Ravalli & Corvallis Legion Family
by Greg Marose

Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society presented their 28th Annual Veterans Day Observance on 10 November 2017. The program began at the Doughboy Memorial with members of Hamilton Post 47 Color Guard, a three-round volley rifle salute by the Marine Corps League Detachment #937, and taps by Ruth Cook, Post 47. The program continued with the laying of the Wreaths by AL Post 47 Auxiliary, A.L.

Post 91 Auxiliary, Corvallis and the Bitterroot Valley Historical Society, and the Observance then continued inside the museum. Post 47 presented the POW/MIA Ceremony by Post members, Monica Ephron, and Gregory Marose. Guest speakers were Deborah Frandsen of Sen. Jon Tester’s office, and Kate Hahn, Montana Veteran Service Officer. Coffee, cake and punch were served afterwards.

Townsend Post 42 Community Program
by Shawn Dole, Historic, Medea Caze, Dept. Cazar CBY

Townsend Post 42 hosted a community program beginning with the presentation of colors, a prayer by Post Chaplain Dean Powers and singing of God Bless America. They were honored to host keynote speaker Brigadier General Bryan F. Fox, Montana Deputy Adjutant General, who gave a wonderful colorful history presentation about Montana’s Air National Guard 70th Anniversary. The General’s wife, Laurie, accompanied him for the evening and was a true pleasure to converse with.

After the keynote presentation, the 44 community attendees were invited to stay for chili for a small donation, with all attending Veterans and military eating at no cost.

Veterans Day is to thank all who have served, those presently serving and those who continue to serve veterans, children, the community and American Legion Post 42 members.

Gallatin Post 14 ‘Simply Remember’
by Leo Ausman and Delma Thompson
Bozeman Post 14’s annual Veterans Day services were held at the mini Vietnam War Wall located in Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. Services began at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month following the Post’s annual breakfast of sausage, eggs and pancakes served at Post 14 Legion Hall. At 10:55 am it was still snowing heavily and at 11:01 am it quit and the sun came out. It was nice the rest of the day. Pictured is Post 14 Color Guard portion of the Honor Guard.

Miles City Post 5 at Eastern MT State Veterans Cemetery
by Carol Prahl, Post 5

Helping raise 55 large flags at the Eastern Montana State Veteran Cemetery on Nov. 11, 2017 are: second from left, Miles City Post 5 CDR Bob Prahl; center is volunteer Jerry Schlepp, and Carol Prahl, Post 5 Flag Chair.
I want to congratulate everyone for your hard work on membership. As I write this article, the target is currently 80 percent. The Department surpassed the 75 percent target by finishing with 79 percent.

Nine of our Districts and 71 of our Posts made or exceeded the 75 percent target. Many others were very close. There are four Districts and nearly 60 Posts that have already passed the current target of 80 percent. We have less than 20 Posts that are well off pace and have already passed the current target of 80 percent. Let’s really push early in this new calendar year and put Montana Legionnaires a step in the right direction.

There are four Districts and nearly 60 Posts that have already met their target, some are close, and some need a lot of help. This brings me to a concern that I have regarding Posts that have trouble with retaining members, finding new members, and in some cases have moved. When you receive your address labels from the Department Vice Commander, please send the DONATION CARD portion with it. When you receive your address labels, we have moved. When you receive your address labels, this program is the “Legionnaire Marine Program.”

As you no doubt know by now it is that time of the year again where the Department sends out a call for donations for American Legion programs. Although, I am sure there are many members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail, this program is the second largest source of revenue for the American Legion of Montana, without these funds it would be next to impossible to do what we do around the state. This program also acts as a great tool for members addresses current; we probably receive more address changes through the label program than we do through Post Adjutants. We also receive numerous post membership questionnaires, but is a very important tool for Post, District and Department Adjutants to learn about The American Legion that they will be leading.

As I write this, the target is currently 80 percent. Let’s really push early in this new calendar year and put Montana Legionnaires a step in the right direction.
The Story of the Four Chaplains

SUBMITTED BY KAREN SHIPLEY
INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION WEBSITE

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943 the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. Once a luxury cruise liner, the ship had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters, escorted by Coast Guard Cutters (CCG) Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche. Earlier in the day, the CCG Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. German U-boats were constantly prowling the sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk. The Dorchester was only 150 miles from its destination; however, the captain ordered all men on board to sleep in their clothing and to keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship’s hold disregarded the order because of the engine’s heat, while others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester slipped beneath the Atlantic’s icy waters. Tragically, the torpedo hit also knocked out power in addition to radio contact with the three escort ships. Fortunately, CCG Comanche saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and rescued 97 survivors. The CCG Escanaba also circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, the CCG Tampa, continued on, rescuing the remaining two ships.

By 3 a.m., a survivor U-223 submarine approached the convoy on the surface, and fired a man of three torpedoes. The Dorchester was struck by one on the starboard side amid ship, far below the water line. When the ship’s Captain was alerted that the ship was taking water rapidly and sinking, he gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester slipped beneath the Atlantic’s icy waters.

Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live,” said Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. “I could hear them crying, pleading, praying,” Bednar recalls. “I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.” Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, expressed his concern to Goode. “Never mind,” Goode responded. “I have two pair.” The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized Rabbi Goode wasn’t conveniently carrying two pair of gloves, and that the rabbi had already given away his own gloves and jacket to another sailor.

By this time, most of the men were topside, where the chaplains opened a Mess tent. By this time, most of the men were topside, where the chaplains opened a Mess tent. The chaplains were exhausting all their efforts to comfort and inspire the survivors in nearby rafts. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. “This we know

From afar
This is the way
Neath the sky
God is nigh.

