



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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November 2017 — January 2018

DENISE H. ROHAN, NATIONAL COMMANDER, 2017-2018

Denise Rohan (pronounced ROW en) was elected national commander of the 2 million-member American Legion on August 24, 2017 in Reno, Nev., during the 99th national convention of the nation's largest veterans organization. She is the first woman to be elected to the top position of The American Legion.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise (Hulbert) Rohan lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for U.S. Army basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. in 1974. She served on active-duty as a stock control & accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Va., until her honorable discharge in August 1976.

Rohan has served The American Legion since 1984. While commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wis., she established Sons of The American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333. She has also served as the department (state) commander of the Wisconsin American Legion

Rohan served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army



National Commander Denise Rohan

National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1-105th Cavalry Squadron. She also served with the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program. Her theme as national commander is "Family First" and her fundraising project will provide temporary financial assistance to needy children of veterans and training for American Legion service officers.

As this issue of the Legionnaire goes to press, National Commander Rohan is embarking on her

tour through Montana with stops in the State. She begins by visiting the Fort Harrison Museum followed by a pasta buffet dinner at Broadwater Post 42, Townsend. After returning to Helena, the next morning she will be meeting with various Montana National Guard individuals at Fort Harrison and with the VA Director and Veterans Service Officer before attending the Fall Montana Department Conference. After the entire meet and greets, speeches and meetings, she'll be geared up for the evening Department Commander's reception hosted by Helena Post 2 and a short trip out to Clancy for dinner at the Legal

Tender. Saturday begins anew with the Past Department Commander's breakfast and a second round at the Department Conference to include joining the Auxiliary session. Her evening will commence at the cocktail hour, transitioning as the keynote speaker during the combined Legion Family Banquet and continue until she is properly Montana tucked out. Thankfully Sunday begins with a more somber God and Country Service and a beautiful drive over the mountains to Anaconda Post 21 for lunch. Afterwards she will be treated to an awe-inspiring tour of the Berkley Pit in Butte on her way back to Helena for dinner and surely much needed rest and relaxation. Her departure Monday will undoubtedly be tough; Montanans have a way of emblazing an everlasting love of God and Country on all who visit here and the experiences are not readily forgotten.

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct 27-29	 Fall Conference, Helena; Nat'l Commander in attendance – Fort Harrison & Jorgenson's
Nov 5	 Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 11	 65% Target Date
Nov 11	 2018 Cash Calendar slips due
Nov 23	 Thanksgiving
Dec 7	 Pearl Harbor Day
Dec. 13	 75% Target Date
Dec. 31	 2018 Big K Due
Dec. 31	 2018 Cash Calendar Slips Due
Jan 1	 Cut-off for Articles for Feb/April issue of MT Legionnaire
Jan 1	 1st Big K Drawing
Jan 5	 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards Due to Department
Jan 5	 Firefighter of the Year Awards Due to Department
Jan 18	 80% Target Date
Feb 1	 Boys State Letters Due

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The American Legion of Montana Member Directory Project is about to begin!

The American Legion of Montana has contracted with Publishing Concept (PCI), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

Watch for postcards and emails from PCI with instructions to update your information so you can stay connected! Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included!

PCI not the big company

www.publishingconcepts.com

COMMANDER DOBB

Thank you everyone for our great start on membership this year. The Department reached the 50 percent target well in advance of the scheduled date. Ennis Post 65 made goal barely two months into the membership year. I received a personal phone call from the National Vice Commander for the Western Region Paula Stephenson to congratulate Montana for our efforts to date. I thanked her, but emphasized that it was the officers and members at the Post level that made it happen. Over half of our Posts have already surpassed the next two targets. Outstanding! However, we do have about 30 Posts that have fallen behind and will need to make an extra effort to catch up. We (the Department) came so close to making goal last year. I really think we can do it this year.

Those that attended National Convention (there were 49 individuals from Montana that attended when the entire American Legion Family is included) had a wonderful time. Because of the Departments success last year, we had nearly front row seats on the convention floor and were near the front of the parade. This was especially important when President Trump spoke and signed The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act on the convention stage, a piece of legislation that the American Legion had pushed and supported in Congress. I'm sure it was the closest any of us have ever been to an American President, regardless of one's political affiliation.

While waiting for the parade to start, I could not help but notice a large banner carried by the Department of South Carolina. They were one of a handful of Departments that finished ahead of Montana. The banner read "Visibility Means Membership." This is a subject I have brought up before. Posts that are constantly visible in their communities don't have to struggle for membership. Veterans often come to them and ask to join because they see what the organization is doing in the community. Post Honor Guards and Color Guards are our most visible and are very important. But booths at county fairs, community events, gun shows, school flag programs, The American Legion youth programs like Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball and Boy Scouts anything that gets you in front of the public is important. They



Larry Dobb, Dept. Commander

have to know you exist. I am member of Post 15 in Harlowton, but live in Great Falls and I constantly run into people that are unaware there is a Post here. We have two. We must be more visible.

My first four months as Department Commander have been extremely busy. I knew the position required a lot of time, but I have a new respect for all those who came before me and what they accomplished. As I write this article I have already spent or have scheduled over a quarter of that time away from home on American Legion

business. It has been a stream of meetings, training sessions, funerals, conventions, baseball games and lots of time on the phone and computer. I have never felt so immersed in the American Legion before. I am thoroughly enjoying myself, although sometimes I wish I was a little younger. Many of these occasions have affected me greatly as I realize the honor and privilege it was to be there representing the American Legion. Many of our Districts and Posts have trouble filling their officer positions. I know some commanders that have been in the position for over a decade, because no one will step up. I encourage everyone to think about accepting or running for an office. Yes, it takes time and dedication, but it also has its rewards. Intangible as some are, they will stay with you for life. Just recently, I was talking with a Post Commander who told me that the reason he joined the American Legion was he wanted to be on the Honor Guard. He had no intention of becoming a Post officer but when no one else would, in his words "someone had to step up." He has my thanks and he should have yours. Everyone should think about what they can do. Maybe now is your time to step up. We all started somewhere. ●

VICE COMMANDER KLOSE



Richard Klose
Dept. Vice Commander

From the history of the Laurel American Legion Post 123, dated 1937; "The District Convention was held in Laurel with 500 persons attending. 257 were fed at the banquet."

What a great time for the Legion. Our veterans in the early days of The American Legion understood the importance of getting

involved in the organization to make it a success and also support their fellow veterans that were in need.

We have started our Fall District Meetings, and are lucky to see 50 or 60 members at these meetings. At the very least, the Post commander and the Post Adjutant should be at ALL District meetings. It is their duty as Post officers to attend and report back to their Post members information that was given to them at the District meetings by Department officers. This is all part of the mentoring process. If Post officers have a negative attitude about attending these meetings, or mentoring their Post members, that negative attitude soon infects the whole Post.

Any Post member can and should attend District meetings. It is not just for Post officers. Posts that attend District meetings on a regular basis are also the Posts that seem to always do well with membership as well. There is a connection; well informed members have more interest in the American Legion and its programs. It also helps when electing new officers. Members with a good understanding of how the Legion operates feel more comfortable accepting a Post and higher officer positions. It is also much easier for well-informed members to recruit new members.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2018, please do so ASAP as this saves National a significant amount of money not having to send out numerous renewal notices. ●

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

The Department of Montana had a very successful National Convention in Reno. We had 19 Posts represented by 49 members, the most we have had in the 16 years I have been Department Adjutant. Of the 11 awards presented at National Convention the Department of Montana received four of them. The Lenker Award for the Top VA Volunteer program, the OL Bodenhamer Trophy for the highest membership percentage on the Flag Day Target, 100 percent CPR reporting and the Culture of Growth Award for increasing membership over the previous year. I would like to thank the officers and members who made these awards possible.



As I write this we have just finished the 4th Fall District meeting and are seeing a trend continue to develop (this is not a new trend). Posts that have not been present for a District Meeting in a long time are still not showing up. These are the same Posts that are having problems doing all the required paperwork to maintain their Post in good standing with the Department, the State of Montana and the Federal Government. These are the Posts that haven't filed the required 990 with the IRS and have lost their nonprofit status, many times without even realizing it. They have not filed their Corporate Report with the Secretary of State's Office, therefore losing their corporate protections. They have not turned in required rifle inventories or can't find their Post Constitutions. I could go on and on. All of these problems could be worked out if they would only come to District Meetings and get the assistance they need to comply. I would ask each of you to ensure you have a member from your Post attend the District Meetings, I know they can be boring and time consuming, but if you just get one new piece of information they will be worthwhile. Also, if you have ideas on ways to improve the District Meetings contact your District Commander or Department Headquarters.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that the membership take an active part in the selection process of our awards.

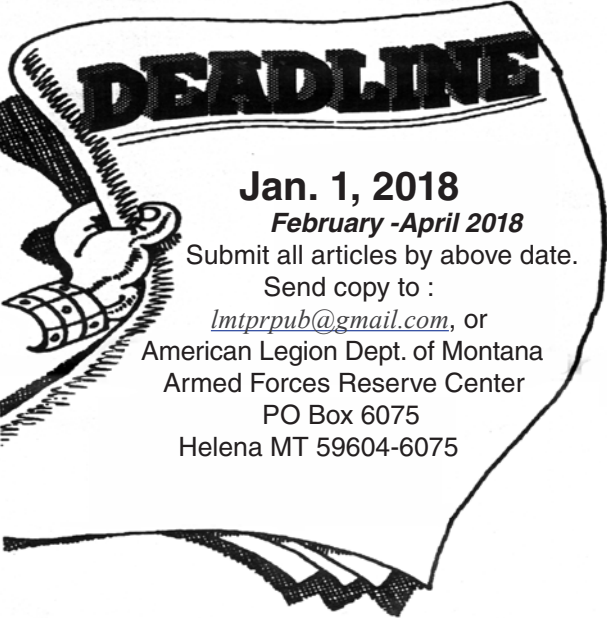
Our Economic Commission Awards consist of nine different awards:

1. Employer of Veterans Award
 - a. Small sized employer
 - b. Medium sized employer
 - c. Large sized employer
2. Enhance the lives of the Disabled Award
3. Employer of Older Workers Award
4. Homeless Veteran Outreach Award
5. Employment Services Award
 - a. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
 - b. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)
 - c. Employment Service Local Office

Please contact Department Headquarters for more information or nomination forms.

Other awards that need attention now are the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Eagle Scout of Year, VA Employee of the Year, VA Physician of the Year and VA Healthcare Provider of the Year; nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters.

For Posts that have Junior Shooting Sports Programs (JSSP) you should be ordering your target sets now for the National Contest, all requests for targets must be postmarked by January 15th, and all targets must be shot and mailed to National with a postmark no later than 1 February 2018.



DEADLINE

Jan. 1, 2018
February -April 2018

Submit all articles by above date.
Send copy to :
lmtprpub@gmail.com, or
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Armed Forces Reserve Center
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Helena MT 59604-6075

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IN THE MONTHS OF:
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER
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PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

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

Fort Harrison VA Cemetery Gets a Trim

BY JEN DALRYMPLE

Volunteers from around the state gathered in the rain at Fort Henry Harrison’s State Cemetery with joyful spirit, safety gear, and tree trimming and planting equipment to participate in the annual “Saluting Branches” Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance; an industry-wide Arboriculture initiative to express appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices and services our military forces have provided for our nation.

