Brett P. Reistad, National Commander
The American Legion
2018-2019

Brett P. Reistad (pronounced rye STAD) was elected national commander of the nearly 2 million-member American Legion on August 30, 2018 in Minneapolis, during the organization’s 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans organization since 1981.

A resident of Manassas, Virginia, Reistad is a life member and past commander of Post 270 in McLean. The Department of Virginia reached an all-time high in membership, while he served as department (state) commander from 2005 to 2006. He retired as a lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department after twenty-six years of service and began a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, a congressionally funded law enforcement investigative assistance program of the U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia’s Bluefield College.

Reistad’s Legion membership eligibility is through his honorable Vietnam War-era service (1974-78) as an active-duty U.S. Army infantryman, where he served with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at historic Fort Myer, Va. He participated in the inaugural ceremony for President Carter and other high-profile ceremonies. He has since been honored as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Commander Reistad has served at every level of The American Legion. He is a past president and honorary life member of the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA). He recently completed a six-year appointment as chairman of the Department Legislative Committee and other three-year terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, where he helped coordinate the input of 23 VSOs in crafting veteran friendly legislation and advocating the proposed legislation before the governor and General Assembly. He is also a tenured past department historian and was recently bestowed an honorary life membership by the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion (NADHAL).

He is a past Legionnaire of the Year from Post 270 and a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10 in Manassas. His wife, Jessica, and their family, are proud members of The American Legion Family. His theme as national commander is “Celebrating Our Legacy,” with special emphasis on the organization’s centennial.

Meagher County American Legion Post & Unit 25 participate in White Sulphur Springs 4th of July parade
First, a BIG thank you to our immediate Past Department Commander Larry Dobb and the other 11,000 plus American Legion members for achieving 100 percent membership for the 2017-2018 membership year. Great job all.

At the National American Legion Convention, the Department of Montana received four awards. One for 100 percent membership needed to our service members, we need to get the services for our veterans and equip

ership, one for the Lenker Award for reporting our volunteer work to benefit veterans, one for 100 percent Consolidated Post Reporting, and one for culture of growth for increasing membership.

As Vice Commander last year and Department Commander this year it has been a joy traveling around the state and visiting with so many great Legionnaires. As I write this we are in the middle of our District meetings. Some have had good turnouts, others not so good. These District meetings are a good way for members to meet members from other Posts. This could make for some great friendships. These District meetings are a good way for members to attend from Department officers on the latest Legion information. Most members choose not to attend and National conventions so going to District meetings is a good way to receive some mentoring.

Mentoring at all levels: Post, Department, and National is important in retaining membership. The more information members have about the Legion the easier it is to get them to become officers in the Legion. People need to be trained as good leaders.

We have many deserving people and institutions that you can format to what your Post would like.

To maintain a strong membership. This brings up another point. At the start of 2019, our Montana Legislature will be in session, and our membership will matter for getting funding for our veterans' state cemetery and state veterans' homes. There is just so much taxpayer money to go around and we need to make sure that the veterans services are funded.

The best way to avoid the membership conversation is to ask members to pay their membership renewal as soon as they receive their notice, just like when they pay their other bills.

Don’t forget to work on contestants for your local oratorical contests.

Our Post 112 Department Convention people are putting together a great 2019 Department Convention including a parade, so plan to attend and have a great time in Polson.

Vice Commander Nelson

After travelling to all the District Meetings this fall, I think a trip around the world would have been shorter. For those that attended the District Meetings, it was great to meet so many old faces and new faces each weekend. Hospitality and meals were exceptional and always makes the trip worthwhile.

Membership always seems like it is one of those subjects that never has an end. We are a little behind this year compared to last year at this same time, but we can get those 105 members transferred and we will be ahead of last year. I really urge the membership chairmen to just take an evening and start calling names, and if there is only an address to follow up on, write a letter and let that person in Post 105 know that you are going to transfer them to the nearest Post unless they respond and give you notice otherwise.

One other item I mentioned at District meeting was the Centennial Charter for your Post. Create the next 100-year charter and have everyone in your Post that is a member for 2019 printed on a nice Poster and have it framed for future generations to look back upon. The charter to the left is an example of a charter that you can format to what your Post would like.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

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

Our Economic Commission Awards consist of nine different awards:

1. Employer of Veterans Award
2. Employer of Older workers Award
3. Employment Services Award
4. Enhance the lives of the Disabled Award
5. Employer of Older workers Award
6. Homeless Veteran Outreach Award
7. Employment Services Award
8. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
9. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)

We provide Department Headquarters for more information or nomination forms.

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

For Posts that have Junior Shooting Sports Programs (JSSP) you should be ordering your targets sets now for the National Contest, all requests for targets must be postmarked by January 15th, and all targets must be shot and mailed to National with a postmark no later than February 1, 2019.

The Department Oratory finals will be in Belgrade March 9, the District contests should be completed the week prior and notification to Department is due immediately upon completion of the District contests.

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

I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. The Department Headquarters will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov 22 – 25 and for Christmas December 24 – 26.
Post 20 Replaces Veteran’s Memorial

By Dale McKnight

On July 19, Post 20 assisted contractors to install a new Veteran’s Memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon. The original memorial was a statue of George M. Gosman, a veteran of World War I, a past Montana American Legion Department Commander and a past Montana Lieutenant Governor. It was installed in 1940, but destroyed during a windstorm in 2016. The new memorial recognizes not only Commander Gosman but all veterans of all of the Armed Services. Funds for the memorial came from the generous support of a Great Harvest Bread Company bake sale, the Hagenbarth Charity Pheasant Shoot, Bill Carroll Post 9440 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the United Way and the World War I Centennial Commission 100 Cities/100 Memorials program. Butte Granite Works assisted in the design of the new memorial and helped Hunter Brothet Construction during the installation process. Post 20 plans to formally dedicate the new memorial on November 11, 2018, the Centennial anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end World War I.

