



## American Legion Convention 2025

Training at the Center of 2025 Department Convention in Helena  
The American Legion Department of Montana is proud to host its 2025 Convention in historic Helena from June 20–22, with a packed agenda that emphasizes leadership development, operational excellence, and community impact. This year's convention isn't just about reports and elections, it's a robust opportunity for Legionnaires to learn, lead, and launch new initiatives in their local posts.

**Training Day:** Thursday, June 19 Thursday is officially the Department's "Training Day," offering targeted sessions designed to equip members with practical tools and knowledge. Whether you're a new officer or a seasoned leader, there's something here to sharpen your skills:

- **Gambling Compliance Training** (0800–0900 & 1400–1500, DoubleTree Elkhorn/Remini) – Essential for posts managing gambling operations to stay informed on regulations.
- **Grassroots Legislative Training** (0800–0900 & 1400–1500, DoubleTree Remini/Elkhorn) – Learn how to effectively advocate for veterans' issues and local concerns.
- **Service Officer Training** (0900–1000, DoubleTree Elkhorn)

– A must for those assisting veterans with benefits, claims, and support services.

- **MyLegion.org Training** (0900–1000 & 1300–1400, DoubleTree Remini) – A hands-on look at digital tools for membership management and post administration.
- **Parliamentary Procedure Training** (1300–1400, DoubleTree Elkhorn) – Strengthen your ability to run efficient, rule-based meetings.
- **Honor Guard Training** (0900–1200, Fort Harrison) – Develop the discipline and protocol needed for ceremonial duties.

These sessions are designed not only to educate, but to empower Legionnaires to return to their communities better prepared to lead and serve.

### Expanded Focus on Membership and Mental Health

Additional training continues through the weekend, including:

- **"Be The One" Mental Health Initiative Training** Friday, 1210–1330, Civic Center (During Americanism Luncheon) Join us during Friday's Americanism Luncheon for an important session on the Legion's national campaign to reduce veteran suicide and support mental wellness. "Be The One" empowers members to take simple, meaningful actions—listening, reaching out, and connecting veterans with the help they

need. Learn how your post can lead the way in breaking the stigma and saving lives.

- **Membership Development & Strategy Training** Saturday, 0700–0800, Civic Center Start your Saturday with a focused session on building a stronger post. This training dives into proven strategies for recruiting, engaging, and retaining members, while also exploring tools available through MyLegion and Department resources. Whether your post is thriving or rebuilding, this is your chance to walk away with practical ideas and a renewed approach to growth.

**New Officer Training and Transition**  
The convention concludes with the Incoming Officer Training on Sunday (1200–1330, Civic Center), following the installation of new Department officers and the New Executive Committee meeting. This session ensures a strong handoff and strategic start for the incoming leadership team.

This year's convention offers more than a gathering—it's a chance to grow. We encourage all attendees to take full advantage of these trainings and help drive The American Legion's mission forward with fresh knowledge, renewed focus, and shared purpose.

## Department Commander

Ken Simon

As we move into the final stretch of this membership year, I want to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support, dedication, and tireless service to the American Legion and to our fellow veterans across Montana. I would also like to take a moment to recognize our Very Capable and Tireless Adjutant and Adjutants Assistant for their support, strong commitment, and for keeping me updated on those matters pertaining to keeping the American Legion Department of Montana running like a well oiled clock.

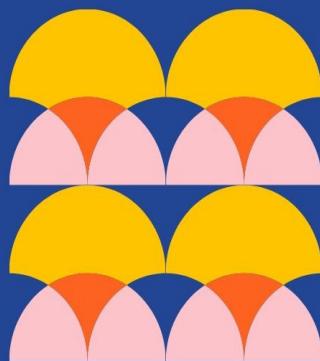
Many of you have reached out recently with kind words, well wishes, and prayers — and I want you to know how much that has meant to me. I recently underwent surgery, and while I chose to keep the moment private and low-key, your thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed. Your encouragement and respect for my privacy gave me the strength to focus on recovery and return even more committed to our shared mission. For those who reached out, and you know who you are, those calls and texts always came at the right time. I am Forever Grateful for the Rewarding opportunity all of you gave me serve as your Department Commander. From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of My Very Supportive Wife, Thank you.

I also want to recognize the outstanding work happening in every corner of the state. Your efforts in submitting reports and driving membership are nothing short of inspiring. We all



know this has been a challenging year in many ways, but you've shown once again that when Montana Legionnaires pull together, there's nothing we can't accomplish. This proves that when Team Montana works together, there is absolutely nothing that we can not accomplish. As we head into May — and toward our Department Convention in June — let's keep our momentum going. Let's close out this year strong and ensure that our Posts, our programs, and our people are positioned for continued growth and impact.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Thank you for all that you do — not just for The American Legion, but for your communities, your comrades, and your country.



### How do I contact my State Senator and Representative?

See below links to communicate with your Legislators

- Participate Montana Legislature Site – [Participate – Montana Legislature](#)
- You will need to establish an account in "Participate" to email your legislator
- Who Is My Legislator? – [Districts – Montana Legislature](#)
- Click magnifying glass in upper right corner of map, then enter address
- Or, leave a message: 406.444.4800

Roger A. Hagan (Legislative Committee Chairman, MT Department of the American Legion)  
117 Gerber Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, Cell (406) 459-0773

## Join Us in Tampa Bay for the 106th National Convention

The American Legion's 106th National Convention will take place from August 22–28, 2025, in sunny Tampa, Florida. This annual event is an incredible opportunity for members to engage in the business of The American Legion, connect with fellow Legionnaires from across the country, and celebrate our shared mission of service to veterans, their families, and our communities.

Montana delegates will stay at the Hyatt Place Downtown Tampa, located at 325 N. Florida Ave., just 13 blocks from the Tampa Convention Center. Shuttle services will be available between the hotel and the convention venue for your convenience. Delegates are required to stay at the designated convention hotel. Room rates start at \$131 per night for double occupancy, with additional charges for triple and quad occupancies. Please note that valet parking is \$29 per day, with no self-parking options available.

Members interested in attending must request registration forms from Department Headquarters by emailing [amlegmtsec@gmail.com](mailto:amlegmtsec@gmail.com). Completed forms must be submitted at the Department Convention in Helena, scheduled for June 20–22, 2025. All convention registrations are due prior to the Department Convention, with deposits required by July 1.

If you plan to attend the prestigious National Commander's Banquet, make sure to submit your \$70 payment by March 20, 2025. This non-refundable payment ensures your seat at one of the convention's highlight events. Banquet tickets are only non-refundable, so we encourage early reservations to secure your attendance. Details about the entertainment for the banquet will be announced soon. The National Convention promises to be an exciting and memorable experience for all attendees. Don't miss this opportunity to represent Montana and contribute to the important work of The American Legion.

For more information, contact Department Headquarters or visit the American Legion's National Convention website.

