Richard is also a member of the Son’s of The American Legion Squadron 123. He is very active in his community and is currently serving as Vice President of the “Friends of the Yellowstone National Cemetery,” and former president of the “United Veterans Council of Yellowstone County.” Richard is a member of the Laurel United Methodist Church. He served on the church trustee board and was president of the trustee board for two years. Richard is a ten-year board member of the Laurel Senior center, with four of those years serving as board president. He is also a board member of the Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County, The Adult Resource Alliance provides services for senior citizens in Yellowstone County, including meals on wheels. Richard was recently elected as a City Council member in Laurel. Richard is married to Gayle, his wife of 31 years. Gayle is a five-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary in Laurel. Richard has six children and grandchildren living in Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

Richard is a 40-year member of The American Legion and has held all Post positions at his home Post, Polson Hardwick #112, including Post Commander twice. He has been District 4 Commander, Zone 4-5-6 Commander, and Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms. He has travelled to many of the leadership workshops when they were held throughout the northwest region of the United States. Jeff has chaired the Department Oratorical Committee for three years, the Department Finance Committee for three years, and served as a member of the Americanism Committee at National for four years. He has been serving on the board of directors for the Mission Valley Mariners Legion Baseball team since its beginning in 1989. He has been a part of The Montana American Legion delegation at the National Conventions seven times.

Jeff’s community involvement includes being past Grand Knight of the Polson Knights of Columbus, Chairman of the Friends of the NRA banquet and fundraiser for three years, the Veterans Honor Guard, and volunteering with the 4-H Shooting Sports for several years as an instructor.

He started his own business in 1990 and has been running Nelson Dairy Service since then. The business supplies and sells dairy equipment to dairy farmers in three states. Jeff is married to Christine Nelson and they reside in Polson. They have four children and seven grandchildren.
Honor to serve as your Department Commander, I would be great to see a large number of Legion members return to the Convention in Minneapolis August 24-30, 2018. It would be a pleasure to be involved in so many activities throughout this year. I look forward to visiting as many districts as possible and sharing ideas on making this one of the most memorable years for many of you. I am hoping every post is already planning some sort of special event in their area.

I look back on the past 100 years and wonder what it must have been to have gone through some of the times our nation has grown through and how The American Legion has helped make some of those changes possible. The biggest event that I can think of had to have been the GI Bill of Rights. Personally, I benefitted from the bill. By continuing my college education, I was able to acquire skills that helped in my business today.

So, what will the next 100 years hold for future veterans? If we are to remain an organization that helps veterans in need, we must get the word out to the younger veterans still serving and those recently released from active duty. The American Legion is there to make sure the GI Bill of Rights is continuing through the next 100 years. Just letting these young men and women know the Legion has its back's the greatest testament in having them join our ranks.

Again, I look forward to meeting so many of you in the coming year and helping to make your post proud in your communities. God Bless and keep your powder dry.

Richard Klose
Dept. Commander

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

The 2018 Convention has come to a close and with it the start of a new year with new officers and new opportunities to contribute to the success of our Posts, District and Department. I hope to see all Legion Family members return to the Convention in Polson June 28-30, 2019. Due to circumstances outside of their control Missoula Post 101 has had to cancel their sponsorship in the 2020 Convention, but Billings Post 117 stepped forward and will now host the 2020 Convention, followed by Post 2 in Helena in 2021.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Department, whether they be at the Post, District, or Department level they will have a busy year before them and they will need every members’ support as they go about doing the American Legion’s business and representing our members. To outgoing officers, I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to The American Legion, I know it isn’t always an easy thing to carry out the duty you swore to uphold, but I trust that you knew you did the best you could, and you had a positive effect on all you encountered during your tour of duty.

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Chaplain’s Corner
Karen Swoboda, Department Chaplain

Two Wolves

With summer here, I’m reminded of campfire tales – especially since my granddaughter has soon be at camp again this year. One story often told around the campfire that can benefit us all goes something like this:

One evening, a young boy asked his grandfather, a wise old Native American, why people act they way they do. He told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside every person.

He said, “My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us.