This year professional tree care specialists and volunteers from as far away as Miles City and

Libby participated in giving the VA ground’s and Cemetery’s trees a nice pruning, taking out dead-wood, removing dead trees and planting ten new saplings around the columbarium. Legionnaires and other fellow veterans were counted among the 40+ volunteers who took a weekday to come out and spruce up one of our final resting places for Veterans and their family members. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and businesses that gave of themselves to make this a very successful event. For information on next year’s Saluting Branches events, visit <https://www.saluting-branches.org>.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRUDIE SOUTHWICK



Editor’s Notes

JEN DALRYMPLE, EDITOR | THE MONTANA LEGIONNAIRE | LMTPRPUB@GMAIL.COM | (406) 949-3660

By way of introduction for those that have not heard of me, I am Jen Dalrymple current Commander of Broadwater Post 42, Townsend and your new *Montana Legionnaire* editor. I am honored to bring this paper to you as it holds many exciting and interesting events that our Posts and members are hosting or participating in around our state and nation. You will see a slightly different focus than issues past. Our National Commander, Denise Rohan, has stressed the importance of American Legion (Family) name recognition, credit for what our members are doing and our impact throughout our communities. In this regard, I have taken liberties to alter the Montana Legionnaire to highlight what all of you do specifically to support Veterans, their families and the communities we reside in. It’s about actions and impact.

As the new editor, I have had the wonderful privilege of reading and seeing through pictures the tremendous amount of activities going on around our state and it makes me so proud to be able to share them with all of you. Unfortunately, some of the pictures and accompanying captions submitted for this edition could not be used because of poor quality or incompatible formatting.

I want to get your stories and photos out there but I NEED YOUR HELP to do so. When you send me, or Gary White, an article and photo, please, please be sure to send the photo as a separate .JPG attachment to your email. DO NOT try to format it with text additions or captions, as in a .PDF file. We do not have the necessary software to disaggregate a .PDF and typically the photo is very pixelated (low resolution) and will not be clear enough to use. Just add the caption verbiage in the email text and attach the best quality, highest resolution photo you can. That way, we will all be able to see and share your story.

I look forward to receiving many more examples of the activities you and your Post/District are hosting or participating in, so if you have any questions or concerns about a submittal, please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number above.

Many thanks and I hope you truly enjoy your *Legionnaire*.

Post Everlasting



July/August/September 2017

- ☆ BENTON, GLEN, 6/23/17 – Korea – US Air - 22-year member of Post 16, Lewistown
- ☆ BENUSA, REYNOLD, 7/16/17 – WWII – unknown – 18-year member of Post 93, Three Forks
- ☆ BLOCK, DAN, 2/5/16 – Vietnam – US Marine - 11-year member of Post 115, Butte
- ☆ BOYD, LOWELL J. SR, 1/25/17 – Vietnam – US Marine – 17-year member of Post 61, Brockton
- ☆ BUCKINGHAM, DALE G., 6/28/17 – Korea – US Navy - 2-year member of Post 20, Dillon
- ☆ BURT, MIKE, 6/8/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 3-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
- ☆ BYRNE, TOM, 3/27/17 – WWII – US Army – 53-year member of Post 52, Denton
- ☆ CAMPBELL, JAMES, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army - 32-year member of Post 94, Stevensville
- ☆ CLEMENT, GLEN N., DOD – Korea – US Army – 9-year member of Post 14, Bozeman
- ☆ CROWE, ROBERT, 7/31/17 – WWII – US Army – 26-year member of Post 5, Miles City
- ☆ DENNY, ORRIAN F, 7/23/17 – Vietnam – US Marine – 34-year member of Post 61, Brockton
- ☆ DEWOLF, WILLIAM, 9/3/17 – WWII – US Navy – 32-year member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ DEZELL, WALTER, 5/17/17 – Korea – US Army – 3-year member of Post 47, Hamilton
- ☆ EIDE, HAROLD N, 6/20/17 – WWII – US Navy - 19-year member of Post 23, Livingston
- ☆ ELHARD, WAYNE, 7/13/17 – Vietnam – unknown – 6-year member of Post 56, Scobey
- ☆ ELLIOTT, ROBERT, 8/27/17 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ ENGLISH, BERT REAY, 9/1/17 – Vietnam – US Air – 26-year member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ FROST, CHARLES, 2/16/17 – Korea – US Marine – 28-year member of Post 41, Glasgow
- ☆ GOOD-BIRD, GERALD H, 4/18/17 – Korea – US Army – 10-year member of Post 61, Brockton
- ☆ GOOSEY, DENNIS, 3/23/17 –US Navy – 18-year member of Post 19, Big Timber
- ☆ GRUBER, ROBERT, 7/19/17 – WWII – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 97, Libby
- ☆ HAMANN, DUWAYNE, 6/16/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 39-year member of Post 97, Libby
- ☆ HANCOCK, SHIRLEY, 6/26/17 – WWII – US Army - 37-year member of Post 89, Sheridan
- ☆ HANSHA, ROBERT, 4/17/17 – WWII – Unknown – 55-year member of Post 34, Columbus
- ☆ HECKER, HENRY, 8/4/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 13-year member of Post 93, Three Forks
- ☆ JOHNSON, ELVIN, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army - 9-year member of Post 109, Turner
- ☆ JOHNSON, THOMAS, 6/15/17 – WWII – US Navy - 25-year member of Post 37, Conrad
- ☆ KOVACICH, DONALD, 8/10/17 – Vietnam – Unknown – 3-year member of Post 16, Lewistown
- ☆ LAPP, DAVID, 5/20/17 – Vietnam – US Marine – 13-year member of Post 32, Terry
- ☆ LUJAN, MIGUEL, 7/12/17 – WWII – US Army – 8-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
- ☆ MEYERS, HUGH, 4/24/17 – Korea – US Army – 61-year member of Post 229, Paradise
- ☆ MITCHELL, DEREK, 4/21/17– Korea – US Air – 26-year member of Post 47, Hamilton
- ☆ MOE, SKULASON, 6/18/17 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 108, Whitefish
- ☆ OLSON, CLARENCE, 4/2/17 – WWII – US Army - 72-year member of Post 109, Turner
- ☆ OLSON, GLEN, 3/10/17 – WWII – US Army – 72-year member of Post 109, Turner
- ☆ PAVLAK, PAUL, 6/25/17 – Korea – US Air - 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown
- ☆ PERSON, DALE, 8/25/17 – Vietnam – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 2, Helena
- ☆ PINGER, CHARLES, 3/21/17 – Vietnam – unknown– 31-year member of Post 15, Harlowton
- ☆ ROBERTSON, HARVEY, 5/9/16 – Korea – US Marine - 5-year member of Post 115, Butte
- ☆ ROGERS, GEORGE, 8/10/17 – Vietnam – US Marine - 11-year member of Post 119, Billings
- ☆ ROSENBERG, FRANK, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army – 73-year member of Post 15, Harlowton
- ☆ SALVO, JOE, 7/23/17 – Unknown – - 63-year member of Post 20, Dillon
- ☆ SINNICKS, PAULA, 8/17/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post CN20, Calgary
- ☆ SOUTH, BILLY G., 3/15/2017 – WWII – unknown– 27-year member of Post 15, Harlowton
- ☆ SULLIVAN, LARRY, 7/10/17 – Korea – US Army - 56-year member of Post 42, Townsend
- ☆ SWEANEY, JAMES, 7/17/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 30-year member of Post 118, Gardiner
- ☆ THOMPSON, GALE, 7/13/17 – Korea – unknown – 43-year member of Post 93, Three Forks
- ☆ TURNER, KENNETH, 8/3/17 – WWII – US Army – 71-year member of Post 76, Hobson
- ☆ WIEDERRICH, ALVIN, 6/7/17 – WWII – US Army - 64-year member of Post 12, Sidney
- ☆ WOOD, CHARLES, 8/28/17 – WWII – US Army – 7-year member of Post CN20, Calgary

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



DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER

2018



		Year end Goal 2018	Year To Date Total	Year End 2017	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1					
22	WOLF POINT.....	44.....	15.....	32.....	34.09%
41	GLASGOW	82.....	60.....	83.....	73.17%
45	HINSDALE	58.....	37.....	56.....	63.79%
49 ☆	HOMESTEAD	10.....	10.....	11.....	100.00%
55	POPLAR	35.....	5.....	32.....	14.29%
56	SCOBAY	60.....	35.....	50.....	58.33%
58	PLENTYWOOD	50.....	29.....	43.....	58.00%
61	BROCKTON.....	49.....	13.....	31.....	26.53%
81	CULBERTSON	95.....	80.....	97.....	84.21%
85	BAINVILLE	30.....	20.....	25.....	66.67%
104	NASHUA	14.....	5.....	16.....	35.71%
122	OPHEIM.....	35.....	18.....	34.....	51.43%
229	WESTBY	16.....	11.....	16.....	68.75%
	TOTAL	578.....	338.....	526.....	58.48%

111	HAVRE	129	47	98	36.43%
48	CHINOOK	47	35	46	74.47%
50	BIG SANDY	27	18	26	66.67%
57	MALTA	92	70	95	76.09%
67	ROCKY BOY	35	7	34	20.00%
79	SACO	12	10	16	83.33%
88	CHESTER	39	27	37	69.23%
109	TURNER	30	19	28	63.33%
110	FORT BELKNAP	13	4	13	30.77%
TOTAL					42423739355.90%

36	VALIER	55	31	55	56.36%
37	CONRAD	59	33	61	55.93%
40	CUT BANK	63	35	72	55.56%
43	SHELBY	55	27	46	49.09%
69	GALATA	37	19	36	51.35%
73	SWEETGRASS	74	52	74	70.27%
127	BROWNING	31	10	32	32.26%
CN20	CALGARY	47	22	50	46.81%
TOTAL					42122942654.39%

52	THOMPSON FALLS	61	39	58	63.93%
72	COLUMBIA FALLS	87	54	101	62.07%
74	EUREKA	46	36	46	78.26%
86	BIG FORK	65	35	52	53.85%
97	LIBBY	172	123	172	71.51%
106	ST IGNATIUS	70	41	79	58.57%
108	WHITEFISH	66	45	65	68.18%
112	POLSON	130	78	116	60.00%
126	CHARLO	14	1	13	7.14%
129	PARADISE	70	30	60	42.86%
137	KALISPELL	214	139	213	64.95%
138	RONAN	55	48	58	87.27%
139	TROY	20	12	20	60.00%
TOTAL					1070681105363.64%

13	ST REGIS	59	30	57	50.85%
27	MISSOULA	358	224	347	62.57%
38	DARBY	13	9	14	69.23%
47	HAMILTON	107	74	117	69.16%
63	CONDON	45	30	52	66.67%
68	MISSOULA	36	20	33	55.56%
83	CLINTON	16	8	15	50.00%
91	CORVALLIS	119	85	136	71.43%
94	STEVENSVILLE	220	139	215	63.18%
101	MISSOULA	53	30	57	56.60%
113	ARLEE	33	17	32	51.52%
124	FRENCHTOWN	40	19	39	47.50%
125	DRUMMOND	57	49	56	85.96%
131	ALBERTON	49	6	40	12.24%
134	FLORENCE	48	34	49	70.83%
135	LOLO	142	74	135	52.11%
TOTAL					1,3958481,39460.79%

1	BUTTE	193	108	195	55.96%
2	HELENA	743	479	745	64.47%
9	LINCOLN	54	29	57	53.70%
10	DEER LODGE	72	36	58	50.00%
20	DILLON	185	105	171	56.76%
21	ANACONDA	245	152	234	62.04%
24	WHITEHALL	91	39	90	42.86%
31	TWIN BRIDGES	43	28	46	65.12%
33	PHILIPSBURG	10	7	10	70.00%
42	TOWNSEND	117	71	118	60.68%
46	BOULDER	23	12	32	52.17%
89	SHERIDAN	63	47	66	74.60%
115	BUTTE	104	54	89	51.92%
TOTAL					19431167191160.06%

