



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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Veteran from Lake Kiowa, Texas, Elected National Commander of The American Legion

PHOENIX (SEPT. 2, 2021) – Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of the nearly two-million member American Legion today in Phoenix, during the organization’s 102nd national convention. He first joined the nation’s largest veterans organization in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an Engineer, Plant Manager and Director of Manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered into the insurance business specializing in Employee Benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of Post 265, Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post’s Boys State chairman.



National Commander Paul E. Dillard

He served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas (state) commander in 2007. His theme as national commander is “No Veteran Left Behind.”

On the national level, Paul has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children and Youth Committee, Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of

the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

He married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of The American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017 – 2018.

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct 29-31	Dept. Fall Conference Helena HAFRC
Nov 7	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 11	Veterans Day (ofc closed)
Nov 25	Thanksgiving
Nov 24-26	office closed for holiday
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 22- Jan 2	office closed for holiday
Jan 1	AL Boys State Reg. Opens
Jan 17	MLK Jr Day (ofc closed)
Feb 21	Presidents' Day
Feb 27-Mar 2	Washington Conference
Mar 2-4	Dept. Service Officer School
Mar 5	Spring Dist. Meetings begin
Mar 6	Dist. Oratory Contests End
Mar 12	Dept. Oratory Contest GT Falls
Jun 15-19	Dept. Convention MSLA

Veterans Day
November 11



Dept. Office Closed

Repatriation for two veterans who finally return home

SUBMITTED BY: NANCY DEZELL, POST 47 & ED SAUNDERS, VFW POST 4725

Prisoners of War and Missing in Action become very real in every veteran’s life when you find yourself young and in a combat zone. The U.S. is dedicated to leaving no man behind and tirelessly works to bring these warriors home. These two men, warriors in their own respect from two different wars both found their way home after years of laying in foreign soil. We salute their sacrifice and welcome our brothers home.

PRIVATE WAYNE M. EVANS was born in 1921 in Hamilton, MT and graduated high school



Private Wayne M. Evans

in 1939. He and his younger brother Robert Evans served as members of Battery G, 59th Coast Artillery Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula

on April 9, 1942, and of the Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members, including Evans, were captured, and interned at POW camps. According to historical records, Evans was held at the Cabanatuan POW camp where he died on July 19, 1942.

The American Legion Ravalli Post 47 and members of Corvallis Post 91 presented the Colors as the Montana Army National Guard Honor Guard rendered honors for the Repatriation Ceremony for PV1 Wayne M. Evans on August 14, 2021 at Riverview Cemetery in Hamilton.

1LT Krogman was a native of Worland, WY. In 1967 he was shot down while flying a mission over Laos. His remains were not recovered and identified until 2019. His remains were flown to Billings, MT, where an honor guard of Patriot Guard riders, law enforcement, fire departments, and veterans assembled to honor and escort 1LT Krogman home to burial with full military honors in Worland.

To render honors, Montana citizens and veterans gathered in 102-degree heat at the Laurel



Citizens and Veterans welcome home 1LT Krogman

CHS refinery in Montana where the escort turned south and traveled to Wyoming. The procession was met by more Montanans, lining the highway and town main streets all the way to the border of Wyoming.

Welcome home 1LT Krogman, from a grateful nation. Rest in peace in the honor you have richly earned.

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COMMANDER SHARBONO

Communication is the key.

Communication both ways up and down the chain of command is needed to be effective. From the Department Executive Committee to the District Commanders to their Post Commanders and Adjutants, and they to their membership; take the time to just visit, and the reverse is needed. It works! Constant communication lets us know who needs what and lets us know we are needed more as an organization of comradery as opposed to only being about membership. Which doesn't mean we become complacent with membership as we can't survive without it. The two go hand-in-hand.

I once knew a lady who always talked to people as though she knew them forever. I asked her one day who she was talking to, and she said she didn't know, but they seemed to remember her. So, she always wanted to give the impression that she did by listening to what they had to say, taking the time for a brief but warm casual conversation. This is how we should strive to conduct ourselves. Introduce yourself to the new member make them welcome. Wave across the room or shake hands with a familiar face. A little bit goes a long way.

We, the Department and National, send out our leading candidates to campaign for the office they seek to be elected to. Once you reach the top you think well, here I am, I don't need to campaign anymore. And that's where I or anyone else who thinks that way is wrong! If we give the perception that we are no longer relevant we lose the interest and respect of those we are trying to gain the confidence of. We need to always present ourselves as though we are still campaigning, still trying to say we are pertinent, still saying the message is true and sincere. We need to keep selling ourselves, so to say, our guidance and our goals for the future of this organization called The American Legion.



Glen Sharbono
Department Commander

We will soon begin the search for candidates to mesmerize us with their oratory skills at the Post, District, and Department levels of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship contest. If you know of a confident intellectual individual who is up to speed on the Constitution, encourage them to contact a local Post. Or they can go to www.legion.org/oratorical for more information.

The squabbling between Legion Posts and Units needs to cease! We need to work together for the betterment of our principles and the Four Pillars of our founding. The American

Legion Auxiliary is an independent but vital part of The American Legion Family. We are not complete without each other. The National Commanders call of "No Veteran Left Behind" ties in with the Auxiliary's "Service To Others Not Self." Remember, "It's not the price you pay for membership, but the price you paid for eligibility!"

And speaking of "American Legion Family" let's not forget The Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders. We need each other to succeed in our missions and service to our "Brothers and Sisters in arms" as well as their family members. I would like to encourage every single Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter to strive to get The American Legion Family ribbon. When, and notice I said "when" not if, but when you're recruiting do it for the family. Ask if they are married, have children, are the descendant of a Veteran, do they like to ride. Odds are if you get one you may get the whole bunch. And remember you, yes you, are important to us, we can't do it without you. And when possible, we can always use a warm body to help with our programs. I would like to see not only the Department but every single Post and every District at 100% by Convention 2022! Wouldn't that be a hoot!? I am very confident it is possible, and we can do it together with a little effort and communication! Thank you. ●

Department of Montana Adjutant

Duane Cunningham

Greetings Legion Family; hard to believe, but fall is upon us. It has been a busy summer, National Conference was held in Phoenix in August; 118 degrees is hot, even to a Montana delegation that isn't afraid of anything. Pretty sure I saw Gary White frying his morning bacon and eggs on the sidewalk one morning.



Duane Cunningham
Department Adjutant

Regardless of the heat, convention was a success for everyone; being back in person, meeting new friends, building new relationships, and greeting those that we had lost contact with because of the pandemic was worth the triple digit temperatures. From the various speakers came reminders and examples of what The American Legion does in the community; for Veterans and the importance of our organization. The one prevailing message was a simple one, the success of The American Legion starts at the grass roots level, with individual Legionnaires at the Post level and that success works its way up the Legion ladder.

Next year's National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Aug. 26 – Sep. 1st, 2022. If you have never attended a Convention, I highly recommend it. There is literally something for everyone. It might surprise you, but it isn't just a seven-day membership discussion; it covers everything Legion and Legion related. Speaking of membership, I want to pass along a Bravo Zulu to all Post Commanders, Adjutants and Zone and District Commanders; Montana has met and surpassed the first two membership goals of 50 and 55 percent. As of this writing, Montana leads the entire Western Region! Your hard work and tireless efforts are at the heart of our success; keep up the great work spreading the reasons for being in the Legion!

Fall District meetings are in full swing. Department leadership is enjoying visiting with Post leadership and hearing from you on issues that you are experiencing. Oftentimes, conflict within the Post, or a lack of desire to step into a leadership role within the Post, can lead to difficulties and a Post struggling to maintain its members. We have all heard the importance of bringing younger Veterans into the Legion family but recruiting them to join is only the first step and not even the most important one. There are two other steps that if followed can lead to future Post success. One is welcoming the new member to the Post, taking them under your wing and explaining everything that The American Legion does at the Post level, introducing the new member to the entire Post and making sure that the monthly meeting is something they want to be a part of moving forward. And second, and often the hardest to accept, is the ability to listen to their ideas and thoughts on how things could be done. Change is too often dismissed and instead of giving an idea a try, it is rejected because it's not the way it has always been done. If we don't listen and at least give new ideas a try, we will never pull the newer era Veterans into the family.

Compromise was a term that used to be a staple of what America was; a decision may not have everything we wanted, but what was best for the organization, the Country or our family was where we strived to reach. Somewhere along the way it feels like we have forgotten how to compromise, how to be willing to agree to disagree. Compromise was a core skill even before we had our current system. Pretty much every sentence in our Constitution was the product of compromise, crafted by people who felt passionately about the issues they confronted yet found a way to agree

VICE COMMANDER LONG

This has been a busy start to the 2022 membership year. Montana has been doing very well with its numbers and that is thanks to you. Thank you to everyone that has renewed their membership so far this year. We encourage each of you to renew as soon as you get the notice because it saves money if we do not have to print additional notices. The more money we can save, eliminates dues increases to cover these costs.

Our membership goal this year is to have the Department, and every district at 100% of their membership goal; as the Vice Commander, I would like to be able to give Commander Sharbono this. I believe it is doable with a little work on all our parts. Posts, reach out to your members to see if there is anything you can do to help them.

I want to congratulate all the Districts that have made the 55% target, we have several others who are close but not quite there yet. Target dates are key to keeping on track to the final goal, timely turn in at



Lowell Long
Dept. Vice Commander

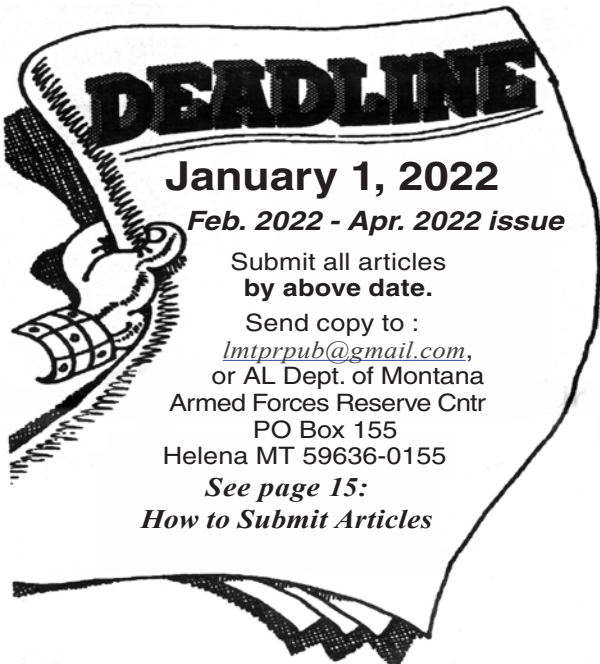
the Post levels is critical to ensure our numbers are up to date and preventing second notices from going out.

Lastly, I would also like to encourage you to participate in at least one program. A Post that is active is one that members want to be a part of. We have so many programs to choose from, like American Legion Boys State, the Oratorical Scholarship Program, Fatality Markers, Funeral Honors, Government Survey, and Essay Programs just to name a few. Find a program that suits your Post and get after it. Being as visible in your community as you can lets people know you are there and able to help your community.