One wolf is evil: it is anger, arrogance, ego, envy, false pride, greed, guilt, inferiority, jealousy, lies, regret, resentment, self-pity and superiority.

The other wolf is good: it is benevolence, compassion, faith, generosity, hope, humility, kindness, love, peace, serenity, and truth.”

The grandson thought about this for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf wins?”

The wise old man simply replied, “The one you feed.”

We can choose how we speak, how we perceive the world and how we interpret what happens in our interactions with others. I encourage you to be generous and always think the best of others’ actions and words. If someone speaks to you in a harsh manner, unless you were mean or rude to them first, don’t take it personally; it’s not about you – it’s about what’s going on inside of them. Don’t be offended. Respond calmly.

You have the choice to spread good will amongst our members by putting them first and yourself last.

Have you noticed how many people’s grammar has changed in the past decade or so — so they put themselves first when speaking about themselves and someone else? “Me and ___ did this or that.” It’s indicative of how self-centered our culture is becoming. Call it a Freudian slip, if you want; however, words do have meaning. Putting yourself first displays your ego front and center in your conversation.

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for following purposes: ...To promote peace and good will on earth...”

I encourage you to feed the good wolf so you can, indeed, promote peace and good will.

May you be well.

Broadwater County Remembers
by Jen Dalrymple

On Saturday, 26 May, Broadwater County volunteers joined together across the County in placing American flags on the graves of our Veterans in remembrance and honor of their past military service to our Nation. On Monday, Memorial Day ceremonies were presented for the residents of the Broadwater Health Center and at the Memorial Park in Townsend to honor the military members that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. American Legion Post 42 Family members and guests of the American Legion Post 42 joined together with attendees that took the time to place flags, join us in the ceremonies and come by the Legion for cookies and drinks afterwards. We are the legacy of their sacrifice and we remember them for that honor.

Sheridan Post 89 dedicates second Veteran Wall of Honor

On Memorial Day, Sheridan Post 89 dedicated its second Veteran Wall of Honor in front of the Post Building. The wall contains the names of an additional 176 Veterans from throughout the Greater Ruby Valley. We are proud to have added the names of all 159 Veterans to the wall.

Wall of Honor

The wall is made of metal, which is durable and allows for easy maintenance. The names are engraved on the wall, and each veteran’s name is accompanied by a small American flag. The wall is located outside the Post building, making it easily accessible to visitors.

Sheridan Post 89 dedicates second Veteran Wall of Honor

On Memorial Day, Sheridan Post 89 dedicated its second Veteran Wall of Honor...
2018 Convention Annual Awards
Montana Eagle Award
Highest percentage of membership for Fall Convention and Department Convention:
Fall Conference District 9
Department Convention District 9
Juneau Memorial Award
Best percentage increase over year before Posts 75 and under:
Vet Post 114, 133.3-0% of goal and 130.61% over last year.
Runner up: Coeur D’Alene Post 44, 120.00% over last year.
Furin Memorial Award
Best percentage increase over year before Posts 76 to 175.
Milan Post 141, 98.03% of goal and 130.17% over last year.
Runner up: Hamilton Post 91 with 123.53% over last year.
Angel Memorial Award
Best percentage increase over year before Posts 176 and over:
Missoula Post 27, 103.03% of goal and 106.92% over last year.
Runner up: Helena Post 2 with 103.00% over last year.

TOP NEW MEMBER GETTERS:
1. Don Bost, Lewistown Post 16 - 40
2. Lee Sargent, Ennis Post 65 - 11
3. Roy Stolp, Helena Post 2 - 10

MOST NEW MEMBERS EACH DISTRICT:
District 3 - Stanley
District 4 - Fairview
District 5 - Miles City
District 6 - Anaconda
District 7 - Ronan
District 8 - Butte
District 9 - Corvallis
District 11 - Great Falls

BEST AMERICANISM REPORT:
Distinguished Services: Helena Post 2

BEST CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT:
Large Post - Post 16
Medium Post - Yorktown Post 11
Small Post - Twin Bridges Post 31

BOY SCOUT PLAQUE:
Post which contributed the most to the Scouting program for the year 2018:
Large Post: Manhattan Post 87
Medium Post: Havre Post 11
Small Post: Twin Bridges Post 31

MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS:

Sports:
Sporter Individual: James Edison St Regis
Sporter Team: Mineral County Shooting Sports 1 St Regis

Precision:
Precision Individual: Elizabeth Lorentz Missoula
Precision Team: Hellgate Junior Shooting Sports 2 Missoula

Department Membership Recruiter of the Year:

Tom Killham.

