169.....151.....	179.....	89.35%
25	WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....60.....	68.....	95.24%
30	BELGRADE.....	254.....171.....	254.....	67.32%
65 ☆	ENNIS.....	40.....61.....	52.....	152.50%
78	W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....26.....	30.....	89.66%
87	MANHATTAN.....	169.....115.....	157.....	68.05%
93	THREE FORKS.....	42.....37.....	44.....	88.10%
99	BIG SKY.....	56.....39.....	59.....	69.64%
118	GARDINER.....	35.....30.....	34.....	85.71%
	TOTAL.....	1396.....1137.....	1421.....	81.45%

3	GREAT FALLS.....	259.....193.....	261.....	74.52%
6	CHOTEAU.....	102.....91.....	106.....	89.22%
26	FORT BENTON.....	49.....28.....	39.....	57.14%
51	AUGUSTA.....	49.....38.....	40.....	77.55%
64	DUTTON.....	61.....37.....	49.....	60.66%
80	FAIRFIELD.....	33.....16.....	35.....	48.48%
102	GERALDINE.....	114.....97.....	115.....	85.09%
103	POWER.....	32.....28.....	32.....	87.50%
130	VAUGHN.....	48.....35.....	43.....	72.92%
133	CASCADE.....	31.....29.....	33.....	93.55%
341	MALMSTROM.....	156.....110.....	162.....	70.51%
	TOTAL.....	934.....702.....	915.....	75.16%

15	HARLOWTON.....	104.....92.....	105.....	88.46%
16	LEWISTOWN.....	405.....367.....	467.....	90.62%
18	ROUNDUP.....	71.....50.....	64.....	70.42%
53	STANFORD.....	26.....19.....	21.....	73.08%
62 ☆	DENTON.....	23.....23.....	24.....	100.00%
70	JUDITH GAP.....	67.....58.....	65.....	86.57%
76	HOBSON.....	47.....32.....	43.....	68.09%
96 ☆	ROY.....	20.....20.....	23.....	100.00%
120 ☆	WINIFRED.....	31.....31.....	32.....	100.00%
	TOTAL.....	794.....692.....	844.....	87.15%

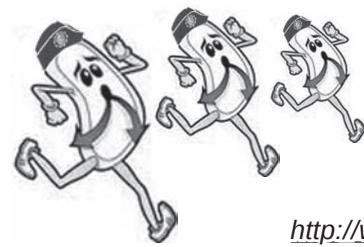
5	MILES CITY.....	81.....57.....	74.....	70.37%
12	SIDNEY.....	43.....30.....	36.....	69.77%
28	GLENDIVE.....	123.....79.....	101.....	64.23%
29	CIRCLE.....	18.....12.....	17.....	66.67%
32	TERRY.....	101.....76.....	101.....	75.25%
35	BAKER.....	136.....91.....	111.....	66.91%
39	FORSYTH.....	97.....75.....	89.....	77.32%
44 ☆	COLSTRIP.....	30.....34.....	40.....	113.33%
60 ☆	EKALAKA.....	15.....15.....	17.....	100.00%
77	LAME DEER.....	11.....3.....	6.....	27.27%
114	FAIRVIEW.....	37.....31.....	37.....	83.78%
128 ☆	BROADUS.....	13.....16.....	14.....	123.08%
	TOTAL.....	705.....519.....	643.....	73.62%

4	BILLINGS.....	484.....372.....	459.....	76.86%
8	HARDIN.....	46.....42.....	54.....	91.30%
17	RED LODGE.....	56.....53.....	63.....	94.64%
34	COLUMBUS.....	58.....51.....	65.....	87.93%
71 ☆	FROMBERG.....	18.....20.....	19.....	111.11%
84	BELFRY.....	39.....32.....	34.....	82.05%
92	HYSHAM.....	26.....15.....	18.....	57.69%
100 ☆	PARK CITY.....	56.....59.....	58.....	105.36%
111	CUSTER.....	59.....44.....	66.....	74.58%
117	BILLINGS.....	190.....109.....	198.....	57.37%
119	BILLINGS HGTS.....	174.....157.....	183.....	90.23%
123 ☆	LAUREL.....	113.....116.....	115.....	102.65%
	TOTAL.....	1319.....1070.....	1332.....	81.12%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2019 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	11,161
2019 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	8964
2018 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	11054
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	80.32%

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Ten Largest Posts

Post.....2.....	HELENA.....	689 MEMBERS
Post.....4.....	BILLINGS.....	371 MEMBERS
Post.....16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	367 MEMBERS
Post.....14.....	BOZEMAN.....	309 MEMBERS
Post.....27.....	MISSOULA.....	284 MEMBERS
Post.....21.....	ANACONDA.....	200 MEMBERS
Post.....3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	190 MEMBERS
Post.....97.....	LIBBY.....	171 MEMBERS
Post...137.....	KALISPELL.....	171 MEMBERS
Post.....30.....	BELGRADE.....	171 MEMBERS

District Standings

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
9.....	87.15%.....	Brad Marking
4.....	85.25%.....	Glen Sharbono
6.....	82.59%.....	Josh Clement
5.....	81.54%.....	Greg Marose
7.....	81.09%.....	Jim Howe
11.....	81.05%.....	Jim Lish
2.....	78.16%.....	Vincent Schmoeckle
3.....	75.90%.....	Randy Flammond
8.....	74.84%.....	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
10.....	73.62%.....	David Ofalt
1.....	73.04%.....	Joe Yeoman

Sons of the American Legion
July 6, 2018

SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2019.....	TO DATE
WOLF POINT #22.....	10.....	0
☆GLASGOW #41.....	10.....	39
☆PLENTYWOOD #58.....	10.....	14
CULBERTSON #81.....	23.....	9
NASHUA #104.....	10.....	0
HAVRE #11.....	16.....	0
☆CHINOOK #48.....	19.....	20
☆MALTA #57.....	10.....	16
☆SACO #79.....	10.....	11
GALATA #69.....	42.....	19
☆LIBBY #97.....	10.....	17
☆POLSON #112.....	10.....	13
MISSOULA #27.....	17.....	7
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	3
CONDON #63.....	10.....	3
CORVALLIS #91.....	10.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	21.....	19
LOLO #135.....	34.....	24
BUTTE #1.....	29.....	0
☆HELENA #2.....	76.....	93
ANACONDA #21.....	33.....	18
TOWNSEND #42.....	18.....	12
BUTTE #115.....	19.....	4
☆BOZEMAN #14.....	51.....	75
BIG TIMBER #19.....	22.....	0
☆LIVINGSTON #23.....	10.....	31
BELGRADE #30.....	64.....	36
MANHATTAN #87.....	27.....	21
☆BIG SKY #99.....	12.....	20
☆GREAT FALLS #3.....	16.....	21
☆CHOTEAU #6.....	16.....	27
GERALDINE #102.....	53.....	42
☆VAUGHN #130.....	17.....	21
HARLOWTON #15.....	22.....	21
LEWISTOWN #16.....	128.....	116
MILES CITY #5.....	11.....	10
BAKER #35.....	34.....	23
☆FORSYTH #39.....	45.....	50
BILLINGS #4.....	27.....	13
BELFRY #84.....	23.....	0
CUSTER #111.....	11.....	9
BILLINGS #117.....	10.....	0
LAUREL #123.....	10.....	3
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1046.....	869
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		





KAREN SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Is Your Pet Ready for an Emergency?