Most surprising to researchers was that while the subjects of prayer and those praying for them had no acquaintance whatsoever, the subjects of the test group healed, recovered, or were relieved of anxiety or had a noticeable reduction in pain sooner than subjects of the control group, where no one prayed for them.

Why this topic? Because we matters not to which religion you practice or subscribe. Prayer in some form plays a prominent role in virtually all faiths. What is prayer? Prayer at its most basic level is a method or way of connecting spiritually to the Divine, also refer to that transcendent being as Higher Power, The Great Spirit and even others feel closest in their “house of prayer” – whether it be a temple. Some sit, while others stand. They may say all is okay, something’s not right, kindly ask them. They may say all is well, pray for them anyway. Many have a crisis in their life. Many need prayer. They are down, in pain, irritable, depressed, in need of physical limitations. Please pray for them.

Won’t you please look around at your Post, Squadron or Unit membership? Who needs prayer? Sometimes we don’t know because those who desperately need prayer may say all is well, give thanks for our many blessings. May you pray for and then reach out tangibly to others who are in need during this special time. May each of you be abundantly blessed for praying!

May you be well.

Baeth Funeral Honors

Submitted by Ron Rudzka

Squadron 57 Commander Charlie Stevens gave a short speech at Charter Member John Roark’s funeral on March 24, and presented a SAL flag to John’s family. Many other Post and SAL members were in attendance. On August 27th 22 members of Malta Post 57, VFW 4067 and SAL 57 participated in WWII Veteran Roy Baeth’s Funeral. Roy was 91 years old.

Post 20 designed and sponsored New Veterans Memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon (l-r) Dick Stephan- hauzer, Louis Volkering (Post Commander), and Jim Watkins (Post Adjutant)

Post 14 Awards
Certificates of Appreciation

Submitted by Len Albright

Randy Kemp (District 7 CC), Dallas Thompson (Post 14 Historian and picture-taker), and Post 14-member Carl Craft met with officers of 1st Interstate Bank to present them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their generous contribution towards the Bozeman Memorial Day Parade. Carl Craft was then surprised with a Certificate for his outstanding assistance with the Bozeman Cemetery on Memorial Day. Carl helped with placing and removing flags, organizing over 2400 flags for next year, assisting at the Kiosk, and performing maintenance of the Wall.

Bozeman Post 14 Patriots Day Remembrance

Submitted by Len Albright

‘Terrifying and Heartbreaking’
Ceremony marks 17th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

Whitney Beem, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

With kind words and silence, songs and echoes of a gun salute, a group gathered in downtown Bozeman to remember those lost 17 years ago in the 9/11 attacks, and to honor the first responders, military members and Veterans who continue to serve our community.

“I know a lot of us remember where we were on September 11, 17 years ago,” said Dan Ritter, assistant national vice commandant of the northwest division of the Marine Corps League. Ritter, who led a short ceremony in front of the American Legion in downtown Bozeman on Tuesday morning, recalled the ‘terrifying and heartbreaking’ news footage on September 11, 2001, that showed wreckage from planes terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center buildings in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day, including more than 400 first responders.

A couple dozen officers, firefighters, Veterans and others attended Tuesday’s ceremony, which also included a singing of the national anthem by Beth Addison, an invocation by Major Brian Daum and the playing of Taps.

Constitution Day at State Capitol

District 6 Commander, Josh Clement addresses the crowd during the Constitution Day Celebration at the State Capitol in Helena Mont. The Montana Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution organize the patriotic remembrance each year on September 17 to remind the public about their rights as citizens of this great country.

Ronan Post 138 Initiates New Officers for 2018-2019

Submitted by Glen Sharpbono

During the regular meeting of July 10, 2018 Department Vice-Commander Jeff Nelson of Polson Post 112 conducted the swearing in ceremony of the new Post Officers. They were as follows, Glen Sharpbono Commander, Tom Leafy Vice Commander, Ed Cornelius Chaplain and Penrod Davis as Sergeant-At-Arms. Glen Sharpbono and Tom Leafy were elected to office in April of 2018 and assumed the duties of office immediately after the initiation.

Commander Sharpbono then appointed the remaining new Officers and Committee members. Their terms of office will be from 2018-2020. In the

Red Lodge Post 17 gets new Commander

Submitted by Kim Martin

Sgt. Delany Hedrick is the new Commander Carbon Post 17. Delany served in Afghanistan 2010-2011 and is currently serving in the 572d Army Reserve, Billings. Delany is the first female commander of the Post and we hope she inspires younger veterans to join.

WSS Post/Unit 25 opens Red Ants Pants

Submitted by Joanne Cummings

On July 28, 2018, the Meagher County American Legion Post 25 and Unit 25 opened the Red Ants Pants Festival in White Sulphur Springs, MT, with a flag presentation and local ladies singing the National Anthem.

