



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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May — July 2020

Valentines for Vets

Post 2 Commander Bill White and Lone Scouts Hailey and Ashley Carpenter pass out Valentines at Fort Harrison VA for Veterans. The trio also later made up cards for Saint Patrick’s Day that were delivered by the nursing staff.



Covid-19 changes ‘HOW’ we do, but not ‘WHAT’ we do

BY JEN DALRYMPLE, EDITOR MT LEGIONNAIRE

Scrambling to respond, staying flexible, resilient, compassionate, taking care of each other, checking six and doing buddy checks; we are still doing our mission (the WHAT) using skills learned from our military time. The only difference that Covid-19 has forced upon us is HOW we’re doing those same things. Meetings have been moved to on-line forums where members are still held to the same courtesies and work is being accomplished (though a blessing of being shorter). Staying home does not mean being out of touch with our families and Legion buddies. We cannot go see them in-person but on-line forums like Skype, Zoom and others give us a sense of being there with them. Now that you are stuck at home, take the time to write a card or send that funny letter; reach out to let someone know you care. Look inside this Legionnaire to see ‘HOW’ others are still fulfilling the mission of taking care of Veterans, Legion business and our communities as Covid-19 forces us to adapt for now.

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K \$400 winner for February 2020 was Ken Rosman of Hobson Post 76. Ken’s number was drawn by Kelly Ackerman of Lewis & Clark Post 42, Helena.

March drawing was won by Big Timber Post 19. Post 19 was drawn by Erin Carpenter of Helena Auxiliary Unit 2.

The American Legion Birthday drawing was won by Townsend Post 42. Post 42 was drawn by Tim Ingraham of Helena Post 2.

April drawing was won by Robert Jensen SAL Squadron 104 Nashua. His number was drawn by Kevin Kent of Helena Post 2.

Disbursements of Big K dividends to the Districts, Posts, Units and Squadrons were mailed the week of 17 March. Please remember to cash your checks.

Helena Sailor meets daughter for first time



SAN DIEGO (JAN. 20, 2020) Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Michael Sikorsky, from Helena, Montana, meets his daughter for the first time as the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) completes it’s homeport shift to Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI). Abraham Lincoln returns to NASNI after a ten-month deployment in support of maritime security operations and theater cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th, 5th, and 7th Fleet area of operation.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS NICK BAUER (RELEASED) 200120-N-ER806-1325

Covid-19 wins this round as American Legion cancels many National and regional events

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved a resolution Wednesday, April 8, by email to cancel the annual convention of wartime veterans and their families for the first time in over its 100-year history. The 2020 Sons of The American Legion National Convention is also canceled. The AL Auxiliary President, in backing the National Commander, has also cancelled the 2020 Auxiliary National Convention.

The Legion’s 102nd National Convention is now scheduled for Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix. Terms of currently serving national officers, including National Commander Oxford, are extended until then, according to the resolution. Nationally appointed American Legion commission and committee chairpersons will also remain in their positions until the Fall 2021 meeting of the National Executive Committee.

This announcement follows on the heels of several other National and regional Legion program cancellations to include American Legion 2020 Baseball regionals and World Series, 2020 Shooting Sports National Championship in Colorado, 2020 Legacy Run, Boys Nation, National Oratorical Contest, Samsung Scholarship awards and a myriad of regional contests that would have been forerunners to the National levels.

While Covid-19 has caused cancellations and postponements of major events, Legionnaires and Family are still doing what we do best - taking care of Veterans and each other. In that fight, we will always take the win!

(See pg 9 for Department of MT Resolution)

Due to fast-changing daily events some articles may not be current.

Important Upcoming Dates

May 1	Certification of American Legion Officers due to Dept. HQ
May 8	Certification Form, Top Recruiter due to Dept. HQ
May 10	Mothers Day
May 15	Consolidated Post Reports Due to Dept. HQ
May 15	Department Officers Report due to Dept. HQ
May 25	Memorial Day
Jun 14	Flag Day
Jun 14	US Army Birthday
Jun 21	Fathers Day
Jul 1	2021 Membership Year begins
Jul 1 ...	2021 Big K Membership opens
Jul 4	Independence Day
Aug 5 – 7	Department Service Officers School (if held)
Sep 7	Labor Day Observed

In this issue

5 Traits of Financially Prepared Veterans	15
40/8 Grand Du Montana	12
ANAVICUS Scholarship	4
Auxiliary Service Star	11
Big K Entry Form	15
Box Car Fundraiser	12
Boys State Cancel notice	4
Buddy Ads	16
Cancelled: Dept. Convention Resolution	9

Chaplain’s Corner	3
COVID-19 Impact Payments	4
COVID-19 Scams	4
Dept. Adjutant Position Opening	2
Dept. Officer’s Reports	2
Disaster Response	5
Dist. 4 Oratorical winners	7
Dist. 6 Oratorical winners	7
Four Chaplains Svs	3
Gianforte honors 3 Butte Vets	14
Goal Rosters & Standings	6

Historian: Auxiliary & the Legion	12
Historian: MT Legionnaire	12
How to Submit Articles & Photos	15
Koehl receives Lap Quilt	5
Legion Insurance form	6
Membership Impact Report	5
Post 2: Lone Scouts	13
Post 2: Oratorical winners	7
Post 14 50-yr member	5
Post 17	14
Post 42	4

Post CN20 honors Vet	5
Post Everlasting	3
Post/Unit 92	13
Remember & Honor	8
Senator Daines: B-47 Ridge Designation Act	14
Senator Tester: Stimulus Package	15
Service Officer	3
Shooting Sports	14
Something is Missing	9
Tri-County Legion Riders	7
Women Veterans	13

Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

First off I would like to congratulate all those Posts that have put that extra effort into helping our Department achieve some very important goals this year. We reached the Big 12 goal, first in membership by March and in doing so, our Department received a \$2,000 check from National

Headquarters. We are also in line to receive another \$1,200 for membership with total points awarded by National Headquarters for this year. There is always a caveat to membership and that is keeping members engaged in the activities of our Post. Like our Vice Commander stated last year in his travels, find that niche that really interests new members and get them involved in something that they can relate to.

There are rewards to attaining goals, but the biggest reward is seeing an active Post with new faces and new ideas. It is that new member that is excited about having joined our organization. They bring new life to a Post that has been just coasting along and never changing. Greet them with open arms and thank God that they found a home in your Post. Over the years we have all seen Posts either give up their charters or merge with another Post in their Districts and we wonder, "How did that happen?" It doesn't have to be a small Post either; large Posts that used to have close to a thousand members now has a few hundred and maybe a dozen attend meetings. I feel that is why it is so important to get new members involved in activities as soon as possible.

As spring approaches let us set our sights ahead to those summer activities in our communities. Hopefully the restrictions that have been in place due to the Coronavirus will have been lifted and we can get back to normalcy. I encourage all of you to consider

representing your Post at this years' Department convention in Billings. There are training sessions, committee meetings, and just good old fun to be had.

It has been such a great year for my wife and I to travel this state and meet so many new and old friends along the way. As any past commander will tell you, it's the friendships that developed in the American Legion whether in Montana or across the country, that make it worthwhile. It has been a privilege to have been your Department Commander this past year and hopefully I will continue to meet every one of you down the road somewhere or someplace. 

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

As I write this the COVID-19 pandemic is changing our lives and the way we do business. Due to government mandated crowd sizes we have had to go to teleconference District Meetings, close Department Headquarters and begin working from home. Currently our office manager and I have continued operations of the Headquarters by phone and email, so we are still available. All headquarters phones are forwarded. National Headquarters has canceled the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting, National Oratory Finals, Boys Nation, and the Junior Shooting Sports Championships, The American Legion Baseball World Series and the National Convention. At the Department level we have cancelled our Oratory final and American Legion Boys State (ALBS). However, with ALBS this year's junior class may be allowed to attend ALBS next year as seniors; more to follow on that. American Legion Baseball has been postponed and is being reevaluated every two weeks. Additionally, by a vote of 20 – 2 of the department Executive Committee the Department Convention in Billings has been cancelled; please see Resolution Number 1 in this issue.

With the cancellation of Department Convention, the Department Headquarters will coordinate with Districts and Posts on delivery of the 2021 Post packets that are normally distributed at Department Convention. Additionally, many of the awards that are normally presented at Convention will also have to be distributed by different means.

During this time of change and uncertainty it is imperative that Post Officers and Department Offi-
More ADJUTANT page 7



The American Legion survives because of membership. We have to have people or we do not have an organization. That does not mean that membership is the only thing we should be focused on and it certainly does not mean that it is okay to berate, belittle or even be rude to anyone in this organization over



George Blackard
Dept. Vice Commander

If you are being pushy about membership to the people who actually are showing up and participating, soon you will be the only one left and you will be without anyone to push around. Be kind to those who are actually participating. Be thankful those people are there and leave them alone to do the things they enjoy doing in our organization. If they do not put much stock in membership, that is their right. There is nothing that states every member must recruit new members or even retain the members we have. If you are a recruiting powerhouse, good for you, get out there and do what you enjoy doing. If you are a retention expert, outstanding, keep doing that. We all have things we enjoy doing and the vast majority of members are not recruiters nor retention experts. When we press for everyone to do that, we make people uncomfortable, resentful and unhappy and that's never good for retention.

Remember, Passion, Purpose, Praise. If you are in a leadership role, find out what your members like to do, point them in the right direction and give them a purpose. Set them up for success, give them praise when they find it or even for simply putting in the effort. Every one of us are volunteers and you ain't a sergeant or a major or anything else anymore. You are an equal to everyone else in this organization and they are your equal in return. Treat them with the knowledge that they can leave at any time and you will be the person that retains them or sends them packing.

If you aren't in a leadership role, that's okay. Most members are not. Just because you don't hold a title doesn't mean you are not important and it doesn't mean you don't have influence either. It also doesn't mean we won't miss you if you leave, because we will. I contend that it's your job to remind those who have forgotten what our organization is all about and that you are their equal, no matter their title.

A black and white illustration of a hand holding a scroll. The scroll is unfurled, revealing the word "DEADLINE" in large, bold, capital letters. The hand is wearing a wristband or watch with a grid pattern. The background is plain white.

DEADLINE

July 1, 2020
Aug. - Oct. 2020 issue

Submit all articles by above date.

Send copy to :

lmtprpub@gmail.com, or

American Legion Dept. of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
PO Box 6075
Helena MT 59604-6075

See page 15: How to Submit Articles or Photos.

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 VICE COMMANDER - GEORGE BLACKARD
 ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

American Legion Department of Montana
Seeks to fill the Position of:
Department Adjutant

The Department Adjutant is a term hire position for 3 years and serves as the Chief Administrator for The American Legion of Montana of approximately 11,000 members. The Adjutant supervises one paid person at Department Headquarters in Helena, Montana and is responsible for the efficient performance of their duties. Applicants will be considered by the Department of Montana Adjutant search committee and advanced to the Department Commander for approval by the Department Executive Committee.

The Adjutant reports directly to and through the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee. The Adjutant is subject to the policies, rules and regulations/guidelines contained in the Employee Handbook, The American Legion manuals and guides, the National Constitution/By-Laws, the Department Constitution/By-Laws, and the Department Executive Committee.

- Applicants must possess the following qualifications:
- Honorably discharged United States Military Veteran, copy of DD214 required
 - Must be a United States Citizen
 - Must be a member of The American Legion in good standing
 - Undergraduate degree from an accredited University/College, work experience could be substituted
 - Proficient in Microsoft Office

- Working knowledge in QuickBooks or related financial software
- Good oral and written skills
- Excellent personnel and stress handling skills
- Supervisory and Management experience required
- Possess professional work interaction with American Legion members/Officers and Politicians at Local/State/National levels
- Must live in Helena 90 days after job acceptance
- Possess valid Montana driver's license
- Applicant must submit copy of driving record prior to use of The American Legion Vehicle
- Air and Vehicle travel required
- Must pass background check, credit check, and drug screening
- Must have a passport
- Must be able to travel to all District meetings (Spring and Fall approximately 10 weekends a year) attend Fall Conference (end of October), Department Convention (end of June), National Convention (end of August) and any other meeting that may come up

Send résumé and contact information by September 1, 2020 to The American Legion Department of Montana, PO Box 6075, Helena MT, 59604 or amlegmt29@mtlegion.org. Also provide a short essay explaining your interest in the position and a brief salary history.