AT LARGE					
105	HELENA	1185	120	135	65%

14	BOZEMAN	353	237	354	67.14%
19	BIG TIMBER	194	105	176	54.12%
23	LIVINGSTON	169	117	172	69.23%
25	WHITE SULPHUR	63	40	62	63.49%
30	BELGRADE	262	142	246	54.20%
65 ☆	ENNIS	35	44	45	125.71%
78	W YELLOWSTONE	29	23	28	79.31%
87	MANHATTAN	176	91	176	51.70%
93	THREE FORKS	42	29	43	69.05%
99	BIG SKY	55	50	55	90.91%
118	GARDINER	36	30	36	83.33%
TOTAL					1414908139364.21%

3	GREAT FALLS	257	164	256	63.81%
6	CHOTEAU	102	70	90	68.63%
26	FORT BENTON	50	29	42	58.00%
51	AUGUSTA	50	26	41	52.00%
64	DUTTON	62	26	55	41.94%
80	FAIRFIELD	33	12	30	36.36%
102	GERALDINE	114	47	114	41.23%
103	POWER	32	12	28	37.50%
130	VAUGHN	48	28	47	58.33%
133	CASCADE	29	23	32	79.31%
341	MALMSTROM	154	67	116	43.51%
TOTAL					93150485154.14%

15	HARLOWTON	103	74	111	71.84%
16	LEWISTOWN	382	373	465	97.64%
18	ROUNDUP	62	31	61	50.00%
53	STANFORD	26	12	20	46.15%
62	DENTON	23	15	22	65.22%
70	JUDITH GAP	67	41	66	61.19%
76	HOBSON	47	28	48	59.57%
96	ROY	20	17	20	85.00%
120	WINIFRED	31	17	30	54.84%
TOTAL					76160884379.89%

5	MILES CITY	82	42	74	51.22%
12	SIDNEY	44	25	35	56.82%
28	GLENDIVE	123	69	102	56.10%
29	CIRCLE	18	12	17	66.67%
32	TERRY	101	67	104	66.34%
35	BAKER	136	86	105	63.24%
39	FORSYTH	97	63	93	64.95%
44	COLSTRIP	30	19	30	63.33%
60	EKALAKA	15	4	12	26.67%
77	LAME DEER	11	3	12	27.27%
114	FAIRVIEW	37	29	37	78.38%
128	BROADUS	13	7	12	53.85%
TOTAL					70742663360.25%

4	BILLINGS	503	297	481	59.05%
8	HARDIN	51	28	51	54.90%
17	RED LODGE	61	48	54	78.69%
34	COLUMBUS	62	40	58	64.52%
71	FROMBERG	23	12	18	52.17%
84	BELFRY	39	21	38	53.85%
92	HYSHAM	24	15	21	62.50%
100	PARK CITY	61	44	64	72.13%
111	CUSTER	59	47	60	79.66%
117	BILLINGS	122	112	196	91.80%
119	BILLINGS HGTS	174	126	174	72.41%
123	LAUREL	108	71	113	65.74%
TOTAL					1287861132866.90%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2018 INCENTIVE GOAL	11,116
2018 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	6927
2017 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	10866
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	62.32%

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Renew your
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Go Ahead – Relax...

LET THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM
HANDLE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS.

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

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM

Fill in your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Then check off the plans that interest you, and we will do the rest!

☒ Yes! Please send me complete details about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

ENDORSED PLANS

☐ Dental ☐ Hospital Help ☐ Travel Accident Protection

☐ Auto ☐ No Cost Accident Protection ☐ Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)

☐ Homeowners ☐ Accident Protection ☐ Identity Theft Protection

☐ Cancer Care ☐ Medicare Supplement ☐ Accident Disability

☐ Discount Card

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

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Ten Largest Posts

Post	2	HELENA	466 MEMBERS
Post	16	LEWISTOWN	363 MEMBERS
Post	4	BILLINGS	288 MEMBERS
Post	14	BOZEMAN	229 MEMBERS
Post	27	MISSOULA	214 MEMBERS
Post	3	GREAT FALLS	162 MEMBERS
Post	21	ANACONDA	149 MEMBERS
Post	30	BELGRADE	138 MEMBERS
Post	137	KALISPELL	134 MEMBERS
Post	94	STEVENSVILLE	132 MEMBERS

District Standings

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
9	77.40%	Demorise Allen
11	63.01%	Jim Bossen
7	62.52%	Randy Kemp
4	60.47%	Glen Sharbono
5	59.07%	Greg Marose
10	58.70%	Clancee Collins
6	58.03%	Josh Clement
3	52.97%	Charlie Coutts
8	51.02%	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
2	50.24%	Lowell Long
1	47.06%	Joe Yeoman

Sons of the American Legion October 5, 2017

SQUADRON	GOAL 2018	TO DATE
WOLF POINT #22	10	0
☆GLASGOW #41	10	20
PLENTYWOOD #58	10	0
CULBERTSON #81	23	8
NASHUA #104	10	6
HAVRE #11	16	0
☆CHINOOK #48	19	20
☆MALTA #57	10	25
GALATA #69	42	0
LIBBY #97	10	5
POLSON #112	10	6
MISSOULA #27	17	0
HAMILTON #47	10	0
CONDON #63	10	0
CORVALLIS #91	10	3
STEVENSVILLE #94	21	0
LOLO #135	34	1
BUTTE #1	29	10
☆HELENA #2	76	78
ANACONDA #21	33	10
TOWNSEND #42	18	11
BUTTE #115	19	0
☆BOZEMAN #14	51	54
BIG TIMBER #19	22	4
BELGRADE #30	64	20
☆LIVINGSTON #23	10	17
MANHATTAN #87	27	12
BIG SKY #99	12	17
☆GREAT FALLS #3	16	15
CHOTEAU #6	16	0
GERALDINE #102	53	1
VAUGHN #130	17	8
HARLOWTON #15	22	15
LEWISTOWN #16	128	28
MILES CITY #5	11	4
BAKER #35	34	18
FORSYTH #39	45	33
BILLINGS #4	27	4
BELFRY #84	23	0
BILLINGS #117	10	0
☆CUSTER #111	11	11
LAUREL #123	10	0
☆HQS POST #9999	0	0
TOTALS	1046	464
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Service Officer, Department of Montana



SERVICE OFFICER KELLY ACKERMAN

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (“Forever GI Bill”) is one of the most comprehensive changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. There are several provisions that went into effect on the date of enactment, when the President signed the bill into

law. These are:

- The 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is eliminated for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, and qualifying dependents (Fry children who became eligible on or after January 1, 2013 and all Fry spouses).
- Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to the program sunset provision will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.
- Certain work-study activities are permanently authorized; previously it had to be re-approved by Congress every few years.
- Improvement of information technology for the Long-Term Solution.
- Beneficiaries can now use Post-9/11 GI Bill to pursue accredited independent study programs at certain education institutions that are not institutions of higher learning (IHLs).
- Increase State Approving Agency (SAA) funding.
- VA will help Veterans to more clearly identify schools that offer them priority enrollment.
- Extension of the VA Advisory Committee on Education to 2022.
- Treatment, for purposes of educational assistance administered by the Secretary of VA, or educational courses that begin 7 or fewer day after the first day of an academic term.
- Inclusion of risk-based surveys in SAA oversight activities.

January 1, 2018

- Repeal inapplicability of modification of basic allowance for housing (BAH) to benefits.

One year after enactment

- Comptroller General study of SAA performance.

August 1, 2018

- Consideration of certain time spent receiving medical care from Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Educational assistance under Post-9/11 GI Bill for those individuals awarded the Purple Heart.
- Inclusion of Fry Scholarship recipients and Purple Heart recipients in Yellow Ribbon Program.
- Inclusion of certain active duty members in Yellow Ribbon Program.
- Calculation of monthly housing stipend under Post-9/11 GI Bill, based on location of campus where classes are attended.
- Charge to entitlement for certain licensure and certification tests and national tests under Post-9/11 GI Bill.

- Additional authorized transfer of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill to dependents upon death of originally designated dependent.
- Monthly stipend for certain members of Reserve component individuals receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- VA High Technology Pilot Program (*180 days after Aug 1, 2018).
- Duration of education assistance under Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (from 45 to 36 months of entitlement).
- Limitation on use of reporting fees payable to educational institutions and sponsors of programs of apprenticeship.
- Training requirements for School Certifying Officials as condition of GI Bill approval.
- Provision of information regarding Veteran entitlement to educational assistance.
- Eligibility of Reserve Component members for Post-9/11 GI Bill (12304a and 12304b of title 10).

October 1, 2018

- Increase in amounts of educational assistance payable under DEA.

August 1, 2019

- Additional benefits for pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs.

August 1, 2020

- Consolidation of certain eligibility tiers under Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For additional information on this, and other VA Education programs, please visit www.va.gov.

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

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:

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

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

MT Legionnaires Attend 54th Annual Nat’l Membership Workshop

At the July 27-29 Workshop we were privileged to hear speak the then current National Commander Charles Schmidt of Oregon, incoming National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin, her possible successor Brett Reistad of Virginia, LTC Nick D. Callaway, USAF Commander of the 364th Recruiting Squadron in Sacramento, CA and several others. Although some of us had different blocks of instruction, we all felt we had learned something and the whole trip was a valuable experience. (Our only complaint was the chairs!) We were also bussed to Post 64 for a very nice dinner. Wow, was that place huge! We managed to find some good places to eat and on the way back got soaking wet in the process. It's too bad we couldn't have managed to box it up and send it back home to Montana!



Dinner at the Rock Bottom Cafe in downtown Indianapolis. Clockwise from left: Richard Klose, Dept. Vice Cdr; Larry Dobb. Dept. Cdr; Greg Marose, Dist. 5 Cdr; Jim Lish, Dept. Membership Chair; Glen Sharbono, Dist. 4 Cdr; Jim Bossen, Dist. 11 Cdr.

History of La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, or 40&8 Society

BY RAYMOND K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDANT

Part 1 of 3-Part Series

Background: In March of 1920, Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionnaires where they originated the idea of The Forty and Eight (40&8). They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French Railways, so familiar to American ground troops of the First World War, was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization. The French/Railroad theme was applied to officer titles and organizational functions.

The organization was named La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (the Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses). Its members were called Voyageurs Militaire (military travelers) and candidates for membership were called Prisonniers de Guerre (Prisoners of War). The “40/8” cargo capacity sign emblazoned on each French boxcar that had carried American doughboys to the front, and also the “French horizon blue” color, became symbols of the new society. An initiation ceremony was developed based on the common wartime experiences of American soldiers, sailors and marines, incorporating fun making with patriotic bonding.

The first statewide 40&8 Promenade (meeting) was held in June 1920, following the 2nd Annual Convention of the American Legion’s Department of Pennsylvania. Several prominent Legionnaires were wrecked (initiated) and Joseph W. Breen was unanimously elected Chef de Chemin de Fer (President of the Railroad).

The new 40&8 organization agreed to send a delegation to the Legion’s national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, with as much fanfare as possible in order to introduce the 40&8 to the nation and to other Legionnaires. A railroad box car was rented and in it the 40&8 delegation rode the rails to the Cleveland Legion convention. This publicity stunt gained substantial news coverage for the energetic new elite organization. In Cleveland more than 700 Legionnaires became members of the 40&8.

During the 40&8 Promenade Nationale (national convention) in Kansas City, a national constitution was adopted and a national headquarters was established in Seattle, Washington.

What is the 40&8? It is an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U. S. veterans committed to charitable and patriotic aims with a purpose to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well-being of veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse’s training.

