

Volume 99, No. 1

August — October 2021

SHARBONO ADVANCES TO COMMANDER OF DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA



Glen Sharbono Department Commander

Glen Sharbono was born in Missoula, Montana where he attended Target Range School. He also went to schools in Deer Lodge, Florence, and graduated from Ronan in 1979. During High School and after, he became a sort of Jack of all trades. Working on farms changing pipe, stacking hay, milking cows, roofing, drywall, Sawmill, mechanic, wielder and in the restaurant industry as Chief Cook & bottle washer,

baker, and bartender. Glen is a fifth-generation Montanan on his father's side and fourth-generation on his mother's side. He is a direct descendant of George Van Ness who served in the Continental Army at Valley Forge with General Washington. His family has served in every war since. So, Glen decided to try his luck in the Army. Being told his ASVAB scores were high he took the DLAB (Defense Language Aptitude Battery Test) and scored in the top two percent of the Nation.

CDR SHARBONO continued on page 3

Department of Montana Selects Lowell Long as Vice Commander

Lowell Long was born in Shelby, MT and raised in Conrad. He graduated from Conrad High School in May of 1975.

Lowell joined the United States Marine Corps on June 4, 1975. He served four years on active duty serving at Camp Pendleton, CA, and Okinawa, Japan. He served as an 81 MM Mortarman advancing to gun Captain. Lowell got out of the Marine Corps in June of 1979. He joined the Montana Army National Guard in 1982 where he served in the



Department Vice Commander

163rd Armored Cav., the 495th Support Bn., the 495th GS Maintenance Co., the 443rd Quartermaster Co. Petroleum Supply and the 639th Quartermaster Co. He served as a cook, a mortarman, a mechanic and in several areas of supply while with the Army National Guard. He was activated to go to Iraq in 2004 with the 639th Quartermaster Co. where he worked several areas of supply. Lowell retired from the Army National Guard in 2007 after serving nearly 28 years in the military.

VICE CDR LONG continued on page 3

Important Upcoming Dates

J - 1
Aug-26-Sep 3Nat'l Convention Phoenix AZ
Sep 6Labor Day
Sep 9 Renewal Notice Cutoff Date
Sep 950% Membership Target Date (Early Bird)
Sep 11First District Mtg, Dist. 11 Red Lodge
Sep 11Patriot Day
Oct 17Last District Mtg, Dist. 5 Drummond
Oct 29-31 Dept. Fall Conference

2021 Big K Winners

Early Bird Winner

Kalispell Unit 137

New Year Winner Park Post 23, Livingston - \$200

January Winner

Harold Crowley Butte Post 1 - \$400

February Winner **Bethany West**

Bozeman Post 14- \$400 March Winner

SAL Squadron 135-\$400

Legion Birthday Winner Earl Mainwaring Harlowton Post 15 - \$500

April Winner

Paul Allen Judith Gap Post 70 - \$400

May Winner

Marvin Tanner

Thompson Falls Post 52 - \$400

June Winner Duzzie Stolp, Helena Post 2

Convention Winner

Geraldine Post 102

Malmstrom Post 341 shares Independence Day festivities with Vaughn Post/Unit 130 and Scouts



Girl Scout Troup 007G helped Malmstrom Post 341 members decorate its float which was shared with Post/Unit 130 of Vaughn for the Great Falls 4th of July parade. Pictured on the float are Post 341 members Clara Santopietro, Anthony Johnston, John Sprigs, Noah Allen, Michelle Allen, Serenity Allen. Dept. SAL Commander Larry Steel with Boy Scout grandson, and Unit 130 member Barb Steel, along with Post 341 Chaplain Carol Gruwell (on the ground). The great crew was treated to a BBQ afterwards.

Department of Montana 2021 Fall District Meetings

11 Sep Dist. 11Red Lodge
18 Sep Dist. 1 Glendive 19 Sep Dist. 10 Glasgow
25 Sep Dist. 2 Chinook 26 Sep Dist. 3 Galata
2 Oct Dist. 8 Choteau 3 Oct Dist. 4 Columbia Falls
9 Oct Dist. 9 Harlowton 10 Oct Dist. 7 Bozeman
16 Oct Dist. 6Whitehall 17 Oct Dist. 5 Drummond
3-7 Oct Fall NEC /CMDR ADJ Meeting—Indianapolis
29-31 Oct Fall Conference Helena

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Duane Cunningham

Department of

Montana Adjutant

Commander Sharbono

I would like to thank all those who supported me in becoming the Department Commander. The Past Department Commanders for backing my move up. Past Department Commanders Richard Klose and Larry Dobb for making my nomination. It was a privilege to receive the colors and Commander pin from not only a mentor, an Honor Guard colleague, practically a neighbor, but also a good friend in Commander Jeff Nelson. I was truly humbled by all the people who congratulated me with genuine sincerity. I thank them as well and hope to do them right. I believe I have sur-

rounded myself with an excellent group of Officers and Committeemen. I am looking forward to a good year working with them.

Thanks to Bill White and his team for an outstanding convention. It was good to see everyone again without masks. I enjoyed the speeches of National American Legion Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp and American Legion Past National Commander John Brieden.

The Butte Southwestern Veterans Center had its grand opening Tuesday June 30th. The American Legion Department of Montana made a strong showing and I want to thank all of you who attended. It was a good day other than the fact it hit 104 degrees on the way home.



Glen Sharbono Department Commander

We just wrapped up American Legion Boys State at Carroll College in Helena and soon we will begin to focus on our other programs. The Department needs restructuring on how we conduct some of these programs before they collapse due to overspending. We are also in need of revitalizing a few Posts who for whatever reason cannot seem to obtain the needed officers to run the Post. Please don't be afraid to step up and give it a shot, its not as bad as you may think, and you may find it to be quite rewarding. As Past Department Commander Jeff Nelson has always said, "You don't have to be

the best, just be the best you can."

July 1st starts the 2022 membership drive. This is the time for the District Commanders to deliver the Post packets and start preparing for their Fall District Meetings which are just around the corner and start talking to the Post Commanders. A continuous dialog is the key to success I believe, and Post Commanders need to communicate with their membership. This year try spreading the "Buddy Check" calls out among your regular membership and rotate the call list monthly so its someone new each time, but they are being contacted regularly, don't mention dues! Just ask how they are and if they need anything but mostly just visit! Let's see if that makes a difference with retention. The Personify disaster leaves little to be desired and creates more work than necessary in

COMMANDER continued on page 4

Department Convention in person! I would like to thank Post 2 in Helena for sponsoring and hosting the event; despite the obstacles and

It was so nice to hold the 2021 uncertainty with planning around a pandemic, the Convention was a rousing success.

Duane Cunningham Department Adjutant

Bravo Zulu to Convention Chairman Bill White and the Post 2 membership for pulling it off and making everyone feel welcome and normal again.

I am a firm believer in learning from both my own mistakes and those of others; that way those same mistakes have less of a chance at occurring again. This past Memorial Day an unfortunate event occurred in Ohio that has resulted in the suspension of a Post Charter and removal of Post Leadership. And while the investigation is still ongoing; I wanted to share a little of the story and remind everyone that our American Legion is all inclusive and does not tolerate any type or form of racism; sexism, discrimination, or harassment. A Veteran is a Veteran and the family members of such shall be treated as we would our own family.

On May 31, 2021, Lee-Bishop Post 464, of the Department of Ohio, organized a Memorial Day event in Hudson, Ohio, at a local cemetery. Post 464 invited Barnard Kemter, LTC, USA (retired), to speak at the event. LTC Kemter provided the text of his speech in advance to Post 464, at which time a representative of the Post demanded that LTC Kemter delete certain potions that referred to the history of Memorial Day, specifically the part of the speech regarding a historical event in 1865 in which several newly freed black slaves were among the first to commemorate Memorial Day after the Civil War ended by giving deceased Union soldiers at a Confederate prisoner of war camp an honorable burial and by decorating their graves with flowers and organizing a parade to honor the deceased.

LTC Kemter declined to omit that portion of this speech, and when he orally proceeded to give that portion of his speech, one or more representatives of Post 464 turned down the volume of the speaker system so that it could not be properly heard. It was later determined that the Post Adjutant and the President of the Auxiliary were responsible for these actions. In attempting to censor or suppress that portion of LTC Kemters' speech, and effectively doing so by reducing the speaker system volume, constitutes a violation of the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.

The fallout from the actions continues today; the Post's charter has been suspended and both members have resigned from leadership positions. The Post is working to regain its charter, as the belief is that the conduct of a few should not lead to the punishment of the entire Post. It is important to remember that the value and impact an American Legion Post brings to any community through its Pillars of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security programs.

So, you may wonder why I even bring this incident up; well, a couple of reasons; first and foremost, to remind Legionnaires that the Post and the Legion are operated by its membership and speaking up or calling into question behaviors and actions that violate the integrity of our mission, vision, principles, and values should be called out and stopped immediately. Sometimes the hardest thing to do, is the right thing; but as Veterans and Legionnaires we are held to higher standards; we are expected to step forward; that is what makes our organization something we are all proud of.