Thank you to all the Districts that I was able to visit, it was a pleasure to be able to share time with you. It has been the highlight of my first few months as your Vice Commander. I have enjoyed the hospitality of your Districts this fall.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing you somewhere in the near future. ●

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



Chaplain's Corner

CHAYA "HIYA" SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

LETHAL MEANS SUICIDE PREVENTION

“Depression is such a cruel punishment. There are no fevers, no rashes, no blood tests to send people scurrying in concern, just the slow erosion of self, as insidious as cancer. And like cancer, it is essentially a solitary experience; a room in hell with only your name on the door.” ~ Martha Manning, Undercurrents: A Life Beneath the Surface (1994)

Studies show that for every completed suicide, there are six survivors. Given there are approximately 220-230 suicides in Montana every year, that means there are about 1,400 new survivors every year in Montana. A survivor of suicide has three times the risk of completing suicide themselves.

Did you know that one Montanan dies every 54 hours due to gun-related suicide? Among survivors of a suicide attempt, **47% said it took less than one hour between their decision to attempt suicide and their actual attempt. 24% said it took less than 5 minutes.** Less than 10% of those who survive a suicide attempt go on to die by suicide.

For a Veteran in crisis, lethal means safety during a critical period can make all the difference.

This is definitely not gun control; it also includes medications. Lethal means safety is the intentional, voluntary practice of limiting access to those lethal means when one is under high stress. Why is it important to have the conversation? Because lethal means safety during a critical period can save a Veteran’s life.

Veterans who have a high degree of familiarity with firearms are more likely to own firearms than those in the general US population. 1 in 2 owns at least one firearm; 1 in 3 stores a firearm loaded and unlocked. Veterans are more likely to die from firearm-related suicide than those in the general population. Female veterans are also significantly more likely to use a firearm as a means of suicide. Like their male counterparts, many female Veterans own firearms.

More than 15 U.S. case-control and cross-sectional studies have found that firearm access is an independent risk factor for suicide.

Here’s how we know it works: Most 18–21-year-olds in Israel serve in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). In the early 2000’s 90% of IDF suicides were by firearm and most occurred on weekend leave. In 2006 the IDF implemented a policy requiring soldiers to leave their weapons on base during weekend leave. As a result, the suicide rate decreased by 40% with weekend suicides dropping significantly. Weekday suicides did not decrease.

From the VA, 667 Veterans who received a Veterans Health Administration healthcare survey about the acceptability of firearm interventions (a 50% response rate):

93.2% endorsed one or more health system interventions addressing firearm access; 75% endorsed interventions substantially limiting access; half the Veterans with household firearms would personally participate in at least one intervention that substantially limited access while among respondents with PTSD, 76% endorsed one or more high intensity interventions.

How do you know if someone is suicidal? Try this Easy-to-Remember Mnemonic for the Warning Signs of Suicide: **IS PATH WARM?**

- **Ideation:** Expressed or communicated ideation threatening to hurt or kill him/herself or talking of wanting to hurt or kill him/herself; and/or looking for ways to kill him/herself by seeking access to firearms, available pills, or other means; and/or talking or writing about death, dying or suicide, when these actions are out of the ordinary.
- **Substance Abuse:** Increased alcohol or drug use
- **Purposelessness:** No reason for living; no sense of purpose in life, start giving things away because there’s no purpose in keeping anything, no reason to maintain their hygiene
- **Anxiety:** Anxiety, agitation, unable to sleep or sleeping all the time, difficulty concentrating
- **Trapped:** Feeling trapped (like there’s no way out and things will never get better)
- **Hopelessness:** Hopelessness, no future orientation
- **Withdrawal:** Withdrawal from friends, isolating from family, stop doing things they enjoy.
- **Anger:** Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge, irritable
- **Recklessness:** Acting reckless or engaging in high-risk activities, seemingly without thinking, impulsive behavior (especially in younger people)
- **Mood Change:** Dramatic mood changes, flat affect, depressed mood, acting out of character

CHAPLAIN continued on page 4

ABIT OF GOOD NEWS

ED SPERRY PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND CHAPLAIN, STEVENSVILLE MT, PHONE: 406.239.0628

I want to share with you a recent experience that was encouraging and a source of great pride. Most opinion letters are expressions of great concern for issues facing our state and nation. Let me briefly change this depressing trend and present something that most citizens will appreciate, and many will enjoy.

I recently was fortunate to get a first-class tour of Malmstrom Air Force Base at the outskirts of Great Falls. For those who may not know, this is the home of the Minuteman Missile Wing which has been operational since August 1962. The missiles have intercontinental range and are dispersed across a wide part of eastern Montana. Long ago back in 1959-1962, I was a young captain in the program office that created the original version of

Minuteman system. A system which has defended our nation for nearly 60 years. You may be surprised to know that between the B-52 bombers and the Minuteman Missiles the Air Force is currently operational with two of the oldest weapon systems in our national arsenal. Yep, as taxpayers we got our money's worth! But I am going astray.

I got to spend an entire day visiting the missile wing at Malmstrom. The personnel treated me with great courtesy and exposed me to the entire operational, support and security facets of the system. Frankly, it was overwhelming. I think most folks realize that no matter how modern, complex, and expensive the equipment is; it is still just equipment and subject forever to change. What doesn’t change is the need for dedicated, skilled personnel.

Personnel! That’s really what I want to comment on. Folks, my day was spent with America’s

finest. The officers and airmen that I encountered had obvious high morale, great skill, dedication to the mission and determination to do their level best, 24 hours a day for all 365 days a year. Days that you and I enjoy in this free and wonderful land. All the news of the day seems to question and detract from our schools, youth, leadership, and morals (seemingly every facet of our lives). Let’s keep some balance and recognize the almost unbelievable skill, courage, and dedication of the troops in all the Services. Folks, they deserve our upmost respect and support!

After my tour I drove out of the gate with moist eyes. This old colonel and his peers have been replaced with outstanding men and women. There is a National Treasure behind that fence on the eastern edge of Great Falls and their scattered satellites. That treasure is the men and women of our military!

Post Everlasting



Jul/Aug/Sep 2021

- ☆ ARMSTRONG, DAVID, 4/2021 – WWII – US Army – 58-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BERNHARDT, WILLIAM, DOD – Korea – US Army – 24-year member of Post 123, Laurel, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BETTS, ALLEN, 7/11/2021 – Vietnam – US Army – 16-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BROWN, KENNETH, Korea – US Army – 71-year member of Post 47, Hamilton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BURNELL KENNEDY, 9/4/2021 – Unknown – US Air Force – 38-year member of Post 135, location, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BURTNESS, LLOYD, Korea – US Army – 60-year member of Post 64, Dutton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CALLEN, MARION, WWII – US Army – 62-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CHAFFEE, JAMES, Korea – US Army – 58-year member of Post 34, Columbus, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ DIAL, LARRY, 3/21/2021 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 6-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ERIKSEN, RICHARD, Vietnam – US Army – 14-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FEENAN, ROBERT, 5/28/2021 – WWII – US Army – 29-year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FIRST, JEROME, 6/21/2021 – Vietnam – US Marine Corps – 20-year member of Post 61, Brockton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FORKAN, JOSEPH, Korea – US Navy – 36-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GRANDPRE, MATTHEW, 7/26/2021 – Persian Gulf – US Army – 6-year member of Post 4, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GUSTAFSON, JOSEPH, WWII – US Army – 66-year member of Post 34, Columbus, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HARBIN, RUSS, Other – US Army – 7-year member of Post 112, Polo, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HJELVIK, JAMES, Korea – US Navy – 62-year member of Post 34, Columbus, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HOFLIN, EUGENE, Vietnam – US Air Force - 1-year member of Post 70, Judith Gap, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ JUNEAU, BRUCE, Vietnam – Unknown – 12-year member of Post 70, Judith Gap, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KINGDON, WARREN, Vietnam – US Army – 4-year member of Post 135, Lolo, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LANDSRUD, WILLARD, Korea – US Air Force – 40-year member of Post 22, Wolf Point, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MCGINNIS, MICK, Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MILLER, JOHN, Vietnam – US Army – 17-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PECK, HARRY B., Vietnam – US Army – 17-year member of Post 70, Judith Gap, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PRATT, HAROLD, WWII – US Army – 75-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ROOTES, DANIEL, Vietnam – US Army – 2-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SIMMONS, RUSSELL, WWII – US Army – 34-year member of Post 124, Frenchtown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SKOV, GLEN, Vietnam – US Air Force – 38-year member of Post 114, Fairfield, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STEVENS, FRANK, Vietnam – US Army – 22-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ULRICH, KERMIT, WWII – US Navy – 9-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ YOUNG, DENZIL, 3/10/2021 – WWII – US Army – 76-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Service Officer Kate Hahn

Evidence Collection and Submission. This is a very important subject and will be addressed through several articles.

After the Intent to file has been submitted, the next step in the claims process is collection of evidence to support your claim. Why is this so important? The evidence collected and submitted by the veteran/claimant may help establish a relevant disputed point more or less true. Every element in any way affecting the probative value to be assigned to the evidence in each individual claim must be thoroughly and conscientiously studied by each member of the rating board in the light of the established policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the end that decisions will be equitable and just as contemplated by the requirements

of law (38 CFR §4.6).

A Veteran Service Officer (VSO) should inform the veteran/claimant what records they are responsible for submitting to support their claim. Any Non-government Medical Records (NGMRs) containing diagnosis and treatment for claimed service-connected condition, meaning any medical records not in the custody of any Federal Department or Agency, should be collected by the veteran/claimant and given to the VSO to be submitted with their claim. The veteran/claimant may need to submit a release for those non-government records to be sent to their VSO due to HIPAA regulation requirements. If the veteran/claimant wants, they may fill out VA Form(s) 21-4142, and 21-4142a Authorization to Disclose Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs

(VA) and General Release for Medical Provider Information to the VA to have the VA request these records, the caveat to this is it can slow the progress of a claim and ultimately it is the responsibility of the veteran/claimant to collect and submit their records if the VA is unsuccessful.

Records collected and submitted to the VA with an initial claim, or a supplemental claim trigger the VA’s Duty to Assist. The VA will attempt to gather records from all Federal Agencies and Departments as long as they are properly listed on the claim with locations and dates of provider services. Veterans/claimants may receive correspondence from the VA stating they are currently collecting records from these agencies but if the veteran/claimant has a copy they may submit it to the VA. This does not preclude the VA from performing its requirements according to regulations. The VA must continue to make reasonable efforts to obtain relevant records in the custody of a federal agency or department.

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!

POW MIA Day by POST 123

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD KLOSE

A large gathering of Laurel elementary through High School students assembled in the park in September under the pavilion to help recognize POW MIA day with area veterans. This is an annual event Richard Klose has worked tirelessly to keep going. The importance of remembering these warriors remains at the forefront of Veteran’s minds, but it is important that the next generation understand what service before self and service for Country means.