Photo by Lorie Noble, President Ronan Auxiliary Unit 138 (l-r) Post members Dale Morgan, Service Officer Penrod Davis, Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Melvin Quakenbush, Finance Officer Hank Doleczal, Commander Glen Sharpbono, Chaplin Ed Cornelius, Past Commander Jack Fay, Vice Commander Tom Leafy, visiting Department Vice Commander Jeff Nelson and Highway Fatality Marker Chairman Jerry Fisher.
Service Officer, Department of Montana

As most of you may already know, I have been selected as the new Administrator for Montana's Department Service Officer effective October 13, 2018, which means I will be stepping down as your Department Service Officer. It was an honor to serve you as your DSO for 7½ years, allowing for some great memories! I will continue fulfilling my national role as Vice-Chairman, VA&V commission and member of the Executive Committee for VA&R. I am pleased to announce Tim Ingraham as the new DSO, also effective October 13, 2018.

Kelly Ackerman, Department Service Officer

TIMOTHY R. INGRAHAM
Department Service Officer (select)

As the newly appointed American Legion Department Service Officer effective October 13, 2018, I would like to share a little about myself. I started my military service with the 1/163rd ACR in Plentywood, Montana, as an 19D Cavalry Scout from 1982 to 1988. I enlisted into the USAF and ANG Components for the next 21 years until I retired January 9, 2010. I enjoyed my time on the blue side as I held such jobs as Command and Control, Alert Force Controller and Recruiting. I separated from the USAF in 1992 as Strategic Air Command (SAC) was deactivating. I am married to Kaye E. Ingraham, who retired after 21 years in the USAF. We have two children, Haley (14) and Skyler (12) who attends Helena Christian School in Helena, MT. I have been a Veteran Service Officer at Ft. Harrison, MT for the last 3 years. In the VSO capacity, MVAD is so diverse in helping Veterans, Spouses and Dependents with benefits to include but not limited to Disability and Pension claims. Burial inquiries as well as Veterans Designation on Driver’s License. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you.

The goal of our nine Montana Veterans Affairs Service Officers staffed with accredited Veteran Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

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

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:
Belgrade — (406) 388-4601
Billings — (406) 248-8579
Bozeman — (406) 533-0910
Great Falls — (406) 452-2265
Helena — (406) 495-2080/2081/2082
Kalispell — (406) 755-3795
Lewistown — (406) 538-3174
Missoula — (406) 232-1203
Missoula — (406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great Country!

Eureka Post 74

On July 21, 2018, Eureka Post 74 awarded Honorary Life Memberships to two of our members. Commander Stoney Fugate presented an Honorary Life Membership Certificate to James Dale (20 years) and Ernie Croteau presented an Honorary Life Membership Certificate to Francis “Lee” Utter (27 years).

REMEMBERING OUR LEGACY: Montana’s Experience in World War

by Raymond K. Read, Museum Curator/Director

The following is taken from “Montana in the Wars” compiled by Chester K. Shore. This history was published for The American Legion and The American Legion of Montana as a part of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1978 and 1977. Copyright by The American Legion in 1977.

“...We have come to kill or be killed so, let’s go ahead,” declared General Pershing and General Bliss when, on March 28, 1918 they gallantly offered to lead their troops into battle. And it’s a fact that the men did “go ahead” with fine contempt for death (Shore, P.68). Our division that arrived over there were just bunches of soldiers in a strange world. —Cannon fodder, children of unpreparedness, who might by thrown into a breach— So the allies saw them (Ibid p.68).

“Give us more troops, more money, more munitions”—“But from our allies fighting men gave us Yanks in Battle test. Let’s see if they are too proud to fight, and if they are not, how they fight.” They were soon accommodated. But as great as the material results, the moral results were still more important. —The American soldier had shown an unrivaled fortitude of enduring incessant efforts and all the hardships due to constant bad weather and never-ceasing battle. (Ibid) The Army had developed into a powerful and smooth running machine and everyone from the Commander-in-chief to the last arrival was supremely confident of the ability of the American soldier to carry through any task. (Ibid).

MONTANA IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

“Wild and woody, full of fees, fight or flake, as we please. Powder River — Let her buck! Wade across it, you’re in luck.” They shouted out loud and clear on the drill grounds of big Camp Lewis in Washington State in 1917; the brawny lumberjacks, cowpunchers and miners of Montana of the 362nd Regiment and other regiments of the “Wild West” 91st Division (the Pine Tree Division), National Army of the U.S. It was the outburst battle cry over there in 1918, as big as Montfaucon, one of the toughest salients to attack in the Argonne Forest later and on Scheldt River in gallant Belgium. These and many more western citizen soldiers proved themselves victorious against the German Empire’s best troops in that “great war.”

The year 1917 was a year which no one will or did call the year America walked forth from the Pork Store out to the Sea. Not all inherited: the year America walked forth from Main Street into an orbit which turned out to be as incomprehensible as it was unavoidable. That year, when well-fed, lethargic America finally awoke and plunged into the “Great War,” a war which was erroneously labeled “a war to make the world safe for democracy” and ironically “the war to end all wars.” In 1917 and 1918, patriotic young men of Montana (also young women) responded to their nation’s call beyond the greatest expectations and the Big Sky State furnished one-fourth more men proportionately than any other state. (Ibid).
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2019

HQ'S POST 105 MEMBERS
At the concluded Department Convention in Great Falls Resolution #8-09 passed raising the dues amount for HQ'S Post 105 in Helena (not to be confused with Post 2) to $73 effective 1 January 2019.

For those who pay their 2019 dues prior to January 1, 2019, their 2019 dues are still $40.