Vice Commander Long

This is my first article as your Vice Commander. First, thank you for your confidence in me by voting me as the Department Vice Commander. It is truly an honor to be able to serve the members of the Department of Montana and to be able to work with Commander Glen Sharbono this year.

As Vice Commander, membership is one of my main focuses. I will be working with you this year to see that we have a great year in retaining our

members as well as recruiting new members. This might mean that we will need to think outside the box as we work toward making our Post, District and Department goals. We seem to do alright in recruiting new members, but we are not very successful in retaining the members we already have. Let's be looking at ways we can get our members to renew and share them with me so that I can share these in my articles. We can then learn what is working around the state and maybe we can use what someone else is doing to get

members to renew. I will start with my Post. Last year we held a drawing for a Walmart gift card for every member that renewed by December 31st. We had a great success in renewals prior to that date. Please share with me what is working in your Posts to get your members to renew.

I would like to get Montana to 100% this year for Commander Sharbono. I know we can do it because we have done so in the past. While we missed it last year, we made it the year before. Let's look at

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COMMANDER - GLEN SHARBONO VICE COMMANDER - LOWELL LONG ADJUTANT - DUANE CUNNINGHAM



retaining every member we have and begin looking at those that we missed getting last year and see if we can get them back. This will only make us stronger as we move forward.

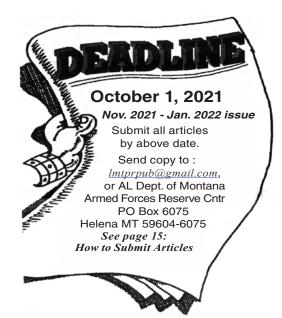
Another good recruiting and retention tool is the programs that your Post is doing. People seem to want to join an organization that is doing something. As we get people in, find out their interests and see if we have a program that lends to their interests and talents. This will keep them in the fold and make your Post stronger. This might be good to use on existing members that are not Dept. Vice Commander regularly active. Maybe if we can find something that they are interested in,

they will become more active in your Post.

Finally, my incentive for you this year is a challenge coin. I will be designing a coin representing membership and reaching your goal. I will award each Post a coin for making their goal. I hope I will be giving a coin to every Post in the state this year. I will be showing the coin as soon as I complete the design and get them made.

As your Vice Commander I would like to get to know you, so with that in mind if you are planning an event that you would like me to attend, let me know. I will try to make as many as I can within my schedule.

Again, thank you for electing me as your Department Vice Commander. I will do my best to serve you this year, I am looking forward to helping each of you as we strive to complete our programs and attain 100% of our goal.



CHAYA "HIYA" SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

Chief Seattle (Si'ahl), (1786 – June 7, 1866) was a Suquamish and Duwamish chief, who maintained friendly relations with white settlers. Following the Emancipation Proclamation, he released his eight Native American slaves. The City of Seattle is named for him.

At the recent Chaplain Training Conference for American Legion Family Chaplains, this prayer below, attributed to Chief Seattle, was included in the Prayers section of the book each attendee received. May it touch your soul.



"Great Spirit of Light, come to me out of the East with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in my words, let there be light on my path that I walk. Let me remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let me be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

Great Spirit of Creation, send me the warm and soothing winds from the South. Comfort me and caress me

when I am tired and cold. Unfold me like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. As you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to me, so that I may grow close to you in warmth. Man did not create the web of life, he is but a strand in it. Whatever man does to the web, he does to himself.

Great Life-Giving Spirit, I face the West, the direction of sundown. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great sky for setting, so that when it is my time to meet you, I can come with glory.

Great Spirit of Love, come to me with the power of the North. Make me courageous when the cold wind falls upon me. Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes me squint. Let me move through life ready to take what comes from the north."

May you be well.

CDR SHARBONO continued from pg. 1

He enlisted to be a 98G Cryptologic Linguist. During Basic Training he was told he needed to change his MOS. he asked to reclassify as Airborne Infantry and was told there were no openings. His only options were cook or truck driver. Having had enough of cooking he chose the latter and that panned out as he was able to tour most of Germany at the Governments expense.

Glen served in the Army from 1984-1989 with the 1st Armored Division, Furth, Germany as a Tractor Trailer Operator driving over 100,000 accident-free miles hauling tanks, ammo, and other hazardous materials. He was chosen as Bravo Company 4th Support Battalion's Driver of the month. Attended the NCO Academy in Katterbach, Germany in 1987. He was then stationed from 1989-1991 with the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, where he was promoted to Corporal and served as Platoon Sergeant in Bravo Company, Support Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Group and as Truck Master for Special Forces Assessment and Selection and Phase 3 training segments at Camp McCall later renamed Camp Rowe, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Glen is a Benefactor Life Member of the National Rifle Association, a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans, Commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, Member of The Sons of The American Legion. He completed the ALEI course in 2014, the LEAD course in 2015, the 54th National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis in 2017, Basic Training Course in 2017. Glen is also a 2017 Alumni of the 1st ever Department of Montana Legion College, 2017 Alumni of the National American Legion College. and 10-year member of The American Legion.

Glen has been married to Lorie for nearly 27 years. He has four sons from two previous marriages; two are currently serving as Army Combat Medics. He has seven grandchil-

dren; four girls and three boys. All his children and grandchildren are members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

Since Joining Ronan Post 138 in 2013 Glen has been the Post Vice Commander for six years, a 100% Post Adjutant for six years, 100% Post Commander for four years, during which the Post was awarded The American Legion Family Ribbon eight times, Post Honor Ribbon twice and The Post Excellence Award three times. He oversaw a more than 200% increase in Post Membership since 2014. In 2015, Glen obtained the permanent Charter for Post 138 after 13 years in temporary status. In 2017, he obtained Articles of Incorporation and a Supplemental Charter as an LLC. In 2016, Glen located the original Post flag from 1926, it now resides at the Museum of the Rockies in Ronan. That December, he wrote and got passed the Post's first ever Constitution and Bylaws, enforcing term limits for Elected Officers. Also in that year, he created a Post newsletter which has won best in Department for a small Post for 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Glen has also been the District Adjutant and Vice Commander for two years and District Commander for three years. In 2019, he revised and had passed the District 4 Constitution and Bylaws and implemented a Post Surcharge that for the first time has the District budget operating in the black. Glen has received 100% District Commander two times, the Mery Gunderson award for Top District Commander three times; and the National Achievement Award for exceeding the previous year's District membership 2018, 2019, 2020. He has been the Oratory Chairman for both Post 138 and 4th District; as well as, Public Relations and Membership Chairman. At the Department level Glen served on the Membership, Credentials, Education and Training Committees, and was the interim Dean of the Montana Legion College in 2019, 2020, 2021.

100 Miles for Hope

KATE HAHN, MT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

The American Legion launched the 100 Miles for Hope in August 2020 as a 100-day challenge for The American Legion Family members and others to walk, run, cycle, or cover 100 miles in any way they chose to encourage healthy activity and raise funds for the organization's 96-year-old Veterans & Children's Foundation (V&CF). Nearly 5,000 participants raised \$150,000 for the foundation that benefits disabled veterans and military families. Based on its success last year, The American Legion launched 100 Miles for Hope in the expanded version,



from April 1st to September 6th, 2021. It looks like participants are on track to successfully beat last year's amount raised.

I became interested in 100 Miles for Hope mainly as a motivation to exercise and get into shape. The benefit of my participation meant that I could also raise money for a great cause. From day one of the event, I have participated and achieved the highest maximum points you can earn each day. I cycle, run, walk, and earn points for my daily step count. To date, June 30, 2021 (91 days into the 124-day event), I have cycled, ran, and walked over 855 miles. I am proud to say I have not missed a day.

Unlike the physical side of this challenge where I am in first place with many other Legionnaires, the fundraising side I am currently in fourth place with \$870 raised. I hope to be able to increase my donations for the 100 Miles for Hope and the V&CF. I would like to show that Montana Legionnaires and its citizens truly care about veterans and their families by raising the contributions amount to a first place standing.

If you are interested in donating to 100 Miles for Hope and the Veterans & Children's Foundation you may reach out to me at mtkhahn@gmail.com. I will respond by sending you an email with a link to make donations through the Kilter app where the challenge is being monitored and recorded.

I know I am not the only Montana Legionnaire participating. I just want to give a shout out to those of you participating; you are awesome and keep up the good work! It's not too late to join, simply go to the Kilter app and find the 100 Miles for Hope challenge and follow the instructions to register.

Thank you to those who are participating and have donated and thank you to those of you who may not participate but have donated to this great cause.

VICE CDR Long continued from pg. 1

Lowell was signed up in The American Legion by his wife while serving in Iraq. The Post in Chinook was being revitalized and Jim Fiedler was in where she worked to talk to her boss. She asked Jim questions and Lowell became a member. He has held many positions within the Post, District and Department; serving his Post as Commander and Adjutant. He has served as District 2 Adjutant for one year and District 2 Commander three times. He has served twice as the North Central Zone Commander. Lowell is serving on the National Conventional Forces Committee for The American Legion.

