Important Upcoming Dates

May 1 ............... Certification of AL Officers due to Dept HQ
May 5-8 ............. National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
May 8 ............... Certification Form, Top Recruiter
May 15 ............. Consolidated Post Reports due to Dept HQ
May 15 ............. Dept Officers Convention Report due to Dept HQ
May 20 .............. Dept Convention Deligates Strength date
Jun 1 ............... Natl Convention Registrations due to Dept
Jun 2-7 ............. AL Boys State, Carroll College, Helena
Jun 14 ............... Flag Day
Jun 14 ............... US Army Birthday
Jun 15 ............... Dept Convention Delegate Form due to Dept
Jun 25-30 ......... Dept HQ Closed (Dept Convention)
Jun 26 ............... Dept Finance Committee meeting, Polson
Jun 26-27 ......... Dept Legion College Police
Jun 27 ............... Dept Executive Committee Meeting, Polson
Jun 28-30 ......... Department Convention in Polson
Jul 1 ............... 2020 Membership Year begins
Jul 4 ............... Independence Day
Jul 19 – 27 ......... Boys Nation
Jul 23-27 ......... Junior Shooting Sports Nati Championship
Aug 6-11 ......... AL Baseball Regional Tournaments
Aug 9 – 10 ......... Nfl Memberbship Workshop / Dept Service Officers School
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Aug 23-29 ......... National Convention, Indianapolis, IN
Sep 2 ............... Labor Day Observed

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American Legion Department of Montana
AL Boys State
AL Baseball Regional Tournaments

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The Montana American Legion Department of Montana and its 125 Posts located throughout Montana concluded in Belgrade on Saturday March 9. Sierra Dilworth of Kalispell who attends Flathead High School prevailed over six other contestants for the right to represent Montana at The American Legion National Finals April 5-7, 2019, in Indianapolis IN. The American Legion pays the expenses of the state winner and a parent to travel to the National Contest.

The American Legion established the annual oratorical contest in 1939 as part of its multi-faceted Americanism Program. The focus of the competition has always been the United States Constitution.

Dilworth won the local competition sponsored by Kalispell Post 137 and then went on to take the District contest in Polson a week later for the chance to compete in the state finals. Emily Martin of Two Dot took second place followed by Michael Romney of Big Sky for third followed by Norris Blossom of Helena in fourth.

The subject of the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the constitution of the United States and should be 8 – 10 minutes in length.

Each state winner who competes in the first round of the National Contest will receive a $1,500 scholarship.

Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The top three youth orators who have won all previous rounds will vie for the top honors in the National contest.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of the National Competition, university scholarships of $18,000, $16,000 and $14,000 will be awarded to the 1st through 3rd place winners in the National Finals.

The American Legion State Oratorical Chairman is Jeff Holmes, Harlowton, Montana.

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**Chaplains Corner.**

**WWII veteran widows line up to greet WWII re-enactor Kenley Zylaw following the ceremony. Many expressed their delight to see him. “You look just like my husband did when he got off the train after the war” was a frequent refrain of the ladies.

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Department Four Chaplains Ceremony

by Karen Semple, Department Chaplain

On February 1st, The American Legion Department Officers and members from around the area paid tribute to the Four Chaplains of World War II in a ceremony hosted at Touchmark Assisted Living Facility in Helena. Department Chaplain Karen Semple worked with the facility leadership to present a moving ceremony for their residents replete with WWII re-enactor, Kenley Zylaw, a Coast Guard veteran and member of Lewis and Clark Post 2 in Helena. Post 42 Commander Jen Dalrymple narrated the ceremony which included Department Commander Richard Kloose and different participants reading the individual biographies of the four chaplains who perished in the waters of the Pacific during the War.

For the story of the Four Chaplains, see page 3, Chaplains Corner.

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**FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WINS THE MONTANA AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**Belgrade, MT – MARCH 9, 2019**

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**American Legion Department of Montana**

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**Call to Convention**

**Chaplains Conf & Registration**

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**Convention Schedule**

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**Dept. Convention Golf Scramble**

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**Natl Legion Convention**

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**Post 14**

**Post 72**

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**Post 89**

**Post 92**

**Post 94**

**Post 112**

**Post 124**

**Post 130**

**Post 138**

**Post CN20**

**Post Everlasting & Memorials**

**Photos courtesy of Touchmark Photographer, Mr. Howard Haines**

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For the story of the Four Chaplains, see page 3, Chaplains Corner.
Welcome, as I write, we are in the middle of District Meetings. Some have been well attended, others a little slimmer.

Going to our District Meetings is a great experience and a great way to meet some of our wonderful American Legion members. We missed our 90 percent membership target, now we must work twice as hard to get to the 95 percent target. Our DMS list is a lot smaller than this time last year, that is both good and bad. Good, in that we are working on it and most members that we have contacted transferred. Bad, because at the small number of members on the list, we must work harder to find new members. Even though everyone must work on membership, the real responsibility is with the local Post to find new members.

As I write, the Department needs 508 members to get to 95 percent and we need 1066 to get to 100 percent. Every Post needs to read the membership reports, because some Posts only need one or two members to get to goal. Right now, six Districts are behind compared to this time last year. I thank everyone who has worked on membership, it is a never-ending job.

I want to take time now to thank everyone for supporting me as Montana Department Commander. Also, thanks to the great people who stepped up and said that they would be on the various Department committees that it takes to run the Department. A special thanks to our Department Adjutants office for all the hard work they do to keep the train on the track.

I have had many great experiences this past year, starting with our National Convention in Minneapolis, a trip to Calgary to help with the traveling Vietnam Wall, to Stevensville to see the students get a VAVS award for going to Fort Harrison to visit with the patients there, to listening to the students at the Department Oratorical Contest, or the Four Chaplains ceremony in Helena, that’s just some of the experiences. Thanks everyone for what you do for The American Legion and our Montana veterans. We have, here in Montana, many dedicated members who work hard for The American Legion, as well as everyone who has stepped up and needed for our veterans and their families.

Lastly, our Department Convention is in Polson this year. I encourage everyone to attend; at least part of it. Our Department Vice Commander has a great program laid out for the convention. See you there.

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COMMANDER - RICHARD KLOSE
VICE COMMANDER - JEFF NELSON
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

The Spring District Meetings have come to a close and winter has finally melted the last remnants of a long winter. It has been great to visit the different Districts around the state once again. The best part of District Meetings is meeting members I’ve never met before. There is always new information put out by the Department officers and questions being asked. The one thing that I take away from these meetings is, they have been going on for 100 years, different faces, different names, but the reason we meet is the same today as it was at the first District Meeting. To bring information to veterans and their families on how they can access help when times become tough and a helping hand is needed.