One thing disasters teach many too late is to prepare to evacuate their pets when they must leave their homes during a disaster or emergency. During the massive California wildfires this fall, in addition to the daily horrific death toll, news stories of miraculous survival frequently focused on burned or injured pets – including pets that miraculously showed up in burned out neighborhoods weeks after the fire went through.

If you have pets, it is a given that you love them. So, it follows that it makes sense to prepare them for emergencies. As the FEMA Pet Preparedness brochure says, “Get Ready Now.” Please don’t wait.

1. Create a Pet Emergency Supply Kit: food, water medicines, first aid kit for animals, collar with ID tags, harness, leash, crate or other pet carrier and sanitation needs are vital. Dogs use the great outdoors for their bathroom; however, birds, cats, lizards and others do not. Prepare for their sanitation needs. Be sure to have a picture of you and your pet together in case you’re separated, so you have proof your pet is your companion – not someone else’s. Finally, be sure to put some familiar items in your kit – bedding and toys help reduce your pet’s stress during an evacuation.
2. Create a Plan: What will you do in an emergency? How will you go? Create a plan to get away by more than one route. Don’t wait for an “official” evacuation notice – often, with the unpredictable nature of disasters, it can arrive too late to get out safely. Leave as soon as possible. Many died in the California wildfires due to traffic jams out of their neighborhoods not allowing them to escape. How will you get your pets together and transport them? This is especially important in the case of large animals such as horses. If you go to a public shelter, your pets will not be allowed in. Consider pre-arranging with family or friends to take you and your pets in during an emergency. Other options include hotels that take pets or a boarding facility for your pets. Find out before the emergency if any of these are viable options for you.

Also, develop a buddy system – plan with neighbors to evacuate yours or their pets if one of you is not home when the emergency occurs. Explain your evacuation plans and designate specific locations, one closer to home and one farther away where you can meet in an emergency.

Additionally, talk to your veterinarian about items to include in your emergency first aid kit. If you pet is microchipped, keep your emergency contact information up to date to improve the chances of being reunited if you get separated.

3. Stay informed: some of the emergency preparation you do for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself and your family and pets is the same regardless of the type of emergency. It’s vital to stay informed about what might happen and the types of emergencies likely to affect your area as well as emergency plans established by your local and state government. Go to Ready.gov to learn more.

May you be well!!

Boys & Girls State Delegates speak at Post 15

Gunner Eoff, Taylee Bornong, and Alia Hiner, the Boy and Girl State delegates for Harlowton American Legion Post 15, were the guest speakers at the Post’s Veterans Dinner. Commander Richard Hackett is on the right.



Service is not defined by the uniform you wear. For many military veterans, taking off the uniforms of our Armed Forces does not remove their desire to serve their country.

Team Rubicon members serve because there are communities in need and members have the ability to help.

As some veterans transition from military to civilian life, it can be difficult to regain the purpose, community, and identity that is apparent in the military. Continued service through disaster response allows many veterans to regain that sense of mission-focus, that feeling of being a part of something larger than oneself.

At our core, Team Rubicon is about neighbors helping neighbors. When crisis strikes our communities, we come together to help others on their darkest day.

Why do we serve? Because it’s what we do. Team Rubicon is BUILT TO SERVE.

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Team Rubicon’s primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be they domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

Through continued service, Team Rubicon seeks to provide our veterans with three things they lose after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving with others; and identity, from recognizing the impact one individual can make. Coupled with leadership development and other opportunities, Team Rubicon looks to help veterans transition from military to civilian life.

SERVICE above self is the driving force behind all of Team Rubicon’s operational activity. Our actions are characterized by the constant pursuit to prevent or alleviate human suffering



and restore human dignity – we help people on their worst day. Roughly 70% of Team Rubicon volunteers are military veterans. Many of the skills gained in the military – things like emergency medicine, small-unit leadership, logistics, experience in austere environments – translate well to disaster response. However, military service does not define a Team Rubicon member, nor is it required. Many of our volunteers are pulled from the civil service sector. Firefighters, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, teachers, and mental health providers are among the diverse careers held by TR volunteers.

The only prerequisite required for volunteering with Team Rubicon is a commitment to service. As a Greyshirt, you will be responsible for providing immediate and impactful aid to communities affected by disaster. If you are willing to raise your hand to help those in need, we’re ready to get you in a grey shirt.

Disaster relief requires a breadth of skillsets and experience. Team Rubicon offers various training tracks – from chainsaw operation to heavy equipment to disaster technology – to our members. If you consider yourself “unskilled” don’t worry, we’ll train you up.



To get started, visit Team Rubicon’s website at <https://teamrubiconusa.org> and “Let’s get to work!”

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CASH CALENDAR 2019

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD (Color Ad 27 available)\$100

- Ads are approximately 2” x 1 1/2” in color
- Receive a free 2020 calendar with the purchase of an AD
- 1,200 calendars will be sold
- Send a business card with payment to:

The American Legion of Montana
PO Box 6075
Helena, MT 59602

TO BUY A 2019 CALENDAR \$20

Your name goes into the following drawings when you buy a calendar:

- 248 daily drawings of \$20
- 50 Saturday drawings of \$50
- 5 Holiday drawings of \$500
- 5 Branch Birthday drawings of \$100
- 3 Legion Birthday drawings of \$75
- 4 Holiday drawings of \$75
- 1 Veterans Day drawing of \$500
- 1 New Year’s Day drawing of \$250

If your name is drawn it is put back in the pool for a total of 317 chances to win!!





DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA HONORS VETERANS ACROSS THE STATE



From left, Char Gatlin with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Commander Richard Klose and Chancellor Dan Edelman accepting the designation of the University as a Purple Heart University in appreciation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



Grand opening ~ In addition to emcee Ed McIntosh, Chancellor Edelman and Char Gatlin, there were two former mayors of Laurel, both members of the Laurel American Legion, Ken Olsen and Mark Mace, who participated in the Veteran's Day activities including the ribbon cutting at the new Military and Veteran's Success Center. Montana Legion Commander Richard Klose, also of Laurel, assisted the Chancellor with the giant scissors.



Former Marine and WWII veteran Bill Van Wieren rings the bell signifying Armistice. The 2018 Veterans Day marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.



Chaplain Sue Davidson with Laurel's American Legion Post 123 gives the final prayer.

Laurel Post 123 VETERANS, ARMISTICE RECOGNIZED AT MSU-BILLINGS—COMMUNITY LEADERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE CAMPUS VETERANS CENTER

EXCERPTS FROM KATHLEEN GILLULY ARTICLE, LAUREL OUT-LOOK EDITOR AND MEMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 123

Chancellor Dan Edelman's vision for Veterans at MSU-Billings University began to take root Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018; Veterans Day.

More than the celebration of the annual holiday, this Veterans Day also marked the opening of a new Military and Veteran Success Center on the MSU-B campus and the special recognition of the University as a Purple Heart University.

The campus has long hosted a Veterans Day bell ringing ceremony heralding the end of the "war to end all wars," at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. They have provided support through Veterans Upward Bound, a program to help veterans transition to student life, and other academic and financial aid tools. The Military and Veteran Success Center, which will also be the new home for Veterans Administration Service Officers, will extend those programs and veterans' services to all veterans.

Chancellor Edelman, himself a disabled veteran, has already instituted initial changes to include veterans only and disabled veteran parking areas in front of the Education Building which houses the new Center. The Chancellor said he will also recognize every veteran who graduates and each of those graduates will have a special red, white and blue cord with their cap and gown at commencement.

