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Volume 100, No. 1

August - October 2022

Lowell Long Selected Commander of the Department of Montana



Lowell E Long, Jr.
Department Commander

Lowell Long was born in Shelby, MT and raised in Conrad. He graduated from Conrad High School in May of 1975 and joined the United States Marine Corps, June 4, 1975. He comes from a family of those who have chosen to serve this great nation. He served four years on active duty serving at Camp Pendleton

CA, and Okinawa, Japan. His MOS was Mortarman, he also served as a chaplains assistant. Lowell was released from active duty in the Marine Corps in June of 1979. He joined the Montana Army National Guard in 1982 where he served in several units that were based at different times in Havre, in various supply roles.

While he was with the 443rd Quartermaster Co. he was activated to go to Iraq in 2004 with the 639th Quartermaster Co. He worked in various fields of Supply warehousing. Lowell retired from the Army National Guard in 2007, after serving nearly 28 years in the military.

As a civilian, Lowell attended college completed his masters and taught Special Education, at Harlem elemen-

CDR LONG BIO continued on page 4

Department Vice Commander Lonnie J. Johnson



Lonnie J. Johnson
Department Vice Commander

Lonnie Johnson enlisted in the Montana National Guard in 1991 as a Junior in High School, he attended Basic Training in Fort Benning, GA the summer of 1991 and then AIT again at Fort Benning the summer of 1992. Something inside, or the lack of much else to do at home, made him decided to go active duty in spring of 1994. He went onto serve in the 1st/506th Infantry on both Camp Giant and Camp Greaves, 2nd Infantry Division, South Korea. In 1995, he PCS'd to 1st/5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA, where he served as the NBC NCO for a year and Unit Armorer through the Army's Force XXI program. 1997, Lonnie submitted and was selected for an AGR position in S4 at the Infantry Headquarters in Bozeman; he finished out his National Guard enlistment with the Artillery in 1999.

Lonnie was just hitching a ride to Helena some 27 years ago with two Legionnaires that were on their way to a convention or meeting of some sort, when he was recruited to join. Positions in The American Legion in which I have served include Post and District Adjutant, Americanism

VICE CDR JOHNSON BIO continued on page 4

BIG K WINNERS

May — \$400
Stevensville Post 94
June — \$400
Janice Dobb
Harlowton Post 15
Grand Prize for the Year
\$1800
Gloria Kountz
Glasgow Unit 41
*Presented at Department
Convention in Missoula.*

The American Legion Districts received \$415.50, The American Legion Auxiliary Districts \$121.50, Sons of the American Legion \$25.50 Posts \$2295.00, Units \$671.50, and the Squadrons \$144.50 in Big K disbursements.
The Big K for next year (2023) is now open for membership until December 31, 2022. You may purchase as many memberships as you desire until 1000 are sold throughout the Department. Posts, Units and Squadrons may also purchase memberships in the Big K.
The first drawing for \$100 will be the New Year Drawing on January 1, 2023

Department of Montana 2022 Fall District Meetings

Sept 10... Dist. 9..... Judith Gap
Sept 11... Dist. 2.....Rocky Boy
Sept 17... Dist. 8Dutton
Sept 18... Dist. 7 Big Timber
Sept 24 .. Dist. 3.....Cut Bank
Sept 25 .. Dist. 4.....Libby
Oct 1 Dist. 1..... Hinsdale
Oct 2 Dist. 10..... Glendive
Oct 8 Dist. 6..... Butte
Oct 9 Dist. 5..... Missoula
Oct 15.... Dist. 11Fromberg

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug 26–Sep 1**Nat'l Convention**
Sep 5..... Labor Day
Sep 11 Patriot Day
Sep 12 Constitution Day
Sep 14 55% Target
Sep 16..... POW-MIA Recognition Day
Oct 1 **Legionnaire Deadline**
Oct 10..... Columbus Day
Oct 12..... 60% Target
Oct 27-28 **Legion College**
Oct 28-29 **Fall Conf Exec Bd Mtg**
Oct 31 Halloween
Nov 6..... Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 8..... **ELECTION DAY**
Nov 10..... AL Auxiliary Birthdays 1919
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 16 70% Target
Nov 24..... Thanksgiving
Jan 15..... LEO & FF Due
Mar 11 Dept Oratory Contest- Bzmn
June 10-16**2023 AL Boys State**

Montana Receives Gold Star Monument



BY RANDY KEMP, GALLATIN POST 14

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 was instrumental, with the assistance of other local veteran organizations, in working with the Woody Williams Foundation on the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument project. This started in 2020 and was completed on Memorial Day 2022. After the Memorial Day Parade, while still raining, over 200 people gathered at Sunset Hills Cemetery for the unveiling of the monument and to honor approximately 80 Gold Star Family members. The monument is the only Woody Williams Gold Star Monument in Montana, and subsequently, makes Montana the 50th state to receive the monument. Also, Montana is the location of the 100th monument to be installed by this organization.

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COMMANDER LONG



Lowell Long
Department Commander

As I sit to write my first article as your new Commander, I first want to thank Past Commander Glen Sharbono for all he accomplished as our commander. It was a pleasure serving with him and learning the expectations of me as your next commander. I want to commend Bill White on running a great campaign. Thank you for the many conversations we had as we ran for this position.

Our Department Convention is now over, and it is time to get to work on our agenda for 2022-2023. I mentioned in my campaign, I will be focusing on our great programs this year. I believe that we need to educate all Legionnaires on our programs and not just ask each of you to work the program. How can we properly work a program when we may not

know enough about it? We will be spending some of our time together at our District meetings on our programs and explaining each program and how they work so we can do a better job in promoting them and getting them done. I believe working our programs, and being visible in our communities, will assist in attracting new members and retaining those we have. Membership is the key to any organization, retaining our current members and working to attract new members to join our great organization is imperative. Without this, we will soon cease to exist, along with the voice we have for veterans. Our Department Vice Commander, Lonnie Johnson, will be the face for membership this year. I will be working with him on what I would like addressed and he will help me promote it and get the word out to everyone.

I want to thank the newly elected Executive Committee. You have a very good group of leaders that will be helping to move the Department of Montana forward this next year. Your District Commanders and Zone Commanders will be working tirelessly for you this year. In addition to that, we have a very strong group of committee chairmen to help run our various programs. Please reach out to these people if you have any questions on any program. They will gladly help you to be successful as you work these programs. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to Duane Cunningham and Erin Carpenter. These are our only paid employees, and they work very hard on our behalf in the office to ensure that we can do our jobs well. I observed them during the convention working long days to make sure that we had everything we needed to make the convention a success. The dedication to our Department that they have is evident in everything they do.

Finally, I want to ask each of you for your support this year, I will be there for you and help you in any way I can. I want to assure you I am available to come to any event, you just need to ask. 🇺🇸

Department of Montana Adjutant

Duane Cunningham

Greetings and Salutations,

As we move through the 2022 American Legion Calendar year, I thought I might bring you up to speed on some of the happenings at Department the last few months. This is the busy time of the year for Department, we started by relocating our offices to the old tool program building on Fort Harrison so a remodel of Department spaces could be completed. The plan is for Department to be back in our old location hopefully no later than mid-August.

Once Department was settled in, it wasn't long before the first challenge presented itself; the 2022 American Legion Boy's State session. This year presented many obstacles as not only did we relocate the entire operation to the facilities on Fort Harrison, but we installed a new American Legion Boys State Director and Chairman and brought in all new counselors with the emphasis being placed back on this being an American Legion Program and pretty much developed an SOP on the fly. The effort put forth by the ALBS staff was nothing short of exemplary. While turnout was slightly lower than some years, partially by design, 61 registered delegates from 38 different communities began a once in a lifetime journey.

I would personally like to thank Josh Clement, ALBS Chairman and his counselors, Scott Miller, Post 71; Joe Yeoman, Post 41; Paul Munson, Post 3; John Silkman, Jim Leeper, Michael Hunter, Jordan Laine, Pat Criswell, Ken Simon, Post 58, and Jed Damson, Post 11. The counselors were amazing with this group of young men; their leadership, drive and enthusiasm not only brought out a thriving learning environment, but it also allowed the ALBS Delegates to enjoy the entire experience.

With guest speakers ranging from Montana Governor Greg Gianforte, Adjutant General John P. Hronek of the Montana National Guard, Attorney General Austin Knudsen, and former Montana Governor Marc Racicot, the stage was set for a fun and educational experience at the State Capital on Thursday. The delegates elected Charles Fox from Helena as 2022 session Governor and your Boys Nation delegates are Grady Radke from Drummond and Roman Jacobsen from Great Falls. Charles Fox and Thomas Konopka from Kalispell were selected as alternates. I have received nothing but praise and admiration for both the staff and the group of young men that represented the 2022 American Legion Boys State Program. Bravo Zulu gentlemen.

Upon completion of American Legion Boys State, the Department rolled right into preparations and the execution of the Department Convention. This year's Convention was held in Missoula and was hosted by Chief Joseph Post 135, Lolo, with Roger Hancock as your Convention Chairman. Roger did a great job this year preparing and pulling off this year's Convention, from Thursday's documentary tour of the Miss Montana DC3 aircraft to the hosting of the American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard; Convention was a rousing success.

This year's Convention was unique in many ways as it brought about something that hadn't happened in many years, a contested election. Lowell Long and Bill White spent the spring of 2022 attending District meetings with Department honing their stump speeches, shaking hands and kissing babies, working the crowds for votes. This was an example of what The American Legion is all about...grassroots leadership. I would like to thank both Bill and Lowell for their efforts. It was a good time and I believe the Bluecaps that attended the District meetings enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to hear from both candidates with their vision of what The American Legion's future holds.