I recall the first Department Convention I went to and there were probably 400 members in Bozeman in attendance. I remember there that I met one of the most memorable characters you could imagine. They were there to learn more about The American Legion and also have a fun time while there. They were almost all Korean War veterans and they knew how to tell stories and lies that had you rolling on the floor. I look back on those Legionnaires and the memories that were shared with a new member and it just reinforces why I stayed in The American Legion.

I never aspired to be a leader moving up the ladder, I just wanted to be around other veterans whom I had something in common with. The rest just happened. So when you ask about should I go to a Convention or District Meeting, there’s more than just hearing new information put out by Department officers. I guess some people might call it an experience, all I know is the memories of the good times you had with somebody you just met, had a couple refreshments and the whoopers that were told is what draws me to keep coming year after year.

So, make this the year to attend our 100th Anniversary Convention and share some of your memories with a stranger and find out how much in common we all have. The friendships, stories, and lies are priceless. Since my first convention a lot of the characters I met along the way have gone to their eternal resting place, only to be replaced by new characters with stories to tell. I encourage you to make that decision to make a Convention or at least a District Meeting this next year.

As this year winds down, we are so close to sitting in the front row at the National Convention because of membership. I am asking everyone to find one new member or get a member that dropped out in the last few years to rejoin and explain to them about all the good times you’ve had over your time involved in The American Legion. With this I close and look forward to our Centennial Convention in Polson.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

April 15 was tax day for many of us, and for most of our Posts as well. Remember it is a requirement that all Posts file a Form 990 to the IRS each year (date determined by your Post fiscal year). For the majority of our Posts you can file online using the 990-e form which requires you to answer only six questions.

Regardless of which form of the 990 form you use, it is imperative that you file annually. If you fail to file, after the third year your Post will lose its 501(c)3 nonprofit status, and it is a bureaucratic nightmare and costly to get reinstated.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. If done on time, your Post can be eligible for various awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due.

We have been accepting applications for students to attend the National American Legion College, November 3 – 8, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All costs are paid by the Department and National; to be eligible you must be a graduate of the American Legion Extension Institute and a veteran of Lebanon or Grenada War (a candidate from any earlier war era may be considered based upon the Departments successful submission of a candidate with service during or after Lebanon/Grenada period). Applications are available on-line or from Department staff.

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Remember your Post uses MyLegion.org they may do an online submission, if done online there is no need to send the paper copy.

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See page 15: How to Submit Articles or Photos.
The Four Chaplains

On February 3, 1943, the US Army Transport DORCHESTER was tragically sunk by Germany submarine U-110. Of the 902 young men on board only 230 survived. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by the heroic Four Chaplains, who, in sacrificing their own lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

At 12:30 am, on February 3rd, 1943, the bell on the troopship DORCHESTER rang twice and never sounded again. The DORCHESTER was torpedosed by an enemy submarine and 672 young men paid the supreme sacrifice. Included in the 672 were Four Army Chaplains: a Dutch Reformed minister, a Jewish rabbi, a Methodist minister and a Roman Catholic priest.

The Four Chaplains gave their life jackets to save four soldiers and, in doing so, gave up their only means of survival. They were last seen on the deck of the ship with their arms linked together, and their heads bowed in prayer as they went to their watery graves in the North Atlantic off the coast of Greenland. Each chaplain received the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross posthumously.


Since 1951, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains has spread the message of their interfaith cooperation and selfless sacrifice, each year touching the lives of prayers and do not advocate or push their own particular faith agenda when acting as a Legion Family chaplain.

Chaplains reach across all faith tradition lines to assist and help every Legion Family member: like military chaplains, they are inclusive in their ceremonies and stories, or Squadron Chaplain, or if you aspire to become a chaplain, this conference is for you.

Chaplains are not ministers, pastors or priests, although they can be when not acting as a Legion Family chaplain.

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This great opportunity to expand your chaplain education to advance the Legion Family’s “God and Country” focus. Among the many topics to be covered:

- how to “be there” for others outside your faith comfort zone, visiting the dying and those who are ill, understanding the VA's Administrative Rules pertaining to faith that apply to chaplains (or any visitor) who visits Legion members in VA facilities and much more all crammed into the three short hours given to us.

The conference will begin promptly at 1pm, Thursday, June 27 at the KwaTaqNuk Resort in Polson and last until 4 pm. You do not have to register for Department Convention to attend this informative and spiritually inclusive training opportunity. You are not required to be currently appointed or ordained as a chaplain to attend; however, you must register by May 31st so there will be enough materials and seating for everyone. Submit form to the right.

A refundable $10 fee (refunded upon completion) will hold your seat. Please register soon.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Polson!...May you be well.

Post Everlasting


Hinton, James, 1/21/1919 – Korea – US Army – 74-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

Holton, George, 1/21/1919 – WWII – US Army – 74-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

Kinzle, Oscar, 12/21/1918 – Korea – US Army – 74-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors


Ploffe, Thomas, 1/15/1919 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 8-year member of Post 106, St Ignatius, Interred with Military Honors


2019 Chaplain Conference is for ALL Legion Family Chaplains

This may come as a surprise to many: the Department Chaplain Conference to be on June 27th prior to the Department Convention is for ALL Legion Family Chaplains! Like the National Chaplain Conference, it is an opportunity to gather, meet other Legion Family Chaplains, learn and share best practices with each other. Additionally, you will go home with a 150 page “Chaplains How-To Manual” packed with ideas and resources. If you are an Auxiliary, District, Post or Squadron Chaplain, or if you aspire to become a chaplain, this conference is for you.

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I am looking forward to seeing you in Polson!...May you be well.
Sheridan Post 89 Provides Santa for K-6 Christmas Concert

Submitted by Michael Morgan

Santa arrived at the Sheridan Elementary School's K-6 Christmas Concert with the help of Sheridan's American Legion Post on 13 December 2018. Post members Cliff Morgan (Commander) and Charlie Rossiter (Past Commander) were Santa's Elves for the event while other Post members handed out oranges at the front door of the school for departing concert-goers. Over 80 young children visited with Santa to let him know what they wanted for Christmas and each left with a bag of fruit/candy and a HO-HO-HO from Santa!

The next day the Post Adjutant (Mike Morgan) visited the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center to distribute fruit/candy bags to the 34 residents and provided a check from Post 89 to the Program Manager (Gail Nelson) for assistance in purchasing Christmas gifts for the residents.