Chaplain's Corner

CHAYA SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

Coping with Covid-19 Stress

"These are the times that try men's (and women's and children's) souls."

THOMAS PAINE

I pray this finds you all well.

I have two things to discuss this issue. For those in Post 2 or who have visited my Facebook page, you already know some of what I'm about to share:

In my faith tradition when one receives a life-threatening diagnosis, it's the custom to get a new first name. Seven years ago, I received that diagnosis and had so much faith in the good results accomplished by my surgeon, I said, "No thank you." on the new name. I was soon to find out that was a learning opportunity. Fast forward four years and suddenly cancer markers became present and were climbing. I gratefully received the new name, intending at the time to make it my legal first name. It was a very powerful spiritual experience felt also by all who were present.

Shortly afterwards my mother died unexpectedly and a legal name change was no longer on my radar.

Recently, I was blessed to celebrate a milestone birthday and while thinking of what I still needed to accomplish, first on the list that came to mind was making my new name, Chaya, my legal first name – in appreciation to God and in recognition for the good health He has given me. The 'ch' is pronounced in the back of the throat, like in Chanukah or Bach, or if that's too difficult because we don't say that sound in English, 'HIGH-yah' will work. It means alive, living, life. When you call me Chaya, you will literally be speaking life to me. Thank you for your patience!

On a more somber note, during uncertain times like these days (months!) with COVID-19, it's easy to become afraid for the future. "Will I catch the virus? Will my family members catch it? How will I pay my bills?" On and on our imagination can create doom and gloom with all the 'what ifs'.

Am I happy with the loss of freedom we've experiencing? Am I happy not celebrating a holiday with family and friends? No, I am not; however, it's vital we follow the guidance being given to us - avoid crowds, social distancing, washing hands with soap for 20 seconds. (That's how long it takes the soap to break down the protective fat layer on the virus and kill it.) And,

we "got to" shelter-in-place. Character-building, to say the least!

Being cooped up at home and not able to do and go where you want can be very frustrating, to say the least!

One primary source of strength many of us rely on during difficult times is gathering with family, friends, relatives or our faith community. With the health restrictions, we could not (I'm praying it's past-tense when you read this!) even do that.

How do you relieve stress during troubled times? Eat. Zone out with Netflix. Exercise. Read. Listen to music. Hike. (Thankfully, we can still go outside!) Meditate. Pray. Some are better for us than others.

The Bible presents many admonitions ("Fear not") and also encouragement to not fear or be not afraid. What antidote is offered there to waylay fear?

"...Be strong and of a good courage, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." JOSHUA 1:9

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and He shall direct your path." PROVERBS 3:5-6

These are just two of many verses that give me strength. I also remind myself that I am an eternal soul that has a body. Our society focuses our attention on our material, rather than spiritual existence, so it's very easy to forget.

As the radio says from time to time, "This is a test. This is only a test..."

"This, too, shall pass."

Focusing on what we still do have and expressing gratitude helps reframe our day-to-day experience in an uplifting way. Creating a gratitude journal - daily writing out our blessings – is very helpful to redirect our focus to the positive and lift our spirits.

If you are overly stressed and need to talk to someone, I encourage you to reach out to your local Legion Family Chaplain, depending upon which arm of the Legion Family your membership resides.

You can also 'be there' for others – encouraging and helping them will also strengthen you. A short phone call checking in can really lift the spirits of someone alone.

Like 9/11 almost 20 years ago, and other trials our nation has had before, we as a people are resilient; as a nation, we will get through this and be stronger for it!

Department of Montana Four Chaplains Service

Photo taken following the annual Department of Montana Four Chaplains Service on February 3rd at Touchmark in Helena.



L-R: Dept Chaplain Chaya Semple, Legion Rider Chapter 2 member Larry Steele, Department Commander Jeff Nelson, Helena Jewish Lay Leader Janet Tatz, Sons of The American Legion Past National Chaplain Dick Ellwein, MT Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Eddy White, and Post No 2 Commander Bill White

SUBMITTED BY CHAYA SEMPLE (PHOTO TAKEN BY SAL SQUADRON 2 MEMBER HOWARD HAINES.)

Post Everlasting

January/February/March 2020

☆ BARNES, NEAL, 2/26/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 45-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ CHAMPINE, JOSEPH, 1/4/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 14-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ COLEMAN, NORMAN, 2/8/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 65-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors

☆ COON, LARRY, 1/11/2020 – Panama – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ ELSER, DONALD, 2/14/2020 – Korea – US Air Force – 15-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GARBER, EUGENE, 2/10/2020 – WWII – US Army – 35-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HANCHETT, LEE J, 12/13/2019 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 20-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HARTFORD, DELBERT, 12/21/2019 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HINTON, ALBERT, 2/29/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 17-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ KELLY, JOHN, 2/12/2020 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 9-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

☆ LINK, LAWRENCE, 1/5/2020 – Korea – US Army – 25-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MEINE, CARL, 1/16/2020 – Korea – US Army – 13-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ NEUMANN, ROBERT, 1/22/2020 – WWII – US Army – 74-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

☆ RICE, GEORGE, 3/25/2020 – Korea – US Army – 66-year member of Post 50, Big Sandy, Interred with Military Honors

☆ RUDD, RUSSELL, 2/17/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 38-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SHEPHERD, RALPH, 8/10/2019 – WWII – US Army – 72-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SPRIGGS, STEVE, 3/1/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 35-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

☆ STEPHEN-HASSARD, DICK, 2/29/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 30-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ WEBB, WILLIAM, 1/28/2020 -- Korea - US Army - 33-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors

☆ WHITCOM, RICKEY D, 3/10/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 6-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh
Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright.
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night
Thanks and praise.
For our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh.

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

I have been trying for some time to figure out how to break the ice on the following subject as it may be uncomfortable for some. Yet in a time where a pandemic is sweeping the nation, and there is a large population of aging veterans, veterans and their families are facing decisions that are extremely important, and can be hard to make. I am talking about end of life wishes, choices and requests.

Veteran Service Officers and Montana State Veterans Cemetery personnel receive calls daily as to what is available for veterans and their families when a veteran or spouse are ready to complete their journey. First and foremost, have a plan and make sure your family, trusted neighbor or friend are aware of your plan. Contact a Montana State Veterans Cemetery office: Helena – 406-324-3742 (Taryn), Miles City – 406-951-1325 (Kurt), or Missoula – 406-721-2995 (Curt), to determine eligibility, cost, and service options. Understand that the funeral expenses, casket, or cremation are the responsibility of the veteran or their family. VSOs can assist with Burial Expense Forms, and Widow's Pension or Dependency Indemnity Compensation claims.

Please contact a Veteran Service Officer or your Service Organizations for more information.

Listed below are the MVAD/ AL offices throughout the state:

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:

Belgrade.....(406) 388-4601

Billings.....(406) 248-8579

Butte.....(406) 533-0910

Great Falls.....(406) 452-2265

Havre.....(406) 265-4225

Helena(406) 495-2080/2081/2082

Kalispell.....(406) 755-3795

Lewistown.....(406) 538-3174

Miles City(406) 232-1203

Missoula.....(406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service
to our great Country!

Don't become a victim of Covid-19 scams



As we confront the COVID-19 outbreak, it's important to take steps to protect your health and that of others.

It's also important to protect yourself against scams related to Covid-19. Below are some common cons and how you can prevent becoming a victim to scammers.

Scammers claiming to help you get a government payment or grant.

Scammers may claim to be from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and promise to help you get Covid-19 related grants or checks in exchange for personal information. This is a scam.

Here's what the Treasury Department says:

"If you receive calls, emails, or other communications claiming to be from the Treasury Department and offering Covid-19 related grants or stimulus payments in exchange for personal financial information, or an advance fee, or charge of any kind, including the purchase of gift cards, please do not respond. These are scams. Please contact the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx> so that the scammers can be tracked and stopped."

Fake charity scams

Unfortunately, scammers use events like this pandemic to take advantage of your generosity. Many will even use names that resemble that of a real charity. What can you do? Here are a couple of tips:

- Do some research about the charity. Make sure it's real and reputable, and know how your donation will be used.
- When donating, use your credit card only on secure websites. Do not pay by gift cards or wire transfer – this is how scammers seek payment.

Federal Covid-19 Economic Impact Payments



Check [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for the latest information: No action needed by most people at this time.

IR-2020-61, MARCH 30, 2020

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some taxpayers who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the economic impact payment.

Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible. Social Security recipients and railroad retirees who are otherwise not required to file a tax return are also eligible and will not be required to file a return.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.

How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to

calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES UPDATE: April 1, 2020

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file an abbreviated tax return to receive an Economic Impact Payment. Instead, payments will be automatically deposited into their bank accounts.

The IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 and Form RRB-1099 to generate \$1,200 Economic Impact Payments to Social Security recipients who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019. Recipients will receive these payments as a direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their benefits.

The IRS will post all key information on [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) as soon as it becomes available.

Post 42 Legion Family deliver Harbor Freight donations

BY JENNIFER DALRYMPLE, COMMANDER

On Friday March 20th, I received an email from our Auxiliary District 6 President Karen Susag with a message from her son, Craig, about donations from Harbor Freight. The National chain was donating facemasks, gloves and aprons to hospitals that were eligible and in need of these supplies. My spouse who works at the local Billings Clinic -Broadwater in



Hospital employee (above and Post 42 Legionnaires Linda Cousineau and Jen Dalrymple unload Harbor Freight donated supplies at Billings Clinic - Broadwater

Townsend contacted the Clinic supply manager who went to the link right away and filled out the necessary paperwork. Literally, within 30 minutes she received and relayed the certified acceptance letter back to my spouse so that we could go to Helena and pick up the two pallets that the letter said would be ready. When we arrived at Harbor Freight, the gracious staff had only one pallet and no more supplies for a second but said we could return Monday for the other pallet after their supply truck arrived on Sunday. We were very thankful to receive ten boxes (a 4x4x4 pallet full) of what they had on hand and returned Monday to receive two more pallets from their national office.

A HUGE thank you to Harbor Freight for your generous donation of very necessary supplies and for all those involved that helped our small local hospital staff be safer through this pandemic!

ANAVICUS Scholarship Presentation

Carroll senior Nursing major Erika Seehafer of Nampa, ID has received a \$1,500 Reverend Frank Lawrence Harrington (ANAVICUS) Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. The award is in recognition of academic achievement, leadership potential and spiritual conduct in keeping with the best traditions of The American



L-R: Bill White Department VAVS Chairman, Erika Seehafer, Department Adjutant Gary White and Department Legislative Chairman Roger Hagan.

Legion and Carroll College. The Reverend Frank L. Harrington Scholarship was established in 1987 by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States Unit, to honor Father Harrington, National Chaplain of The American Legion in 1947-48. Father Harrington was a spiritual leader, teacher and patriot, as shown by his service to Mount St. Charles College (later renamed Carroll College) as dean of men and professor of mathematics. His spiritual leadership and close liaison with Canadian veterans, as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, helped develop a close relationship which led to the awarding of honorary life membership in the Canadian group's United States Unit to members of The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.



MONTANA AMERICAN
LEGION
Boys State Director



A message from the Director,

On behalf of the entire Montana American Legion Boys State family and the Montana American Legion, we are saddened to make the announcement that the decision has been made to cancel this year's session. Due to the continued concerns with COVID-19 and the uncertainty at the time, we feel that it is the best interests of staff, participants, and partners at Carroll College to cancel sooner than later.

This decision is unprecedented and was not taken lightly as all of us are committed to the goals of the program and are dedicated to spending a week with participants from across the State. Most of us have several years and even decades of experience with the program.