There was one takeaway from my first two Conventions as your Department Adjutant that I believe



Duane Cunningham
Department Adjutant

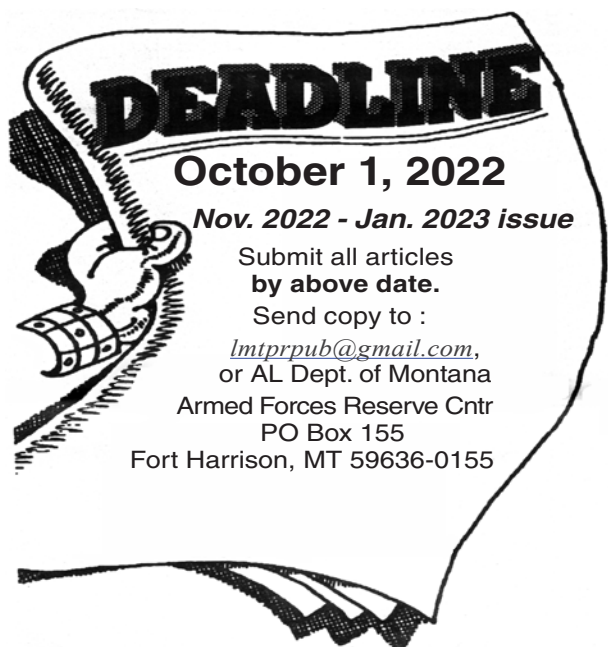
GOLD STAR MONUMENT continued from page 1

Gold Star Monument



Over 200 people gathered at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman following the Memorial Day Parade for the unveiling of the monument and to honor approximately 80 Gold Star Family members.

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COMMANDER - LOWELL LONG
VICE COMMANDER - JOHNSON
ADJUTANT - DUANE CUNNINGHAM



ADJUTANT continued on page 7

Chaplain's Corner

CHAYA "HIYA" SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

"Finally, my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (KING JAMES BIBLE)

In today's world of negative news and conversation, what is the value of "seeing the good" or "thinking positively" or even sharing good news?

Medical researchers have repeatedly revealed the wisdom in this train of thought and overwhelmingly, here's some of what they've found: When we hear or share good news, we get lower blood pressure, better sleep, more productivity, better interpersonal relationships and a sense of well-being.

It's up to us: do we dwell on the things that are "wrong" with our Department, our Post, Squadron or Unit or will we choose to find and the think of the "good"?

Do you zero in and focus on the failings of those in leadership and then broadcast those perceived failings to elevate your own status in the eyes of others? Be honest – carefully examine your motivations for negative speech. It's easy to rationalize away motivation rather than face the ugly truth that it's really your character that needs some work.

Or, will you find the good, focus on it, and speak of it in your community and with your fellow members? Will you pray for those in leadership of any kind who have stepped up to give of themselves by taking on a needed position – no matter how imperfectly they fulfill their office?

Will you speak of their successes and strong points rather than murmur and sow dissension among members by dwelling on and pointing out any leader's perceived failings and weaknesses? Will you step up and help your leaders to succeed by actively engaging in and supporting the programs of the Legion Family?

We are members of a volunteer organization – they shouldn't have to ask for your help! Find ways to support them in a positive way that will help everyone succeed. As the saying goes, "There is no "I" in team." Serving in a volunteer organization is not about who gets the credit for getting things done!

Aside from supporting our leadership this extends to all aspects of life. All you have to do is stop for a moment and think: how can I help someone else? Everyone needs help with something at some point. If you open yourself up to seeing the need, you will be surprised how with a kind word, a simple act or a small gesture, you could literally save someone's life.

The success of our Montana Legion Family is the responsibility of each and every member. Please start each day this coming week by thinking upon and taking to heart the Apostle Paul's challenge: *"Finally, my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

We, each one of us, have the ability to choose to see the good; we also have the power to create even more good in our Legion Family by choosing to find and focus on the good we can do to bring hope and light to our corner of the world.

May you be well!

Post Everlasting



July 2022

- ☆ BRAACH, WALTER, Korea – US Army – 1-year member of Post 89, Sheridan
- ☆ GOERNDT, FREDRICK, WWII – US Army – 21-year member of Post 35, Baker
- ☆ GUNDERSON, WILFORD, Korea – US Army – 22-year member of Post 88, Chester
- ☆ MAUK, MICHAEL, Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 108, Whitefish

Boys State—Tradition & Family Legacy

BY RANDY KEMP, POST 14, GALLATIN

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 conducted their monthly meeting on June 9, 2022. During the meeting Post 14 recognized one of our local high school students Dean Christie, who attended American Legion Boys State. Dean's father, Mike Christie is a 1987 American Legion Boys State graduate. Post 14 was extremely happy to honor two American Legion Boys State graduates and being father and son made it even more important and rewarding.



2021 Governor's Veteran Commendation

CHRISTINE MILLER, POST 71, FROMBERG

Montana's Governor Greg Gianforte holds all veterans in high esteem and established a governor's award for those veterans who return home and continue to serve in their communities. Scott Miller was nominated and selected late last year 2021 along with 31 others from across the state. These veterans represent exactly what The American Legion stands for, continuing to serve.

The Governor and his wife Susan came to Red Lodge on June 9th the to present Scott Miller with a certificate, a Montana flag flown over the capital in Helena and their unending gratitude. The Elks Club in Red Lodge main

room was packed with family friends and local people who have known Scott most his life. We were honored to have a group of Operation Second Chance Veterans on hand to also be present to see how Montana honors their veterans.

The governor spoke on Scott's service in every conflict the United States has been in since 1989, from Panama, Desert Storm, to multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He commented on the Legion of merit and three bronze stars, following it up with, "there is no doubt you have made our country stronger and the world a better place through your military service."

Since retiring, Scott continues to serve; most recently joining me at Montana's American Legion Boys state, serving in the Legion and VFW, and currently working for the hard-working citizens of Carbon county as a commissioner.

Governor Gianforte ended his speech with, "Thank you for making the best place on earth even better with your life of service." He then turned the floor to Scott. Scott spoke most humbly on the honor bestowed upon him briefly, but turned the subject to those of whom he served with. "I owe being here to the guys I served with, to the people I currently serve and to all those who have stood unwaveringly beside me through this journey. To look out in the crowd and see my wife and family here and people who knew my grandfather and a little kid at coffee is an honor. Many of you I went to school with right here in Carbon County, and all of you honor me with your presence and privilege to continue serving. It's good to be home."

Many handshakes and pats on the back were shared at the brief ceremony and the Governor stayed for pictures for over an hour.



Members of Post 71 present at ceremony. (L-R) Chuck Miller, Christine Miller, Scott Miller, Governor Gianforte, and Tim Nottingham

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RAYMOND K. REED, DEPT HISTORIAN

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Congratulations to the participants of the 2022 Montana Department of The American Legion for a successful Convention, the 103rd annual Convention. Congratulations to the 2021-2022 American Legion leadership headed by Glen Sharbono, Post 138, Ronan for a successful year. A History Point: The 4th Annual Convention was conducted at the Liberty Theater in Kalispell, Montana July 20-22, 1922. C. Thomas Busha of Helena served as the Department Commander.

As the department historian, I hope everyone was able to visit the museum at Fort Harrison, and hopefully caught the traveling exhibits, 1944 Veterans Adjustment Act, known as the GI Bill, and “The Colors of Our Country” which were on display since the last week of May and remained through the 246th Independence day celebration on July 4, 2022, at the Montana Military Museum located at Ft. Harrison.

The exhibits were in place to honor the 75th Anniversary of Montana’s American Legion Boys State being conducted at Fort Harrison, American Legion Auxiliary Girls at Carroll College, and Montana Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The Exhibit along with its companion exhibit is open to the public.

The GI Bill exhibit was built in New Orleans in 2017 as an initiative to celebrate The American Legion 100th Anniversary and to educate audiences about one of our greatest achievements during that century. The first venue for display was at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans in June 2017. Making it a traveling exhibit has allowed many to see it who would not have had the opportunity. The large exhibit is permanently installed at the Indiana War Memorial Museum near The American

Belgrade Post 30 retires Flags

BY DEMORISE ALLEN, POST 30, BELGRADE

After being told on June 14(Flag Day) that Post 30 could not hold its Flag Retirement Ceremony because of high wind. Post members adjusted the plan and rendered final honors for close to 50 flags that had been collected for destruction as they were no longer serviceable.

Thirty or so members of Post 30 gathered to help with the large undertaking. Commander Hank Adams, Mary Williamson, and SAL member RJ Kandel are pictured burning flags. Overall, it was a great experience, knowledge was shared among Legionnaires, as well as classic Montana ingenuity applied to get the job done.



Post 30 Recognizes longtime member

BY: DEMORISE ALLEN

In 1976, a young 31-year-old Tim Kuntz joined American Legion Post 28 in Glendive, Montana. After spending a few years there, he moved to Oklahoma where he raised his family. Fast forward a few years more, he returns to Montana and settles in Belgrade, MT and continues his membership with Post 30.

Now at the Age of 77, Tim continues his membership with pride. “I’ll always be a Legionnaire.” We are glad to have such an example to us younger members.



Colors of our Country

Legion National Headquarters.

The companion exhibit entitled, “The Colors of Our Country,” has been on display but also traveled to Missoula, MT for 2022 Department of Montana

American Legion Convention on 16-19 June 2022. It is a 20 ft. exhibit that vividly illustrates the 250-year evolution of the Stars and Stripes from a battle flag for patriots to the enduring symbol of American freedom.

Yearly, Posts are challenged to submit a Post yearbook for competition; the Historian’s Office received two One-Year Post Yearbooks for the announced 2021-22 Department Contest. They were: American Legion of Montana Ravalli Post 47 of Hamilton, and Montana and American Legion of Montana Post 58 in Plentywood, MT.