Remember, HQ'S Post 105 members may transfer into a local Post at its dues rate. For more information on transferring to a local Helena Department HQ'S at antelope290@mtn.net or call toll free 866-793-1257.

TEN LARGEST POSTS

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<th>Post</th>
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<td>BOZEMAN #22</td>
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<td>MISSOULA #130</td>
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DISTRICT STANDINGS

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<td>Kim McCoy-Marrin</td>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
July 6, 2018

SQUADRON GOAL 2019 TO DATE

WOLF POINT #22 .................................................. 10 0
GLASGOW #41 .................................................. 10 30
PLENITOWN #56 .................................................. 10 14
CULBERTSON #1 .................................................. 10 21
NASHUA #10 ..................................................... 10 0
HAVRE #11 ....................................................... 10 0
CICERO #48 ....................................................... 10 11
MONTANA #5 ...................................................... 10 10
LIBBY #97 ......................................................... 10 0
POLSON #112 ........................................................ 10 0
MISSOULA #27 ..................................................... 10 17
HAMILTON #47 .................................................... 10 0
CONDON #63 ........................................................ 10 0
CRAIG #4 ........................................................... 10 7
STEVENSVILLE #94 ............................................... 10 21
LOLO #135 .......................................................... 10 34
HELENA #2 ........................................................ 10 76
ANACONDA #21 .................................................... 10 33
TOWNSEND #42 .................................................. 10 18

DELIVER TO

The American Legion needs you. RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

http://www.legion.org/renew
Post 25 White Sulphur Springs Commander Bill Cummins presents Reidar Johnson with his 45-year American Legion Appreciation Certificate and pin.

**Let’s Beef Up the National Emergency Fund!**

As you drive around Montana, you see lots and LOTS of cattle. Beef is a big industry here. Because those steers are strong, the word, “beef” has also entered our lexicon meaning solid strength.

With disaster after disaster this year — floods, wildfires, and now hurricanes, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided grants to many Legion members and Sons of The American Legion members, whose homes are no longer habitable due to natural disaster. While the NEF is not depleted, it could use some serious ‘beefing up!’

If you shop at Amazon.com at all, you can log in through AmazonSmile and one half of one percent of the cost of all your purchases can be diverted to the NEF by Amazon without any cost to you.

From their website: “AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.”

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.”

I just logged in and in the box where you can search for a charity, typed in American Legion National… and up popped American Legion National Emergency Fund — if you choose to donate to the NEF, American Legion National Emergency Fund will be listed under the Amazon search bar at the top of their webpage every time you sign in — so you will know Amazon will be donating to the NEF on your behalf when you complete your transaction with them. How easy is that?

You can also donate to the NEF directly by going to legion.org and clicking the “Donate to NEF” button. Every little bit helps. Won’t you please donate today? May you be well!

**CUSTER POST 5 FLAG DAY**

Custer Post 5 held a Flag Retirement ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 2018, at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery. Joe Dalbeck, in foreground, Clancee Collins (Dist 10 CDR) in background.

**Post 89 Members honor new Medical Center with flag raising ceremony.** (l-r) Cliff Morgan Post 89 Commander, and Greg Granken Post 89 Vice Commander.

**Sheridan Post 89 Flag Raising at Ruby Valley Medical Center Grand Opening**

Sheridan’s American Legion Post 89 participated in the Grand Opening of the new Ruby Valley Medical Center in Sheridan on August 18, 2018, by raising our Nation’s Flag during the National Anthem as part of the Medical Center’s Dedication Ceremony.

In the last few years The American Legion Department Highway Fatality Marker Chairman has been cracking down on items being placed on and around the fatality markers. Each Post in Montana is responsible for putting up markers and maintaining them in their area. The website goes on to say “when a highway is reconstructed and corrects what may have been a problem all highway fatality markers are removed.” Therefore, people may notice those markers are gone.

On the back of the marker should be a sticker that says, “Property of The American Legion. Please do not decorate, write on, or place names on the face of the marker or post.”

When entering Montana, there are blue signs that the MT Department of Transportation has put up stating the white markers represent highway fatalities; maintained by The American Legion of Montana.

The MT Department of Transportation set the policy and rules for the program and The American Legion follows these as the only agency responsible for the markers. This means that each American Legion Post is responsible for enforcing the rules governing the program in their area.
100th National Convention in Minneapolis:
Montana's Legionnaires bode well on the stage

Though the weather in Minneapolis during The American Legion's 100th National Convention was bleak and mostly overcast for late August, it did not dampen the enthusiasm and spirit of the 49 Montanans who made their way by plane, train and automobile to take part in the historic meeting. Some arrived more than a week prior to the convention to begin prepping for what would be a wonderful meeting of colleagues, friends and Legion Family. The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion held concurrent and sometimes combined events with the main Legion caucus.

Over what seemed like endless commitments to dine the days away, Montana members renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances as they worked through legislative issues, proposed charter changes, and other business to come before the Legion masses. Speaking of masses, the Sunday non-denominational service was made all the more special with the Minneapolis Boys Choir and an impassioned speech, 'Who's your hero?' given by the National Chaplain, Robert Allen Vick.

Montana Legionnaires came away with four National Awards: 100% Membership, 100% Consolidated Reports, William F. Lenker Veterans Service Award and Culture of Growth. Our accomplishments on the national level afforded our attendees a place of honor seating up front nearest to the stage directly behind the Distinguished Visitors. We had unhindered views of the stage and all those who passed upon it to include our very own Commander Dobbs, frequently, as he stepped up to accept the many awards.

