



**Department of Montana
Department Fall Conference
Helena, Montana
October 26-28, 2018
Reports of The
Department Executive Committee
&
Department Committee Chairs
“For God and Country”**

Preamble to the Constitution

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



To my fellow Legionnaires in Montana,

During my travels, I am frequently asked about our “Team 100” centennial theme. ‘What is this team and how can I join?’ Friends, if you are a member of The American Legion Family, you are already a member of Team 100. If not, please join us.

Team 100 refers to the long tradition of American Legionnaires serving their country and communities by advocating for the needs of veterans, a strong national defense, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. By virtue of your membership, you have had a part in our century of success and a stake in our future.

Much attention has been rightfully given to our role in creating the original GI Bill of Rights, the current Department of Veterans Affairs and other life-changing legislation passed in Washington. But it is you, in the communities, that really make a difference.

Last year, Legionnaires from our 55 Departments donated more than 3.9 million hours of service to their communities, including more than 765,000 hours as volunteers for the Department of Veterans Affairs. You donated more than 74,000 pints of blood, making The American Legion the nation’s single largest blood donor. Post service officers throughout The American Legion handled more than 170,000 cases for veterans trying to obtain their earned benefits and you have contributed nearly \$40 million to programs benefiting children. You have already left a legacy worth celebrating!

I am asking for your continued support as our American Legion Family members rely on the National Emergency Fund in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. Natural disasters can happen at any time and in any place but what occurred in the Carolinas this year has been particularly brutal.

In 2019 our centennial will be official, but even at 100 years-old The American Legion remains an energetic force. The best is yet to come! Have a great conference.

Team 100!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett P. Reistad".

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Richard Klose

It was a great honor to be selected as Department Commander at this year's Department Convention in Great Falls. The next week I accompanied MSUB Chancellor Dan Edelman and MSUB foundation chairman Bill Kennedy to Helena. They were looking for advice and help in finding someone to be the veteran's advisor at MSUB.

I was honored to be the "Grand Marshall" at this year's Laurel 4th of July parade.

On July 11th I took part in the quarterly unaccompanied ceremony at the Yellowstone National Cemetery. Seven veterans received honors. The remains of six other veterans, who's remains had been left in funeral homes for some time, also received honors and placed in the columbarium. On July 27th I was the emcee honoring Korean War veterans. We also passed out books that the Korean government published as a "thank you" to our Korean veterans.

On July 31st, I traveled to Miles City to attend the State Class "A" American Legion Baseball banquet. I stayed overnight and attended the first day's games. I returned to Miles City on August 5th for the final day of the tournament. While in Miles City I paid a visit to the Eastern Montana Veterans Cemetery.

From August 9th to the 11th I was in Indianapolis for the American Legion membership workshop. On August 18th I traveled to Broadus. The Eastern Zone Commander, Clancee Collins and I were there to help that Post get back on track.

On August 21st we headed to Minneapolis for the American Legion National Convention. On the way we stopped at Glen Ullin, N. D. to take some pictures at the big cow. While at the Convention I had time to visit historic Fort Snelling. We also visited an American Legion Post #435 in Richfield Mn.

September saw the start of Fall District meetings. The first one, District #7 at Bozeman, and on Sunday the 9th, District #6 at Deer Lodge. I overnighted in Butte, and while there visited the Korean and Vietnam war memorials. On September 11th I was a speaker at MSUB Chancellor Dan Edelman's investiture. The next weekend we traveled to Plentywood for the District #1 meeting. On the way we stopped at the "Northeastern Montana Veterans Memorial", at Fort Peck. We overnighted at Glendive on our way to Baker for the District #10 meeting on Sunday. When we left Glendive, we drove past the Eastern Montana Veterans Nursing Home. In Baker we visited the "Fallon County Veterans Memorial". On September 21st on our way to the District #2 meeting we stopped at the old Fort Assiniboine and the monument honoring the crew of a B-17 that crashed east of Big Sandy on October 1, 1943. On Saturday on our way back from Malta,

we stopped at the “Blue Star” memorial at Chester. We overnighed in Shelby, where we visited the “Flag Memorial”. On Sunday the 23rd we were at Valier for the Districts #3 and #8 meetings.

On Friday September 28th I traveled with Department VAVS Rep. Bill White, and Department Historian Ray Read to Stevensville High School, to give the school and students a “Certificate of Appreciation” for their visits to Fort Harrison VA Medical Center to meet with the veterans there. These visits are done on December 7th and February 14th and are in the new VAVS handbook. While in Stevensville I visited the “Blue Star” memorial. Saturday September 29th the District #4 meeting was in Paradise. We overnighed in Missoula, while there we drove by Fort Missoula. Sunday’s District #5 meeting was at a Job Corps facility south of Darby. On the way we stopped by the WWI Doughboy statue in Hamilton and a Ravalli County Veterans Memorial in Darby.

On October 3rd, I was the emcee for the quarterly unaccompanied ceremony at the Yellowstone National Cemetery. The weekend of October 5th and 6th saw the last two District meetings. District #11 was in Billings and District #9 at Harlowton. After the District #9 meeting I overnighed in Helena. Monday morning, October 8th, Department Adjutant Gary White, Bozeman Post #14 Adjutant Randy Kemp, Helena Post #2-member Ray Stolp and I drove to Calgary, Ab to help Post CN20 man the traveling Vietnam Wall, at the “Military Museums”. We also paid a visit to their Post.

On October 12th I traveled to Indianapolis for the “Commanders and Adjutants” meetings. While in Indianapolis I saw the “USS Indianapolis Memorial” and visited the “Indiana World War Memorial”.

Throughout this time, I took part in military honors for fallen veterans. Also, I did non American Legion business, such as Laurel City Council meetings and meetings at the Adult Resource Alliance.

DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER

Jeff Nelson

After Department Convention I travelled to Indianapolis for the leadership workshop and found it very informative. Discussion was held about being part of Team 100 and increasing membership and retaining existing members. Many ideas were shared amongst the members there.

Then it was off to the National Convention in Minneapolis for a week of meetings and speeches. There was an incredible opening ceremony that compares to a show on Broadway. An actor portraying Theodore Roosevelt the III gave an impressive oration about the formation of the American Legion right after WWI. Along with meetings the Commanders banquet was equally memorable with 3 Dog Night entertaining the audience. The group can still sing well for a bunch of 70-year-olds.

With no rest the District meetings started immediately as soon as we got back from Convention. From Bozeman to Deer Lodge the first weekend and then onto Plentywood and Baker the second

weekend. I was kept company by my father, a member of Polson Post 112, visiting from Wisconsin and travelling that second weekend with me.

1900 miles we travelled from Thursday till the following Monday. Plenty of discussions about everything and some good Father-Son bonding.

There were meetings at Paradise, Trapper Creek, Malta, Valier, Billings and finally Harlowton to finish off the visits. In every stop I met old acquaintances and made new friendships. And not to mention having passports stamped along the way.

My central point I tried to get across to everyone is why we joined and who helped us along the way to get us involved in our Post. The one person that mentored us along the way and kept supporting us as doors were opened to advance to higher leadership positions. Every one of us has the potential to be that mentor to a new member. I am pretty sure the person that asked the National Commander to join The American Legion years ago had no idea he would become the leader he is today. I encourage everyone to be that mentor and open those doors to learn about the American Legion for that new member or to encourage existing members.

ZONE COMMANDER – SOUTH CENTRAL

Joyce Babcock

As Zone Commander I have tracked the successes of the 3 Districts in this Zone in their membership efforts and ended our first year as top percentage of membership for the entire year. I rewarded the Commander and Adjutant of each Post that attained or exceeded the membership goals with a small notebook which included a pencil to keep track of whatever they wished. First 50% goals saw the Commander getting their award and next goal reached: 75 percent or 100 percent and the Adjutant received his notebook. I received many “thanks” for a ‘useful’ gift and as most of those officer positions have new persons in them this year, I plan to once again award these hardworking Legionnaires with their copies of the little book. With the great beginning in District 7, 9 and a few 11 Posts already it looks as though I may run out of these little award books and must find a slightly different award for exemplary member getting! But we plan to remain “Top Zone” in membership again all this year!

ZONE COMMANDER – WESTERN

Elmer Palmer

Since the State Convention I have been in contact with the District Commanders of all three of my assigned Districts several times.

I attended the District Meeting of all three Districts. I made a trip with Glen Sharbono to Post 129, Paradise to ensure the District 4 Fall Meeting would be possible in their Post. We had a good response in attendees and were able to answer the questions of many of the members on a variety of subjects.

I attended The American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a delegate. I attended my required meetings, the General Meeting and all ancillary events, including the parade. I was able to bring back some information for the good of The Legion. I worked with two of the District Commanders to schedule a revitalization in their District, District 5 in November and District 6 in

February. National Membership will be supporting the revitalizations by administrative support but will most likely not send an Assistant Director to provide on-site support.

By 18 September, all three Districts had exceeded the 55% membership level and I suggested to the District Commanders that they shoot for achieving the 65% membership level by the 55% target date. Since this report is due before that target, I cannot report on their success.

The Western Zone will continue to work on membership and all-American Legion programs.

ZONE COMMANDER – NORTH CENTRAL

Lowell Long

This year has gotten off to a slow start with the Districts in my Zone, but they are moving up fast. As of this writing, District 2 is at 57.77%, District 3 is at 57.35% and District 8 is at 52.14%. The Zone is at 54.68%. I have been encouraging my District Commanders to work hard at getting their Posts to process renewals as soon as they get them. Now it is time to keep working to make the next targets as they come up. I have shared my goal for this year in membership with each of the Districts at their District meetings. My goal is for all three of my Districts to reach 100% by the Convention this June. I know that with a lot of hard work, we can achieve this goal.

I attended the Fall District meetings for my Zone. I first attended the Districts 2 meeting in Malta on September 22nd and the District 3 and 8 meetings on September 23rd in Valier. A lot of great information was shared with the members in attendance by all the Department officers that were present. It was great to be able to be at these meetings and share my vision of where I would like to see us at the next Convention. Over the next few months we will need to work hard to try to accomplish our goals. I would like to commend all three Commanders for running an excellent meeting and providing great meeting spaces. I also attended the District 1 and 11 meetings as well.

I also attended the National Convention of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion on August 24-29, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. These meetings are great as we can network with other Posts and Departments around the country and learn what is working and not working in their areas. The sharing of ideas and information is great, and I learned a lot that will help me in my Post, District, and Zone. I encourage anyone that is thinking of going to a National Convention to do so. It is a great experience.

I also attended the Oratorical Chairmen's Conference in Indianapolis on September 28-30, 2018 representing Montana. Being able to network with other Departments is great as we work to try to improve our program.

Thank you for your support as we work toward making The American Legion better in North Central Montana. Thank you for supporting me as I work for you as your Zone Commander.

ZONE COMMANDER – EASTERN
Clancee Collins

I attended State Convention in Great Falls and was confirmed as Eastern Zone Commander.

JULY

13th- Went to Sidney, Montana to transfer bank accounts and gather items from the Sidney Post #12 Commander/Adjutant, J. Lokken and J. Waddell. With no one to fill in these positions I had to transfer membership to Department Adjutant White in Helena.

AUGUST

1st-Participated in the opening ceremony of the Alberta-Montana “A” American Legion Baseball Tournament as a member of VFW Post #1579 honor guard. The tournament was held in Miles City, Montana. At the end of the tournament I assisted Department Commander Klose and District #10 Commander Ofalt with presenting the first and second place trophies.