The celebration began at 10 a.m. in the theater before an audience of several hundred veterans, their families and others who came to recognize veterans. In addition to MSU-Billings ROTC cadets, who presented the colors, the Laurel American Legion Post 123 and the Eugene Sara Detachment of the Marine Corps League presented the service flags at the beginning of this special celebration. Sue Davidson, Chaplain for Laurel's American Legion Post and a member of the Yellowstone National Cemetery board, gave both the opening and closing prayer.

At 11 a.m. on the dot, WWII veteran and former Marine Bill Van Wieren, rang the bell. VFW Post 6774 and the Marine Corps League fired the volley. Taps and echo were performed by MSU Billings student Tyler Honcoop and Retired Air Force Colonel Jack Klein.

Gallatin Valley Celebrates Veterans Day

SUBMITTED BY LEN ALBRIGHT | ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF POST 14 HISTORIAN, DALLAS THOMPSON



Len Albright Emcees the 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony

Veterans Day Services were held at 11 am, 11 November 2018, at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in the Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman along with the ground breaking for the new Veterans Cemetery adjacent to the Wall. Troy Downing, Iraq Veteran and Flight Engineer, was the guest speaker and yes, it snowed the whole time and yet there was a good crowd. So far, Post 14 has raised over \$66,000 for construction along with the City of Bozeman's \$88,000 and construction has started i.e., grading, leveling, etc. The Veterans of Gallatin County are still raising money for the construction of the Veterans Columbarium and we have families holding on to their loved ones' remains (including Mervin Gunderson's) so they can be buried there. Many thanks to our ROTC helpers who assisted with the setup of the sound system in the snow at Sunset Hills Cemetery for our 11 a.m. Services.



Guest Speaker Troy Downing speaks as Len looks on.



Tribute would not be complete without the Bagpipe Mark McCleod. Mark has been piping for Post 14 for 10 years.



Post 14 Honor Guard renders honors with assistance from the Marine Corps League.



JHS student body and local community

Boulder Post 46 2018 Veteran's Day Ceremony

CORY SENA, ADJUTANT BOULDER POST 46 | PHOTOS BY SARAH LAYNG

The National Honor Society (NHS) Chapter at Jefferson High School in Boulder hosted a Veteran's Day Ceremony on 12 November in the school's gymnasium. The local community was invited to join the school body in recognizing and honoring local Veterans. Over 20 Veterans were present and seated in the front rows; a place of honor and importance. A Color Guard comprised of members from the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts presented the National, American Legion Post 46, and



JHS student body and local community



MSG Kevin Williams, guest speaker

VFW Post 3648 colors. Kaela Rosenbaum, NHS President, and Carsen Dodge, NHS member, performed a saxophone duet of the National Anthem. The JHS Choir performed a medley of songs to honor the military. Master Sergeant Kevin Williams and Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Retired) Glenn Rosenbaum were guest speakers. They shared their thoughts on honoring our Veterans with dignity and respect. Lexi Winstead, NHS member, gave a presentation titled 'Fallen Tribute' that helped everyone



Guest Speaker, CW3(R) Glenn Rosenbaum being introduced

understand the significance and symbolism of military honors. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Lewis and Clark Veteran's Council Honor Guard bugler played Taps while the Color Guard retired the colors. The JHS Family and Consumer Science Pro-Start club provided a luncheon for the Veterans following the ceremony. In honor of local Veterans, displays were setup outside the gymnasium to help students and the community make the connection with their local Veterans. Recently discovered local newspaper clippings from World War II were organized by JHS students from Fritz Bieler's American Government class and displayed on poster boards outside the gymnasium alongside a display of personal effects from local residents who are Veterans or currently serving our Nation.

Fort Benton Post 26 Veterans Day in Fort Benton was cold and snowed the whole time but it was heart-warming to see most of the community gather at the park in front of the WWI Doughboy Memorial. A wreath was placed at the memorial and at the Navy memorial behind the WWI Doughboy statues in MT. In the front row is William Paris and CDR Russ Panting. In the back row nearest the statue is KimberlyAnne Taylor (behind the Army flag) and her brother Logan Maxwell wearing an original WWI Army uniform (holding the Marine flag) and Nancy LaChappelle (holding the Air Force flag). Post 26 Legion members also participated in the annual Wreaths Across America in Fort Benton and surrounding area, putting over 200 wreaths on veterans' graves with the help of students from Fort Benton's school. For several years the Post has organized this event spearheaded by Legionnaire Nancy LaChappelle.



Townsend Post 42 held their Annual Veteran's Day program open to veterans, their families, Legion family and the community. There was a good turnout thanks to our speaker Montana Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Chase Ragen, a Post member, and a surprise presentation to Terry Neuman with his many family members. Following the presentations there was a free chili dinner for all.

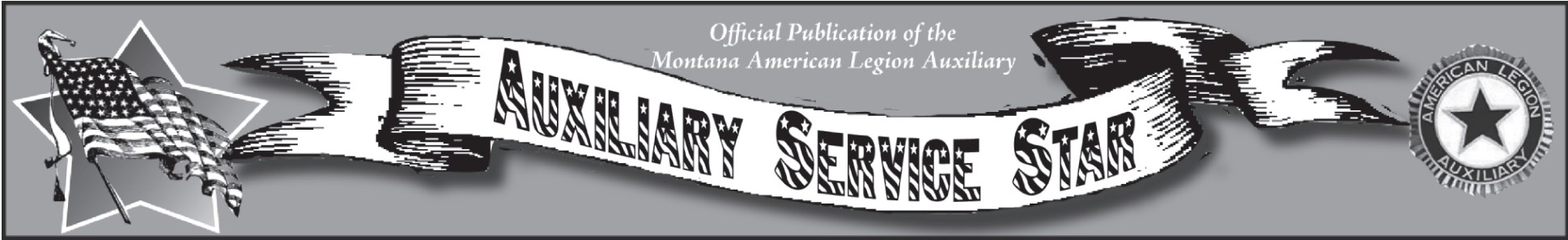
Chase joined when he was 17 years old and picked M1Tank crewman. Fast forward 20 years into his career when he learned his granddad was also a tank crewman under General Patton. In addition, Grandmother Kay Ragen had received her 60-year letter as a Legionnaire. Granddad Charles Ragen, a 50-year member. Chase's wife, Daniela, is an active duty Major Counter Drug Commander for the State of Montana and their oldest son, Devinn is in the Army National Guard and going to school. They also have five daughters.

Terry Neuman in his younger years had been a Legionnaire, but because of failing health he was unable to continue. For many years he played Taps at Post 42 funerals. A memorable number of his immediate and extended family were present, though due to Terry's mother's funeral the previous day. The Post wanted to surprise him while his family and friends were in town with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to the Post and present



him with a pin for those who served in Vietnam. He received the long overdue welcome home from those present. His grandson, Zane, a senior at Broadwater High School, recently returned early from boot camp for the funeral and will go back to finish his training and enlistment into the Army. The legacy of service continues through the generations of these two wonderful families.





President

TERRY KEMP

Dear Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary, Well, the holidays are behind us. I hope that all of you had a great holiday season. I know that I did. I look forward to hearing from you as to what things you were able to do to help veterans have a better holiday. We have a lot of things coming up in the next few months. One event is the 100th birthday of the American Legion. You need to be thinking about how your District is planning on celebrating this. I will be sending out information on what is being planned at different levels of our organization. Please let me know what you are planning.

We need to focus on the goal this year which is fostering Goodwill. We are to be the Ambassadors of Goodwill in our communities and in our state. Our National President Kathy Dungan will be giving out an award to five deserving members who exhibit Goodwill and promote the Auxiliary. There will be one award for each division.