Memorial Day:

Memorial Day is for veterans,” he said. “It’s an extremely important day for veterans to honor their dead. Other than Veterans Day, it’s the most important day of the year.”

“Other than Veterans Day, it’s the most important day of the year.” Don Bost, American Legion Post 16 Commander

There is an awful lot of veteran support in Central Montana, Bost said, and he appreciates the many volunteers who have helped make places such as the Veterans Memorial at Symmes Park and the Veterans Park a part of the community.

Park Post 23 Livingston wins Department’s Best Historical Record Book Contest

Next step - National Contest!

District 7 Commander Jim Howie presents the winner’s check and certificate to Post Historian Scott Burlingham, Ravalli County Sheriff’s Office, submitted by Corvallis Post 91.

Brent Peters, Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, submitted by Laurel Post 123

Park Post 23 Family!
Service Officer, Department of Montana

During the Department Convention in Great Falls last month, I provided Post Service Officer Training for the first time since I’ve been a Department Service Officer. I was extremely pleased to receive overwhelming support and more than 25 in attendance.

Not knowing what the attendance and interest would be, I kept the training down to 1 hour and covered only the highlights; however, knowing the interest level, I plan to incorporate this training into our District Meetings and future Department Conventions. I have even garnered support from our friends in the VHA Business Office to participate.

Some of the information that I provided is as follows from the Post Service Officer Guide:

**Background:** “The American Legion’s Post service officer (PSO) is a volunteer position within an individual Post. A PSO serves as a link between the veteran or dependent and a representative holding American Legion accreditation. An effective PSO understands benefits afforded to veterans and their dependents; however, the PSO is not authorized to file any claims on behalf of the claimant. PSOs serve as the valuable resources to veterans in local Posts to ensure that our veterans and their dependents receive their earned benefits.”

**Points of contact:** The PSO should have readily available the contact information for various resources in their local area that could be beneficial for veterans and their dependents. These resources can include, but are not limited to:

- American Legion department service officer (DSO)
- Local representatives with American Legion/state accreditation
- Agencies for senior citizens
- State and local nursing homes
- Homeless shelters
- State and national cemeteries
- Department of Veterans Affairs contact information, including phone numbers and website addresses

Other VA benefits that we discussed were Disability Compensation, Non-Service Connected Pension, Death Pension, VA Home Loans, Education benefits, Healthcare Enrollment. Brochures and business cards were given to each PSO for referral purposes.

The relationship that each PSO has with the DSO, as well as the local state/AL office is very important! To adequately assist the veterans and family members in your Post, you will need the help of the DSO and local Veteran Service Officer. We need your support and assistance as well.

The goal of our nine Montana Veterans Affairs Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependents 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
- Butte………………..(406) 533-0910
- Great Falls………………(406) 452-2265
- Havre…………………. (406) 265-4225
- Helena………………….. (406) 495-2080/2081/2082
- Kalispell………………. (406) 755-3795
- Lewistown……………(406) 538-3174
- Miles City…………….. (406) 232-1203
- Missoula………………..(406) 542-2501

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

David Armstrong honored at 23rd Keith Sell Tournament

David Armstrong was honored at the 23rd annual Keith Sell Tournament on June 30, 2018 for his military service as a World War II veteran. Over 75 years ago he was one of a band of intrepid military experimenters assigned to the United States Quartermaster Corps who volunteered to develop the use of dogs in the defense of our Nation engaged in World War II.