3rd-Traveled to Sidney, Montana with Department Adjutant White to add him to the bank accounts of Sidney Post #12 at Wells Fargo, Richland Federal Credit Union, and Stockman’s Bank.

11th-Went to Broadus, Montana and joined Department Commander Klose and his wife for a Korean War recognition dinner provided by the VFW Post there. There were about twenty-five people in attendance and the Commander and I had the opportunity to talk to several active American Legion members about revitalizing a Post in Broadus.

22nd-24th-Attended the Honor Society of Women Legionnaires National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota as the Montana State Director. Served on the disbursing and emblem sales audit committees.

24th-30th-Attended the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a Montana state delegate, I served on the National Cemetery committee and reported to the rest of our state delegates the results of our meeting.

SEPTEMBER

5th-Accompanied Custer Post #5 Commander Prahll to the Miles City Community College Nursing School graduation. We presented two \$1500.00 scholarships to students entering their second year of Nursing School.

15th-Attended District #1 meeting in Plentywood, Montana. I spoke about my availability to all Posts in District#1 on matters of membership.

16th-Attended District #10 meeting in Baker, Montana and served as acting adjutant. I also spoke on my availability in matters concerning membership and creating Post packets to give to eligible veterans as a recruitment tool.

17th-Called Mike Richards in Broadus, Montana and left a message about revitalizing the American Legion Post there. He did not return my call.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (N.E.C.)

David Driver

I attended the 100th National Convention, held in Minneapolis, which was well attended by members of the Department of Montana Legion family. I attended the Pre-National Executive Committee Meeting where Kelly Ackerman was confirmed as a member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Executive Committee Member. It was also voted on and approved that Post 131 merge with Post 124 and Post 139 merge with Post 97. The Post-NEC Meeting consisted of the introduction of new NECs, as instructed by the National Commander, which only a couple Departments complied with, Department of Montana being one. The first weekend after arriving back was the first meetings of the 2018 Fall District Meetings. District 7's meeting was held in Bozeman at the Post 14 and was well attended and was conducted in a professional manner. Next it was off to District 6 in Deer Lodge, with a stop in Butte for dinner with Mike and Lori Perkio. Thanks Mike and Lori. Before leaving Butte, we stopped at Montana State Korean Veterans' Memorial. District 6's meeting was at the Elks Lodge in downtown Deer Lodge. This was the first time I've been in Deer Lodge and to see the old State Prison right downtown was impressive. The meeting went very well and was well attended. The next meeting was held in Plentywood. We left Helena on Friday, picked up the Department Commander in Laurel and proceeded up to Fort Peck and stopped at the Veterans Memorial. If you haven't seen this memorial, you should make the side trip to see it. After attending District 1 meeting we were off to Baker for District 10's meeting. We visited the Eastern Montana Veterans Home in Glendive and stopped by the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Miles City. The next weekend we were off to Malta, home of the Department of Montana's first Department Convention in 1919. The Department Historian, Ray Read, enlightened us on that history by reading newspaper articles from 1919. After a good District 2 meeting we headed to Shelby for overnight. There we visited the Veterans Memorial on the hill overlooking Shelby. Next stop was Valier for Districts 3 and 8 meetings. These two meetings were well attended. Friday, 28 September it was a trip to Missoula for an overnight. We had dinner with the Western Zone Commander, Elmer Palmer and his wife, District 5 Commander, Greg Marose Sr. and his wife, and Past Department Commander Roger Hancock and his wife. Before dinner, we visited the Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery. The next morning, off to Paradise for District 4 meeting hosted by Post 129. Their Post home is about 95% complete after a fire that had burned it down. It looks good now, however, it will look great once completed. After the District 4 meeting, we drove down to Hamilton for the night. The next morning, we drove to the District 5 meeting which was held at Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, east of Darby, Montana. The next weekend it was off to Billings and District 11 meeting at Post 4 and Harlowton for District 9's meeting held at Post 15. October 12th found me in Indianapolis for the Fall meetings. I attended the Americanism Commission as a member of the Americanism Commission Liaison Committee. Out of 11 resolutions submitted, only two were forwarded to the NEC Meeting. The two were Resolution No. 8, Modification of Agreement for Permanent Site of The American Legion Baseball World Series, and Resolution No. 9, Honoring the National Motto of "In God We Trust". Both resolutions passed at the NEC meeting. There were 27 resolutions considered, 25 were passed. Two were "tabled", Resolution 19, Creation of The American Legion Credentialing Advisory Task Force, and Resolution 20, Creation of The American Legion Employment Innovation Advisory Task Force. It was felt that The American Legion has enough committees and we don't need any more. Of the 25 that were passed a couple

are of great interest: Resolution No. 1, Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition. This resolution calls on the Congress of the United States to declare that the United States of America has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities and that the United States Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as "war time veteran all military service personnel who served honorably under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during the said period. Resolution No. 2, Unrecognized Armed Hostiles Membership Date Change. This resolution changes the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion to "April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and December 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States;" To read the full context, go to The American Legion web site (Legion.org). Resolution No. 3, The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. This resolution states, "The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation engage in a Twenty-five Million Dollar (\$25,000,000) financial campaign doing business as "The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation" to further increase The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation's trust fund principle;" What this is; by giving to this fund your money goes to support the Department Service Officer programs of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the Temporary Financial Assistance program. One more Resolution of interest: Resolution No. 10. This resolution is The American Legion support of the Veteran's Creed which will be published in the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies: 1. I am an American Veteran 2. I proudly served my country 3. I live the values I learned in the military 4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans 5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline 6. I continue to lead and improve 7. I make a difference 8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades.

ALTERNATE NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN (N.E.C.)

Hal Rice

I attended state Convention in Great Falls. I received my red cap at start of Convention and was busy as soon to be National Commander Brett Reistad was here and I helped escort him to Fort Benton where we toured local sites and museums. Brett commented that he took more pictures here than all the other places he had been. Also said his Great Grandfather served at Fort Benton during the Indian wars and he was in same unit as his Great Grandfather.