Let us not forget that our National President's focus this year is on women veterans. I think that sometimes we tend to think of veterans as only being men, but there are over two million women veterans nationwide. We need to find out about the ones in our area and see what we can do to help them. This falls in line with membership as well. Women veterans are eligible to be dual members of both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. All of you know how important membership is and you are doing a great job. The next few months we also need to focus on Americanism, Community Service, and Children and youth. These all go hand in hand with the theme of fostering Goodwill. Try to get out in your schools and work with the students. Remember I talked about bullying in the schools. Now is a good time to address this in the school system. See if maybe they would let you do a small program about what



Terry Kemp

the American Legion Auxiliary is all about. You could do a flag etiquette presentation and talk about Americanism. As always, I want to thank each one of you for all you do in your communities to help veterans. All of you promote Goodwill every time you thank a veteran for their service. Keep up the good work ladies. You are what make The American Legion Auxiliary great

☛ Above & Beyond ☛

Secretary

JAMIE DeBATES

Happy New Year Department of Montana! The sun is shining through my window as I write this, and I find myself squinting. What a great way to begin a new year with my favorite people. I hope you saw the Rose Parade with the American Legion family so proudly represented. We're out there and people really do identify with us. So where are all those renewals? Montana is dragging again this year. We're great at signing new members up but we're definitely lagging behind in the renewals. Sound the New Year's horns and get them coming. Remember now that the calendar has changed, all members not paid current will be receiving a renewal notice in the mail. Benefits are impacted if they are delinquent so don't sit on them. Furthermore, the new membership year's materials print in early April so if you want them to be printed correctly, the information needs to be here and not sitting on your desk.

Once again, I'd like to remind you that we are a big organization. We are diverse, and we don't always agree on issues. But we share the common thread of passion for our Veterans. Don't be rude to each other; look the other way and work beyond your differences. I still receive some pretty terse communication at Department. If you're talking to me that way, and your numbers are down, I have a feeling you're not welcoming your members at your meetings. Remember President Terry's theme? Above and Beyond to Serving Our Veterans. Are you?

It's a new year. Let's make a resolution to soften the approach. ☛



Jamie DeBates



Tickets for this handmade patriotic quilt will be for sale at District meetings & at Convention to support veterans in the Polson area.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

5' x 7' quilt made by Sue Henderson, member of the public.

Raffled at 2019 Department Convention at the Commander's banquet.

If you cannot make it and still would love to get in on this project please call Chris Nelson at 406.471.3303 for more information.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE

JEN DALRYMPLE | DIRECTOR | MT ALA GIRLS STATE
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Welcome to the 71st year of Montana's American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program!

Thank you up front for your assistance in preparing for this year's ALA Girls State Session to be held **Sunday, June 9 thru Saturday, June 15, 2019** at Carroll College in Helena.

Delegates to ALA Girls State are selected from girls who have completed their junior year of high school, have an interest in government and current events, show strong leadership abilities, and have high moral character. The girls who are elected by the delegates as **Senators and Governor will receive \$500** in scholarship and the **Lieutenant Governor, \$300** courtesy of the Department of Montana ALA. In addition, delegates have an opportunity to apply for the National American Legion **Samsung Scholarship** on-line at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung>. Paper applications will not be accepted but a copy must be brought to the ALA GS session for judging.

The delegate fee remains \$300 and we have availability for approximately 275 delegates at Carroll College. Units are not required to fill the number of delegate opportunities available to them, but if a Unit does not intend to fill the allotted number, please let the Registrar know as soon as possible as there will be Units who would like additional delegates. If your Unit would like to have extra delegates, or if you have **HOME-SCHOOLED** girls let the Registrar know so that we can maximize attendance and share the experience with as many girls as possible. Please **DO NOT** reallocate your delegate quota to another school or Unit without contacting the Registrar first as vacancies are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

More **GIRLS STATE** next page

FALL CONFERENCE BABY SHOWER

At Fall Conference in Helena this last Fall showed how you love babies and their Mothers! Thank you Ladies for your generosity!



Department President Terry Kemp with Junior member Elizabeth Kandel while at the Department Baby Shower.

GIRLS STATE continued from pg. 10

Delegates are allocated based on a school’s 2017-2018 sophomore girls population:

1-25 girls=1 delegate	101-130 girls=5 delegates
26-50 girls=2 delegates	131-160 girls=6 delegates
51-75 girls=3 delegates	161-200 girls=7 delegates
76-100 girls=4 delegates	201-plus girls=8 delegates

Applications will be accepted January 1, 2019 until May 15, 2019. Deadline for delegate fee refunds is May 15, 2019. If a delegate has special needs, please annotate the application as such and accommodations will be made to the best of our ability. **Please mail your selected and endorsed delegate applications and fees to:**

**Registrar Colleen Chlapowski
845 Delphinium DR
Billings MT 59102**

Colleen may be reached at 406.248.2928 for any questions concerning applications or registration.

Thank you for your time and commitment for Girls State. With your help, we can present another fulfilling and enjoyable event for our Montana girls. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at dymples43@gmail.com or 406.949.3660

National Executive Committeewoman Update Post-National Convention

KATHY LONG, DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA NEC

I had intended to get this article done before but time got away from me, so I am writing for this issue of the Legionnaire. While at National Convention, since I am the new NEC for the Department of Montana, I attended the Post-Convention NEC meeting. The new National President introduced a gentleman, Steve Peck, that spoke on the plight of the female veteran. The reason she had him speak is because she would like The American Legion Auxiliary to take up this cause. The gentleman gave several statistics, but I only wrote down a few of them.

The statistics about women veterans are:

If a woman joins the military, when she gets out of the military; she is 6 times more likely to die by suicide than if she never went into the military. She is 12 times more likely to be homeless than if she never went into the military and when she does become homeless, she quite often has her children with her.

Woman veterans do not want to go to the VA for a lot of different reasons. Sometimes they say, “I have not been in combat, therefore I am not a veteran,” or “they did not understand my female problems in the military so the VA will not understand them now.” Or this one, the worst, “I was sexual harassed in the military and they want me to go to the VA where there are more males to harass me. No way.” Any one of these reasons is not good but we as the Auxiliary have been handed this to help the female veterans.

The first step is to always be on the lookout for a female veteran. Talk with her and see if you as a Unit can help her. The next step is to try to get her to join in an activity that you may be doing – take her as far as she is willing to go even to the step of joining the Auxiliary. Sometimes getting them to talk about themselves takes time and that means having patience to see if they may need more help from the ALA. You never know what might happen as they gain more trust from your conversations.

Steve Peck did say he has a website that the organization he is with operates. It has had over 3500 visits with 500 going beyond the homepage. Only 30 of those visits have ended with the female veteran engaging a staff person from his organization. This means we as the ALA must be open to accepting the fact that the veteran may go slowly forward as we earn her trust. Steve states that he hopes that his website will be listed on the ALA Foundation website; however, National stated they are not sure when that will be.

I will be attending the NEC meeting the end of February and I am hoping this topic will again be discussed so I will have more information to share with you.

★ **For God & Country** ★

Americanism

STACY (MONROE) BEAR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

All Members Excitedly Remembering to Instill Constitution, Flag Etiquette, Patriotism And Never forget our Veterans and the Incredible Sacrifices Made for us and the USA!

See what fun acronyms you or your Unit can come up with!

Submit them in any format at with your Americanism Essays for a nice prize for your Unit.