### 2025 GOLF SCRAMBLE

## TEE-UP A GREAT DAY WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

JUNE 21, 2025 • 1PM  
BILL ROBERTS GOLF COURSE

JOIN US FOR OUR CONVENTION GOLF SCRAMBLE! BRING YOUR CLUBS AND COME ON OUT!  
ENTRY IS \$37 ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS

MUST BE PRE REGISTERED  
TO REGISTER, MAIL CHECK TO AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA  
PO BOX 155 FORT HARRISON MT 59636



### Department Convention Golf Scramble

Let's take care of business—and then hit the greens for some fun! Join us Saturday afternoon for a Best Ball Golf Scramble, open to all members of the American Legion Family. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just enjoy being out on the course, this is a great chance to relax, have a few laughs, and get to know fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons, and Riders.

This will be a blind draw scramble, so no need to form a team in advance—partners will be drawn at random to keep things lighthearted and social. Don't worry about your skill level; this event is all about enjoying the game and each other's company.

Please bring your own clubs if possible, as the course has a limited number of rental sets available.

Now, a quick request: We're asking each Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter participating to bring one item that can be used as a hole prize or door prize. This could be something from a local business—like a hat, gift card, or golf pass—or something unique from your area or your own hobby.

So come out, enjoy a great afternoon of golf, and help us make this a fun and memorable part of the Convention. Let's put some smiles on faces—see you on the course!



## Vice Commander

### Kim Kay

Hello Legionnaires and Legion Family! I hope everyone is enjoying the longer days and fine spring weather. As we keep springing into spring, I want to thank everyone for all your hard work and effort on working towards our 100% goal. So many of you have dedicated your time and effort in getting members to renew and also getting new members to join so that we are closer to our 100% goal. We are, as a Department, at 88.6 % of our membership goal. Again, thank you.

I'm not sure if each Post in the Department has received their District percentages or post percentages yet so I will include the district percentages as of 9 April 2025: District 1 has 82.32% with 4 posts at 100%; District 2 has 101.62% with 6 posts at 100%; District 3 has 90.97% with 2 posts at 100%; District 4 has 90.33% with 2 posts at 100%; District 5 has 90.15% with 3 posts at 100%; District 6 has 86.34% with 3 posts at 100%; District 7 has 87.70%; District 8 has 81.62% with 4 posts at 100%; District 9 has 89.14% with 2 posts at 100%; District 10 has 86.96% with 1 post at 100%; and District 11 has 91.93% with 3 posts at 100%. If you have any questions on your post percentages, please talk with your District Commander.

There will be events in different parts of Montana in the next couple of weeks that your District or Post Commander could use your help and your time. It takes all of us, as a family, to find a member and everyone's help is appreciated! This is a statewide call to get renewals in, find that one new member for your post, invite veterans to participate in one of your events, or do a Buddy check. The comradery from other veterans will make someone's day or even make your day. I just had a great opportunity this past weekend handing out poppies. I met several veterans whom I talked with at length from all the branches of service except Coast Guard. We agreed that there is nothing better than talking to another vet as we understand each other. We've been there and if we haven't, we listen.

I want to everyone to imagine what it would be like to join your ideal post. What do you want to do? What kind of post do you want to be a part of? Take your imagination and share it with others who believe in the same kind of post. With perseverance, the beliefs you have towards the post you want, together you can achieve many great things. Again, thank you everyone for all you do in the American Legion, your dedication and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated!

## Chaplain's Corner

Each May, as the days grow warmer and the skies a little brighter, Legionnaires across Montana gather in cemeteries and memorial grounds—quiet places where the names of heroes are etched in stone. We walk among the rows, flags in hand, hearts humbled by the weight of what each name represents. These aren't just markers of the past; they are reminders of courage, sacrifice, and the price of freedom.

Memorial Day is not just a holiday—it is a sacred moment in our national calendar. It is a time when we, as veterans and as a grateful people, pause to remember those who never came home. The ones who served beside us, who gave their lives on foreign soil or faded quietly after the battles ended. For many of us, it's personal. We remember faces, voices, shared stories, and silent prayers whispered in the foxholes of our youth.

In placing a flag at a headstone, we are doing more than honoring a name. We are making a promise—that their sacrifice was not in vain, that we will not forget, and that the freedoms they died to protect will be upheld by those of us still walking this earth.

There's a quiet holiness to this act. It is a ministry of presence—a way we as the Legion Family offer comfort to the living and pay homage to the dead. And it is also a legacy we pass on to younger generations. When sons, daughters, and grandchildren help us place those flags, they are learning that patriotism has roots deeper than words; it is lived out in action, in reverence, and in remembrance. As you visit your local cemeteries this Memorial Day, may your steps be guided by gratitude. May your hands, as they plant those small flags, feel the weight of honor. And may your hearts be lifted in knowing that what we do matters—not just to us, but to the memory of every man and woman who gave their all.

Let us not forget that in remembering them, we renew our own call to serve—with humility, with hope, and with the same unwavering commitment to duty and country.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” —John 15:13



### WORKING FOR ALL LEGIONNAIRES

Hello, fellow Legionnaires! My name is Irene Dickerson, and I am running for Vice Commander of the American Legion Department of Montana. I'm a retired Army officer with 30 years of active duty and Reserve service, including deployments to Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, retiring in 2013. I've been a Legion member since 2014, serving as Adjutant for Post 524 in Texas and currently as District 10 Commander in Southeast Montana. I also serve as the Dean of Montana American Legion College and the Department's Woman Veterans Coordinator.

I am committed to growing the American Legion College, increasing female veteran involvement, and expanding Montana's membership through training, outreach, and community engagement. My leadership philosophy is rooted in teamwork, open-mindedness, and problem-solving, with a focus on ensuring The American Legion remains impactful and relevant.

I look forward to working with you to strengthen our mission.



### Lowell Long, Alternate NEC



He has served in the following leadership positions in the American Legion and SAL. Post 48 Commander and Adjutant, District 2 Commander and Adjutant, North Central Zone Commander, Department Vice Commander, Department Commander, Squadron 48 Adjutant, North Central Zone Commander, Detachment Commander, and SAL Alternate NEC.

He has served on many Department and National Committees including Boys State Committee, Oratorical Scholarship Committee, the Centennial Committee, the Conventional Armed Forces Committee at National and the Membership Training and Development Committee for the Sons of the American Legion at National.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Department of Montana and represent our Department at the National Level. Please Vote for Lowell Long for Alternate NEC at our Department Convention this June in Helena.