At National Convention I attended NEC meeting and went to Army Reserve and Guard committee meeting. We had one resolution #30. Issue DD 214 to retiring Reservist's. This was rejected. I helped carry parade banner with NEC David Driver. was a very good Convention

I attend Dist. 3 & 8 meeting in Valier, good meetings for all involved.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Larry Dobb

Since I wrote my report for the Department Convention Book prior to the actual Convention, I will start with the 2018 Convention held in Great Falls 21-24 June. I first want to thank NEC David Driver, Convention Chairman, and his committee for organizing and conducting an excellent Convention. We were honored to have Past National Commander Michael Helm from

Nebraska (2014-2015) as our guest speaker at the Banquet. In addition, the current National Commander Brett Reistad (then the leading candidate) also attended. Although from Virginia, Commander Reistad has a connection to Montana. He has a Grandfather who served with the 3rd Infantry Regiment at Ft Benton during the Indian Wars. And as we all know, Commander Reistad also served with the 3rd Infantry Regiment at Ft Meyer, VA. He really enjoyed a visit to Ft Benton to see where his ancestor had served. Our Convention was also honored with the attendance of the American Legion Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck. I was also very pleased to see several first timers at the Convention, including some younger veterans. On the downside, overall attendance could have been better. On day one, there were 42 Posts represented with 81 actual delegates, day two 41 Posts and 88 delegates and on day three only 33 Posts and 65 delegates. Even considering that there were some members present that weren't an official delegate that's not very good when we have 128 Posts and over 11,000 members. Of even greater concern, our Department Constitution requires 25% of the Posts to be present for a quorum. Based on 128 Posts that is 32. If two more Posts had gone home after Saturday's meeting, we would not have been able to conduct business on Sunday, nor hold elections for Department officers. All delegates need to know that the Department Convention doesn't end until after the election and installation of new officers on Sunday. Those that did attend seemed to have a good time. Some of the first timers enjoyed themselves so much that they signed up to attend the National Convention.

I attended the National Convention in Minneapolis from 24-30 August. Montana once again had an excellent representation with 51 Legionnaires from 23 Posts attending. When one adds in the members of the Auxiliary and the SAL there were 61 attending. As the delegation chairman, I represented Montana on the stage to receive awards earned during the 2017-2018 year. We received four major awards: 100% Membership, one of only eight Departments out of fifty-five to do so, 100% Consolidated Post Report submission, the William L. Lenker Trophy, which is awarded annually to the Department excelling in welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents (the second year in a row Montana has received this trophy) and the Culture of Growth Award. Montana was also mentioned for its contributions of blood during the year, and I was able to go onstage during collections for the National Emergency Fund and present a check for well over \$1900 from Montana. Unfortunately, the parade which was to follow the same route as the 1919 parade and include Legion Riders, floats, restored military vehicles and 23 marching bands was canceled due to weather forecasts that predicted severe weather. The parade was moved inside the Convention Center, which ruled out everything but the marching contingents of the various Departments. However, all but one band did march in the indoor parade. The bad weather never happened. I also attended the National Commanders Banquet, The American Legion Auxiliary Banquet, the Twenty & Four (Honor Society of Women Legionnaires) Banquet, Past Commanders Luncheon, and breakfasts for ANAVICUS (Army Navy Air Force Veterans in Canada United States Unit) and FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of the American Legion. As in past years I had a wonderful time and encourage everyone to try to attend at least one National Convention.

On 13 September 2018, I attended the Montana Board of Veterans Affairs Meeting held at Fort Harrison, Montana. Joe Foster provided an update on the MVAD budget, an update on Board

Member Positions and introduced the new Administrator-Select Kelly Ackerman who has been selected to replace Joe Foster when he retires. She will assume her new position on October 13th, 2018.

On 7 October, I attended the District 9 Meeting in Harlowton as a member of Post 15 the host Post. Only four of the nine Posts in the District were represented (Post 15 Harlowton/Post 16 Lewistown/Post 18 Roundup and Post 70 Judith Gap) with a total of fourteen members. Those Posts which attended will benefit from the information provided by the various Department Officers. It is usually the same Posts that show up at every District Meeting. District Commander Brad Marking of Post 18 in Roundup did an excellent job conducting the meeting and all business was accomplished. Post 15 provided an excellent meal and facilities.

HISTORIAN

Ray Read

I, as the Department Historian/State Centennial Chairman, had the privilege and opportunity to travel the 100^h National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was most impressive and educational in all aspects of my position and appointments. I recommend that all Legionnaires attempt to attend a National Convention. Next year the 101st Convention is at Indianapolis.

I was also able to attend most all the 2018 Fall Zone/District meetings at Bozeman (District 7), Malta (District 2), Deer Lodge (District 6), Valier (Districts 3/8), Paradise (District 4), and Hamilton at Trapper Creek Job Corps (District 5). This has allowed me to talk up the Department's History program to the attending Montana American Legion Posts and Department leadership. I appreciate the interest shown by the various attendees to these events. I was also able to look at various veteran monuments and commemorations in various communities.

I found throughout Montana that The American Legion is continuing to do what they have done best for 100 years. They are supporting the veterans and their families as best they can, utilizing the Four Pillars of the American Legion's National Program: That is Supporting the many facets of Veterans Rehabilitation through all existing and emerging programs; Supporting a Strong National Defense; Supporting viable Americanism programs; and Supporting our Nation's most precious resource our Children and Youth the future in the American Legion's Centennial year and in the its transition to a Second Century of Service. Over the past years I have been able to travel the State, meeting with many seasoned, as well as newer, younger veterans, who belong to the nearly 130 American Legion Posts, mostly in rural environments, with all the associated challenges that manifest themselves in the Frontier State of Montana.