Lowell is a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 48 in Chinook. He has held many offices with the SAL at the Squadron and Detachment level. He has been the Adjutant for Squadron 48 since it was formed. He has served as the Zone Commander for Districts 2, 3, and 8, Chaplain for the Detachment, Detachment Commander, and Alternate NEC for the SAL. Lowell is serving on the Membership Training and Development Committee for the SAL helping to develop training opportunities for the SAL.

Lowell is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also a member of ANAVICUS (Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada United States).

Lowell's family is also part of the Legion Family. His wife, Kathy, is a Past President of the Department of Montana and current President of

Unit 48 in Chinook. His daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, and granddaughters, Katelynn and Isabelle are members of The American Legion Auxiliary. His son David and son-in-law Cody are members of the Sons of The American Legion. His brother is also in the

Upon returning from the Marine Corps, Lowell attended Northern Montana College (now MSU-Northern) in Havre Montana. He graduated in 1986 with a degree in Elementary Education. He obtained his Special Education endorsement from MSU-Billings in 1992 and began teaching special education at Harlem Elementary School. Lowell attended Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ and received a Master's Degree in Special Education in 2010. Lowell retired from teaching in 2020 after 25 years of teaching Special Education. 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 is active in his community as well. He serves on the council for his church and on the Board of Parish Education as the Chair. He is a member and past President of the Montana Council of Exceptional Children and continues to serve on that board. Lowell spent 15 years on the board for District 2 Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) in Havre helping low-income families in Blaine, Hill, and Liberty Counties. He served one year as President of HRDC.

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Service Officer Kate Hahn

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy is that all claimants (veterans, spouses, children, parents) have the right to file an VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File (ITF), for all new claims or for increases on previously adjudicated, service-connected conditions which have not been claimed for increase in less than a year. An ITF lets the VA know you intend to file a claim, it gives the claimant time to gather evidence, and expires 1 year after it is filed.

The ITF protects the earliest effective date, the **first of the month after** the ITF is received, for any benefits resulting from a positive adjudication on your claim. The date the VA receives the ITF will be protected as your earliest effective date. Individuals separating from service do not need an intent

to file. They may file a Benefits Due at Discharge Claim, or they have 1 year to file their claims for service connection.

The ITF must contain:

- 1. enough information to identify you as the Veteran or claimant ([surviving] spouse, child, parent).
- 2. the general benefit you are seeking: compensation or pension, and
- 3. you or your representative's (VSO's) signature.

There are four ways to notify the VA of your intent to file a claim:

1. initiate a claim, using www.ebenefits.va.gov or Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP), completing the personal information page, hit save to establish your effective date

- 2. mail the VA Form 21-0966
- 3. call the national call center, or
- 4. see or call your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to file your intent to file as your representative on your behalf.

The VA should acknowledge the receipt of your ITF by sending you correspondence that tells you they received your Intent to File. They will also send you the appropriate claims form to send your claim for processing. If you have a VSO, you need not fill out the paperwork as your VSO will do that for you. You will need to collect the evidence necessary to support your claim and get that to your VSO so they can submit a fully developed claim.

For more information about the VA Form 21-0966, please contact your local VSO. They have received extensive training to assist you with the claims process from start to finish. Please contact a VSO at the location nearest you for an appointment.

MVAD/AL accredited offices throughout the state:

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

Thank You for Your Service To Our Great Country!

COMMANDER continued from pg. 2

that many Posts may have to revert to the old way of mailing in cards and TAL forms for renewals. This is where I encourage the membership to do their part and renew early, helping the Department get back on track. For what ever reason we slid backwards last year, and it cost us not only monetarily but was a great loss of many of our fellow comrades who didn't renew, they will most likely not be able to read this article, so I implore those in charge of Zones, Districts and Posts to ask them to give this organization a second chance at them being a part of our family.

This fall I will be visiting the Districts and next spring have the leading candidates for Commander (Vice Commander) and the leading candidate for Vice Commander make their rounds with the Vice Commander as the guest speaker. Thus, doing their campaigning just ahead of the Department Convention next year. The uniform for the Fall District Meetings beginning in September will be slacks and Polo shirt unless a National Officer shows then back to coat and tie. Thank you for taking the time to read this, I look forward to your continued support of The American Legion and the Department of Montana. God bless you and yours

Post 74 Eureka Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Dinner

SUBMITTED BY DAN R. STEWART, VICE COMMANDER POST 74

Eureka's Post 74 regular January meeting found a deep discussion on the news of the day regarding law enforcement and the disgusting treatment that all were being painted with the same brush as corrupt,



Certificate of Commendation – Vice-Commander Dan Stewart (Left) and Retired Chief of Police Ian Jeffcock (Right)

ADJUTANT continued from pg. 2

I have spent a little time in establishments that serve adult beverages (I am a Sailor, after all) and know that when the conversation turns to politics that things can get heated and each individual will attempt to "convert" the other to their particular belief or cause; some of the car rides across the State for District meetings end up being a 3-5 hour edition of "Meet the Press"; and that's okay because we respect each other's views even if we are all trying to convert one another. But I also believe that all of us as Legionnaires would call each other to task if opinion turned into action. I ask all of you to simply please do the same.

The American Legion Department of Ohio posted this reminder of The American Legion's value principles during the fallout from this incident; I think they are a good reminder for all of us:

- ☆ A VETERAN IS A VETERAN which means The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.
- ☆ SELFLESS SERVICE which means The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.
- ☆ AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM which means The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States

- Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in memorial events.
- ☆ FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGE-MENT - which means The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.
- ☆ ADVANCING THE VISION which means The American Legion educates, mentors, and leads new generations of Americans.
- ☆ HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE
 US which means The American Legion pays
 perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new
 generations.

I will get off the soap box and wish you all a wonderful summer; I have enjoyed getting to know members from all over the State and truly believe in the leadership that we have. We must all strive to work together to grow our membership, as well as maintain training and momentum at the Post level, in order to carry on the mission of The American Legion at the District, Department and National Level. I would also be remiss not to mention that the Legion family, the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders all offer unique and valuable leadership perspectives; don't forget to use all your tools in the Legion toolbox.

racist, and not to be trusted. The Post was quick to call it as we saw it; a Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Dinner was born.

Lincoln County Sheriff's department, the U.S. Border Patrol, the Eureka Police Department, the Montana Highway Patrol, and the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks seemed all to be included took some logistics work. Location and shifts all considered, a date and dinner set.

June 22nd Post members gathered with the honored guests and their loved ones. Between all the active and retired law enforcement officers and their spouses there were 60 people in attendance to a first-class barbeque.

The police force asked to use our venue to celebrate recently retired

Chief of Police Ian A. Jeffcock, for the town of Eureka, Montana. He received awards from four different agencies for his 20+ years of dedicated service as well as an American Legion Law Enforcement Certificate of Commendation.

The Post sponsored a drawing strictly for the honored guests, first place winner of a beautiful AR-15 M4 Carbine was none other than Retired Chief of Police Ian Jeffcock...and no, the fix was not in. He won fair and square.



Grand Prize Winner – Post Commander Melvin Lee on the left, Retired Chief of Police Ian Jeffcock center with his new AR-15 M4 Carbine, and Vice Commander Dan Stewart on the right.

Post 74 is honored to share this event with the rest of the state and encourage everyone to thank those who protect us every day and consider doing something similar in your own area.

Are Pisaster Emergency Response Chaya Semple, Disaster Response Coordinator Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

As I write this, our hearts ache for the families who have lost loved ones in the catastrophic Surfside, Florida building collapse. It has been



one week. Very few living have been pulled from the rubble of the building that pancaked, one floor upon another, as it collapsed. We

pray for miracles that more living may be found; however, the odds are not good.

Disaster often strikes without warning. Several families in Montana have already lost homes to wind-driven wildfires this year when fire season began a month earlier than usual.

Are you ready for an emergency or disaster?

Legionnaires, by virtue of their military service experience, often feel they can handle whatever comes their way without any special preparation. When it comes to disasters and many emergencies, nothing could be further from the truth.

When a sheriff's deputy is pounding on your door, urging you to flee immediately, there is no time to gather important papers, medications, pets, pictures, and the many other important items you may need in case your home is destroyed. Likewise with an approaching flood. Then, there are violent storms. All can happen in Montana during most months of the year.

Are you prepared? Is your Detachment/Post/Unit prepared? What about your members? Is someone looking out for your WWII-era or Korean War veterans and their families? Who will help them evacuate? It doesn't take much time to prepare. Go to ready.gov and check out the many free resources available.

Build a kit...Make a plan...Get ready!

May you be well.

Inspire—Train—Lead

BY CHRISTINE MILLER, POST 71



Thursday prior to the official start of the Spring department convention in Helena leaders from across the state gathered to attend a Department college course in Leadership.

The class was designed to help prepare District and Zone commanders to step into the roll they currently hold

or anticipate holding in the future; others who wished to attend were more than welcome and it is evident from the attendees that there are many future leaders in Montana.

Glen Sharbono, Ronan Post 138 and Lonnie Johnson, Plentywood Post 58, both graduates of The American Legion College, brought that training back to Montana and passed it on to others which in essence is how it is supposed to be.