The reviewing committee recognized Post 47 as the first-place winner in 2021-22 Department Contest and Post 58 as the runner up. Post 47 will now be allowed to move forward to the National Contest if it’s in the dictated format. Complete contest rules can be found in The American Legion Officer Guide, pages 139-149. Both Post histories were recognized at the Department level. I encourage more Posts to submit in coming years.



CDR Long BIO continued from pg. 1

tary until his retirement in 2020. In February of 2020, Lowell was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council of Exceptional Children for his work with students with disabilities.

Lowell has been a member of The American Legion for 19 years. He was signed up by his wife, while he was still serving in Iraq. He has served Post 48 as Commander and Adjutant. Serving as the American Legion Boys State Chairman and Oratorical Chairman was an honor, he also participated in writing the Post Constitution and Bylaws.

He has served District 2 as the adjutant as well as the commander. He has been the American Legion Boys State Chairman and the Oratorical Chairman and helped write the District 2 Constitution and Bylaws. Lowell has also served as Zone Commander. At the Department level Lowell has been a long-standing member of the Oratorical Committee, and American Legion Boys State committee. The past year he has served as the Department of Montana Vice Commander. Lowell also serves on the National level Conventional Forces Committee. Lowell is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 48 in Chino, a lifetime member of the VFW, and a member of ANAVICUS and the 40/8.

Lowell’s family is also part of the Legion Family. His wife, Kathy, has served the Auxiliary with distinction in many roles; while his daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, and granddaughters, Katelynn and Isabelle are members of the American Legion Auxiliary as well. His son David, son-in-law Cody, and brother Wally are all members of the Sons of the American Legion.

Lowell is active in his community as well. He serves on the council for his church and as the Chair of the Board of Parish Education. He is a member and past President of the Montana Council of Exceptional Children which advocates for students with special needs and continues to serve on that board. Lowell spent 15 years on the board of Directors for District 2 Human Resources Development Council in Havre, one year as president, and enjoys helping low-income families in Blaine, Hill, and Liberty Counties.

VICE CDR Johnson BIO continued from pg. 1

Chair for three years, Parliamentarian, and Dean of Montana Legion College. He feels honored in attending three National Conventions as a delegate, and a member of the Americanism Council for 2022.

Lonnie currently lives in Plentywood with wife Cassie and two daughters Madison and Sierra. They own and operate with one employee, Plentywood Sanitation serving Sheridan County. PUFL member of The American Legion Post 58 in Plentywood, member of The Sons of The American Legion, ANAVICUS, Life Member of AMVETS, Life Member of KWVA, Legacy Life Member of the VFW, Life Member of VFW National Home for Children, and Affiliate Member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

40&8 Great Western Promenade

Montana Voyageurs Descend Upon Tombstone for Great Western Promenade

SUBMITTED BY JEN DALRYMPLE, VOITURE 718



Larry Steele, Linda Cousineau, and Jen Dalrymple

Three of our Montana Voyageurs and one Femne headed to the southern US border for the Great Western Promenade April 6-9, 2022 in Tombstone, Arizona. Larry and Barbara Steele, Jen Dalrymple and Grand Chef de Gare Linda Cousineau arrived in the historic dusty mining town of the desert to enjoy comradery with fellow Voyageurs, campfires, ghost tour, mine tour, small town parade, good food and libations, and of course, attend the meeting.

Apparently, Montanans haven't shown their presence for many years, so it was a shock to the other states that we were there. True to 40&8 fellowship, we took a good deal of heckling to make up for our absence in previous Great Western Promenades.

Several officers from Nationale were present as well as the Candidates for Nationale Chef de Gare. Weather created an atmosphere reminiscent of the old west towns with dust devils and heat (but it's a dry heat, right?!) making outdoor activities so much more realistic and challenging for us Northern folks.

Next year's Great Western Promenade will be in greener pastures planned for Spring 2023.

Feeling adventurous now,
plan to attend Nationale Promenade:
September 13-17, 2022

103RD NATIONAL PROMENADE & 59TH RENDEZVOUS
NATIONALE in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Ravalli Post 47

On Saturday April 30, 22022, Ravalli Post 47 American Legion of Hamilton, hosted a longevity and special awards luncheon. Five-year increment pins and certificates were presented to Post members with continuous membership.

Also, monetary and certificate awards were given to The American Legion Oratory Contest winner (Dillon Macilwraith of Darby High School) and two American Legion Essay Contest winners (Peter Harrington 10th Grade, and Laurel DeGroot 7th Grade), both are home schooled. Special recognition was rendered for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (Randy Eppinger of the Hamilton Police Department) and



Oratory Contest winner (Dillon Macilwraith)



Essay Contest winners Peter Harrington



Essay Contest winners Laurel DeGroot

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Historic Floods

On 10 June, massive rainstorms (4" rain in 24 hrs.) and resulting melting snowpack caused significant flooding in Red Lodge on 12 June, forcing evacuations. Rock Creek crested at noon on 13 June; however, while waters receded in Red Lodge, road and bridge damage was significant. The Yellowstone and Gardiner Rivers also had dangerous and destructive flooding on 13 June affecting Cooke City, Gardiner and Silver Gate. Evacuation orders on 14 June expanded to include portions of Belfry, Fromberg and Joliet with boil orders in effect due to compromised water supplies. Evacuation shelters were set up by The American Red Cross. The Montana National Guard conducted rescue operations

On 14 June, the Governor's office declared a disaster in Carbon, Park and Stillwater Counties, with the White House approving it on 16 June, paving the way for Federal recovery assistance.

On 14 June, more than 10,000 visitors were ordered to evacuate Yellowstone National Park as historic flooding tore through the northern half of the park, washing out bridges, roads and sweeping employee rental housing downstream – including the furnishings and personal possessions one Legion Post 118 member and his family owned (except the little they had taken with them out of state where they were visiting family at the time.)

What if it were you who was out of state when you watched all your family owned get pulled into the Yellowstone River and float away? What would you need to begin again? The recovery process after experiencing a major disaster of any kind is financially, mentally and physically exhausting.

The Stillwater River and East Rosebud Creek also flooded. Stillwater Post 34 was built with the expectation of the need to withstand some minor flooding; however, it wasn't "minor" flooding and the hands-on cleanup effort needed is great. Flood waters leave a nasty mess when they recede. What would you need if it were your Post?

How will you help?

May you be well!



Tom Pitzinger, Firefighter of the Year (above photo). Tom was also selected by the Department as the Firefighter of the Year, and will be recognized for his selection at the Department Convention in June.

Other special awards were presented to the Post 47 Legionnaire of the Year Wes Maydole (pictured below), and to Marcus Burnham for his many years of service to the Post and community.



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DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2023
July 1, 2022

	Year end Goal 2023	Year To Date Total	Year End 2022	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT.....	33.....	0.....	33.....	0.00%
41 GLASGOW.....	93.....	0.....	96.....	0.00%
45 HINSDALE.....	45.....	0.....	45.....	0.00%
49 HOMESTEAD.....	10.....	0.....	11.....	0.00%
55 POPLAR.....	28.....	0.....	30.....	0.00%
56 SCOBAY.....	45.....	0.....	45.....	0.00%
58 PLENTYWOOD.....	61.....	0.....	73.....	0.00%
61 BROCKTON.....	25.....	0.....	22.....	0.00%
81 CULBERTSON.....	89.....	0.....	84.....	0.00%
85 BAINVILLE.....	23.....	0.....	24.....	0.00%
122 OPHEIM.....	28.....	0.....	31.....	0.00%
140 FORT PECK TRIBES.....	17.....	0.....	20.....	0.00%
229 WESTBY.....	12.....	0.....	15.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	509.....	0.....	529.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE.....	117.....	0.....	89.....	0.00%
48 CHINOOK.....	49.....	0.....	52.....	0.00%
50 BIG SANDY.....	22.....	0.....	20.....	0.00%
57 MALTA.....	95.....	0.....	102.....	0.00%
67 ROCKY BOY.....	23.....	0.....	13.....	0.00%
79 SACO.....	11.....	0.....	22.....	0.00%
88 CHESTER.....	27.....	0.....	30.....	0.00%
109 TURNER.....	23.....	0.....	18.....	0.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP.....	10.....	0.....	6.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	3377.....	0.....	352.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER.....	50.....	0.....	51.....	0.00%
37 CONRAD.....	50.....	0.....	37.....	0.00%
40 CUT BANK.....	56.....	0.....	40.....	0.00%
43 SHELBY.....	49.....	0.....	33.....	0.00%
69 GALATA.....	21.....	0.....	13.....	0.00%
73 SWEETGRASS.....	73.....	0.....	60.....	0.00%
127 BROWNING.....	26.....	0.....	28.....	0.00%
CN20 CALGARY.....	45.....	0.....	45.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	370.....	0.....	307.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS.....	59.....	0.....	59.....	0.00%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS.....	110.....	0.....	119.....	0.00%
74 EUREKA.....	50.....	0.....	53.....	0.00%
86 BIG FORK.....	60.....	0.....	56.....	0.00%
97 LIBBY.....	178.....	0.....	178.....	0.00%
106 ST IGNATIUS.....	50.....	0.....	51.....	0.00%
108 WHITEFISH.....	66.....	0.....	66.....	0.00%
112 POLSON.....	134.....	0.....	139.....	0.00%
113 ARLEE.....	27.....	0.....	28.....	0.00%
126 CHARLO.....	19.....	0.....	19.....	0.00%
129 PARADISE.....	70.....	0.....	64.....	0.00%
137 KALISPELL.....	233.....	0.....	232.....	0.00%
138 RONAN.....	72.....	0.....	77.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1128.....	0.....	1141.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS.....	61.....	0.....	65.....	0.00%
27 MISSOULA.....	344.....	0.....	282.....	0.00%
47 HAMILTON.....	136.....	0.....	136.....	0.00%
63 CONDON.....	45.....	0.....	36.....	0.00%
68 MISSOULA.....	47.....	0.....	54.....	0.00%
83 CLINTON.....	16.....	0.....	15.....	0.00%
91 CORVALLIS.....	185.....	0.....	198.....	0.00%
94 STEVENSVILLE.....	203.....	0.....	188.....	0.00%
124 FRENCHTOWN.....	66.....	0.....	62.....	0.00%
125 DRUMMOND.....	62.....	0.....	75.....	0.00%
134 FLORENCE.....	67.....	0.....	70.....	0.00%
135 LOLO.....	154.....	0.....	147.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1386.....	0.....	1,328.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE 280.....	0.....	215.....	0.00%	
2 HELENA.....	810.....	0.....	807.....	0.00%
9 LINCOLN.....	60.....	0.....	62.....	0.00%
10 DEER LODGE.....	63.....	0.....	62.....	0.00%
20 DILLON.....	156.....	0.....	137.....	0.00%
21 ANACONDA.....	219.....	0.....	207.....	0.00%
24 WHITEHALL.....	86.....	0.....	88.....	0.00%
31 TWIN BRIDGES.....	40.....	0.....	42.....	0.00%
42 TOWNSEND.....	119.....	0.....	119.....	0.00%
46 BOULDER.....	25.....	0.....	30.....	0.00%
89 SHERIDAN.....	94.....	0.....	99.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1952.....	0.....	1868.....	0.00%