I thank all who made my visits so memorable. I want to thank all those have helped me with Operation Ruptured Duck program the recognition of the State's venerable World War II population. This program is still active, and I am in the process of filling request by various Posts. The program will continue as long as World War II veterans are living in our communities and often serving their fellow veterans.

As an American Legionnaire, part of the American Legion family, I am providing the following guidance as a continuing commitment to the duties and responsibilities of the elected position of Department Historian, especially in the continuing formation of the upcoming American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. So, this is a repeat worth repeating.

Written References are made to the following published materials

- Letter dated July 31, 2015, from the American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee announcing the updated 5-year plan for the American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.
- The American Legion's Centennial Celebration Workbook;
- The American Legion's Legacy Vision brochure;
- The American Legion's Post 9/11 Veterans Booklet
- Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee
- The American Legion 2018 Officer's guide and Manual of Ceremonies Previous additions can be used.
- The Department of Montana, the American Legion, Executive Committee, has established a Department Centennial Committee in accordance with the request of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee I as Department Historian was been designated the Department Centennial Chairman.

In addition, the Department authorized a three person 100th Centennial Committee. The members are Joyce Babcock (Custer Post #5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls), Lowell Long, (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee's task is engaging the Montana American Legion Posts in meaningful participation concerning the American Legion Centennial.

I encourage all American Legion Posts to implement The American Legion's Legacy Vision for the American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. Resolution No. 31, states,

“The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions in national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities.

The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of country as intended by these programs.”

Some initial ideas for this very important program for Montana Legionnaires to review and implement.

1. All documents referenced above is available on the National American Legion website. Go to www.Legion.org/centennial and follow the prompts. If your Post//Sons of the American Legion/ Auxiliary have access to the internet you can accomplish the American Legion Centennial Challenge. Remember look to your strengths and leverage them. Also look to your local community for ideas and support.

2. I am asking all Montana Department American Posts to establish their Local Legacy-Your Post's History. National Headquarters has developed a webpage that will allow each participating Post its own place online where photos, text and videos can be Posted and shared. So, whether your Post was established in 1919 to just few years ago you have the opportunity to

tell your story in your community and throughout the American Legion. This web site has been granted to continue past the end of the American Legion Centennial Period into the TAL Second Century. Currently I am tracking 25 Montana American Legion Posts.

I emphasize again that the all aspects of The American Legion Centennial Program are available on the National website www.Legion.org/centennial.

In less than one year the American Legion will start the Centennial celebration its 101th National Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana in August 2019. And in less than 6 months the American Legion will celebrate its 100th Anniversary March 15, 2019. Montana will celebrate Montana's contributions to the American Legion legacy deserve and must to be included in this 100th year record.

It is a goal of the Montana Department to update its historical record by incorporating the current written record of the past 10 years in creating a Centennial History. With your cooperation and participation that can happen.

A Department Centennial Coin has been minted and is available for sale through the Department Adjutant

Montana Department was successful in providing information on the 100 Cities/100 Memorials programs with two programs: Missoula (Post 27) and Dillon (Post 20) receiving grants for refurbishment of their local World War One monuments.

Several Montana veteran related memorials have been identified and recorded on the American Legion Website.

Annual One Year Narrative and one-year yearbook (pictorial) history Contests

By utilizing the National Program of Post one-year Narrative and Yearbooks (Pictorial) history the efforts to produce the Post Web based Legacy History will support the collection of Post history and the Centennial program. For your information, there are four (4) annual contests conducted on the National level. The contests involve the Post "First Place" winners in the Montana Department for a one-year narrative and yearbook contests. As well as entries for a one-year Department Narrative and Yearbook. I have forwarded a first-place winner in each Post category to the National Historian by September each year. The Judging will be accomplished in October. This year's Department Winner was Post 23 (Livingston –Park Co). This is their third year of submitting the winning entry.

The 2018-2019 Post Histories and Narrative entries are due at the start of 101st Montana Department Convention, Polson, Montana June 2019.

The American Legion Officer's guide and Manual of Ceremonies contain much information about the history contest. Also, in that section of the *Guide* are "Capsule History of the American Legion" and "Helpful Hints for District/County Historians." Please notify your Posts in your District of this readily available material. This information will also be sent out through electronic means via the Montana American Legion website www.mtLegion.org or by mail as necessary. All entries will be judged and the first-place winners in either category (narrative or yearbook) will be certified and I will forward them to National Historian for entry in the announced contest for that category. Keep in mind the requirements that must be met for the

National Contest. And I refer you to the most current edition of the Officers Guide for the official rules for the 2018-19 Legion years, or at the Legion website www.Legion.org.

Priorities for 2018-19 include: (1) Working draft of an updated Department history; (2) Achieving a 100% participation in the Centennial Post History website program; (3) Identification of all Montana Veteran related Cemeteries, Monuments and Museum to the National Web-site. (4) A robust one-year History Narrative and/or scrapbook program to be judged at the 2019 Department Convention in Polson, Montana, (5) Appropriate American Legion Centennial commemorations starting with the recognition establishment of the various Centennial Posts, Districts and Montana Department, The American Legion and (6) Completion of the Department Report to National based on all the above.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Gary White

After the Department Convention in Great Falls I prepared for the National Convention in Minneapolis. At the National Convention in Minneapolis I attended the Constitution Committee meeting. I made all Fall District Meetings. District and Post Commanders need to start encouraging attendance from every Post on a regular basis, start when the schedule is published and continue until just days before the start of the meeting. District 1 Commander Joe Yeoman did this and had a great meeting as a result of his efforts. The District Commanders also need to make frequent contact with their officers to ensure their presence as well. I would like to compliment Lowell Long, the District 2 Commander on the professional way he conducted the District 2 Meeting in Malta. The Department is looking for ways to make the meetings more interesting for your members as well, please let us know what you would like changed as well as added. Maybe it is something as simple as doing away with the banquet, or there is a presentation you would like added or deleted. Maybe there is a subject you would like training on that would fit into the District Meeting timeframe. Let's make a renewed effort to encourage attendance at the District Meeting. Most problems with Posts could be solved if the Post would send representatives and officers to District Meetings on a regular basis.