For those that have already applied, we are sorry that you can't experience a truly life changing week with us and we wish you the best of everything in your future.

For the Posts and organizations that have already paid and sponsored delegates, the fee will be refunded.

Students, families, counselors, Posts, or sponsors that have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,



Greg A. Pohle, Director
Montana American Legion Boys State
directoralmtnbts@gmail.com
855-0056

Post CN20 Honors last WWII Veteran, Ed Plume

BY JAMES A. GROSSET, ADJUTANT POST CN20

On Monday January the 6th I received a phone call from one of our members in High River Alberta who told me that we lost our last WWII Veteran, Ed Plume. Ed had served with the 69th Division of the US Army as an infantry rifleman, landing in Le Havre, France and marching through Belgium, then on to Berlin during the Battle of the Bulge.

We were fortunate to have three young soldiers from Ft. Lewis to do his Funeral Honors. They were led by Lt. Erica Bienlen and the family were greatly honored to have such a wonderful act to send Ed to the Post Everlasting.



L-R: Post CN20 Chaplain Greg Amey; Lt Bienlen, a young PFC from California; Post CN20 Commander Joel Vecchione, Sp4 Lorence, and Post Adjutant Jim Grosset.



Lt Bienlen presents the Flag to Ed's Daughter Debbie Lent.

Post 14 Bozeman recognizes Barth as 50-year member

BY LEN ALBRIGHT, COMMANDER

Post 14 members Randy Kemp (Adjutant), Len Albright (Commander), and Dallas Thompson (Post Historian, behind the camera) surprised member Jerome Barth with his 50-year Membership Certificate and Pin. They surprised him with a presentation at his house on the afternoon of Thursday, March 5th. Jerome is one of the Post's long-time member of their Honor Guard and rarely missed a ceremony. Congratulations Jerome for your 50 years of Service to the American Legion, the Community and the United States of America.



Gallatin Post 14

Gallatin Post 14 presented four awards to Cadets at this years ROTC Dining Out Banquet held Friday March 6, 2020. Jim Howe (District 7 Commander) and Len Albright (Post 14 Commander) presented the awards to the four Cadets pictured to the right.

Right to left: Len Albright, Post 14 CDR; MSIII Scholastic Excellence Silver to Laura Hanshaw; MSIII Military Excellence Silver to Justin King; MSIV Military Excellence Gold to Nathan Sanders;



PHOTO BY JUDY ALBRIGHT

NOVEMBER 2019 MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters

VOICES

"It is important that Americans never forget that there are still more than 82,000 men and women who were taken prisoner or never had a full accounting. The American Legion reveres their memory and will continue to honor them..."

—American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford, following a Nov. 7, gathering at the White House where President Trump signed bipartisan legislation to require certain federal properties to display the POW/MIA flag every day



Number of VA hearing presentations prepared on behalf of veterans by national American Legion benefits claims experts in November. **1,016**

Minimum value of financial contributions made to VA hospitals by American Legion posts in the 2018-2019 membership year, with only 69 percent reporting. **\$1,357,541**

Minimum number of Veterans Day events coordinated by American Legion posts in 2018, with just 69 percent of posts submitting reports. **6,560**

Value of donated goods for veterans, including gift cards, coats and quilts, delivered to the Charleston, S.C., VA Medical Center by American Legion Post 178 from Murrells Inlet, the 14th consecutive year the Post has made such a delivery. **\$7,000**

Minimum number of pints donated through The American Legion's annual holiday blood drive last year; the drive is now underway, through Dec. 31. **70,000**

Number of minor children assisted throughout the United States in November by The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program, which provides grants for needy military and veteran families to pay for shelter, utilities, food or clothing. **25**

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants distributed in November to assist organizations and programs that help children facing difficulties beyond their control. **\$26,850**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships awarded in November. **\$13,681**

Number of applications for corrections submitted in November by The American Legion on behalf of veterans seeking reconsideration of the characterizations of their military discharges. **13**

Number of appeals granted for American Legion-represented veterans disputing VA benefits decisions in November. **505**

Number of American Legion district revitalization events conducted in five departments in November. **10**

Number of American Legion College Class of 2019 graduates, representing 40 departments, who completed the program at National Headquarters in November. It was the second largest Legion College class in history. **58**

Disaster Emergency Response

Ready 
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed..
CHAYA SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Were You Prepared for COVID-19?

COVID-19's arrival in Montana caught many off-guard. We all saw in the news or with our own eyes in the stores how some people hoarded certain foods, disinfectants and hand sanitizers or paper products – so that for a time, many others had to go without.

Hopefully, you were prepared!

When nothing of consequence in the disaster realm happens near us for a long time it's easy to think nothing will happen. I'm praying you weren't one of those having to stand in long lines for rationed supplies as our time to shelter in place approached much sooner than any of us wanted.

One of the great things about The American Legion is that as an organization, we prepare for times like this. Because members donated to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, the Legion was able to help many Coast Guard families last year who did not get paid during the government shut down. Over \$1.1 million was disbursed to help those families with children! It makes me so proud to be a member of an organization made up of so many generous members!

Through Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), The American Legion distributes one-time grants of up to \$1,500 to eligible active-duty military and American Legion veteran members in need. Grantees must have minor children in the home and the funds are designed to help meet the cost of shelter, food, health expenses or utilities so that children have a stable environment during a time of hardship – such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's vital to continue to donate to the National Emergency Fund to help Legion members displaced from their homes due to natural disasters; however, please take a moment to also donate to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation – to enable The American Legion to be prepared to help veterans and children in the future.

Go to: <https://www.members.legion.org/tal/donatenow> to help. When you go there, be sure to scroll down and choose where you wish your donation to go. If you prefer to write a check or give cash, you can also give a donation through your Post.

May you be abundantly blessed for your generosity!

Lap Quilt Given to Notable VA Volunteer

BY JERRY ESMAY, COMMANDER, STEVENSVILLE POST 94

Dan Koehl, Vice President of MSCPVA (Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America)



Vicky Crawford presents a lap blanket to Dan Koehl.

receives a lap quilt which was donated by the Mary Martha group from the Florence Carlton Community Church in Florence. Presenting the lap quilt on behalf of the Mary Marthas is Vicky Crawford who works at Valley Drug in Stevensville.

Dan served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, is a member of Stevensville Post 94, and now serves other veterans as a volunteer at Fort Harrison. He acts as an escort for the Key Club students from the Stevensville School around the hospital twice a year during the Christmas and Valentine's Day holidays when they visit the hospital veterans at Ft Harrison.

Vicky along with other members of her group send handmade hats and scarves to veterans at the hospital. They also make blankets, hats and more items for the babies that are born into military families within the state.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2020



	Year end Goal 2020	Year To Date Total	Year End 2019	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT	35	28	31	80.00%
41 GLASGOW ☆	87	86	91	98.85%
45 HINSDALE	51	45	46	88.24%
49 HOMESTEAD	10	8	10	80.00%
55 POPLAR ☆	27	28	25	103.70%
56 SCOBAY	54	38	49	70.37%
58 PLENTYWOOD ☆	56	62	57	110.71%
61 BROCKTON	38	25	28	65.79%
81 CULBERTSON	95	79	94	83.16%
85 BAINVILLE	25	23	23	92.00%
104 NASHUA	13	7	9	53.85%
122 OPHEIM ☆	27	28	27	103.70%
140 FORT PECK TRIBES ☆	12	17	0	141.67%
229 WESTBY	15	11	14	73.33%
TOTAL	545	485	504	88.99%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE	122	89	94	72.95%
48 CHINOOK ☆	46	54	48	117.39%
50 BIG SANDY	25	23	23	92.00%
57 MALTA ☆	92	103	106	111.96%
67 ROCKY BOY	26	22	19	84.62%
79 SACO ☆	11	24	18	218.18%
88 CHESTER	37	32	35	86.49%
109 TURNER	26	17	23	65.38%
110 FORT BELKNAP	11	8	12	72.73%
TOTAL	396	372	378	93.94%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER	52	48	52	92.31%
37 CONRAD	53	42	52	79.25%
40 CUT BANK	60	46	46	76.67%
43 SHELBY	51	32	44	62.75%
69 GALATA	33	21	25	63.64%
73 SWEETGRASS	73	69	68	94.52%
127 BROWNING	27	23	25	85.19%
CN20 CALGARY ☆	45	46	50	102.22%
TOTAL	394	327	362	82.99%

☆ DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS ☆	58	63	62	108.62%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS ☆	106	105	115	99.06%
74 EUREKA ☆	50	48	56	96.00%
86 BIG FORK	60	56	63	93.33%
97 LIBBY ☆	185	206	187	111.35%
106 ST IGNATIUS	50	46	51	92.00%
108 WHITEFISH	66	61	71	92.42%
112 POLSON ☆	130	136	136	104.62%
113 ARLEE ☆	25	28	27	112.00%
126 CHARLO ☆	18	22	21	122.22%
129 PARADISE ☆	72	72	86	100.00%
137 KALISPELL	231	215	228	93.07%
138 RONAN ☆	63	67	71	106.35%
TOTAL	1114	1125	1174	100.99%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS ☆	57	62	67	108.77%
27 MISSOULA	361	331	335	91.69%
47 HAMILTON ☆	124	122	128	98.39%
63 CONDON	47	43	50	91.49%
68 MISSOULA ☆	43	43	53	100.00%
83 CLINTON	16	13	17	81.25%
91 CORVALLIS	168	148	203	88.10%
94 STEVENSVILLE	211	193	193	91.47%
101 MISSOULA	40	24	43	60.00%
124 FRENCHTOWN	68	64	69	94.12%
125 DRUMMOND ☆	51	52	52	101.96%
134 FLORENCE ☆	62	61	60	98.39%
135 LOLO ☆	140	159	146	113.57%
TOTAL	1,388	1,315	1,416	94.74%

☆ DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE ☆	196	202	194	103.06%
2 HELENA ☆	753	837	818	111.16%
9 LINCOLN ☆	56	60	57	107.14%
10 DEER LODGE	67	61	65	91.04%
20 DILLON	185	157	156	84.86%
21 ANACONDA	241	212	231	87.97%
24 WHITEHALL	89	82	68	92.13%
31 TWIN BRIDGES	43	35	35	81.40%
33 PHILIPSBURG ☆	10	10	10	100.00%
42 TOWNSEND	117	107	108	91.45%
46 BOULDER ☆	23	28	27	121.74%
89 SHERIDAN ☆	73	101	88	138.36%
115 BUTTE	104	82	88	78.85%
TOTAL	1957	1974	1945	100.87%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA	154	78	101	51%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN ☆	350	360	374	102.86%
19 BIG TIMBER	188	158	166	84.04%
23 LIVINGSTON	170	149	173	87.65%
25 WHITE SULPHUR ☆	63	65	68	103.17%
30 BELGRADE	251	204	231	81.27%
65 ENNIS ☆	56	63	68	112.50%
78 W YELLOWSTONE	29	25	27	86.21%
87 MANHATTAN ☆	165	158	163	95.76%
93 THREE FORKS	42	35	42	83.33%
99 BIG SKY	55	51	48	92.73%
118 GARDINER ☆	35	35	32	100.00%
TOTAL	1404	1303	1392	92.81%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS	261	223	223	85.44%
6 CHOTEAU ☆	104	100	102	96.15%
26 FORT BENTON ☆	34	33	34	97.06%
51 AUGUSTA ☆	36	46	39	127.78%
64 DUTTON ☆	46	45	52	97.83%
80 FAIRFIELD ☆	31	32	28	103.23%
102 GERALDINE ☆	112	121	116	108.04%
103 POWER ☆	28	30	30	107.14%
130 VAUGHN ☆	40	39	43	97.50%
133 CASCADE	32	26	36	81.25%
341 MALMSTROM	162	128	137	79.01%
TOTAL	886	823	840	92.89%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON	104	97	100	93.27%
16 LEWISTOWN	409	350	398	85.57%
18 ROUNDUP	67	55	60	82.09%
53 STANFORD	26	23	22	88.46%
62 DENTON ☆	26	27	27	103.85%
70 JUDITH GAP ☆	69	72	69	104.35%
76 HOBSON ☆	37	37	36	100.00%
96 ROY ☆	22	23	22	104.55%
120 WINIFRED	31	29	31	93.55%
TOTAL	791	713	765	90.14%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY	81	71	75	87.65%
12 SIDNEY ☆	40	44	35	110.00%
28 GLENDIVE	109	93	95	85.32%
29 CIRCLE	18	15	13	83.33%
32 TERRY	101	92	97	91.09%
35 BAKER	121	95	102	78.51%
39 FORSYTH	97	86	85	88.66%
44 COLSTRIP ☆	30	35	38	116.67%
60 EKALAKA ☆	15	16	17	106.67%
114 FAIRVIEW ☆	37	37	35	100.00%
128 BROADUS	16	14	17	87.50%
TOTAL	665	598	609	89.92%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS	473	376	406	79.49%
8 HARDIN ☆	46	49	49	106.52%
17 RED LODGE ☆	57	63	59	110.53%
34 COLUMBUS ☆	59	62	60	105.08%
71 FROMBERG ☆	19	21	22	110.53%
84 BELFRY	39	32	34	82.05%
92 HYSHAM	26	21	18	80.77%
100 PARK CITY ☆	57	62	60	108.77%
117 BILLINGS	246	131	161	53.25%
119 BILLINGS HGTS ☆	172	176	177	102.33%
123 LAUREL ☆	112	117	124	104.46%
TOTAL	1306	1110	1170	84.99%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2020 INCENTIVE GOAL	11,000
2020 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	10,223
2019 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	10,653
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	92.94%