Oct/Nov/Dec 2017

3 ALLEN, JOSEPH, 11/01/17 – Vietnam – US Army 4-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge
3 ANDERSON, GEORGE, 10/01/17 – Unknown – US Army 28-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
3 BLADE, ARTHUR, 11/12/17 – Korea – US Army – 57-year member of Post 101, Helena
3 BROSUI, GEORGE, 11/07/17 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 119, Billings
3 DREYER, STAY, 8/14/17 – WWII – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 119, Billings
3 FALLANG, ROBERT, 10/24/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 4-year member of Post 100, Helena
3 GILLOT, FRED E, 10/27/17 – Vietnam – US Navy – 8-year member of Post 13, Saint Regis
3 HART, ORIN, 7/15/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 2-year member of Post 19, Big Timber
3 HILLIARD, JAMES, 7/18/17 – Korea – USAF – 4-year member of Post 341, Great Falls
3 HUDSON, DELBERT, 10/19/17 – Korea – US Marine 11-year member of Post 23, Livingston
3 JACOBS, THEODORE RAY, 8/17/17 – Vietnam – USAF 13-year member of Post 27, Missoula
3 JASSEK, JOHN, 8/14/17 – Korea – US Army – 5-year member of Post 27, Missoula
3 LOVEL, MICHAEL, 12/17/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 43-year member of Post 2, Helena
3 MACBROOK, ALVIN, Unknown – Vietnam – 13-year member of Post 113, Arlee
3 MANNSON, PAUL, 7/17/17 – Unknown – US Army – 38-year member of Post 45, Hillsdale
3 MOORE, HOYLE, 11/5/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 45-year member of Post 17, Great Falls
3 NELSON, WORTH, 9/19/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 4-year member of Post 138, Ronan
3 OKLAND, OSCAR, Unknown – Korea – Branch 37-year member of Post 114, Fairview
3 OZDAN, OLIVIER W, 12/1/17 – Vietnam – Unknown 10-year member of Post 18, Roundup
3 OMASTERS, DAVID, 10/10/17 – Vietnam – US Navy 8-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
3 PETERSON, JOHN, 10/10/17 – WWII – Unknown – 29-year member of Post 2, Helena
3 RASLIER, DARWIN A, 9/17/17 – WWII – US Marine 15-year member of Post 42, Townsend
3 SAVILLE, ROY E, 9/27/17 – Vietnam – USAF – 24-year member of Post 26, Fort Benton
3 SHELHAMER, KENNETH, Unknown – Vietnam – US Navy 16-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
3 SINNICKA, PAULA, 11/17/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 6-year member of Post CN20, Calgary
3 SONNIE, KENNETH, 8/25/17 – WWII – US Merchant Marine 7-year member of Post 23, Livingston
3 STEWART, ROGER N, SR, Unknown – Vietnam – USAF 14-year member of Post 100, Park City
3 STROBIE, HERBERT, 10/19/17 – Korea – US Army – 2-year member of Post 52, Thompson Falls
3 ULBRICH, MAX, Unknown – Vietnam – US Army – 12-year member of Post 131, Alberton
3 WILCOXON, HAROLD, 8/30/17 – WWII – US Navy – 71-year member of Post 11, Williston
3 WOOD, CHARLES S., 11/17/17 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post CN20, Calgary

Oratorical Due Date Reminders

Post to finish no later than 25 Feb 2018
District to finish no later than 4 March 2018
Department is 10 March in Great Falls at Great Falls College, 2100 16th Avenue South
National Finals 13-15 April 2018

Memorials

Donor Fund In Memory of:

Jim & Venee Bondy ................TFA ................................................Lois Schmitt
Merv & Patty Gunderson ..........TFA ................................................Lois Schmitt
Gary White ........................TFA ................................................Lois Schmitt

TFA = Temporary Financial Assistance Fund

Montana Legionnaire — February – April 2018
6. I ordered a package containing the Discounted Companion Airline Certificate, but I haven’t received the post card requesting verification of my address.

5. When will I receive my directory?

4. Can anyone purchase a directory?

3. I would like to verify and update my information.

2. How do I know my information will only be used for directory purposes?

1. I received an e-mail/postcard/phone call from a company asking for my personal information. They said they were working on a directory for The American Legion Department of Montana. Is this a legitimate project, or is it a scam?

Frequently Asked Questions By Members

We have partnered with PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) to produce our new members directory. PCI is a company located in Dallas, TX that publishes directories for educational institutions, fraternal organizations and military organizations across the nation. This project allows The American Legion Department of Montana to receive important updates to our database, including new members and how we can better serve you and future members.

The Department of Montana has a contractual agreement with PCI that states:

PCI will receive a fee for its services and the profits will be used to support the certificate program.

B. Basics of the certificate program:

The Discounted Companion Airline Certificate allows the holder to purchase two round trip tickets for a discounted rate. The certificate is valid for 200 US Destinations (continental US).

The Certificate is:

- 200 US Destinations (continental US)
- NO BLACKOUT DATES
- 40 Plus Airline Carriers
- 24/7 Online Booking
- 7-Day Advance Purchase
- Frequent Flier Miles for Both Passengers
- Low Price Guarantee
- Fully Transferable

7. Can I choose some or all of my information not to be printed in the directory?

When you call to update your information, you can tell the representative what information you would prefer to have excluded. You may also communicate this information to the PCI customer service desk at 1.800.982.1590 or to the Department of Montana.

Call the PCI customer service help desk at 1.800.982.1590, and they will take care of this for you.
Service Officer, Department of Montana

As most of you have noticed, we have experienced quite a few changes in Technology. Some of these technological “improvements” are more helpful than others. I will share a few of the options that are available to assist veterans with the application of benefits. I will preface this article by saying that Technology does not replace the benefit of working with an accredited Veterans Service Officer.

If you visit The American Legion Web site, you will see a Claims Assistance program called the Legion’s Benefit Calculator. This program is very useful, and should be used as guidance through the information necessary for the benefits application process. It will prompt the veteran to input personal and service information which will lead to applicable available benefits.

Another program is The American Legion Claims Coach which is an organizational tool to help clarify the process of VA benefits application. The App does not replace personal contact with service officers, but it can help veterans understand the process, gather the right documentation for meetings and map out the steps in the journey. The App does not automatically set appointments for the user, nor does it directly file forms with VA. The claims Coach is an educational and organizational tool that streamlines the filing process with VA. The claims Coach is an educational and organizational tool that streamlines the filing process with VA.