Sue Davidson explains the POW/MIA table.

Many young boys and girls alike dream of growing up and joining the military, they play Army on the playground and dream of all the fun it will be. No one thinks of what we all know can be a reality and that they will be captured by the enemy or missing one day. The group of veterans gathered there were led in prayer by Jayson Nicholson of Our Saviors Lutheran church bringing a solemn feeling to the small group gathered. Sue Davidson gave a presentation of the POW/MIA table explaining it in-depth to

the kids. Ray Southworth, Commander of Post 123 presented a dignified talk to them and ensured that as they left, the kids had someone to speak to and shake a hand.

Area County commissioners were present from Yellowstone and Carbon County as it is intended to be a community event and Montana is one of the places military service is still honored.

Guest speaker Scott Miller of Post 71 took the mic and the grizzly SGM got right down on the kids level and spoke of service, men he has served with, honor in life, and how to be a good citizen. He spoke of combat zones far from here and related to the older kids by speaking of the time he spent on the Laurel Dodgers baseball team years before anyone present was born. He took questions from the kids answering them and engaging in a way that they felt 10 ft. tall talking to him. Speaking about being a prisoner or missing is not easy to do to young children because they should remain children as long as possible, but explaining the sacrifices made by so many to make this nation is important, and the people present that day walked away with just that.

Laurel Post 123 Color Guard and Laurel VFW Color Guard presented the colors fired volleys and played TAPS to conclude the ceremony.

The only thing to delay the classes leaving was the 100 or so kids with smiles a mile wide excited to shake every veteran’s hand and thank them for their service it was enjoyed as much by the Vets present as the kids.



SGM Scott Miller of Post 71

ADJUTANT continued from pg. 4

on language that would enable the country to function. It is true that any organization needs members who set out the vision — the pure ideological positions — as part of the public dialogue. But if they’re allowed to control or dominate the process, nothing gets done. When pushed, most people understand that cooperation and working together to build consensus must prevail in the end.

So why doesn’t it happen more? Because compromise is not easy, especially on issues of consequence, and especially today, when the country is so deeply divided and polarized. Even the word itself can cause a disagreement. But I challenge each of you, to find common ground; compromise and accept new ideas and new ways to accomplish the goals of what we stand for as Legionnaires. It has never been about us as individuals, but about all Veterans and the four pillars that guide The American Legion. Until next time, God Bless.🇺🇸

CHAPLAIN continued from pg. 3

You can help by having the lethal means conversation with a Veteran you may believe is thinking about suicide.

- ☞ First, ask, “**Are you thinking of killing yourself?**” This is like opening a relief valve on their stress.
- ☞ Then, ask the Veteran what means he or she would consider using during a suicide crisis. Ask, “**Do you own a firearm, such as a gun or rifle?**” and “**What other means do you have access to and may use to attempt to kill yourself?**”
- ☞ Together with the Veteran identify ways to secure or limit access to lethal means.
- ☞ Restricting the Veteran’s access to a **highly lethal method**, such as firearms, should be done by a designated responsible person – usually a family member or close friend.

Raising the issue. “Lots of Veterans have guns at home. What some Veterans in your situation have done is store their guns away from home until they’re feeling better or lock them and ask someone they trust to hold onto the keys. If you have guns at home, I’m wondering if you’ve thought about a strategy like that.” “If temporarily storing them elsewhere is not an option, perhaps we can discuss some alternative ways to keep you safe until you’re feeling better.”

Any step(s) that increase the time and distance between a suicidal impulse and a firearm will reduce suicide risk.

Some barriers are that the Veteran has concerns about personal or household protection, has no or minimal involvement with family/friends and it’s difficult to give up something one enjoys and values. You can brainstorm with the Veteran while you emphasize that you care about them and want them to be safe.

With medications, is the medication potentially toxic? Is it essential? Are there medications belonging to others in the home? Like firearms, work with the Veteran to come up with a plan to limit access to medication that could potentially be used to take their life. Perhaps not keep so much of the potentially toxic medication in the home or make a family member/close friend responsible for dispensing until the crisis has passed.

We all lament the epidemic of Veteran suicide and want it to stop. It will take each one of us caring enough to step up and “be there” for a Veteran in crisis to turn Veteran suicide around. To learn more, go to [dphhs.mt.gov/suicide prevention](https://dphhs.mt.gov/suicide-prevention) or call your local health department and ask for suicide prevention.

May you be well.

Are You Ready?

DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

CHAYA SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

A Free Will!

This issue we will look at another type of preparedness different from all those previously addressed.

It may be safe to say National American Legion Convention cannot be adequately explained to those who have not attended. Visiting the various booths present in the Exposition Hall allows for charitable giving, education, and networking.

National Convention also affords you the opportunity to see up close and personally what your donations to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) are doing to make a HUGE difference in the lives of our nation's children. Representatives from many of the different organizations receiving grants are also gratefully present to explain their programs to you, the donors.

One of the booths that spoke to me was the Childhood Leukemia Foundation (CLF), founded in 1992 to educate and empower children 21 years and younger diagnosed with all forms of cancer. In 1967, my closest cousin died of leukemia, so I stopped as their booth brought her to mind. A cancer diagnosis of any kind in a family is a very real emergency or disaster. Our American Legion CWF granted CLF many thousands of dollars which they have used to purchase iPads for in-patient stays, create a treatment binder for parents to keep all the information straight and support their website. One item that came to their attention is that many, if not most of the parents of children facing a cancer diagnosis do not have a legal Will, nor do over 60% of Americans, making

life even more painful for those left behind to take care of their children and/or estate.

To address this need, CLF has a button near the top of their website (clf4kids.org) where you, the Legion Family member, even if you have absolutely no connection to childhood cancer, can, for FREE, create a legally binding Will compliant with the laws of the state in which you live – all in about 20 minutes! After printing, all you need to do is get it signed in the presence of notary and keep it in a safe place! (Please be sure your family knows where that is!) Their representative pleaded with me to please take this information home and share it – that is why you are now learning about this.

I went through the Free Will process myself before telling you about it – just to be sure it was really what their representative said it was. Even better, if your spouse's wishes mirror yours, you can click on the button to create a Will for them without having to insert all the information again.

Full disclosure: you will be presented with a few opportunities to donate to CLF during the Free Will process; however, a donation is not required to create your Free Will. And, there is an opportunity to make a donation outside of your Will on the CLF homepage, if you wish to do so.

There is now no need to wait for "someday" to give your family peace of mind by preparing for the future with a legally-binding, notarized Will. Do it now.

May you be well.



Custer Post 5 Nursing scholarship awarded

By NANCY PRAHL, CUSTER POST 5

Post 5 has a specific Nursing Scholarship yearly award. The Post has been contributing and awarding this for at least 20 years. This is the only scholarship that the Post does with Miles Community College. The 2021 \$1,500 Nursing Scholarship was presented to second year MCC nursing student Danielle M. Wilson by Commander Bob Prahl.



Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl presents scholarship award to Danielle M. Wilson.

Broadwater Post 42's Scoffield hits 50 years

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS WRIGHT JR., COMMANDER | JULY 2021



Post 42 Commander, Chris Wright Jr., was both honored and proud to present fellow Legionnaire Mike Scoffield, with the 50-year membership pin, accompanied with a certificate signed by the National American Legion Commander, Bill Oxford. This recognition shows the dedication many of our fellow veterans have to continue serving. Congratulations Mike and thank you for being a loyal member!

Post 47 busy thru the Dog Days of Summer

SUBMITTED BY NANCY DEZELL, POST 47 RAVALLI

Ravalli Post 47 presents the Colors to open the Bitterroot Red Sox July 16th doubleheader in Hamilton. The Post also was proud to present to the team a very appreciated check for \$1500.

Finishing up the month the Post was asked to present the colors at the Main Street Band Stand for the Hamilton's historic Daly Days.



Gallation Post 14 summer happenings...

Post 14 honors Jim Osen who loved baseball

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 conducted a Flag Ceremony before the start of The American Legion Baseball game on July 13, 2021, at Legion Field. During the ceremony a check for \$5,000 in honor of Jim Osen was presented to The American Legion Bucks, accepted by Coach Garrett Schultz. The honor of throwing out the first pitch was bestowed on Brad Osen.

This ceremony was dedicated to Jim Osen, a 44-year member of Gallatin Post 14 and a longtime supporter of American Legion Baseball



Legionnaires pictured above are: Bud Sievert, Jim Tang, Dick Rusch, and Dave Dunn. Commander Len Albright was in charge and other participants were: Randy Kemp, Sherman Veltkamp, and Jim Howe. Sons of the American Legion member Ron Edwards also participated [submitted by Randy Kemp, Post 14]

Girls Fast Pitch tourney opened by Post 14 Color Guard

Gallatin Post 14 provided a color guard on August 6 to help VFW Post 12112 in Belgrade, Montana, conduct the opening ceremonies at the 8th Annual High School Girls Fast Pitch Tournament, honoring Montana Veterans that have died while serving their country. Opening ceremonies were led by the Post 14 Color Guard and featured a bio of five veterans being honored, one from each branch of the service. Each branch of the service formed a 15-girl team made up of High School players throughout the state.



PHOTOS BY TROY DOWNING, POST 30

The members of the Post 14 Color Guard (L-R): Bud Sievert, Jim Tang, Len Albright, Bethany West, and Dave Dunn. [submitted by Randy Kemp, Post 14]

Post 14 says farewell to Jessy Fabbri

[submitted by Randy Kemp, Post 14]



The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 said goodbye to a treasured employee on August 14, 2021. Jessy Fabbri came to work for Post 14 as a bartender four years ago and quickly became a part of the Post 14 family. Jessy was an intricate part of the Post and will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Jessy is headed to the University of Montana to complete her law degree and become an attorney. While her leaving is difficult to accept, Post 14 wishes only the best for her and look forward to seeing her from time to time. Good luck Jessy.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2022

