



AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA
Adjutant's Newsletter
Gary White, Department Adjutant
Diana Reilly, Department Secretary

February 19, 2008

2009 MEMBERSHIP: Currently membership is at 11,268 or 87.57% of our Department Goal of 12,867. We have made our sixth target of 85% thanks to the great effort put out by the Posts, Districts and some key individuals in the week before the target. Our next target is 90% for March 11. We have 9 more goal Posts – Belgrade #30, Scobey #56, Brockton #61, Hobson #76, Manhattan #87, Park City #100, Custer #111, Gardiner #118 and Ronan #138; for a total of 30 goal Posts – Congratulations.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT: Enclosed (Adjutants only) is the Post Data Report (2010 Membership Year). **Please thoroughly read the instructions prior to completing the form.** The Post Data Report is due April 15, 2008 to Department.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: The Montana Firefighter of the Year Award **nominations are due to Department Headquarters by 1 March 2008.** Nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR: Post Commanders should be checking with their Scoutmasters to inform them of the National Eagle Scout of the Year Award. The winner receives an \$8000.00 scholarship and an all expense paid trip to the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Additionally the three second place finishers will receive \$2000.00 each. The Department winner receives \$500.00. **Nominations are due to Department Headquarters by 1 March 2008.** Nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters.

ATTENTION BARS, RESTAURANTS AND CASINOS: A common misconception about “independent contractors” is that they work only in the construction trades. For workers’ compensation purposes, it’s important to understand that “independent contractors” can be involved in a wide variety of professions. Musicians and bands are a good example of workers who aren’t in the construction industry, but are usually subject to the independent contractor statute. Businesses that hire musicians and bands need to be aware of the requirements of Montana Law. Essentially, any person who regularly performs services at locations other than their own fixed business location are required to either purchase workers’ compensation coverage for themselves or get an independent contractor exemption from the Department of Labor and industry. It is important to note, if a person does not have coverage or an exemption, the hiring bar, restaurant, or casino is considered an employer of the person they assumed was an “independent contractor” and must provide workers’ compensation coverage and pay the appropriate premium. Be prepared! **Make sure that all independent contractors provide you with a certificate of workers’ compensation coverage or an approved independent contractor exemption certification.**

SEE REVERSE

BULLETIN #09-05

DIGITAL TV CONVERSION: The FCC has asked for our assistance in helping with the analog to digital TV conversion. Enclosed are helpful hints and procedures that can be used to hook up the converter boxes. We are asked to facilitate anyone who needs assistance in hooking up their boxes. Department will receive calls from people needing help, who will then be given the local Post Adjutant's number, hopefully your Post will have a volunteer or volunteers who will then provide assistance. It is not the Posts responsibility to provide the box; the client must already have the box. **This is voluntary only; if your Post can't provide assistance they can try 888-CALL FCC.**

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF): It is that time of the year for Posts to start sending in donations for the NEF. If you have any donations please mail to Department Headquarters, make check payable to The American Legion and indicate on your check it is for the NEF.

BIG K DISBURSEMENTS: The Big K Disbursements for Posts, Squadrons, Units and Districts from the 2007 Big K will be made at the Spring District meetings banquet. Only Commanders / Presidents or Adjutants / Secretaries will be authorized to receive checks, unless there is **written** authorization given to the Department Adjutant.

GOVERNMENT SURVEY AND CONSTITUTION ESSAY: Both information sheets and the Government Survey were mailed last month to Posts. The Constitution Essay is a new program for 7th & 8th graders. Please ensure both are completed and mailed to Education Chairman Ed Sperry **no later than April 15.**

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM (JSSP): The results of the JSSP National Competition are posted on the American Legion website at www.legion.org.

POST SCOUTING AWARD: Enclosed is the Post Scouting Award form; mail directly to John Manz, the Department Scouting Chairman, PO Box 1129, Seeley Lake, MT 59868. Due no later than May 15, 2007.

DEPARTMENT OFFICER REPORTS: All Department Officers and Committee Chairman are required to submit a written report of their activities for publication in the reports booklet for Department Convention. All reports must be at department Headquarters prior to May 15, 2008.

ATTENTION: Adjutants, please share this Bulletin with your Commander, and read this Bulletin at your monthly meeting; and then post it where it can be read by all members.