AT LARGE				
HELENA #105.....	0.....	0.....	48.....	0.00%

%				
DISTRICT #7				
114 BOZEMAN.....	365.....	0.....	382.....	0.00%
19 BIG TIMBER.....	178.....	0.....	160.....	0.00%
23 LIVINGSTON.....	172.....	0.....	166.....	0.00%
25 WHITE SULPHUR.....	65.....	0.....	68.....	0.00%
30 BELGRADE.....	218.....	0.....	186.....	0.00%
65 ENNIS.....	70.....	0.....	86.....	0.00%
78 W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	0.....	22.....	0.00%
87 MANHATTAN.....	155.....	0.....	36.....	0.00%
93 THREE FORKS.....	38.....	0.....	29.....	0.00%
99 BIG SKY.....	58.....	0.....	57.....	0.00%
118 GARDINER.....	37.....	0.....	33.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1385.....	0.....	1225.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS.....	258.....	0.....	221.....	0.00%
6 CHOTEAU.....	102.....	0.....	95.....	0.00%
26 FORT BENTON.....	32.....	0.....	32.....	0.00%
51 AUGUSTA.....	34.....	0.....	42.....	0.00%
64 DUTTON.....	44.....	0.....	42.....	0.00%
80 FAIRFIELD.....	29.....	0.....	24.....	0.00%
102 GERALDINE.....	110.....	0.....	118.....	0.00%
103 POWER.....	26.....	0.....	26.....	0.00%
130 VAUGHN.....	38.....	0.....	40.....	0.00%
133 CASCADE.....	29.....	0.....	36.....	0.00%
341 MALMSTROM.....	159.....	0.....	110.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	861.....	0.....	786.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON.....	100.....	0.....	87.....	0.00%
16 LEWISTOWN.....	393.....	0.....	279.....	0.00%
18 ROUNDUP.....	60.....	0.....	47.....	0.00%
53 STANFORD.....	26.....	0.....	23.....	0.00%
62 DENTON.....	26.....	0.....	29.....	0.00%
70 JUDITH GAP.....	69.....	0.....	64.....	0.00%
76 HOBSON.....	37.....	0.....	37.....	0.00%
96 ROY.....	24.....	0.....	26.....	0.00%
120 WINIFRED.....	31.....	0.....	28.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	766.....	0.....	620.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY.....	79.....	0.....	78.....	0.00%
12 SIDNEY.....	40.....	0.....	32.....	0.00%
28 GLENDIVE.....	105.....	0.....	98.....	0.00%
29 CIRCLE.....	16.....	0.....	16.....	0.00%
32 TERRY.....	99.....	0.....	93.....	0.00%
35 BAKER.....	120.....	0.....	102.....	0.00%
39 FORSYTH.....	93.....	0.....	97.....	0.00%
44 COLSTRIP.....	30.....	0.....	30.....	0.00%
114 FAIRVIEW.....	37.....	0.....	34.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	619.....	0.....	580.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS.....	438.....	0.....	394.....	0.00%
8 HARDIN 50.....	0.....	40.....	0.00%	
17 RED LODGE.....	59.....	0.....	59.....	0.00%
34 COLUMBUS.....	63.....	0.....	65.....	0.00%
71 FROMBERG.....	40.....	0.....	65.....	0.00%
84 BELFRY.....	35.....	0.....	32.....	0.00%
92 HYSHAM.....	20.....	0.....	22.....	0.00%
100 PARK CITY.....	61.....	0.....	57.....	0.00%
117 BILLINGS.....	163.....	0.....	109.....	0.00%
119 BILLINGS HGTS.....	182.....	0.....	183.....	0.00%
123 LAUREL.....	119.....	0.....	107.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1230.....	0.....	1133.....	0.00%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2023 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	10,583
2023 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	0
2022 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	9938
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	0.00%



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BEST PERCENTAGE POST YE 2022		
Post...79	SACO.....	200.00%
Post...71	FROMBERG	162.50%
Post...65	ENNIS	143.33%
Post...58	PLENTYWOOD	125.86%
Post...125	DRUMMOND	120.97%
Post...46	BOULDER	120.00%
Post..138	RONAN	118.46%
Post...96	ROY.....	118.18%
Post...51	AUGUSTA.....	111.11%
Post...127	BROWNING	107.69%
Post...39	FORSYTH.....	104.30%

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
1.....	101.34%	Ken Simon
4.....	101.15%	Dave Bennett
5.....	95.06%	Terry Wahl
6.....	94.97%	Linda Cousineau
7.....	94.51%	Bill Cummins
10.....	93.10%	David Ofalt
2.....	90.72%	Vincent Schmoeckle
11.....	87.15%	Larry Tipton
8.....	86.80%	Larry Otis
3.....	80.95%	Dusty Bailey
9.....	79.49%	Bruce Luhrsen

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION July 1, 2022			
SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2023.....	TO DATE	
GLASGOW #41.....	46.....	0	
PLENTYWOOD #58.....	18.....	0	
CULBERTSON #81.....	21.....	0	
HAVRE #11.....	18.....	0	
CHINOOK #48.....	23.....	0	
MALTA #57.....	18.....	0	
SACO #79.....	13.....	0	
GALATA #69.....	27.....	0	
LIBBY #97.....	18.....	0	
POLSON #112.....	15.....	0	
MISSOULA #27.....	18.....	0	
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	0	
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0	
CORVALLIS #91.....	15.....	0	
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	48.....	0	
LOLO #135.....	32.....	0	
BUTTE #1.....	38.....	0	
HELENA #2.....	129.....	0	
ANACONDA #21.....	20.....	0	
TOWNSEND #42.....	22.....	0	
BOZEMAN #14.....	81.....	0	
BIG TIMBER #19.....	15.....	0	
LIVINGSTON #23.....	46.....	0	
BELGRADE #30.....	46.....	0	
MANHATTAN #87.....	35.....	0	
BIG SKY #99.....	23.....	0	
GREAT FALLS #3.....	23.....	0	
CHOTEAU #6.....	27.....	0	
DUTTON #64.....	10.....	0	
GERALDINE #102.....	59.....	0	
VAUGHN #130.....	23.....	0	
HARLOWTON #15.....	27.....	0	
LEWISTOWN #16.....	149.....	0	
MILES CITY #5.....	14.....	0	
BAKER #35.....	30.....	0	
FORSYTH #39.....	52.....	0	
BILLINGS #4.....	14.....	0	
BILLINGS #117.....	12.....	0	
LAUREL #123.....	13.....	0	
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0	
TOTALS.....	1258.....	0	
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET			



MEMBERSHIP from VICE COMMANDER JOHNSON



Lonnie Johnson
Dept. Vice Commander

Another convention is over which means a new membership year is about to begin. Thank everyone for all your hard work in recruiting new members and retaining current members. Everyone knows membership is a tough job. But don't let it frustrate you into throwing up your hands. Goals are exactly what they are... goals. We work hard to



achieve them and strive to exceed them. The world isn't going to come to an end because of a goal not met. It just means more work or a new method of achieving it in the future.

I am humbled by the trust that you placed in me by electing me as your Vice Commander for 2022-23. I look forward to working with and supporting the Commander and all our members this next year. Serving the Department of Montana American Legion is one of a couple new challenges that I added to my plate this year. It is going to be busy and with everyone's knowledge and support it is going to be a great year.🍀



ADJ continued from pg. 2



needs to happen moving forward. We must find a way to make the Convention more affordable, family friendly and most importantly, fun. Turnout has been dwindling over the last 5-10 years, and while some of that can be accredited to the overall cost of attending, a lot of what I hear for reasoning is that it just isn't fun anymore. That is something that I believe we need to fix moving forward; yes, there is business that must be conducted, but we also need to find

ways to make Convention fun again.

Since Department has been tasked with hosting the 2023 Convention in Lewistown, we are going to try and make that happen. Tentatively we are planning on a motorcycle ride sponsored by The American Legion Rider's, a golf scramble and other family focused activities. The hope is that with the Convention located centrally in Lewistown we will increase attendance. So, start making plans for attending in 2023. More information to follow.