Camp Rimini War Dog Reception and Training Center was established near Helena in late 1942 as one of the four training centers for utilization of man’s best friend. Ultimately, personnel at Camp Rimini trained over 850 Sled and Pack dogs along with their handlers. In a little over two years, these teams spread out over the turbulent campaigns of the War in many inhospitable places, such as the Canadian Wilderness, New Foundland, in northern Europe such as in the Battle of the Bulge and ultimately even Asia.

After his experience in WWII Dave was to settle in Montana where he married, became one of the first directors of the Montana Veterans Affairs Division, serving Montana’s veterans in efforts to return to civilian life, but he was still caught up with his love of the Sled Dog.

Dave was instrumental in establishing the Governors Cup 500 Mile Sled Dog Race in the 1970’s, later known as the current Race To the Sky.

Dave is a long-time member of Post 2, (Lewis & Clark) Helena

Memorial Day at Montana State Veteran’s Cemetery

On February 3, 2018, Post 5 Legionnaire Frank Stoltz, WWII Veteran and POW, was presented the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation in Miles City. From left: Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl, US Representative Greg Gianforte, Frank Stoltz, and District 10 Commander Clancee Collins.

**Medal of Honor recipient remembered**

During Veterans Day service at the Lewistown City Cemetery, American Legion Post 16 Commander Don Bost honored Andrew J. Cummins, an 1898 Medal of Honor recipient known for “gallantly assisting in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire of the enemy” during the height of the Spanish American War.

“Honoring someone like [Cummins] is what Memorial Day is all about,” Bost said. A special Medal of Honor flag was placed for him that’s blue with 13 stars on it to represent the 13 original colonies.

It takes a lot of work to put these events together, Bost said, but it’s always worth it, and it’s an honor for him to do so as a veteran and as part of the American Legion.

“None of this happens without American Legion Post 16,” Bost said. “These kinds of events just don’t exist when there isn’t an American Legion.”

One reason for this is the funding. “It costs [the Legion] a certain amount of money to do this,” Bost said. “This year we had to replace 33 flags [around the cemeteries and Veterans Park]. It’s an ongoing project. We have a lot of people working on this, including the whole honor guard. They do an excellent job. Like I said, none of this happens without the American Legion.”

This year Lewistown native David Lynch was the guest keynote speaker; a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Navy who served on submarines and carriers. The host Veterans also rang a bell one minute to remember those who have served the country.

“This is a great time of year to remember our freedom and what we were able to achieve because of the brave men and women who have served our country. It’s a very special event.”
**DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2019**

<table>
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<th>Post or District</th>
<th>Goal Reached</th>
<th>Surpassed its Incentive Goal</th>
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<td>HQs POST 105 MEMBERS</td>
<td>At the recently concluded Department Convention in Great Falls Resolution #18-09 passed raising the dues amount for HQs Post 105 in Helena (not to be confused with Post 2 to Helena). This resolution calls for annual dues for Post 105 members to be raised to $47 effective 1 January 2019. For those who pay their 2019 dues prior to January 1, 2019, their 2019 dues are still $40. Remember, HQs Post 105 members may transfer into a local Post at their dues rate. For more information on transferring to a local Post, contact Department HQs at <a href="mailto:amlemt290@mtlegion.org">amlemt290@mtlegion.org</a> or call toll free 866-793-1257.</td>
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### District Standings

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### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**July 6, 2018**

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### Post Ten Largest Posts

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<tr>
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<td>BOZEMAN</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>GREAT FALLS</td>
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<td>BELGRADE</td>
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<td>STEVENSVILLE</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>KALISPETE</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
By Girls State Shop

While many Montana Legion Family members are aware of Girls State, very few have ever worked at it. What an amazing opportunity to empower girls and help develop future leaders. Also, the military service academies, ROTC, American Legion and ALA; political campaigns and elections for City and State offices; committee meetings; legislative days; a murder trial; talent show; several different tours and an inaugural Alumni Banquet. The week included prominent guest speakers as well as two-day hands-on Mock Trial (murder!) in the District Court House, Moot Court in the Montana Supreme Court and Legislative debates in the Capitol Chambers.