The VA offers www.ebenefits.va.gov and myhealthevet which is an organizational tool to connect to websites, but the Claims Coach, once downloaded onto your phone or tablet, is your own personal, safe and secure organizer.

The App does not replace personal contact with service officers, but it can help veterans understand the claims process, gather the right documentation for meetings and map out the steps in the journey. The App does not automatically set appointments for the user, nor does it directly file forms with VA. The claims Coach is an educational and organizational tool that streamlines the filing process with VA.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Officers staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependents with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

For additional information on this, and other VA Education programs, please visit www.va.gov. In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices throughout the state. We can also assist you with questions specific to your area.

Thank you for your service to our great Country!

Long Time Coming

By WHITNEY BERMEHE | CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER SYNOPSIS OF ARTICLE Below is a synopsis of a CHRONICLE article.

This project has been over a decade in the making. In 2006, Don Derby, a Vietnam veteran, started spearheading an effort to create a kiosk to help people locate the names of veterans on Bozeman’s Vietnam Wall. That goal is now a reality. “It’s been a long time coming”, Derby said.

Recently, Derby showed a group of veterans the new kiosk, which sits against a shelter on the north side of the veterans memorials at Bozeman’s Sunset Hills Cemetery. At the kiosk a computer helps direct people to the location of the names of the 38,479 veterans who are listed on the Vietnam War Memorial wall at the cemetery location. The computer will also help direct visitors to the location of the more than 16,000 people, including about 2,400 veterans buried at Sunset Hills. The kiosk was a joint effort coming”, Derby said.

Recently, Derby showed a group of veterans the new kiosk, which sits against a shelter on the north side of the veterans memorials at Bozeman’s Sunset Hills Cemetery. At the kiosk a computer helps direct people to the location of the names of the 38,479 veterans who are listed on the Vietnam War Memorial wall at the cemetery location. The computer will also help direct visitors to the location of the more than 16,000 people, including about 2,400 veterans buried at Sunset Hills. The kiosk was a joint effort between Derby and Sunset Hills Cemetery Veterans Memorial Fund, The American Legion, city cemetery staff, the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and veteran Dallas Thompson.

First Vice Commander of American Legion Post 14, Len Albright, President of the Friends of Sunset hills, Veterans Memorial, Don Derby and local TV crew discuss the new cemetery and Vietnam Wall locator kiosk.

MONTANA JOINS THE 40&8 IN 1922

Grande Voiture Du Montana: La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux.

BY RAYMOND K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDENT

Part 2 of 3-Part Series

A special original call for the 40&8 organization of the Grande Voiture Du Montana was sent out by B. J. Conrad, Correspondent of Voiture Local 119 of Winnett, Montana, to allLocale Voitures in Montana. Locale Voitures were present in Winnett, Lewistown, Billings, Glendive, Miles City, Helena, Butte, Deer Lodge, Glasgow, Havre, Kalispell, Great Falls, Butte, Anaconda, Livingston, Red Lodge, Hamilton, Chinook, and Libby. The Call was for a meeting on April 1, 1922 in Lewistown, Montana of the Grande Voiture Du Montana of the “La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux”. This was nearly 96 years ago.

Forward to more recent times: At The American Legion Fall Convention 2016, the 40&8 Voiture Du Montana held a Grande Promenade in Helena, Montana with the following results. Less than a dozen Voyagers reported in. This is out of a registered state-wide membership of 96 to include those renewed, non-renewals, and those lost due to bad addresses, etc. The Grande Cheminot during the 99th American Legion Convention in Billings, Montana saw approximately twenty voyagers attending to the business of the Grand.

The following report was presented to the respondents:

1. Grande Du Montana has five Voitures with a total of nearly 100. The highest number voyager (members) in the Grande was 400 in the year 1960. The Grande has lost membership over the past 4 decades due to death, age, or other factors.

2. Grande Du Montana currently participates in recognized programs of the 40&8 National. They are: Public Relations in the form of Le Clarion, currently a section in the Montana Legionnaire, Children and Youth in the form of the Child Welfare Foundation, The Nurses Training Club Program, the Box Car Association, Americanism, VARs (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services), the Prisoner of War-Missing-In-Action program, and the Carville Cabin. Stay tuned for Part 3 of our 40&8 Series.

Membership information: Grande Du Montana currently has five Voitures. They are: Voiture 262, Anaconda; Butte; Voiture 467, Missoula; Voiture 560, Billings; Voiture 765, Helena; and Voiture 922, Montana Highline. If you are interested in joining this 95-year-old honor society dedicated to justice, freedom and democracy, please call 406-438-3947 or e-mail myfun5@msn.com.

Ravalli Post 47 Good Citizenship Citation Awarded to Eagle Scout

BY GREG MARESE

Commander Gregory Marose, Sr., Ravalli American Legion Post 47, attended Boy Scout Troop 76’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Timothy C. Morin. The Court was held on Sunday October 29, 2017 at St. Francis Catholic Church Pastoral Life Center, Hamilton, MT. Greg presented The American Legion Good Citizenship Citation to Tim upon his attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Tim’s service project was making 50 wooden white crosses to be placed at Veteran gravesites for Memorial Day and repairing many others.

myhealthevet.gov. The ebenefits web page is extremely useful in assisting veterans gather information on all VA benefit programs, as well as requesting copies of service documents, requesting Home Loan Eligibility Certificates, complete changes of address and direct deposit information, and checking the status of a VA claim, etc. Myhealthevet is another very useful web page that allows the veteran to access information about their own healthcare, order medication prescriptions, check lab results, and communicate through secure messaging with your VHA primary provider. I would highly encourage all veterans to register with these two web sites, and know personally how helpful they can be.

These are just a few technological advancements available to veterans in assisting with the VA benefits programs, but in no way do they replace the help of an accredited Veterans Service Officer. In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices throughout the state. We will assist you with all the paperwork necessary to apply for VA benefits, and will represent you as an advocate through the claims process.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Officers staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

For additional information on this, and other VA Education programs, please visit www.va.gov. In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices throughout the state. We can also assist you with questions specific to your area.

Thank you for your service to our great Country!