Also remember:

Mid-Year Reports are due in December

- Americanism Essay this year is “How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities.” and is due to me by April 1. I think the students will come up with some really great essays and ideas!
- All MT Americanism Essays must be judged and 1st place winners sent to NW Division by April 15.
- Please, please, please remember to fill out the cover sheet provided completely; the **cover sheet MUST be with the essay** even if they do their own cover sheet.
- If schools will not participate then go to your local clubs (4H, FFA, Scouts, homeschoolers, etc.).
- Remember to thank the people who assist and remember to get our name, The American Legion Auxiliary, and theirs in any media outlets you can!

VAVS Gift Shop

SANDY RUNKEL, VAVS FORT HARRISON, GIFT SHOP CHAIRMAN

This year’s shop was a busy place for two days. Thanks to all our 20 volunteers who gave 114 hours! These are the members of The American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, and some folks with no affiliation to our organization at all, who just wanted to help. It was a pleasure to have Department President Terry Kemp come for both days of the shop with her help. The 2018 Gift Shop was a huge success! Ten Units donated boxes of gifts and cookies; over 1,000 items valued at \$5,400. Twenty-two Units and Posts sent cash donations which we used to shop for needed item and postage. Sixty-nine Veterans and their families were gifted with items helping them to have a happy Christmas. Special thanks to the Voluntary Services Staff at the VA Hospital: Terry Casey, Amy Claridge and Kerry Patton who were most helpful getting the shop set up.

May you all be richly blessed in the New Year and continue your service to our Veterans and active duty military families.



Ft. Harrison's Gift Shop Elves photo submitted by Sandy Runkel, President Unit #2 Helena.

BACK ROW: Cyndi Routzahn, DeAnna Kimball, Dept. President Terry Kemp, Vicki Mauer, Karen Susag, Leah Ellwein, and Dick Ellwein

FRONT ROW: Marian Collins, Audrey Blomquist, Debbie Crier, Bailey Blaney, Sandy Runkel, Helen Bunkowske



I hope you all had a very, very blessed Christmas and were able to spend time with your family and friends. Our son, Kevin, who is stationed in Sacramento, was able to come home for a few days, so were very thankful for that! Our daughter, Roberta and her family in Wyoming couldn’t come home this year but she welcomed her sister, Sheila and her daughter, Brooke, to come stay with them until they find their new home, so their house was very busy this Christmas. Our other children stayed home with their families, but we did call or FaceTime with them, sometimes I am thankful for technology!

I pray that you all are starting out the new year with a smile on your face, love in your heart, and know how thankful I am to have you all in my life! Please, whenever you can stop into a VA center, maybe if you can take a plate of cookies, or a can of coffee to them. Or just go in and shake a Veterans hand and tell them ‘hello,’ you maybe brightening their day more than you know, don’t be afraid to go ABOVE AND BEYOND! Remember ladies we need to do what we can to take care of our Veterans, if not for them we would not have a purpose.

Ladies, I would like to leave you with this prayer:

*Lord, as we work in our great organization,
help us look beyond the outward
appearances to the person underneath.
Teach us to love and accept them.
Forgive our critical thoughts and harsh
words; replace our impatience with Your
Love and forgiveness.*

*Open our eyes to the needs of the world and
fill our hearts with love. Make us sensitive to
the issues of poverty; racial; sexual and age
discrimination; war and peace;
pollution and environment.*

*O God, help us to recognize and grasp the
opportunities for service that each one of us
might make a difference.*

*Let us reach out and touch someone with a
helping hand. Help us to never lose sight of
Your continual guidance in our lives as we
work for our fellowman. AMEN*

★ **Thank you all for what you do!** ★

Dianne Ostermiller recognized by Gallatin Post 14



PHOTO BY TERRY KEMP, DEPT. PRESIDENT, UNIT 14 BOZEMAN.

On November 13, 2018, Gallatin Post 14 Commander Len Albright presented Gallatin Unit 14 Vice President Dianne Ostermiller, a Certificate of Appreciation for all the work that she does on the Memorial Day Parade. Dianne is a valued member of Gallatin Unit 14. She is always there to help with any event that we have. We were very proud to see her get this certificate.

She definitely earned it.

The Membership Challenge

BY DON BOST, FERGUS POST 16 COMMANDER

Gaining new members and retaining current members are a major challenge for American Legion Posts in small communities. Fergus Post 16 now uses the following procedures and as a result, we have gained substantial growth and retention in our membership.

First, we developed an informational letter that describes The American Legion as the largest and most respected organization of veterans in America. The letter names not only our Post but the Sons of the American Legion Squadron and The American Legion Auxiliary. We list activities and services of the organization as this provides members and potential members with a sense of what we are doing in our local Post and community. A list can include Memorial Day services, flag disposal on Flag Day, Veterans Day events, honor guard and firing party for funerals and other functions, DAV van support, the Highway Fatality Marker program, Boys/Girls State, Legion baseball and/or other projects in which your Post is involved. This letter is also an opportunity to let potential members know about your Post home or club and the services it offers to its members. For example, at Post 16 we have installed a computer that members can use to go online, with assistance if desired, to access VA information and benefits.

Second, potential members can be located in a number of ways through basic legwork and gen-

eral conversation. Resources to reference include newspaper articles such as Veterans Day editions, automobile license plates and local archives. Ask everyone you come in contact with whether he or she is a veteran or know someone who is. Many future members have simply not been asked. Do your due diligence and research to be fully informed about the eligibility requirements before starting to contact potential members. There are a number of eligible veterans who do not think they qualify because of confusion between the policies of the Legion and those of other veterans' organizations. Carry a copy of the eligibility rules when working on membership and contact your Department with questions that arise.

Compile membership packets to give to potential members. We suggest including the following items:

1. The Post's informational letter/pamphlet
2. The American Legion membership application
3. The Legion Care Accidental Death Benefit form
4. A list of money-saving discounts and programs for members of The American Legion
5. A calendar of upcoming events for your Post

As a final note, always keep a membership packet on hand. You may be surprised by who is qualified and interested in becoming a member.

New Lieutenants in Bozeman

Six Army ROTC cadets were sworn in and commissioned as Lieutenants at MSU Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, at 4 pm. In the reception line, Post 14 Adjutant Randy Kemp presented each with a gift followed by Post 14 Commander Len Albright presenting a coin to each, and District 7 Com-

mander Jim Howe with a handshake and Congratulations. Second Lieutenant Robert Eaton, Second Lieutenant Kenton Evans, Second Lieutenant Luke Hamann, Second Lieutenant Troy Meriman, Second Lieutenant Jenna Schaack, and Second Lieutenant Helena Tupper.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK GALE

Women Veterans Coordinator

BY KIM KAY MCCARTY MARTIN

Last year's Women Veterans Recognition lunches were challenging. With a group of dedicated women veterans, we were able to recognize 6 WWII women veterans for their service and present them with the WWII Service Medal in 2018. I would like to recognize those who spent their time helping me last year. Without their dedication and time it would have been an impossible year. Thank you, Dorothy Goodwin, Carol Gruwell, Clara Santopietro, Sue Davidson, Heather McDonald, Linda Johnson, Ruthie Smith, and Nathan Schaldack.

I think the concept of Women Veterans Recognition lunches is not understood very well, so after talking with the women from the women's recognition committee on 30 September, we have decided to change the way we are recognizing women veterans. We are going to be holding two forums; May 11, 2019, in Missoula and June 8, 2019, in Billings. It will actually take more time and effort on the committee's behalf but we are hoping the outcome

will be as fruitful as the first year was successful. We will be recognizing WWII and Korean Women Veterans. If anyone knows of an ailing female WWII veteran, please let me know before they pass away so we can make special arrangements to honor them and thank them for their service if they cannot be present for these forums.