In our heated, polarized political climate, a heart-warming moment arrived when Elise Arntzen and Jill Cohener, together on stage, enlightened the Delegates about their college working relationship and personal friendship that transcends their opposing political party affiliations. Both shared in describing how they were in the Legislature working together for the good of all Montanans. That relationship was and still is based on finding common ground on which to relate and support issues while accepting and respecting each other’s political differences.

On Wednesday, Peggy Miller, American Legion Auxiliary National Northwest Regional Vice President gave an inspiring talk, “YOU ARE OUR FUTURE!” She began with a short history of the ALA. One seldom heard, yet sage piece of advice she shared was, “If the horse is dead, get off it and go on to something else.”

The Mock Trial murder case was conducted by Helena attorney, Jim Hunt and his staff of volunteers at the Lewis and Clark County District Courthouse. Moot Court activities were presented and mentored by Danielle Shyne, Senior Clerk for Justice McGrath and the other Clerks of the MT Supreme Court as the Delegates proceeded through an Appellate Court experience in the MT Supreme Court. MT Supreme Court Justice Beth Baker administered the Oath of Office and conducted a robing ceremony for all elected Girls State Supreme Court Justices in the Capitol’s Old Supreme Court Chambers. What a treat that was!

While the two different Courts were in session, the remaining Delegates participated in trial runs of the new Legislative voting machines introduced by Chief Clerk of the House, Lindsey Vroegeindewey and lively debate of their bills on the House and Senate floors in the Capitol. The week culminated in a personal visit from Senator John Tester, who spoke at the Capitol during lunch on Friday.

The Inauguration and Alumni Banquet Friday evening welcomed several Alumni with the earliest graduating Girls State in 1956! There was a display of historic Girls State artifacts that many found interesting. Awards and scholarships were presented by the Director. Guest speaker, Sarah Calhoun inspired everyone with her “Business for Dummies” story of how she launched Red Ants Pants and created her foundation to support leadership development for rural women. She then presented a check for $1,500 from the RAP Foundation to support Girls State rural Delegates. Wow and thank you, Sarah!

What did Montana Girls State mean to the delegates this year? From exit surveys in their own words:

“Girls State has been a very enriching and exciting experience. It’s full of fun activities with new people and life-like exercises in government and law. I would recommend any girl who is willing to challenge herself to go to Girls State.”

“I loved listening to great speakers. They inspired me to become a leader and learn more about government.”

“Girls State has been one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. I didn’t know what to expect, but this has certainly taught me a lot about myself and what I want to pursue in life.”

“The entire week, I’ve never been so surrounded by such smart, positive people in my entire life. The education I received about government was unlike anything I expected, especially when we got to ask first-hand questions to Senators, Governors, etc.”

Won’t you consider joining us next year to help put on this valuable education event for Montana young women? The dates for the next American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are June 9 - 15, 2019. More information on how you can help will be available in the Winter LegiMontana Legionnaire — August — October 2018

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls State 2018

The 4th on The 5th

SUBMITTED BY JAMES A. GROSSET, POST 202, COMMISSIONER, THE AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

On the 5th of July, Post CN20 was invited to celebrate Independence Day with the US Consulate General at his residence. There were many people there from Canadian businesses to politicians and celebrities. We did have the honor of meeting the US Ambassador to Canada Kelly Knight Craft, and Montana Lt Governor Mike Cooney. The weather was great, and the drinks and food were supplied in abundance.

The 4th on The 5th

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 plans that fit your needs and increasing risks. It’s easy. Just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Discount Card. Fill in your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Then check off the plans that interest you, and we will mail or fax the rest to you. You’ll find your completed coupon to:

American Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program

Address Insurance Trust Program

Post CN20 members: Robert Knappe, Mike Maie, Chong Studio, Commander Dar Frizzell, Shawn Ranahan, John Andrews and Post Adjutant Jim Grosset

MT Lt Gov Mike Cooney and Jim Grosset

US Consul Gen Tom Palaia

US Ambassador Craft

Unattended Veterans Ceremony pays final tributes to the forgotten

Quarterly, the Friends of the Yellowstone National Cemetery hold ceremonies to honor Veterans who's cremains have not been claimed by family. Some have been left on the shelves at the undertakers. Since it became Yellowstone National Park Cemetery, by VA direction, the Director also includes veterans who did not have an initial ceremony but have been placed in the cemetery.