I continued to work with the Legislative Chairman on Legislative matters and either participated in or attended the State Administration and Veteran Affairs Interim Committee meetings, visited the Eastern Montana State Cemetery and the Western Montana Cemetery, and the National cemetery in Laurel. I attended two MVAD board meetings in Helena, and also attended the American Legion Baseball A Tournament in Miles City. I also attended to the Class AA Regional Tournament in Missoula. I would like to commend all the Legionnaires that either participated in the tournaments or attended the games, **but there were so few in attendance I can't do so.** While I'm on American Legion Baseball; I also had the distinct pleasure (not) of representing the Department in Great Falls during a hearing on eligibility of players for the AA Tournament, a hearing which the Department lost. Please refer to the American Legion Baseball Chairman's report for more information.

Online renewals still continue to be a learning process for all involved, if we could get all the Adjutants and Commanders to attend the District meetings a lot of our problems could be solved. Use of MyLegion.org continues to be a slow process; we gain new Posts using this program at

the rate of about 1 a month. We currently have 87 Posts signed up; an increase of 5 from last year, but only 56 are actively using it. There are way too many Posts not actively using this tool, it is obvious that the major problem is new Adjutants getting the password from old Adjutants. We have 10 of our 11 Districts signed up, with District 1 using it the most and District 6 the least. District 2 is not signed up and District 9 is still registered to the last District Commander. If you have problems, contact Department Headquarters. We must continue to teach and encourage our Posts and Districts to sign up for this free program and to actively use it, there are new tools added almost monthly that can help Post Adjutants and Commanders in the operation of their Post.

Currently I am maintaining the membership records and finances for Sidney #12, Philipsburg #33, Lane Deer #77 and Broadus #128. These Posts are in a caretaker status but need to be looked at seriously about having their charters pulled and/or merged or continuing in this status.

I just returned from the Commanders and Adjutants Conference at National Headquarters where the major issue was the adoption of Resolution Numbers 1 & 2 which request the US Congress to change our eligibility dates and our charter. Even though this has been approved by the American Legion it cannot be implemented until passed by Congress, which will take years.

CHAPLAIN Karen Semple

Opportunities for service have been many as am now serving on the Lewis and Clark Veterans Council Honor Guard. Have served in Honor Guard capacity for 14 veteran burials and conducted 11 burial ceremonies as Chaplain. Was honored to work with funeral homes on behalf of two families to make funeral arrangements for their suddenly-dying Vietnam veterans. Am continuing to follow up with both widows.

In September, attended child sexual abuse awareness and response training for clergy along with VA Training for Rural Clergy that focused on a variety of Post-deployment family and veteran issues.

Attended the District 6 Meeting in Deer Lodge and attended the 9/11 Ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda.

Also, in September, was honored to serve as Chaplain for the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony held at Memorial Park in Helena. In late September was privileged to attend the National Chaplain Conference in Indianapolis. Both the National Chaplain and National Auxiliary Chaplain were speakers in addition to a guest speaker who educated attendees on moral injury. Learned that ANY American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion or Sons of The American Legion Chaplain is welcome to attend. Will work to get this information out for next year's National Chaplain Conference. It was very well worth the travel to attend.

Submitted two articles to the Legionnaire for publication. (In June and again in September)

In October, attended local Suicide Prevention training and participated in a Lewis and Clark Suicide Prevention Task Force meeting. Over 50% of completed suicides are from the male

demographic, ages 20 and up. Was introduced to Man Therapy – go to mantherapy.org where you can learn more and please share with other males in your life. One Post No. 2 male veteran asked to explore the site and get back to me, “There’s a lot of good information and the humor makes you want to check out more. I spent two hours on the site and didn’t see all of it. There are a lot of good resources there. I’ve already recommended it to a retired master sergeant I work with who I think will benefit from this.”

Have facilitated four monthly Character Development forums for Civil Air Patrol cadets since Department Convention – including a mental health wellness training and a suicide prevention training.

SERVICE OFFICER

Kelly Ackerman

As the AL DSO, I attended the following events:

Department Convention in Great Falls, MT from June 21-24, 2018.

Due to surgery, I was unable to attend National Convention in Minneapolis, MN August 2018.

Fall District meetings were attended by MVAD/AL VSO’s according to area of jurisdiction for Districts 1-11.

During the Fall District meetings, we discussed all VA benefits including VA Healthcare, Disability Compensation, and Pension. There was an emphasis placed on the new Mission Act and the program expansions related to the new program. We also presented information on the new Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, as well as answer general questions on VA Disability Compensation claims.

Todd Dunlap and staff, VHA employees attended several of the District meetings to supplement the discussion regarding VA Healthcare. He also assisted several Legion members with individual VHA issues.

I have stepped down as AL DSO in order to assume my new position as MVAD Administrator. It has sincerely been my honor to serve in this capacity for 7 ½ years. Tim Ingraham has been selected as the new DSO, and I have every confidence that he will do a great job!

PARLIAMENTARIAN

George Blackard

Our annual Convention has come and gone and when I look back at it, I see room for improvement concerning the business part of meetings. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have at least a basic understanding of Robert’s Rules of Order. You do not have to learn everything in the book, you can simply read up on a few things such as conducting meetings, making motions, the types of motions, debate, and voting.

With today’s technology you don’t even have to buy the book, you can go to www.rulesonline.com and research everything you need to know there.