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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post	2	HELENA	837 MEMBERS
Post	4	BILLINGS	376 MEMBERS
Post	14	BOZEMAN	360 MEMBERS
Post	16	LEWISTOWN	350 MEMBERS
Post	27	MISSOULA	331 MEMBERS
Post	3	GREAT FALLS	223 MEMBERS
Post ...	137	KALISPELL	215 MEMBERS
Post	21	ANACONDA	212 MEMBERS
Post	97	LIBBY	206 MEMBERS
Post	30	BELGRADE	204 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
4	100.99%	Glen Sharbono
6	100.87%	Pat Sweeney
5	94.74%	Greg Marose
2	93.94%	Vincent Schmoeckle
8	92.89%	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
7	92.81%	Jim Howe
9	90.14%	Richard Hackett
10	89.92%	David Ofalt
1	88.99%	Joe Yeoman
11	84.99%	Gil Floyd
3	82.99%	Randy Flammound

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION April 1, 2020

SQUADRON	GOAL 2020	TO DATE
☆GLASGOW #41	44	57
☆PLENTYWOOD #58	17	21
☆CULBERTSON #81	20	22
NASHUA #104	10	6
HAVRE #11	18	13
☆CHINOOK #48	22	25
☆MALTA #57	17	24
☆SACO #79	12	13
☆GALATA #69	27	24
☆LIBBY #97	18	15
☆POLSON #112	14	14
MISSOULA #27	18	12
HAMILTON #47	10	2
CONDON #63	10	3
CORVALLIS #91	14	0
STEVENSVILLE #94	48	31
☆LOLO #135	31	33
☆BUTTE #1	27	28
☆HELENA #2	126	108
☆ANACONDA #21	19	20
☆TOWNSEND #42	21	28
BUTTE #115	10	3
☆BOZEMAN #14	81	70
☆BIG TIMBER #19	14	14
☆LIVINGSTON #23	45	43
BELGRADE #30	46	24
MANHATTAN #87	35	27
☆BIG SKY #99	22	24
☆GREAT FALLS #3	23	20
☆CHOTEAU #6	26	31
☆GERALDINE #102	58	56
☆VAUGHN #130	22	24
☆HARLOWTON #15	27	26
☆LEWISTOWN #16	149	123
MILES CITY #5	14	10
BAKER #35	30	17
☆FORSYTH #39	52	48
BILLINGS #4	14	8
BELFRY #84	10	0
☆BILLINGS #117	11	10
LAUREL #123	13	3
HQS POST #9999	0	0
TOTALS	1216	1067
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Congratulations District 4 Oratorical Winners

BY GLEN SHARBONO, DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

The District 4 Oratorical Contest was held March 14th, at the Masonic Hall in Polson at 1:00 PM. District 4 Commander Glen Sharbono was the moderator for the 83rd American Legion Oratorical Contest. Contestants had to give Prepared Orations on the Constitution for 8 to 10 minutes and a blind drawing Oration on one of four Amendments for 3 to 5 minutes. This year's assigned topic was Amendment 24.

stitution” and Kaitlynn Lamphere, a Senior of Polson High School won 3rd place and a scholarship of \$50. The title of her Prepared Oration was “Red or Blue”. Bronze, Silver and Gold medals were awarded and all contestants received a Certificate of Distinction. Scott O'Donnell would have advanced to the Department of Montana level in Helena, but it and the National contest were cancelled due to Covid-19.



District 4 Commander Glen Sharbono, Scott O'Donnell, Maggie Mekeon, Kaitlynn Lamphere.

Scott O'Donnell, a Senior of Kalispell High School won 1st Place and a \$150 scholarship plus \$100 for travel to the Department contest. The title of his Prepared Oration was “Answer the Call”. Maggie McKeon, a Senior of Columbia Falls High School won 2nd place and a scholarship of \$75. The title of her Prepared Oration was “Longevity of the Con-

This year we only had three contestants from Columbia Falls “Freedom Post” 72, Polson “Hardwick Post” 112 and Kalispell Post 137. If you're interested in how to run an oratorical contest information is available at www.legion.org/oratorical and it would be beneficial to attend a District or Department level contest as well.

ADJUTANT

cers stay in touch with their membership by email and phone to keep them apprised of all the changes. I encourage all members to be checking their emails and the Department website and Facebook daily for updates.

April 15 is Tax Day for many of us, and for most of our Posts as well. Remember it is a requirement that our Posts file a Form 990 to the IRS each year (date determined by your Post fiscal year). For many of our Posts you can file online using the 990N which requires you to answer only six questions. Regardless of when you file and what 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 nonprofit status, and it is a bureaucratic nightmare and costly to get it reinstated.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that the membership take an active part in the selection process for our awards. Unlike in the past, in an effort to save on postage costs the Department is no longer sending copies of all awards to the Posts; however the awards are available on the Department website (mtlegion.org), and in the Department publication “Post Leadership & Planning Manual, which each Post receives two copies of at Department Convention or upon request.

Remember your recruiting awards, there are individual and Post recruiting awards which require submission – most due by May 15.

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) were mailed in March for the 2019 - 2020 year. At first glance, the CPR may appear complicated and something you don't want to be troubled with, but perhaps it is the

most important document your Post can complete and submit. This information will be combined with that of other Posts, which submit forms to be put into the report annually sent to Congress. Your Post is encouraged to send a photocopy to our own U.S. Representative, Senators and your local Legislator. This summary is “US” when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of the American Legion and all veterans. Each Post has a story to tell, and when we speak collectively, our strength is magnified...your Post needs to be a part of that *united force*. If you have volunteered or done some other service, make sure your Post Commander and Adjutant know so they can include your efforts on the CPR. Consolidated Post Reports are due to Department Headquarters by 15 May 2020, if your Post uses MyLegion.org they may do an online submission, if done online there is no need to send the paper copy.

The Department is accepting applications for students to attend the National American Legion College, November 1 - 6, 2020 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 or later (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 online or from Department Headquarters. Submission date to Department is no later than 15 June 2020.

I would like to thank all members who have donated to the Department address label fundraiser, your generous donations are much appreciated by the Department Leadership. 🍷

continued from pg. 2

Post 2 Oratory Contest Results



PHOTO BY EDDY WHITE

Helena Post 2 Oratory (L-R): Duane Cunningham - Post 2 1st Vice Commander and Oratory Masters of Ceremony; 1st Place - Timothy Cuddie, Helena High School; 2nd Place - Hailey Carpenter, Capital High School; 3rd Place - Erin Heaton, Capital High School; 4th Place - Zane Talwani, Helena High School; Bill White - Post 2 Commander and Post Oratory Chairman.

District 6 Oratorical held just before Covid-19 restrictions

BY LINDA COUSINEAU, DISTRICT 6 VICE COMMANDER

District 6 held their Oratorical contest Sunday, March 15th at the Montana City Firehall just before the more stringent stay at home restrictions were put into place. There were four contestants from around the District and the competition was well attended by Legionnaires and families of the contestants.



L to R: District 6 Vice Commander Linda Cousineau; Timothy Cuddie - 1st Place; Trista Bedfield - 2nd Place; Jadyn Bellander - 3rd Place; Hailey Carpenter - 4th Place; Bill White - Hosting Post 2 Commander

The winners in order of placement were: 1) Timothy Cuddie - Post 2 Helena; 2) Trista Bedfield - Post 31 Twin Bridges; 3) Jadyn Bellander - Post 46 Boulder; 4) Hailey Carpenter - Post 2 Helena

All contestants received a monetary award and Timothy Cuddie would have been the individual to move up to compete at the Department level but unfortunately, due to more stringent Covid-19 restrictions, the Department competition was cancelled. Thank you to all the contestants, judges, emcee and attendees for your support in making this a successful competition. Best wishes to those students who can compete for next year's Oratorical.

Tri-County Legion Riders Post Colors for Special Olympics Fundraiser

SUBMITTED BY CHAYA SEMPLE

The wind came up nicely during the National Anthem as American Legion Riders posted colors for the annual Helena Passion Plunge on Saturday, February 8th. Brave and hardy souls recruited sponsors and jumped into the icy water of Spring Meadow Lake to raise money for Special Olympics.



Catherine Shields, age 14, sang the National Anthem beautifully. (PARENTAL PERMISSION GIVEN)



CHAYA SEMPLE, DEPT CHAPLAIN



Memorial Day is fast approaching and unlike years past, as of this writing, we may not be able to count on our freedom of movement and ability to place thousands of American Flags on

our veterans' graves at cemeteries throughout the state, hold our annual Memorial Day ceremonies or parades to commemorate and remember the sacrifice of our war dead.

Because of the extremely high death rate of Civil War soldiers from both the North and South, Memorial Day informally and spontaneously began across the country in the spring of 1866. It was known as Decoration Day for over a century – a time when families gathered, went to cemeteries to decorate graves of the fallen and remember their family members who died in that conflict and succeeding conflicts. It evolved into a patriotic holiday with military and veteran parades and lots of American Flags. Memorial Day did not become a recognized Federal holiday until 1971.

Although when you read this, we may possibly still be prohibited from gathering together, that does not mean we are prohibited from remembering our war dead.



PHOTO CREDITS TO SHEILA NECKSTAD

We still have the power of the pen and our voices. We still have the ability to alert our local media outlets and request they create and run stories on our local television and radio stations leading up to Memorial Day, featuring the stories of our local war dead. We can request names be printed in the paper or scrolled on the TV screen.

We can still write a Letter to the Editor, extolling our war dead's sacrifice, and the freedom purchased with their blood, which in turn will help others to remember them.

We can still fly an American Flag on our home, lowered to half-staff until noon, to remember them.

We can still participate in the national moment of remembrance at 3 pm on Memorial Day to remember them. And, we can continue to pray for peace.

May you be well!