The titles and symbols of the 40&8 reflect its First World War origins. Americans (doughboys) were transported to the battle front on French trains within boxcars stenciled with a “40/8”, denoting its capacity to hold either forty men or eight horses. This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who fought in the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found “40/8” a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that bind all who have borne the battle. The organization was conceived in 1920 as an arm of The American Legion, but became an independent and separately incorporated veteran’s organization in 1960. **In our next issue, I’ll discuss Montana’s history in the 40&8 organization.**

Membership information: If you are interested in joining this 95-year-old honor society dedicated to justice, freedom and democracy, please call 406-458-9847 or e-mail myfun51@msn.com.





Sixth Annual Surf ‘n’ Turf Dinner

Townsend American Legion Post 42
Saturday, November 4, 2017
4:00 PM - 7:30PM

Surf’n’ Turf \$45 or Surf \$30 or Turf \$25

Dinner includes baked potato, choice of salad, dessert, coffee, tea, no host bar

Must pre-pay no later than October 27th
Only 100 Lobsters will be Ordered.

211 Broadway Street
Townsend MT 59644
(406) 266-3611

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Holiday Thoughts

The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds will be done as Legion members reach out to those veterans and others in need in our communities. Montana American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) will once again operate their holiday gift shop (filled with items sent from ALA units all around the state) at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital – for patients to “shop” at no cost and for gifts to be mailed at no cost, to their loved ones. Marine Corps Toys for Tots will be going strong. We’ll feel good about ourselves for all we’re doing and have done to bring some holiday cheer to those who could really use it.

Some readers may wish to stop reading now. This article is not going to be the warm fuzzy most look for at this time of year to get inspired and uplifted. No, it’s a call to action. We, in Montana, have a cancer in our civilian and veteran population: SUICIDE.

As the holidays approach, we can be reasonably certain those happy family-oriented gatherings will coincide with and be followed by an uptick in attempted and completed suicides.

What can we as members of the Legion Family do to make a difference for someone in crisis?

In the Book of Genesis in the Bible, Cain asks the Lord, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (King James Version)

If we look at the Hebrew word in that verse translated “keeper,” it is ha-shomer – guardian. What does a guardian do? A guardian defends, observes, preserves, protects, saves and watches.

It’s easy to see someone downcast during the holidays (or anytime of the year, for that matter) and ask how they’re doing. If the response is “Fine” we have the obligation to observe them more, probe a bit deeper, see what’s going on and figure out how we can help. Sometimes it will often take more than one encounter with this person if they don’t know you or trust you. It may be as simple as sincerely expressing your caring to know what’s really going on in that person’s life. If they’re talking about not being here anymore, not being a bother to anyone anymore or how no one will miss them, rather than try to convince them otherwise, the best course of action is proven to come right out and ask, “Are you thinking of killing yourself?” No beating around the bush. Straight out, look them in the eye and ask that question with those words.

That question is very important and has been instrumental in preventing many suicides. Try asking it aloud in practice. I know I kind of choked on the words the first time I practiced asking it out loud. Once the gravity of the situation is out in the open, the person having the suicidal thoughts usually feels relief. It may just be a cry for help or it may be a serious, determined intention. If they say yes, ask how does he/she plan to kill him/herself? Where? God has graciously placed you there in that person’s life at that moment and given you the opportunity to help them find something worth living for just for the next 24 hours while you both work together to keep them safe so they can get help. If that feels too overwhelming to you, you can call the Suicide Prevention Hotline. It’s available 24/7 – not just for a person with suicidal thoughts, but also for those trying to help that person.

The Montana/National/Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline for those in crisis is 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255). **Press 1.** Please take a moment **NOW** to program it in your cell phone so you have it close at hand if you need it.

We are our brothers’ and sisters’ “keepers”! Let us not turn aside from an opportunity to help because we are too busy, it’s emotionally disturbing to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we can help if we just take a few moments to stop what we’re doing or where we’re rushing off to – to focus on a fellow human being in crisis who is hurting. Your care and concern can make all the difference.

May you be well.

THE AMERICAN LEGION HISTORY GUIDANCE

RAYMOND K READ, OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN, DEPT. OF MT | 9/22/17
470 RONDA ROAD, HELENA, MT 59602 | MYFUN51@MSN.COM

As the elected Department Historian, I have had the privilege and opportunity to travel to most of the 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring District meetings, as well as attending the 2016 Fall Conference and special events, such as the 2017 Montana Department National Oratorical Contest. I also attended the Montana Department 99th Annual Convention in Billings, the 99th Annual National Convention in Reno, Nevada and currently the 2017 Fall District meeting schedule.

I find throughout Montana that The American Legion is doing what they have done best for 99+ years. They are supporting the Veterans and their families as best they can, utilizing the Four Pillars of The American Legion’s National Program: Supporting the many facets of Veterans Affairs, a Strong National Defense, viable Americanism programs and our Nation’s most precious resource, Children and Youth.

I was able to travel the State, meeting with many seasoned, as well as newer, younger veterans who populate the 129 American Legion Posts, mostly in rural environments, with all the challenges that manifest themselves in the Frontier State of Montana. I thank all who made my visits so memorable. I also wish to thank all those who helped me with the Operation Ruptured Duck program. This program is still active and I am in the process of filling requests by various Posts.

As an American Legionnaire and an American Legion family member, I am tasked to provide the following guidance as a continuing commitment to the duties and responsibilities of the elected position of Department Historian, especially in further development of The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. So this is a repeat worth repeating.

SUBJECT: The Montana Department, The American Legion, Centennial Celebration 1919-2019; the Department 100th Anniversary Committee; and Post One Year narrative and Post One Year yearbook (pictorial) history Program.

Reference is made to:

1. Letter, dated July 31, 2015, from The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee announcing the updated 5 year plan for The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.
2. The American Legion’s Centennial Celebration Workbook;
3. The American Legion’s Legacy Vision brochure;
4. The American Legion’s Post 9/11 Veterans Booklet

Dear American Legion,

Elmer Johnston was drafted into the Army from Great Falls, MT in 1917 at the age of 22 for World War I. He was shipped to France as part of the Western Expedition Forces under the command of General George Pershing. He was assigned in France to be a truck driver and chauffer for a group of trucks to haul ammunition to the front lines. Their ‘truck train’ would move at night and stop at daylight – so it was ‘night work’ for him for two years – coming home in late 1919.

He told many stories of the fierce fighting in trenches, mustard gas and different battles. Their ship docked at Brest France in 1918. He saw Paris, the wine country in South France, the French Riviera. Their truck train was used to go to Algiers for loads of oranges for the troops to prevent scurvy. He said, “he’d never forget the smell of the lavender fields and the grape vineyards in Southern France.” The smell was heavenly but by 1919 – he was happy to come home to the ‘good ole U.S.’

~ WRITTEN BY ELMER JOHNSTON’S DAUGHTER,
LUELLA JOHNSON KEIPER ~



5. Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee
6. The American Legion 2015 Officer’s guide and Manual of Ceremonies
7. The World War One Centennial 100 Cities/100 Memorials Grant program
8. NEC Resolution No. 10 The American Legion Memorial Project

The Department of Montana Executive Committee has established a Department Centennial Committee in accordance with the request of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee and the Department Historian has been designated the Department Centennial Chairman.

In addition, the Department authorized a three-person 100th Centennial Committee whose members are Joyce Babcock (Custer Post 5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls) and Lowell Long (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee’s task is to engage the Montana Posts in meaningful participation concerning the Centennial. As Chairman, I encourage all Posts to implement The American Legion’s Legacy Vision for The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. Resolution No. 31, states,

“The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions in national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities. The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of the country as intended by these programs.”

Some initial ideas for this very important program for Montana Legionnaires to review and implement.

- a. Establish a web site presence through The American Legion Centennial Program.
- b. Invite the community to your events, actively participate in the community and document activities
- c. Write a post history and participate in the One Year History program.
- d. Be visible in all American Legion activities; wear your hat.

All documents referenced above are available on the National American Legion website www.legion.org/centennial. If your Post/Auxiliary/Sons of The American Legion have access to the internet, you can accomplish The American Legion Centennial Challenge. Remember to look to your strengths, leverage them and your local community for ideas and support.

I am asking all Montana Posts to establish their Local Legacy-Your Post’s History. National Headquarters has developed a webpage that will allow each participating Post its own place online where

More **GUIDANCE** next page

2018 POOL (ZONE) & STATE DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL

Sunday, March 11, 2018

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

Great Falls, Montana

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

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

For further information, contact:
Jeff Holmes, Chairman

email: broncojeff7@hotmail.com or
text: (406) 350-1347

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

Guidance continued from previous page
photos, text and videos can be posted and shared. So, whether your Post was established in 1919 or recently, you have the opportunity to tell your story in your community and throughout The American Legion. I emphasize again that all aspects of the Centennial Program are available on the National website www.legion.org/centennial.

In less than 360 days, The American Legion will celebrate its 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In a little more than 500 days the 100th Birthday will happen, March 15-17, 2019, and then the Centennial will culminate its year at the 101st Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2019. Montana's contributions to The American Legion Legacy deserve a place on record. It is a goal of the Montana Department to create a Centennial History by incorporating the current written record of the past 98 years. With your cooperation and participation that can happen.

Annual One Year Narrative and One Year Yearbook (pictorial) history Contests

By utilizing the National Program of Post one-year Narrative and Yearbooks (Pictorial) history the efforts to produce the Post web-based Legacy History will support the collection of Post history and the Centennial program. For your information, there are four (4) annual contests conducted on the National level. The contests involve the "First Place" winners in the Post one-year Narrative and Yearbook contests as well as entries for a Department one-year Narrative and Yearbook. I will forward a first-place winner in each Post category to the National Historian by September 15. The Judging will be accomplished in October. Post 23, Livingston won the 2017 State Contest and is representing us at the Fall Historian Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies contain much information about the history contest; "Capsule History of The American Legion" and "Helpful Hints for District/County Historians" and is available at the Montana American Legion website www.mtleion.org or by mail as necessary. Entries will be judged and the first place winners in either category (Narrative or Yearbook) will be certified and forwarded to the National Historian for entry in the announced contest for that category. Keep in mind the official rules of the 2017-2018 Legion year to be met for the National Contest can be obtained from the most current edition of the *Officers Guide* (March 2017) or at the Legion website www.legion.org, though you may use older versions of this manual as the rules have not changed! 🍷

Townsend Post 42



Broadwater Post 42 hosted an Old Time Fiddlers Jam in late September. Players from around the state and local talent wowed the crowd for an afternoon of wonderful music, dancing and laughter.

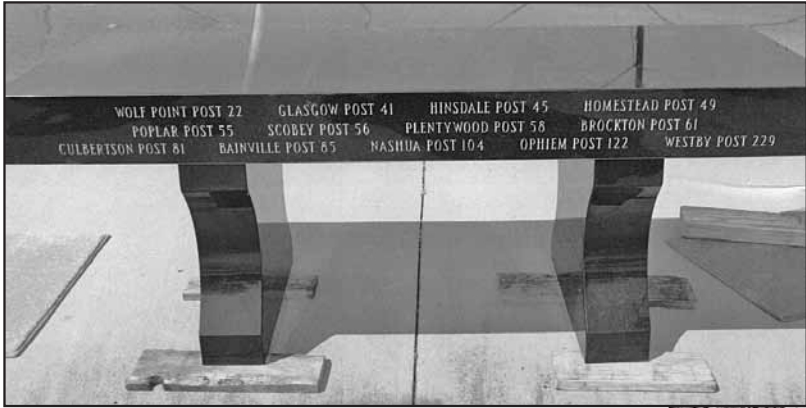
Sheridan Post 89

Memorial Day 2017, Anderson-Simpson Post 89 of Sheridan held a dedication ceremony for



the recently completed "Veteran's Wall of Honor" erected in front of the Post building. The memorial was first proposed by Post member Bob Reimard for the Post to honor Ruby Valley Community Veterans who have served our country in the wars over the years. Soon it opened to include any Veteran, anywhere, who had served. It didn't take long for families to provide the 159 names inscribed on the bricks. All branches of the armed forces are represented with names of individuals from the Civil War up to the Iraq/Afghanistan War; service men and women from Privates to Colonels; a Prisoner of War; a Missing in Action (MIA), Patrick Magee and the Post's one Medal of Honor awardee, Leo Powers. The support and feedback from the community has been overwhelming; so much so, that the Post is collecting names for a second wall to be dedicated on Memorial Day 2018.