Greetings fellow Legionnaires! Many of you know me, but for those that do not my name is Andrew Rice and I am currently serving as the North Central Zone Commander. During the fall conference I officially announced my campaign to run for Department Vice Commander. First, I will start with a little history about me. I am 39 years old and served a total of 8 years in the US Army and Army National Guard. During that span I deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom 5-7. Early into my military career, my father, Hal Rice, was insistent that I join the American Legion and I have now been a member of this great organization for 21 years. Over the course of my time in the American Legion I have served and am currently serving as the Post 102 commander in Geraldine. I have also been the district 8 commander before moving into the zone commander position for my respective area. Each position I have held has been greatly enjoyable and a fulfilling experience and I have also been at the forefront of our push to be more visible in the public and helping the department to implement some of the ideas that have been put forth. Other positions I currently have are the Squadron 102 commander in Geraldine and I am also serving as the Detachment Commander for the SAL.

Now a bit about my reasoning to want to run for the Department Vice Commander position. Many talks have been had about wanting to infuse some youth into the organization and I find myself in a unique position that I can relate to our existing membership in many ways but also understand the mentality of the younger veterans across the state and some of the things they are looking for. During my time manning booths at the fairs and talking to veterans in public I have been able to recruit and have meaningful talks with many of the veterans from Malmstrom Air Force Base and other communities. Much of this falls into my vision for the American Legion and it falls into just three words: Unity, Family and Mission. Unity in that we work together to reach our goals. Family that we work together across the board. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders are the family and as a family we are so much stronger together. As we know, family does not always agree with each other but we can always work out our differences to focus on the third word; mission. The mission is always to be there for our veterans. Whether they are a member or not, we are there for our veterans. For me this is an amazing organization to belong to and I end this with my solemn promise to give this organization and our members and veterans my absolute full effort and attention to keep it as strong and amazing as possible.



## PDC Richard A. Klose Sr. for NEC

Fellow Legionnaires,

I am honored to announce my candidacy for National Executive Committeeman (NEC) to represent Montana at the National NEC meetings.

As a proud resident of Laurel in south-central Montana, I am centrally located and well-positioned to travel throughout the state, assisting the Department wherever and whenever needed.

With my experience as a member of the National Membership and Post Activities (M&PA) Committee, I have gained valuable insight into the workings and responsibilities at the National level. This experience has prepared me to effectively advocate for Montana's interests and contribute to the success of our Legion programs.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote at our 2025 Department Convention. Together, we can strengthen our mission and ensure Montana's voice is heard.

## RICHARD A KLOSE SR. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## Vote For Me

Department Commander



KIM KAY C MCCARTY MARTIN



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**VOTE**

**Linda Cousineau**

**Department Vice Commander**



***"Life is forever changing"***

**I'm 110% ready for our next change**

**15 year member**

My goal as Vice Commander is to help develop a good Legion Family working relationship in all posts. When the post, unit, and squadron all work together sharing ideas, brainstorming and networking, you will all become a stronger force to be reckoned with. This strength will unify your Legion Family and hopefully help you become successful in your goals; ie. membership and taking care of veterans and their families. Remember to include all Legion Family members and non-Legion veterans and their families.

As my campaign motto states, "Life is forever changing". We need to start thinking outside the norm. With Legion members becoming harder to recruit and retain, we need to utilize every resource available including Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion. They all have different perspectives on how they see and think to solve challenges. Let's embrace that difference, be inclusive and overcome our challenges on the road to success together.

I will bring leadership experience, diversity and commitment to the Vice Commander position in support of our entire Legion Family.

## Jeff Nelson

I am running for the position of Alternate NEC and would like your support. My background includes 2 years as Montana Dept. Commander, serving through the covid years, Named Commander of the year by National as the highest ranking Commander for surpassing goal in membership 2019, Being Montana SAL Commander the following year, Having attended 14 National conventions and meeting many delegates from all areas of the United States and served on numerous committees with them.

I feel it is a time for trust and transparency from our leaders and am asking your support in seeking this position.



## Raymond Read, Department Historian

I am announcing my candidacy for re-election as the Department Historian for the year 2025-2026, This would be my 22nd year in that elected position. Previous position I have held. Past Commander of American Legion Post 2, Department Shooting Sports Chair, Department Homeless Veterans chair, 100 Anniversary Committee Chair and Department Adjutant 2001-2003. I have been a continuous member of the American Legion since 1983.



## “Inspire, Train, Learn”

**VOTE**

## Glen Sharbono

**National Executive Committee  
2025-2027**

- **Post Adjutant 2014-2025**
- **Post Vice Commander 2015-2017**
- **Post Commander 2018-2021/2022-2025**
- **American Legion Family Ribbon**
- **Post Excellence Award**
- **Post and District Oratory Chairman**
- **District Vice Commander/Adjutant**
- **Merv Gunderson Award**
- **District Commander**
- **2017 Graduate American Legion Basic Training**
- **2017 Graduate of Montana Legion College**
- **2017 Graduate of The National American Legion College**
- **Dean of The Montana Legion College**
- **Department Vice Commander**
- **Department Commander**



*Glen Sharbono*



**Alternate NEC Member currently serving since 2023 and trained to be your next National Executive Committee Member!**

## Department Adjutant

Duane Cunningham

### Strengthening Our Foundation: The Importance of Completing CPRs, SDRs, and Officer Certifications

As we move toward another impactful year in service to our veterans, youth, and communities, it is crucial that every Montana American Legion post and Sons of the American Legion squadron ensures the completion and timely submission of their Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs), Squadron Data Reports (SDRs), and Officer Certification Forms. These reports are not simply bureaucratic checklists—they are essential tools for measuring the impact of our programs, securing future funding, and preserving the legacy of service that defines our organization.

When CPRs and SDRs are submitted accurately and on time, they allow The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion to showcase the real work being done in Montana and across the country—hours volunteered, funds raised, youth supported, and veterans helped. This data is compiled at the national level to advocate for our priorities in Congress and to demonstrate the continued relevance

and strength of our mission. Equally important is taking the time to fill out full contact information for all officers. Accurate phone numbers, emails, and addresses ensure clear communication and stronger connection between Department, District, and local leadership. When contact details are missing or outdated, posts may miss important updates, training opportunities, and Department-level decisions that directly affect their operations.

Speaking of updates, all posts should have now received the Draft Constitution and Bylaws revisions. We strongly encourage every post to review the document thoroughly prior to Department Convention. These updates represent thoughtful changes designed to streamline our structure, modernize our operations, and reflect the evolving needs of our membership. Feedback and understanding from the local level are essential to moving forward as a unified organization.

As we look ahead to the 2025 Department Convention, we recognize that change can be challenging—but it is also a vital part of growth. Embracing updates to our governing documents, improving our reporting processes, and strengthening our communi-



cation ensures we're building a stronger Montana Legion for the next generation.

At the heart of all of this is the Legion Family—The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Riders. Together, we form a network of support, tradition, and community that no single program or report could ever capture alone. But when we each do our part—completing reports, certifying officers, reviewing bylaws—we reinforce the foundation of this family and ensure it thrives for years to come.

Let's move into convention season with dedication, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the future of The American Legion in Montana. Together, we grow. Together, we serve.