The classes were a solid day of training in recognizing and developing leaders and leading with the confidence to motivate others to follow and support. Parliamentary procedures and how to conduct a meeting to include sample agendas were included. This is something many Posts and

Districts struggle with, and the sample handouts were certainly welcomed when it came time to hold a mock meeting in the classroom.

Leadership goes much further than the Post, Legion members continue to prove that they are natural leaders and active in their communities, as always leaning forward and ready for the next challenge.

Attendees included: John Raper, Richard Clute, Bruce Luhrsen, Barry Bighorn, Larry Otis, Warren Kingdon, William O'Donnell, William Rich, Scott Miller, Carol Gruwell, Norman Nunnally, Linda Cousineau. Christine Miller, and Kim Kay McCarty Martin. Glen Sharbono -Dean of College, and Lonnie Johnson -Instructor incoming Dean of College



BY CHRISTINE MILLER POST 71

merican Legion Baseball is a variety of amateur baseball played by 13- to 19-year-olds in 50 states in the U.S. and Canada. More than 3,500 teams and nearly

55,000 players participate each year. Most kids who play have a genuine love for the game and it is funny when you get out to a game how many "old timers" start with, "back when I played Legion ball."

The first night of the convention we gathered in the lobby and rode the trolly over to the ball field where Helena Post 2

was hosting the Keith Sell Invitational tournament, and we partook in some good ballpark BBQ.

The evening could not have been more perfect; the weather was perfect for a playing ball, the Laurel Dodgers pushed by the Idaho Falls Bees and took the win while we were there.

This program has developed some outstanding professional players, such as Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Wade Boggs, and Barry Bonds, to name a few. Not everyone who plays goes on to play professional ball, but they become leaders in

their own right; they are in our communities and that is thanks to The American Legion's dedication to the American youth.

There is really nothing more American than



baseball. Living in a combat zone myself where soldiers play ball, many nights are passed in pickup games and determined competition because at the end of the day the dirt and sweat smell like home and you can't help but smile when that bat hits the sweet spot and they all come home.

Looking forward there are two more tournaments in Montana this summer. July 9 Kalispell hosted the John R. Harp memorial and then July 15 was the Flathead Lake JR Finals.

Department Drawing



District 1 Commander, Joe Yeoman, presented the big winner her prize upon his return home from the Department Convention in Helena. Angie Wersel, of Glasgow took home the Savage Axis II .308 Winchester with flag pattern and Leupold VX-Freedom 4-12x40 Scope. She had bought the ticket but was not present at the drawing. Phone calls had to be made to ensure she got the prize she wanted. Second name drawn was Mary Thompson, who also had to be called to verify her selection, she took the \$1000. The final lucky lady of the night was Shirley Howell who took home the \$500. Thank you to all who participated, both in selling and buying tickets.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2021 Year End

e 30, 2021

		as	of	Jun
	Year end Goal 2021	Year To 'Date Total	Year End 2020	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
☆ 22 WOLF POINT 41 GLASGOW				
45 HINSDALE				
49 HOMESTEAD				
55 POPLAR				
56 SCOBEY				
61 BROCKTON				
81 CULBERTSON				
85 BAINVILLE				
↑ 122 OPHEIM 140 FORT PECK TRIBES				
229 WESTBY				
TOTAL	526	460	510	87.45%
DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE				
☆ 48 CHINOOK				
☆ 50 BIG SANDY				
67 ROCKY BOY				
↑ 79 SACO	11	12	24	. 109.09%
88 CHESTER				
109 TURNER				
TOTAL				
DISTRICT #3				
☆ 36 VALIER	51	51	53	. 100.00%
37 CONRAD	51	43	45	84.31%
40 CUT BANK				
43 SHELBY				
73 SWEETGRASS				
127 BROWNING				
CN20 CALGARY				
TOTAL	382	325	350	85.08%
☆ DISTRICT #4				100 000/
☆ 52 THOMPSON FALLS ☆ 72 COLUMBIA FALLS				
74 EUREKA				
86 BIG FORK				
☆ 97 LIBBY				
106 ST IGNATIUS				
☆ 112 POLSON				
☆ 113 ARLEE				
☆ 126 CHARLO				
129 PARADISE				
138 RONAN				
TOTAL	1122	1156	.1218	. 103.03%
DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS	61	59	64	96.72%
27 MISSOULA				
☆ 47 HAMILTON 63 CONDON				
☆ 68 MISSOULA				
☆ 83 CLINTON				
☆ 91 CORVALLIS				
94 STEVENSVILLE				
124 FRENCHTOWN				
☆ 125 DRUMMOND				
134 FLORENCE				
135 LOLO				
TOTAL	1,394	. 1,351	1,429	96.92%
DISTRICT #6	40-	400	0.44	00.0=0/
1 BUTTE				
↑ 9 LINCOLN				
10 DEER LODGE				
20 DILLON				
21 ANACONDA				
31 TWIN BRIDGES				
☆ 42 TOWNSEND	115	119	118	. 103.48%
☆ 46 BOULDER				
☆ 89 SHERIDAN				
115 BUTTE				
· VIAL	1000		v.T	101 /0
AT LARGE				
105 HELENIA	460	C E	00	0.200/

105 HELENA..

. 168....... 65....... 80........ 0.39%

30, 2021	Year end	Year To Date Total	Year End	percent of Cool
DISTRICT #7	Goal 2021	⊔ate Total	2020	of Goal
↑ 14 BOZEMAN	360	384	384	106.67%
9 BIG TIMBER	178	154	164	86.52%
3 LIVINGSTON				
↑ 25 WHITE SULPHUR				
0 BELGRADE				
↑ 65 ENNIS				
8 W YELLOWSTONE				
7 MANHATTAN3 THREE FORKS				
3 THREE FURKS				
№ 99 ЫG SN 1				
TOTAL				
DISTRICT #8				
GREAT FALLS				
CHOTEAU				
6 FORT BENTON				
🌣 51 AUGUSTA				
4 DUTTON				
0 FAIRFIELD				
↑ 102 GERALDINE				
03 POWER				
↑ 130 VAUGHN ↑ 400 04004 PF				
133 CASCADE				
41 MALMSTROM TOTAL				
ISTRICT #9		010	000	01.0470
5 HARLOWTON	104	92	99	88.46%
6 LEWISTOWN	409	307	355	75.06%
8 ROUNDUP	67	56	56	83.58%
₹ 53 STANFORD	26	26	23	100.00%
₹ 62 DENTON	26	28	27	107.69%
0 JUDITH GAP	69	64	77	92.75%
₹ 76 HOBSON	37	37	39	100.00%
¹ √ 96 ROY	22	26	23	118.18%
20 WINIFRED				
TOTAL	791	663	728	83.82%
ISTRICT #10 5 MILES CITY	79	83	93	105.06%
2 SIDNEY				
8 GLENDIVE	105	93	97	88.57%
9 CIRCLE	16	14	15	87.50%
2 TERRY	99	88	93	88.89%
5 BAKER				
9 FORSYTH	93	85	87	91.40%
4 COLSTRIP	30	25	35	83.33%
0 EKALAKA				
14 FAIRVIEW	37	31	37	83.78%
TOTAL	623	552	620	88.60%
ISTRICT #11 BILLINGS	A79	442	111	03 EE0/
HARDIN				
HARDIN 7 RED LODGE				
7 RED LODGE ₹ 34 COLUMBUS				
4 BELFRY				
4 HYSHAM				
2 ⊓13⊓AW 100 PARK CITY				
17 BILLINGS				
17 billings hgts				
123 LAUREL				
TOTAL				
₹ Post or District has re	ached or su	rnacced	its ince	ntive Goa
021 INCENTIVE GOAL		•	الكاللا اللا	itive God
		,		
021 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE		,		
020 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP				
OTAL PERCENTAGE		93.0T%		
		mummum	mmmm	mmmmm
			1	

	American egion needs you!
(((RENEW)))	RENEW ONLINE

http://www.legion.org/renew

GO AHEAD - RELAX...

LET THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM

HANDLE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS.