	Year end Goal 2022	Year To Date Total	Year End 2021	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT.....	33.....	13.....	34.....	39.39%
41 GLASGOW.....	96.....	66.....	95.....	68.75%
45 HINSDALE.....	47.....	29.....	41.....	61.70%
49 HOMESTEAD.....	10.....	6.....	8.....	60.00%
55 POPLAR.....	27.....	5.....	23.....	18.52%
56 SCOBAY.....	45.....	9.....	24.....	20.00%
58 PLENTYWOOD.....	58.....	44.....	68.....	75.86%
61 BROCKTON.....	35.....	13.....	24.....	37.14%
81 CULBERTSON.....	92.....	43.....	62.....	46.74%
85 BAINVILLE.....	23.....	10.....	22.....	43.48%
122 OPHEIM.....	27.....	26.....	30.....	96.30%
☆ 140 FORT PECK TRIBES.....	17.....	19.....	17.....	111.76%
229 WESTBY.....	12.....	6.....	12.....	50.00%
TOTAL.....	522.....	289.....	460.....	55.36%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE.....	120.....	54.....	91.....	45.00%
48 CHINOOK.....	50.....	34.....	55.....	68.00%
50 BIG SANDY.....	24.....	19.....	24.....	79.17%
57 MALTA.....	95.....	72.....	102.....	75.79%
67 ROCKY BOY.....	25.....	13.....	21.....	52.00%
79 SACO.....	11.....	1.....	12.....	9.09%
88 CHESTER.....	28.....	22.....	30.....	78.57%
109 TURNER.....	25.....	12.....	16.....	48.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP.....	10.....	5.....	6.....	50.00%
TOTAL.....	388.....	232.....	357.....	59.79%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER.....	50.....	38.....	51.....	76.00%
37 CONRAD.....	50.....	24.....	44.....	48.00%
40 CUT BANK.....	56.....	29.....	40.....	51.79%
43 SHELBY.....	49.....	22.....	33.....	44.90%
69 GALATA.....	29.....	12.....	19.....	41.38%
73 SWEETGRASS.....	73.....	54.....	68.....	73.97%
127 BROWNING.....	26.....	13.....	25.....	50.00%
CN20 CALGARY.....	45.....	26.....	46.....	57.78%
TOTAL.....	378.....	218.....	326.....	57.67%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS.....	59.....	42.....	64.....	71.19%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS.....	110.....	64.....	135.....	58.18%
74 EUREKA.....	50.....	30.....	48.....	60.00%
86 BIG FORK.....	60.....	36.....	53.....	60.00%
97 LIBBY.....	187.....	117.....	195.....	62.57%
106 ST IGNATIUS.....	50.....	36.....	44.....	72.00%
108 WHITEFISH.....	66.....	44.....	64.....	66.67%
112 POLSON.....	134.....	80.....	147.....	59.70%
113 ARLEE.....	25.....	14.....	28.....	56.00%
126 CHARLO.....	19.....	16.....	24.....	84.21%
129 PARADISE.....	70.....	8.....	62.....	11.43%
137 KALISPELL.....	233.....	106.....	223.....	45.49%
138 RONAN.....	65.....	51.....	73.....	78.46%
TOTAL.....	1128.....	644.....	1160.....	57.09%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS.....	61.....	11.....	59.....	18.03%
27 MISSOULA.....	355.....	194.....	306.....	54.65%
47 HAMILTON.....	136.....	87.....	134.....	63.97%
63 CONDON.....	45.....	22.....	41.....	48.89%
68 MISSOULA.....	47.....	24.....	46.....	51.06%
83 CLINTON.....	16.....	7.....	16.....	43.75%
91 CORVALLIS.....	185.....	129.....	204.....	69.73%
94 STEVENSVILLE.....	203.....	122.....	201.....	60.10%
124 FRENCHTOWN.....	66.....	38.....	65.....	57.58%
☆ 125 DRUMMOND.....	62.....	76.....	55.....	122.58%
134 FLORENCE.....	63.....	32.....	58.....	50.79%
135 LOLO.....	158.....	75.....	153.....	47.47%
TOTAL.....	1397.....	817.....	1338.....	58.48%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE.....	195.....	111.....	183.....	56.92%
2 HELENA.....	796.....	458.....	833.....	57.54%
9 LINCOLN.....	58.....	40.....	60.....	68.97%
10 DEER LODGE.....	65.....	39.....	60.....	60.00%
20 DILLON.....	175.....	95.....	151.....	54.29%
21 ANACONDA.....	235.....	119.....	208.....	50.64%
24 WHITEHALL.....	86.....	53.....	87.....	61.63%
31 TWIN BRIDGES.....	40.....	29.....	39.....	72.50%
42 TOWNSEND.....	115.....	67.....	119.....	58.26%
46 BOULDER.....	23.....	17.....	28.....	73.91%
89 SHERIDAN.....	84.....	78.....	98.....	92.86%
115 BUTTE.....	95.....	17.....	73.....	17.89%
TOTAL.....	1967.....	1123.....	1939.....	57.09%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA.....	158.....	35.....	65.....	0.22%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN.....	360.....	206.....	384.....	57.22%
19 BIG TIMBER.....	178.....	101.....	154.....	56.74%
23 LIVINGSTON.....	170.....	97.....	171.....	57.06%
25 WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....	40.....	66.....	63.49%
30 BELGRADE.....	245.....	120.....	211.....	48.98%
☆ 65 ENNIS.....	60.....	71.....	77.....	118.33%
78 W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	3.....	20.....	10.34%
87 MANHATTAN.....	165.....	87.....	150.....	52.73%
93 THREE FORKS.....	42.....	16.....	35.....	38.10%
99 BIG SKY.....	55.....	39.....	55.....	70.91%
118 GARDINER.....	35.....	25.....	37.....	71.43%
TOTAL.....	1402.....	805.....	1360.....	57.42%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS.....	258.....	142.....	237.....	55.04%
6 CHOTEAU.....	104.....	63.....	97.....	60.58%
26 FORT BENTON.....	34.....	7.....	33.....	20.59%
51 AUGUSTA.....	36.....	30.....	45.....	83.33%
64 DUTTON.....	46.....	25.....	42.....	54.35%
80 FAIRFIELD.....	31.....	11.....	24.....	35.48%
102 GERALDINE.....	112.....	49.....	118.....	43.75%
103 POWER.....	28.....	15.....	26.....	53.57%
130 VAUGHN.....	40.....	32.....	40.....	80.00%
133 CASCADE.....	31.....	5.....	36.....	16.13%
341 MALMSTROM.....	159.....	48.....	113.....	30.19%
TOTAL.....	879.....	427.....	811.....	48.58%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON.....	100.....	51.....	92.....	51.00%
16 LEWISTOWN.....	409.....	187.....	309.....	45.72%
18 ROUNDUP.....	60.....	27.....	56.....	45.00%
53 STANFORD.....	26.....	8.....	26.....	30.77%
62 DENTON.....	26.....	18.....	27.....	69.23%
70 JUDITH GAP.....	69.....	33.....	64.....	47.83%
76 HOBSON.....	37.....	25.....	37.....	67.57%
96 ROY.....	22.....	13.....	26.....	59.09%
120 WINIFRED.....	31.....	18.....	27.....	58.06%
TOTAL.....	780.....	380.....	664.....	48.72%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY.....	79.....	47.....	83.....	59.49%
12 SIDNEY.....	40.....	22.....	31.....	55.00%
28 GLENDIVE.....	105.....	48.....	93.....	45.71%
29 CIRCLE.....	16.....	11.....	14.....	68.75%
32 TERRY.....	99.....	61.....	88.....	61.62%
35 BAKER.....	109.....	55.....	89.....	50.46%
39 FORSYTH.....	93.....	57.....	85.....	61.29%
44 COLSTRIP.....	30.....	10.....	25.....	33.33%
60 EKALAKA.....	15.....	4.....	13.....	26.67%
114 FAIRVIEW.....	37.....	28.....	31.....	75.68%
TOTAL.....	623.....	343.....	552.....	55.06%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS.....	473.....	245.....	443.....	51.80%
8 HARDIN.....	46.....	24.....	45.....	52.17%
17 RED LODGE.....	56.....	36.....	56.....	64.29%
34 COLUMBUS.....	62.....	41.....	67.....	66.13%
☆ 71 FROMBERG.....	25.....	44.....	57.....	176.00%
84 BELFRY.....	38.....	23.....	34.....	60.53%
92 HYSHAM.....	25.....	16.....	21.....	64.00%
100 PARK CITY.....	59.....	37.....	59.....	62.71%
117 BILLINGS.....	226.....	26.....	119.....	11.50%
119 BILLINGS HGTS.....	175.....	115.....	199.....	65.71%
123 LAUREL.....	115.....	67.....	122.....	58.26%
TOTAL.....	1300.....	674.....	1222.....	51.85%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2022 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	10,922
2022 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	5987
2021 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	10,254
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	54.82%



*The American
Legion
Needs
You!*

<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.

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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.
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

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BEST PERCENTAGE POST			
Post...71.....	FROMBERG.....	176.00%.....	Dist. 11
Post...125.....	DRUMMOND.....	122.58%.....	Dist. 5
Post...65.....	ENNIS.....	118.33%.....	Dist. 7
Post...140.....	FORT PECK TRIBES.....	111.76%.....	Dist. 1
Post...89.....	SHERIDAN.....	92.86%.....	Dist. 6
Post...126.....	CHARLO.....	84.21%.....	Dist. 4
Post...51.....	AUGUSTA.....	83.33%.....	Dist. 8
Post...50.....	BIG SANDY.....	79.17%.....	Dist. 2
Post...36.....	VALIER.....	76.00%.....	Dist. 3
Post...114.....	FAIRVIEW.....	75.68%.....	Dist. 10
Post...62.....	DENTON.....	69.23%.....	Dist. 9

DISTRICT STANDINGS		
DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
2.....	59.79%.....	Vincent Schmoeckle
5.....	58.48%.....	Charlie Coutts
3.....	57.67%.....	Dusty Bailey
7.....	57.42%.....	Bill Cummins
4.....	57.09%.....	Dave Bennett
6.....	57.09%.....	Linda Cousineau
1.....	55.36%.....	Ken Simon
10.....	55.06%.....	David Ofalt
11.....	51.85%.....	Larry Tipton
9.....	48.72%.....	Bruce Luhrsén
8.....	48.58%.....	Larry Otis

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION October 4, 2021		
SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2022.....	TO DATE
GLASGOW #41.....	46.....	0
☆PLENTYWOOD #58.....	18.....	28
CULBERTSON #81.....	21.....	0
HAVRE #11.....	18.....	1
CHINOOK #48.....	23.....	18
☆MALTA #57.....	18.....	20
SACO #79.....	13.....	0
GALATA #69.....	27.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	18.....	0
POLSON #112.....	15.....	3
MISSOULA #27.....	18.....	0
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	3
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	15.....	1
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	48.....	0
LOLO #135.....	32.....	28
BUTTE #1.....	28.....	6
HELENA #2.....	129.....	29
ANACONDA #21.....	20.....	11
TOWNSEND #42.....	22.....	2
BUTTE #115.....	10.....	0
BOZEMAN #14.....	81.....	39
BIG TIMBER #19.....	15.....	4
LIVINGSTON #23.....	46.....	11
BELGRADE #30.....	46.....	4
MANHATTAN #87.....	35.....	19
☆BIG SKY #99.....	23.....	29
GREAT FALLS #3.....	23.....	13
☆CHOTEAU #6.....	27.....	38
DUTTON #64.....	10.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	59.....	0
VAUGHN #130.....	23.....	19
HARLOWTON #15.....	27.....	14
LEWISTOWN #16.....	149.....	13
MILES CITY #5.....	14.....	4
BAKER #35.....	30.....	0
FORSYTH #39.....	52.....	37
BILLINGS #4.....	14.....	8
BILLINGS #117.....	12.....	0
LAUREL #123.....	13.....	0
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1258.....	402
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



LIEAP and Energy Share Can Help

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

Montana LIEAP office at 1-833-317-1080
Energy Share of Montana at 1-888-779-7589
You can also find information at www.energysharemt.com and <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance>.