Congratulations to the entire Montana Team! With hard work, laughter and a few good eats, we headed home to begin a new year but continue the legacy of our American Legion. Welcome home!
Dear Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary,
Well it looks like summer is gone and fall has moved in. I have been busy traveling to Fall District meetings. I must say that although it makes for a long weekend on the road, the meetings have been great. I have met so many wonderful ladies and I have been treated like a queen. I have been passing out flag etiquette brochures and comic books about bullying at each District meeting. I have asked the ladies to take them to the schools and possibly see if they could present a short program. So many young people have no idea about flag etiquette. The bigger issue is bullying in our schools. Maybe we can help with both issues.

In each location, I have been given the opportunity to speak at the American Legion meeting and explain to them what my theme is for the year. For anyone who does not know what my theme is, it’s “Above and Beyond”. This stands for above past differences and beyond to serving our veterans. That is what we are all about. Our Department Commander Richard Klose, and I seem to be on the same page. We need to remember that we are a family. He in turn has addressed each Auxiliary meeting.

As we move into the holiday season, I’m asking all of you to look into seeing what you can do for the veteran’s in your area. It might be giving them a ride to the Veteran’s Day celebration at the Post, taking them a plate at Thanksgiving or Christmas, or any other way that you come up with. Also, as you are out in the community if you see a vet take a minute to stop and shake their hand and thank them for their service. You will be amazed at the smile that it will put on their face. Bullying is a short weekend on the road. The meetings have been great.

This year National is promoting Goodwill and Fostering a Culture of Good Will. The Fall District meetings are in the books. Many thanks to those to braved gorgeous weekend weather to join us. We travel great distances to bring you information. It hampers us to see responses like yours. The Programs Action Plans are all delivered. If you don’t have yours, check with your District President. A few Units failed to have representation, therefore those action plans were left with your District leaders.

I’ve spoken frequently about handwriting issues. Consider subscribing to the ALAMIS system at your Unit level. You can enter new members, access your reports and make any corrections on your own. A small annual fee might be money well spent.

Fall Conference is a few short weeks away. It’s shaping up to be another amazing event. Madam President has filled an agenda with exciting workshops, a special luncheon and of course, another Baby Shower to benefit women veterans across the state. We thank Fort Harrison for their help and support of our newest little soldiers.

I will have a few handbooks with me, however I can’t order more for the short term. They’re finally being reprinted. There is NOTHING wrong with yours; our National office is simply adding some policy information into the next print. As you know, Fostering a Culture of Good Will is critical to the future of this organization. The National office decided to include it in the handbooks. We’ve already given you copies of the policy so don’t feel you need to update an already perfect handbook.

Why I’m not a member?

No one asked!

Convention Reminder!

Current Membership Card Needed—
When attending Department Conventions you must have your Current Membership card. This shows you are in good standing. Credential will be checked at the start of each morning session.

Without a current card, you will not be allowed into the convention floor.
The application will be just below my Welcome letter and should be filled out on the computer, printed and handed to the person(s) making the selections. The webpage also includes additional Girls State resources and information.

A note of caution: we had 42 applications for the Samsung Scholarship, but many were not completed correctly or timely. National American Legion requires the Samsung Scholarship Application be completed online at https://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung. Paper applications will not be accepted by National; however, a hard copy of the application needs to be brought to the session for judging so scholarship applications must be completed before coming to Girls State. This is an excellent scholarship opportunity so please let your delegates know as soon as possible in order to give them time to complete the required documentation.

Ladies and fellow Legionnaires, I thank you for your time and commitment for Girls State and I look forward to working with each of you to present another fulfilling and enjoyable event for our Montana girls. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mail: 113 Ravenwood Ridge, Townsend, MT 59644, email: dymples43@gmail.com, cell: 406-949-3660.

Happy Fall Department of Montana! When our President Terry Kemp first asked me to be her Chaplain I first thought to myself, what can I offer to this position, and then I thought what a privilege I have been blessed with. So, I would like to offer a few of my personal thoughts that I hope will give you strength, courage, and hopefully warm your heart as they have done for me:

1. The most wonderful places to be in the world are...in someone’s thoughts, someone’s prayers and in someone’s heart.
2. Leadership is not about being the best; Leadership is about making everyone else better.
3. The Devil whispered in my ear, “You’re not strong enough to withstand the Storm.” TODAY I whispered in the Devil’s ear, “I am a child of God, A Woman of Faith, A WARRIOR OF CHRIST I am the Storm.”
4. My final one is...

And my final one is...

4. Morning is God’s way of saying one more time; Go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day.

I had to go with my husband to the VA today for his 6-month checkup with his doctor. Every time I go to the VA and see our veterans waiting to see their doctor, waiting for medication, or coming in for the first time hoping to get in to see someone who will help them it still makes me feel sad to look at how so many are struggling, but I do try to go shake their hand and thank them for their service. Sometimes I do get a thank you, but I think my favorite happened today was a veteran grabbed my hand and said thank you for taking the time to come to me. I told him that without his dedicated service maybe a lot of us would not be here, his response was it was his honor to serve my country.

So, with that, maybe hopefully the snow stays away for a while longer. I am not ready for the cold snow, wind and ice!! May you be blessed each day with a smile, a hello, a thank you, and at least I LOVE YOU.