2018 POOL (ZONE) & STATE DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL

Sunday, March 11, 2018

9:00 am

(Students must arrive by 8:00 am)

Great Falls College, 2100 16th Ave. S.

Great Falls, Montana


One high school student from the Department Oratorical will represent Montana.

For further information, contact: Jeff Holmes, Chairman
e-mail: broncojeff7@hotmail.com or text: (406) 350-1347

Reference information at http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2018

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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 been able to negotiate special rates that save our members an average of 15%, and in some cases up to 40% off what you pay for similar coverage elsewhere. Get the insurance you need at a price you can afford. Even if you are over 80 years old (yep, you can use our Life and Health programs), family members may also benefit from your policy. Plus, the plan is fully digital, and increasing ids. It’s easy, just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program’s full range of products, and let our dedicated staff and experts educate you on the needs of Legionnaires and their families.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program

Fill in your name, address, phone number, and email below. Click the button to sign up and receive your policy. You will never look back.

Thanks to the group buying power of millions of Legionnaires like you, we have been able to negotiate special rates that save our members an average of 15%, and in some cases up to 40% off what you pay for similar coverage elsewhere. Get the insurance you need at a price you can afford. Even if you are over 80 years old (yep, you can use our Life and Health programs), family members may also benefit from your policy. Plus, the plan is fully digital, and increasing ids. It’s easy, just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program’s full range of products, and let our dedicated staff and experts educate you on the needs of Legionnaires and their families.

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Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program
American Legion Uniform Cap Etiquette

The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved for the Legion emblem, city, county, district or state lettering.

• If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:
  A. additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post, or to an officer title (such as "Post Commander").
  B. cap insignias or badges (for Past or Present officers).
  C. consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military service decorations.

Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.

The Legion Uniform Cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

A member is considered to be in uniform only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district of same while in marching order or standing guard. At the graveside, the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service.

The cap should be worn in a place of worship uncovered during the entire service, and will be covered when returning to and seated in the pews, the cap should be removed.

Legion Posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the entrance to the pew(s) and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service.

At the conclusion of the service, upon command, the Post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship, and recover after marching through the door.

Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service, and will recover after leaving the place of worship.

When at a funeral, the cap shall be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard).

At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service in cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.

In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent rever- ence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.

Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

Orotarial Due Date Reminders

• Post to finish no later than 25 Feb 2018
• District to finish no later than 4 March 2018
• Department is due in Great Falls by March 10, 2018
• Dept. Orator winner Certification due to National on or before March 18
• National Finals 13-15 April 2018

Education Due Date Reminders

• 7 & 8 Grade Essay Contest starts Sept 16th and must be postmarked by March 15, 2018.
• High School Essay Contest starts Sept 16th and must be postmarked by March 15, 2018.
• Senior Survey must be postmarked by April 15, 2018.
• Junior High Survey must be postmarked by April 15, 2018.

Please send all entries to:
Jeff Holmes
Box 723
Harlowton, MT 59036
bronce17@hotmail.com

Natl’l Commander’s Goals
Leadership Teams

Below are the goals National Commander Denise Rohan reported on at the national Membership Workshop in August 2017, and several times since taking office. These are goals and programs that will positively affect your Post’s efforts with Department membership. They are part of your “tool box” to utilize:

1. Increase Retention Rates by 5% in each Department.
2. Contact NOW the Legionnaires who routinely pay after December 31, well before that date.
3. The cost to National with Renewal notice cycles is approximately $250,000.
4. Transfer members out of Holding Posts into Post Homes.
5. Invite the community for Veterans Day with "SalutingService," #Legion, #VeteransDay on social media.
6. Apply for 100% Family Ribbons for reaching 100% membership with a goal of 1,500 Ribbons in 2018 vs. 841 Ribbons in 2017 worldwide.
7. Post Excellence Awards with goal of 5% increase in each Department.
8. Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) goal of 100% for each Department. Make sure you get your CPR in by March 15, 2018.
9. Get involved with Ribbon Programs.
10. Get involved with Job Fairs.
11. Get involved with Transition Assistance Programs (Active, Guard/Reserve).
12. Get to know your Family Readiness Group Leaders (Active, Guard/Reserve).
13. Get to know the State Adjutant General.
14. If there are Forts/Bases in your state—Get to know them.

Many Posts throughout the state have a current or past sponsor Boy Scout Troops. Many of our members were or still are Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. For those who may not know, the motto of both organiz- ations is “Be Prepared” which is ingrained in the minds of the scouts’ members as a way for them to be ready for just about anything — accidents, floods, storms, earthquakes, or other disasters; and family, friends or strangers medical emergency, or even just getting lost. You name it, you will find Scouts of all ages over the world actively preparing to deal with these situations in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Sometimes as veterans, we become complacent due to all we have learned through hard experience during our time in the Service. Some of our mem- bers have had more “field experience” than others; however, we always need to stay sharp and be prepared for anything. In real life, I am dismayed at the attitude displayed by some members who responded when I asked them about preparedness for their Post — as one said, “I’ll tell you when I see a natural disaster, that is the time I’ll take action.” I can handle anything. I don’t need to prepare for it.” That bravado may serve them fine but could be detrimental to their Post and its members. The motto “Be Prepared” should be an emergency at all times and a Post as a whole is not adequately prepared.

For example, ask the members of Bozeman and Paradise, who have been burned out by forest fires in the Manhattan, whose members never thought their Post would be flooded. There was much all of them did not know beforehand that could have eased the path of disaster if some emergency plans were in place. It is essential to have an emergency plan in place that everyone is aware of and know what to do when the Post or its members are in danger of an emergency or disaster suddenly strike and the Post as a whole is not adequately prepared.

Let us say the emergency or disaster is on a larger scale and the members themselves are affected or displaced. What plans does your Post have to place them in a position to deal with it financially? Even a good insurance policy does not cover everything.