Sheridan Post 89 Veterans Day Celebration

Submitted by Michael Morgan

Members of Sheridan’s Post 89 of The American Legion started the Veterans Day celebration by joining in the “Bells of Peace” bell tolling on 11 November in both the towns of Sheridan (Methodist Church) and Laurin (Catholic Church) at 11am local time. The next day, Post members attended Sheridan Elementary School’s Annual Veterans Day Tea which the Elementary School children host to recognize the many Ruby Valley Veterans who proudly served our country in their respective military branches of service. This year the “Patchwork Pals” quilters presented Nationally registered “Quilts of Honor” to Vietnam Veterans who served in the 1960’s. Previously they had recognized WWII and Korean War Veterans. Following the Tea, a dozen Post members with spouses went to the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center in Sheridan to conduct a flag ceremony followed by a short program on Veterans Day which they shared with the Care Center residents (seven Veterans currently reside at the home with three being Post members). Post members then spent time visiting with the residents.

Sheridan Post 89 Americanism & Constitution Essay Winners

By Mike Morgan, Post Adjutant

In March, Sheridan’s American Legion Post 89 completed The American Legion Americanism and Constitutional Essay contest at the Sheridan High School. The Eighth Graders were asked—Propose a need in our government and solution to this problem as a necessary Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution’. The High School students were asked—What protections are American Citizens guaranteed under the Fourth Amendment in relationship to advanced technologies such as computers, cell phones and AI home devices?—The first place winners in each category had their surveys forwarded for consideration at the State Level.

At the Eighth Grade Level: Myckena Clark took first place, Claira Haag second place, and Jacob Dvorak third place. All received a Certificate of Participation and the first-place winner received a cash prize.

At the High School Senior Level: Moxon Lee took first place, Tyler Haag second place, and Jack Gilman third place. All received a Certificate of Participation and the first-place winner received a cash prize.

Post 89 building display for Veterans Day


Post 89 National Vietnam Veterans Day Lunch

On Friday 29 March 2019, National Vietnam Veteran Day, Sheridan American Legion Post 89 hosted a Veterans’ Lunch to not only honor our Vietnam Veterans but all Veterans in the Ruby Valley. Past Commanders Charlie Rossiter and Chris Mumme served up an Italian Sausage Tortellini Soup with bread to eighteen Veterans who attended this inaugural Monthly Soup/Sandwich gathering for local area Veterans. It was an opportunity to show off the Post Building improvements, share Veteran Camaraderie and share information on VA and American Legion Programs. The Post looks forward to future Luncheons as a way to expand Community involvement while supporting our Veterans’ needs.

8th Grade Winners: Greg Granken-Vice Commander, Jacob Dvorak (3rd place), Claira Haag (2nd place), Myckena Clark (1st place), Cliff Morgan-Commander.

High School Winners: Greg Granken-Vice Commander, Moxon Lee (1st place), Jack Gilman (3rd place), Tyler Haag (2nd place). Cliff Morgan-Commander.
Reflections on The Legion & National Defense

by Ed Sperry, Past Department Commander 2001-2002

National Defense is one of the four pillars of The American Legion. As with the other three pillars, it identifies a complex arena of policies and thought which require constant attention as changes occur. It is likely that a new Legionnaire may ask which pillar is worthwhile getting involved in. My answer would have to be that they all are and one warrants a resounding D-; that being National Defense. This article will attempt to explain what I mean by that statement.

It bears reminding my comrades reading this that warfare is ever-changing and at this moment of involvement, we are involved in many wars. This may change but at this moment the changes may well be revolutionary. I’m referring to issues such as the influence of the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS), the increasing strength of peer nations, the need to update the Department Adjutant Department to deal with this need for faster acquisition of new technology; to name but a few. At this point I suggest the reader ask a simple question—What is the Legion’s role, if any, in helping to assure we have a adequate National Defense? The answer of course is not simple, but I think it’s time it be addressed.

What follows is my offer of proof that we are in a serious problem.

First off, let’s put away the idea that we have nothing to offer or that we should not attempt to affect legislation. If that is so, then don’t ever brag about the GI Bill again. Or more recently the new statutes allowing CHOICE for Vets needing medical help. These are wonderful examples of what we can do. If that is so, then don’t ever brag about the position taken by the Legion?

Second, it seems we ought to do something with some of them that is meaningful. A basketful of vital issues exists. Some are extremely time consuming and education about resolutions, then requires a serious problem.

Third, if it is no way a criticism of the chairman; but it may explain why there is never a resolution or input other than a briefing from the committee.

In conclusion, if it’s worth all the travel, expense and education about resolutions, then it seems we ought to do something with some of them that is meaningful. A basketful of vital defense issues exists. Some are extremely time consuming and education about resolutions, then requires a serious problem. We are on the cusp of changes to major processes just since this year began so please stay in touch with your Service Officers for a win-win situation.

Service Officers for correct guidance or real-time at record speed. Veterans need to seek out their Service Officers for a win-win situation. Since the beginning of the year, changes in direction or course in day-to-day processes are happening at a rapid pace. Applicants need to seek out their Service Officers for correct guidance or real-time information to ensure claims and/or appeals are filed accordingly.

In closing, let me say “Growth comes from disarray.” It is imperative that everyone wholeheartedly embrace the changes together to ensure continuity and ease of pain with processes that has hampered us. Flexibility is key as the Veteran Benefit Administration (VBA) is making mid-stream changes to processes; such as increased net worth for pensions that should help previously denied Veterans and the Appeal Modernization Act (AMA) which is designed to expedite the backlog of appeals. Recently the VBA was given an undaunting logistical task of coordinating with other agencies for an effective date to review ship logs/decis logs in concert with the twelve nautical mile rule to service connect tens of thousands of “Blue Water” Veterans claims.

We have changed. We must adjust to circumstances. We owe it to ourselves to be as effective as possible as our focus continues to be the service of our Veterans and their families. On to the next page.
**DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2019**

**DISTRICT #1**
- Bozeman: 183, 349, 377...99.71%
- Big Timber: 183, 182, 175...89.42%
- Livingston: 169, 169, 175...99.41%
- White Sulphur: 63...95.65%
- Belgrade: 254...81.50%
- Ennis: 110...167.50%
- W Yellowstone...93.15%
- Manhattan: 163, 154, 157...91.12%
- Three Forks: 42...90.86%
- Big Sky...80.30%
- Gardiner: 35, 30, 54...85.71%

**DISTRICT #2**
- Great Falls: 259, 219, 261...84.17%
- Choteau: 102...96.96%
- Fort Benton: 48, 34, 35...69.39%
- Augusta: 49...79.89%
- Dutton: 61, 19, 48...83.61%
- Fairplay: 33...81.62%
- Geraldine: 11...101.67%
- Ponder: 12...90.63%
- Vaughn: 41...85.42%
- Cascade: 31...103.65%
- Valmetum: 18...102.82%