Thank you all for what you do.
Historian continued from pg. 5

than any other state in the union. They came by the thousands, from farms, ranches, log cabins, towns and cities of this sparsely populated western commonwealth. At the same time the citizens of the state cooperated in every way with the war effort and also made some records for Montana. It will be necessary to quote some figures in order to give the amazing facts of Montana’s part in the great war of that time.

Joseph Kinsey Howard, Montana’s widely read author said in his book “High, Wide, and Handsome”:

“In World War I, more Montana boys marched away, in proportion to population, than any other state, and more than their quota of men, proportionately. Montana never marched anywhere again: More than 40,000 men or 25 percent more than any other state called upon.”

(High, Wide, and Handsome, pages 1-2)

Montana stood at the head of all states in the Union in proportion to population. The total of 36,528 Montana men who enlisted during the war constituted 1.1 percent of the national average: a total of 11,700 men or 236 per 10,000 population, according to the State Adjutant General’s report. Among Montana volunteers was 14-year old Mike Mansfield of Butte, who enlisted in the Navy on February 23, 1918, and later served as Montana’s sky of the United States. In Senate in addition to these volunteer the state had 27,567 accepted for service through the draft.

On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act and on June 5, all men between the ages of 21 & 35 were required to register. It was feared there might be a draft in Montana if the exception of an anti-draft parade in Butte, which promptly disbanded upon the appearance of Montana’s federalized National Guard troops then stationed there, there was no dis- turbance in the state.

Due to a mistake in the government estimate, Mont- ana’s drafted troops were far above the base on which of population twice as great as it actually had. Of the 29,638 Montana men called in the draft, 29,446 were indicated and 57,664 were accepted for service, which was one of the highest ratios in the country. Montana furnished 966 men out of every 10,000 population compared to 565 for George, which stood at the base of the list.

Montana lives lost in World War I battle action was ahead of any state in proportion to population. The loss was about 26 percent greater than the nearest state; 55 percent of the men were killed in action or died of wounds, 253 from disease or other causes, a total of 934 dead, 2,469 wounded and one missing. In essence, almost every Montana soldier who was drafted.

There were also 618 Montana men in service other than the war zone who died of diseases or other causes, making a total of 4,061 World War I casualties for Montana. Many of the battle wounded died later of their war injuries.

It is possible that did more than their share in support- ing Liberty Bond drives during World War I. They oversubscribed in all the drives. In the third bond drive they subscribed $917,354 over their quota while the last “Victory” drive in 1918, they exceeded their quota by 111.88 percent with the state ranking sixth out of the 46 percent beyond the goal.

This great record of patriotism shown by Montana’s citizens was in contrast with the stand of the first woman to raise a flag in Montana, Jeanne Langes, who was Miss Montana’s freshman woman representative who joined 55 men in voting against going to war against Germany April 6, 1917.

Every state was proud of the record of its fighting men and military units in World War I. Montana was identified and known as the Montana Guard Regiment, a training cadre if other U.S. Divi- sions leaving what was known as the American Legion of Honor Society associated with The Montana MERCI Boxcar to the 40 and 8 veterans’ organiza- tion, a personality-based exhibit will relate a range of soldiers’ perspectives on the 163rd Infantry Regiment.

When called into service the 163rd Infantry Regi- ment, Montana lives lost in World War I battle action were as follows:

The following towns: Company A, Bozeman; Company B, Roundup; Company C, Shelby; Company D, Valier; Company E, Ennis; Company F, Helena; Company G, Glasgow; Company H, Kalsipell; Company I, Baker; Company K, Billings; Company L, Sidney; Company M, Great Falls; Company N, Butte; Company O, Hamilton; Company P, Missoula; Company Q, Anaconda; Company R, Butte; Company S, Stevensville; Company T, Anaconda; Company U, Butte; Company V, Billings; Company W, Great Falls; Company X, Libby; Company Y, Missoula; Company Z, Butte; and other U.S. Divi- sions leaving what was known as the American Legion of Honor Society associated with The Montana MERCI Boxcar to the 40 and 8 veterans’ organization.

In Montana lives lost in World War I battle action were as follows:

The following towns: Company A, Bozeman; Company B, Roundup; Company C, Shelby; Company D, Valier; Company E, Ennis; Company F, Helena; Company G, Glasgow; Company H, Kalsipell; Company I, Baker; Company K, Billings; Company L, Sidney; Company M, Great Falls; Company N, Butte; Company O, Hamilton; Company P, Missoula; Company Q, Anaconda; Company R, Butte; Company S, Stevensville; Company T, Anaconda; Company U, Butte; Company V, Billings; Company W, Great Falls; Company X, Libby; Company Y, Missoula; Company Z, Butte; and other U.S. Divisions leaving what was known as the American Legion of Honor Society associated with The Montana MERCI Boxcar to the 40 and 8 veterans’ organization.

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I’M THE GUY

The guy who asked to join your organization. I’m the guy who paid his dues to join. I’m the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful, and loyal the organization.

I’m the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid attention to me. I’m the guy who tried several times to be a friend, but they had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to.

I’m the guy who came several times, but no one paid any attention to me. I’m the guy who was left out when I volunteered to help on projects and membership recruitment.

I’m the guy who missed a few meetings because I was sick, but at the meeting, no one asked where I have been. I guess it didn’t matter very much to others whether I was there or not.

I’m the guy who decided to stay home and watch TV one meeting night. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I had been.

You might say that I’m a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his family, community, and country. You want to know who else I am? I’m the guy who never came back! It amuses me how the officers of the Organization and other members discuss why the organization was losing members.