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

	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	_		
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	Sign Control of the C			
	Send your completed coupon to:			
Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program				
from the Reads with two ways that the three targets P.O. Box 26720, Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720				
29089 Administer	ered by AGIA, Inc. Not all products are available in all states. Promo 18746	AGIA		

TEN LARGEST POSTS

Роѕт2	HELENA	826 MEMBERS
Роѕт4	BILLINGS	443 MEMBERS
Роѕт 14	Bozeman	384 MEMBERS
Post 27	Missoula	306 Мемвекѕ
Роѕт 16	LEWISTOWN	306 Мемвекѕ
Роѕт3	GREAT FALLS	237 MEMBERS
Роѕт 137	KALISPELL	221 MEMBERS
Роѕт30	BELGRADE	211 MEMBERS
	Anaconda	
	Corvallis	

DISTRICT STANDINGS

COMMANDER	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	DISTRICT
Dorothy Goodwin	102.85%	4
Linda Cousineau	98.27%	6
Greg Marose	96.99%	5
Bill Cummins	96.72%	7
Larry Tipton	93.43%	11
Vincent Schmoeckle	92.01%	2
Larry Otis	91.83%	8
David Ofalt	88.60%	10
Joe Yeoman	87.45%	1
Dusty Bailey	84.82%	3
Bruce Luhrsen	83.57%	9

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION June 30, 2021

SQUADRON...... GOAL 2021.....TO DATE

SQUADRON		
GLASGOW #41		
☆ PLENTYWOOD #58		
CULBERTSON #81		
HAVRE #11	18	16
☆ CHINOOK #48	23	25
☆ MALTA #57		
☆ SACO #79	13	14
GALATA #69	27	23
☆ LIBBY #97		
☆ POLSON #112	15	16
MISSOULA #27	18	4
HAMILTON #47	10	2
CONDON #63	10	3
☆ CORVALLIS #91	15	18
STEVENSVILLE #94	48	33
☆ LOLO #135	32	41
BUTTE #1	28	13
HELENA #2		
ANACONDA #21		
☆ TOWNSEND #42		
BUTTE #115		
BOZEMAN #14		
☆ BIG TIMBER #19		
☆ LIVINGSTON #23		
BELGRADE #30		
MANHATTAN #87		
☆ BIG SKY #99	23	28
GREAT FALLS #3		
☆ CHOTEAU #6		
☆ DUTTON #64	10	10
☆ GERALDINE #102	59	59
☆ VAUGHN #130		
HARLOWTON #15		
LEWISTOWN #16	149	119
MILES CITY #5		
BAKER #35	30	27
FORSYTH #39		
☆ BILLINGS #4	14	14
☆ BILLINGS #117		
LAUREL #123		
HQS POST #9999		
T		

TOTALS......1111

☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET



Ravalli Post 47 Hosts 2 Community **Information Booths**

County Non-

on Saturday,

away patri-

otic buttons,

planes, and

information.

This event

gave our

Post great

SUBMITTED FOR POST 47 BY CHAPLAIN NANCY DEZELL (americanlegionravallipost47@gmail.com)

American Legion Ravalli Post 47 Past Commander Ruth Bizarro Cook and Chaplain Nancy Dezell enjoyed meeting hundreds of Ravalli County residents who came out to support local nonprofit organizations



Post 47 Past Commander Ruth Bizarro Cook and Chaplain Nancy Dezell at the Ravalli County Non-Profit Fair on Saturday, June 5th.

visibility for all the things we do to support Veterans and the community. All booth participants received a free raffle ticket to win a beautiful Flag Wall Hanging quilted by Past-Commander Ruth Cook.

The American Legion Ravalli Post 47 participated in Bitter Root Days



Post Commander Paul Rosenberg, Past Commander Ruth Cook at Bitter Root Days Saturday Market.

Saturday Market on June 12, 2021 to provide membership information and raised \$400 for American Legion Operation Comfort Warrior Program by raffling three donated baskets of goodies.

Fishing Derby **Opens Summer**

On 5 June 2021 the Veterans of Twin Bridges held their annual kids fishing derby at Lori's Pond. The day was beautiful, and the turnout was great. Many excited kids spent the day fishing and spending time with their families.



At noon there was a free BBQ and potluck that was cooked by Veterans and the Women for War Veterans Auxiliary. All participants received a



prize for the 1st fish they caught. After the event was over prizes were awarded to the boy and girl winners in two categories and a special prize for the smallest fish caught. In the Below 10-year-old Competition, Quin Arnold and Kenny Holland

YOUR TEAM:

MARK DELORME Branch Manager

came out on top, and the Above 10 category, Vivian Goldstein and Shawn Huss were winners.

Each of them won a new fishing pole and bragging rights for the next year. Kenny Holland also brought in the smallest fish at about 3 ounces, we thought it was a fishing lure, and took home a gift certificate to the Shack. Great job everyone and a great start to summer.

Manhattan Post 87 Bingo for Cemetery Post 87 in Manhattan hosted a Bingo night

March 20th to raise money for the new Veterans Cemetery/Columbarium currently under construction at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. The new Cemetery is for all Veterans, their spouses, etc. not just Southwest Montana. Part of the fundraiser was a 50/50 drawing and Post 14 helped sell tickets, as well as supporting the Bingo night. One of Post 14's Bartender, Michell (Meech) Ciari, won the 50/50 and collected \$650 and Post 87 raised over \$1900 plus a generous check for an additional \$1000.

L to R: John Parra; Randy Kemp; Meech Ciari; Reese Haley (Post 87 presenter); Len Albright. photo by Donna Haley.





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Thank you for your service! Here are some things you can look forward to:

- No money down purchase financing
- Up-front mortgage insurance, Veterans with VA related disability are exempt
- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Jumbo VA loan amounts available

- Lending in all 50 states
- Montana Conforming VA loan limit now \$484,350 plus the VA funding fee.
- Minimum credit requirements apply



KRIS HILL Sr. Mortgage Consultant

MARK DELORME. JR Mortgage Consultant NMLS# 1027436



Mortgage Consultant NMLS# 1575253



PROUD SUPPORTER OF USA CARES, TEE IT UP, WOUNDED WARRIOR AND HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS



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DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY





Outgoing Department Commander Jeff Nelson is pinned with his Past Commander Pin by his wife





Time honored tradition the passing of the colors signifies the passing of leadership from one commander to the next. Jeff Nelson is relinquishing command to Glen Sharbono.



Mike Water brings greetings on behalf of Senator Daines.



Governor Greg Giaforte spoke highly of our organization and our many contributions to



Firefighter of the Year Brad Peterson of the Helena Fire Department.



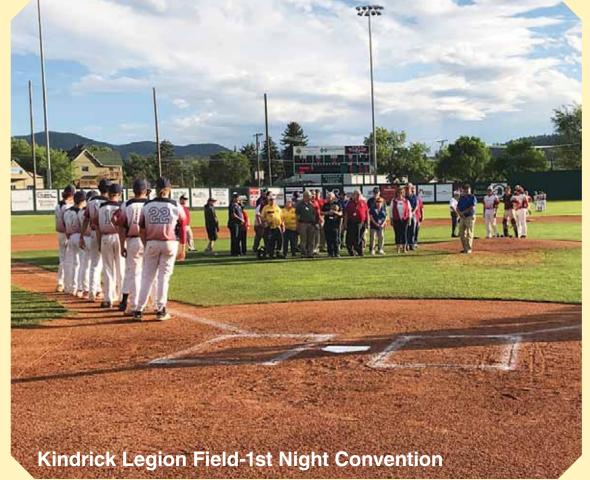
Eagle Scout Haley Carpenter was awarded the Montana American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship for \$500. Haley is the first female Eagle Scout in the state of Montana. She was also awarded The American Legion Auxiliary of Montana Aloha Nursing Scholarship.



Jeff Nelson, Outgoing 2021 Department Commander, and Glen Sharbono, Incoming 2022 Department Commander.



Police Officer of the year Joel Diaz, Ronan MT





VFW State Commander (and American Legion member) Ron Merwin addresses the Convention delegates pledging a commitment that the VFW of Montana will work with The American Legion of Montana in areas of common cause.







am pleased to report that our Department membership count for the 2020-2021 year reached 94% of our goal. This year we welcomed a new Unit, #68 out of Missoula. Unfortunately, two other Units folded but we expect to charter another Unit in 2021 from the east side of the state. More news about this will be released in the next few months. Thank you to all our Units and members working to carry on with recruiting and renewing members.

In the legislative area it has been quiet since the 2020 election, but we look forward to gaining a second U.S. congressman/woman to represent our state. Auxiliary members know the importance of voting in our elections as reported to me by members at District meetings.

As incoming President, it is my pleasure to announce the hiring of a new Department Secretary, Renee Loehr who resides in Ronan. Renee will begin August 1 and will share office space with Jamie Debates and myself in the Post 112 building in Polson. Jamie and I look forward to working with her. Renee will be traveling with me to District meetings so plan on attending and welcoming her. Our newly appointed Department office holders are the Sargent-at-Arms, Lori Noble and Chaplain, Kari Hould. My thanks to Cassie Johnson, staying on as Historian.

One of my first activities after convention was to participate in the Honor Guard flag presentation and throw out the first pitch at a Mission Valley Mariners vs. Missoula Mavericks game. At the 4th of July parade in Polson, I rode in Post 112's Jeep with a World War II veteran and the Past Department Commander. The following day, we Nelsons attended a reception for new Commander Glen Sharbono and District 4 Commander Dave Bennett.

President's Fundraiser and Special Project

At our 2021 Department Convention we approved a budget that includes income from fundraising. We will be raffling off three prizes: a propane griddle grill valued at \$400; \$250 VISA cash card; and \$150 Walmart gift certificate. Tickets will be \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

The President's Project for this year is a cooperative effort with the 10 Veterans Affairs offices in Montana to provide volunteer assistance as needed. Each Unit will be supplied with suggestions and opportunities to do one-on-one service to veterans' family members with a goal that every Unit will be able to report a successful activity completed. This will be an opportunity for service, as well as to promote our local American Legion Auxiliary Units.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our District meetings and the Fall Conference. Thank you for your support in 2019-2021 and the upcoming year.