One thing that I hear continuously misused at meetings at every level is “Call the question!”. People think that if they call out “Call the question” they can end debate and force a vote. This is not true in the sense that we often see this tactic used. To use this properly you must, 1. Make a motion to end debate 2. Get a second to your motion 3. Have a vote (there is no debate) 4. The vote must be a two thirds majority in favor of ending debate. Only then can debate be ended and the vote forced on a pending motion. As you can see, calling the question can lengthen the meeting because it requires its own vote which must be counted by a showing of hands.

At the Department level of our organization, we have Rules of Convention that state debate on any motion will be limited to fifteen total minutes, each speaker is allowed three minutes to speak, each person may only speak once on a question unless a two-thirds vote of the Convention allows a person to speak a second time. If your Post meetings are running unreasonably long, you may want to implement a rule such as this.

I challenge each of you to devote some amount of time each month learning one new thing from Robert’s Rules of Order. Besides the Constitution & By Laws it’s the next most important book that we have concerning procedure.

FINANCE OFFICER

John Joyce

This is my first report as the Finance Officer for the Department. I am still in a big learning curve about how the budget works and what all the numbers mean. The numbers used for the report are reported as of 26 October 2018. Overall, all LINE items are within budget and everyone’s spending is within budget as well.

The Department overall income is down 10%. Membership dues are down 26% compared to last year. The good news is, the Department expenses are down 29.4% compared to last year at this time.

Total assets within the department are down 1.3%.

As mentioned in previous reports, there are still a lot of outstanding checks. Some of the checks are from the Cash Calendar some are from people not cashing them from previous Conventions. Please help us out by cashing your checks.

Please see Appendix A to look at the budget and see where we are at.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Joe Leavengood

Dear Comrades, thank you for the opportunity to serve this year as Department Judge Advocate! It is great to again serve for God and Country, and with more fine people, this time in a new volunteer role rather than as my occupation. I am a retired Air Force JAG, in Montana for the

past three + years to serve as a Lutheran Pastor in the small town of Winifred. I'm licensed in four other states and federal courts, but not in Montana. I thus can help with Legion matters but am not seeking any private clients. What made my Military JAG career so much fun was the relatively more frequent opportunity there to practice preventive law – to prevent the mess instead of coming in later to try to clean it up. The commanders I served with often asked my advice on legal matters before acting (even if they didn't always follow it).

LEGAL ISSUES IN THE DEPARTMENT

1. BARS. One Post notified me of a dispute regarding its liquor license where local authorities and state tax authorities are not on the same page. The matter is not yet up for a requested hearing, as far as I know, but there is already a preventive law lesson for other Posts that have liquor licenses: be careful when a local authority gives verbal approval for something that ought to have written approval, even if it is routine, and even if the officials say they are busy and will get the paperwork done later. If a situation calls for reason to prevail, we must still remember that government agencies sometimes see even greater reason in justifying their intervention. Bureaucracies can exist only to perpetuate themselves.

2. BASEBALL. A Post that sponsored a Legion Baseball team forgot to list a few players on its roster, rendering them ineligible for the state tournament. Just before the state tournament that Post sought a local court order to overturn the Legion-wide rule which barred those players from participating and received such an order while I was out of the state.

I find this entire incident extremely troubling. We could have taught the players the life lessons that we all have rules to live by, and that human errors that hurt the innocent are a part of life that we can endure together. Instead we have made it possible to stack teams with ringers, and to call into question the legitimacy of even honestly earned successes. We have taught that justice is not so blind, that the rules of civic organizations can be challenged in courts for reasons having nothing to do with law, and that when we are not in agreement on all of our values, we will take it to others rather than using our own dispute resolution processes. Lesson learned: we are all human and make mistakes, and we should be forgiving, but compounding them by avoiding the consequences can lead to deeper consequences and deeper scars.

3. AUXILIARY. The Auxiliary for one Post in the Department has a dispute with a member and has asked the Department to permit me to advise them. The matter will be considered by Auxiliary leaders this weekend, but after the deadline for this report. Lessons already learned: 1) Sometimes the dispute resolution process just takes time, 2) Keep good notes (this Post auxiliary did so) and write down a chronology of what happened and when, to make it easier for the people that have to step in later. 3) Blessed be the peacemakers – some disputes fade when people stay quiet, and some fade when helpful people are brought in. If you are not sure which path is best, then it is the second one.

4. BAD BEHAVIOR. One Post officer brought to my attention some concerns about unwelcome and possibly illegal actions by a Post member, targeted at another member. He wondered what the best response might be, if any, and ultimately decided to not pursue the matter. Please forgive my vagueness - I fear that I would do more harm than good in providing

details here. Lesson learned: even after our service days are over, there is still going to be tension at times between making the relationships work and getting the mission accomplished. The Commanders involved are often going to know more particulars about both aspects than the JAG will.

5. FINANCING. One Department officer shared an idea with me about a non-profit law strategy, and I agreed to do some research in the matter in the coming months once more details start to gel.

That's it. Please be smart out there; we are smarter together.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS John Kougioulis

After Fall Department Conference I was thinking that Legionnaires should not feel that they were being punished when fined for mistakes during American Legion Events. I want to educate them on proper etiquette. The money from the fines go to a good cause. If Post members need to know more about proper flag, hat, etc. etiquette, have your SGT. At Arms take time to go over such & orient new members to such. I've been fined for mistakes.

I was able to attend the special event & dinner our Post 42 held for the Nat'l Commander Denise Rohan, what a great experience.

I attended the funeral for our dedicated Legion member, Merv Gunderson, what a loss for the American Legion. He didn't "bat an eye" when he messed up & was fined.

I just want to help the American Legion members and don't want anyone to be afraid to ask any questions.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Jeff Holmes

Below are the deadlines for the following programs:

- 7 & 8 Grade Essay Contest starts Sept 16th and must be Postmarked by March 15, 2019.
- High School Essay Contest starts Sept 17th and must be Postmarked by March 15, 2019.
- Senior Survey must be Postmarked by April 15, 2019.
- Junior High Survey must be Postmarked by April 15, 2019.