**DISTRICT #3**
- TOTAL: 1186...1033...1421...93.34%

**DISTRICT #8**
- Great Falls: 185 Members
- TOTAL: 774...737...94...90.82%

**DISTRICT #5**
- TOTAL: 1195...1359...1039...85.95%

**DISTRICT #6**
- Bozeman: 103, 180, 194...82.60%
- Helena: 748, 775, 804...102.61%
- Lincoln: 58, 72...101.66%
- Deer Lodge: 72...84.72%
- Dillon: 1, 158, 167...93.00%
- Anaconda: 245...91.02%
- Whitehall: 91...72.53%
- Twin Bridges: 43...77.02%
- Philipsburg: 110...90.53%
- Townsend: 177...85.93%
- Boulder: 23...108.70%
- Sheridan: 68, 64, 78...123.63%
- Butte: 104, 98, 120...105.83%

**AT LARGE**
- Helena: 172...101...56.66%

**District Standings**

**POST #2**
- Helena: 774 Members

**POST #4**
- Billings: 104 Members

**POST #15**
- Lewistown: 384 Members

**POST #14**
- Bozeman: 349 Members

**POST #27**
- Missoula: 312 Members

**POST #21**
- Anaconda: 273 Members

**DISTRICT STANDINGS**

**DISTRICT #1**
- JANUARY 1
  - Bozeman: 183, 349, 377...99.71%
  - Big Timber: 183, 182, 175...89.42%
  - Livingston: 169, 169, 175...99.41%
  - White Sulphur: 63...95.65%
  - Belgrade: 254...81.50%
  - Ennis: 110...167.50%
  - W Yellowstone...93.15%
  - Manhattan: 163, 154, 157...91.12%
  - Three Forks: 42...90.86%
  - Big Sky...80.30%
  - Gardiner: 35, 30, 54...85.71%

**DISTRICT #2**
- Great Falls: 259, 219, 261...84.17%
- Choteau: 102...96.96%
- Fort Benton: 48, 34, 35...69.39%
- Augusta: 49...79.89%
- Dutton: 61, 19, 48...83.61%
- Fairplay: 33...81.62%
- Geraldine: 11...101.67%
- Ponder: 12...90.63%
- Vaughn: 41...85.42%
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- Butte: 104, 98, 120...105.83%

**AT LARGE**
- Helena: 172...101...56.66%
Disaster Emergency Response

Springs Sprung!

All over Montana snow is melting or has melted. Thankfully, as of this writing, flooding has been minimal as temperatures have been moderate. That does not mean the threat of flooding is over—spring storms can bring flooding to city streets and posts all across the state and tornadoes have destroyed at least one Legion member’s home in the past five years.

After the temperatures warm and threat of flooding ceases, it will be wildfire season once again.

Are you and your post/squadron/unit members prepared? Do you have an emergency plan if disaster strikes up close and personal? Do you have an emergency supply kit ready to go with important papers, medications, water and other important items if you need to evacuate quickly to save your life? What about your pets?

How do you know what is going on, other than looking out your window? Have you downloaded the FEMA app to your smartphone? It gives you real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations for over 20 types of disasters—and it’s free! If you do not have a smartphone, do you know which AM radio station in your area carries emergency information? You can also get a weather radio—aside from getting the daily forecast, emergency alerts are sent out on it. Full disclosure: You may be awakened in the middle of the night from severe thunderstorm or tornado alerts, so be careful when setting the coverage area.

Psychological distress during a disaster is decreased significantly, as is recovery following a personal encounter with disaster is enhanced if you take a few simple steps to prepare:

1. Make a kit: Start new by going to www.ready.gov for info on what to have, collect the items, get it packed and ready.

2. Create a plan: Where are you going to go if you are evacuated? How are you going to contact other family members if you are separated and phone towers are down? Where are you going to meet? These are all important things to plan for.

Do you have a designated out-of-state contact to call to let them know you are all right? The American Red Cross (ARC) Safe and Well site is an excellent tool to use during a disaster to let loved ones know you are ok. Register at any ARC shelter (you do not have to be staying there) or on your phone at:


3. Get involved. Your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) warmly welcomes Legion Family members at its monthly meetings. You will learn about what is being done in your community to prepare for and respond to all kinds of disasters. You may even get to participate in an exercise to check the effectiveness of emergency plans. To learn where and when your LEPC meets, go to your county government website and look for the Disaster and Emergency Services or Public Safety tab.

Finally, have you donated to the Legion or Auxil-

nary National Emergency Fund (NEF) lately? They were severely depleted last year with the hurricanes, fires and flooding nationwide. Will you help them rebuild this valuable resource?

Donating to these funds are opportunities for you, as a Legion Family member, to directly help other Legion Family members. Your post/squadron/unit leadership will be more than happy to send your donation in. Even better, consider holding a small- or NEF fundraiser to get even more funds. All NEF grants are just that—a grant of emergency funds to assist with expenses caused by a member’s home becoming uninhabitable due to disaster. Please be generous and give often. Thank you.

May you all be safe and well!

Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana

The Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of Veterans for Veterans. Our goal is to eliminate Veteran suicides! Our organization was formed to honor and serve the needs of military Veterans and their families by facilitating timely access to current information, assistance and resources, and by identifying emerging issues and offering solutions by creating new collaborations and community partnerships, providing suicide awareness and prevention trainings in the community specific to Veterans, and when barriers exist, requesting administrators, community leaders, and elected officials to intervene. The Veterans Coalition will build partnerships in the community to identify services which are Veteran specific and help bridge gaps between the Veteran and community service providers and Veteran organizations.

The Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana (VCNWM) is comprised of a seven (7) member board of Directors and Executive Assisances and they are listed as follows:

Michael Shepard, President/Director; Terry Baker, Vice President/Director; Doug Gilbertson, Treasurer/Director; L.D. Gross, Interim Secretary

Director; Mike Stone, Director; John Wise, Director; Nan Wise, Executive Assistant

The Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana and its members do not provide any direct services but are not limited to: Providing Veterans and their families with information about benefits and referrals to the Veteran Administration; Working in partnership with Together with Veterans in identifying at risk veterans specifically regarding suicide and PTSD. Our objective is to end Veteran suicides in Montana and nationwide. We will work towards eliminating suicide by identifying risk factors related specifically to Veterans, providing training to Vet-


ers and community partners to identify Veteran suicide risk factors, intervention and assistance by Veterans to help at risk Veterans in our community; Assist Veterans and their families in finding help with transportation, care-givers, equipment, housing and other essentials related to services through the Veteran Administration; Motivating Veterans and families of Veterans programs will be in recreational, therapeutic and economic activities in order to facilitate the healing process. More information on the Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana can be found at their website www.VCNWM.org or call (406) 407-5423.

Ronan Post 138 presents Continuous Membership Awards

Ronan Post 138 presents continuous membership awards at The American Legion’s 100th Birthday party hosted by The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 138. Thank you to the following members for their dedication and commitment to The American Legion and Post 138 without whom many of our programs would not be possible. With five continuous years: Burton C. Cannon, Gary Hoffer, Melvin Quakenbush, Patrick Reagan, Ronald Newton, Vern Chef Jr. and William E. Olson. With ten continuous years: Donald Hill, George Salovich and William C. Hocker. With 15 continuous years: Daniel D. Kramer and Wymann J. McDonald.