## Boys & Girls State 2025!



Dates: June 8-14, 2025  
 Location: Carroll College in Helena, MT  
 Apply Online:  
<http://mtlegion.org/americanlegionboysstate.html>



### Points of Contact

Duane Cunningham, 406-465-1451, deptmtadjutant@gmail.com  
 Kathy Long, 24bluejay@gmail.com



## Brooklyn 14.0 Pro Tandem Pedal Kayak (PK14) Gray Camo Valued at \$3695.00

2-BKC KP224 86" Kayak Paddles 2 Piece Heavy Duty Light Weight Paddle with Anti-Slip Grips \$100.00



2 -Upright Aluminum Kayak Seats \$299.98



**Room for Two:** The spacious 14-foot hull provides plenty of space for a pair of paddlers and has a stunning 670-pound total weight capacity

**Easy Cruising:** Can support a built-in trolling motor making cruising effortless, while a hand-operated super wide rudder makes control precise and responsive with a better turning radius

**Cargo Capacity:** Not only can Brooklyn 14.0 Pro pedal Tandem Kayak take the weight, but it can store your stuff in a pair of sealed hatches or in a rear cargo recess – as well as a new storage area near the seats for any quick grabs, like lures, bait, etc.

**Superior Stability:** The 14-foot long, 34-inch wide hull creates a platform so stable you can stand for casting and that won't tip even in rough water

**Easy Transport:** Along with the side grips, the Pro yaks have new molded carry handles in front and rear of the kayak

**2-BKC UH-PKDRIVE Kayak Pedal Drive Supports PK11, PK12, PK13 OR PK14 \$1195.00**



The 2025 Montana Legislative Assembly has completed its session, and it was a good 90 days for Montana Veterans. Led by our Legislative team of Chairman Roger Hagan, Michael Tallia, Dennis Stoner and the Department Adjutant, the American Legion of Montana testified multiple times on 32 various Veteran related bills and resolutions. Below are the various bills, the legislatures who carried them and the current status of the bill. Please thank the legislators listed for supporting Veteran initiatives. For a more detailed explanation of a bill, you can visit <https://projects.montanafreepress.org/capitol-tracker-2025/>

- HB 2 – Appropriations – This is the funding bill that funds MVAD and our Veteran Service Officers. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- HB-5 – Long range building appropriations – Rep John Fitpatrick – Anaconda. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- HB-66 – Adopt most recent federal military codes and regulations -Rep Pete Elverum- Helena **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-72 - Revise enlisted militia compensation for SAD – Rep Brad Barker, Red Lodge **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-81 – Revise law to change supervision of MVAD administrator – Rep Marta Bertoglio, Clancy **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-118 – Revise the Montana interstate compacts for educational opportunities for military children -Rep Ed Buttrey, Great Falls **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-244 – Revise hunting licenses for deployed armed services members – Rep Steve Gist, Cascade **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-307 – Generally, revise laws related to licensing donations for disabled veterans – Governor's desk. - Rep Brad Barker, Red Lodge. **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-404 – Defend the Guard Act – Rep Lee Deming, Laurel. **Failed.**
- HB-553 – Generally, revise military higher education act – Rep George Nikolakakos, Great Falls **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- HB-566 – Generally, revise decennial Veteran study laws (Veteran Long Term Care Survey) Rep Marta Bertoglio, Clancy **Signed by the Governor.**
- HB-652 – Eliminate State income taxes on Veterans retirement – Rep Nelly Nicol, Billings **Failed.**
- HB-708 – Allow all persons serving in the reserves to be eligible for certain CDL waivers – Rep George Nikolakakos, Great Falls **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- HB-721 – Revise laws relating to apprenticeship programs - Rep. Curtis Schomer, Billings. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- HB-820 – Require free on campus parking permits for Veterans and NG service members. Rep. Becky Edwards, Bozeman **Failed**
- SB-59 – Staff Sergeant Artur J. Rambo memorial bridge – Sen. Mike Cuffe, Eureka. **Signed by the Governor.**
- SB-93 – Revise Income taxes related to retired military members – Sen. John Fuller, Kalispell **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- SB-95 – Provide funding for suicide prevention –Sen. Mike Yakawich, Billings. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- SB-274 – Revising disabled veteran property tax assistance program - Sen. John Fuller, Kalispell. **Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal**
- SB-424 - Revising the disabled veteran property tax assistance program (80%-100% SC) – Ellie Boldman, Missoula. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- SB-531 – Provide tax credit for purchase of a firearm safe – Sen Andrea Olson, Missoula **Missed Deadline.**
- SB-545 – Establish the SSGT Danny L Raddish Highway in Lincoln County – Sen. Mike Cuffe, Eureka. **Governor's Desk for signature.**
- SR-61 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-62 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-63 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-72 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-73 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-74 – Confirm Governor's appointees for the board of Veterans Affairs – Sen Theresa Manzella, Hamilton - **Confirmed**
- SR-83 – Confirm Governor's appointees for director of the Board of Veterans Affairs – Sen. Wendy McKamey, Great Falls. **Confirmed**
- SR-108 – Resolution recognizing the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States – Sen. Mike Yakawich, Billings. **Confirmed.**
- HJ-6 – Joint Resolution recognizing the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the USA – Rep. Caleb Hinkle, Belgrade. **Confirmed.**
- SJ-20 – Joint resolution recognizing the military service of Montanans in World War II – Sen. Mike Cuffe, Eureka. **Confirmed.**

## Montana's Legion Family Grows Stronger: Statewide Revitalization Effort Sees Major Success

The American Legion Department of Montana has just wrapped up an incredible statewide revitalization effort—and the results speak volumes about what can be accomplished through unity, purpose, and commitment to service.

Across all corners of the state, Legionnaires stepped up with energy and heart, determined to reconnect with veterans, strengthen posts, and grow the Legion family.

By the close of day one, the department had signed up an impressive 53 new and renewed members, putting us within just 33 members of our revitalization goal. But the numbers tell only part of the story.

In District 2, local Legionnaires rallied together to save Post 110 in Fort Belknap from closure. Their success not only secured the future of the post, but also laid the groundwork for monthly meetings and renewed programming that will benefit veterans and their communities for years to come.

## The Third Annual Women Veterans Symposium Drew in Female Veterans and National Guardsmen (Women) from across the State

### *Irene Dickerson*

The American Legion Women Veterans Symposium is an important event dedicated to honoring and supporting women who have served in the military, regardless of whether they are members of the American Legion or not. This year's symposium provided a platform for women veterans to share their experiences, network, and access resources that address their unique needs. Topics included health care and empowerment. By bringing together women veterans from diverse backgrounds, the symposium fostered a sense of community and empowerment. It also aimed to raise awareness about the contributions and challenges faced by women in the military.