I started a group text for women veterans on my phone to share upcoming events that are held in Montana for women veterans. I've shared three events already to over 30 women in regards to fishing and holistic opportunities which have been well received. It will only be used as a way to quickly pass on information with basic event details and contact information as sometimes I learn or hear about the event at the last minute. Otherwise, I will continue using the Women Vets of MT American Legion Facebook page to circulate upcoming events.

If I can be of any assistance, please call me at 701-260-2833 or email at IDIDinND@hotmail.com

Malmstrom Post 341 Gets Into the Christmas Spirit

SUBMITTED BY KIM KAY C MCCARTY MARTIN, ADJUTANT

On the 30th of November, Post 341 hosted a Meet and Greet where members were able to get answers to any questions they had about their VA benefits, the Community Care Program and American Legion membership. They also had the opportunity to enroll online for their free Legionnaire Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance.

Vice-Commander David Riddle and Veteran Service officer Charlie Dodd were instrumental in clean-up while Commander Carol Gruwell and Adj. Kim Kay c. McCarty Martin addressed questions. Two other Post members made the spaghetti sauce for the spaghetti Dinner. Those Post members that attended had a good time.



For the past 4 years, members of Post 341 bought tree permits to chop down trees themselves near Monarch. The Christmas trees were then given to needy vet families in Great Falls.



Post 341 members Carol Gruwell and PD Lou Santopietro (pictured above) distributed Christmas presents to 24 veterans in the Missouri Manor nursing home in Great Falls. The Post had visited all the veterans to ask what they wanted and were able to purchase their wish list. Every third Friday Post members have coffee and cake with the residents and each Christmas we try to show the veterans residing there that they are not forgotten.

Post 341 members Dave Riddle, PD Lou Santopietro, and Carol Gruwell also donated their time to ring the bells for The Salvation Army. The shifts are split for 2-hour increments for the whole day which this year was December 22, 2018. Not picture are members Charlie Dodd, Jennifer Kauffman, and Dave Sheryak (Dave dressed up as Ebenezer Scrooge) who also help out ringing the bells.



REMEMBERING OUR LEGACY: Montana’s Experience in World War One

BY RAYMOND K. READ, MUSEUM CURATOR/DIRECTOR

Part Two (2) of the Montana Story in World War One taken from Montana In The Wars, compiled by Chester K. Shore for The American Legion and Auxiliary of Montana, Copyright 1977. [Part 1 was in the previous edition of the Montana Legionnaire November-January 2019.]

The Famous “Powder River “ Regiment pp 75-85.

In September 1917, a large draft of Montana men was sent to Camp Lewis near Tacoma, Wash., before the camp was completed. The first contingent of five percent of the draftees arrived at American Lake, Wash., September 8, 1917. The second and much larger group arrived at Camp Lewis on September 21. Larger consignments followed and they were all soon training, many still in their civilian clothes since there were not enough uniforms to go around. The companies and battalions were soon filled and after nine months of intensive training up to and including regiments and brigades, the division left the camp on its way to Europe and glory.

The 362nd Infantry Regiment, made of mostly Montana men and known as “Powder River Gang,” left Camp Lewis on June 23, 1918, on the 7,000-mile trip to the trenches to fight with the American Expeditionary Force in France. The regiment stopped at Camp Merritt, N.Y. where medical examinations were taken, and new equipment issued, then on to Camp Mills, N.Y. The regiment sailed on the USS Princess of Russia for the great adventure on July 6, 1918 and arrived in Liverpool, England, July 17. It went to the Knotty Ash Rest Camp and then to another British rest camp near Southampton from which point the Montana troops were taken to La Havre, France in transports on July 20, 1918.

The 362nd was entrained at La Havre in crowded 40 and 8 boxcars. The Regiment had its first casualties on its first of several train trips in France when another train plowed into the back of its train,

killing 22 men and injuring 63. Thus the men of the regiment saw their first blood, wounds and death that would become commonplace in the weeks to come.

For further training in war tactics, the regiment was stationed around Montigny Le Roi, in Haute Marne. Here the men were given intensive training in the use of weapons, marksmanship, gas protection, etc., which would mean a matter of life and death and success in battles to come. On September 10, 1918, the regiment entrained again in the usual uncomfortable boxcars to Houdlincourt and on September 11, the 3,000 man regiment was sent into the St Mihiel offensive. The regiment was in reserve with the 91st Division, but did come under enemy artillery fire on September 19. The men heard and saw the horrors of war and were indoctrinated for the big battle to come.

The American success at St. Mihiel was complete; but a few casualties occurred while 150 square miles of territory was captured together with 80,000 prisoners. The entire American losses were 300 dead and 1,200 wounded.

After the St. Mihiel offensive the 362nd Regiment was immediately taken to the Argonne sector in French trucks and were within a short distance of the front lines most of the way. They endured their baptism of fire from German artillery during this period. They took over from the French in the front lines and early on the morning of September 26, 1918, went “over the top” after a tremendous American Artillery bombardment and remained in the battle lines until October 12. They were now fully committed to the grand adventure of wounded and dead. America had entered the greatest offensive of the War.

After an hour and a half of slow advance through the woods and facing the strong German objective to take on the wide American front which was defended by the finest troops the Germans had, the Americans were engaged by German machine-gun fire. The Montana National Guard Army regiment swept through the tough woods and steep ravines disposing of German machine-gun nests and snipers as they went but casualties started to mount. Despite caring for the casualties a large number of prisoners were also rounded up.

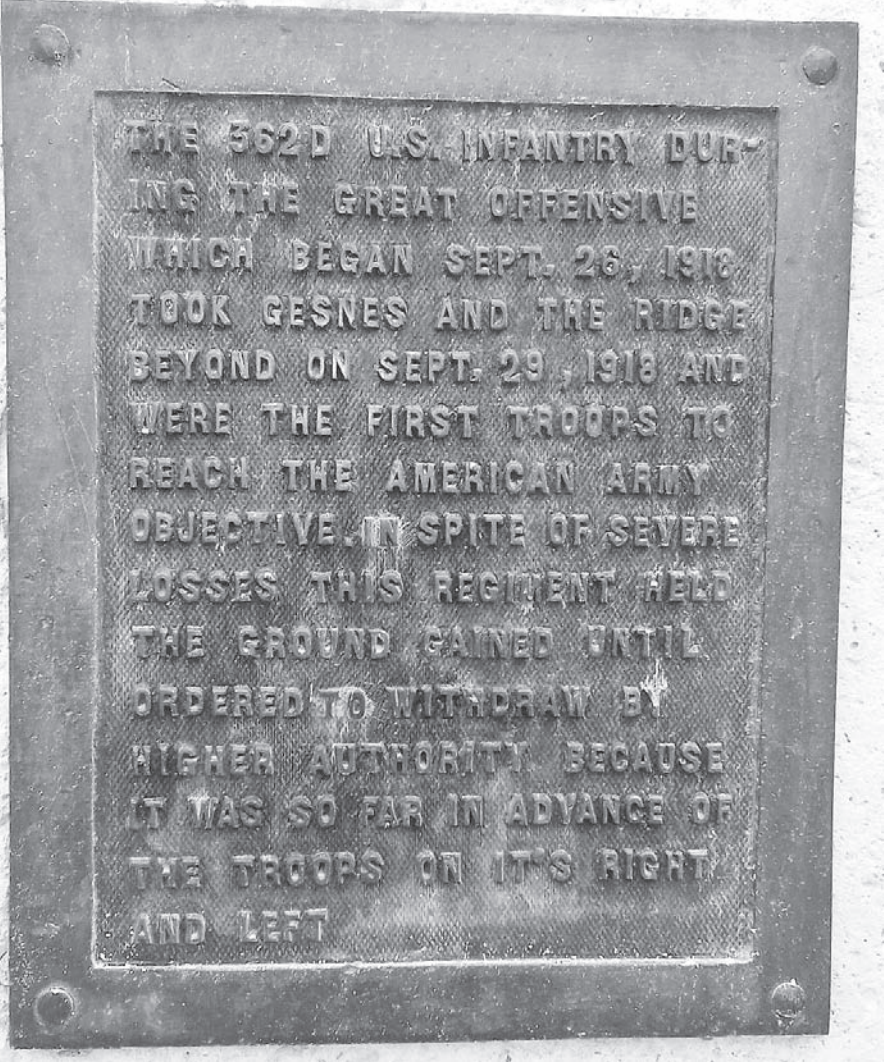
On leaving the Chehemins Woods, the German artillery began to splay the area and many Americans and their German prisoners soon became casualties. The regiment continued to advance and casualties mounted but the German infantry in numbers were not present. The Americans only encountered artillery, machine gunners and snipers.