Post 72 Launches Successful Restoration of Historic Doughboy Statue

On November 11, 2018 at 11am, the Visquenay Doughboy Statue was re-dedicated for the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. This project was done by Past Commander Michael Shepard, as one of his ongoing chosen projects. Funding was secured from the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 1087, with funds leftover from the Travelling Wall of Sept 2017. After the original manufacturing company refused to help, Shepard secured the help of Acutech, a custom metal and powder coater, to assist. Jeff Harker, Bob Haessley, Duane Hagen and Shepard removed the statue and delivered it to Acutech. Shepard then secured samples of coatings that closely matched the real tanned color of the era and allowed one of the Veterans at the home, who is an actual military historian, to choose the color. A lot of work went into the custom sand blasting and cleaning of the COPPER statue. Repairs were made due to the years of abuse to include being hit by autos several times while it was at the Flathead County Courthouse lawn in Kalispell. The re-dedication ceremony was held 90 years to the day. L.D. Gross gave a half-hour history of WWI and Past Commander Shepard discussed the importance of this Statue and of Visquenay himself. Over 150 people were present for the ceremony which concluded with military honors and taps. Note the plaque...it is brass, but with years of copper oxidation running down the front face, it looks copper coated. This ceremony marks the beginning of our Post’s commemoration of 100 Years of The American Legion.

Dedication main speakers: LD Gross and Past Commander Shepard

Glen Sharbomo, Commander

Ronan Post 138

Glen Sharbomo, Commander

Gary Hoffer, Melvin Quakenbush and CDR Sharbomo

Michael Shepard

Michael Shepard
National American Legion 100th Birthday Events Across the State

Terry Post 32

Counted by Terry Thielke Reporter Libby Robertson.
Lucille Revell, an Auxiliary member for over 60 years, looks at the cake that has her husband's picture in his uniform from WWII. The cake was decorated with pictures of local Veterans; some date back to WWII and Vietnam.

Stevensville Post 94 Hosts AL 100th Birthday Open House

by Jerry EsMas

Open House

The Legion members along with the Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion provided an extensive display of scrapbooks and other Post memorabilia, games and activities for visitors and served up a scrumptious lunch of StubbBurgers, hot dogs and salad. The Auxiliary Juniors were also involved by running an ice cream bar.

Ronan Auxiliary Unit 138 hosts 100th Birthday for Legionnaires

g by Jerry EsMas

Legionnaires

Each year in lieu of their Annual Birthday Party the Ronan American Legion Auxiliary hosts a birthday party for Ronan Post 138 and this year it was held on Wednesday March 20th. Auxiliary President Lorrie Noble and her Unit thought since this was the 100th year of the birth of The American Legion, they would invite the other Posts in Mission Valley to help share the feast and fellowship. Over 50 people were in attendance representing not only the Ronan Post 138 Legion Family but members from St. Ignatius Post 106, Charlo Post 126, Polson Post 112 their Auxiliaries as well as several non-Legion family members. Attendees included WWII Veteran Jim Stovelle from Polson Post 112, who was in Tokyo Bay when Japan signed the surrender papers, and other Veterans from Korea, Vietnam, Kosovo, Panama, Grenada, the first Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism. Also attending as members of their local Posts and Auxiliaries was Department Vice Commander Jeff Nelson of Polson Post 112, Department Auxiliary Secretary Jamie DeBates of Ronan Unit 138 and Department Auxiliary Historian Chris Nelson of Polson Unit 112. It was rumored that the 4th District Commander may have been there as well. Dinner was a baked potato bar with a large variety of toppings followed by cake and ice cream compliments of Jessie Merwin of Ronan Unit 138 and other members of the Auxiliary who helped serve up a great meal. While everyone was enjoying their meal Commander Shartnings thanked President Lorrie Noble and members of her Unit for hosting the wonderful Centennial celebration. He then locked the door so no one would escape while he read the National Commanders 100th birthday speech. After reading the speech and just before cake and ice cream were served, continuous membership awards were presented to members of Ronan Post 138. Roger Rasmussen of Polson Post 112 had 50 continuous years joining The American Legion on the day of its 90th birthday. Jessie Merwin presented two Blue Star Banners she made by hand to Robert Shaw Commander of Charlo Post 126 and his son who is currently a Senior Master Sergeant in the USAF. Happy birthday was sung and everyone seemed to have a good time. Some had expressed that they wished all the students of the local schools could have heard the speech and perhaps have a better understanding of everything The American Legion has done and is still doing. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended to make this celebration such a successful and enjoyable experience.

Polson Post 112

Department Vice Commander Nelson, Dept. Auxiliary Historian Nelson, Dept. Auxiliary Secretary DeBates, and Post 112 Dorothy Goodwin

Traditionally the Legion Auxiliary has hosted a Legion Birthday celebration for Post 42, but last year’s big of a combined St Patrick’s Day dinner and Legion celebration was all the rage, so we repeated it again this year. On a bright, cool Sunday, March 17th, Post 42 Legion Family hosted 60 attendees for a wonderful corned beef and cabbage St. Patrick’s traditional dinner donated by many members, and a beautiful 100th Birthday cake donated by the Auxiliary. Cheering up the crowd again this year with music were Fogig and Friends long-time member and whistling cowboy Gary Ferguson, with fellow Legionnaires Bill Gillespie and Virgil Henke and a special guest, John Larson and his daughter, Laura Stovinon singing old Irish favorites. Food, drink, fellowship and merriment were had by all! A hearty ‘Thank you’ to the Post 42 Auxiliary, Legion members, Van’s IGA and Townsend community for your assistance in making the National American Legion 100th Birthday and St Patrick’s Day a memorable celebration.

District 7 and Gallatin Post 14 Family Host Legion Post 100th Birthday Celebration

in Len Albrit

District 7 and Post 14 hosted an American Legion Post 100th Birthday Celebration on March 15th at 7 pm at the Post 14 Legion Hall. US Senator Steve Daines, Department Adjutant Gary White and National Executive Committee Member David Driver were in attendance along with 60 other guests. We were honored as Senator Daines presented Post 14 with an American Flag that was flown at our Nation’s Capitol in recognition of The American Legion’s 100th Birthday. Post 14 Commander Len Albright received the flag from Senator Daines for the Post. Several 100th Anniversary American Legion gifts were given out as door prizes along with a bottle of 50th Anniversary American Legion Kentucky Bourbon. Fun was had by all. Department American Legion Auxiliary President Terry Kemp, Jim Hose and Len Albright organized this District 7 dinner event.