RESOLUTION AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA



RESOLUTION NO. Special 20-01

SUBJECT: Cancellation of 2020 Department of Montana American Legion Convention in Billings, Montana
SUBMITTED BY: Past Department Commanders Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, The United States of America and the world in general are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recommendations of the United States President, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) the emergency actions taken include, but are not limited to, restriction of mass gathering sized, restriction on unnecessary travel, closure of restaurants and other public gathering spaces, implementation of "social distancing" guidelines and an overall emphasis on personal hygiene and virus/germ abatement actions; and

WHEREAS, The governor of the Montana declared in Executive Order #3-2020 a public health emergency and issued Executive Directives 3.15.20, 3.20.20, 3.24.20, and 3.26.20 requiring social distancing, groups of no more than 10 people, closure of indoor restaurant facilities, and stay at home whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of The American Legion Department of Montana at the Department Convention in Billings, Montana would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by state authorities and therefore place our members at an unnecessary health, safety, and medical risk; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National has submitted and expected to pass a resolution to cancel the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky due to the current threat of COVID-19 to The United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The Past Department Commanders Advisory Committee to the Department Commander has thoroughly discussed the situation, weighed all options, and determined that the course of action herein recommended is the correct and prudent course for the American Legion Department of Montana at this time; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Montana Andrew Pearson Post 117 of Billings, Montana understands and agrees with this course of action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Montana, by electronic mail vote, That due to the uncertainty of the duration of the disease known as Coronavirus (COVID-19), the numerous government regulations being enforced to contain it and concern for the safety of all

members of the American Legion Family, the American Legion Department of Montana Executive Committee agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion Department of Montana Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That due to these serious and sufficient reasons, the following American Legion events in Billings, Montana, are cancelled: (1) the Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for June 25; (2) The American Legion Department of Montana Convention scheduled for June 26-28, 2020; (3) the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for June 28, 2020; and (4) all regular-scheduled Department Committee meetings that would have been held in Billings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Departmental elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in Helena, Montana, June 27-29, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all national commission and/or committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Fall Meetings schedule in Indianapolis, Indiana October 12-15, 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any resolution needing to come before the American Legion Department of Montana Executive Committee may be brought forth to the Department Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020 Fall meetings in Helena, Montana; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion Department Executive Committee strongly urges that the Detachment of Montana American Legion Auxiliary follow a similar course of action, to-wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That due to the community of Billings, Montana, accommodating The American Legion cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to Andrew Pearson Post 117, The American Legion Department of Montana Executive Committee is hereby awarding the 2023 Department Convention to Andrew Pearson Post 117 if they so desire.

Elmer Palmer – Signed
Resolution Chairman

Jim Grosset – Signed
Constitution and Internal Affairs Chairman

Something is Missing in Our Midst

JIM KELLY, CHAIRMAN

AMERICAN LEGION FATALITY MARKER PROGRAM

It is gone, and we need to bring it back. A single individual can't make this happen; the whole Department must unite in one spirit to bring it about.

In Montana, many of us entered the Armed Forces through what was known as the Butte Armed Forces Induction Center. Butte has been the host for what was known then as the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station (AFEES) since shortly after the outbreak of WWII.

At some point, a commissioned officer entered and gave a little speech. He told you (and everyone else) what a big step this is in your life, and not to waste it, and so on, and so on. Then, he asked you to raise your right hand, and repeat the oath, essentially an oath to serve our country and community.

From that day forward, the bus ride to the airport, the flight to basic training, and our drill sergeants created a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie. We were in this together, considered to be "gung-ho" and having what was called "esprit de corps"; a common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group.

Upon discharge or retirement, we joined the American Legion for different reasons; but mostly for the continued sense of "belonging", a desire to continue to serve one another and our community.

For me, joining The American Legion is my way of continuing to serve. This is my way of having face time with a lot of those who have served before me, who have fought for benefits and resources that I benefit from today. And it's important for me to be able to come and show face and say to them that I haven't forgotten about my service; and even though I'm out of the military, my service continues in a different capacity. And it's my way of just letting them know that I'm going to continue to do what I can do in order to continue to pass on the torch to the next group of service members who come through.

The American Legion does a lot of things for veterans, probably most importantly it serves veterans who served and continues to foster a common spirit and commitment. To be honest and not to be critical, my observation as Chairman of the American Legion Fatality Marker Program, is as we age as an organization, I believe we have lost the spark and commitment to serve our communities.

How can I say that? Observe how active your local Post is in any one of several programs. Is the

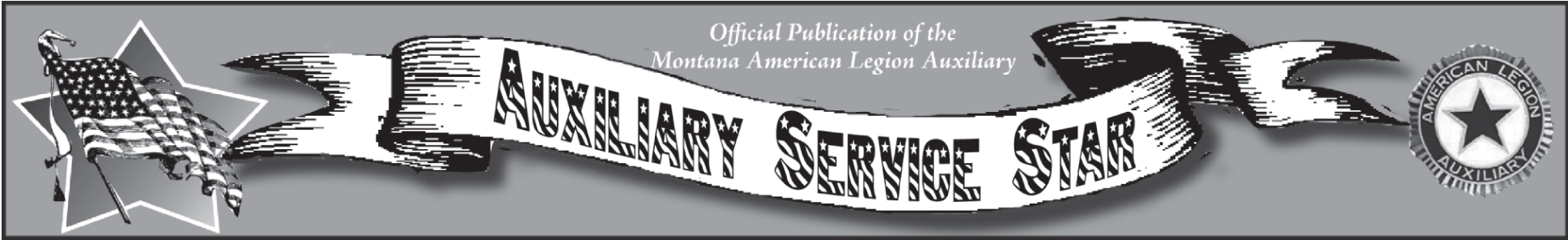
enthusiasm still there? Do we actively pursue participation in Boy's State or drop off the applications at the school and hope for the best? In the past year, as Chairman of the Fatality Marker Program, I find two dozen individuals can be called upon to honor a family request for installation of a Fatality Marker. Thank God for those individuals!

What is missing? Only you can answer the question. Is it personal commitment, enthusiasm or lack of leadership? We need to renew our common spirit in the members of a group and inspire enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group. As we approach Spring Maintenance of our Fatality Markers, take pride in yourself and your work. Let your membership in the American Legion reflect favorably on you and your Post.

It is time to recognize the importance of our commitment to one another and to the American Legion as a whole. Don't lose what we once had, a commitment to one another. We are in this together!

P.S.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.



President

SUE DAVIDSON

Blessings to each one of our ALA members! As we have heard so many times lately, “this is unprecedented times for all of us”. Daily we are hearing of more and more cases of the Coronavirus in our communities, State, Nation, and in the world. I don’t know about you, but I almost hate to listen to the news or read the paper because it seems to just cause more stress. The one website I do try to continually keep up with is our ALAforveterans.org. It has the latest information about our organization and what we can do, or what to cancel or what to extend our deadlines to.



President Sue Davidson, Billings

As of the 13th of April our ALA MT Girls State and our own Department Convention have been cancelled. I thank our National and Department Officers along with our Chairmen for their hard work during this time as they work to keep us informed as information comes out

I also want to thank all of you who are still working from your computers and phones to check up on their members and some of our most vulnerable neighbors and veterans. We are all in this together and if we each take care of our “circle” of friends and acquaintances; we can make a large swath of caring across Montana. I know you have done the Week of Caring and Sharing and hopefully gotten to talk to those who we usually just email or haven’t been in contact for a while. At this time it is important to keep in touch and who knows, you may get a member to renew because you reached out to them. Don’t forget to document all of your hard work.

I have asked Jamie to stay on as our Secretary/Treasurer through this time and into next year. Thank you Jamie! She is so needed with her invaluable knowledge and expertise to help us navigate through the constant changes. We will still be voting to split the offices in our Convention and the redoing of our Constitution and By-laws.

One item I do need to talk about is Department Fundraiser “Dimes and Time”. At this time, we have only received monies from 14 Units. That

leaves about 55 Units that still need to hear from. I have asked every member of Department to please donate \$10 to this mission. I will be honest and tell you we will not be able to meet our budget if we do not get funds. I understand we cannot go out and get funds at this time and maybe for months to come, but we can each do our part and donate at least \$10 for the fundraiser.

I pray that you will all take the precautions necessary to keep yourself as safe and healthy as possible. I keep you all in my prayers daily and ask God to bless us as we go through this difficult time. I want to leave you with a bible verse that speaks to me about the uncertainty of our daily lives. MATTHEW 6:33-34. **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”**

Taking care of the business of our veterans and our members. 🙏

CALL TO CONVENTION
TO: Officers and members of The American Legion Auxiliary Units in Montana

GREETINGS
The 100th Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana is hereby called to meet and assemble at Billings, Montana, June 26, 27, 28, 2020 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.

REPRESENTATION
Representation in the Convention will be by Units. Each Unit in good standing and not delinquent in State and National Dues shall be eligible to representation at the Department Convention. Representation is based up on the paid-up Unit Membership as of the beginning of Department Convention as follows: *Units having up to 50 members are entitled to two (2) delegates; and one additional delegate for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof. *A Unit, to be in good standing must have a minimum of ten paid members and no indebtedness to the Department.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
A regular meeting of the committee will be held on Friday, June 26, 2020 at 9:00 A.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 Presidents will be sworn into office at the conclusion of the session on Sunday morning, June 28, 2020 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.
Sue Davidson
Department President
Jamie DeBates
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Secretary

JAMIE DeBATES

Hello members! What an interesting situation this is for all of us. I’ve personally never known a time more filled with anxiety and uncertainty. I’m young enough to have missed the Depression but old enough to be terrified for my grandchildren. Apparently, I’ve allowed myself to become part of a self-entitled generation who has absolutely no patience. Watching the Waltons used to be an afternoon pleasure while I worked in my office. Now it’s become my daily study plan. I’m learning as I go.



Jamie DeBates

As of this writing, and much like every other state, our Department faces the issue of scheduling and cancelling. I am asking patience from all of us as we work with issues beyond our control. What remains in our control is the ability to help those veterans who need us. Send them cards; make signs to hang in their windows; make phone calls to everyone you care about. Social media is a great way to thank those who’ve impacted your life and a safe way to spread some love and a cheerful message.

If you don’t have access to emails, I’m asking you to keep in touch with your Unit officers and your District President. I’m sending updates as quickly as I receive them. I hope and pray by the time you’re reading this issue life has resumed a degree of normalcy – assuming we can even measure what normal is after this virus has passed.

Reporting will be key this year; we’re all home and have the time to work on them. The information is a summary of the good work you did LAST year so take the time while you have it and report to your Unit and chairwomen.

God Bless you. 🙏

2019 Christmas Gift Shop

SUBMITTED BY SANDY RUNKEL

A sincere thank you to all our members for their generosity to the Christmas Gift Shop at Fort Harrison this year, donating a great number of gifts, cash, cookies and most of all, hours of your time. The shop was a great success this holiday season. We had 76 Veterans and families shopping, the most we’ve had in many years. There were 17 volunteers who donated 110 hours. The value of the donated gifts was \$5,006 with 26 Units, Posts and individuals generously giving. Be assured that your efforts are appreciated by our Veterans and their families. Save the dates for 2020! Sunday, December 6th and Monday December 7th. Wishing everyone many blessings in 2020.



Front Row: Helen Bunkowske, Sandy Runkel, Reba Johnson, Jessica Anderson, Audrey Blomquist, Katerina Routzahn, Mariana Routzahn. Back row: Sherry Reynolds, Karen Susag, Leah Ellwein, Natalya Routzahn, Cyndi Routzahn, Ann Hill, Debra Crider, Dick Ellwein



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Montana Fundraiser





“Dimes and Time”



Our goal is to raise enough dimes to stretch 100 miles for our programs to help veterans, and for each Auxiliary Unit to spend 100 hours in personal time to better the lives of our veterans and their families.

This is to take place November 2019—May 2020 in honor of our American Legion Auxiliary 100th Birthday celebration.

Thank you for your donation!

Butte Post #1 hosts “We Love Our Veterans”

SUBMITTED BY MARGIE SCHENK, MEMBER SILVER BOW UNIT No.1 BUTTE

Members of Post No.1 and Auxiliary members in Butte went out to host their “We Love Our Veterans” event. They brought valentine cookies to several veterans in retirement and assisted living facilities throughout Butte and spent time visiting with them. Taken at the Big Sky Senior Living Facility, pictured



from left to right are the veteran residents living there and members of the Post and Auxiliary: Mollie Kirk, Anne Newton, JoAnn Piazzola, Jeanette Knoell, and Roger Knoell.