This past year saw many Montana citizens affected by floods, tornadoes and wildfires. Thank- fully, few of our members were seriously impacted (aside from most of us breathing very unhealthy smoke for months!) Rather than learning lessons the hard way, as the saying goes, “an ounce of pre- vention is worth a pound of cure.” What pre- ventative steps can you take to alleviate, preserve, and protect your Post facility and its members from the awful disaster in the bringing? When was the last time you or your Post donated to the NEF? In 2018, resolve to be prepared and ready for anything. Go to http://serve.mt.gov/ready-montana for links to free preparedness planning resources, or contact me at karenwsem1@gmail.com if you have preparedness planning questions you need answered.

American Legion Uniform Cap

Montana Legionnaire — February – April 2018 Page 7
Despite flight delays, National Commander Rohan finally arrived in Montana still in time to enjoy dinner at Townsend Post 42 with 62 happy attendees and Mayor Mike Evans presenting her with a symbolic Key to the City. The next morning in Helena National Commander Rohan met with various Montana National Guard individuals to include MT Adjutant General, Major General Matthew T. Quinn and with the VA Director and Veterans Service Officer before attending the Fall Montana Department Conference. At the Conference, she gave an inspirational address to both The American Legion members and Auxiliary attendees in separate sessions. During her visit, the Commander took some time to stroll through the Fort Harrison Military Museum and the State Capitol. Her days were filled with meet and greets, shared meals, receptions and banquets, tours and sights shared with many gracious Montanans; Department Commander’s reception hosted by Helena Post 2, dinner at Clancy’s Legal Tender, Past Department Commander’s breakfast, Legion Family Banquet, God and Country Prayer Service, Anaconda Post 21 lunch, and a Berkley Pit tour. I am happy to say Commander Rohan arrived home safe and thoroughly Montana tuckered out. Thank you to all who made her visit so informative and enjoyable. If you want to view additional photos and revisit memories of her time with us visit her Aide’s photo archive link at http://imageevent.com/nationalcommander/departmentofmontana.
check the information Jennifer Dalrymple sent out that we have more girls enrolled than last year. Please in your vehicle could help someone else if you felt in your vehicle. Could you stop and help a motorist this, so you can stop and think about what you have.\n
Over the Christmas holiday, Lowell and I went to Missoula and on the way home; we stopped to help a birthday. Help with the oratory competition for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion Americanism essays into Stacy Bear. Do a Valentine party for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons that mean for Montana? I believe that means more Better working relationship. How can we do this? If communication between the organizations and a that mean for Montana? I believe that means more Better working relationship. How can we do this? If communication between the organizations and a

send a message to the organizations so we can have there are problems between the organizations, still better working relationship. How can we do this? If communication between the organizations and a

Missoula and on the way home; we stopped to help a birthday. Help with the oratory competition for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion Americanism essays into Stacy Bear. Do a Valentine party for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons

In the next few months, remember to get your Americanism essays into Stacy Bear. Do a Valentine party for the veterans if you want. Plan a Legion Birthday Party. Help with the oratory competition at whatever level you can help. Get the Poppy Poster Contest information into the schools. Help with getting more school supplies into the schools, as after the New Year kids find they need more paper, pencils and pens and they cannot always supply their own.\n
Girl State is enrolling girls now. I hope to hear that we have more girls enrolled than last year. Please check the information Jennifer Dalrymple sent out to insure all girls can be enrolled.\n
We are looking at starting a committee for our 100th anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary of Montana. If you would like to work on this committee contact Terri Kemph or myself. We are forming this committee together since the committee will be ongoing until after our 100th anniversary takes place.\n
F District 5 brightens Christmas for Veterans

The Units of District 5 (Alberton 131, Corvallis 91, Hamilton 47, Lolo 135, Missoula 27, Swan Valley 63, & Stevensville 94) teamed up to brighten this Christmas for the residents of Valor House in Missoula. Some of the items we collected of personal toiletries to clothing items and kitchen linens. We give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped to donate.\n
So often at this busy time, people forget about those special veterans who gave so that we can be free. This was fun project and we should do this again. My husband and I delivered all that was collected to the veterans. A very special thank you to Stevensville Unit 94 who went above and beyond.

I then must select our Department winners and have them to the National Executive Chairman by April 15, 2018. You can see that it is a tight window, so please be prompt in getting them to me or a viable candidate for going on to the next level may be left behind.

How About Those Holidays? Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Photo provided by Cheryl Hanson, District 5 President

The 2017 Aloha Scholarship winner is Katara Ryan of Sunburst, MT. Katara, a 2016 graduate of North Toole County High School, is attending Carroll College in Helena. Katara would like to specialize in Pediatric and Neonatal Nursing while studying her four years of high school she took extra classes, including: Intro to Nursing, Medical Terminology and Health Occupations to prepare her for the medical field. “Thank you again for the generous scholarship!” Katara is the grand-daughter of Joyce Ryan, a Border Unit 73 member.

Theresa Abegglen (far right) presented a check to the Judith Gap American Legion Auxiliary. Accepting the check was Judy Lode, Unit Treasurer; Patti Lemmon and Debbie Hajenga Grant, Committee members. The Judith Gap Legionnaires have been working hard on fixing up the Legion Hall, which is an old bank building from the early 1900s. The Legion has repaired the roof, replaced part of the ceiling and replaced ceiling tiles in the kitchen, painted the new ceiling, and replaced the front door. The Auxiliary applied for the grant to help with replacing the flooring in the Hall.

send warmest New Year wishes your way. Now join me in dig- ging in for another suc- cessful Auxiliary year. I talk a great deal about the importance of using the correct forms. The next one coming your way is likely the most important piece of every membership year. The Unit Officer Reporting Form will be out to you in the first quarter of 2018. That’s where you report what your new Unit officers will be, and I need that for the Department Roster. You also report the mailing address and name, if applicable to be printed on the renewal notices your members receive. That’s the only way to assure the dues get sent to the correct person in your Unit. The form also notifies Department when you meet. And last but perhaps most important for accuracy, is the amount your Unit is charging for dues.

You’ll recall Department increased our Senior dues for this current (2018 membership year) if you failed to increase yours and wish to do so, now is the time and the form provides you that opportunity. In addition, we voted at Fall Conference to increase Junior dues for the 2019 membership year. Don’t get caught unprepared. Use the form and we’ll have reliable results.