Unattended Veterans Ceremony pays final tributes to the forgotten

Commander Klose reflects on the purpose of the day - to pay tribute to the forgotten
Girls State-Appellate Court
Girls State-flag raising on Carroll College Campus
Girls Nation Senators Andee Baker and Abby Lowry with Director Jen Dalrymple.
Girls State Mock “murder” trial—Swearing in witness
Girls State-Delegates ‘LIVE’ on tour at KRTV Helena
Violinist Nicole Deichl, delegate from Billings Senior High School, entertains the crowd at the 70th Anniversary Inauguration and Alumnae Banquet.
Girls State 2018 Elected Officers
Boys State General election Gov/Lt Gov Candidates (L-R) Jeremy Boatman and Jaeger Held versus Norris Blossom and Reed Miller (winning team).
Director Greg Pohle with John Louk Scholarship winner Jaeger Held (Billings Senior HS), and SAMSUNG Scholarship winner John Jennings (Three Forks HS)
Attorney General Tim Fox receives the 2018 John Louk Distinguished Alumni Award. L to R: Greg Pohle, Tim Fox, Jeff Louk (John’s son)
Model City awarded to Tomahawk SAMSUNG Scholarship winner John Jennings (Three Forks HS) and Chairman Don Jones.
L-R: Lt. Gov Mike Cooney, BS Lt Gov Reed Miller (Kalispell HS), BS Gov Norris Blossom (Helena High), Governor Steve Bullock
Girls State- In The House
Girls State Mock “murder” trial—Instructors & Players
Exceptional door art by Aurora Reesman from Corvallis High School.
ALA Girls State 2018 — Montana State Capitol Steps
I just want to open this by telling all of you what a great convention we had in Great Falls. Thank you to everyone for having the faith in me to elect me your Department of Montana President for the 2018-2019 year. What an honor to be the President of such a great organization.

This year my theme is “Above and Beyond.” This stands for above past differences and on to serving our veterans. This goes hand in hand with National’s theme of “Service Not Self.” This year we want to promote goodwill. As always membership is a major goal. We have talked a lot about what we can do to bolster up our membership. In my opinion we need to make sure that we are making members, both new and old, feel welcome and needed. I’m sure that goodwill towards them will go a long way in attaining this. Everyone wants to feel needed.

Remember, when you get a new member that you invite them to a meeting. At that meeting, make sure that you explain what is going on and what we are doing so that they feel like they are a part of the meeting and not an outsider. It is also very important that we let the community know who we are and what we do. Promote an atmosphere of goodwill to everyone. Always remember that we are making members, both new and old, feel welcome and needed. I’m sure that goodwill towards them will go a long way in attaining this. Everyone wants to feel needed.

I look forward to working with all of you this coming year. If you have any questions or anything that you want to discuss with me, just give me a call. I may be the President, but this is your organization. We all need to work together in harmony to accomplish all that we need to do for our veterans. Make sure that you are always on the lookout for ways that we can serve our veterans.

Veterans are the reason we exist. Let’s take care of them. It can be as simple as cookies at the VA clinics to driving them to appointments. Whatever the need is we need to make sure that we are doing all that we can to help. Thanks again to all of you.
Northwestern Division National Vice President visits Montana

BY SANDY RUNKEL, LEWIS & CLARK UNIT 2, HELENA

Montana was treated to a visit from NW Division National VP Peggy Miller of Wyoming (center). Her visit to Montana included a speech and luncheon with ALA Montana Girls State Delegates, a tour of Fort Harrison VA hospital, and ending with a trip to the shelter at Fort Harrison VA cemetery where she enjoyed seeing all the quilts that have been donated for use in winter weather. Auxiliary members accompanying her were 2017-2018 Department President Kathy Long (right), and Sandy Runkel, President Unit 2 (left).

National Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck gets a hug from Great Falls Voyagers Mascot during the June 21, 2018, American Legion Baseball Night military appreciation game.