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

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

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

Department Office Update

DUANE CUNNINGHAM, ADJUTANT

Just wanted to give everyone an update of the seemingly endless office relocation shuffle that has been going on the last 6 months. The National Guard moved the Service Organizations out of the current location in the HAFRAC because of mold; they originally moved us into a different space in the HAFRAC; and then, to maintain proper military decorum, moved us two more times.

In early September the Guard determined that there was mold in the space; but it was not the airborne type, and we could go ahead and move back into our normal space; but with the caveat that we didn't get too comfortable because in January or February of 2022 the Guard hopes to begin renovations of the space and mitigate the mold issue. When that happens, we will once again be homeless, this for an estimated 10 months.

As you can imagine, packing up and moving an office multiple times over the course of six months has been hectic and crazy. Erin has done amazing setting up temporary offices and working out of U-Haul boxes; during some of the moving we uncovered a few of Gary's candy bar stashes and possibly an old tuna fish sandwich in a desk drawer! Department appreciates your understanding and patience in this process as we know at times the phones have been down and we have been tough to get a hold of. Hopefully, there is only one more move and transition for us; and we can get settled back in and conduct business as usual.



Old Veterans organizations are fading away

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines don't join the VFW and The American Legion like they used to.

BY FAITH BOTTUM | SEPT. 23, 2021

Peggy Randle is 85 and lives alone with her cat, Max, in Boulder City, Nev. She also fires rifles at veterans' funerals. A nurse in the Navy during the Vietnam War, Ms. Randle belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations that help provide military honors when soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are laid to rest.

"The cat isn't much of a conversationalist," she says, "and I still have something to give. I can still stand up there and fire that M1. I can still help with the 13 flag-fold. I can still do all of those things, and I'm going to do them as long as I can."

Veterans across the country report the same experience: declining membership in the VFW and The American Legion, and the difficulty putting together honor guards for funerals. The VFW had its origin in 1899 gatherings of veterans of the Spanish-American War. The American Legion began after World War I, at a 1919 meeting in Paris. Both started as essentially interest groups but quickly grew into vast national networks of local social clubs.

Those clubs would host civic programs such as essay contests, Friday fish fries and scholarships for veterans' children. The American Legion's summer baseball program was once so extensive that few high schools bothered to organize their own teams, and more than 3,400 local teams are still active today.

The VFW has around 1.5 million members, a drop of a million from 1992. The average age is 67, with 400,000 members over 80. The largest organization of veterans' clubs, The American Legion, has two million members, down from 3.3 million in 1946. Kenneth Hagemann, 59, is a retired Marine and deputy adjutant of the VFW in New Jersey. There are 218 posts left in the state, he explained, but "in 10 years, I think it will be 175. We go down every year."

One reason is simply the decline in numbers of veterans. During World War II, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 16.5 million Americans served in the armed forces. Estimates of those who served in the war on terror over the past 20 years hover around three million.

There's another reason the old organizations are fading: Younger veterans simply don't join clubs the way older generations did. Partly this reflects a general decline in community organizations—the sociological transformation that Robert Putnam observed in his 2000 book, "Bowling Alone." Americans aren't joiners. Not like they once were.

But the VFW and American Legion are also shrinking because many veterans from the past 20 years carry with them a more ambiguous sense of both their military experience and their relation to established American institutions. "Vets now don't look for comfort in person at clubs," said Alexia Hodgson, an Army second lieutenant in Anchorage, Alaska. Social media, she suggested, fills some of the gap. "A lot of vets I know . . . talk about their life and experiences, both in and out of the military, over Reddit, Discord and Twitter."

"My generation engages in a different way," added the novelist Phil Klay, a retired Marine and winner of the 2014 National Book Award for his short stories about military service in Iraq. "We tend to be more issue-focused than the old local organizations"—and yet, he admits, "it's important to keep memories alive through local rituals." The difficulty in providing honor guards, he said, symbolizes a worrisome detachment of his generation from local communities. When younger veterans do join a group, they tend toward newer and more service-inspired national organizations such as Team Red, White & Blue or Team Rubicon.

Something important is lost, however, when the local connection is broken. "I was still on active duty when my grandfathers passed away, and I went to the funerals in uniform," said Josh Hauser, a former Marine staff sergeant in Hollisopple, Pa. "That was the first time I realized who takes care of this very important thing, because it was a local VFW that did the military honors."

And what will happen when those old veterans' clubs are gone? The social-club model simultaneously integrated veterans into the local community and gave them a sense of national importance. "I sometimes can't comprehend how we're able" to get to all the funerals, said Robert Garlow, honor-guard commander for VFW Post 36 in Nevada. "Yeah, we feel stretched thin, but it's something we really want to do." Consciously or not, they're right to feel a personal and sociological significance in what they do. The old local community organizations understood the importance of attending funerals to comfort the family and honor the service of the dead.

"They've earned it," Ms. Randle explained. "And maybe someday someone will think I've earned it, too."

MS. BOTTUM IS THE JOSEPH RAGO MEMORIAL FELLOW AT THE JOURNAL.

The American Legion Isn't Going Anywhere

Predictions of the veterans organization's demise have been off before.

PAUL E. DILLARD, INDIANAPOLIS

The Sept. 24 op-ed by Faith Bottum ("*Old Veterans Organizations Are Fading Away*") is eerily similar to another Journal article: "*American Legion, Once Civic and Social Power is Slowly Fading Away*" by reporter P.F. Kluge. "The old members are dying off and the young ones aren't interested," says a veteran quoted in Mr. Kluge's piece. "Younger veterans simply don't join clubs the way older generations did," writes Ms. Bottum.

I must have been one of the veterans that Mr. Kluge believed wasn't interested. You see, his piece was published on May 19, 1971. More than 50 years later, The American Legion is still here and it is still the largest veterans organization in the country. In recent years, The American Legion has been the lead organization respon-

sible for the passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the VA Mission Act and the Veteran Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act. In fiscal year 2020, our corps of more than 3,000 service officers and representatives across the nation was responsible for obtaining more than \$14.25 billion in compensation benefits earned by veterans and their families.

The 2016 Democratic and Republican nominees for president must not have believed we were fading away when they both chose to attend our national convention and address our delegates in the middle of a busy campaign season.

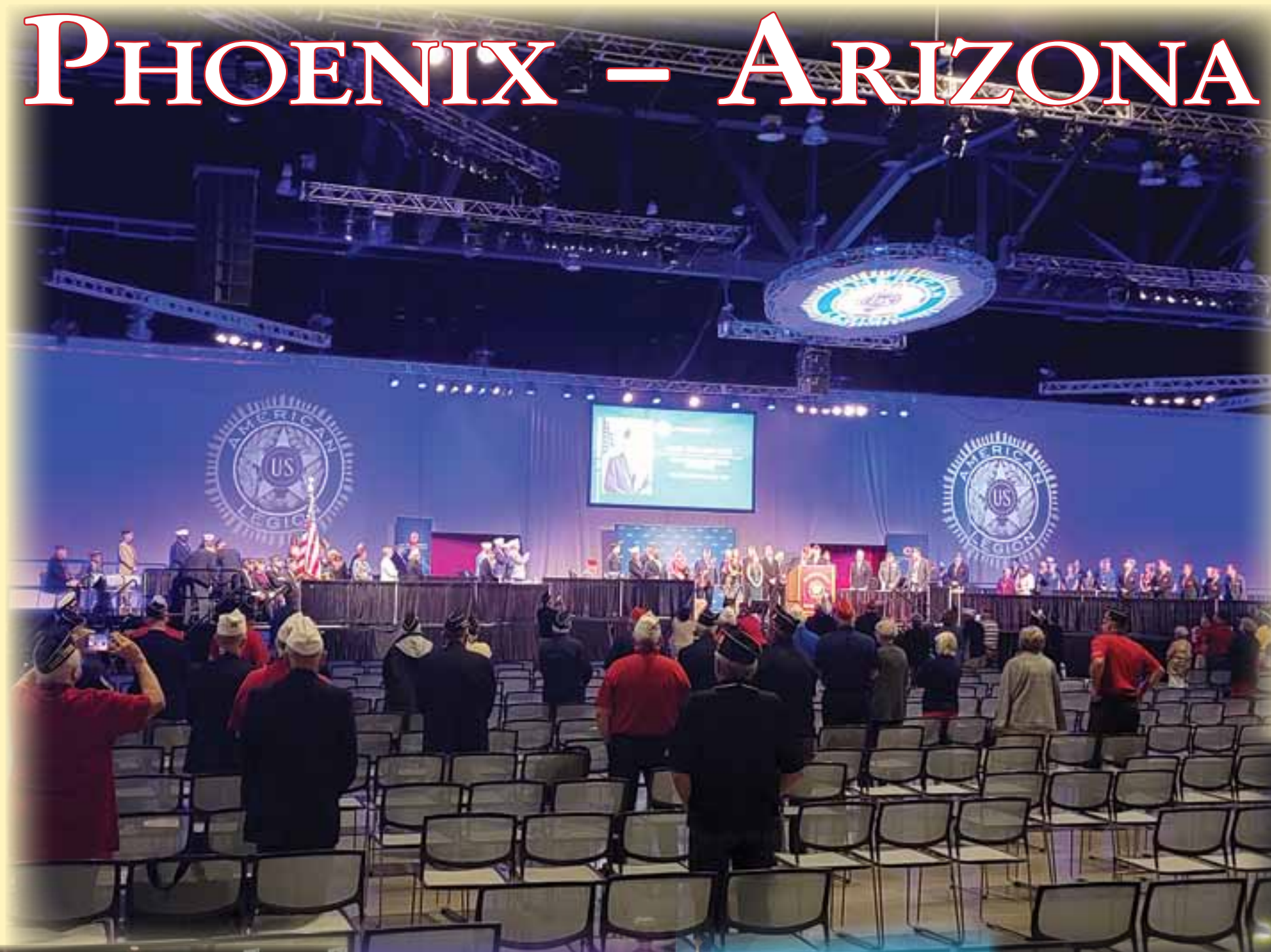
There are more than twice as many American Legion Posts in the U.S. today as there are Walmarts. The Journal was wrong 50 years ago and is off base today.



NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOENIX - ARIZONA



Paul Dillard takes over Nation Convention



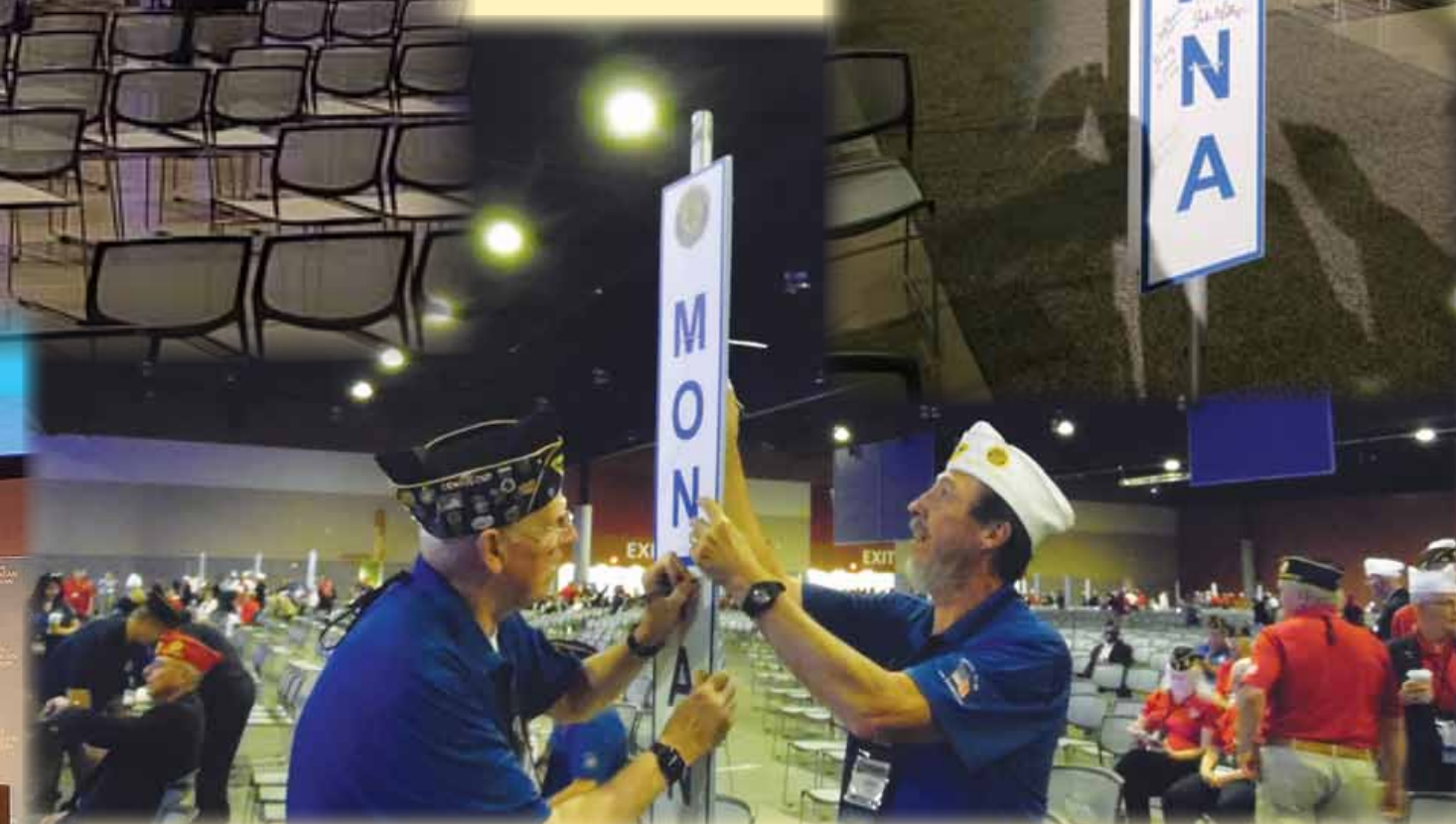
NEC Hal Rice, Past ADJ Gary White & Dept. CDR Glen Sharbono



Sons of The American Legion delegation



Past Department CDR Jeff Nelson at National Convention



Signing the Montana banner on the Convention floor.



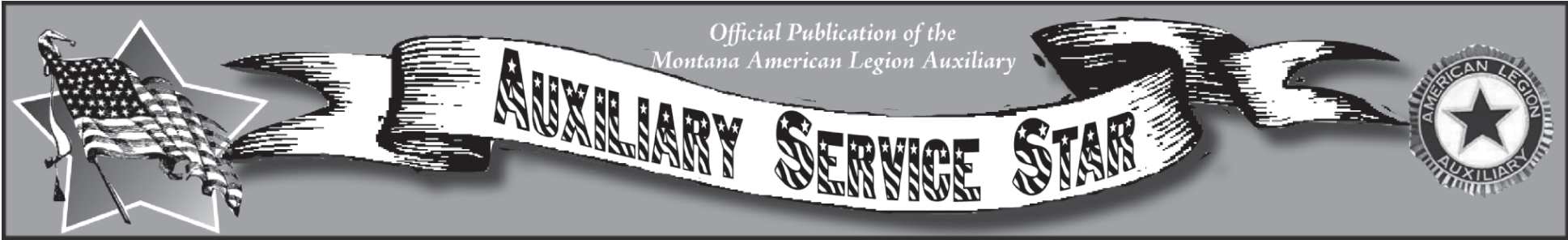
Jeff Nelson shaking hands with Jack Holder. Holder is one of the last Pearl Harbor survivors and was at convention sharing his story of the battle.



Montana Delegation



Montana delegation at National briefing



**President**
CHRIS NELSON

Our President’s Project this year is about how American Legion Auxiliary members can work with VA service officers. Montana has 10 centers and approximately 19 officers. Reach out to a veteran Service Officer and ask if there is something your local Unit can do to help or leave contact information so that if anything comes up that you might be able to help with in the future, they can contact you.

Another way you can participate in the project is to get the word out to family members and widows of veterans that the Service Officers are available for them too. One of the biggest VA benefits under utilized is the widow’s pension. Women tend to outlive their husbands. The pension is available for people whose spouses served during wartime periods. Benefits may also include advice on getting on a waiting list for assisted living residences, and assistance with utilities, taxes, and funeral arrangements. There are different programs involved at all different levels to help veterans and their families which have recently been modified to allow more leeway. “The best thing any member can do for another veteran is to bring them to an accredited Service Officer, and... for an Auxiliary member as well.” In your Auxiliary Unit, you may not always know all the programs veterans and spouses are entitled to, so urge the spouses to contact a Service Officer.

Accredited American Legion Service Officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families.

Sweet Grass Unit 73 awards scholarships

SUBMITTED BY NANCY LINNELL, PRESIDENT BORDER UNIT 73, SWEET GRASS
NTCHS graduates, Grady Kerfoot and Briana Robins were awarded the 2021 American Legion Auxiliary Border Unit 73 scholarships.



Grady Kerfoot
Auxiliary Border
Unit 73 Scholarship
recipient.

Briana Robins
Auxiliary Border
Unit 73 Scholarship
recipient.



Dept. President Chris Nelson

Service Officer Centers are located in Missoula, Miles City, Lewistown, Kalispell, Havre, Great Falls, Fort Harrison, Butte, Billings, and Belgrade. Their phone numbers, addresses and contact people can be found on the mtlegion.org website or call Duane Cunningham, Dept. of Montana Adjutant, 406-324-3994. [and on page 4 of this edition of the MT Legionnaire]

I urge you to spread your wings just a bit, Soar Like an Eagle, and take that step to connect a veteran’s spouse with a VA Service Officer. ⬤

A Service Officer’s job mainly involves application for VA disability benefits, but these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics.

**Secretary**
RENEE LOEHR

Greetings from your new Department Secretary, Renee Loehr District 4 Unit 112. With Jamie Debates help, I am learning what this job entails. Please include your District and Unit numbers with any communications. You can contact me by e-mail at ala.dept.mt.sec@gmail.com.

We are having beautiful fall days leading us into the holiday season. I have been fortunate to be able to travel around Montana and meet many of you.

Please be prepared to send in your Christmas store donations as times are still so uncertain. During my travels to the District meetings there have been concerns expressed about the accessibility to the VA homes. Plan accordingly and we will wait for an update.

Thanks for your patience.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you. See you at Fall Conference. ⬤

Holmes, elected Department Auxiliary 2nd Vice President



Mechelle Holmes, President of Wheatland Unit 15, was elected as 2nd Vice President for the Department of Montana at Convention in June in Helena. Mechelle will be in charge of Community Service for the Department.

Deceased Members

JULY 1, 2021 - SEPT 30, 2021

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 23.....	Livingston	Carol Hunter Woodley
Unit 27.....	Missoula	Helen G. Self
Unit 32.....	Terry	Ross I. Gumm
Unit 42.....	Townsend	Shirley Helmick Dorothy Hahn Harla J. Gillespie
Unit 47.....	Hamiltion	Esther Zerbst Evelyn C. Spoonheim
Unit 64.....	Dutton.....	Donna Frieling
Unit 72.....	Columbia Falls.....	Maryann Rhine Sue P. Bailey

Barbara Monroe Department President 1989-1990 2007-2008

Past Department President Barbara Monroe passed away on June 27th, 2021. Details of Barbara’s obituary can be found here: <https://www.asperfh.com/obituary/Barbara-Monroe> (Current at the time of printing)

“Throughout her years in The American Legion Auxiliary she served at Sweetgrass Unit 73, District, Department, and National levels from 1974 until 2021. She was especially honored to serve as National NW District Vice President and as Department President for two terms. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary, and 8/40...”

Her first tenure as Department President was the 1989-1990 year and her motto was, “Prayers, Patriotism, Pursuit of Freedom for All.” Her second tenure was the 2007-2008 year and her motto for that tenure was “Heart of our Hearts – Veterans Family.”

Barbara’s memorial service was July 17, 2021.

In lieu of flowers the family asked that donations be made to the following:

ALA Border Unit 73, c/o Nancy Linnell - POB 224 - Sunburst, MT 59482-0224
VFW Auxiliary, c/o Sue Kimmet - POB 281 - Sunburst, MT 59482-0281
Sunburst Lutheran Church - Sunburst, MT 59482



POW / MIA Significance

SUBMITTED BY RAYMOND K. READ, DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and a member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, Times Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, vice president of Annin & Company, which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all UN member nations. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along with Annins advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men and women. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

Concerned groups and individuals have altered the original POW /MIA flag many times; the colors have been switched from black with white to red, white and blue, to white with black. The name POW/MIA also has been revised at times to MIA/POW. Such changes, however, are insignificant. The importance lies in the continued visibility of this symbol, a constant reminder of the plight of Americas POW/MIAs.



On March 9, 1989, an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. The leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony in a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support. This POW/MIA flag, the only flag displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda, stands as a powerful symbol of our national commitment to our POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing in Southeast Asia has been achieved.

According to Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act, the POW/MIA flag must be flown on specific days at certain federal buildings. Those days are:

- Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday in May;
- Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
- Flag Day, June 14;
- Independence Day, July 4;
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the third Friday in September; and
- Veterans Day, November 11.

The locations include:

- the Capitol;
- the White House;
- the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial;
- each national cemetery;
- buildings containing the official offices of the secretaries of State, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and the director of the Selective Service System
- each military installation, as designated by the Secretary of Defense;
- each VA medical center; and
- each U.S. Postal Service office.

Additionally, in the case of VA medical centers, the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown any day that the US flag is displayed.