Deceased Members

April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021

7 THE 1, 2021 SONE SO, 2021				
Unit	Unit City	Name		
Unit 21	Anaconda	Ethel Christopher		
Unit 25	White Sulphur	Sandra Gratz		
Unit 42	Townsend	Delores V Jepson Helen Obert		
Unit 50	Big Sandy	Lois Schultz		
Unit 73	Sweet Grass	*Barbara Monroe		
Unit 74	Eureka	Kelda M Hull		
Unit 100	Park City	Margery Gaab Lenore Metzger		
Unit 106	St.Ignatius	Marjorie Rollins Amanda Lynn Dodson		
Unit 137	Kalispell	Linda Benson		

*Past Department President

Membership 1st Vice President

YVONNE KOSTELECKY

Hello Everyone!



Another fabulous convention in the books and we were truly blessed to have our National American Legion Auxiliary President, Nicole Clapp attend. What a beautiful lady inside and out! We had our elections, and I was selected as your 1st Vice President / Membership Chairman,

for 2021-2022. I look forward to getting to know more of you and to try and attend as many District meetings as I can.

If I can help you get to your membership goal, please let me know! Myself, when I tell someone why I am a member, I tell them that with each membership it is another voice in Washington DC, that I do not want my husband and my son to have their benefits taken away, and that with my membership I have that voice.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer, stay safe, and again I look forward to serving you.

God Bless our Veterans and Fod Bless America



Some Final Words from the Department **Secretary:**

The time has come I for me to pass the torch. At the convention in Helena in June, your delegation elected new officers. Our new President Chris Nelson appointed a full slate of officers. A new secretary was hired and will be in place on August 1, 2021.

A tremendous Outgoing Secretary amount of business trans-Jamie DeBates

pired at that convention and a revised copy of the Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules will be available by Fall Conference.

The Department roster will be forthcoming as well. I held back releasing it before because many of you have yet to submit your Unit officer information. That information was due to this office several months ago. It is hard to maintain fiscal responsibility by printing the roster if it is incomplete. The new secretary will be helping

I hope you will support the new secretary and the deadlines required to stay on track. I promise, nobody will be happier than I will be when Covid is in the distant past. We are Past President Davidson **Farewell**

Message **Happy August!** Convention is

done and get-

ting ready for the National Convention. Our Convention for this year was, according to my opinion, a success! We got all

Past President Sue Davidson

our business conducted and we still had fun. It was great having our National President Nicole Clapp attend. She even sewed on the Quilt of Valor that will go to our Veterans. Many of you at the Convention sewed on it and the quilt top was completed. Thanks everyone!

I really want to thank the Convention team from Helena, they did a great job! I also want to thank Chris and team for the fun Auxiliary Banquet. You did great and I had a lot of fun. Thanks for the presents, also. What a way to end a 2-year reign! I know President Chris will do a fantastic job. She has had plenty of practice while I had Covid.

By the time we get home from National Convention the District meetings will start. I know we have been enjoying being without masks for a bit, but now the numbers are rising again for the new strain, so make sure you think about what you are going to do for your meeting. Some may still either want to wear masks or not even come if it is in your meeting area. Be safe out there!

Thanks again to everyone for the great work you have all done the past two years. I am very proud to stand for Montana at our National Con-

Taking care of the business of our Veterans and our members.

Why I'm not a member?



operating, our veterans need us, our mission is not complete. It is time to get back into the

The Department headquarters is not moving. We will continue to share office space with Hardwick Post 112. Our Department President, our Department Secretary, and I will be sharing the location and carrying on the business of the Department of Montana. The new email address will get you to the Secretary and I will retain the old one as Treasurer for the time being. These steps were implemented to ensure you are able to stay in contact with all of us. I ask your patience and understanding during the transition and training.

Finally, thank you so very much for your support and the lovely gifts at convention. I am humbled by your generosity and thoughtfulness. I do not plan to travel to the Fall meetings, but I know you're going to be meeting the new secretary and she will be happy to assist you. ❸

For God & Country!





President Sue Davidson with National President Nicole Clapp at the Auxiliary Banquet.



Auxiliary members enjoying the evening at Helena's Kindrick Legion field where Helena Post 2 hosted the Keith Sell Invitational tournament.

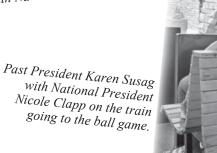




Ist Vice President Yvonne Kostelecky with Jessie Merwin of Ronan who makes the Blue Star flags for anyone who has a son or daughter in the service



Incoming Department President Chris Nelson, Junior President Jersey Somerfeld, and outgoing President Sue Davidson at Convention.





Jen Dalrymple, Girls State Director at the Auxiliary Banquet all dolled up.

ALA Girls State Success!! AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR

S T

ALA MT Girls State on the Montana state Capitol steps

After a few bumps in the final stretch leading up to our 2021 session, we successfully graduated 87 new Treasure State citizens. Our 2021 Governor is Leah Spangler from

Spangler from Flathead High School In

Kalispell and Lt Governor Elizabeth Rupp from Laurel High School in Laurel. The two selected Senators that will be heading to Washington DC late July are Pilar Seielstad from Big Sky High School in Missoula and Hadassah Wilson from Darby High School in Darby.

The competition for the Montana level Samsung scholarship was intense and Autumn Bergum from Culbertson was awarded \$1,250. Her package was forwarded for further opportunities at the National level.

I want to thank every Unit and individual who made these last four years a wonderful success for our young Montana women. I have stepped down as Director and Colleen has stepped down as Registrar. If you or anyone you may know who is willing to help pick up the staff of leadership for this extremely important program, please let President Chris Nelson know. I will continue to plan and put in place the necessary building blocks for next year's session as some reservations and required elements must be coordinated a year in advance.

It has been a terrific experience for me, and I wish my successor the same.

SW Veterans Home Grand Opening in Butte on June 29, 2021



Nuts and Bolts of LEGAL



TIM FOX, DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve with you all as Department Judge Advocate since late last year. While it has been a tough year for so many because of the pandemic, I am repeatedly encouraged by stories of how

Montana's Legionnaires have stepped up for each other and for their communities. There's an old saying (often attributed to both Notre Dame football Coach Knut Rockne and John F. Kennedy's father) that I am sure you are all familiar with – "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" No one knows how to "get going" during tough times like America's veterans, especially Legionnaires!

I was also encouraged this past year by the generosity of so many Montanans who volunteer their time and treasure to The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and to so many other Legion causes and activities. On a per capita basis, Montana ranks in the top one half of all states for volunteering and service. My guess would be that in most Montana communities, the local Post and Auxiliary are among the most active volunteers, if not *THE* most active. Let's keep it up as we continue to embrace and fulfill our common mission of "Self-less Service."

Recently a Post asked me a question about what they should consider when someone wishes to donate a vehicle to the Post. Non-cash charitable donations of personal or real property can certainly be beneficial, but they can also be a burden if the beneficiary doesn't do some homework. In a general sense, a Post should consider whether it will accept non-cash donations, and, if it will, whether it might want to have a written policy in place on what it will accept. Small items of personal property with little value, or that may be difficult to sell, could be more work than they are worth. On the other hand, the donation of a working vehicle could be sold and turned into cash for the Post.

The American Legion at the National level has a robust vehicle donation program. You can find contact information and an explanation of that program on National's web site at www.legion.careasy.org. I do not know how often the donation of a motor vehicle to a Post will arise, but here are some things to keep in mind when deciding whether to accept such a donation:

- The Post should confirm that there are no liens on the vehicle. The simplest way to do that is to examine the vehicle title. If there is a lien referenced on the title, that lien should be removed first by the donor and a new title issued by MVD before the Post should accept the vehicle.
- 2. The Post should confirm the identity of the donor and confirm that the donor's name is the same as it appears on the vehicle title.
- 3. The donor and the Post should sign a Bill of Sale for the vehicle.
- The donor should sign over the vehicle title to the Post and include the mileage in the space provided. The donor's signature should be notarized by a

Notary Public. The Post should take possession of the original vehicle title. If the donor doesn't have the original vehicle title, the donor should obtain a duplicate vehicle title from the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, before donating the vehicle to the Post.

- 5. If the Post is a valid IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and if the donor wishes to claim a charitable tax deduction on the donor's income tax filing, the donor should obtain (at donor's expense) an appraisal from a qualified appraiser to establish the value of the charitable contribution. Again, if the Post is a valid IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and if the donor has obtained an appraisal and wishes to claim a charitable deduction, the Post should give the donor a written confirmation of the charitable donation with a description of the vehicle (e.g., year, make, model, color, vehicle identification number, etc.), the appraised value, and the Post's taxpayer identification number. Both the Post and the donor should keep a copy of the appraisal for their records.
- 6. If the Post will have the possession of the vehicle for any length of time, and if representatives of the Post or anyone else will be driving the vehicle, the Post should consider obtaining appropriate vehicle insurance on the vehicle as soon as possible.