This year, the third annual symposium was held in Helena, Montana, on May 16 and 17th. On Friday, we had over 15 women veterans attend. There were eight speakers and over 20 vendors. The first speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Weiss from the Montana Army National Guard. She provided an overview of her career in the Montana Army National Guard and how women's jobs in the military have changed over time. The second speaker was Connie Schultz, the ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, DC. She encouraged women veterans

Districts 6 and 7 hit the streets with door-knocking and phone call campaigns across Helena, Butte, Bozeman, and Belgrade, reaching out to expired members and inviting new ones to join. District 11 spent the day connecting with veterans in the Billings Heights, while District 4 set up a revitalization hub in Kalispell, welcoming walk-ins and spreading the word.

On day two, District 5 took part in the Heroes to Hometown event in Missoula, engaging face-to-face with hundreds of veterans in a powerful display of support and outreach.

Every location benefited from the presence of Montana Veterans Affairs service officers, who were on hand to help veterans with claims and begin the intake process for additional support. Their time, expertise, and compassion made a meaningful impact and helped ensure veterans weren't just welcomed into the Legion—but truly supported.

The Department of Montana is also deeply grateful for the support received from the National Headquarters, whose presence brought encouragement and added strength

to enroll in the veterans' database and share their stories. The third speaker was Jamie Larese from the Move, Move, Move program, a Veteran Administration program. She provided invaluable information about nutrition and healthy eating. Third, fourth, and fifth speakers were also from the Veterans Administration, women's veterans' program, and they provided the veterans with great information about the women's health program in the VA. The next speaker, Breanna Lindvall, was from Montana Outdoor Grit. She talked about resilience and loving yourself and others. The last two speakers, Dr Erik and Dr Janna Vilen, discussed pain management and sports medicine. The information they provided was based on current research and different modalities for managing pain. The information on Physical Therapy versus steroids was informative. The vendors ranged from Dog Tag Buddies, service dogs for veterans, to the Helena College representative. Later that evening, we hosted an icebreaker. We played games and laughed and shared stories. It was a great bonding experience. On Saturday, there were several options for breakout sessions. We offered a quilt poker run, visiting the five quilt shops in Helena. If you're a quilter, you can appreciate the variety of fabric, panels, and tools the different shops have. The self-defense class was well received. MSG Olson from the Montana National Guard taught the class. We also had a class on how to make fly fishing ties.

to our revitalization efforts. The guidance, experience, and enthusiasm from National representatives elevated our mission and helped forge lasting connections.

Throughout the effort, hundreds of veterans across the state were engaged—and many of them are now proud members of the American Legion. From renewed posts to personal stories shared over coffee and handshakes, the Montana team showed exactly what the Legion stands for.

And perhaps most meaningful of all—we did National Vice Commander Gary Leach proud. His visit, presence, and leadership were felt across the state, and Montana Legionnaires rose to the occasion in his honor. This revitalization effort wasn't just a campaign—it was a call to action that Montana answered with heart. We're not done yet, but we're closer than ever to our goal, and the momentum is undeniable.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, made calls, shook hands, and represented the spirit of the American Legion. Together, we are growing stronger—one veteran, one post, and one community at a time.

The ladies had fun sharing their creations. Thanks to Hailey Carpenter for finding us an instructor, Mr. Sampson. She sweet-talked her 6th-grade teacher into teaching the class. She also taught a fantastic chair yoga class. Some ladies went to the Horse Sense healing class. Brenda Westwood, a master equine gestaltist, coached us. In partnership with the horses, many of us were able to release our hurt and negativity. It was indeed a moving experience for me. We ended the event with a catered dinner at the DoubleTree, where we shared stories and created memories. The person I want to thank personally is Erin Carpenter. Even though she had other big projects to include revitalization on her plate, she was instrumental in helping me organize the event, she was the driver for the Poker Run, and she was instrumental in coordinating the facilities, including the hotel and the caterer. I could not have put together the third annual Women Veterans Symposium without her. We look forward to an even bigger and better event in 2026, and we need your help to ensure we increase the number of attendees. This year, the information about the Symposium did not get down to many posts. We will start advertising earlier next year and ask each one to share the information.

I will end by saying thank you to all of the female veterans from across the state that came in to offer support.



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Highlights from the 2025 SAL Spring Meetings

The 2025 Sons of The American Legion Spring Meetings, held May 2–4 in Indianapolis, brought together national leaders, commission members, and delegates from across the country—including representatives from Montana. With the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel as the backdrop, the meetings served as both a checkpoint and a launchpad for what's ahead. SAL National Commander Joseph Navarreté delivered a message of unity and forward momentum, encouraging squadrons nationwide to focus on revitalization and deeper engagement with their Legion Family counterparts. American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. and Auxiliary National President Trish Ward also offered powerful words, reminding attendees that our collective mission to serve veterans and their families is stronger together.

Key committee sessions addressed youth programming, membership growth, and enhanced coordination with American Legion posts. The National Executive Committee (NEC) meetings, livestreamed on SAL's official Facebook page, highlighted progress made on resolutions related to scholarships, support for VA initiatives, and expanded visibility for SAL programs.

Montana SAL leaders returned home with renewed purpose and a commitment to apply these national strategies at the local level. If you missed the livestream, the NEC sessions can still be viewed at: [SAL Facebook Video](#)

## Montana SAL's Role in National Initiatives

While the SAL National Organization continues to promote broad-reaching goals—like youth support, veteran outreach, and community service—it's up to local squadrons to put those ideas into action. And here in Montana, we've never been afraid to get our boots on the ground. From participating in Legion Baseball fundraisers to organizing Memorial Day ceremonies, Montana SAL is stepping up in visible, impactful ways. National leadership has emphasized the need for local action, and our squadrons are answering the call with creativity, energy, and purpose.

A top priority coming out of the 2025 Spring Meetings is increasing collaboration between SAL, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Riders. Montana squadrons can lead by example, whether it's helping with Post maintenance projects, attending community dinners, or partnering with Riders for patriotic escort rides.

We're also encouraged to grow our impact through visibility. Wearing SAL gear at public events, sharing updates through local media or social channels, and hosting service-oriented programs can help expand awareness and draw new members.

Every act of service, no matter how small, supports the national mission: Proud possessors of a priceless heritage. Let's continue showing how Montana honors that legacy—one project, one Post, and one partnership at a time.

## Montana Sons of the American Legion to Host First Annual Softball Tournament in Helena

The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Montana is proud to announce its first annual Softball Tournament, set to take place September 5–7, 2025, at Batch Fields, 2101 N Benton Avenue in Helena.

This exciting inaugural event will bring together 16 teams in a double-elimination format, with a \$400 entry fee per team. The weekend promises not only spirited competition but also community fun, with concessions, raffles, and entertainment for all ages.

Kicking off the festivities is a Homerun Derby on Friday, September 5th, where players can compete for big prizes and bragging rights for just \$35 per person.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Montana American Legion Family programs, supporting veterans and community initiatives across the state.