Every day, both in the National Cemetery, and in front of the National Prisoner of War Museum, Andersonville National Historic Site proudly displays the POW/MIA as a symbol of our mission to tell the full story of prisoners of war.

Veterans Day

BY CHRISTINE MILLER

“We can’t all be heroes; someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.”—Roy Rogers

Veterans Day is a time for all to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we as a nation stand united in respect for you, our veterans. First known as Armistice day, in 1954 it was changed to be Veterans day to recognize all veterans.

We celebrate and honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Many of us, who have served and may or may not have lost buddies on a battlefield reflect on this day. In 2009, we took our kids to Washington DC, touring the memorials to our wars, and those who fought them. Walking the mall one can hardly dismiss the sacrifice borne by those who choose to serve this country.

The Tomb of the Unknown is what was originally the Revolutionary War Memorial. The Naval Peace Monument is the DC monument to those who fought for both sides of this country.



World War 1 had no memorial at that time however in April of this year the 4.7 million who served are remembered with a memorial fitting of their sacrifice. This war was hell on Earth, for those who came home; they went onto raise children who were called to duty in WW2.

WW2’s monument is a testament to a nation who didn’t even have to ask for its most precious commodity, recruiting stations were standing room



only, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Having lived in Hawaii our kids are particularly connected to the attack and have been honored to have met many survivors both military and civilian. Tom Brokaw called them, America’s greatest generation,” they served without question, many continued to serve through Korea, and Vietnam. Many of these servicemen gave their own son’s and daughter’s in the wars to come.

Korean veterans are often most recognized by MASH, at least it is how many of us were connected to a war zone. The memorial on the mall is a squad of 19, 7 ft. soldiers in full battle rattle, on patrol. Three years make up what started as a police action and progressed to a war, to “stem” the spread of communism; 5.8 million Americans served in this war, without a clear winner.

Vietnam, possibly the most recognizable memorial on the mall hidden under a hill with a seemingly endless list of names. 58,318 names are on that wall, eight women are on the wall. My father-in-law, the son of a WW2 Vet, was drafted and was with us, and this was a somber moment as he looked for high school friends and others he had lost. Rubbings were taken as is customary when you visit this place, the statues of three men stand and look on there is also a Vietnam Women’s memorial to recognize the nurses and women who served in

this war. Regardless of anyone’s opinion on this war over 2,700,000 men and women showed up and served. Many returned home and never again spoke of their service.

There was no Gulf War memorial however, one is in the planning phases now. As a Panama Invasion participant, I belong to a “war” that qualifies me for wartime service but never existed, grouped into the gulf war. Iraq and Afghanistan in 2009 were still very much active wars no memorial is built before the end of conflict. However, there is a place where you can see the mark these more recent wars have left.

Arlington stands proud holding the very best America has ever had. Perfectly manicured and cared for daily around 400,000 lie here as their final resting place. Back among their brothers and sisters in arms forever on guard for a grateful nation. The tomb of the unknown soldier goes guarded 24/7, 365 days a year showing respect for the sacrifice and that all generations of soldiers are forever connected.



The American Legion is an extension of this connection. We are veterans who have answered our nations call whether in war or peacetime and choose to continue to serve at home in our communities. At a meeting you will have 95-year-old WW2 navy man joking and speaking with a brand new 20-year-old member who is just trying to figure out how to be “home.” This is the only place that offers that been there, done that, comfort. So, this November 11th take that extra minute to remember the faces and names you served with and make your way out to the local watering hole and enjoy a cool drink of choice, because you earned it.



20th Anniversary of 9-11 in Bozeman

By RANDY KEMP

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 conducted a ceremony on September 11, 2021 in remembrance of 9/11. This ceremony was to honor all first responders in and around Bozeman, Montana. The Post provided coffee and snacks for all of those who attended. Post 14 also conducted an honor guard and rifle salute. Pictured is the honor guard and firing squad. The Legionnaires pictured from left to right are: Skip Kent, Jim Tang, Dick Rusch, Bethany West, Steve Holland, Jim Marchwick, Sherman Veltkamp, Bud Sievert, Dave Dunn, Jim Kinyon, and Joe Valetta. Calling the commands for the honor guard and firing squad was Randy Kemp.



CASH CALENDAR

By DEBORAH HANCOCK | POST 135, LOLO

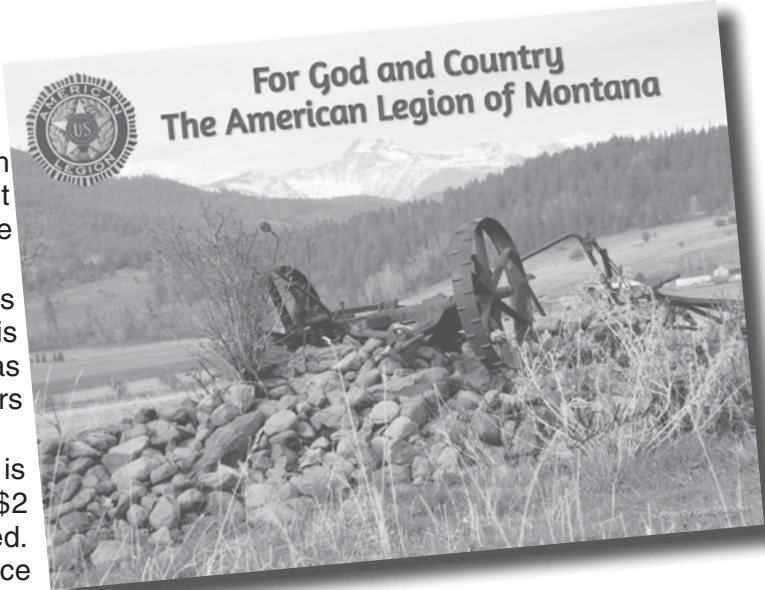
The Department of MT 2022 cash calendars are now available. Word is out that Posts on the eastern side of the state are selling them like crazy.

There may not be more available as the weeks go by. This money-maker is not just for Legionnaires. Anyone such as neighbors, family, friends and co-workers can also purchase them.

This is how it works. Each calendar is \$20. The Post that sells it gets to keep \$2 from each sold. Only 1,200 are printed. There are 315 chances for you to win since single draw of your name doesn't remove you from future drawings; see your name goes back into the bin to hopefully be drawn again.

There are \$11,630 in cash prizes. The drawings start January 1, 2022. The following is the breakdown of prizes available:

- New Year's Day (\$250)
 - Armed Forces Day (\$75)
 - Memorial Day (\$500)
 - Independence Day (\$500),
 - American Legion of MT Charter Date (\$75)
- Labor Day (\$250)
 - First Responders Day (\$125)
 - POW/MIA Day (\$125)
 - Montana's Birthday (\$75)
 - Veteran's Day (\$500)
 - Thanksgiving (\$500)
 - Christmas (\$500)
 - Daily (\$20)
 - American Legion Birthday (475)
 - Saturdays (\$50)
 - Branch Birthdays (\$100)



Laurel 9/11 Ceremony State Firefighters Memorial Park



Guest Speaker Montana Governor Greg Gianforte



Clarks Fork Valley Post 71 leads Jim Bridger Days parade in Bridger, Mt in July—a tradition of over 60 years

(L-R) Steve Ozburn, Tony Kenyon, Scott Miller in July 2021.



Laurel Post 123 9-11 Ceremony

Gallatin Post 14 honors Jerome Barth

SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP, POST 14

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 conducted military honors for one of its own on July 31, 2021, at 11:45 am. Jerome Barth, a paid up for life member of Post 14 for over 52 years, passed away on July 25, 2021. Jerome was 92 years old. He had remained

very active in Post 14 and could always be counted on for honor guard duties until his health would no longer allow him; which has only been for the last couple of years. Jerome will be missed by his family, as well as the members of Post 14. Post 14 Honor Guard pictured below.



CAP Cadet Airman Benton Little Dog

Gallatin Post 14 help works with Civil Air Patrol

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 works closely with the local Civil Air Patrol during community activities supporting veterans and first responders. When it was discovered that Benton Little Dog, a new cadet, was in need of support to purchase the cadet uniform, Post 14 stepped up and purchased the uniform needed by the young cadet. Benton Little Dog sent a picture of himself in the uniform along with a thank you letter to Post 14 for their help.

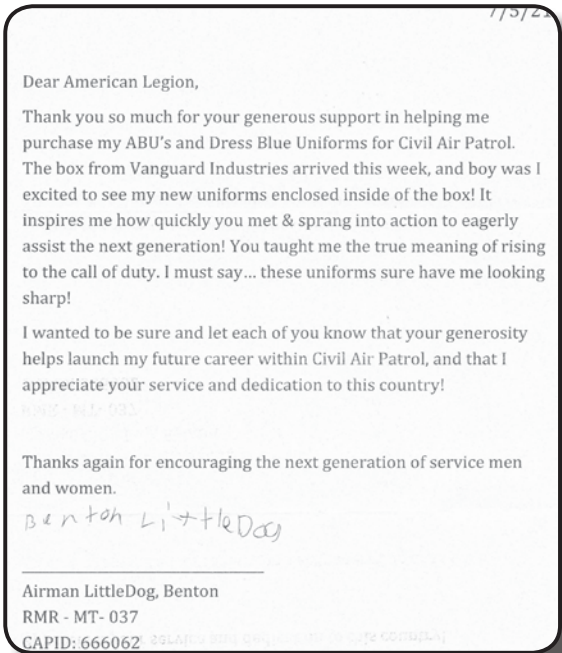


Foxy makes Rounds for Post 5

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL | POST 5

Custer Post 5 mascot, Foxy, is visiting her buddies at the Miles City VA Community Living Center. She visits them every two weeks bringing smiles to their faces. Since the pandemic has restricted visitor access, Foxy is handed off at the CLC door to a VA staffer, who then takes her around to visit everyone.

SHARED WITH PERMISSION OF CLC ACTIVITIES DIR. & FAMILIES.



Turning the Lights On

BY CHRISTINE MILLER | CLARKS FORK VALLEY POST 71

Three years ago, we were a sleepy little Post in a small town hanging on like many Posts around the country. A handful of dedicated members who had been going through the motions and keeping things going somehow, someway, were what met once a month dedicated to the Legion as they were once to the military.

Retirement brought Scott Miller home after a long Army career, joining the Legion was proposed to him and he said why not, so he and his wife, also a combat veteran, attended their first meeting at Post 71.

The Legion building is probably the biggest building in Fromberg, aside from the school, and was bought by the Legion in 1940, seven years after becoming a Post. Scott grew up in this town and the Post is a centerpiece for funerals, weddings, poultry frolics, and voting. Shortly after joining, he set his mind to membership. He asked everyone he saw, and it started to work; doesn't hurt when within your immediate family, seven people can and do join the Post. Post 71 was recognized by Department for their 270 percent growth in membership last year and is on track to surpass that this year.



Networking into area VFWs and Legions because we are all the same people. Talking and attending as many events as possible, has earned invitations to carry the colors in area parades, and football games.