Last note on Convention, I would like to thank outgoing Department Commander Glen Sharbono for an enjoyable and entertaining year. Your leadership and willingness to try new ideas and solutions to complex problems was greatly appreciated and I enjoyed working with you and look forward to continued partnership in the future. And for those of you who did not have the opportunity to share in the comradery and shenanigans of the Executive Board meeting, I thought I had better share a little photo of the fun. See, Commander Sharbono tried to pull a fast one on your Department Adjutant; not a good idea, but certainly points given for trying.

You see, for last Novembers Army/Navy game Commander Sharbono had plans to really rub it in as the fearsome 8-3 Army Cadets squared off with the outgunned but plucky 3-8 boys from Annapolis, the Navy Midshipmen. But little went to plan that day and an epic upset occurred; the little ship that could...did, as Navy upset Army 17-13 foiling the Commander's fun. But unlike the Cadets season, all was not lost, as the Department Adjutant made it a point to celebrate the moment at Department Convention with a little token of appreciation. Well Done Swabbies!

If you have not seen or heard the American Legion's newest initiative to reduce Veteran suicide, it is an important one. The American Legion's new "Be The One" campaign aims

2022 ANNUAL AWARDS

THE MERVIN G GUNDERSON AWARD:
Awarded for the highest percentage of membership at the time of Fall Conference and Department Convention
Fall Conference Winner: District 4
Department Convention Winner: District 1.

THE JUNEAU MEMORIAL AWARD: *for best membership percentage increase from 2021 to 2022 for Posts with membership 75 and under*
Scobey Post 56, 100% of goal and 87.50% over last year.

THE FUHRINGER MEMORIAL AWARD: *for best membership percentage increase from 2021 to 2022 for Posts with membership of 76 to 175*
Glendive Post 28—92.38% of goal and 10.23% over last year.

THE ANGEL MEMORIAL AWARD: *for best membership percentage increase from 2021 to 2022 for Posts with membership of 176 and over*
Kalispell Post 137—96.57% of goal and 19.05% over last year.

TOP NEW MEMBER GETTERS:
1. Glen Sharbono, Ronan Post 138 – 11
2. Len Albright, Bozeman Post 14 – 10
3. Scott Miller, Fromberg Post 71 – 8

MOST NEW MEMBERS EACH DISTRICT:
1.
2.
3.
4. Glen Sharbono, Ronan Post 138 – 11
5. Deborah Hancock, Lolo Post 135 - 5
6. Chaya Semple, Helena Post 2 - 7
7. Len Albright, Bozeman Post 14 - 10
8. Andrew Rice, Geraldine Post 102 - 6
9.
10. William Dollata, Terry Post 32 - 7
11. Scott Miller, Fromberg Post 71 - 8

BEST AMERICANISM REPORT
Large Post: Helena Post 2
Medium Post: Manhattan Post 87
Small Post: Whitefish Post 108

BEST CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT
Large Post: Helena Post 2
Medium Post: Havre Post 11

Small Post: Chinook Post 48

BOY SCOUT PLAQUE: *to the Post that has contributed the most to The American Legion Scouting program for the year 2022*
Kalispell Post 137

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR
Samuel Waller, Belgrade

SHOOTING SPORTS
Sporter Team: Gallatin Valley sponsored by Manhattan Post 87
Precision Team: Gallatin Valley sponsored by Manhattan Post 87

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Clarence "Ike" Jessup, Ravalli County Sheriff's Office; submitted by Corvallis Post 91.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
Tom Pitzinger, Hamilton Montana Volunteer Fire Department submitted by Hamilton Post 47

VA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Amy Claridge, Fort Harrison VA submitted by Helena Post 2

BEST NEWSLETTER
Large Post – Butte Post 1
Medium Post – Lolo Post 135
Small Post – Ronan Post 138

SPECIAL AWARDS
Department Membership Recruiter of the Year
Glen Sharbono – Ronan Post 13

District Commander Achievement Award: *presented to the District Commander that exceeded last years membership*
District 1 – Ken Simon
District 4 – Dave Bennett
District 10 – Dave Ofalt

National Achievement Award for 100% District Commander:
District 1 – Ken Simon

National Achievement Award for District Race to the Top Category 1: District 1 – Ken Simon

Zone Commanders Award: *For highest percentage of goal within their Zone*
Eastern Zone Commander Joe Yeoman, 95.63%

to raise awareness about the veteran suicide rate and empower everyone to take the initiative to save the life of a veteran who is at risk.

The No. 1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. Each day, no fewer than 17 veterans die by suicide. That's more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder. But you can be the one...

The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don't think others can understand their situation. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their loved one needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation. If you have a family member who is a veteran, The American Legion encourages **you** to Be the One:

The American Legion also encourages **you** to Be the One by:



BE THE ONE

- TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
- TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
- TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

- Talking with others about how you are feeling.
 - Ask for help when you know you need it.
 - Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- If you are a veteran in crisis, VA has resources available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

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Be the One.

Until next time. God Speed and God Bless The American Legion. ~ Duane.🍀



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DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



the mustaches....John Meacham & Richard Klose



Commander Glen Sharbono and Immediate Past Commander Jeff Nelson



Commander Glen Sharbono



Lowell Long presents Eagle Scout of the Year award to Samuel Waller of Belgrade MT



Ken Simon accepting the Mervin G. Gunderson Award from Vice Commander Lowell Long

2022 Department Convention Raffle Winners
\$2500
Gloria Strickland
\$1000
Wes Elensky
\$500
Ed Sperry



Andy Rice of Post 102, NEC Hal Rice, and Nat'l Commander Paul Dillard



National Commander Paul Dillard



Commander Glen Sharbono presents Jim Kelly with a plaque for a job well done working and growing awareness of the AL Highway Fatality Program.



Adjutant Duane Cunningham, Lorie Nobel and Glen Sharbono



time to relax and enjoy



Nat'l commander Dillard & Tim Fox, JAG



Immediate Past Commander Nelson, Commander Sharbono, and Chris Nelson, Auxiliary President.



Demorise Allen & Jim Grosset



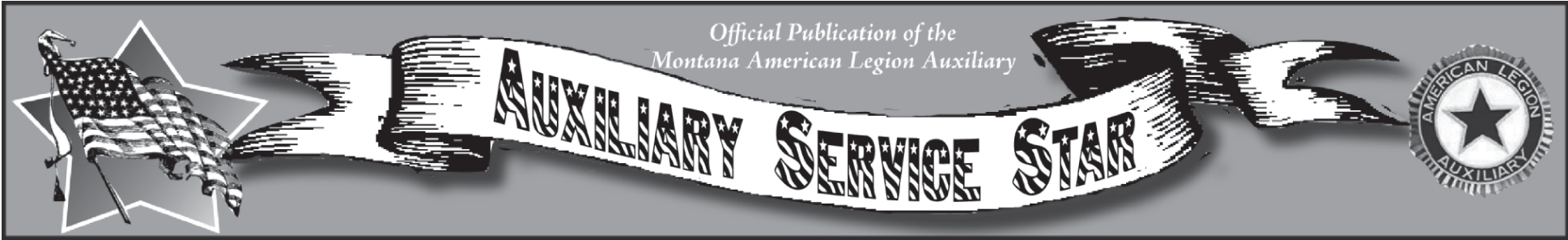
CAV Detail



2023 Department of Montana Officers



90 Percent Member Retention award



**President**
YVONNE KOSTELECKY



Hello Ladies & Gentlemen,

As you read this, we have just finished our State Convention in Missoula and I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I am your new American Legion Auxiliary Department of Montana President for the 2022-2023 year. I told everyone that I was nervous, excited, and confident on what my year will be.

My grandfather, Edward G. Hodan Sr., was a WWI veteran, so he was the first person that made me eligible to become an ALA member, but it wasn't until 11 years ago that Merv Gunderson came to White Sulphur Springs and asked my husband, Marvin, who is a Vietnam Veteran, to join Post 25 and help keep it from closing. The Unit was also struggling so I agreed to join and eventually became the President. As the years have passed, I became more involved and eventually became the ALA Department Chaplain, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and now President.

Other organizations that I am involved in are the Order of Eastern Star, I was Worthy Matron for two years during Covid. I volunteer at our Local Food Bank. I am on the City County Planning Board as well as help at our local café. My husband and I have six children, nine grandchildren, with a great grandchild due in December.

My theme for this year is "Hand in hand together taking care of Veterans and their families." This means that I am hoping that each member, each Unit, and every District is noticing and reaching out to help their Post and any Veteran and their families.

Ask yourself: Does the Post need help with parades, meetings, fundraisers, etc.? Are there Veterans who need a ride to a doctor or the store? Does the spouse or child need something? Or does that Veteran need a moment of your time or maybe a card letting them know you care? Maybe that moment or card will save their life!!