Teams are encouraged to register early. For more information or to sign up, contact the Detachment of Montana at PO Box 155, Fort Harrison, MT 59636, or email [amlegmtsec@gmail.com](mailto:amlegmtsec@gmail.com).

Come be a part of Montana SAL history and help make the first annual tournament a hit!

**Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Montana | PO Box 155, Fort Harrison, MT 59636 | <http://mtlegion.org/DeptofMTSAL.html> | find us on Facebook SAL Detachment of Montana**



# 40 & 8



## 2025 National Box Car Fundraiser

Grande Du Montana has again been limited in the number of 2025 National Box Car Pins provided by The National Box Car program. To qualify to apply for the annual maintenance fund our Grande must raise a minimum of \$150 dollars in pin sales and other donations. This year the fundraiser will include the limited pin sales (100), the National Crew Card (100) and the Second Chance Cards (50).

Buy a 2026 National Box Car Association Pin pictured below. Price is \$5.00. The Grand will retain \$2.00 for support of the Box Car and its programs. SO, Buy a 2025 Crew Card for \$5.00 and become eligible for a cash drawings totaling \$225, with \$100 for first draw; \$75 for 2nd draw and \$50 for third draw. Only 100 cards are available. Announcement! This year we are again conducting a Second Chance Drawing which will generate cash prizes of \$75 for First Draw; \$50 for Second Draw and \$25 for Third Draw. Only 50 cards are Available. After Pin and cards sales are complete funds generated necessary funds will be returned to Nationale to pay for the Pins and cards and the remainder will be placed in support of the Maintenance and upgrade of the Montana MERCI CAR located at the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison. Montana's Car marked its 75th Anniversary in October 2024.

Buy and proudly wear the 2025 National Box Car Association Pin and associated cards with proceeds going to support the maintenance and enhancement of the Montana MERCI CAR

Drawing will occur at the 40 & 8 Social in Helena, Montana during the 2025 American Legion/40 & 8 Convention.

Also, Grand du Montana is selling pins for the 40 & 8 for the Child Welfare program. The prices for the pins is \$5.00 and the proceeds will go to this program. We only have an allocation of 80 pins for 2025. Proceeds go to support our on-going Nurses Training Scholarship. This has averaged \$500 per year since inception. 1955-2025 68 years x \$500 = \$35,000. Only 80 pins available.

\$25.00 for all five items! For great causes!!

Members of 40 & 8 have pins and cards. Please contact: Larry Steele, Linda Cousineau, Eddy White, Jed Damson, Lowell Long, Dick Ellwein, Kim Kay McCarty Martin, Don Jones, or me for details. Thank you!

Ray Read 406-458-9847 or 406-235-0290 or e-mail [myfun51@msn.com](mailto:myfun51@msn.com) Stay Safe! Also approach any of the Grand Officers or the voiture Cheminots.



**Order Form American Legion Department of  
Montana  
Glassware Sets**

Support the American Legion by purchasing a set of custom glasses featuring our Family Logos!

**Product Details:**

- **Beer Pint Glass Set (4 glasses) - \$40**
- **Whiskey Glass Set (4 glasses) - \$40**

Each set features the official American Legion Family Logos, making them perfect for gifts or personal use!

**Customer Information:**

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Details:**

Item	Quantity	Price per Set	Total Price
Beer Pint Glass Set	_____	\$40	_____
Whiskey Glass Set	_____	\$40	_____

**Subtotal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Method:**

Check (Payable to *American Legion of Montana*)

Credit/Debit add 4% processing fee

Visa
MasterCard
Discover
Amex

Account #	
-----------	--

Expires:  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

CVV#	
------	--



---

# CALL TO CONVENTION

## GREETINGS

The 106TH Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Montana is hereby called to meet and assemble at Helena, Montana June 20, 21, 22 2025 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, amending the Department Constitution, 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

Representation in the Convention will be by Posts. 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 one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, whose dues have been received by the Department thirty days prior to the date of the Convention, or May 29, 2024. A Post, to be in good standing must have a minimum of ten paid members and no indebtedness to the Department.

## CREDENTIALS

Posts shall submit to Department Headquarters in Helena prior to June 15, the names of delegates and alternates. Cards for voting delegates will be in the Convention office. Each Post delegation should select a Chairman prior to departure of delegates for the Convention.

## DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A regular meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 3:15 P.M. The first stated meeting of the Department Executive Committee following the Department Convention will be held immediately upon adjournment of the Convention. The term of office of the newly elected members will commence immediately with the adjournment of the Convention.

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All Department Officers and District Commanders will be sworn into office at the conclusion of the session on Sunday morning, June 22, 2025 and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committees.

Any inquiries for information with reference to the Convention will be answered from Department Headquarters.



# THE AUXILIARY SERVICE STAR



## Montana ALA Prepares for 2025 Convention with National President Visit and Exciting Mustang Raffle

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Montana is gearing up for one of its most anticipated events of the year—the 2025 Department Convention, which will take place June 20–22 at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Helena. The convention promises a powerful weekend of camaraderie, tradition, and leadership, and will be elevated by the honored visit of ALA National President Trish Ward.

### A Historic Visit from National President Trish Ward

This year's convention is made even more special as we welcome Trish Ward, the American Legion Auxiliary National President, to Montana. President Ward's visit is an incredible opportunity for our members to engage directly with national leadership, hear updates on our organization's strategic direction, and share the impactful work being done across Montana.

A longtime champion of veterans' families and youth development programs, President Ward has dedicated her national platform to reinforcing the Auxiliary's mission of "Service Not Self" through grassroots involvement and innovative outreach. She is expected to speak during the Friday morning session

following the Opening Ceremonies and will participate in other weekend events including the Americanism Luncheon, Legion Family BBQ, and the Joint Banquet. Members are encouraged to attend and extend a warm Montana welcome to our national leader.

### Convention Schedule Highlights

The convention officially opens Friday morning, June 20, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. and the Opening Ceremonies beginning at 10:00 a.m. Highlights include the nomination and election of department officers, presentation of annual reports and awards, and a series of business sessions addressing key priorities for the upcoming year. Saturday will feature additional committee reports, elections, and fellowship events, including the Department's annual Golf Scramble at Bill Roberts Golf Course and the Joint Banquet celebrating the entire Legion Family. The convention closes Sunday morning with a Joint Service to God and Country and the installation of the new Department Officers and District Presidents.

A full convention schedule is available to members and can be referenced for planning purposes.

### Mustang Raffle: A Fun Fundraiser with Horsepower

In a unique and exciting fundraising initiative, the Montana ALA is raffling off a 2000 Ford Mustang Convertible. This eye-catching, 2WD,

V6 beauty with 160,000 miles and brand new tires was generously donated by Billiette and Tim Coolidge from Sunburst, MT.