Unit 1 Butte-Silver Bow

Members of The American Legion Auxiliary, Butte-Silver Bow Unit 1 attended Memorial Day Celebrations held at the Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse. The sculpture, called the “Jungle Fighter,” was erected in 1943 to honor those fighting in World War II.

Memorial Day honor — Big Flat Unit 109

Decorating deceased Veterans and Auxiliary Members graves has been a very special part of the Big Flat Unit 109 Auxiliary for many years. Unit 109 members consider it an honor to decorate over 100 graves in three cemeteries.
MONTANA JOINS THE 40&8 IN 1922


by RICHARD K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDENT

Part 4 of 4-Part Series

In 1947, American newspaper columnist Drew Pearson was so moved by the conditions in war torn Europe that he called on Americans for donations of food, clothing, medical and other supplies to aid the plight of France and Italy. He proposed a plan for a train to cross America collecting car loads of donated supplies as it went. The “Friendship Train,” as it was called, left Los Angeles on November 7, 1947, with eight empty boxcars. The response from across America was overwhelming and on November 17, 1947, the “Friendship Train” arrived in New York with some 700 Box Cars loaded with donated goods worth $40 million. The supply items were sent to the region. As the aid began to pour in, a French veteran of WWI and railroad worker named Andre Picard was so grateful for America’s outpouring of generosity that he formulated a plan and invited the French Veterans Association to reply with a 49 car “Merci (thank you) Train” of WWI era boxcars, each filled with mementos from the French people and sent to America. The “Merci” Train arrived in New York Harbor on February 3, 1949, and as the “Gratitude Train,” as it came to be called in America, crossed the nation. One box car tent was donated to each of the 48 States with one box car from the 40 & 8 National Boxcar Association to annually raise funding to support the many, many activities of the 40 & 8 National Boxcar Association in support of our communities across this great nation. The National Box Car Association (NBCA) was founded in 1965 as an affiliate of “La Societe de Forty & Eight” with the purpose of raising money serving the Box Car as the symbol of the 40 & 8. Over time, locomotives were added to the symbolic rolling stock of the NBCA since they were connected and needed to haul the Box Cars. The National Box Car Association set goals of raising contributions to the NBCA for its Children’s Homes and Orphanages. Expanding its efforts, the NBCA supports special projects at the annual Pronenade Nationale (National Convention). A party for special children is held in the host city where the children and their escorts are treated to lunch, train rides on visiting locomotives and entertainment by the NBCA HOBO Clowns, bands, etc. Also, a monetary donation is made to the host city’s local VFWs Hospital or Clinic. Other donations go to the National Indian Nurses Training Trust Fund, the Charles Arley Charity, the Boys & Girls Clubs, and programs requiring assistance, such as the National 40&8 Membership Committee, 40&8 Magazine, Law Officer of the Year program, and many others. All funding contributions to the NBCA are distributed in the same year it is raised. Funding comes through the sales of Box Car Pins, Crew Cards, and Associate Cards. Crew cards are sold only to members of the 40&8 and anyone wishing to donate to the NBCA. The Box Car Program is currently in its fifth year of a five-year series of NBCA Commemorative Coins. When completed, the series will represent a locomotive pulling three Box Cars and trailing a Caboose. Each coin signifies, in some way, a connection to the symbolic Railroad image of the 40 & 8, the service to America, and the programs of the 40&8. The sale of these items represents an integral part of the financial success of the National Box Car Association. Funds remaining in the State support the maintenance of Montana’s MERCi CAR located at the Montana Military Museum, Fort William Henry Harrison, west of Helena. Membership information: Grande Du Montana currently has five Vooters. They are: Voiture 262, Anaconda/Butte; Voiture 569, Missoula; Voiture 569, Billings; Voiture 569, Helena; and Voiture 922, Montana Highline. If you are interested in joining this 95-year-old honor society dedicated to service, freedom and patriotic duty, please call 406.458.9847 or e-mail myfun51@msn.com.
Constitution Changes Errata

**What is the Big K and New Changes to the Program**

Often, I am asked what the Big K is, and since the new Ways & Means Committee has made changes to the Big K, it is time to reframe our members with the Big K. The Big K (or Big 1000) is a fundraising mechanism for the Department, Districts, and Posts of the Department of Montana.