Pushing its way relentlessly, the Montana regiment forged slowly ahead fighting all day crumbling one enemy defense after another, brushing aside machine-gun nests, uncovering snipers, for all of which it paid a considerable toll in dead and wounded. Late afternoon found the regiment facing Epionville across a small valley, over which sang machine-gun fire from nests in the woods ahead. These were attacked and soon the Germans withdrew. Then night arrived.

During the night the Germans came back into Epionville in strength and morning found the same task of forcing them out again. In the action, American artillery fell short among the fighting Americans which hurt morale and caused confusion. Led by its gallant Colonel John Henry “Gatling Gun” Parker, the regiment braved both enemy and American fire and gained the reverse slope before Epionville. Gradually the Germans were pushed out of the town, but they paid heavily at Epionville.

That night the Germans harassed the Americans with heavy artillery fire including gas shells and high explosives. It was also the night the Germans brought their crack reserves, the Prussian Guards, to try to stem the American advance. At seven o’clock the morning of September 28, the 362nd attacked

More POWDER RIVER pg 14



ADJUTANT continued from pg. 2

The Adjutants will also have to be working on reports to submit the elections of new officers, reporting of top recruiters, nominations for awards for supporting Scouting, best newsletters, etc. You don’t have to wait for the forms to be sent to you; in most cases the forms and the due dates are found at the Department website, www.mtlegion.org.

As you can see the Adjutants will be very busy with numerous other endeavors besides taking minutes at meetings and processing membership, please give your Adjutants all the assistance you can, so they will be able to make all the reporting deadlines.

I would like to thank all the Legionnaires who have generously donated to the address label program in the past. As you no doubt know by now, it is that time of the year again where the Department sends out address labels to solicit donations for American Legion programs. Although, I am sure there are members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail, this program is the second largest source of revenue for the American Legion of Montana, without these funds it would be next to impossible to do what we do around the state. This program is also a great tool to keep our members addresses current; we probably receive more address changes through the label program than we do through Post Adjutants or individuals. We also receive numerous notices of members who are deceased. Without this program we would have additional mailing costs to those who are deceased or who have moved. When you receive your address labels please send the top portion with your address and member number back to Department, whether you donate or not. If you do not send this portion back and you don’t donate, you’ll receive a second mailing, so please send it back so we don’t have to pay for additional mailings. Additionally, if you do not want to receive certain kinds of mail, notify Department Headquarters (toll free 866-793-1257) and we can stop the mail you don’t want.

American Legion Boys State packets will be mailed this month to the Post Chairman that the Department has on file. If your Post does not receive an American Legion Boys State packet it was sent to the high school in your community. The fee for this year remains the same at \$300.00 and the registrations and fees are due by 15 May. Please advise any interested boys to **obtain a copy of their parent’s or grandparent’s discharge so they will have time to compete for the Samsung Scholarship.** They must have a copy of the discharge document to submit an application..



LIEAP and Energy Share Can Help

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

Montana LIEAP office at 1-833-317-1080
Energy Share of Montana at 1-888-779-7589

You can also find information at www.energysharemt.com and <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance>.

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

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

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

POWDER RIVER continued from pg. 13

and gained the reverse slope on a ridge about two miles from the little town of Gesnes. It was here on September 29, 1918, the 362nd Regiment was to suffer its heaviest losses.

THE BLOODY ATTACK ON GESNES

The advance on Gesnes started at 7 o'clock the morning of September 29 and the regiment pushed through the Bois de Cierges Woods. There was heavy artillery fire from the north and the south and two kilometers ahead lay the town of Gesnes. The woods and terrain were greatly favorable to the enemy. Almost every foot of ground was under enemy observation. To advance meant annihilation.

The regiment received the order that the advance must be continued all costs. Supported by artillery and machine-gun fire, the troops of the 362nd Infantry launched a wild charge across the open grounds through the seething inferno. With shouts of "Powder River", they raced forward in thinning numbers like wild men. In an incredibly short time the distance to the town was covered.

Gesnes was taken and the advance pushed to the crest of Hill 285, one kilometer northwest of the town. This was the Army objective and it was reached at 5:30 p.m., September 30, 1918. The 362nd Regiment was the first American unit to gain any American objective in the bloody Argonne offensive. After preparing against possible counterattacks, soon after nightfall the regiment received orders to withdraw to the same line it held before the attack.

No one can describe the feelings of the men when they received the order and realized what it meant: The ground which they had taken at such a terrible cost was to be given up and the blood of their comrades had been shed in vain. Each man felt bitterly that he had participated in a veritable "Charge of the Light Brigade": heroic, but futile.

The withdrawal was accomplished, although some of the outposts did not rejoin the Regiment until the next morning.

As the men fell back in the darkness they gathered up most of the wounded. The night was black and cold and rain that was half sleet fell at fitful intervals. The moaning cries of the wounded seemed to come from everywhere out of the darkness. Here and there a man was found wandering among the dead and wounded like a lost child, rendered so by the terrible shock and horror of the carnage. How unutterably sad and heartrending, how awful is the aftermath of war-swept battlefield- especially if fought in vain! As compared to the number who began the charge, only a handful of men had emerged from the slaughter. Hundreds of dead and wounded were strewn over the battleground with many officers among the fallen. Colonel Parker himself was wounded early in the action and evacuated to the hospital. Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Woolnough succeeded to the command and afterward was promoted to Colonel of the Regiment. The burial party found bodies of over 100 of our men in 200 hundred yards.

Today there stands a humble concrete base in the village of Gesnes bearing a bronze plaque memorial to the 362nd Regiment, which the grateful French citizens erected back in the 1920's. This memorial went through the German occupation in World War II and still stands in the small French village where citizens still observe the bloody battle of Gesnes on

Troop 1206 Eagle Court of Honor

Troop 1206 Eagle Court of Honor sponsored by Helena Post 2 (l-r): Dexter Itner, Troop 1206 Scoutmaster; Richard Ellwein, American Legion Post 2 (Scouting District Rep., Past Dept. Cdr.); Landon Shoquist, Troop 1206 Eagle Scout; John Hunter, Troop 1206 Eagle Scout; Nathaniel Furlong, Troop 1206 Eagle Scout; William Rich,

American Legion Post 2, Venture Scoutmaster. Eagle Scouts Shoquist, Hunter, and Furlong received among their many awards and recognitions, The American Legion Certificate of Recognition from Brett Reistad, National Commander, and The American Legion's Good Citizenship award from Post 2.