If a vehicle is to be donated to the Department or National rather than to the local Post, the Department Adjutant or National should be consulted before accepting the donation of the motor home.

While we are on the subject of insurance, I was recently made aware that National is requiring all Departments, Posts, and other state and local affiliates of The American Legion to include National as an additional named insured on their directors and officers insurance (D&O), general liability, casualty, dram shop liability, special events liability, employment liability, and other liability insurance policies. This, I am sure, was likely prompted by National being named as a defendant over the years in one or more lawsuits involving the acts or omissions of Posts, Departments, or other affiliates of The American Legion.

On 1 June 2021, National forwarded a letter from the National Judge Advocate to the Department through me asking that we provide National with confirmation that the Department, all Posts, and "intermediate bodies" of The American Legion have listed National as an additional insured on all insurance policies and asking that the Department provide National with copies of all "insurance policy declaration pages" showing that National and the Department are listed as additional named insureds. In addition, National requested that the Department provide National with a list of the names, addresses, employer identification numbers, and contact persons for every "intermediate body" (i.e., Zones, Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, Legion Baseball, Boys State, etc.) within the Department. Our Department Adjutant's office will be taking care of responding to National's requests, and it would be very helpful if each Post would confirm with the Department Adjutant's office that all insurance policies list both the Department and National as additional named insureds.

One of the simplest ways to make sure that both the Department and National are listed as additional insureds on all insurance policies is to ask your insurance agent to add both the Department and National as additional named insureds on all insurance policies and ask that your insurance agent provide you with an "ACORD" form for each policy that lists the Department and National as additional named insureds. There are a multitude of ACORD forms designed for each different type of insurance policy. ACORD forms typically list the type of insurance, the policy holder (i.e., the insured), the policy issuer

(i.e., the insurance company and insurance agent), the policy limits, etc. There is also a box or space on each form where additional insureds are listed. Here is how both the Department and National should appear as additional insureds on all insurance policy declaration pages and on ACORD forms for each policy:

The American Legion 700 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

The American Legion Department of Montana 1956 Mt Majo Street Fort Harrison, MT 59636

Again, your assistance in helping the Department Adjutant's office in promptly responding to National's request for copies of insurance policy declaration pages showing the Department and National as additional named insureds is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the Department Adjutant's office.

Thank you again for the honor of serving as your Department Judge Advocate. I wish you a pleasant and relaxing remainder of the summer

Laurel Post 123 posts Colors for Dodgers

Laurel American Legion color guard for opening day for the Laurel Dodgers, Post Commander Ray Southworth, Norm Popiel, Rookie Ledridge, past Department Commander Richard Klose.



2021 Veteran of the YearJoe Schumacher, Director of Veteran Services Montana State University, Member Bozeman Post 14



Bozeman Elks Lodge #463 has named Joe Schumacher the "2021 Veteran of the Year."

Schumacher serves as the Director of Veteran Services at Montana State University. Each year the Veteran Support Center works with over 600 veteran students to help them achieve their academic goals. Veteran Support Center is available to all veterans of the U.S. military, eligible dependents and members of the Selected Reserve who receive Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) education benefits.

Schumacher served in the Army, including deployment as a tank gunner in Iraq, battling in Diwaniyah.

While earning a degree in Political Science, Schumacher worked for MSU's Voice Center. He spoke to hundreds of students about preventing sexual assault and domestic abuse.

Schumacher is a member of American Legion Post 14 in Bozeman, Montana.



Ravalli Post 47 Memorial Day Commemoration SUBMITTED FOR POST 47 BY CHAPLAIN NANCY DEZELL

Members of American Legion Ravalli Post 47 and numerous dedicated local volunteers placed nearly 1,200 white wooden crosses with red poppies on the graves of every Veteran buried at Riverview and Grantsdale Cemeteries in Hamilton



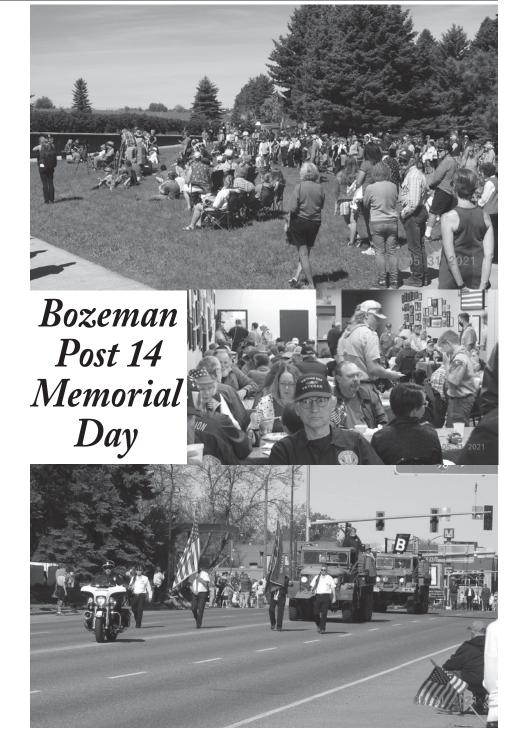


Memorial Day service at the Ravalli County Museum Doughboy Statue (L to R) Marcus Burnham, Mike Shine, Deb Strickland, Ralph Koeppel.

in honor of Memorial Day. American Heritage Girls placed large cloth American Flags on each Veteran grave. Chaplain Nancy Dezell said, "seeing so many white crosses is such a humbling reminder of the ultimate sacrifices given for our freedom right here in our Bitterroot Valley." The crosses and flags remained in place for one week and volunteers removed, cleaned and stored them on Saturday, June 5th.

Everyone enjoyed beautiful Bitterroot mornings!

The Ravalli Post 47 Color Guard conducted three ceremonies on Monday May 31 to honor our Veterans on Memorial Day. Along with the Marine Corps League Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937, Post 47 presented Military Honors with wreath-laying at the Doughboy Memorial in front of the Ravalli County Museum; honored those Lost at Sea with a wreath laying into the Bitterroot River from the Main Street Bridge; and a service at the Veterans' Memorial at Riverview Cemetery in commemoration of all Fallen Veterans.



STEVENSVILLE FORT OWEN **POST 94**

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL BURGMEIER POST 94

Soon after the "War on Terror" started, Post 94 erected a memorial wall in Stevensville honoring those local residents who were or had been serving on active duty. This last year it was recognized by the Post members that this memorial had deteriorated to the point of needing a major renovation.

Following several meetings/discussions, it was decided that rather than renovate the existing wall a more permanent memorial monument should be built. This monument built of concrete, granite and aluminum, has finally become a reality.

The monument honors all Stevensville area military personnel who have given their lives while on active duty. The first name is that of Isaac Ingalls Stevens, the First Governor of the Territory of Washington for whom the town was named, and who was killed during the Civil War.

The monument includes the symbols of the six branches of the military to include the new Space Force.

The below photo shows some of Post 94 members at the new monument.



Memorial Day in Clarks Fork Valley

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE MILLER POST 7

Memorial Day found American Legion Post 71 and VFW Post 5748 joining forces to salute those who have gone before us.

Prior to Memorial Day over 400 flags were placed in our cemeteries creating quite a site. Monday morning bright and early on Memorial Day th



Wendy Deschmidt-Kohlhoff, Ray Locke, Jody Stene, Tony Kenyon, and Steve Ozborn.

two Posts came together with ceremonies in three area cemeteries and parades in both Fromberg and Joliet. Community support at all places was high.

Post 71 continued on to Red Lodge where the Elks Club fed all veterans of the County. Roberts was the last parade and cemetery of the day, over 45 veterans marched in step through town and then onto the cemetery for a brief ceremony.

Burl Baty, one of the remaining WW2 Veterans, at 96 still fits into his uniform and proudly wears it for ceremonies.

Women Veterans Coordinator

KIM KAY McCARTY MARTIN WVC

Ladies Lead the Way

A group of us women veterans was able to recognize WWII woman veteran Margaret Miller on 5 June at her Helena home. I was thankful for Karon Kougioulis, Sharron Doig, Chaya Semple, and Robin Baker being able to come together at short notice to recognize Margaret for her service. Margaret's family was present also which made



(l-r)- Sharron Doig, Karon Kougioulis, Robin Baker, Kim Kay McCarty Martin, Chaya Semple. Margaret Miller (seated).

it a wonderful occasion for Margaret. One of my goals as women veterans coordinator is to try and recognize all our remaining WII female veterans for their service because when they served with honor and commitment for our country, our country never recognizes 95% of them. After the war was won, they were given about \$100 and told to go home. To be disregarded without the recognition their male comrades received is a slap in the face they did not deserve. These women paved the way for us later generations of women

veterans. They are proud of their contribution to our country in its time of need, as I am proud to serve when I could, doing my job just as good as our male counterparts.

In that regard, I am trying to get as many women veterans recognized for their service as I can. On 14 August, we will be recognizing some

women veterans in the nursing home in Missoula. Ruthie Smith, of Hellgate Post in Missoula is helping me get this put together. If you want to be involved either to be recognized or help recognize other women veterans, please get in contact with me. On 16 August, we will be having coffee with female veterans at 6 p.m. at Post 137. Kalispell member JC, will be my contact for this event. I would like to meet with the ladies in Hamilton on the 15th of August, so ladies please give me a call.