Polson Post/Unit 112

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON
POLSON UNIT 112



Post 112 and Unit 112 in Polson held their annual birthday dinner on March 12. Dept. Commander Jeff Nelson, Dept. V.P. Chris Nelson, District 4 Commander Glenn Sharbono, Post Commander Dorothy Goodwin, Dept. Secretary Jamie Debates and County Commissioner Bill Barron were among the attendees.

Deceased Members

JULY 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 1	Butte	Beverly Miotke, Linda L Neary, Shirley Rand
Unit 2	Helena	Dorothy Stanley
Unit 3	Great Falls	Diana Reilly
Unit 5	Miles City	Ingeborg E Howard
Unit 11	Havre	Carolynne Gallagher
Unit 14	Bozeman	Anna M Metcalf; Zola A Jones
Unit 15	Harlowton	Mary L Carrier
Unit 18	Roundup	Peggy Osse
Unit 19	Big Timber	Gladys Stenberg
Unit 20	Dillon	Norah Elliott; Joann Aitken
Unit 23	Livingston	Alice W Hartman
Unit 25	White Sulphur Springs...	Patricia A Farley, Joyce McAfee-Celander
Unit 27	Missoula	Leola S Hollinder
Unit 32	Terry	Darlane Pisk
Unit 37	Conrad	Lola A Arvidson
Unit 41	Glasgow	Rita Zeller, Gloria Doucette, Theresa Shipp, Gloria Shanks
Unit 42	Townsend	Marcia Morand Jean Burnett, Betty J Watterson
Unit 45	Hinsdale	Cecile Beil
Unit 47	Hamilton	Edna McCarty
Unit 49	Homestead	Lois Nelson
Unit 51	Augusta	Virginia Balek
Unit 53	Stanford	Hazel Moore
Unit 58	Plentywood	Betty Jean Olson
Unit 64	Dutton	Beverly Lou Loch, Marjorie Mathison; Eva McDunn
Unit 69	Galata	Peggy A Woodworth Connie L Marcum
Unit 76	Hobson	Marcella Boling
Unit 81	Culbertson	Viola T Lemieux Lillian M Tischmak
Unit 84	Belfry	Pierina E Phillips
Unit 91	Corvallis	Marjorie H Buecheler
Unit 92	Hysham	Ruth St John
Unit 97	Libby	Lynne Finley
Unit 100	Park City	Luella I Doom
Unit 105	Department	Doris Gunderson
Unit 106	St. Ignatius	Betty J Wetzel
Unit 109	Turner	Eleanor Warren, Doris Egbert, Adrienne Hutton
Unit 117	Billings	Linda J Hinkle
Unit 120	Winifred	Rosie Foreman
Unit 122	Opheim	Dorothy Solberg
Unit 123	Laurel	Carol Roysdon- Mogan
Unit 130	Vaughn	Linda M Martinez
Unit 135	Lolo	Audrey Hancock

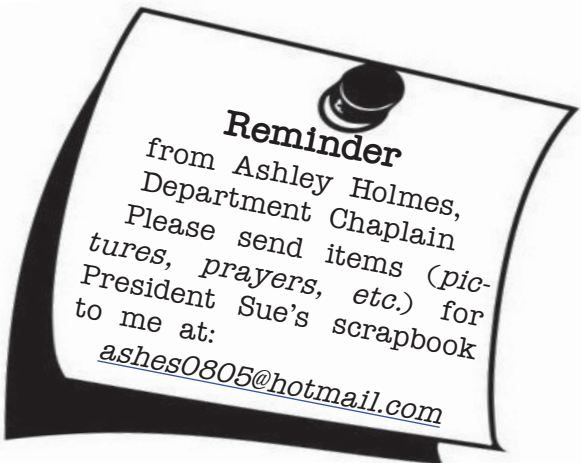
Four Chaplains Service

SUBMITTED BY LEONA SOMERFELD, MEMBER POWER MILLS PAULUS UNIT 103

Junior member, Jersey Somerfeld from Mills Paulus Unit 103, presented the Four Chaplain Sunday Program at Guardian Angel Church on February 2, 2020. A memorial display was set-up to commemorate the Four Chaplains. She read the story and did a very nice job explaining the heroic efforts of the Four Chaplains.



The same week of February 2nd, 2020, Jersey went to the Pre-kindergarten class and read a fun story, helped them do a craft making paper chickens and then treated them to her homemade biscuits served with butter and honey.



Glasgow Unit 41 Fill-the-Purse

SUBMITTED BY LEILA SEYFERT, MEMBER UNIT No.41 GLASGOW

District 1 President Cassie Johnson challenged each Unit in the District to fill purses with single use toiletry items, such as shampoo, conditioner, soap and toothpaste. Larger items such as deodorant, playing cards, socks, shirts and toothbrushes were also collected. During the regular January meeting of Unit 41 Glasgow, the Auxiliary filled around 20 purses to be donated to homeless women veterans.



L-R, front row seated: Junior Cerenity Olsen, Adeline Mitchell, Secretary Leila Seyfert; back row: Carolyn Fauth, Sandra Copple, Chaplain Mary Ann Riddick, President Angie Wersal, Treaurer Rene Clampitt and Gloria Kountz.

There was such a great response from the Glasgow community (in the way of donations), that the Unit is also donating filled draw-string bags for male veterans affected as well.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



BY JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

June 14-20, 2020 Session CANCELLED

It is with heavy heart that I write to you concerning the cancellation of our 72nd ALA MT Girls State. While we are navigating an unprecedented and challenging environment with Covid-19, please know that we have the health and welfare of our staff and attendees foremost in our minds.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and diligence in visiting schools, talking with the juniors and getting applications and fees together for the girls we did have registered.

We will be refunding 100% of the monies received from all of you and your sponsors, unless you notify us otherwise. Please understand that we do not want to hold your money intended for NEXT year's applicants at Department level, but we will humbly accept any donations for overall program expenses.

My intent will be to introduce a temporary resolution at Fall Conference to address our Constitution and Bylaws for this year's High School junior girls to be allowed to attend next year's session as graduated seniors if they so choose. The only caveat is that the seniors would not be allowed to compete for Girls Nation Senator until which time as National adopts a resolution to their Constitution and Bylaws to allow them to attend, which is in their plan to do so later this year.

Covid-19 has definitely changed the landscape of many of our programs this year but we'll take the time to regroup, recruit and set ourselves up for a successful 72nd ALA MT Girls State session for June 13-19, 2021. Again, thank you for your support and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY POSITION OPEN

The position of Department Secretary is open for application. Start date to be determined. Contract will be issued for a three-year term after probationary period.

Job requirements include ability to travel both by car and air. Candidate must possess a valid Montana Driver's License, airline approved identification, and pass a background check.

Job skills required include a basic knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary per the Constitution and By-Laws and Unit Guidebook. Applicant must be fluent in communication skills, both in writing and public speaking. Applicant must possess their own computer and printer. Programming and printing supplies will be provided by Department.

The home office must be secure for storage and of adequate size to accommodate Department copier. Secretary agrees to maintain homeowner's insurance to protect properties.

Secretary must be able to perform duties in a timely manner, often on a daily basis as necessary.

Experience with Microsoft Office, primarily Word and Excel are required. Familiarity with Quick Books is favorable.

Secretary will work directly with Treasurer and is accountable to the Department Executive Committee.

Travel expense account is provided and is separate from employee salary.

Electronic payroll transfer is processed to Secretary twice monthly.

Salary is set by the Department Executive Committee and will be commensurate with experience of applicant.

Resume should be mailed to Department President Sue Davidson, at 3138 Avimore CT, Billings, MT 59101. Application period remains open until filled. Start date to be determined.

Historian

Auxiliary and the Legion

RAYMOND K. READ, DEPT. HISTORIAN | MYFUN51@MSN.COM

America’s largest Veterans service organization, The American Legion, turned 100 years old in 2019.

The American Legion was founded after the end of World War I. During March 15-17, 1919 in Paris, France, the first caucus under the name *American Expeditionary Force* was held. Two months later, a caucus was held in St. Louis, Mo., where the name *The American Legion* was officially adopted. The Preamble and the Constitution of The American Legion was approved, and on Sept. 16, 1919, the United States Congress chartered The American Legion.

After its formation in 1919, several existing women’s organizations wanted to become the official affiliate of the Legion. A committee decided to create a new organization made up of the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion. During The American Legion’s first convention Nov. 10, 1919, members and officials “birthed” the American Legion Auxiliary.

This Auxiliary would perform those portions of Legion activities that were more suitably performed by women. In less than one year, 1,342 local units in 45 states of the *Women’s Auxiliary to The American Legion* had been organized.

At the Legion’s second convention in September 1920, the Legion sanctioned the Auxiliary. The



Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918, in Minneapolis. (PHOTO: MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

Legion’s Committee on Women’s Auxiliary presented some recommendations to the Legion, one being that the women decide upon their name. And the women did just that at the Auxiliary’s first convention in 1921, omitting the word “women’s” – thus becoming the American Legion Auxiliary.

From the beginning, both organizations’ main goals were to help veterans and their families. Today, there are over 2 million members in over 12,000 posts worldwide.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has three-quarters of a million members in over 8,000 communities. The American Legion Auxiliary has come a long way from “doing the activities more suitable for women” – in 2018, the organization’s volunteer hours had an impact of over \$1 billion through services to servicemembers, veterans and their families, and our communities.

Also in 2018, over 4,000 scholarships were awarded, \$18 million raised and spent on the ALA Girls State program, \$82 million plus raised/spent to benefit children and 5.5 million poppies were distributed with nearly \$4.4 million raised. More than 3 million veterans were assisted, 356,000 military families were served and \$189 million was spent on community service projects alone.

The American Legion Auxiliary has advocated for veterans rights, including the GI Bill and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and ending homelessness among veterans.

The American Legion Auxiliary can still be seen baking pies and serving dinners to our many veterans as well as sending care packages to deployed troops and writing notes to wounded veterans in hospitals.

See the ALA in action: www.ALAforVeterans.org. This was originally published as an eBulletin.

Additional information taken from: *The American Legion of Montana 1919-1963* by Geraldine Lowery, published in 1965. Chapter IV: the American Legion Auxiliary of Montana

The History of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana written by Mrs. E. A. King, Mrs. E.O. Orleman and Mrs. R.H. Greger.

“The American Legion recognizes an Auxiliary organization known as the ‘Women’s Auxiliary of the American Legion.’” This was the recommendation presented to the National Convention by a Committee and was set forth in an Article in the American Legion Constitution in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 10 - 12 1919.

“The second annual National Convention of the American Legion held on September 27-29, 1920 in Cleveland, Ohio, approved the report of Ed T. Follett of Ohio. ‘It shall be the duty of the National American Legion Commander to call a National Convention of the Auxiliary for the purpose of forming a National Organization.’”

Montana was among the 35 states organized, with 10 others in the process, given permission to hold their first National Convention at the same time that the American Legion met in Kansas City, Missouri, November 1-2, 1921. The name of the organization was changed at this Convention to the “The American Legion Auxiliary.” Mrs. Lowell E. Hobart or Edith Hobart, Cincinnati, Ohio, was elected the [first National] President.

The Montana Department of the American Legion Auxiliary held their organizational meeting in Lewistown, June 28-29, 1921. Units represented were Silver Bow [Butte], Lewis and Clark [Helena], Great Falls, Choteau, Richland, Gallatin, Harlowton, Roundup, Beaverhead, Anaconda, Park, Missoula, Glendive, Valier, Deer Lodge, Harlem, Denton, Moore, Lavina, Elmer L. Cowan Unit, and Jefferson.

The first officers elected were Mrs. C.E. Pew, President; Mrs. J. W. Crosby, Vice President; Blanche Baudette, Recording Secretary; Mrs. H. Marsh, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Anna Ludsford, Treasurer; Mrs. McHaffie, Historian; Mrs. Wiedman, Auditor; Gertrude Whipple and Margaret Combs, Codirectors.