Let your community know who you are and what you do. This might encourage someone to want to join our organization if they see how helpful and kind the ALA is. Put your days with your meeting times in your local paper, on your local Community Calendar, or if you have a Facebook page.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I look forward to seeing you at your District meetings. If we continue to work hand in hand together, we can continue to grow and help our Veterans and their families. ⬠

God Bless you & God Bless America

**Parliamentarian**
LEAH ELLWEIN

A Few Words About Resolutions

by Leah Ellwein 21-22 Parliamentarian

[Editor's Note – While Convention has passed, this is something to keep at hand as we head into our new year with Fall District Meetings coming along with Fall Conference.]

r-e-s-o-l-u-t-i-o-n-s

A resolution is a written, formal motion. Resolutions are used because the motion may be presented in written form with some reasons included in the document. A resolution may be initiated by a member, a Unit, a District, or a Department committee. A resolution consists of two parts, the resolved clauses and whereas clauses. For information on writing a resolution, consult Roberts Rules of Order or any reliable source. A resolution must be written in proper form for it to be considered by the Department Resolutions Committee. A resolution initiated by a member, Unit, or District should have the approval of the Units, or District before being sent to the Department Resolutions Committee. The resolution must be submitted to the Department Resolutions Committee in time so that the Committee can approve the resolution, get approval from the proper committee (for instance finance if it involves money or constitution and bylaws if it involves them) and then the committee must send a copy out to the Department membership via the Department secretary at least 30 days before Department Convention. This is so that the convention delegates will be aware of the upcoming resolutions ahead of time and be able to consult with their Units on how they should vote. These procedures must be followed in order for the resolution to be read by the resolutions committee at Department Convention along with a recommendation to pass or not pass. ⬠

Four Generations of Sweeney Women in American Legion Auxiliary

submitted by Margie Schenk, Butte Unit 1



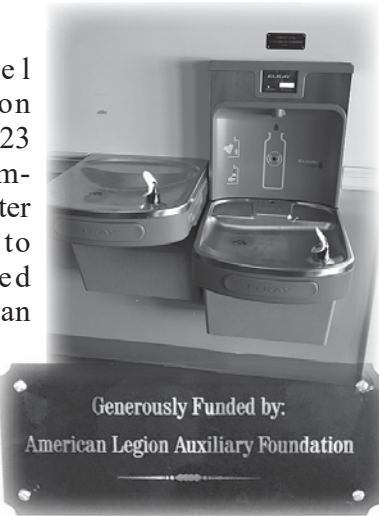
Pictured from left to right: Butte Silver Bow Unit 1 President Sara Rodriguez, in front–Junior Member Harleen Rodriguez (Martha's great granddaughter/Sara's daughter), Unit 1 Secretary Patricia McKinney (Sara's Mother), Parliamentarian Martha Sweeney (Patricia's mother/Sara's grandmother).

ALA Unit 123 Project Water Station

SUBMITTED BY ROXANNE ROBERTS, LAUREL UNIT 123 SECRETARY

The Laurel American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123 just recently completed a \$3,900 water project, thanks to a grant received from The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Independence Hall in Billings is a 20-bed transitional facility for Veterans who find themselves with nowhere to live and no means to find a job or get back on their feet. There, at the Hall, the Veterans are helped to get whatever documents they need, get counseling, how to get a job and an apartment to live on their own. Ranae Marshall from a local organization called Laurel Hometown Troops, told us they needed a new water station that was touchless because their old one was shut down due to COVID-19, we thought it would be a great Veterans project for this year.



Auxiliary Unit 123 President Nancy Conter, Secretary Roxy Roberts, Unit members Betty Saxbury and Karen Tiechroew attended. Also, there was Post 123 Commander Ray Southworth with Post members Ranae Marshall and her husband Ron. Jim Southworth and his band played music while everyone visited with the Veterans and the staff, ate cake, and drank water from the new water station. It was a great morning.



**Deceased Members**
In Loving Memory
APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2022

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 15 ...	Harlowton	Mary A Holloway
Unit 23...	Livingston ...	Manuella A. Roberts
Unit 45...	Hinsdale	Blanche F Schuler
Unit 50...	Big Sandy	Dorothea Quinn
Unit 64...	Dutton.....	Joan Stevens
Unit 70...	Judith Gap.....	Florence Nilsen Romona M Dover
Unit 73...	Sweetgrass	Mary Beard

Department President Nelson wins quilt!



Department President Chris Nelson was the lucky winner of the quilt raffle at the District 10 Spring Meeting.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT 2021-2022

84 Complete 2022 ALA MT Girls State

JEN DALRYMPLE, ALA MT GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR/REGISTRAR



Thank you all so much for the support and to those amazing volunteers who helped provide another successful ALA MT Girls State session! We had 84 girls complete the week and some very good judicial trials and legislative debates.

Unfortunately, some of our guest speakers were unable to attend due to the extreme weather circumstances around the State but we filled in with graciously submitted videos and other activities. An exuberant shout out to Counselors Rose Baaten, Dawn Yadlosky, Kathy Long and Chris Nelson; Nurses Linda Cousineau and Peggy Long; Storekeeper Kim Kay McCarty Martin; helpers Sue Davidson, Maureen Watt, Sheila Neckstad, Chaya Semple, Karen Susag, Colleen Chl-

apowski, Sandy Runkel, and Cindy Routzan. Carroll College Staff, especially Stacey Whited and the Sodexo team; our Mock Trial team of Jim Hunt, Rose James, Madison Tyson and Norm Grosfield; Supreme Court Justice Beth Baker; Moot Court team of Supreme Court Clerks Liz Webster, Katy Lindberg and Ali Bronsdon; State Capitol Legislative team of Dan Messerli, Carolyn, Ray, and Brad; and First Student Busing.

Everyone's outstanding service and support ensured the facilities, mentorship, transportation, and activities were spot-on for our Delegates to have an amazing week... and they did.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Director for the last four ALAMTGS sessions, but I am stepping down (retirement dreams await). Please let President Yvonne Kostelecky know if you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming Director or Chairman.

Thank you all for a terrific experience and blessings for a wonderful Fall!



- **Samsung Winner:** Emma Doty - Sydney HS
- **Chief Justice:** Brooke Burnett - Colstrip HS
- **Supreme Court Justices:** Sallie Orem - Augusta HS
Hayden Trost - Billings West HS
Kate Stauffer - Billings West HS
Emma Harper - Butte HS
Alayna Shepard - Sentinel HS
Ellie Fulbright - Fergus HS
- **Clerk of Supreme Court:** Madeline Scheet - Anaconda HS
- **Public Service Commission:** Falisha Dale - Three Forks HS
Madison Reso - Billings West HS
Abby Nagel - Laurel HS
- **Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Avery Dickerson - Lone Peak HS
- **State Auditor:** Aspyn Colby - Chinook HS
- **Attorney General:** Rosalyn Daniel - Corvallis HS
- **Secretary of State:** Brilee Peters - Lavina HS

GIRLS STATE 2022 FINAL ELECTION

- **Governor/Lieutenant Gov:** Therese Buhr - Granite HS / Ana Flores - Sydney HS
- **ALA Girls Nation Senators (2 selected by each City, Final 2 selected by Staff Board interview):** Leina Ulutoa - Ronan HS; Josy Blazer - Ennis HS



Chief Joseph Auxiliary Unit 135 Sent Overseas Boxes

SUBMITTED BY DEBORAH HANCOCK, SECRETARY/TREASURER UNIT 135 LOLO

On April 13 Auxiliary Unit 135 packaged and sent eight boxes to a Post 135 American Legion member stationed in Kuwait with the MT National Guard. The member oversees 15 soldiers. The boxes contained Hunter Bay coffee, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toothbrush holders, loofah sponges, puzzle books, blank note cards, pens, mechanical pencils and extra lead, AA and AAA alkaline batteries, stamps, energy drink mixes, Rice Krispie treats, assorted nuts, fruit packets, tea, jerky, peanut butter, oatmeal packets, nail clippers, hand sanitizer, floss and playing cards. The Unit members really came through when the request went out with the suggested list of items. The spouse of the soldier was amazed and thankful for the number of boxes sent.

Thank you, Auxiliary Unit 135 for stepping up and making a soldier's day.



Unit 123 and Memorial Day Prep with Young Marines

SUBMITTED BY NANCY CONTER LAUREL UNIT 123 PRESIDENT

On May 21, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123 of Laurel, American Legion Post 123, and the Young Marines placed flags at all headstones in The Yellowstone National Cemetery, at Laurel, Montana.





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The Montana Legionnaire

Volume 100, No. 1
August - October 2022

Lewistown Post 16 75-Year members honored

SUBMITTED BY JOHN KOCH

Thursday, March 24th, was a very special day for two local Veterans as they were presented with 75- Year Membership Certificates by Lewistown, Montana American Legion Post 16 officers.

Ninety-four-year-old Veteran Donald Pfau (bottom photo, center), and 97-year-old Veteran Fred Schell (pictured seated below), were both honored for their service and continuous membership in The American Legion. In addition to receiving his Certificate, family and friends also celebrated Fred's 97th birthday.



PHOTO BY DEB HILL | LEWISTOWN, MT NEWS-ARGUS

Donald Pfau, center, accepts an award from the Lewistown American Legion Post 16 for his 75 years of Legion membership. Presenting the award are (from left) Post Commander Ken Pearsall, Dale Pfau, Sandy Youngbauer, Bob Barber and Vice Commander John Koch.

Post commander Ken Pearsall commented that, "in a small town such as Lewistown, it's pretty amazing to have two 75-year members. You would have to have joined very early on and then be blessed to live a long life."

Laurel Post 123

Post 123 Commander Southworth presenting Bill Teeters with his 50-year continuous membership pin.



From Bill White

I would like to personally thank all the Legionnaires that supported me at the 2022 Department Convention in my run for the Department Commander position. We may not have been successful, but our efforts did not go unnoticed as a very spirited and fun campaign showed us the importance of grass roots Blue Cap leadership. I would

especially like to thank Josh Clement, Richard Klose, Ken Simon and Ed Sperry for their guidance, mentoring and often times patience in my efforts. A special thanks also to Mr. Duane Cunningham and Ms. Erin Carpenter for taking time out of their busy schedule to answer questions about the Department when I could not reach those that were mentoring me. There are a lot of others that probably should be mentioned but that list would be far too long.

I will end by simply saying congratulations to the new Commander and thank you again one and all.



Blue Caps lead the way.

Volume 100/Issue 1

BY CHRISTINE MILLER, POST 71 | EDITOR, THE MONTANA LEGIONNAIRE

Brothers and Sisters in Arms, it has come to my attention that with this issue of the paper we are publishing Volume 100/Issue 1, that means *The Montana Legionnaire* has been publishing an impressive 100 years!