With COVID-19 restrictions in MT loosened, I would like to line up opportunities for women veterans to get together for a day hike, a float later on the Yellowstone or the Missouri. I'm still in the planning stages with these. Christine Miller knows of a campground we may be able to

camp overnight at so she will check it out for us. As women veterans, only 15% of the dedicated few whom served in our countries military, we need opportunities to get together and have fun. Montana is a big state of vastness in-between, and we need to make extra effort to come together to enjoy what we have in common and develop our friendships. Please contact me at 701-260-2833 by text or call or contact me via email at kmc-cartymartin@gmail.com

Twin Bridges Post 31 Flag Retirement



Veterans of Twin Bridges conducted a flag retirement ceremony on 14 June 2021 for worn flags that were worn and damaged to the point they should no longer be flown.

With the help of two scouts, Cash Raben (12) Troop 1608 Tenderfoot Rank, and Colter Raben (9) Pack 4608, Webelo Cub Scout these flags were folded with pride and then presented to a fire where each was shown the proper respect and dignity that old glory deserves. The day was a solemn one but also a proud day spent with military comrades and young scouts conducting this ceremony. The importance of working with youth is so instrumental in building strong communities, scouting is just one way to do that.

Thank you, Cash and Colter and your parents for taking part in this time-honored ceremony.

Tri-County Legion Riders Ride for Willis Cruse House

SUBMITTED BY JEN DALRYMPLE, LEGION RIDER

Sixty participants gathered on a gorgeous Armed Forces Day morning of May 15, 2021, to ride their motorcycles on what we hope will be an annual Poker Run fundraiser for the Willis Cruse House of Helena.

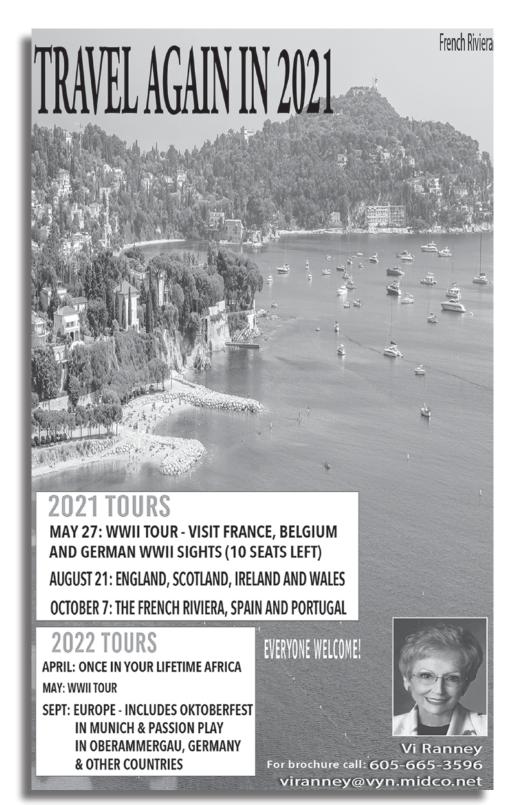
The Poker Run was organized by the Tri-County Legion Riders of Helena, Boulder and Townsend in support of needs at the Willis Cruse House for Homeless Veterans which is sponsored by the Montana Veterans Foundation. The ride started at Post 2 in Helena, stopped at several bars, included a visit to the new Willis Cruse facilities off Spokane Creek Road, travelled around the scenic Canyon Ferry Lake south to Post 42 of Townsend and back again to Post 2 for a wonderful BBQ, awarding of prizes, silent auction, fun and comradery.

Several thousand dollars were raised to help our brethren get back on their feet while being sheltered at this transitional facility. Because of the tremendous success of our first Cruise for Willis Cruse House Poker Run, look for us again in May next year and come on out and join in the fun!



Post Everlasting

Due to issues at the National level, there is no Post Everlasting listing this issue of the Legionnaire.



Ronan Post 138 produces top leadership for Nations two largest Veteran Service Organizations.

BY GLEN SHARBONO

A Commanders reception was held on July 5th in Ronan, just coming off two Montana State Conventions. Glen Sharbono Commander/Adjutant



of Ronan Post 138 was elected as the State Commander of Montana for The American Legion. Ron Merwin of Ronan Post 138 and VFW Post 5652 was elected as State Commander of Montana for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Dave Bennett was elected as the Commander for District 4 and Dwayne Trotter as District 4 Vice Commander, both of Ronan Post 138. Dave Bennett is also the newly elected Post Commander for Ronan VFW Post 5652, that was just named "All American Post" and was #3 in their division in the Nation. Dave's wife Donna is also a dual member and President of the Ronan American Legion Auxiliary Unit 138. Richard Tobel a dual member of both Ronan Posts led off with the prayer prior to the new Commanders cutting and serving cake, cookies, and ice cream along with fellowship to the more than 90 Veterans and family members who attended from Charlo Post 126, Polson Post 112, and Ronan Post 138, Veterans

of Foreign Wars Ronan Post5652, and Polson 2986. It was an honor to also have in attendance the Past State Commander of The American

Legion Montana Jeff Nelson who is also the newly elected State Commander for the Sons of The American Legion Montana, and his wife Christine Nelson the new American Legion Auxiliary Montana State President. They both repre-

sent Polson Post and Unit 112. Russ Harbin was there as the newly elected Commander for both the Polson VFW Post 2986 and Polson American Legion Post 112. Robert Shaw Past Commander Charlo Post 126 and current Quartermaster for Ronan VFW. Michael Dennison the new Commander for American Legion Post 126 in Charlo and his Adjutant Pat Kelly. Photos were taken by the new Montana American Legion Auxiliary Sergeant-At-Arms Lorie Noble a dual member of Ronan Legion and VFW Auxiliaries. Not only did District 4 produce back-to-back Department Commanders it also had produced a series of unlikely events that caused a rare occurrence likely to have never happened before or ever will again. With so much leadership coming from a single Post. It is the hopes of all those involved with dual memberships that these two organizations will work together even more as they look to the future.

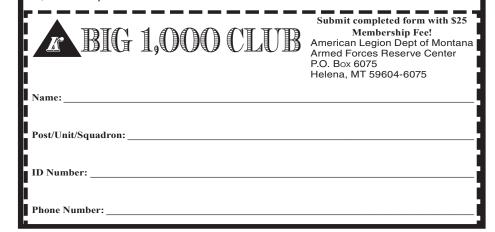


BIG 1,000 CLI

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 fundraiser 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, 2021 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2022, \$500 on the Legion Birthday and \$1,800 at Department Convention.



AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

The 74th session of the Montana American Legion Boys State Program took place in Helena, Montana at the Campus of Carroll College on June 6 -11, 2021. We had 84 delegates in attendance this year. We had quite a time attracting delegates due to not being able to go to the schools early this year.

This year provided us with some excellent students attending Senator Daines shares his memories of Boys our program. The questions that State in 1979. these students asked and the



level of energy that they put into every task was superior. This was a very upbeat group and they clicked into a cohesive group right away. Every office had more than one person running for it and the level of candidates were great. They wrote several great bills for both the House of Representatives and The Senate.

For those that do not know about the program, let me take a few minutes to explain it. This is a program that teaches our youth between their Junior and

Senior year in school about our form of Government. They do this by actually participating in it by running for various offices from the local level to the state level. They get to listen to many great speakers each year to include past ALBS delegates that have gone on to have a significant impact in government or private business. This year, some of the speakers included Ryan Zinke, former Interior Secretary and Representative for Montana in Congress, Steve Daines, United States Senator from Montana, Austin Knudsen, Attorney General for Montana, Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Schools for Montana, and many others. The councilors we have are great in leading the delegates in every aspect of what they need to do to be successful during the week. The delegates learn how to run a campaign as well as how to do the job they are elected to as the week progresses.

This is a program that is only successful if we all work to find the delegates to attend. Getting information to the schools and any other group that has access to young men is especially important if this program is to succeed in the future. This must start at the Post level. The few members of the Boys State Committee, the Director, the Head Counselor, and the Department staff cannot do it alone. Please get the information out on this and the other fine programs for our youth out as soon as the schools open in the fall. Talk to the schoolteachers, officials, boards, and students about our program. We need to get our numbers above 120 to ensure we can sustain the program.

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2021 Resolution Tracker						
<u>#</u>	RESOLUTION NAME	SUBMITTED BY	<u>Pass</u>	FAIL		
21-01	Amend Constitution & Bylaws of The American Legion, Dept. of Montana, Revised June 27, 2018	District 1		X		
21-02	Training Director	Education		x		
21-03	Youth Constitution	Education		X		
21-04	Canadian Friendship Award	District 3		X		
21-05	Expanding the Scouting Award	Americanism	X			
21-06	Columbia Falls Cemetery Expansion	Legislative	x			
21-07	MT Legion College Pin	Education	X			

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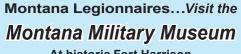
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Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary

American Legion of Montana



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American Legion

Post #3



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elcome ' **American Legion Club** 30

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