LEGION FAMILY MEMORIAL BENCH



The solid granite Montana District 1 American Legion Family Bench, featuring 13 honorable Posts, was set in place at the Northeast Montana Veterans Memorial Park in Fort Peck on Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

Thank You

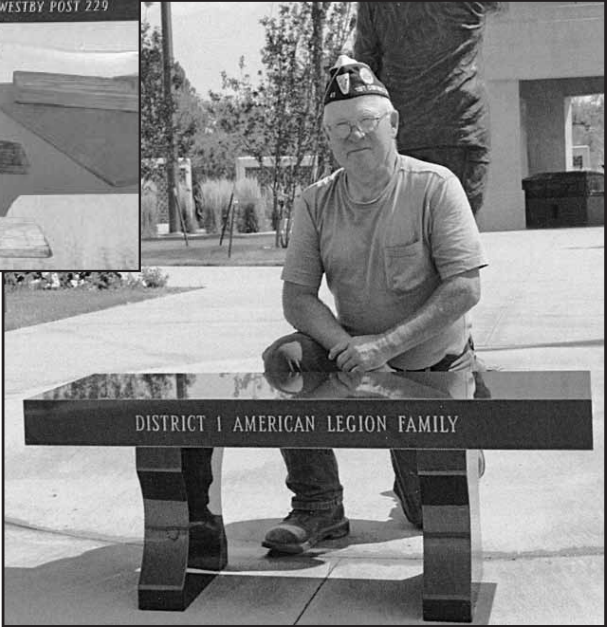
As the District 1 Commander of The American Legion, I would like to thank you all for your interest and investment into *YOUR* Northeast Montana Veterans Memorial Park.

It has been a lengthy project and there is always room for more improvement which continues on a daily basis. Your involvement with this ongoing project is deeply appreciated.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, do not hesitate to call me (263-0080).

Again, this is *YOUR* Memorial. If you have yet to take the trip to Fort Peck to view it in its entirety, I urge you to do so. It is truly one of a kind right here on the Great Plains of northeastern Montana!

~ JOE YEOMAN, AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER



Children & Youth Conference

The American Legion held their annual Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis 15-17 September 2017. Attending the conference was Department Chair of Children and Youth, Sharon Doig, who has held this position for the last four years and District 10 Commander Clancee Collins. Additional members of The American Legion Family were from Alaska and the lower states.



Clancee Collins, Dist 10 Commander, & Sharon Doig, C&Y Department Chair

Highlights of the conference included hearing from several youths who have benefitted from numerous Children and Youth programs. The two speakers who received \$20,000 Samsung scholarships were very impressive having qualified by attending Boys State and having a grandparent serve during the Korean War. They were invited to join The Sons of the American Legion to honor their grandparents and they readily accepted.

The Department of Children and Youth give many grants to a variety of children's organizations and one such recipient was Bethany Christian Services. This organization facilitates infant adoptions, foster care adoptions, international adoptions and post adoption support. A young girl who was adopted at birth was one of the speakers. She is proud of being adopted and does not understand why adoption has a taboo about discussing it.

I encourage Posts to do more for the children and youth in their community. As Department Chair, I review all our Posts Consolidated Reports and am disappointed by the lack of support for this endeavor. Surely a Post or its members can donate to one of the many children and youth activities such as Child Welfare Foundation, Family Support Network or The American Legion Endowment Fund. Even small Posts should be able to donate \$25 to any one of these. Ask members if they have donated to any of these Legion programs which should be noted on Consolidated Reports. Take the credit! Information on these reports helps National when they go to Congress and give annual reports. Veterans helping veterans.

Any questions please contact me, Sharon Doig at sherry2_52@yahoo.com or call me at home 406-266-9939 or cell 406-980-0809. If you leave a message please speak clearly and slowly so I can get the information.

Anaconda Post 21 Uniform Display Ceremony

by Barry Dechaine

The colors were rendered by the Anaconda American Legion Post 21 during the ceremony for the 19th recipient of the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Court House Uniform Display Case held on September 8, 2017. US Army Major Brian Hansen, Retired (shown with his wife, Mira), had his biography read in front of family, friends and fellow Vets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHIE MILLER, ANACONDA LEADER



An honor guard carries an American flag and the remains of Pvt. William Gruber to be laid to rest Saturday in the Boulder Valley. At right, Nancy Roe, part of the Lewis & Clark Veterans Council, plays taps in honor of the fallen soldier. Roe expressed a sentiment voiced by many at the observance: "I'm honored to be here." (Photos by Jan Anderson)



FINALLY HOME: WWII POW Gruber honored

by Jan Anderson, editor
©2017 Boulder Monitor

When Pvt. William Gruber finally came home to Montana Saturday, nearly 75 years after dying in a World War II Japanese prisoner of war camp, his return was greeted with respect and solemnity by hundreds.

A mass at the Helena cathedral was heavily attended. As the lengthy motorcade, accompanied by the Patriot Guard Riders of Montana on motorcycles, made its way south about forty miles, citizens

gathered on every overpass and along the side of the road to pay their respects.

Fire fighters from the Montana City, Clancy and Jefferson City volunteer fire departments each gathered along Interstate 15 in their area. In some places, community members placed an American flag on the interstate overpasses and stood in a show of respect.

The story of the struggle to get the remains returned had played out over the last two years in the *Monitor*, ending with the joyous news the family had awaited for decades.

Gruber's tale included surviving the Bataan Death March and defying Japanese orders while a prisoner to repair their broken down trucks.

At Clancy, where Gruber is still a common name, fire fighters routinely answer calls from a fire house named in honor of a long-time fire fighter who shared not only a last name but also a first name with his relative, the returning soldier. Fellow fire fighters there showed respects to both William Grubers.

At Jefferson City, fire fighters lined the interstate to greet the procession. Fire Chief Bud Siderits said, "This was an honor for us in Jefferson City to be involved in our organization or in person to pay respect to one who served his country to the fullest."

One of the department's newest fire fighters, 18-year-old Levi Vossler, is a great-great-nephew of Pvt. Gruber. A part of the department for two months, Vossler joined his fellow fire fighters in standing

See **FINALLY HOME**, p. 9



Clockwise from left: A contingent of helicopters from the Montana Army National Guard – two Black Hawks, a Chinook and a Lakota – do a memorial flyover of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Members of the Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department, including a great-great-nephew of the returning soldier, await the procession. Motorcycles from the Patriot Guard Riders of Montana pass down the flag-lined drive to the church. (Photos by Jan Anderson)



A line of veterans salute as the remains of Pvt. William Gruber are laid to rest with full military honors. (Photos by Jan Anderson)

FINALLY HOME: after 75 years, from p. 8

with flags and saluting the passing procession.

When the procession reached Boulder, they drove down a Main Street lined with American flags and POW-MIA flags. At the church and cemetery in the Boulder Valley, Pvt. Gruber's final resting place, American flags lined the drive.

In the cemetery, representatives of the Boulder American Legion post were joined by other veterans in honoring the fallen soldier. An honor flight passed overhead to mark the occasion. The Lewis & Clark Veterans Council presented a rifle salute, shooting three times into the air.

Also on hand was a documentary film maker, attracted from California after reading the *Monitor* coverage.

While no one from William Gruber's family was on hand to witness his death in the Philippines so many years ago, plenty of family members and supporters were on hand to witness his return and express thanks for his efforts on behalf of "a grateful nation."

Reprinted in *Legionnaire of Montana* with permission of the Boulder Monitor.



Barney Gruber, a WWII Marine veteran who participated in reclaiming Iwo Jima, carries a yellow rose to place at the burial spot for his brother. Below, he and Frank Gruber, the only two remaining brothers of the returning soldier, sit side by side at the service. There were six Gruber brothers, five of whom served in the military.

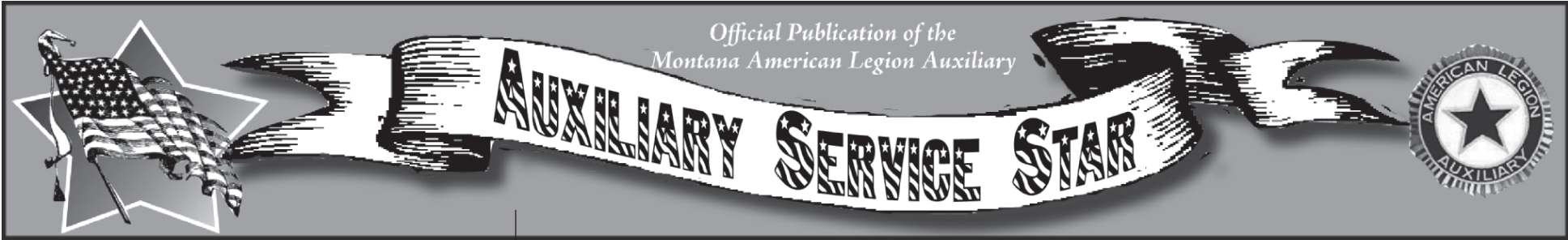


The Bronze Star and Purple Heart earned by Pvt. William Gruber were finally presented to his family in a ceremony in Helena Saturday morning. The Bronze Star honors meritorious service and the Purple Heart goes to those wounded or killed in the line of duty. The family had been assured more than 25 years ago the medals would be coming soon.



A three-gun salute is fired off by members of the Lewis & Clark Veterans Council. The council stood with their rifles throughout Saturday's interment. It is a service they provide at military funerals throughout the area.

Finally Home provided in entirety by Boulder Monitor Editor Jan Anderson



President



KATHRYN LONG

Dear Ladies of Montana American Legion Auxiliary,

The holiday season is upon us and it is hard to believe that it is this time of year. I hope you are helping to celebrate Veterans Day. In this coming season, are you planning to help someone in your community? One of our national goals is to be kind. With the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's season, I hope we remember to be kind in all that we do.



Kathryn Long

In being kind, we all need reminders from time to time to help. So in that spirit, I hope you will remember to help Stacy Bear by sending in essays for the Americanism Essay contest. Remember to help Mechelle Holmes by sending in scholarship applicants. Remember to help Leah Ellwein by reading, updating (if necessary) and submitting your Unit/District Constitution and Bylaws. And remember to help people in your communities through Community Service projects.

These four committees remind me that we also need to be patriotic. How are we showing our patriotism? Are we flying our national flag? When the Pledge of Allegiance is said, do we stand at attend and cover our heart? Do we remember that when the National Anthem is played or sung we cover our hearts? (As civilians we cover our hearts; as military in uniform or former military, they salute.)

Before our busy holiday season, were you at Fall Conference? If you were, you got to see the first woman who is National Commander, Denise Rohan. Her theme is year is: Family First. She is from Wisconsin and brings some new ideas with her. I will tell you more about her visit in a newsletter after her visit (which should happen by the time of this printing).