It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time, all they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and welcome.

Calgary CN20 sponsors Tour of Duty Historical Display

Calgary Post CN20 of The American Legion and the Military Museums of Calgary are proud to bring the TOUR OF DUTY - Canadians in the Vietnam War from September 27th to January 13th. This exhibit (see page 12) shows the history of the Vietnam War through the eyes and artifacts of Vietnam Veterans. It shows events from the early days of the War when Canadian Forces were there and through the stories of both Canadian and American and Vietnamese Veterans. Many artifacts and pictures and stories are on display. A great big thank you for Department Commander Richard Klose, Adjutant Gary White, Post 14 Adjant Randy Kemp, and Post 2 Commander Ray Stolp for their help manning the Growing Vietnam Wall while it was in Calgary at the Military Museum.

The Color Guard and Honor Guard were very active during the summer activities in Park County beginning with the Livingston Roundup Parade on July 2nd. The new parade route turned at the corner of The American Legion Post where it was convenient to cook brats and hamburgers to serve to the gathered tourists and locals attending the parade. The Color Guard including 8-year-old Bryce Townsend, led the parade followed by the Boy Scout Troop 516 and the Bozeman Satellite Horse Drill team all carrying the American Flags for the Fourth of July celebration. District 7 Commander, Jim Howe drove a bus honoring WWII veterans early in the parade; aboard were Ralph Hanks, Wesley Bull, Earl Stermitz, Henry Counts and George Beagle, all from Park County. A special honor in the parade was a horse-drawn buggy built in 1916 and a team driven by a member of the Algeria Shrine Temple of Helena. Among the honored cargo of the buggy, Dean Gilbert, Park Post 23 historian and Carol Woodley, Auxiliary historian. The Livingston Roundup Rodeo Association also utilized the Color Guard to start the rodeo on each night of July 2-4. In addition, Post members were on hand at daybreak to place poles and flags in Sacajawea Park on July 2nd for Fourth of July festival picnickers that gather at the park.

During the summer months, military honors were accorded to Delbert Hudson, member of the Park Post 23 and past Honor Guard, Capt. Harold R Myrstol, Morgan B Mann, David McGee and Roger Allen Polillo. Post 23 Color Guard closed up the summer leading the parade at the Shields Valley “Old Settlers Days” at Clyde Park on August 25th and conducted highway cleanup activities for a 2-mile stretch of Hwy 89 South in September.

Miles City Post 5 Awards Nursing Scholarships

Custer Post 5 awarded two $1,500 nursing scholarships on September 5, 2018, to two students attending Miles Community College. L-R are second-year student Cody Schock, Post 5 Adjunt Glencoe Collins, second-year student Madsan Hjelvik, and Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl.

Ronan Post 138 Family does it again with 100% membership!

Ronan American Legion Post 138 and Auxiliary Unit 138 received 100% American Legion Family Ribbons at the District 4 meeting in Paradise on September 29th. The AL Family Ribbon is only awarded when two or more Legion Families obtain 100% membership in the same year. An American Legion Family is The American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and The Legion Riders Chapter. This is the 4th year in a row that Ronan Post 138 and its Auxiliary Unit have received the award. They were the second Post and Unit in the Department of Montana to both make 100% goal for 2018 and at the time only 1300 Posts and Units out of 14,000 Nation-wide had earned the award. Thanks to the membership that renewed their investment in this organization. As we head into 2019, our Centennial year of service to Veterans and Community, we would like to remind our members and all Veterans yet to join that now is the time to become and remain a part of history with The American Legion and its Auxiliaries preserving our rights as Veterans, service to our Community and maintaining the Four Pillars of our founding. Ronan Post 138 also received an Americanism Citation from The American Legion Americanism Commission signed by National Commander

By Glen Sharbono

Denise Rohan for “Outstanding Service to Your Community”.
Post 5 AL Baseball

Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl (center), and Post 5 Adjutant Clancee Col-lins (right) greet Clay Prell of the Miles City Mav-ericks at the 2019 American Legion Season opening game on May 25, 2019. The Mavs won both games, 9-6 and 10-4 for a great start to their 2018 season.

Tlicers at Connor’s
ericks hosted the
Season opening
American Legion
ericks at the 2019
Clay Prell of the
m a n d e r  B o b
administered by Delta Dental, will end.

Tricare Retiree Dental Plan Changes Coming for 2019

What is happening?
On December 31, 2018, the Defense Health Agency’s TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), administered by Delta Dental, will end.

However, individuals currently enrolled in or eligible for TRDP will have the opportunity to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) during the Federal Benefits Open Season from November 12 through December 10, 2018.

What is FEDVIP?
FEDVIP is a voluntary, enrollee-pays-all dental and vision program that offers eligible participants a choice between 10 dental and four vision carriers (with most plans offering both high and standard options).

In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for the TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage and, if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, are also eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage, beginning in 2019.

In addition, family members of active-duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage.

How to prepare for the transition
1. Encourage retirees to use the eligibility tool to determine if they are eligible for FEDVIP.

2. View 2018 FEDVIP plans and premium rates to become familiar with the new program, and compare the 2018 plan year benefits and rates (FEDVIP premiums are based on retiree’s residential zip code).

3. **The current 2018 plans and FEDVIP are depicted in the next section of tricare.benefeds.com.** Plan details and premium rates for the 2019 plan year will be available in October of 2018.