Frenchtown Post 124

Frenchtown Post 124 recently commissioned an American flag replica to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion. The wooden flag will be attached to the back of Post 124 Veteran’s Wall of Honor Memorial at Frenchtown Pond State Park.

The replica flag was made by Reclaimed Treasures, a veteran-owned business in Tucson, AZ.

Post/Unit 92 Celebrates Legion Birthday

in Gus Main

On March 11, 2019 The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 92 served cake and ice-cream to The American Legion Post 92 in Hysham to celebrate the Legion’s 100th Anniversary. Pictured from left to right are; Roger Babcock, Dennis Marks, Bill Cunningham, Morris Spannagel, Joyce Babcock, and Skip White.
Well, the holidays are behind us. I hope that all of you had a great holiday season. I know that I did. I look forward to hearing from you as to what things you were able to do to help veterans have a better holiday. We have a lot of things coming up in the next few months. One event is the 100th birthday of the American Legion. You need to be thinking about how your District is planning on celebrating this. I will be sending out information on what is being planned at different levels of our organization. Please let me know what you are planning.

We need to focus on the goal this year which is fostering Goodwill. We are to be the Ambassadors of Goodwill in our communities and in our state. Our National President Kathy Dungan will be giving out an award to five deserving members who exhibit Goodwill and promote the Auxiliary. There will be one award for each division.

Let us not forget that our National President’s focus this year is on women veterans. I think that sometimes we tend to think of veterans as only being men, but there are over two million women veterans nationwide. We need to find out about the ones in our area and see what we can do to help them. This falls in line with membership as well. Women veterans are eligible to be dual members of both The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. All of you know that women are important members of the organization and you are doing a great job.

The next few months we also need to focus on Americanism, Community Service, and Children and youth. These all go hand in hand with the theme of fostering Goodwill. Try to get out in your schools and work with the students. Remember I talked about bullying in the schools. Now is a good time to address this in the school system. See if maybe you would let them do a small program about what The American Legion Auxiliary is all about. You could do a flag etiquette presentation and talk about Americanism. As always, I want to thank each one of you for all that you do in your communities to help veterans. All of you promote Goodwill every time that you thank a veteran for their service. Keep up the good work ladies. You are what make the American Legion Auxiliary great.

**NEC for the Dept of MT 2018 - 2019**

Kathryn Long

As your National Executive Committeeperson (NEC), National has asked me to present an idea for your Department to consider. I know that we have had this idea presented before, but National would like all Departments who have not complied with this issue to revisit it.

Let us start with some information that needs to be discussed. From start to finish it may take National 3 to 5 years to implement some information into action - not all information takes 3 to 5 years but occasionally it does. Here is the problem: If the NEC position has a different person every year, National must first bring the new NEC’s up to speed as to where they are in implementing the plan for that particular information. This can take a lot of time and expense that would not occur if the NEC position had more than a one-year term.

This means we as a Department need to determine how long our NEC can be in office. Other Departments also have looked at this issue and they said that we cannot have such a hard time finding people for the NEC position – let’s make the NEC position out of the Lineup for the Chairs. We (they) should not have the NEC position tied to the Presidency. When I went back to Indianapolis for the National Executive Committee meeting in February less than half of the NECs there were the most recent Past Department President.

Here are some examples of how the Departments have chosen to have the term for their NEC: one Department has a term of one three-year term and the same person can run again – infinitely; one Department has two two-year terms, but they cannot run again after the second term; one Department has the terms as 2 three-year terms but the person in the position can opt out after the first term, but definitely not run again after the second term; two other Departments that I talked with are in the same position we are in, in the fact that they also should be looking at this issue. The three examples in the above paragraph that leaves us with the question of who would be eligible to serve as NEC. When I asked that question of different Departments, they said they made it a requirement that only Past Department Presidents could serve as NEC. One Department even went so far as to say that the most recent Past Department Presidents could be in the election for the NEC in their Department who would then serve for two years.

My recommendation, because of the time frame, is that the Department of Montana should address this issue with a resolution sometime in the next 18 months. By the way ladies, this recommendation is only after we have the resolution, we then get to discuss what we are going to do—nothing more than a discussion. We as a Department can do what we think is best for our organization.
If you cannot make it and still would love some good news on the fundraising front for our ALA Girls State. We received a wonderful $1,000 donation from the Northwest Energy Foundation and generous $2,000 from the Montana Justice Foundation. There are still a few more applications that I’m waiting to hear back from and keeping my fingers crossed that we’ll be successful. Remember if you are not sponsoring any girls this year but still want to help out, any donation to the program is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Billings ladies and Sue Davidson who again stepped up to buy us a new printer to use during the sessions.

As of press deadline (5 April), we were at 45 Delegates with two weeks of application period left to go. 150 girls is still a long way off so please get out to your schools or if you are holding applications, send them in to the Registrar Colleen as soon as possible. I have visited a few of the District meetings in both the Legion and Auxiliary gatherings and fielded many calls from our Units so I know you are working hard to get the word out. Keep it up! If you have more Delegates than you can sponsor or are looking to sponsor girls out of your area, let Colleen or myself know. We will work with you to see that as many girls as qualified and desiring to go, can participate.

If you would like to volunteer your time during the day as an activity escort for the Capitol tours, Mock Legislation, VA trips or Mock/Moot trials, please call me at 406-949-3660 and we will gladly work with you to see that as many girls as qualified and desiring to go, can participate. If you again stepped up to buy us a new printer to use during the sessions.

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MONTANA MERCI CAR TURNS 70

French 40 & 8 Box Car Gifted by the People of France as Part of The French Gratitude Train of 1949

Gifted to Montana on February 16, 1949

By Raymond K. Read, Museum Curator/Director | (406) 756-1505 | Fort Harrison, MT

Not so well known is the fact that a very special gift known as the MERCI CAR or 40 & 8 Box Car is on exhibit at the Montana Military Museum at Fort William Henry Harrison just west of Helena available for all to see.

During the year 1947, the people of France and Italy were still struggling to recover from the devastation of World War II. After seeing this hardship first hand, noted columnist and journalist Drew Pearson spearheaded a fundraising campaign to provide the French with food, clothing and other necessities. Americans contributed generously to the purely grass-roots effort, filling the ‘American Friendship Train’ with an estimated $40 million in relief supplies to be sent to France.

Touched by the Americans’ response to their needs, the French answered with a special project called the ‘French Gratitude Train of 1949’, an idea originating with Andre Picard, a veteran and railroad employee. He suggested that a 40 & 8 Boxcar be filled with gifts from every part of France and sent to the United States as a gesture of gratitude. Picard’s idea led to the creation of a committee to solicit enough gifts to fill one boxcar, but the French citizens’ response exceeded all expectations and it soon became obvious that a single boxcar could not hold all the items. The French War Veterans Association assumed control of the project and filled 49 of the 40&8 Box Cars; one for each state then in the Union and one boxcar to be shared by the District of Columbia and territory of Hawaii. Eventually 52,000 gifts weighing 250 tons were collected during 1948 by Governor John Bonner, on behalf of the French people by Paul Lenier, French Vice-Counsel.