Comment: Would it not be wonderful to recognize these leaders, individuals and units, as the founders of Montana American Legion Auxiliary. ●

40/8 Grand Du Montana

EDDY WHITE, GRAND CHEF DE GARE

In March of 1920, a group of Legionnaires met in Philadelphia where they originated the idea of The Forty and Eight. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French railways, so familiar to American ground troops of World War I was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization.

The organization was named La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses). Its members were called Voyageurs Militaire (military travelers). The cargo capacity sign “40 Hommes/8 Chevaux” emblazoned on each French boxcar that carried American doughboys to the front, and “French horizon blue” color, became symbols of the new society.

The new Forty and Eight organization agreed to send a delegation to the Legion’s national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, with as much fanfare as possible in order to introduce the Forty and Eight to the nation and to other Legionnaires. A railroad box car was rented, and in it, the Forty and Eight delegation rode the rails to the Cleveland American Legion convention. In 1947, The Forty and Eight welcomed The Merci Train, also known as the French Gratitude Train. It was a gift from France immediately following World War II.

Over the last 100 years, there have been many programs both nationally and locally that coincide with The American Legion programs: VAVS, Child Welfare programs, Flag Education, Memorial Day, Boys State, Girls State, Scouting and Children and Youth programs. The Forty and Eight has other programs that stand them apart of which two significant ones in Montana are Nurses Training Scholarships and Merci Car maintenance and care.

As we celebrate the last century of success, I thank The American Legion members and The Forty and Eight Voyageurs Militaire for the past years. I look forward to many more successes in the years to come. Like The American Legion, we value our comradeship, programs that support our communities, state and nation and, most importantly, our veterans and their families.

Legionnaire’s, when you are approached to be a member, please consider joining The Forty and Eight. **Editor’s note:* Want more information? The Forty and Eight will be meeting at the Billings Convention so stop and say hello to our Voyageurs - look for the red box car pin on their hats or uniforms.

History of the Montana Legionnaire

RAYMOND K. READ, DEPT. HISTORIAN | MYFUN51@MSN.COM

The Montana Legionnaire was authorized and established at the first Montana American Legion Convention in Malta and it has continued to survive for over 100 years. The date was recognized as December 1919 and under the supervision of the State Executive Committee. One issue was produced and then the publishing was transferred to C Meyers of Silver-Bow Post (Post 1) who published it until June 1920. It moved back to the Executive Committee and through trial and tribulations was published in some form known as the “Service Star” as a temporary official publication. In the third year “The Service Star” was recognized, “sanctioned,” by the National Headquarters and cited as “the best edited and neatly printed department publication of any Department of the organization.” By 1926 The Montana Legionnaire was published and today is still published by the Department of Montana and is the best form of written communications The American Legion of Montana has (Historians’ opinion). Just saying!

2020 National Box Car Fundraiser

Grande Du Montana has been limited to 100 2020 National Box Car Pins. To qualify to apply for the annual maintenance fund our Grande must raise a minimum of \$150 in pin sales and other donations. This year’s fundraiser includes the Box Car pin and the National Crew Card, both of which can be purchased for \$5 each from any Voiture (Post), Grand Officer or by contacting Ray Read at 406-458-9847, myfun51@msn.com.

A 2020 Crew Card makes you eligible for cash drawings of \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively. Odds are good with only 100 cards available! Of the funds generated, \$100 will be returned to National to pay for the cards, \$225 will pay the prizes and the remainder will be placed in support of the maintenance and upgrade of the Montana MERCI CAR located at the Montana Military Museum on Fort Harrison, Helena. Montana’s Car will celebrate its 71th Anniversary in 2020.



The drawing will be held 30 Oct 2020
During the 40&8 Cheminot/Promenade at Fall Conference.
Need not be present to win!



Nurses Training and Child Welfare

The Grand du Montana is also selling these pins for \$5 each to support the 40&8 Nurses Training Program and Child Welfare Program. As of July 30, 2019, our National Nurses Training Program begun in 1955 has expended over \$33.4 million assisting 4,900 nurses in obtaining their nursing degrees. If you have a desire to, or know someone who is pursuing a nursing degree, contact a 40&8 member for scholarship opportunities.

The Voyageurs Militaire (Military Travelers) founded a Child Welfare Program in 1923 to ease the pain and suffering of those children whose fathers never returned or who were unable to care for their needs after the “Big War.” Today, this program has grown to include all children with emergent needs and our efforts amount to over \$8 million annually.



Help Our Female Comrades be Recognized

BY KIM KAY MCCARTY MARTIN, WOMEN VETERANS COORDINATOR

Women have fought for freedom and our country since the Revolutionary War. One of the first women to fight for our country was Margaret Corbin, who was severely wounded fighting alongside her husband at Fort Washington in 1776 and left for dead. She survived though disabled and received ½ of a soldier’s lifetime pension after the war. Several monuments have been erected in her honor, even one at the Military Academy at West Point but because she was a woman, before women had rights, you hear very little about her. Another lesser known female, New York teenager Sibyl Ludington, the female equivalent of Paul Revere, rode 40 miles in a rainstorm in April, 1777 through Putnam and Dutchess Counties rousing local militia to fight a British force that had attacked nearby Danbury, Connecticut.

More than 400 women (many more possibly unrecorded) disguised themselves as men and fought in the Revolutionary War and in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Thousands joined volunteer brigades and signed up to work as nurses, a role previously held by men. One of the more famous nurses was the writer Louisa May Alcott. Women for both sides ventured onto the battlefield, many changing their appearances so they could fight incognito until they were found out and sent home.

During WWI, women operated near the front lines, providing medical care for soldiers wounded in combat. In the US Navy many females enlisted as yeomen, mechanics, truck drivers, telephone operators, and translators. To improve communications on the Western Front, the creation of the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators was created. They were nicknamed Hello Girls and were noted for their bravery and focus under pressure. They did everything they were tasked to do without any hope of medals, citations and glittering homecoming

parades. Even after the war, upon returning home they did not receive veteran status or benefits.

In WWII, 350,000 women served in the armed forces in the newly formed WAACs, WAVES, WASPS, and SPARS doing more than being a nurse or office clerk. They repaired and flew airplanes and drove trucks, were killed in combat or captured as prisoners of war. Many nurses received various decorations for their courage under fire; 16 nurses were killed as a result of direct enemy fire, 68 were captured as POW’s in the Philippines and more than 2,000 won combat decorations and meritorious service medals. Women veterans returning home again did not receive veteran benefits and were denied advantages of the GI Bill.

By the time of the Persian Gulf War, i.e. Desert Shield/Desert Storm, women made up 6.8% of the military where many jobs were open to women that had not been open before. Still considered non-combatative they endured the same harsh conditions as their male counterparts, performing admirably without special considerations. 5 women were killed, 2 were taken as POW’s, and 21 were wounded. 4 female Marines received the Combat Action Ribbon when they were engaged by and returned fire against Iraqi troops.

Since the Gulf War, military branches have been slowly integrating women into many combat roles previously closed to them. Female troops focus on their job, not their gender, proving themselves as capable as their male counterparts. It has been a long haul for women veterans, being able to be recognized for their acts of bravery, awarded Combat Action Ribbons because they performed admirably doing the same job, getting the same results as their male comrades. American women want to stand up and fight for their country and do their part for the cause

because they know that in times of war and conflict, it is their fight too.

With legislation they also are entitled to the same pay and the same benefits but there is still disparity among the genders once they leave the service. The VA hospitals and clinics continue to be geared for the healthcare of men, which is why many female vets do not feel welcome using the facilities. Men are thanked for their service at a higher proportion than women; usually because they are easier to identify. Some men remain uncomfortable with women serving in the armed forces: harboring feelings that war encourages acceptance of violence against women in general or that it defeminizes the women. Since its founding in 1919, The American Legion’s Constitution and Bylaws has treated the genders the same. We as members need to treat women veterans with the same respect and comradery that men receive. We need to set the example for our society to accept that women serve and they are veterans too. Hopefully we can then make the necessary changes to allow women veterans the healthcare, respect, and recognition they earned.

Your personal help is needed by our female comrades and me as the Department Women Veterans Coordinator to advocate for women veterans in obtaining adequate healthcare. Your help is needed in recognizing and thanking women veterans for their service. Your help is needed to encourage women veterans and active duty females to join the American Legion. One person cannot do it alone. It takes all of us. Please help me identify women in the American Legion by giving them this survey; it is a way for us to recognize and support each other. We served too and we belong to the American Legion Family.

Women Veterans Questionnaire

Name

Post#

Address

E-Mail

Phone

*What is your preferred method of contact

E-mail

Text

Written

Phone

*Why did you join The American Legion?

*Are you interested in meeting other women veterans?

*In what ways would you like to connect to other women veterans?

In a Social setting

At a workshop

At an Outdoor event

At an Outdoor activity

At an Indoor event

At an Indoor activity

Other

*What are your expectations of the Women Veterans Coordinator?

Please Mail to: Kim Kay c McCarty Martin

OR

E-mail to

1426 2nd Ave S

Great Falls, MT 59405

Any Questions or comments please let me know or call me at (701) 260-2833

Lone Scouts receive Troop Flag from Helena Post 2

Lone Scouts Hailey and Ashley Carpenter of Helena MT were presented a “Troop” Flag by American Legion Post 2



L-R: Vice Commander Duane Cunningham, Life Scout Hailey Carpenter, First Class Scout Ashley Carpenter, and Scouting Chairman Bill Rich

Hysham Post/ Unit 92 celebrates Legion birthday

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 92 had cake and ice cream on March 2, 2020, to help The American Legion Post 92 celebrate the Legion's 101 years of organization.



Legion members: Bill Cunningham, Dennis Marks, Skip White, Morris Spannagel.

Congratulations! Two Montana American Legion sponsored teams Runners-Up for National Championship in team competitions

BY LARRY DOBB, SHOOTING SPORTS CHAIR

There were six teams sponsored by Montana American Legion Posts in the 2020 postal tournament matches. Each team shot their targets under supervision and sent them forward for scoring in the National competition.

Congratulations to the two Montana State Champion teams whose scores were good enough to pull in Team National Runners-up for their categories at the National Postal Tournament Championship.

The Gallatin County 4-H Sharp Shooters sponsored by Post 87 Manhattan were selected as Team National Runners-up Champion in the National Postal Tournament (Precision) and Montana 10X, Mineral County sponsored by Ray Welch Post 13 Superior were selected as Team National Runners-up Champion in the National Postal Tournament (Sporter).

Thanks to the four other competing teams; Hellgate Civilian Shooter Association - Post 27 Missoula, the Phillips County 4-H Shooting Sports - Post 57 Malta,

the Post 106 Junior Shooting Sports - James R W McCarthy Post 106 St Ignatius and the Ronan 4H - Ronan Post 138

Two other teams that competed in 2019 did not participate in 2020. They were Lake County Junior Shooting Sports - Post 106 and Lewis and Clark County Shooting Sports - Post 2 Helena. There were a number of changes in this year's registration process, such as a shorter time frame to register, an updated on-line only registration process and a credit card only option for payment, all of which may explain why some of the other teams did not participate this year. Historically, at various times twenty-seven posts were involved sponsoring thirty-two teams and/or individuals.



Lewis & Clark 4-H Shooting Sports Club and Adult Coach-Trainers: American Legion Liason Buck Buckmaster of Helena Post 2 (center-back)

Even though the 2020 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship - Colorado has been cancelled the Postal tournament scores that were sent in were used to determine this year's National winners.

To all our teams, best of luck and sure shooting for next year's competitions.

Congressman Gianforte Honors Three Butte Veterans

BY MIKE SMITH

Like so many former military guys and gals in Butte, Neil "Pooch" Neary, Thomas Goyette and Roger Knoell didn't stop serving their country when their active duty ended.