MONTANA TREE CARE INDUSTRY

Honors Veterans at Ft. Harrison

ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA PLANTENBERG, SITE LEADER, MT DIRECTOR
REGION MOUNTAIN DIVISION

On Wednesday, September 19, 43 arborists and other volunteers from Helena, Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman, and Livingston gathered in Helena at the Ft. Harrison State Veterans’ Cemetery and VA Health Care System Facility as part of the second annual Helena Saluting Branches event.

An impressive array of arboretus tree care machinery was set up for the event including three bucket trucks, three chippers, a mechanized grapple saw tree removal system, a grapple truck, a grapple loader, and a stump grinder. In addition, several tree climbers from around Montana showed up with all their gear to climb and prune trees.

Work accomplished included pruning all small trees and over 20 large trees, removing four large trees and grinding 14 stumps. Breakfast, lunch, safety gear and other supplies needed for the event were donated by local MT sponsors and over 300 hours of volunteer services were donated by the arborists and friends.

Largely dead tree removal as part of this year’s Saluting Branches cleanup work at VA Helena.

What is the Big K and New Changes to the Program

Often, I am asked what the Big K is, and since the crew ways & Means Committee has made changes to the Big K it is time to familiarize our members with the Big K. The Big K (or Big K Program) is a fundraising mechanism for the Department, Districts, and Posts of the Department of Montana. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion 18 years and older may join the Big K for $25 annually.

Membership is limited to 1000 members.

• Posts, Units, or Squadron will receive an $8.50 payment for each Big K member who belongs to their Post, Unit, or Squadron. Districts will receive a payment for the Big K members who belong to their District.

What are the benefits of membership?
• Early Bird Drawing at the Fall Convention Banquet for $200 (this is a change)
• Early Bird Drawing in January for $100 (this is a change)
• $400 per month drawing for six months – first drawing in January, last at Department Convention in June
• $500 drawing on Legion Birthday in March (this is a change)
• $1800 drawing at Department Convention Banquet in June. (this is a change)
• First chance at renewal for subsequent year
• Posts, Units, and Squadrions may also purchase a Big K membership. Dividends from the Posts, Units and Squadrions are paid at the Spring District Meeting.

To sign up for the Big K, complete the form below and mail with check to The American Legion of Montana at PO Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604-6075.
How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: October 1, 2018

Preferences:
- Text: No formatting such as, multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
- Use a single tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as all formatting has to be removed before placing into paper
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post, City as well as Post Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- It's better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you're talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
- Acronyms. Always keep new names informed and familiar with programs. For example: Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you're talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
- Always provide the submitters name for articles.

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

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to:

Post 112 Convention

KwaTaqNish Resort and Casino
36 Highway 93 East
P.O. Box 6075, MT 59604-6075

Questions
Jeff Nelson
Office: 406-399-9303
Cell: 406-249-5303
Email: lmtprpub@gmail.com

Deadline: October 1, 2018

Photos

• Please use JPG format, as an attachment.
• Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing and with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
• Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo. If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
• Captions should be noted in the e-mail.

• Photo caption which includes Post Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.
• Do not spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE! Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
• Email attachments (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.

News articles

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

Corrections

• To previously-sent articles.
• Send an e-mail with the corrections only.

Big Line – remember… always include the submitters name for articles.

Edits and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.

Send Articless, Photos e-Captions to: lmtprpub@gmail.com

Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!

BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win $1,800, 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, Unions, Squadrons, Districts and Department proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State as well as membership programs. If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2019 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for $500 beginning January 2019, $500 on the Legion Birthday and $1,800 at Department Convention.

Name: ________________________________

Post/Unit/Squadron: ____________________

ID Number: ____________________________

Date: __________________________

Phone Number: ________________________

Submitt form completed form with $25 to American Legion Post 55, American Legion Memorial Center P.O. Box 6075 Helena, MT 59604-6075

American Legion Insurance Trust
Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

For more information about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust affordable insurance plans and superior service call toll-free, 1-800-235-6943, or visit our Web site at www.leglit.com

MAY 2019: MEMORIAL DAY ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, FRANCE
Fellowed by Battle of the Bulge sights in Belgium, plus Germany with Remagen Bridge, Hitler's Eagle's Nest, Dachau Concentration Camp
Only $3,000! (This tour priced out of Chicago O'Hare)

JULY, 2019: LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN
Visiting Iceland, Finland with Lapland

SEPTEMBER 2019: DESTINATION TOUR OF SWITZERLAND
Includes Glacier Express across the Alps

Tours designed and escorted by Vi Ranney, Yanke, tour designer for GRHS.
For details call Vi at 605-685-3958 or e-mail: viranneyn@ymail.com. Everyone Welcome!
Montana Legionnaires!
Visit the Montana Military Museum
At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena.
Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum
For more information write to:
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator
P.O. Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com
• 406-324-3550

Silver Bow Post #1
American Legion of Montana
Welcome
Meetings:
First & Third Wednesday 7 p.m.
Dues: First Wednesday @ 8 p.m.
 Legion Hall is across the street from Ramada Copper King

Liberty County American Legion
Post #88
Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Liberty Co. Community & Senior Center
618 East Adams
Chester, Montana

American Legion
Post #3
Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM
September thru May
at the Elks Lodge
500 1st Ave South
Great Falls MT
(406) 453-9822

American Legion
Post #2
3095 Villard Ave
Helena, MT
Monday thru Saturday
Open at 10 a.m.
Sunday - Open at Noon
all meetings 2nd Thursday each month

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

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