Harlowton Post 15



Members of Harlowton American Legion Post 15 were the guests at Invenergy Wind Farm for Veterans appreciation day. Jack Barnhart, PT Smith, Earl Mainwaring, Joan Griffith, Kathy Barnhart, Leonard Stahl, John Black, Ray Pidcock and Richard Hackett.

September 29, 1918 in which many Montana men lost their lives.

The Montana 362nd Regiment's casualties were enormous during the wild charge at Gesnes. Companies of nearly 200 men were cut down to a handful. Captains commanded battalions and Lieutenants commanded companies, so great had been the slaughter. One company had 18 men left out of its 179. A few companies had as high as 75 men remaining. Official records show that the 362nd Regiment lost 1,147 men and 57 officers in the attack of Gesnes that afternoon. They also showed the Regiment ranked ahead of any of the regiments in the 91st Division in terms of ground gained and prisoners taken.

NEXT ISSUE: Heroes Return Home and Join Forces to Establish What We Know Today as The American Legion of Montana.

Sen Tester to Continue Leadership on Veterans' Affairs Committee

Senator Vows to Hold VA Accountable, Support Service Men and Women

(U.S. SENATE) — U.S. Senator Jon Tester announced today he will continue fulfilling his commitment to America's veterans by retaining his position as Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in the 116th Congress.

Tester has represented Montana on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee since 2007 and became Ranking Member in 2016.



"It's no secret there are challenges at the VA. But there are opportunities too," Tester said. "When I came to the Senate I made it my mission to make sure our nation's service men and women are supported in every way, and I'm honored to continue this important work on behalf of the heroes who risked their lives to defend us."

Tester has spent his time in Congress fighting relentlessly to hold the VA accountable, and has worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle to secure major victories for our nation's veterans. During his first term as Ranking Member, Tester got 11 veterans bills signed into law, including the landmark VA MISSION Act, the VA Accountability & Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Veterans Education Assistance Act.

Tester also used his position on the committee to secure critical funding last March to construct the Southwest Montana Veterans' Home in Butte.

Steve Daines United States Senator for Montana

On December 1st, I had the great honor of spending a few hours with forward deployed soldiers from the Montana National Guard near Kabul, Afghanistan. I am grateful for their efforts to keep the American people safe from radical Islamic terrorism, which remains an active threat. I was pleased to share a small taste of home, and a few stories from the recent Brawl of the Wild.

On Wednesday, December 12th, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and I led a bipartisan push to override a bureaucratic rule that has denied our Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans a presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for too long. From 1962 to 1971, the U.S. government sprayed nearly 20 million gallons of herbicide in Vietnam. Any reasonable person would conclude



that run-off drained into the territorial waters. I will continue to fight for parity for all of our Vietnam Veterans.

Throughout 2018, the USS Montana Committee tirelessly advocated for the Virginia Class fast attack submarine that will soon bear our state's name-sake. On Friday, December 21st, I honored their accomplishments in the Congressional Record.



Senator Daines in Afghanistan

Take a Veteran to School program awards Post 3 \$1,000

Nov. 9 2018—Great Falls Post 3 Commander Barney Cooper and Mary Roehr, Director – Government Affairs, Charter /Spectrum Communications Helena.





2019 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
AUGUST 23 – 29, 2019
INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN
350 W MARYLAND STREET
National Convention Reservation form for Legion, SAL & Auxiliary

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

Please reserve the following accommodations for _____ person(s). 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) \$174.43 (this includes tax of 17%)	\$ _____
_____ Double (1 or 2 persons) \$174.43 (this includes tax of 17%)	\$ _____
_____ Commanders Banquet @ \$50 each	\$ _____
_____ Parking Rate – Self \$44 / Valet \$49 per day	\$ _____
_____ Hospitality Room - \$16	\$ _____
_____ Registration (nondelegates only; delegates are paid) \$25 ea.	\$ _____
_____ Parade Transportation - \$10	\$ _____

(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 the Commander's Banquet please advise Department by 25 February, 2019.

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 Polson June 28 – 30, 2019).

1st Choice _____
2nd Choice _____

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JULY 1, 2019, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Please send check payable to **The American Legion of Montana** and this form to:

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
PO BOX 6075
HELENA, MT 59604-6075



How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: April 1, 2019

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, 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
CONVENTION 2019
JUNE 27-30, 2019
Hosted by Polson Post 112



Name(s) _____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL
_____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Registration \$20 X _____ = \$ _____
40 & 8 BBQ Includes 2-hour Shadow Cruise \$35 X _____ = \$ _____
Past Dept. Commander's Breakfast \$17 X _____ = \$ _____
Children & Youth Luncheon \$17 X _____ = \$ _____
Auxiliary Banquet \$25 X _____ = \$ _____
Past Dept. President's Luncheon \$17 X _____ = \$ _____
Incoming President's Luncheon \$17 X _____ = \$ _____
Joint Banquet \$30 X _____ = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

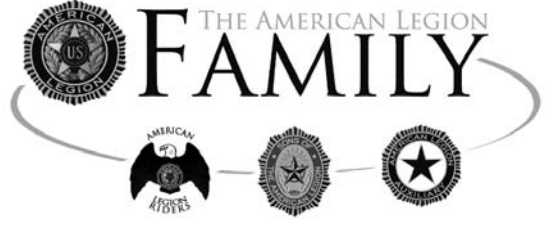
Convention Hotel

KwaTaqNuk Resort and Casino
US Highway 93 East
Polson, MT 59860 406-883-3636
Port Polson Inn..... 406-883-5385
Bayview Inn..... 406-883-3120
Flathead Lake Inn..... 877-276-5766
125 Anchor Way, Polson

Send Registration Form & Payment To
Post 112 Convention
PO Box 515
Polson, MT 59860

Everyone who registers for the Convention by March 1st will be entered into a drawing for \$250 CASH

Questions
Jeff Nelson
C# 406-249-9383
Nelsndairy2003@yahoo.com



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
CONVENTION 2019



June 27, 2019 at 1 pm
Hosted by Polson Post 112

Name(s) _____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL
_____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Entry fee is \$55
for best ball scramble 9 holes 2-person team
Cart and Prize Included



Send Registration Form & Payment To
Post 112 Convention
PO Box 515
Polson, MT 59860

Questions
Jeff Nelson
C# 406-249-9383
Nelsndairy2003@yahoo.com



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$500 and one to win \$1,800? 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, 2019 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2019, \$500 on the Legion Birthday and \$1,800 at Department Convention.

Submit completed form with \$25 Membership Fee!
American Legion Dept of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604-6075

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: \$75 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



Owners
Chuck & Kim Ballard
Veteran-Owned & Operated

8:00AM to 5:30PM Mon - Fri
8:00AM to 4PM Sat
610 Custer Ave • Helena

442-9589

 MEMBER POST #2

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Wolf Creek, Montana

Tom Bennett
Owner/Designer/Maker

www.wolfcreekknives.com | P.O. Box 287
wolfcreekknives@yahoo.com | Wolf Creek, MT 59648

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

Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week

Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday



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 American Legion Club 30

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



31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430

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

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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