While all these things seem simple it is what it takes, a fresh breath of air and a welcoming handshake and a little encouragement to come out to a meeting. Scott regularly gets asked, what did you do to get that membership, what is going on? He almost always replies, “turned the lights on.” Listening to the new members, understanding what they want to see and do and not being afraid of change. This past year a full slate of officers was elected by the members and an executive board put in place to work forward. Members of the Post have completed the Legion College Basic Course, the Post Service Officer has helped two local veterans get through the VA system. Using the online tools provided by National to be current and proactive; several

members are serving on Department committees and are representing the area ensuring our voices are heard at the state and national levels.

Sharing the past and the history of the Post and being there for our brothers and sisters in arms. The oldest member in Post 71 is 96, yes, he attends meetings events and is our current Chaplain, and our youngest member is just finishing up his time in the Army and is 23. The Legion is important and must go on, we are a living entity that must change and grow. The facelift going on to the Post headquarters on the corner at 26 Harley ST in Fromberg is sort of symbolic of what is going on inside with our members. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month eating dinner at 1830 and meeting starts at 1900, we welcome visitors—the coffee is always hot!



For years, the Post has struggled to raise money to repair the aging building and while a failed historic grant from the state fell through, we were able to get both the Legion Blue Ribbon Grant and a separate grant to help get our home back into shape. This activity around the building alone has drawn attention to what's going on and has brought veterans back to the Post. This summer we were able to replace the roof ensuring that this winter would not take the decaying building; the last spring storm took what was left of the asphalt shingles on one side. Post 71's members today are as dedicated to saving this building as the original charger members were about obtaining a Post home.

Remembering the past and where you come from is equally important and we have a historian who has stumbled onto the past historian Stanley Collins book and regularly transcribes and posts the Unit history and photos to Facebook. Members of the area communities see Dads and Grandpas names and events long forgotten and get curious as to what is going on over there in Fromberg.



Daylight Saving Time Ends November 7, 2021





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UP TO \$5,000.00

NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION

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The Big K Program

By Deborah Hancock

The Big K program is a fundraiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts and Department. Only members of the Legion Family over 18 years old can participate. The proceeds on the Department level will be used to strengthen and increase The American Legion programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarships, American Legion Baseball and American Legion Boys State.

Each Unit, Post, and Squadron have their own specific programs they fund. There are only 1,000 tickets available and are on a first come, first serve basis. Each Big K is \$25. Out of that \$8.50 is returned to the Post, Unit or Squadron. Each District will get \$1.50.

The rest of the money goes to the prizes listed below and finally to the Department to support listed programs. The purchase places your name in 10 drawings held throughout the

year beginning in October with the Early Bird drawing held the Saturday of Fall Conference for \$200. The remaining drawings start in January with \$100 New Year's and the first of six monthly drawings held January to June for \$400 each. There's an additional \$500 drawing for The American Legion Birthday in March. The final drawing for \$1800 is made and announced at the Department Convention in June.

You can purchase more than one. Department will assign you a number for each one bought which will be used the following year if you decide to participate again. Remember only 1,000 are sold.

You can find the form in each Montana Legionnaire paper. If you don't have a form, make sure you signify which Post, Unit or Squadron, your membership number, email address and phone number along with check. Make your check to The American Legion Department of MT and mail to The American Legion of MT, PO Box 155, Helena, MT 59636-0155.

~ Legionnaire Submissions ~ Meet the Editor

By Christine Miller, Public Relations



Hello to you across the state, I am Christine Miller, the Montana Legionnaire editor and the person who emails you looking for your articles. I took this appointment not really knowing what I was getting myself into, however I jumped in with both feet.

A little about myself; I am a 9-year veteran of the Army, I was a multi-line switch operator and property book specialist. The Army is where I met my husband, an Airborne Infantryman in a combat zone. We were very young, but the rest is history. We have been together since 1990. When I got out of the Army I continued working for the Army and supporting Scotts 26-year career. We both are active in Post 71 in Fromberg where we continue to give to this great nation, share our experience and talents to keep the Legion going another 100 years.

Erin Carpenter, Dept. of Montana Office Manager, has been a wealth of information, and help, in this endeavor and will continue to be there for me, not for you; at least in reference to articles for the paper. In the past, Erin has forwarded articles, proofed them, run names down for you, done things far outside the scope of her job description, this must stop.

If you ever wondered who keeps the Legion going day to day just look at who sends you the most Legion emails ranging in subjects from A-Z. Erin is an asset we are lucky to have, I am officially taking the paper off her plate, completely. **ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST COME TO EMAIL: lmtpub@gmail.com**

The publisher is at the top that puts it all together, she works her magic and makes it look like we all know what we are doing before it is sent to the printer.

Every three months you get a nice paper, if National ever gets the mailing list sorted out. Thank you all for being so patient and understanding in that matter. I had to include that as it has been the source of many questions in the past three months.

If you have any suggestions on things we can include to make this paper better, ways you would like to see things put together, please do not hesitate to email me at the above email.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: All writeups need to be in WORD text format, not a PDF, not a scan, not the body of an email. This is because we transfer them to several different mediums before they are sent to the printer. They need to include the byline (title), your Post, and who wrote it. Let's give credit where credit is due. Title in subject line.

PHOTO SUBMISSION: JPEG nice high-quality photos. Everyone has a cell phone but unless you set it to take quality photos many of those are just not a high resolution quality to print in the paper. They work great for Facebook and maybe your small newsletters, however when we increase them in size for the paper, they lose the crisp clean look. Camera submissions always come out better. **NAMES** of the people in the photos PLEASE; I know Gary knows everyone, and I will probably one day get there, but include the names with your submissions please. If there are multiple photos number them and send the names in the email under the corresponding photo number.

I am honored to get to do this for the Department, I look forward to working with everyone. I encourage more Posts to submit even the smallest of things, because nothing we do in our communities is small, it all matters. I would love to get a wider range of diversity in the submissions and see what is going on the eastern highline to the SW corner!

SUBMISSIONS TO:
lmtpub@gmail.com



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$500, and one to win \$1,800? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age.

This is a 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.



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Submit completed form with \$25 Membership Fee!
American Legion Dept of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
P.O. Box 155
Helena, MT 59636-0155

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____



THE AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA FALL CONFERENCE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELENA, MT – OCT 29-31, 2021 AGENDA (Subject to Updates)



Legionnaires—Fort Harrison HFRAC Conference Room
Auxiliary—30 October—Post #2 Helena

October 29

- 10:00 AM Hiring Committee – Department Adjutant Office
- 11:00 AM Finance Committee – Department Adjutant Office
- 1:00 PM Opening – HAFRC Auditorium
- 1:10 PM Matt Manning, Dir. – Western Montana Veterans Cemetery
- 2:30 PM Dismiss for Committee Meetings

Conference Committees Meet:

- **Oratory** (Jeff Holmes, Lowell Long, Joe Yeoman)
- **Membership** (Jeff Nelson and all District Commanders)
- **Education and Training** (Jeff Holmes, Linda Cousineau, Lonnie Johnson and Kim Kay)
- **Constitution and Internal Affairs** (Jared Flammond, David Driver, Jim Grosset)
- **Boys State** (Josh Clement, Scott Miller, Jed Damson, Terry Wahl, Ken Simon, Duane Cunningham)
- 3:30 PM Coordinated Children & Youth meeting (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, 8 & 40, Forty et Eight, SAL) committee members only, at Department Headquarters
- 4:30 PM 40 et 8 Cheminot Meeting – Post #2 Custer & Villard Ave.
- 6:00 PM Commander's Reception Dinner for those who wish to attend – Montana City Saloon and Grill—West Bar #1 Jackson Creek Road, Montana City, MT

October 30

- 7:00 AM Past Department Commanders Breakfast – Steve's Café – 0630; 630 North Montana Avenue, Helena
- 8:45 AM Reconvene Executive Board
- 11:30 AM Lunch – Provided by Atomic Café
- 12:45 PM Reconvene Executive Board – Book of Reports & Committee Reports
- 3:30 PM Sons of The American Legion

October 31

- 8:00 AM Memorial Service – Post 2

NOTICE - ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE AN ORAL REPORT, AS WELL AS, A WRITTEN REPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE RECORDER.

***Lodging: Comfort Suites, 3180 North Washington St, Helena MT 406-495-0505, make sure you mention The American Legion. Continental breakfast provided.

AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Buddies in Business



PAID ADS ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF PERSON, PRODUCT OR BUSINESS

*2 inch Ad: \$75/year
*3½ inch Ad: \$85/year

AMERICAN LEGION



District 2
Havre
Post #11

Meetings 2nd Monday
each month, 7pm

at Havre
Eagles Club
202 1st Street
Havre, Montana

AL AUXILIARY
as well!



Montana Legionnaires... Visit the Montana Military Museum

At Historic Fort Harrison
just West of Helena
Fort William Henry Harrison Museum
Foundation & Montana Military Museum

For more information write to:
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator
PO Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

Americanism

Youth

American Legion Gallatin Post #14

Striving for Legiontown USA

225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

Open daily
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to Midnight

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

406-586-8400

Defense

Veterans

LEWISTOWN REAL ESTATE

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Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary

AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA



Welcome



MEETINGS:
1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH-7:00 P.M.
DINNER: 3RD WEDNESDAY-6:00 P.M.
NEW LEGION HALL - 3201 WYNNE AVENUE
BUTTE MT

**This Space
Available**



SONS
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF
MONTANA

For More Information
About Membership Call:
(406) 324-3989
or (406) 324-3990
or write to PO Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604



American Legion Post #2

3095 Villard Ave.
Helena, MT

Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week

Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday

Jerome's Band & Violin Repair

Jerome Faith
Owner

Located at Quality Piano
617 Central
Great Falls, MT 59401
c: 406.564.5617
h: 406.965.3176



AMERICAN LEGION



POST #4



OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM

HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN

1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT

VETERAN OWNED



Liberty County American Legion Post #88

Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Liberty Co. Community
& Senior Center
618 East Adams
Chester, Montana



American Legion



Post #3



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

THE NEW MONTANA LICENSE PLATE AVAILABLE AT THE DMV.

For more information please contact: al@veteransmonument.org



We Salute Our Servicemen & Women

Welcome To American Legion Club 30

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



31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430

Broadwater Post 42 Family
Welcomes You



211 Broadway
Townsend MT
Bar open daily at 3:00p
Legion meets 1st Mon 6:30p
(except holidays)
Auxiliary meets 2nd Mon 6:30p
(Sep - May)
Meeting Hall/kitchen available for
special event rental.
(406) 266-3611



Big Timber American Legion Post #19

**DROP IN
& VISIT US!**

110 E 3RD AVENUE, BIG TIMBER, MT

Post Meetings - 1st Wed. 7 p.m.

Open 7 days a week

M-F 1 p.m. to close

S-S 10 a.m. to close

Pizza Every Day - Friday Night Burgers & Sandwiches