I love a new year and I look forward to clearing out the old, including getting my income tax done. Where are you with your Unit’s 990? We had another workshop at Fall Conference and continue to provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to file so if you’re not current please make it a priority right away.

By the time this issue is in your hands I’ll have been to Indianapolis. The Secretary’s Conference is always full of valuable information and I look forward to being able to share it all.

I then must select our Department winners and have them to the National Executive Chairman by April 15, 2018. You can see that it is a tight window, so please be prompt in getting them to me or a viable candidate for going on to the next level may be left behind.

How About Those Holidays? Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Photo provided by Cheryl Hanson, District 5 President

The Auxiliary applied for the grant to help with Districts of Montana (Alberton 131, Corvallis 91, Hamilton 47, Lolo 135, Missoula 27, Swan Valley 63, & Stevensville 94) teamed up to brighten this Christmas for the residents of Valor House in Missoula. Some of the items we collected of personal toiletries to clothing items and kitchen linens. We give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped to donate.

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Over the Christmas holiday, Lowell and I went to Missoula and on the way home; we stopped to help a motorist. Several other vehicles also stopped to help. By the time you stopped to help though – all that was need was a shovel. We had everything else. We did get the motorist out of the ditch, but the shovel would have come in very handy. I am telling you this, so you can stop and think about what you have in your vehicle. Could you stop and help a motorist with what you have in your vehicle? I know most women cannot stop to help, but maybe what you have in your vehicle could help someone else if you felt comfortable to stop to help.

Girl State is enrolling girls now. I hope to hear that we have more girls enrolled than last year. Please check the information Jennifer Dalrymple sent out to insure all girls can be enrolled.

We are looking at starting a committee for our 100th anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary of Montana. If you would like to work on this committee contact Terri Kemph or myself. We are forming this committee together since the committee will be ongoing until after our 100th anniversary takes place.

In service for God and Country
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Did you make a difference today in the life of a Veteran? Your “Power of One” can make a big difference, even a smile can make someone’s day. In this new year of 2018 let us reach out to Veterans and their families. Check the Plan of Action for many ways to do this and... PLEASE keep track of your time, money, and the number of veterans served. “Rosey”

Gallatin Unit 14 co-hosts Annual Children’s Christmas Party

Submitted by Legionnaire, Les Aubeck, Post 14 Bozeman

The American Legion Auxiliary Gallatin Unit 14 in Bozeman, Bozeman Elks Lodge, and the Bozeman Eagles Club hosted their Annual Children’s Christmas Party. It was held at the Elks Lodge on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 1-3 pm. The feature was a visit from Santa who gave out gifts to the dozens of children that attended.

Post 14’s own, William “Bill” “Scrubb” Johnson (WWII Vet) was Santa again and as Scrubb says, “He has been doing this for more years than he can remember.” There were snacks, cookies, games and a feature was a visit from Santa who gave out gifts to the dozens of children that attended.

Post 14’s own, William “Bill” “Scrubb” Johnson (WWII Vet) was Santa again and as Scrubb says, “He has been doing this for more years than he can remember.” There were snacks, cookies, games and lots of activities all provided by the three women’s Auxiliary’s. A special thanks to all of them for their hard work and efforts on another successful event.

Park City Unit 100 supporting veterans

ALA Unit 100 held a Veterans Day dinner for our local Veterans. It was a Polkuck that the community joined in.

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service at Fort Harrison VA Hospital

Submitted by Stacy Rose

The 2017 Christmas gift shop at Fort Harrison VA Hospital was a great success this year. There were 70 veterans and their families shopping during the 2 days of the shop. Many picked things for themselves as well as for family members. Gifts were wrapped by our crew of Santa’s helpers. Many packages were mailed as well.

Girls State delegates

Katlyn Larson and Abbi Fitzpatrick of Cut Bank, are the girls whom the Legion Cut Bank Post paid their fees, and Border Unit 73 sponsored for Girls State 2017. Congratulations and thank you for coming to the potluck and telling us about your experience.

Border Unit 73 activities

Junior Members Tea and Service Project Afternoon

Submitted by Stacy Bean, Unit Secretary/Treasurer

Three Junior Members of Border Unit 73 had a Tea Party and made boxes for donations for the four different organizations: Box Tops for Education; used eye glasses/lenses for Lions Club project; Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, and used postage stamps cut with 1/4” diameter to send to a group that uses the proceeds from the project to assist the poor in eight different countries. The Junior girls are Emma, Aubrey, and Jadyn. A special guest, Ruth Gutshall who recently turned 90. Helpers besides Stacy Bear were the two mothers and Ruth who is now interested in becoming a member!

Deceased Members

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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
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<td>Julia Barber</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Roman</td>
<td>Marian B. Garcia</td>
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Unit 100 along with American Legion Post 100 put up wreaths at our cemetery to honor our fallen Veterans for the Christmas holiday.
**Laurel Post 123 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony**

Each year the Laurel American Legion Post 123 holds a ceremony on December 7 to honor those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor.

Edward Chlapowski, who is buried in the Yellowstone National Cemetery at Laurel was the Navy person who sent out the message that Pearl Harbor was under attack. His daughter Sue Gillespie is a member of the Laurel Post 123.

**Anaconda Post 21 - Uniform Tribute**

**BY BARRY DECHANE**

Veterans and family members gathered at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Courthouse on December 8, 2017, to celebrate and honor the uniform of retired U.S. Army Major General (Ret.) William T. McLean. General McLean served the Army for over 31 years. He served as the 40th Quartermaster General from 1987-1989. His uniform is the 20th to be honored.

**Small Town...Huge Heart**

Let’s go all the way back to July. Earthquakes, Forest Fires, more Earthquakes, more fires, and wind. Finally, in September very welcomed rain and snow brought things back to some kind of normal. The snow came just in time for the Post 9 September meeting, where it was decided that the Post would make a $500 donation to the National Emergency Fund. The Lincoln Post 9 Commander Rick Foreman and Adjutant Doug Vulcan personally presented the check to the National Commander, Denise Rohan.