May the season to come full you with peace.★

Representing Montana in the National Convention Parade in Reno, Nevada



SUBMITTED BY LEAH ELLWEIN, LEWIS & CLARK UNIT 2

Front L to R: Sandra Runkel, Incoming Department President Kathy Long, Duzzie Stolp

Back L to R: Department President Jeanette Bossen, Lois Schmitt, Maureen Watt, and Karen Susag.

Secretary



JAIMIE DeBATES

Reminded everyone in the last issue that your new forms were in the packet from Convention. Three months later I'm still amazed at how many of you aren't using correct information. Why are the new forms so important? The price per poppy increased on the Poppy Order Form and the Membership Transmittal Form changed to reflect the new dues amount. We voted on this change over a year ago and your District Presidents have continually reminded you in their newsletters along with mine. I'm not sure where the information highway has developed a road block – but we can do a better job. Everyone.



Jamie DeBates

The biggest issue we heard during our Fall District meeting tour is the email renewal notice. There is a way to resolve this so if you have members complaining just contact me. We need to take care of our members while they are still interested in remaining members.

The Department Rosters and the Programs Action Plans were distributed during the fall visits. A complete listing of your chairman is included in the Plan, along with all our current scholarship forms. Please review the booklet. Like the Department Roster, there is an incredible amount of information contained in it.

Those who attended the DEC meeting at convention in June will remember we formally adopted the policies provided by NHQ. Among them was the Code of Ethics and Conflict Resolution. At the NEC meeting at National Convention in Reno this year a revision was made to the policy. I will provide a copy to each District President when it's finished. The bottom line is you now have a guideline on how to discipline members who are a detriment to this organization. Long overdue; much needed; ridiculously sad we have reached that state in the organization as a whole.★

National Executive Committee

JEANETTE BOSSEN, DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

At National Convention it was voted on and passed that the dues are to be raised. So in two years you will be sending more money into National. For instance: Senior dues to National will be \$12.50 and Juniors will be \$3. So, if as yet you have not raised your dues within your Unit, you really need to be doing this so you can stay ahead of the game.

I will also tell you that the NEC passed the budget for National.

I had a pretty good time at Convention and learned more about how things do work at a National Convention. Lots of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members there. Had really good bus drivers. Didn't take them long to get us there and back even when road was closed for President Trump.

History was made that day as you very well know. Hope you all have a safe and wonderful year filled with lots of events to do for our Veteran's and communities. Be safe and have fun in all you do.

God Bless You All

Americanism

STACY BEAR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Honor. What does that mean? Do we honor the things we cherish as much as we should? According to some definitions of honor it is to esteem or to regard with great respect. If we want to show Americanism then what are some things we should honor?

We should honor our flag. We should honor our veterans, our leaders, our elders, our youth, our programs of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, and we should honor each other. We can honor our flag by being knowledgeable of flag history and etiquette, by knowing the proper disposal methods for our worn flags, and by promoting the observation of patriotic holidays. Some dates to fly your flag include the following:

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- August 14 - V-J Day
- February 22 - Washington's Birthday
- September, 1st Monday - Labor Day
- April 13 - Jefferson Day
- September 11 - Patriots Day
- May 1 - Law Day USA / Loyalty Day
- November 4 Thursday - Thanksgiving Day
- May 3 - Armed Forces Day
- November 11 - Veteran's Day
- May 30 - Memorial Day
- December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- June 14 - Flag Day
- December 25 - Christmas

We can honor our youth by promoting increased participation in patriotic activities such the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community." Have the essay winners present their essays at a meeting and honor them. In addition, we can honor the Legion and Auxiliary by being involved and supporting each other's activities and contests, by attending meetings and conventions, by signing up to be an officer or chairman, and be being informed.

Last but not least, we should honor each other. We need to be kind to each other and offer support when needed. We can help teach our youth about honor in part by the way we treat each other. We can also support anti-bullying projects in the schools.

Honor. It is a great way to live. It is a great legacy to leave.

Harlowton Unit 15

SUBMITTED BY MECHELLE HOLMES, DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Unit 15 Auxiliary Member made this cake to share with the residents and veterans at Wheatland Memorial Healthcare on 9/11.



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

KAREN SUSAG, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

“Rosie” wants all to get busy and plan activities during the upcoming season to assist our veterans to have wonderful holidays.



Remember your donations to the Christmas Gift Shops at the four VA facilities. Auxiliary members in the past have been very generous, please continue!

Not everyone can send items so, please send monetary contributions through our Department Treasure to get the funds where they need to be. Be sure and include the form with boxes you send listing the items, their value and the name and address of the unit. Mark on the donation form where you want your money to go. Donated items can include gifts for men, women and children. Sweatshirts, sweat pants, sock, white t-shirts go over well. Keep in mind donated items must be new. Please no perfume or cologne!

Don’t overlook the homeless in your community. Work with other organizations to coordinate a coat drive, serve a holiday dinner at your Post Homer, Christmas Party for the children or a gift giving program. Donate to the food pantry, send “care package” to an active service person.

Be sure and keep track of the volunteer hours and expenses to report on the mid-year report in December. Please share with me a positive impacted story that has our mission in mind on both the mid-year report and year-end reports.

Park City Unit 100

SUBMITTED BY JEAN BOSSEN

ALA Unit 100 Junior Riley Henckel ready for the Homecoming Parade with her 8th grade classmates on their float.



Meagher County Unit 25

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE CUMMINS, UNIT 25



Meagher County ALA Unit 25 has been busy helping a local veteran with a brain tumor who has three small children. A Bake Sale/Silent Auction was held on Labor Day during the annual Labor Day Parade. A generous amount of money was raised to help the family during their difficult time.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

SANDY RUNKEL, VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE FORT HARRISON

Our Christmas Gift Shop will be Sunday December 3rd and Monday December 4th. Sunday set up will start at 10:30 with shopping to be from 1 to 4 pm. Monday shopping will be 9am to 1pm. All hands are welcome to come and help our Veterans find gifts for their family members. Wrapping and shipping are available at no charge to the shoppers.



Thanks to generous donations last year we are fully stocked with wrapping paper and Christmas cards, so do not send these this year.

If you choose to make a cash donation to help with shipping costs and other needed purchases, please send to Department Secretary Jamie DeBates. Units please use the forms that came in your large packet from Convention. Cookies and cans of coffee for the hospital are an ideal way to serve our Veterans and families.

Items in need are men’s and women’s sweat shirts and pants, men’s socks, tee shirts, caps and gloves. Afghans, fleece blankets, and quilts are welcome gifts. Toys and books for kids, things for teenagers. Our Veterans are shopping for family members from babies to Grandma. For the gift shop we request that you send only new items, please.

If someone from your Unit is coming to Helena for the Fall Conference (October 27-29), I would be happy to pick up the boxes and get them to the gift shop. Please enclose a list of items and their value in each box. This will be a great help when making the report to the VA.

Thanks for all you do for our Veterans at Christmas and throughout the year.

Stevensville Unit 94 ...supporting Wild Fire Firefighters

Unit 94 Auxiliary Senior members with Junior members, Quincy and Gwinn Meacham, made fresh homemade chocolate chip cookies on August 13th for the helicopter crews based here in Stevensville.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHERYL BURGMEIER



Summer News from Missoula Unit 27

SUBMITTED BY SANDY DORSETT, SECRETARY UNIT 27

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 27 was busy this summer. Members assisted with the “Heroes at Home” barbeque held at Fort Missoula. As the new school year approached, the Unit donated four backpacks filled with school supplies to DeSmet School. Along with the back to school donation, a donation of \$25 was given to Military and Canines.

Unit member Senta Sandberg created a blog for the Unit and will do monthly updates to it. For the start of the new year the Unit elected a new President, Senta Sandberg, and her idea of hosting a “Meet & Greet” at the Post to try to gain new members. For the Unit’s efforts, a new member was gained!

Department Convention Memories



PHOTO BY MICHELLE KANDEL, BOZEMAN, MT

Dept. President Jean Bossen presents Dept. Secretary Jamie DeBates an award in appreciation for all she has done for the Department.

Newly installed Dept. President Kathy Long being pinned by her husband Lowell Long at Department Convention 2017 Billings, MT.



PHOTO BY BONNIE OWEN



Unit 94 Member Candy Zier and her son Chris, SAL Squadron 94 Member at the fire information station to help boost moral with the cookie delivery.



Sept 17th, again Unit & Squadron 94 members made chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies, then delivered them to the Lolo Peak Fire crews stationed at the information booth, and the cleanup crew in Florence, MT.



Are You Ready?

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

KAREN SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Now that fire season has settled down, it's easy to focus our attention on disasters happening elsewhere in the country and world. It's difficult to imagine the magnitude of damage from hurricanes to the posts and members' homes in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas and what it is going to take for them to recover. And then, there's Mexico City. Yes, there are even Legion Posts in Mexico. There is no warning for an earthquake. How many American Legion members lost their homes there?

If you haven't already done so, please, get online or send a check to donate to the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Through your donations to the NEF our great organization is able to reach a helping hand with a grant to posts and members in need during this very difficult time in their lives. One never knows, someday YOU may need that NEF assistance – if you ever do, I'm certain you'll be very grateful for all The American Legion members who donated to the NEF to help you.

What have you actually done to be ready to evacuate in case of a disaster? There isn't always a warning as in the case of hurricanes down south (think about it, where do people in Puerto Rico have to evacuate to?) to say nothing of tornadoes or wildfire. Then, there's the threat of earthquake. Do you have a 72-hour kit to grab when you evacuate?

Members of Corvallis Post 91 observed National Preparedness Month in September by educating their members on creating a 72-hour kit. They invited Harry Lee, from Bug Out Montana, a local business that provides preparedness education and supplies to civilians. Two 72-hour kits were even awarded as door prizes! As if that weren't enough, following Harry's presentation, showing them what goes into a kit, their American Legion Amateur Radio Club, KG7SPL, then gave a power point presentation on the club, emergency volunteers and training.

Both presentations were open to the public. To quote their blog, "After last winter's snow and this summer's fires it is always good to think about "what if." We are hoping to help our members and the public think through these situations and find some individual solutions." They get it! I couldn't have said it any better myself. Kudos to Corvallis Post 91!

If you haven't got your preparedness kit put together, go to Ready.gov and click on Build a Kit to get started. Most of the items can be found around your house. Putting them together in a kit will save valuable minutes if you need to evacuate quickly.

On a bright note, following our terrible fire season, new resources are now available through the Governor's Office for Posts whose businesses were negatively affected by the recent wildfires and awful smoke. To quote from their website: "If your business or a business in your area has fallen on hard times because of fire activity or smoke, we encourage you to use and share this resource.

Developed at the direction of Governor Steve Bullock through a partnership of the Department of Commerce, Department of Labor & Industry, and Disaster and Emergency Services, the one-stop portal consolidates information about programs across all departments of state government as well as partner resources.

Some of the programs featured on the website provide financial assistance such as grants and loans, while others provide technical assistance such as business counseling.

Users who would like assistance working through the various options may call 1-406-841-2770 for live assistance during regular business hours. Staff are available to help individuals identify which programs may be the most applicable to them based on their specific circumstances. Many Montana Posts run a club business in their building. I'm certain some of them may have been affected by the unhealthy smoke levels. This resource is for you.

If you have any questions about disaster preparedness, you're always welcome to email me at karenseml@gmail.com for more information.

May you be well.

Post 100 leads Parks City Homecoming Parade



Post Commander Denny Harper, Vice Commander Ralph Mitchell, District Commander Jim Bossen, and Legionnaire Gary Schank. The driver is Post Adjutant Mike Alexander.