Raffle tickets are just \$20 each and are available now from Auxiliary members across the state. The drawing will be held on June 20, 2025, during the Department Convention. All proceeds benefit the Department of Montana American Legion Auxiliary programs, supporting veterans, military families, and youth. Help make this raffle a major success by purchasing your tickets early and encouraging friends and family to join in. Not only will someone drive away in a classic convertible, but every ticket purchased helps fund vital community work.

### Looking Ahead

As we look toward June, the Department of Montana American Legion Auxiliary celebrates its strength, service, and sisterhood. The annual convention remains a cornerstone of our mission—bringing members together to reflect, plan, and grow. With Trish Ward's visit, a weekend of impactful programming, and the thrill of the Mustang raffle, this year's gathering is shaping up to be one for the history books.

Make your plans, pack your red, white, and blue, and join us in Helena as we honor the past, build the future, and reaffirm our unwavering support for those who served.



# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



## Riding in Honor: Why We Wear the Patch

There's a moment before every ride—when we throw a leg over the saddle, adjust our gloves, and zip up our vest. It's not just leather and patches; it's a statement. A declaration. The American Legion Riders patch on our backs carries more than design—it carries responsibility, purpose, and pride.

We wear it to honor. Each ride is a tribute—to the men and women who served

before us, to those we've lost, and to the values we stand for. That patch represents every funeral escort, every flag line, every salute given in silence. It shows the world that we are more than motorcyclists—we are veterans and supporters, united in purpose.

We wear it to serve. Whether we're raising funds for a scholarship, supporting a family in need, or bringing awareness to POW/MIA causes, our patch signals that we are on a mission. It reminds us—and tells others—that we ride not for ourselves, but

for those who can't.

We wear it with pride. Not boastful pride, but the kind that honors our oath and our flag. It connects us across Montana and across the country. When we see another Rider pull up, there's an instant bond. A mutual respect. A shared understanding of the road we're on and the purpose behind it.

So, when people ask why we wear the patch, the answer is simple: we ride in honor—and the patch tells that story before we ever twist the throttle.

## ALR Safety First: Tips on Group Ride Protocol, Montana Weather, and Motorcycle Safety

Riding with purpose means riding with safety in mind. As Legion Riders, we represent not just ourselves but the organization, the military, and the fallen. That's why safe riding isn't optional—it's a responsibility.

### Group Ride Protocol:

- Pre-ride briefings are essential. Assign positions, go over signals, route plans, and emergency contacts.
- Staggered formation allows better reaction time. Maintain a two-second following distance from the bike in front and a one-second gap from the stammer.
- Lead and sweep riders should be experienced and clearly marked. Communication via hand signals or comms can help prevent confusion.
- Fuel, food, and rest stops should be planned and communicated in advance to keep the group safe and comfortable.

Montana Weather Awareness:

- The Treasure State is known for its beauty—and its unpredictable skies. Always check local forecasts before heading out.

- Layer your gear and carry waterproof options. Morning sun can quickly turn to afternoon sleet in the mountains.

- Watch for wildlife, gravel, and shifting road conditions, especially in spring and fall. Frost heaves and open range livestock are no joke.

### Motorcycle Safety Basics:

- Perform a pre-ride inspection: tires, lights, fluids, and brakes.
- Ride within your skill level. Just because a group can ride faster or lean harder doesn't mean you should.

- Wear DOT-approved helmets, even if not required. It sets an example and could save your life.

- Stay hydrated, rested, and alert. Fatigue is a dangerous riding companion. We ride in memory of the fallen. Let's not become names they have to honor. Stay sharp, stay safe, and lead by example.

Connecting ALR Across Montana: Unity Through Rides, Missions, and Brotherhood

Montana is a big state—but when you're part of the American Legion Riders, no chapter feels too far away. One of the greatest strengths of the ALR is its ability to connect riders across communities, miles, and missions. And here in Montana, that bond is growing stronger every year.

### Building Chapter Unity:

Every Post and chapter brings something unique to the table. From small-town tight-knit rides to large-scale escorts and fundraising events, the diversity of our Riders enriches us all. By sharing stories, coordinating schedules, and showing up for one another's events, we build a statewide family.

### Coordinated Rides and Causes:

Statewide rides—whether for Legacy Scholarships, veterans' assistance, or local memorials—give us a unified purpose. When chapters team up for rides that cross district lines, it shows our strength in numbers and our shared commitment. It's not just about the miles—

it's about the message.

Communication is Key: Montana ALR is working hard to improve communication between chapters. That includes calendars of events, social media pages, email chains, and quarterly updates. When one of us has a need, others should know. When one of us plans a ride, others should be invited. Unity starts with outreach.

### One Patch, One Mission:

No matter what post is stitched on your rocker, we all wear the same emblem on our backs. It's a symbol of honor, service, and fellowship. Let's make sure that bond isn't just symbolic—it's lived out in action, friendship, and support.

Together, we ride farther, serve stronger, and show Montana—and the nation—what it means to be Legion Riders.

### Reminders

- All Chapter reports due
- Submit photos and stories to [lmtpub@gmail.com](mailto:lmtpub@gmail.com)
- Check the webpage for calendar updates

## A Living Legend

The Women's Auxiliary Army Corp was established in May 1942 by the United States Congress. The name changed to the Women's Army Corps, commonly known as WACs. By 1945, the WAC had 10,000 women and 6,000 female officers. Before World War II, working women primarily filled roles as teachers and nurses. More than 200 jobs opened for women, such as clerks, mechanics, pilots, drivers, gunnery instructors, air traffic controllers, weather forecasters, postal workers, translators, and radio tower operators.

On Monday, the Miles City Veterans Community Living, her Marine Corp sister, her son, an Army Veteran, her nephew an Army Colonel, American Legion District 10 Commander Irene Dickerson, American Legion Post 5 commander Bob Prahl, Adjutant Carol Prahl, and the Military Women's Memorial representative, Connie Shultz, recognized a true patriot. Ms. Shultz presented Bernice Stephenson with the Living Legend Proclamation.

PFC Bernice (Flaten) Stephenson celebrated her 101st birthday on Monday, February 24, 2025. PFC Stephenson joined

the WAC on her 20TH birthday, February 24, 1944. Her first duty station was in Ogden, Utah, where she removed, repaired, and reinstalled radios from damaged warplanes. Bernice served for fifteen months, culminating in receiving the Good Conduct medal. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe, officially pinned the medal. He accidentally stuck her with the pin, and Bernice responded, "If that bleeds, do I get a Purple Heart?"—one of Bernice's many fond memories of her time in the WAC. Bernice earned her engineering degree at 52, working as a missile systems specialist. She was involved in many projects, including the Minuteman missiles, fuel injection systems for the first US moon shot, the first US satellite, space shuttle launch sites, and various tracking systems. A mother of six children, five sons are retirees, three served in Vietnam, and one in Korea. Her two brothers served 45 years, and a sister joined the Marines. Her grandson is a fighter pilot. Her family has a long history of serving, starting in the Revolutionary War, supplying horses to Washington's army.