**What are the benefits of membership?**
- Early Bird Drawing at the Fall Conference Banquet for $300 (this is a change)
- $600 per month drawing for six months – first drawing in January, last at Department Convention in June
- $500 drawing on Legion Birthday in March
- $1800 drawing at Department Convention in June
- $400 per month drawing for six months – first drawing in January, last at Department Convention in June
- First chance at renewal for subsequent year
- Posts, Units, and Squadrons may also purchase a Big K membership.

**Membership is limited to 1000 members.**

**How do I sign up?**

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.
A Sons of the Legion experience
by DEAN GILBERT, HISTORIAN, PARK POST 23
During the month of January, Roy Davis, Sons of the Legion Commander, Post 23, received a call from a John Green in Arizona, stating that he was making a visit to Livingston, Mont. to review some of his grandfather’s background in Park County and that his grandfather had been a member of The American Legion, Park Post 23. His grandfather, Leonard Green had been the Historian for the Post and his question was, “were there any records still remaining that his grandfather had created?” Roy told him that he would check into the request. Roy then called the current historian, Dean Gilbert, with the request and “yes, we have his book in the archives.”

Leonard Green, from Post 23, had documented the Post from its inception in 1919, at the end of WWI through WWII when he had served. He then joined The American Legion in Livingston, MT, participating in the different offices. He served as Post Commander, finishing his Legion career as Post Historian. He mentioned that in 1919, the Legion purchased a building across the street from the Northern Pacific Rail Road Depot, 113 West Park Street. The office was on the 2nd floor with a meat market housed underneath at ground level. It was easy for the returning military to find and check in. The Legion could help them find a place to live and locate a job. It was also a place to socialize, have dances, and get something to eat on occasions. The Legion also tracked the returning warriors making sure that they could re-establish themselves back into the local lifestyle as a civilian.

The scrapbook, that Leonard had assembled, covered the history of Park County and Livingston Montana from its creation in 1889. The history told of the various wars, whom had reported for duty, and that his grandfather had been a member of The American Legion also tracked the returning warriors making easy for the returning military to find and check in. The Legion could help them find a place to live and locate a job. It was also a place to socialize, have dances, and get something to eat on occasions. The Legion also tracked the returning warriors making sure that they could re-establish themselves back into the local lifestyle as a civilian.

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Pictured are Len Albright, Rick Fink, Tara Prescott, Dallas Thompson, and Randy Kemp.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis with the Carlisle family, Heather Carlisle, Christine Jones, James D.C., Kenneth Jones; Front Row: Riley & James W. Jones, Evelyn Carlisle – at an awards ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

On June 18, 2018 the Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, presented COL Heather Carlisle with the Defense Superior Service Medal in recognition of her service in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Secretary Mattis also honored Heather’s family and their service, noting her father Jim’s prior service in the Air Force along with her sister Lt Col Christine and brother-in-law Col Ken Jones current service in the Air Force. Secretary Mattis went on to emphasize the fact that a high percentage of military service members come from long traditions of family military service and service to their communities. Heather’s family highlights this fact as her parents, Jim and Evelyn, are both retired school teachers and long-time supporters of the American Legion among other community service organizations. All seven Carlisles pictured and recognized at the ceremony are members of The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion.
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

Liberty County American Legion Post #88
Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Liberty Co. Community 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) 453-3822

AMERICAN LEGION POST #4
OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM
HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN
1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT

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

Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary
American Legion of Montana
Welcome
Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM
Dinner 3rd Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
 Legion Hall is across the street from Ramada-Copper King

AMERICAN LEGION Gallatin Post #2
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

American Legion Post #2
Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM
September thru May
at the Elks Lodge
500 1st Ave South
Great Falls MT
(406) 453-3822

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Welcome To American Legion Club 30
We invite all veterans to stop in and support YOUR club.

This Space Available

This Space Available

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