The Blackfoot Valley is a rather tight-knit group of small towns that depend on each other for many things. One of the most important is The American Legion activities and services. On Nov. 10, 2017, a team of Post 9 members traveled from Lincoln to Helmville and Ovando to provide some Flag Etiquette and History along with Veterans Day history to the students enrolled. They loved it and the teachers probably learned a thing or two as well.

On Veterans Day 2017, Post 9 hosted their Annual Veterans Day Program and Chili Feed. This has become an event that continues to grow each year. They perform the main portion of the program and then do an open mic forum for the Veterans; the community gets to hear some pretty fantastic stories and memories every year. Prior to serving the family-style meal they dedicated the POW/MIA table and the Chaplain led the group in prayer. This year they welcomed more than 60 Lincolnites to include Veterans, business owners, hunters, grandparents, parents and kids of all ages. December brings Post 9 the Santa’s workshop held at Lincoln School. Post 9 donates all the materials, time and assistance needed for students to create a beautiful handmade Christmas gift. Since Post 9 is known for hammers and nails, this year they helped kids create a really nice hanging note pad. Some boards, nails, rip strip and a roll of accounting paper was just what the workshop needed! Harry Arvidson, a 58-year Legion member, has helped every year; a picture of him with a student is included. Post 9 has been participating in the program for ten years now and it never gets old! Lincoln Post 9 has a Flag Program that the Community has taken a real liking to. The Post hangs 77 flags along the major roadways and some private residences throughout the area. The Post provides the flags, holders and maintenance and places them on ten important dates of our nation’s history.

The Post also continues to erect, maintain and care for 71 Highway Fatality Markers between Mile Markers 44 and 125 along Highway 200.

Don’t forget, Post 9 will be hosting the District 6 Meeting on April 28, 2018! They guarantee it will be one to remember.

That’s all for now folks. Enjoy a prosperous New Year!

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**Townsend-Broadwater Post 42 Receives Grant for Storefront Renovation**

**BY JEN D'ALDRYMPLE**

Townsend’s Broadway Post 42 recently received a storefront facelift courtesy of a match grant from Broadwater Community Development Corporation. The Post’s Legion Hall has four new Service emblem window boxes and metal clad soffit thanks to BCDC’s generous storefront grant program to enhance business storefronts along the main streets of town. This is the second time Post 42 received the matching grant to spruce up their 1800’s era building.

The previous grant was used to rebuild the large American Legion sign, two flagpoles and respective lights about five years ago. Thank you to BCDC and all those that helped Post 42 raise the matching funds for its new windows and soffit.

**WWII Veteran Wesley Bull Army**

Wesley Bull was drafted in Livingston, Montana and sent to Camp Roberts California for basic training preparing for war. He was assigned to a Headquarters Company motor pool. The fighting was mostly over in Europe and because of his age he was assigned to an Occupational Force driving a 6x6 truck for service in the South Pacific on various Islands’ containment and clean-up. Wes achieved the rank of Tec 5 in the motor pool. Their next assignment was the Island of Japan which was well fortified and prepared for an invasion, a battle that would create a huge loss of life and would last until the last man standing fell. President Harry Truman ordered the newly created H-Bomb to be dropped on Japan. There was no fight to be found. Wes summed it up that the H-Bomb probably saved his life. He observed that the farmers and residence of Japan had no knowledge of the war. It was created by the military leaders of Japan and their idea to bomb Pearl Harbor. Wesley Bull is a 26-year member of Livingston Post 23.
Home is where the heart is:
From Helena to Seoul, Montanans never forget their roots

In Montana, a town known as Helena, the American Legion has a long history. The town hosts various events, including the annual Veterans Day parade. The Helena Post 2, under the leadership of Commander Teresa Schlosser, plays an active role in the community.

Schlosser shared her experiences of working in various military positions, including Eighth Army assistant chief of staff engineer, which is headquartered in Japan. She mentioned her experiences working in Okinawa and Korea, where she encountered challenges, but also formed close friendships.

The consolidation of the Post Reports (CPR) is due to Department Headquarters by April 14. All Posts are encouraged to submit their CPRs by then. Those who do not submit their CPRs will be subject to a penalty.

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) will be mailed in March for the 2017-2018 year. At first glance, the CPR may appear complicated, but it is necessary for the Department to process its data accurately.

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LAUREL POST 123 Flag folding presentation

Laurel American Legion members, Post Vice Commander Ray Southworth, Dept. Vice Commander Richard Klose, and Post Commander Ken Gomer conducts a flag folding presentation, telling the meaning of each fold.


Townsend Post 42
6th Annual Surf ‘n Turf a Rousing Success

BY JAN DALYMPLE

November 4, 2017, saw 62 satisfied happy attendees for the Post 42 6th annual surf n turf fundraising dinner. Despite the challenging weather which caused a few to cancel in and cancel, the crowd enjoyed the wonderful food and comradery, netting the Post a nice amount of funds for its Americanism and Youth programs; the designated recipient program this year.

EUREKA POST 74 recognizes Kalispell Vets Clinic

SUBMITTED BY STONEY FUGATE, COMMANDER POST 74

Post 74, of Eureka, presented a framed print titled “Not this one. Not today” by Joomo ‘JK’ Kim, on January 10, 2018, to the Kalispell Vets Administration Clinic. The print was presented on behalf of all veterans in northwest Montana and in appreciation of the great care the clinic provides to our veterans. The print was presented by Stoney Fugate, Commander of Post 74, and accepted by Jose Saenz, Lab Technician. Post 74 members present were Melvin Lee, Sergeant at Arms, and Legion member Dan Stewart. There were approximately 8-9 employees of the Clinic attending the presentation and all present expressed their gratitude at being recognized for what they do. At one point one employee said, “I’ve been working here 18 years, and this is the first time we have been recognized.”

VA Revises Regulations on Reimbursement for Emergency Treatment of Veterans

WASHINGTON | JANUARY 10, 2018 — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has, through a Federal Register notice, revised its regulations concerning payment or reimbursement for emergency treatment for non-service connected conditions at non-VA facilities.

VA will begin processing claims for reimbursement of reasonable costs that were only partially paid by the Veteran’s other health insurance (OHI). Those costs may include hospital charges, professional fees and emergency transportation, such as ambulances.