We salute you, PFC Bernice Stephenson. Your service has inspired other females, and we are proud to know you.

## May Training Tuesday: CPR & CSR Reporting – Don't Miss This High-Impact Session

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. Eastern

Join us for the May installment of Training Tuesday, where we'll dive into two of the most critical tools for Post and Squadron success: the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). This month's session is led by Nick Arnett, a seasoned trainer with:

- 13 years as a Legionnaire
- 7 years in the Sons of The American Legion
- Experience as a former Adjutant of a virtual Post
- What You'll Learn:
- Step-by-step CPR and CSR completion guidance
- How your reports drive national advocacy
- Best practices for accuracy and meeting deadlines
- Peer strategies to complete

reports before the July 31 deadline

### A Word to Our Leaders:

This training is free, targeted, and timely—but it's only useful if our members know about it. If you're in a leadership role, you're part of the communications chain. Please take 30 seconds to forward this information to:

- Your Executive Committee
- Your Adjutant
- Any member handling reports or program activity

CPRs and CSRs are more than paperwork—they are the data that informs our national priorities. This session is a vital resource for all who contribute to those reports.

### Interested in Becoming a National Instructor?

The American Legion has launched a new intake process to expand and professionalize our training instructor corps. If you (or someone in your Department) have experience with training, mentoring, or

teaching and are passionate about the Legion's mission, now is the time to step forward.

### Who Can Apply?

- Open to all American Legion Family members
- Self-referrals and Department nominations welcome
- Applicants must fill out the Instructor Interest Form (Self-referrals require Department recommendation)
- Preferred Event Types:
  - Training Tuesday sessions
  - National Membership Workshop
  - NRIC (Regional Information Conferences)
  - Convention workshops and breakouts

The process includes a short virtual interview and a national evaluation rubric.

National Membership Workshop – What's New? The National Membership Workshop is undergoing significant improvements with a focus on:

- Leadership development
- Peer-to-peer problem solving

- Real-time strategy labs tied directly to Post, District, and Department needs

Whether you're a brand-new officer or a veteran leader, there's a tailored track for your growth. More details will be released soon—watch your inbox. Explore More at [legion.org/training](http://legion.org/training)

Need more resources? Visit [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training) for a full training hub that includes:

- Upcoming and recorded Training Tuesday webinars
- Self-paced modules for Legion operations and programs
- Instructor application resources
- Updated workshop materials
- A full catalog of downloadable content for Posts, Districts, and Departments
- This is your 24/7 source for building strong leadership across the organization. Bookmark it. Use it. Share it.



**Raise a Glass to the American Legion Pilsner – Order Yours Today!**

Looking for a smooth, refreshing brew that also supports a great cause? The American Legion Pilsner is here! Whether you're stocking up for your own enjoyment or bringing it to your bar, this crisp and satisfying beer is the perfect way to show your support for The American Legion.

**For Individuals – Order by the Case!**

Why grab just a six-pack when you can get a whole case of this premium pilsner? Ordering is easy—just fill out the official form, submit it, and get ready to enjoy a brew that stands for service and community. All case orders will be ready for pick up at the

Department Convention in Helena!

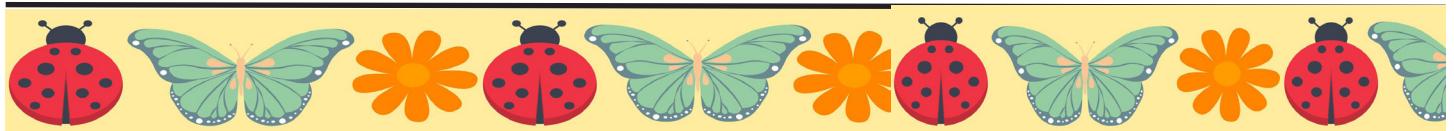
**For Legion Bars & Local Businesses – Get It on Tap!**

Want to serve Legion Pilsner at your Post's bar or local establishment? We're making it happen! Simply send your Point of Contact (POC) details to [amlegmtsec@gmail.com](mailto:amlegmtsec@gmail.com), and we'll work with our distributor to get this all-American brew flowing from your taps.

Don't wait—place your order today and raise a glass to camaraderie, service, and a great beer! 🍻



Meagher Post 25 is selling this vehicle. It is a 2006 Ford E450 Super Duty Diesel. It is a 12 passenger van and clean. The wheel chair lift is not working but the vehicle is in good condition. If you are interested, please call Commander Cummins at (406) 855-7751.



## AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

106<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
HELENA, MONTANA

JUNE 19-22, 2025 REGISTRATION

NAME OF REGISTRANT(S):	CIRCLE ONE:		
	LEGION	ALA	SAL
	LEGION	ALA	SAL
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
EMAIL	CELL PHONE		

## PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS!

ACTIVITY	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL
REGISTRATION FEE	____ X \$35.00	
LEGION FAMILY NIGHT 6/19/25	____ X \$20.00	
PAST DEPT COMMANDER, INCOMING PRESIDENT & PAST PRESIDENT BREAKFAST 6/20/25	____ X \$25.00	
AMERICANISM LUNCH 6/20/25	____ X \$30.00	
LEGION FAMILY BBQ 6/20/25	____ X \$30.00	
MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST 6/21/25	____ X \$20.00	
JOINT BANQUET 6/21/25	____ X \$45.00	

## CONVENTION HOTEL

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HELENA DOWNTOWN

22 N LAST CHANCE GULCH, HELENA, MT 59601

TO BOOK ONLINE [click here](#)

406-443-2200

## CONTACTS

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANADUANE CUNNINGHAM [deptmtadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:deptmtadjutant@gmail.com) 406-465-1451ERIN CARPENTER [amlegmtsec@gmail.com](mailto:amlegmtsec@gmail.com) 406-324-3990

## COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS

MAIL PAYMENTS AND FORMS TO:

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

PO BOX 155

FORT HARRISON, MT 59636

## 2025 Convention Golf Scramble Registration Form

### Event Details:

Date: June 21, 2025

Location: Bill Robert's Golf Course

Tee Times Begin: 1:00 p.m. (every 9 minutes)

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2025

---

### Participant Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Play Options (Check One):

9 Holes with Cart - \$37.00 per person

---

### Rental Clubs Needed? (Limited Availability)

Yes (\$20 for 9 holes)

No

---

### Payment Method:

Check (Payable to American Legion of Montana)

---

Return this form by [Insert Deadline] to:

**MAIL PAYMENTS AND FORMS TO:**

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

PO BOX 155

FORT HARRISON, MT 59636

ERIN CARPENTER [amlegmtsec@gmail.com](mailto:amlegmtsec@gmail.com) 406-324-3990

---

Thank you for registering for the 2025 Convention Golf Scramble! We look forward to seeing you on the course!