Since being received by Governor Bonner in the ceremony, the French 40 & 8 Box Car has had a long and sometimes tepid history. After the ceremony and distribution of the contents to the various counties of Montana as well as the Montana Historical Library, Montana’s Merci Car sat unceremoniously in the North Pacific railway yards for nearly ten years largely forgotten and rusting away. In the 1950’s, Montana’s La Société des 40 Homes et 8 Chevaux or the 40 & 8 Society established in 1922, became the advocate for Montana’s Merci Car. In 1956 after working on generating interest among the membership, the 40 & 8 Society leadership approached then Governor Hugo Aronson asking to have the Car donated to the State’s 40 & 8 Society and further to have the Car placed on display in the State Capital area as a tribute to the veterans and people of Montana.

In 1957, a verbal contract was struck with Governor Aronson turning the Car over to the 40 & 8 Society. The State Board of Examiners, caretakers of the Capital complex and State property, authorized the Car to be set behind the Veterans and Pioneers Building in a park for all to see. Eventually after necessary repairs Montana MERCI Car was returned to its place in a much smaller area behind the Veterans and Pioneers Building.

In 1976 that area was re-designated as the Veterans Plaza and flags and symbols of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were added by the veterans of Montana under the direction of Mr. Chet Shore. Shore also finished the Trophy Room on the third floor furnishing it with many donations of Montana veterans of all the Wars.

In 2001, Montana’s MERCI Car was moved to its present site at the Montana Military Museum at Fort William Henry Harrison where it is now a premiere exhibit at the Museum’s outdoor Veterans Plaza. Because the Montana MERCI CAR continues to be a resolute symbol of the patriotism, dedication and sacrifice of many Montana Veterans of World War I and World War II and has stood the ultimate test of surviving and being relevant to their memory; the Montana Military Museum wants to recognize the energizing of the Greatest Generation and the caring people of Montana by asking all citizens to recognize February 16, 2019 as the 70th Anniversary of this French gift in gratitude for the joint recognition of the importance of freedom.
At convention there will be votes on resolutions, their opinion at any committee meeting or general 
June 15 and the one delegate will 
but is authorized four, then the one delegate will 
Convention, 
delegates are apportioned according to the paid 
fundraiser, your generous donations are much 
I would like to thank all members who 
I am where Your help comes in. ASK people you meet 
I believe it never happens again.”
Command Sergeant Major. “Sure I saw it on TV, 
served the final nine years of his career as the State 
sure it never happens again.”

Post CN20 Initiates Members
Post CN20 held an Initiation Ceremony and Membership awards 
night at the Calgary Military Museum. Four new members were 
initiated at the ceremony, they were James Carrigan, Greg Amey, 
and your vote count. 
At Convention June 25 – June 30, 2019. Your Post must be in 
be in, and the quality of people who live here. 
Enjoy a Day with other women veterans in your 
needed, if you want a say in how the American 
Legion of Montana operates, it is imperative that 
you attend convention and let your voice be heard and your vote count. 
the Post has 151 members would 
are available to them as women vets in MT as some 
Legion. I would like to invite them to functions that 
the Post which are Vietnam Veterans.

Long Overdue: Ceremony Recognizes Vietnam Veterans at Montana’s Capitol

On March 29, 2019 about 55 people – most of them Vietnam vets – marched around the Capitol building before attending the fourth annual cer-
emony commemorating the 50th anniversary of those who returned home from the Vietnam War.
The American Legion Department Historian Ray Reed, “Appreciation Day” master of cer-
monies, along with fellow Vietnam veteran Pat McCaun, worked with the 62nd Montana Legisla-
ture to get House Bill 255, titled “The Welcome Home Veterans Day,” passed into law in 2011. In 2016, Reed and McCaun were instru-
mental in organizing the inaugural Appreciation Day at the state Capitol.
Reed noted that 268 Montanans were killed in action or died from non-hostile causes in 
Vietnam during the war, and that there are currently about 32,300 Vietnam veterans (men and women) residing in the Treasure State.
The event, which was sponsored in part by the local Daughters of the Revolution group, 
was kicked off by The American Legion Department Chaplain Karen Semple, who 
gave the invocation and read the prayer Chief 
Seattle gave at the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in 1982. Charmaine Lind-
gren sang the National Anthem, followed by 
Brigadier Gen. Jeff Ireland’s reading of the 
Appreciation Day proclamation.
“We cannot change the past,” said Ireland, 
referring to the mistreatment of our armed forces 
returning from Southeast Asia 45-plus years ago.

Post CN20 Initiates Members
Post CN20 held an Initiation Ceremony and Membership awards 
night at the Calgary Military Museum. Four new members were 
initiated at the ceremony, they were James Carrigan, Greg Amey, 
Dana Urban and Don Beamer. Continuous membership pins were 
handed out and Monte Coles was handed his 50-year pin, he has been 
a member of the Legion longer than the Post has been in existence. 
Pins were also handed out to all the Vietnam Veterans in the audi-
ence and to those member in the Post who are Vietnam Veterans.

You need not be a delegate to attend conven-
tion, any 2019 paid members can attend and voice 
their opinion at any committee meeting or general 
session, however they will not be allowed a vote. 
At convention there will be votes on resolutions,
committee reports, the 2022 Department Conven-
sion site, National Convention delegates and 
election of Department officers. 
As you can see there are many votes that will be 
required, if you want a say in how the American 
Legion of Montana operates, it is imperative that 
you attend convention and let your voice be heard and your vote count. 
the Post has 151 members would 
are available to them as women vets in MT as some 
Legion. I would like to invite them to functions that 
the Post which are Vietnam Veterans.

Welcome All Women Veterans 2019 Women’s Veteran Forum
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WOMEN’S WELL-BEING
Come join other women veterans for a day of comradeship! 

I WILL BE ATTENDING: 
2 11 May Missoula, at 825 Ronan ST 
(American Legion Post) 
1 8 June Billings, at 934 Lewis Ave (Elks) 
2 1 May Missoula, at 825 Ronan ST 
(American Legion Post) 
6 8 June Billings, at 934 Lewis Ave (Elks) 
2 5 May Great Falls, at 95403 
1 1 May Missoula, at 825 Ronan ST 
(American Legion Post) 
6 8 June Billings, at 934 Lewis Ave (Elks) 
2 5 May Great Falls, at 95403
Sun River Post 130 Veteran’s Day Pot Luck

Guest of honor: Boy’s state participant Jordan Aliperto, and Girl state participant Maddie Huston and winner of $1,500 Samsung Scholarship. Girls state participant Madeline Bloom was unable to attend. Distinguished Guest: Hal Rice, Alternate NEC, Monica Rice, Auxiliary 8th District President and District 8 Commander Kim Kay Carol McCarty Martin.