On Monday, the three veterans were honored not only for their time in the service, but for their service to The American Legion and other causes and organizations back home. U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte presented all three with the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation, which the Montana Republican started in 2017 to recognize outstanding veterans for their commitment to both community and country. "This is a way of saying thank you," Gianforte said during a ceremony at the American Legion Silver Bow Post 1 building on Wynne Avenue that opened last year during the organization's 100-year anniversary. About 50 people attended the ceremony, all applauding after Gianforte read statements about each man that he's included in the Congressional Record and giving them individual awards and folded American flags.

All three gave a short, simple thank you. "It's pretty humbling," said Neary, who has been a member of the American Legion in Butte for 63 years.

Neary was in the U.S. Army for three years, including 28 months overseas during the Korean War. He was a member of the Engineering Corps and received commendations including the Good Conduct Medal. Neary said American Legion members in Butte "met me at the bus station" when he returned home and he's now a lifetime member of the Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Goyette enlisted in the Navy after graduating from Forsyth High School in Montana in 1967, was trained in aviation electronics and fire control and spent

time on the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea off the coast of Vietnam. He and his crew were responsible for securing and checking the A6 Intruder after flights, inspecting the aircraft and making sure they were refueled and rearmed, ready for the next mission.

Goyette left the Navy in 1970, worked in advanced electronics and as a registered nurse, came to Butte to work at the Military Entrance Processing Station and retired here in 2012. He has belonged to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, United Veterans Council and was involved in securing the Southwest Montana Veterans Home in Butte.

"I think everybody has a duty to pay back to the community, state and nation for the opportunities we are all given," Goyette said after the ceremony. "We are given the right of citizenship but with that comes responsibilities. We are all responsible for helping maintain this great nation."

Knoell enlisted in the Navy right out of Butte High School in 1970, saw combat in Vietnam aboard two destroyers and fast-support combat craft, and spent nearly half of a 20-year Navy career in submarine service based in San Diego and Pearl Harbor. Knoell said when he was younger, most guys had three choices coming out of high school in Butte — go to college, work in the mines or join the military. He chose the latter and knew "right off the bat" that he would stay in for years. "The Navy to me — there was nothing else in the world as far as I was concerned," he said. "If I could go back and do it all over again I would." Since returning to Butte in 1990, Knoell has been active in The American Legion, including time as adjutant and commander of Post 1, and played a key role in getting the new building on Wynne Avenue completed. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the United Veterans Council.



Thomas Goyette, Roger Knoell, and Neil "Pooch" Neary, pictured here from left, were honored Monday for their service to their country and their community.



Steve Daines

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR MONTANA

'B-47 Ridge Designation Act'

INTRODUCED IN SENATE (02/14/2019) AS S.490 - 116TH CONGRESS (2019-2020)

This week the Senate passed my bill to honor four servicemen who lost their lives in a terrible crash in 1962. The bipartisan B-47 Ridge Designation Act designates an unnamed ridge in Paradise Valley where the fatal crash happened, "B-47 Ridge." The legislation also allows for the placement of a memorial plaque at the site of the crash where debris is still scattered so this accident will never be forgotten.

Why It Matters:

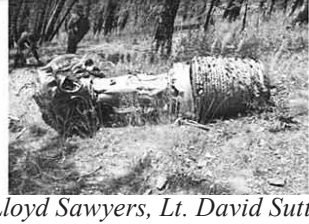
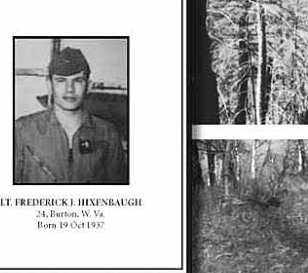
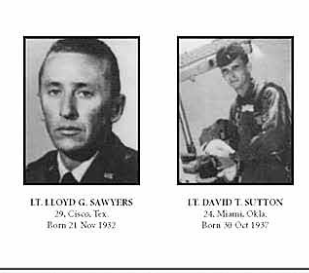
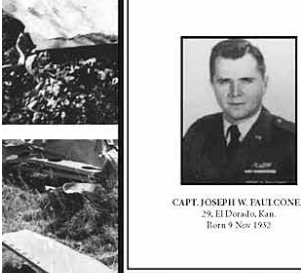
Capt. Bill Faulconer, Lt. Fred Hixenbaugh, Lt. David Sutton, and Lt. Lloyd Sawyers all tragically lost their lives serving our country that day in 1962. This bill is an important step in honoring their lives and their service. It is also strongly supported by their families and the local community.

What's Next:

I will be pushing hard to make sure my bill passes the U.S. House where Congressman Gianforte is championing the bill. Once it passes the House it will be sent to the President's desk. I will continue to fight for these four brave men and their families until they receive the recognition they deserve.

This bill designates the mountain ridge that runs south and west of Emigrant Peak in the Absaroka Range in Montana, which is where an Air Force B-47 strategic bomber crashed while on a training mission in 1962, as the "B-47 Ridge." The bill permits the installing of a plaque on the ridge in memory of such crash.

- Senate - Passed 2/14/2020
- House - 02/18/2020 Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.





CAPT. JOSEPH W. FAULCONER
28. El Dorado, Kan.
Born 9 Nov 1932



LT. LLOYD G. SAWYERS
29. Glen, Tex.
Born 21 Nov 1932



LT. DAVID T. SUTTON
24. Miami, Okla.
Born 30 Oct 1937



LT. FREDERICK J. HIXENBAUGH
24. Burton, W. Va.
Born 19 Oct 1937

Capt. Bill Faulconer, Lt. Lloyd Sawyers, Lt. David Sutton, and Lt. Fred Hixenbaugh

- Congressional Budget Office Analysis:
- S. 490 would designate a mountain ridge in the Gallatin National Forest in Montana as
- B-47 Ridge and would permit the installation of a plaque that memorializes the crash of a U.S. Air Force B-47 aircraft at the site. The bill would prohibit the use of federal funds to design, install, or maintain the plaque.
- CBO estimates that enacting S. 490 would have no significant effect on spending subject to appropriation

JON TESTER

Tester Votes to Deliver Nearly \$20 Billion to Protect Veterans in Coronavirus Stimulus Package

(U.S. SENATE) — After 72 hours negotiating substantial, bipartisan improvements to COVID-19 stimulus legislation, U.S. Senator Jon Tester on March 25th voted to deliver \$19.6 billion to strengthen U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) response to the outbreak—including key provisions to keep veterans, and the dedicated staff who serve them, safe.



On Sunday, March 22nd, Tester outlined his opposition to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's original spending package that did not protect veterans while bailing out large corporations, and got to work over the next 72 hours to improve the bill—successfully securing provisions to ensure VA is well-equipped to combat the pandemic.

“Over the last 72 hours, my colleagues and I worked across the aisle and around the clock to deliver nearly \$20 billion for veterans, health care workers, and communities across the country facing this outbreak,” said Ranking Member Tester. “Although this stimulus package is far from perfect, it is a vast improvement to the original bill, which had ZERO dollars to support VA. The bill now provides essential funding to increase VA’s response efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus, including critical medical supplies, testing kits, and protective equipment for everyone who needs it. I will continue to work as hard as I know how to make sure taxpayer dollars are going towards efforts to protect ALL Americans during this national crisis.”

VETERANS Financial Preparedness REPORT 2019



Five Traits of Financially Prepared Veterans

How do you compare?

Veterans are a highly diverse group of people—from their military background to their civilian career, from their education to their household income, from their age to their marital status. A new study found that veterans who are on-track or ahead in meeting their financial goals cut across these demographics, and they also hold 5 attributes in common.

The Veterans Financial Preparedness Report 2019 is the very first study to examine how well-equipped U.S. military veterans are to meet their financial goals after leaving the military. Prepared by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust for the departments of the American Legion in honor of the Legion’s 100th anniversary, the study includes key findings from a survey of more than 1,500 veterans, representing a wide variety of backgrounds.

Overall, more than one-half of veterans said they are behind on saving for retirement, while just over one-third said they are on-track and just 8% said they are ahead of schedule.

Which veterans are financially prepared?

Given that so many veterans are behind in saving, what sets apart those who are on-track and ahead of schedule from their peers? According to the report, 5 attributes were common among these veterans:

1. They are knowledgeable about personal finances

Personal financial issues may not be an area of interest or expertise for you, but doing your research and becoming educated on topics such as retirement planning, investments and insurance can be an important element of financial preparedness. Most veterans who are ahead or on-track say they are knowledgeable about personal finances, while those who are behind are much more likely to say they do not consider themselves knowledgeable.

2. They started saving early

Veterans who started saving early were more likely to be in a strong financial position, according to the report. While 38% of those who say they are behind haven’t started saving for retirement yet, 60% of veterans who are ahead and 34% of those who are on-track started saving immediately after high school or within the first 2 years of joining the military.

****More in the report:** Certain age groups were more likely to start saving early. Read the report to find out which veterans follow this trend and to discover the mean portfolio values of veterans.

3. They understand the importance of frequent planning for the future

For financially prepared veterans, retirement planning is a continuous process. While those who are behind tend to only address their personal financial plans as the need arises, the vast majority of veterans who are ahead or on-track work on their retirement planning on a quarterly basis at minimum.

4. They work with a professional financial advisor for expert advice

Partnering with a professional financial advisor is another important aspect of veterans’ financial preparedness success. Three-quarters of veterans who are ahead of schedule and nearly one-half of those who are on-track work with an advisor, compared to just 13% of those who are behind. The vast majority of veterans who work with an advisor say they are satisfied with them and that they are confident they are making the best financial decisions for their family.

5. They protect their family with an emergency fund and life insurance

Alongside diligent saving and planning, veterans who are financially prepared also maintain an emergency fund and invest in life insurance to safeguard the nest eggs they have built. 93% of veterans who are ahead have an emergency fund, as do 75% of those who are on-track. In comparison, only 32% of veterans who are behind have an emergency fund. Similarly, 75% of those who are ahead have life insurance, compared to just 44% of veterans who are behind. Those with life insurance are more likely to be confident they are making the best financial decisions for their family.

5 attributes, 1 mindset

At the heart of these 5 attributes of financially prepared veterans is a single mindset of personal responsibility. Not surprisingly, those who took the principles that made their military service successful and carried them through to their personal finances tend to be in a stronger financial position.

Veterans who take charge of their finances through personal education, saving early and working with a financial advisor are confident about their family’s financial future.

The report is free to veterans and their supporters at www.theLIT.com.

How to Submit Articles & Photos?

Deadline: July 1, 2020

(always include Post & City in Email Subject Line)

Text – 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 placing into paper.*
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post City as well as Post/Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” 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 Voluntary Service (VAVS)*. The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.
- **DO NOT** submit articles in PDF format.
- If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.

Photos – send as e-mail attachments – PLEASE!!

- **JPG format, as an attachment**
- Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
- **Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo & get them focused.**
If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- **Captions should be noted in the e-mail:**
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.
- **Don’t 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 the body of an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.

News articles

- Sending a hyperlink to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
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 plagiarizing.

Corrections

- Send an e-mail with the corrections only
*Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing. **Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.***

ByLine... remember... always include the submitters name for articles.

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to: lmtpub@gmail.com
Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$500 and one to win \$1,800? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age.

This is a fundraiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State, as well as membership programs.

If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2019 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2020, \$500 on the Legion Birthday and \$1,800 at Department Convention.



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Submit completed form with \$25 Membership Fee!

American Legion Dept of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604-6075

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

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S-S 10 a.m. to close

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American Legion
Post #88

Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Liberty Co. Community
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DETACHMENT OF MONTANA

For More Information About
Membership Call:
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or (406) 324-3990
or write to P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604

Silver Bow Post #1
and Auxiliary
AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

Welcome

MEETINGS:
1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH-7:00 P.M.
DINNER: 3RD WEDNESDAY-6:00 P.M.
NEW LEGION HALL – 3201 WYNNE AVENUE
BUTTE MT

Owners
Chuck & Kim Ballard
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8:00AM to 5:30PM Mon - Fri
8:00AM to 4PM Sat
610 Custer Ave • Helena
 442-9589
MEMBER Post #2

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) 453-8822

American Legion
Post #2

3095 Villard Ave.
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Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week
Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday

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POST #4

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