I went to digging in our archives and found some interesting things about *The Legionnaire* and its inception in Montana. I found in the blue book our predecessor, *The Service Star*, was published by Walter T. Neubert of Great Falls, and in 1921 it was adopted as the official publication of The American Legion of Montana. At the 1923 convention it was officially sanctioned by National Headquarters and cited as, "the best edited and most neatly printed Department publication of any Department of the organization."

By the 7th year of publication 1926, the paper was being published under the name *The Montana Legionnaire*, published regularly and mailed to each paid member in the state. In 1928, the 9th year, the paper was a decided financial success and the net profit for the year was \$2,286.19. Posts were encouraged to appoint a publicity person and send articles to the editor of *The Legionnaire*.

There have been lean years since the days that the paper could be called profitable, but it remains in print and into your mailbox on a quarterly basis still today. In 1922, Department convention an amendment to the constitution finally passed for the Department to take over the publication *The Service Star*. The resolution to raise dues to \$2.50 to cover a yearly subscription was defeated. However, in 1924 the executive committee through convention authorized an increase of 50¢ to cover the publication.

There is something about a paper—the feel of it and the particular smell it has. It is important to memorialize the activities and the times as they happen, we never know what someone down the line may think as they come across our articles and pictures. I mention this because in researching this small article I came across activities for our 44th year in existence; 1963 when a much younger Demorise Allen, then of Belfry, was elected District 11 Commander. We see him when we gather, and he is still giving his service to this nation, but I don't suppose there are too many of us around that knew this part of his Legion History. Demorise, Thank you for your time and your service!

Additionally, in 1920, *The Bridger Times* newspaper ran an article about a bunch of men who were to gather and form a local Post of service men. Father Wm. P. Callahan, the priest of Sacred Heart Church wrote a stirring letter to the editor about how politicians were just as comfortable in Washington as they had been in 1917-18. That it was right and just that the "boys" who were there should gather and impress upon those in control what it was like to "be there," to speak with authority from experience. Father Callahan served with the 603rd Engineers, First Army A.E.F. From this Post 59 was initiated, as paperwork would have it the charter never completed. They paid dues and held meetings but when it was brought to their attention too much time had passed and hence 59 became Post 71.

Every quarter many of you start to get hounded by myself to submit articles let me know what you are doing out there as Posts. Some respond with nothing or even better, "you're contacting the wrong person," a personal favorite.

I was asked to take the paper on last year. In fact, this time last year I was on the scramble to put together my first issue; to say the least I was overwhelmed and a bit lost. I found out though there is a great team of folks out there that work behind the scenes that help ensure that this paper looks great and most importantly records and shares what we are doing in our communities.

Becky Buckmaster is our layout designer and publisher, and each quarter for a couple of weeks she, Erin Carpenter, Office Manager for the Department of Montana, and I, must send over 100 emails back and forth between us. The dedication to the paper that Becky has and the patience she has with me as she has walks me through the process can only come directly from heaven.

Today we have the internet and cell phones, and everything is just at the end of your fingertips but 100 years ago, in 1922, the world relied on the radio and newspapers to spread information.

My point is newspapers are a recorded history, we garner knowledge and firsthand information. It is a tangible item you can hold in your hand and read. The fact that The American Legion of Montana as a fledgling organization took it upon themselves to publish and distribute a paper at a time when the nation was struggling and then kept it going shows the spirit of the American serviceman and servicewoman.

Today we work with the Posts across the state to share information and see the faces of friends who may live clear across the state, but we only see a couple time a year at Department. I am incredibly proud to be a Legionnaire but also to have the privilege of putting this paper together. In researching this article today, I am reminded of those who had far fewer resources who came before us and built what we have today as Legionnaires.

Here's to another 100 years in print.

thanks
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Election at
Convention
2022

A heartfelt Thank You to ALL of you who supported me during the past year. Campaigning for the office of Vice Commander for the Department of Montana allowed me to meet some really great folks from all over the state. I will have to say that I enjoyed the ride because of the new people I met and seeing those that I knew.

A Big Heartfelt Thank You to ALL who stood by me and supported me the past year. Also, for those that voted for me in Missoula...Thank You! I wish you all the Best in the coming year. Take Care and Be Safe!

Ken Simon



Legion
Members
- Let's Get
Involved!

BY: ROGER A. HAGAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

In 2020, The American Legion conducted five action alert campaigns that resulted in nearly 10,000 emails sent to Congress by Legionnaires and advocates.

The American Legion's goal for 2022 is to send 25,000 messages to Congress – an accomplishment only achieved with your help.

GET INVOLVED

Contact your congressional representatives. You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our Legislative Action Center, votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home. Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While you are there be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all The American Legion's legislative campaigns.

Montana Women
Service in WWI

BY ED SAUNDERS, LTC @ | VFW Post 4725

Bridie Mary Cantwell was born 18 January 1894 in County Kilkenny, Ireland, to James and Ellen Cantwell. Bridie immigrated to America in 1914. She became a nurse and settled in the rough-and-tumble eastern Montana railroad cowtown of Miles City.

Cantwell nursed in the Miles City hospital. When World War One came, on 16 May 1918 Cantwell entered the Army Nurse Corps from Miles City. For its smaller population, Miles City, Montana, per capita, probably sent more nurses (eight) to "The Great War" than any Montana town or city.

The Army assigned Cantwell to the base hospital at the massive Army training base at Camp Dodge, Iowa, north of Des Moines. About thirty World War One Montana nurses would, in time, serve at Camp Dodge. The camp saw tens of thousands of Army recruits. Disease and injuries soon overwhelmed the overworked and shorthanded nurses there. The deadly influenza epidemic also struck Camp Dodge in autumn, 1918.

Cantwell nursed at Camp Dodge throughout the war. The Army honorably discharged her, 2 November 1919. She returned to Miles City and continued her nursing career. In 1922, she married Orland Owen Coker in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a disabled World War One Army veteran. They had no children. In Omaha, she nursed at the Clarkson Memorial Hospital. Orland died in 1945. Bridie returned to Miles City where she died, 9 January 1965. She is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska. She has a veterans headstone showing her World War One service. May she rest in peace with the thanks of Montana and of a grateful nation.

Legion Programs—
Montana established three

CHRISTINE MILLER, Post 71
EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM MONTANA HISTORY BLUE BOOK

It has been ascertained by reading the entire history of The American Legion of Montana that *three* National American Legion Programs have their start in Montana—by Montana Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.

In 1924, at the instigation of Mrs. J. Ward Crosby of Livingston and later Helena, a joint committee of The American Legion Auxiliary and the 40&8 of Montana set up a Child Welfare Committee and drafted a program. This later became the program of the National Child Welfare Committee in 1926.

The American Legion's "Get out the Vote" program was originated by the Butte Post in 1921 and was adopted by National in 1927. This program is emphasized every national election year.

The Sons of the American Legion was also originated by the Butte Post in 1930. The Butte S.A.L. Squadron was so successful, and others started in Montana, that it became a National Program in 1927.

The Butte Post also started citizenship courses for aliens in the 1920's. They later issued a booklet of a study course for these aliens and the booklet became standard use throughout the United States for those seeking U.S. citizenship. Using this as a guide, The National American Legion is now issuing a booklet to serve the same purpose.

It was also revealed that The American Legion of Montana was given a quota of \$20,000 of American Legion's new Endowment Fund in 1925. When the state drive was over Montana had \$33,000 for the fund. This money was from people of all walks of life and many of them were not Legionnaires.

Our new Department Commander has challenged us to work the National Programs; this is just an example of what Montana Veterans can do when they put their minds to it.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE 2022

JOSH CLEMENT, BOYS STATE DIRECTOR | LEGIONNAIRE.CLEMENT@GMAIL.COM
(406)431-1803]

American Legion Boys State, in its 75th year as a national program, was executed on May 29th for June 3rd, 2022, at Fort Harrison, MT. Eleven months prior, the Department Commander solicited my support to serve as the director of American Legion Boys State. With hesitation and extensive conversations with my family, I took on this cause. From the onset, there were hurdles that our Department, American Legion Boys State Committee, and me had to overcome to ensure the proper execution of one of The American Legion's most profound activities supporting Americanism at the highest level.

From the onset, this year's session can easily be considered a Phoenix year. With the relocation of the session from Carroll College to its third location in the program's history of Fort Harrison, MT, many things had to be reestablished or designed to ensure the continuity of this program. At the Department's fall conference, our committee met and immediately identified the challenges ahead of us. The program's potential for success was built around the five men I had the honor to serve with: Ken Simon, Jeb Damson, Scott Miller, Terry Wahl, and our Adjutant Duane Cunningham. All saw the opportunity ahead of us to influence the 2022 session. During the committee meeting, we identified the challenges ahead of us, including promoting the program internally, marketing it in the schools, and establishing a curriculum that supports civics and Americanism. I saw the need to ensure it is nested with The American Legion's pillar of Americanism.

The Department commander and adjutant requested from the Montana National Guard the opportunity to host the session on Fort Harrison. This option to relo-

cate to Fort Harrison created many opportunities for success. The facilities, accommodations, and cost were a needed boost to the program. Fort Harrison also offered us the flexibility to recruit well into May, whereas Carroll College would have had to be locked in the first week of May.

One key to success of the program that carried forward from previous is the support of the Adjutant Assistant, Erin Carpenter. Without her the program cannot happen. We need the full-time support and attention that Erin was able to provide.