Bozeman Post 14 Family Share Comradery & Corned Beef Dinner

January 17th. The traditional corned beef, cabbage, and red potatoes were served to 134 hungry guests. Head chef Jim Marchwick prepares the corned beef and his special rub as he has done so for 30 years. Randy Kemp, his daughter and granddaughter help to sell dinner tickets at the door. A grand thank you to all who attended and helped make the evening special.

Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana

Montana Hero Receives Medal of Honor

What’s Next?

An American hero, Staff Sgt. Atkins saved the lives of three of his fellow soldiers on that day. America can never forget the men and women, like Travis, who make the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and in defense of our flag.

What’s Next:

A Montana native, Travis’ extraordinary valor and sacrificial service are now a part of our state’s great history. Every effort should be made to preserve his legacy. That is why this week I introduced legislation to rename the VA Clinic in Travis’ hometown of Bozeman in his honor. I will work with Senator Tester and Congressman Gianforte in swiftly passing this bill.

Butte Post 1 Hosts Veterans Valentine’s Day Event

Members of Butte Post No. 1 and the Auxiliary visited local rest homes and assisted living facilities in the Butte area for Valentine’s Day. Approximately 100 veterans received heart shaped boxes of chocolates along with a thank you note for their service.

This is a very special event for our veterans and it’s our privilege to deliver greetings.

**Call to Convention**

To: Officers and members of the American Legion Posts in Montana

Greetings

The 106th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Montana, hereby calls and invites you, individually or through your officers, to meet in Convention at the Polson, Montana, June 28, 29, 30 2019 to transact and consider such matters as are included in this call and any other business which may properly come before it.

Purpose

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers to the ensuing year; electing delegates to the National Convention, appointing the Department Convention, presentation of annual reports, and the transactions of such other business as may be brought before it in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitution.

Basis of Representation

Representatives in the Convention will be by Post. Each Post in good standing shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates and in addition shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for each ten members of the Post in good standing. Each delegate and alternate shall be entitled to one vote. The terms of office of the delegates and alternates shall be for the remainder of the year in which they are elected, or the vacancy shall be filled by the Department. The vote of the convention on the election of officers and the transactions of any other business shall be taken by voice vote. Each delegate and alternate shall have a right to one vote.

The American Legion of Montana Convention

POLSON, MONTANA

Saturday, June 29, 2019

Schedule Subject to Change

[Details of schedule]

The American Legion of Montana Department Convention

Polson, Montana

June 28th, 29th, 30th 2019

Submit By Stephen Allen, Post No. 1 Butte, MT

Veterans Valentine’s Day

It’s our privilege to deliver greetings.

Members:

Senior Living, and The Springs assisted Living.

Facilities in the Butte area for Valentine’s Day.

Members of Butte Post No. 1 and the Auxiliary will work with Senator Tester and Congressman Gianforte in swiftly passing this bill.

Gianforte presented legislation to rename the VA Clinic in defense of our flag.

Make the ultimate sacrifice women, like Travis, who attended and helped make the evening special.

Women, like Travis, who made the ultimate sacrifice are now a part of our state’s great history.

Every effort should be made to preserve his legacy. That is why this week I introduced legislation to rename the VA Clinic in Travis’ hometown of Bozeman in his honor. I will work with Senator Tester and Congressman Gianforte in swiftly passing this bill.

Legionnaire Kins for the award.

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Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana

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What’s New:

What’s Next:

One long time member and past officer Shirley Rand was acknowledged.

Auxiliary Unit 1 members:

Post 74’s Kins receives Commendation

Congressman Greg Gianforte presented Post 74 member Charles Kins with the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran’s Commendation at the Senior Center in Eureka on March 4, 2019. Congressman Gianforte also presented Charles with the certificate that read into the Official Congressional Record, as well as a United States flag that was flown over the Capitol in Charles honor.

The commendation is presented to veterans after evaluation of their military service record and current volunteer work within their community. Post 74 member Dan Stewart nominated Legionnaire Kins for the award.

ShopVCS.com Offers New Online Shopping Program

Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) is excited to announce a new benefit. On November 13, 2018, VCS launched ShopVCS.com, an online shopping site exclusively available to Veterans and their families.

Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare are able to shop VCS online at ShopVCS.com. This new exclusive shopping experience offers deals on thousands of products from hundreds of top brands with the ability to easily and securely shop from any device. The site features an expanded catalog of products to include: Veteran-Owned brands, Made-in-USA items, military items, sportsware, jewelry, health and beauty, home goods, electronics, outdoor gear, travel options, event tickets, and much more.

Registration is free and Veterans enrolled in VA and their family members eligible to register at ShopVCS.com as authorized customers. Proceeds from your purchases are given back to the Veteran community in support of VA programs such as: National Rehabilitation Adaptive Sports Games, Vets Crisis Suicide Prevention, Fisher House, Veteran Programs, National Disaster Relief, Homeless Veterans programs, and much more.

Post 74's

Kins receives Commendation

Submitted by Stone Flugel, Commander Post 74, Eureka

City Golf Course

Eagle Valley

Sitting Bull College

Gardner College

Glory 51

Kills

Richard Klose

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How to Submit Articles or Photos?
Deadline: July 1, 2019

Preferences: (always include Post & City in Email Subject Line)

- No formatting such as: multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
- Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as all formatting has to be removed before printing.
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post City as well as Post/Unit number
- Unit, Post & 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 did this” or “I saw this” 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 Banquet ($55.00 each). The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with parenthesis in parenthesis, then following first use, the acronym.
- 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 bigger for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- Captions should be noted in the e-mail:
  - Photo caption which includes Post, Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.
- Do not spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE!!
  - Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
- Do not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (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 Quarterly to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
- Helps ensure 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 plagiarism.
- 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 speckcheck your work before you send it the first time.

Byline – remember…always include the submitters name for articles.

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to: intimpreuth@gmail.com
Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!
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 & Senior Center
618 East Adams
Chester, Montana
(406) 453-3822

Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment Of Montana
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERSHIP CALL:
(406) 324-3989
or (406) 324-3990
Or Write to P.O. Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604.

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 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

AMERICAN LEGION
POST #4
OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM
HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN
1540 Broadwater Ave.
Billings, MT

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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

We Salute Our Servicemen & Women
Welcome To American Legion Club 30
We invite all veterans to stop in and support YOUR club.

31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430

2 inch ads: $75 per year
31/2 inch ads: $85 per year