This change comes on the heels of an earlier announcement that VA was taking immediate action to address delayed payments to community providers, found here.

Effective Jan. 9, VA updated a portion of its regulations in response to an April 2016 U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims decision that stated VA could no longer deny reimbursement when OHI pays a portion of the treatment expenses.

VA will apply the updated regulations to claims pending with VA on or after April 8, 2016, and to new claims. By law, VA still may not reimburse Veterans for the costs of copayments, cost shares and deductibles required by their OHI.

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More information on the amended regulation along with guidance may be found here. [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYcare-grams/veterans/Emergency_Care.aspx]

VA MILITARY ID CARD STATIONS in MONTANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PHONE #S</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HELENA</td>
<td>406-294-1048/1049</td>
<td>MON-SAT 0900-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELGRADE</td>
<td>406-444-2722/2723</td>
<td>TUESDAY-FRIDAY 0900-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALISPELL</td>
<td>406-755-2559/2560</td>
<td>TUESDAY-FRIDAY 0900-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSOULA</td>
<td>406-723-6474/6475</td>
<td>TUESDAY-FRIDAY 0900-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREAT FALLS</td>
<td>406-252-6070</td>
<td>MONDAY-FRIDAY 0900-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BILLINGS</td>
<td>406-252-6249</td>
<td>TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 0900-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BILLINGS</td>
<td>406-252-6249</td>
<td>CALL FOR APPT</td>
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<td>406-252-6249</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information about participating in the Veterans History Project.

As always, I encourage you to contact my office to express your concerns or opinions on policy issues important to you. If you have a veteran story to share – or know someone who does – please visit my website to get more information about participating in the Veterans History Project.

Townsend Post 42, of Eureka, presented a framed print on January 10, 2018, to the Kalispell Veterans Administration Clinic. The print was presented on behalf of all veterans in northwest Montana and in appreciation of the great care the clinic provides to our veterans. The print was presented by Stoney Fugate, Commander of Post 74, and accepted by Jose Saenz, Lab Technician. Post 74 members present were Melvin Lee, Sergeant at Arms, and Legion member Dan Stewart. There were approximately 8-9 employees of the Clinic attending the presentation and all present expressed their gratitude at being recognized for what they do. At one point one employee said, “I’ve been working here 18 years, and this is the first time we have been recognized.”

VA Revises Regulations on Reimbursement for Emergency Treatment of Veterans

WASHINGTON | JANUARY 10, 2018 — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has, through a Federal Register notice, revised its regulations concerning payment or reimbursement for emergency treatment for non-service connected conditions at non-VA facilities.

VA will begin processing claims for reimbursement of reasonable costs that were only partially paid by the Veteran’s other health insurance (OHI). Those costs may include hospital charges, professional fees and emergency transportation, such as ambulances.

This change comes on the heels of an earlier announcement that VA was taking immediate action to address delayed payments to community providers, found here.

Effective Jan. 9, VA updated a portion of its regulations in response to an April 2016 U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims decision that stated VA could no longer deny reimbursement when OHI pays a portion of the treatment expenses.

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Phone _____________________________  
City ____________________________________  
ST _____ZIP ______________  
Address _________________________________________________________

Past Only  
Auxiliary Banquet .................................................... $23 x  ______  = $ ______________
Registration ....................................................... $20 x  _____  = $ ____________

Name

Past Dept. Comdrs Breakfast

215 29th St S  
Mike Mehegan  
Convention 2018  
Holiday Inn

Send Registration Form & Check to: American Legion Convention 2018

Please send check payable to the American Legion of Montana and this form to guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted. (this includes tax of 13.4%)

King (1 or 2 persons) $155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%)  
Double (1 or 2 persons) $155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%)  
Commanders Banquet @ $48 each  
Parking Rate - Self $18 / Valet $27 per day  
Hospitality Room - $16  
Registration (non-delegates only; delegates are paid) $25 ea.  
Total $________

2018 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
AUGUST 24 – 30, 2018  
HILTON MINNEAPOLIS  
1001 MARQUETTE AVE.

National Convention Reservation form for Legion, SAL & Auxiliary

NAME: __________________________________________  
ADDRESS: __________________________________________  
CITY: ________________________________________________  

Please reserve the following accommodations for ________ persons. I will be sharing a room with
Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

King (1 or 2 persons) $155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%)  
Double (1 or 2 persons) $155.36 (this includes tax of 13.4%)  
Commanders Banquet @ $48 each  
Parking Rate - Self $18 / Valet $27 per day  
Hospitality Room - $16  
Registration (non-delegates only; delegates are paid) $25 ea.  

(Note: ALL Convention attendees must be registered and have a Convention badge to ride busses, attend convention functions and enter the convention hall) If you are attending Commander’s Banquet please advise Department by 25 February, 2018.

TOTAL $________

I / We will arrive (DATE) (TIME)  
I / We will depart (DATE) (TIME)  
Do not leave blank  

LEGION ONLY – I would like to be a delegate and would serve on the following Committee, (official delegates must be nominated and elected at the Department Convention in Great Falls, June 22 – 24, 2018).

1st Choice  
2nd Choice  

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JULY 1, 2018, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Please send check payable to the American Legion of Montana and this form to:
Department Adjutant  
PO Box 6075  
Helena, MT 59604-6075

How to Submit Articles or Photos?  
Deadline: April 1, 2018

Preferences:

Text – No formatting such as, multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
Set tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as All formatting has to be removed before placing into pages
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 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 this” or “we think” 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 members informed and familiar with programs. For example: Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VVVS). The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, use the acronym
Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publisher you are taking information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.
DO NOT! submit articles in PDF format
If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.
Photos – send as e-mail attachments – PLEASE!!

• 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 4x6 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:
Proper caption which includes Post/Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo appear in the caption.
Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document.
Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment
Do not embed captions (use attach)
See above (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:
Sending a hyperlink to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
Helpful article can be found (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
Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing. Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.

By-Lines – remember always include the submitter’s name for articles.

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to:  
lmtprpub@gmail.com

Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!