Your 2022 Session had 61 registered delegates from 38 different communities. Our themes for these boys included Statesmanship, Politics not Partisanship, the US Flag and Service members Readjustment Act of 1944. To help execute this session, with little historical knowledge, I needed an adaptive team. Your lead counselors for this year included Scott Miller, Joe Yeomen, Paul Munson, and John Silkman. With four National Guard NCOs, SFC Jim Leeper, SSG Michael Hunter, SSG Jordon Laine and SSG Pat Criswell and anchored by Jed Damson and Ken Simon. These outstanding men brought leadership, adaptability, and desire to grow young men. As you can imagine it was a fast-paced week with long days. I would like to recognize Joe Yeomen for his Memorial Day Speech. It had been many years since I was that emotional on Memorial Day and many of the boys carried some of the same emotions. With eight guest speakers including the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General all sharing knowledge of our government, their duties and leadership. I assure you we maximized the days

AL BOYS STATE continued on page 16



2022 RESOLUTION TRACKER

#	RESOLUTION NAME	SUBMITTED BY	PASS	FAIL
22-01.....	Amend Constitution & Bylaws of The American Legion, Dept of MT, Revised June 27, 2018.....	District 1/ Post 41.....		x
22-02	Training Director	Education & Training Cmte.....		x
22-03	Youth Constitution	Education & Training Cmte.....		x
22-04	Adding a SAL Member to the Joint Coordinated Children & Youth Committee	Coord. Children & Youth Cmte.x.....		
22-05	Revision of Constitution & Bylaws by removing provisions for Zones/Zone Commanders	District 1/Post 58		x
22-06	Gary Resolution	Past Dept CDRs	x.....	
22-07	Rewrite of the Montana Constitution & Bylaws.....	District 1/Post 58		x
22-08	Advocate for Adequate Defense Budgets.....	District 5/Post 94	x.....	
22-09	Advocate for Energy Independence	District 5/Post 94	x.....	
22-10.....	Screen Veterans that have been exposed to Toxic Chemicals	District 6/ Post 2	x.....	

Great Falls Post & Unit 3 School Awards at Foothills Community Christian School

SUBMITTED BY J. D. ATKINSON, LOY J. MOLUMBY POST 3 ADJUTANT

May 26, 2022, The American Legion Post 3's David Driver and The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 President Linda Atkinson, presented School Awards at Foothills Community Christian School in Great Falls to Alex Fried and Denae Johnson (School Award), and to Josiah Lehmann and Makayla Delange (Honorable Mention). May your academic adventures be great. Congratulations to all the recipients.



Alex Fried, School Award



Denae Johnson, School Award



Josiah Lehmann, Honorable Mention



Makayla Delange, Honorable Mention

Great Falls Post & Unit 3 School Awards at Montana Deaf & Blind School

SUBMITTED BY J. D. ATKINSON, LOY J. MOLUMBY POST 3 ADJUTANT

May 26, 2022, The American Legion Post 3's David Driver and The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 President Linda Atkinson, presented School Awards at the Montana Deaf & Blind School in Great Falls. School Awards went to Daemien Stout and Angelina Gilcher, and to Honorable Mention awards to Bridger Baetge and Amerra Portee.



Angelina Gilcher, School Award



Amerra Portee, Honorable Mention



Daemien Stout, School Award



Bridger Baetge, Honorable Mention

Post 47 AL School Awards Program

NANCY DEZELL, 1ST VICE COMMANDER, POST 47

Youth are often awarded for their scholastic achievements, but The American Legion believes they should also be praised when they demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship. That's why, since 1926, the Legion has recognized such students with its School Award Medal Program to instill character and help perpetuate the ideals of Americanism among youth.

The award is given to a boy and a girl in local middle and high school nominated by teachers and fellow students for exemplifying six qualities

that define character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

Greg Marose, Sr., is the Ravalli Post 47 Adjutant and coordinator for the annual school awards program. American Legion Ravalli Post 47 is proud to announce that the following students were recognized for courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service and received a certificate and medallion:

Hamilton High School: Andrew Carmody, Cheyenne London. **Hamilton Middle School:**

Kaelynn Maphis, Jakob Verweli; **Darby High School:** Dillon Macilwraith, Kira Collins; **Darby Middle School:** Gustaf Harrell, Hayden Pelkey.

A special Military Commitment Certificate of Commendation was presented to Darby High School Senior **Mark Leudeck** for making the commitment to serve in the United States Armed Forces preserving our Nation's freedom and democracy.

For more information on the American Legion School Awards Program, contact Greg Marose, Sr at americanlegionravallipost47@gmail.com.

Vietnam Era Nurse Honored



Gloria Wukelich, Post Commander Paul Rosenberg, 1st Vice Commander Ruth Cook, Post Adjutant Greg Marose.

BY NANCY DEZELL, POST 47

American Legion Ravalli Post 47 honored the service of Vietnam Veteran Gloria Wukelich at the March 9, 2022 Post meeting with the presentation of a beautiful Red, White, and Blue Patriotic Quilt.

Gloria joined the Air Force after earning her nursing degree and served as a trauma nurse at Clark Air Base in the Philippines during the Vietnam War. Her nursing ward cared for terminally wounded patients transported from Vietnam; their wounds were so severe that they were not expected to recover or see their homeland ever again.

Family members would be flown to Clark Air Base to see their loved ones for the last time.

This type of nursing care was very stressful and emotionally difficult to handle day after day. Gloria still suffers from those traumatic memories to this day, and she can remember the specific injuries of many of her patients. She tried to alleviate their suffering as much as possible and be a comfort to them in their last days.

Gloria comes from a very patriotic family; her father fought in Anzio in the Italian Campaign in WWII and was awarded three purple heart medals. Her husband Steven served in the Navy. Thank you, Gloria, for your service and sacrifice for our Service members and their families.

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Veterans Section at Laurel, MT Cemetery



ED SAUNDERS PHOTO

Fergus Post 16



Post 16 leads the 2022 Independence Day Parade down Main Street in Lewistown MT.

Post 106 and Post 113



Memorial Day Mission Valley Honor Guard, St Ignatius Post 106 & Arlee Post 113.

AL BOYS STATE continued from pg. 13

and shared all we could. Having the support of Ray Reed and National Headquarters with the Flag and the GI Bill Display, we were able to use these professional education tools to move the instruction to the next level. The biggest day was the event at the Capital. These young boys were amazing, and Scott Miller was phenomenal in guiding and mentoring in all aspects civics in action. Thank you, Bill Rich, John Joyce and Bill White, for supporting the Capital day in your Legion cap.

2022 Session Governor was Charles Fox from Helena. Your Boys Nation delegates are Grady Radke from Drummond and Roman Jacobsen from Great Falls. Charles Fox and Thomas Konopka from Kalispell were selected as alternates.

So, what does the way forward look like? As a team and an organization, recognition is one of the most significant challenges for this program. The first was to understand which organization runs the program, “THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE.” Many people may have heard of Boys State, but most did not affiliate with our organization, which is a significant misstep. The Commander authorized a \$2 fine to remind us how important it is to promote our organization and the Legion as the driving factor. We are champions of promoting citizenship in our youth, from 5th grade through senior year in high school. Our organization has been challenged with branding for years, the best direction we can take to start at the program level. Remember THE AMERICAN LEGION...

Next, we need to engage spheres of influences. Like the Office of Public Instruction - the day after talking with our Boys, Superintendent Arntzen pushed for half of year of civics as a graduation requirement. We need to attend Montana Educators Association this fall, if we can’t open the front door to the schools, we need to find teachers to invite us in. They just need to know what we can do for them; it is not for us.

We need to use the media, our Montana Talks session that George Blackard and I had helped promote the Legion as a whole and American Legion Boys State. Finally, I go back to where I started this report, we have been doing American Legion Boys State 75 years. It is our duty to promote Americanism and mentoring young people. It is a part of this legacy. Who is ready?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—2023 American Legion Boys State June 10-16, 2023

988 suicide crisis hotline launches July 16



THE AMERICAN LEGION JUL 12, 2022

The Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s new three-digit dialing code will go live nationwide on July 16. People experiencing a mental health crisis will be able to call 988 and connect to counselors with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Advocates believe

that designating a three-digit telephone number will transform access to mental health care. The three-digit number is easy to remember, which should make it faster for Americans dealing with a mental health crisis to receive life-saving support.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network consists of more than 200 crisis centers nationwide. Veterans experiencing distress or a mental health crisis will now be able connect to the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then pressing 1. This will provide veterans with fast and easy access to veteran-specific mental health support.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, nearly 46,000 Americans — including over 6,000 veterans — died by suicide in 2019. The American Legion supported the legislation designating 988 as the universal telephone number of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system through Resolution No. 377: Support for Veteran Quality of Life.

The current suicide prevention lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will remain available after the launch of 988

[988 suicide crisis hotline launches July 16 | The American Legion](#)

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“John Quintrell writes a devastatingly personal memoir. His recalling the chilling nature of guerrilla and helicopter warfare and its effect on the men who fight in it chronicles their cold fear. Ground with precision, John evokes the foot soldier’s daily life. Its raw language brings a shocking and gritty portrait of horror and pain with its immediate emotional impact of shame and guilt – recalled even 50 years after his one heartrending year in Vietnam. Not all soldiers were honorable. Judging by his clarity in the narrative he has yet to forget those years and its moral confusion. With intense sketches of fellow soldiers, hedgerows and villages, bloodied bodies and land scarred by bullets and napalm the author never lets up with the gore and agony and loss of yet another brother-in-arms, enemy, child or innocent civilian. As an Army Nurse in South Vietnam, I saw the results of war every day. Soldiers like John handed his men off to our hospitals or to the angels. Read this book to grasp that profound bravery, self-sacrifice and heroism in the Vietnam generation is undeniable. John lived to tell his story and he tells it well.”

– Diane Carlson Evans, Captain,
Army Nurse Corps, Vietnam 1968-69.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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