Anaconda Post 21

BY BARRY DECHAIINE



Pete Radonich receives French Legion of Honor Medal August 2, 2017 from Post 21 Cdr Phil Watt.

At the annual Auxiliary picnic held inside the Anaconda Post on August 2, 2017 two special events occurred besides a wonderful picnic. Legionnaires Pete Radonich and Eugene Walsh each received a French Legion of Honor medal for their service during WW II. Past Post 21 Commander Phil Watt presented the medals while Barry DeChaine read the citations from the French Consul-General.

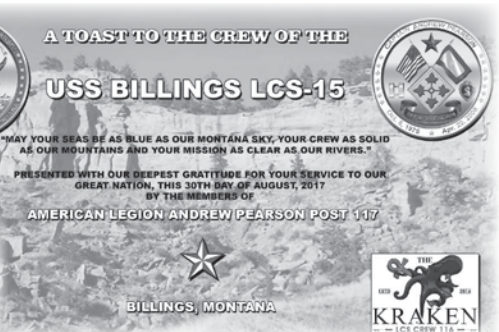


Eugene Walsh receives French Legion of Honor Medal August 2, 2017 from Post 21 Cdr Phil Watt.

Billings Post 117 Hosts Crew of USS Billings

BY GEORGE BLACKARD

Eight crew members of the USS Billings LCS-15 spent five days in Billings; five days that they are not likely to forget. The crew led by Commander Nate Rowan looked especially sharp and squared away and they would have been great representatives of the U.S.



Navy on any given day, at any event. The crew members were extremely professional and well-spoken and I have no doubt there are at least a few youngsters at local schools who are now considering the Navy for their future because of them.

The crew attended a Billings City Council meeting, a Yellowstone County Commissioner's meeting and visited the newest school in Billings, Ben Steele

Middle School. They toured local historic places including Pompey's Pillar, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and the new Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site.

Billings City Councilman Ryan Sullivan was tasked with setting the agenda for the crew and he asked if Post 117 would like to pitch in and welcome the crew to Billings. Andrew Pearson Post 117 hosted a cook out for the crew at Veterans Park which included the usual fare along with some elk burgers provided by Immediate Past Commander Mitch Howe. I was busy cooking but I'm pretty sure that Cmdr. Rowan had at least two and Chief Jones must have had three and then Chief immediately started negotiations on getting elk meat sent to the ship.

There were approximately one hundred people in attendance including Dept. Vice Commander Richard Klose, Zone Commander Michelle Harada, Ship Sponsor Sharla Tester, and Senator Jon Tester. Post 117 Commander Jim Lish presented the crew with a specially designed plaque and three books for the ships library including two books from fellow Legionnaire Gordon Ewell and one titled Montana Vigilantes. An excellent time was had by all and yes, all eight of the crew members present are now members of Andrew Pearson Post 117. We welcome our newest comrades and look forward to our relationship with the crew of the USS Billings. We also look forward to providing them support and even elk meat, any time we can.



Wreaths Across America, mark your calendar—invite your friends!

LINDA JUVIK, LOCATION AND FUNDRAISING GROUP COORDINATOR

December 16, 2017 (3rd Saturday in December), is the National Wreaths Across America Day. Wreaths Across America™ is a national non-profit organization formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. With over 1,200 participating locations nationwide, you are invited to join the local fundraising efforts of the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association as sponsored memorial wreaths are placed at Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison center circle. A local Boy Scout is building ten additional wreath stands for his Eagle Project. Each stand holds 20 wreaths and they need your help filling these stands with 200 more wreaths!

The cutoff date for sponsorships is just around the corner, so share in this opportunity to honor our American military heroes - one wreath at a time. It's important we make the effort to acknowledge their service and be part of the REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH national mission. Placing the memorial wreaths is important to the living.

Wreaths are \$15 each. Please make checks payable to *Wreaths Across America* and send to this address:



Wreaths Across America ™
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls ME 04623

Checks must be received in Maine by November 27, 2017 to have them count towards the 2017 event.

Include both the Location ID: MTSVCH – Montana State Veterans Cemetery Fort Harrison (so wreaths will be delivered to Fort Harrison), and the Local fundraising group ID – MT0010P – Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association

Proceeds from funds raised by the Association will be dedicated to statewide veterans' charitable causes. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or the Association, please contact:

Linda Juvik, Location & Fundraising Group Coordinator
Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison (MTSVCH)
Location
Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MT0010P)
Fundraising Group
PO Box 7693, Helena MT 59604
ohmswtahm@msn.com
406.442.0493

Townsend Post 42 1st Patriot Day Celebration a real success!

BY DEE GANNON

The 1st Annual Patriot Day celebration was held on Sunday, September 10, at the Townsend school multi-purpose room. About 120 people enjoyed an afternoon of food, music and plenty of opportunity to bid on 120 different silent auction items, of all sorts. This year, The American Legion Family, Post 42, initiated the benefit. In future years, it is hoped that it will become more of a community event; with other service organizations taking part in the planning and execution. This year, though, kudos go to the small committee of four who saw their way through the idea, promotion, and completion; making it one of the fundraising highlights of the year.

All in all, including food, games, dunk tank, jewelry sales, and silent auction—the net proceeds (and the value of the check given toward the ambulance and supplies) was \$4,550! Thank you to all those businesses and individuals who made this possible and successful! We are so grateful to be able to help out, even in a small way, for our first responders.

We're hoping that next year's event, and those following, will be bigger and better! Our first responders deserve help in any way we can give it. They run towards chaos; and we are forever and always, grateful.

Bozeman Post 14 Hosts 9-11 and Benghazi Remembrance Ceremony

BY LEN ALBRIGHT

Post 14 hosted a 9/11 and Benghazi remembrance ceremony on the street in front of the Legion hall. Bud Siefert, Post 14's Chaplain, gave an invocation



HISTORIAN DALLAS THOMPSON PHOTOS

and benediction, Sheriff Brian Gootkin, Fire Chief Josh Waldo, and Bozeman Police Chief Steve Crawford all spoke at the event followed by a message from Len Albright (Post 14, 1st Vice). Special Olympian Larry Kiff sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America" followed by the 3-round volley by Post 14's Honor Guard and member George Tate playing Taps. The event displayed appreciation for all the first responders on this Patriots Day (at 9:03 am).



Post 14 Hosts Navy Week

BY LEN ALBRIGHT



Admiral Mike Holland was the guest speaker for the Navy Week breakfast hosted by Post 14. Other guests in attendance were former Mayor Jeff Krauss.



1st table facing is Mike Holland. 2nd table left facing: Jim Korth, Svs. Officer, next to Korth is former mayor Jeff Krauss. Rick Gale, Post PR Liaison (standing).

Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association & Ride to Remember

LINDA JUVIK, MEMBER, MONTANA POW/MIA AWARENESS ASSOCIATION



The Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association was established by a group of Montana-based veterans dedicated to the memory of the more than 82,000 POW/MIA personnel yet primarily focusing on those missing from Montana. This is our main effort and is highlighted by the annual motorcycle ride, Montana Ride To Remember. Open to all, it is 183 easy miles from Helena to West Yellowstone.

With unlimited passion and drive, members work on details for months ahead of the 3rd Saturday in August, to bring attention to the POW/MIA issue, concentrating on the 53 service personnel from Montana. Considered by many to be a first class, one-of-a-kind Montana event, the 2017 ride also welcomed participants from Idaho, Texas, and Canada.

While anxious riders wait for the countdown before August, members concentrate on the long to-do list in preparation for the complimentary barbeque on Friday evening and the Saturday morning opening ceremony at Lewis and Clark Veterans Memorial, located in Helena's Memorial Park.

For your awareness, each POW/MIA flag displayed along US 287 east of Helena on certain U.S. and Veteran related holidays is embroidered with the name, branch of service and conflict of a Montana Missing-in-Action serviceman. During the closing ceremony following the 2016 ride in West Yellowstone, the association retired the flag of Army Sgt.

1st Class Alan L. Boyer, missing since March 8, 1968 from the Vietnam War but now interred back home.

This labor of love was rewarded again this year when the association presented two more retired POW/MIA flags at the end of the ride. With peace of mind, the wait for the family members of two more MIA's had ended. The remains of their loved ones had been identified and returned for burial with full military honors. It was an honor to retire the two flags this year and say "Welcome Home" to U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class, Harold P. Haugland, who went MIA on December 2, 1950, during the Korean War, and to U.S. Air Force Captain Robert E. Holton, MIA since Jan. 29, 1969, during the Vietnam War.

Let us always remember. It's important to have hope and continue the work that heightens awareness of American POW/MIA's. The association extends an invitation for you to Save-the-Date: August 18, 2018 (3rd Saturday in August), for the 5th Annual Montana Ride To Remember, and hopes to see you cheering and waving American flags along US 287, the POW/MIA Memorial Highway, from Helena to West Yellowstone. If you have any questions about Montana Ride To Remember or the association, please contact:

Linda Juvik, Member
Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association
PO Box 7693, Helena MT 59604
501(c)(3) tax exempt organization
info@mttridetoremember.org
Read more: mttridetoremember.org
Find us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/mttridetoremember>

Livingston Post 23

BY DEAN GILBERT

New members of the Sons of the American Legion and The Legion Riders are making a big difference in the activities of Park Post 23. These members are stepping up to help with the cooking and cleanup for the Steel Horse Stampede, participating in the Honor Guard, parades, and other Legion activities.

Of special note, the Park Post 23 Legion Riders travelled to Sheridan Wyoming to await the arrival of a Ford 150 Pickup that had been outfitted for handicapped veterans. Ford Motor Company was displaying the Purple Ribbon Truck around the states before donating it to a disabled veteran in Texas. It was driven by a veteran with no legs fully capable of operating the vehicle, and the special lifts that allowed him to move from the driver's position to a wheelchair stored in the back of the covered pickup box without assistance from any other person. The Legion Riders then escorted the truck to Livingston for a demonstration of the handicap adaptations to the waiting Legion members who rendered an Honor Guard to welcome the entourage. After a quick lunch, the Purple Ribbon Truck and the Legion Rider escort proceeded to

the western Montana state line on the other side of Missoula where the truck continued west and the Riders returned home to Livingston. This was the first and so far, only escort offered for the Handicap Veteran Purple Ribbon Truck.

On July 2, shortly after daylight, Legion members and volunteers turned out to place flags for the Avenue of Flags in Sacajawea Park, a very picturesque location between the Yellowstone River and the majestic Absaroka Mountains. A special section of crosses was set up, each cross bearing the name of a deceased veteran from Park County. At 11 o'clock the Legion Honor Guard led the Livingston Round-up Parade starting the Fourth of July celebration. The streets were packed with visitors and local residents to watch the activities.

With snow in the Absaroka Mountains and frost on the Yellowstone River, The American Legion Park Post 23 turned out to clean the highway of litter accumulated during the summer for two miles in Paradise Valley, a beautiful entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The pickup load of garbage was delivered to the green boxes. A dozen veterans were on hand for the task on September 23, 2017.

Butte Post 1 Legion Rider Update

BY H. FOX

Post 1 and its Legion Riders have had a good year. Two Legion Riders traveled on their bike to the Western Region ROMP in San Luis Obispo CA in June, and five Legion Riders participated in MIA Captain Robert Holton's welcome home



Post 1 Legion Riders Jeanette Knoell & Roger Knoell leading Evil Kneivel Days Bike Parade.

escort. Veterans were honored on Evil Kneivel Days celebrations in July and eight Legion Riders participated in the bike parade around Butte, with Post 1 Riders leading the parade carrying the American flag, the Montana flag and service banners. One of the Posts' Riders hosted a passenger, WWII Submariner and AL Life member, Phil Lyons.



Legion Rider Bill Hitchens with WWII Veteran Phil Lyons in the Evil Kneivel Days Bike Parade.

Andrew Pearson Post 117 Warrior Run

BY GEORGE BLACKARD

Post 117 hosted their fourth annual Warrior Run fundraiser atop the rims in Billings on Sunday, August 20, 2017. The annual run is one of two major fundraisers the Post holds every year to raise money for veterans' assistance and Legion programs.

Approximately two hundred people participated in the run, ages five to over seventy. The event includes a 5K walk/run on a paved trail that just about anyone can participate in and the eight and half mile Warrior Run which is largely a trail run with steep inclines and uneven terrain. Along the course volunteers including the Young Marines, Boy Scouts, and U.S. Naval Sea Cadets cheer on and encourage the runners.

One of the traditions that has really taken on deep meaning is the placing of ribbons on a mast at the halfway mark. Each runner is given a ribbon at the start of the race that they then write the name or names of loved ones they are running for. They carry the ribbon through the run until they reach the mast whereupon they



tack their ribbon to it. Each year the mast is saved and brought back to the run.

Instead of the traditional t-shirt, the committee opted to give buffs (headwear) to all the runners at the beginning of the run and as each one crossed the finished line, Warrior Run Committee Chairman Jessie Iverson, placed a single commemorative dog tag around that person's neck. In addition, each age group winner received a commemorative challenge coin.

This year we were honored to have Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sebastian and their daughter Amanda who came all the way from Iowa to participate in the run. Ron is a Viet Nam Veteran with a courageous story and inspiring attitude. He was a Navy Seabee who was severely wounded after volunteering for a true suicide mission in Viet Nam. His legs were so badly damaged that he nearly lost them both yet today he is able to participate in the Warrior Run. He was a true inspiration to us all.

Many thanks to run organizers, SAL member Russ Palmer and Legionnaire Jessie Iverson, for their outstanding work

White Sulphur Springs Post 25



Post 25 delivered back packs to all first graders at Meagher County school on Wednesday, August 23rd. Thirteen American Legion members presented the backpacks to the thirteen students. Each of the back packs was filled with school supplies needed to begin the current school year. It was very rewarding to see the happy faces as they received their back packs.

Father/Son Team Jump

BY SCOTT TURNER, CORVALLIS POST 91 COMMANDER

Saturday 8 July, 2017 was the 150th anniversary of the Montana Militia. The 190th Chemical Reconnaissance Detachment (CRD) conducted airborne parachuting exercises to commemorate the anniversary of the Montana Militia. The day was a special day not only for the Montana National Guard, but also for a father and son. CW2 Scott Turner, who is currently in the Utah National Guard with 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, and Commander of Corvallis Post 91 was able to participate in the jump with his oldest son, SGT Patrick Turner, a member of the 190th CRD and the Montana National Guard. This was their first opportunity for the father and



son team to jump together. CW2 Scott Turner, a current static line jumpmaster, was the "jumping" jumpmaster for the first lift, first pass of jumpers. The number two jumper, just behind his dad, was Patrick. The static line jump was made from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from a drop altitude of 1,500 feet above ground level. The jump was a success and all jumpers from the stick exited the aircraft, had good canopy control, and landed safely within the Marshall drop-zone on Fort Harrison. The father and son team were able to complete two jumps that day and are looking forward to opportunities in the future.

Billings Post 117 donates Flag Pole to Yellowstone Kelly Project

BY GEORGE BLACKARD

Luther Sage Kelly was born in July of 1849 and for the next 79 years led a life full of adventure and excitement. At fifteen years of age he lied about his age to join the Union Army at the tail end of the

American Civil War, served during the Indian Wars and the Philippine-American War. He was a soldier, hunter, scout, and adventurer almost his entire life.

Kelly was buried atop the rimrocks overlooking Billings in 1929. For decades his grave site, marked only by a concrete slab, was ignored but the Billings Chamber of Commerce with the help of many private and corporate donations including from Post 117, has changed that. The new Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site held its grand opening on September 28th.

Andrew Pearson Post 117 donated the lighted flagpole that will stand in the middle of the site and



(L-R) Dept. Parliamentarian George Blackard, Unit 117 member Abby Blackard, Post 117 Adjutant Joy Mariska, Project Coordinator Bill Cole, Anne Cole, Post 117 Commander Jim Lish.

First Flag to be presented to the family of Luther Sage "Yellowstone" Kelly.

they were there to help open the site with a flag raising ceremony. The Post 117 Warrior Run incorporated the Yellowstone Kelly Site into the event and this year members of the Post raised the first flag on the new pole for that event. This first flag was given to members of the Kelly family at the official opening.

DEPT. BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Missoula Post 27

Ryan McHugh of the Missoula Mavericks was awarded the Department Baseball Scholarship for The American Legion Department of Montana on August 2, 2017. Winners of this award receive \$500. The award was presented by John Angwin, Cdr. Post 27, the Mavericks sponsor. John was accompanied by Dist. 5 Cdr. Greg Marose and Western Zone Cdr. Elmer Palmer. Parents Pat and Laurie McHugh watched their son accept the award.



Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional \$2,500 scholarship.

A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.

All-Academic Team winners will retain their \$500 scholarship from their Department.

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

Ryan is currently a student at Montana State University on Bozeman, Montana.

Laurel Post 123



Paul Kroll, Carson Hoke, and Richard Klose.

Carson Hoke received a \$1000 Baseball Scholarship from The American Legion Department of Montana.

Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana



UPDATE:
Improving G.I. Bill Benefits for Student Veterans

Legislation I championed in the U.S. Senate to improve post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and keep our commitments to student veterans was signed into law on August 16, 2017. By removing time restrictions for use of the G.I. Bill, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act allows future eligible recipients to use their G.I. benefits for their entire lives. It was an honor to advance higher education opportunities for our nation’s veterans. When these men and women return home, it is critically important that we get them the additional skills and education they need to join the workforce.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin Visits Montana

VA Secretary David Shulkin was in Montana on August 21st. It was great to get him in front of Montana VA leadership as well as the veterans who turned out for our town hall meeting in Helena. They gave the VA Secretary a lot of insight into the work that still remains to make the VA work better for Montana veterans. The Secretary shared the great news that he is changing the department’s grant program that left veterans in rural states behind and underserved. With our efforts we will see the VA facility in Missoula substantially increase in size and the odds of a VA facility in Butte are looking better and better. I will continue working with Secretary Shulkin to advance quality healthcare and service for our veterans.

U.S. Senate Passes Defense Bill to Support a Strong National Defense

On September 18th, the Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by an overwhelming margin of 89-8. This legislation provides essential authorities for our military to have the tools necessary to defend against the threats from a rouge regime in North Korea, continue the campaign to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. For Montana, the NDAA continues to make progress on sustaining and modernizing our Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) inventory, speeding up replacement of the helicopters used to secure our ICBM sites, and updating our Montana Air National Guard C-130s. President Trump and Congress are making it clear that the strength of our military and the commitment to taking care of our veterans are top national priorities and I am honored to be part of this effort.

Columbia Falls Post 72 receives Flag from Tester

Columbia Falls American Legion Freedom Post 72 being honored by Sen. Jon Tester with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol building. Sen. Tester thanked now Past Commander Shepard for his building the Post to current levels, and assisting efforts to move all veterans' concerns forward. Flag was awarded during the Senator's visit to Columbia Falls during the Outdoor event on August 22. Chad Campbell was a great help in acquiring the flag for Post display.



Trump Signs Testers 7th Bill into Law

Senator’s Bipartisan Bill Will Prevent Crucial Veterans Benefits From Expiring

(U.S. SENATE | 10/03/2017) – President Donald Trump has signed into law U.S. Senator Jon Tester’s bipartisan bill to fund and prevent a wide range of critical veterans’ benefits from expiring.



Tester’s VA Expiring Authorities Act ensures rural veterans who use transportation assistance to travel to and from medical appointments will be able to utilize those services through 2019. Tester’s law also continues a successful pilot program that reimburses veterans who travel to the Kalispell Vet Center for mental health care.

“Rural, disabled and homeless Montana veterans rely on these initiatives every day,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “By making sure that veterans can get to their doctor appointments on time and get back on their feet, we are making good on the promises we have made to our veterans and their families.”

The VA Expiring Authorities Act includes:

- The Caregiver Support Program, which provides assistance to those who sacrifice their time and money to care for veterans.
- The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, which provides critical housing, counseling and career training to homeless or at-risk veterans.
- Provisions from Tester’s Deborah Sampson Act, which provide more opportunities for women veterans to seek readjustment counseling.



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.



BIG 1,000 CLUB

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

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Adjutant continued from pg. 2

The Department Oratory finals will be in Great Falls Saturday March 10th, the District contests should be completed the week prior, notification to Department is due immediately upon completion of the District contests.

Additionally, the 7th & 8th Grade Constitutional Essay program and the High School Constitutional Essay should begin to be worked, please get them to the schools early.

We have many deserving people and institutions of these awards, however unless you the member nominate someone for them, they cannot be recognized and awarded. 🏆

How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: October 1, 2017

Preferences:

- **Text** – No formatting such as, **multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text**
- Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as *All formatting has to be removed before placing into paper.*
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post *City* as well as Post/Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
- **Acronyms.** Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)*. The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, use the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.
- DO NOT submit articles in PDF format.
- If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.

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

- **JPG format, as an attachment**
- Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
- **Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo.**
If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- **Captions should be noted in the e-mail:**
Photo# caption which includes Post/ Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.
- **Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE**
Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
- **Do Not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attach)**
See above (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.

News articles

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

Corrections to previously-sent articles

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

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to:
lmtprpub@gmail.com
Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!



It’s All About Helping Each Other

Headed into winter, it's important to be caught up on all of last winter's heating bills so you can go into the cold season with your account up to date.

If you're struggling to pay off last year's heating bills, contact Energy Share of Montana and see about getting some help. In Montana, it's about neighbors helping neighbors. That can be as simple as going with a friend to complete an application. Call now:

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Energy Share of Montana at
1-888-779-7589

You can also find information at
www.energysharemt.com.

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STATE OF MONTANA
Selective Service Looking for Volunteers

State Director LTC Scott Bendle (Retired) and Reserve Force Officer LTC Stephen Kelm with the Montana National Guard are currently serving the Selective Service System. We are looking for assistance from men and women volunteers interested in becoming a Board Member to fill several vacant positions throughout the State.

The Selective Service requires a Board Member from each county in Montana and we are actively recruiting to fill vacancies in: Park, Silverbow, Blaine, Toole, Big Horn, Rosebud, Petroleum, Wheatland, Dawson, Powder River.

If mobilized, the Board Members would hear cases involving men requesting deferments or exemptions. The Board Member is appointed by the Governor and required to complete an Initial Board Member Training course which takes about two hours. After this, only an Annual Training course is required which takes about an hour to complete.

To serve as a Board Member there are a few requirements.

- You could have served in the military, but cannot be retired with 20 years of service.
- You must be 18 years of age or older and be able to complete 5-10 years of service.
- Complete an initial training course and then an annual refresher training scenario.
- Must not be a judge or law enforcement official.
- Must not be convicted of a serious crime.
- Must reside in the county they represent.
- Must be objective and unbiased in deciding registrant claims.

Please contact LTC Steve Kelm at 406-586-7245; Stephen.m.kelm2.mil@mail.mil or State Director William Cooper at 406-594-1871; cooperlhamt@icloud.com

*Big Timber
American Legion
Post #19*

Drop in to see us!

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and Auxiliary*

American Legion of Montana

Welcome

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FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 8:00 P.M.

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*Sunday - Open at Noon
all meetings 2nd
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