2018 Winners

High School Essay – 6 submitted

1 st	Sierra Rinta @ Twin Bridges HS	Dan Brockman Post # 31
2 nd	Devon Miller @ North Star School	Liberty County Post #88
1 st	Sierra Dilworth @ Flathead HS	Kalispell Post #137

Junior High School Essay – 4 submitted

1 st	Jenna Nate @ Sheridan School	Anderson-Simpson Post #89
2 nd	Slayden Rasmussen @ CR Anderson	Lewis & Clark Post #2
3 rd	Isabella Richards @ Stevensville JH	Fort Owens Post #94

Government Survey for High School Seniors – 6 submitted

1st	Faith Weber @ Dutton/Brady School	81%	Freeborn Post #64
2nd	Sierra Rinta @ Twin Bridges HS	76%	Dan Brockman Post # 31
3rd	Devon Miller @ North Star School	74%	Liberty County Post #88

Government Survey for Junior High 7th Grade – 1 submitted

1st	Zeke Redfield @Twin Bridges Middle School	64%	Dan Brockman Post # 31
2nd	None Submitted		
3rd	None Submitted		

Government Survey for Junior High 8th Grade – 5 submitted

1 st	Corran Johnson @ Manhattan Junior High	78%	Manhattan Post #87
2 nd	Jenna Nate @ Sheridan Junior High	78%	Anderson-Simpson Post #89
3 rd	Kara Dale @ Twin Bridges Middle School	78%	Dan Brockman Post # 31

We had a tie with 8th Grade Surveys, so I used the essays to break the ties with an independent judge. There was also a problem with the answer key, so I went through and regraded them, so everyone was equal. The errors with the key were in the true/false section of the test. I am sorry about that confusion. I also had to use the Oratorical Contest tie breaking procedures to determine the winners of the High School Essay Contest.

Push these programs especially the ones that had unclaimed prize moneys.

Ensure you are mailing your results to me at Box 723 Harlowton, MT 59036

Thanks again to all who helped make these programs possible. Congrats to all the winners!

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DISTRICT 1 - COMMANDER

Joe Yeoman

District packets were delivered within 2 weeks by the District Vice Commander and Commander. I went to a flag disposal ceremony in Plentywood on the 4th of July. Our District meeting was in Plentywood on 15 Sept. 2018. With 7 Posts represented. I appointed 7 committees the object of this was to get members of different Post to communicate. This also needs to happen from State down.

DISTRICT 2 – COMMANDER

Vincent Schmoeckel

I attended Convention in Great Falls June 2018. I was installed as Commander for District 2.

I delivered and/or mailed all the packets to the Posts within my District. At that time, if I met the contact person personally, I reminded them to please make sure the fatality markers are painted.

I took the on-line training of the American Legion and passed with a 93%.

During the months of July and August, I painted all the fatality markers within Phillips County. I installed two new fatality markers, one in Dodson and one near Sleeping Buffalo. A news release was placed in the local newspaper explaining the reason for the fatality markers and

asking for no decorations to be placed on the fatality markers. A copy of the news release was forwarded to Zone Commander Long.

The District 2 fall meeting was hosted by Malta Post #57. I was responsible for room set-up, meal and anything else that was needed of me.

I was an active participant in several military funerals.

I volunteer daily at the Malta VFW Club helping in all areas as needed.

I represented Post #57 in congratulating and presenting awards to middle school winners of the suicide prevention/awareness essay and art contests. I went to the elementary school and did the same for two adult winners.

On Sunday, September 30, I participated in the suicide prevention/awareness three-mile walk representing the American Legion. Earlier in the day I helped make sandwiches to be served after the walk.

DISTRICT 3 - COMMANDER

Randy Flammond

After attending Department Convention and being installed as District 3 Commander I went to Browning Indian days to recruit and present flags at all sessions. I led a parade for the Shelby Tri County Fair with 5 Posts represented and later led a parade for Lewis and Clark Days in Cut Bank with 4 Posts represented. I did a flag ceremony and Vietnam recognition by awarding challenge coins to Boots on the Ground Vets for their service and helped the local Elks club to do flag day ceremony. I participated in a 9-11 ceremony at the local monument in Cut Bank.

DISTRICT 4 - COMMANDER

Glen Sharbono

I should have wrapped up Post visits with Whitefish Post #108 on the 21st of September just a week ahead of the District #4 Fall meeting in Paradise on the 29th of September. But had the wrong day in my calendar for Post #108. I hope to see them again, they tell me that both the Commander and Adjutant have ailing wives as do many within the District. I would like to wish everyone and their family the best of health. Most the Posts had good well attended meetings, Arlee Post #113 couldn't make a quorum which happens to us all of at times. Charlo Post #126 cancelled because of the health of aging members, nowhere to meet and possibly a general lack of interest. On several occasions from talking with the Commander, he has stated he has been at it a long time and would like to retire from his position, not as a Legionnaire. I believe if this Post can't get some new leadership soon it's time to consider a merger with one of the nearby Posts, or withdrawal of a Charter. Problems like this exists not only in this District but State and Nationwide, that many Commanders are only filling a position they never really wanted. This is harmful to not only the Post membership but the Community and the Organization. At the same time a Post becomes staid when a Commander remains in office longer than 4 years. I think this is where a Post revitalization becomes a necessity as far as insuring fresh leadership

from time to time. If you attend meetings regularly and haven't held an office, it's time to step up and get involved beyond paying your dues.

Commanders your first duty is to train your replacement. Past Commanders your job is to mentor the membership and guide the new Commander to success without being dictatorial. One must fail to learn! And just because it's been done a certain way for years doesn't make it right!

The District #4 Fall meeting was held in the new Post building in Paradise and was co-hosted by Post #129 of Paradise and Post #52 of Thompson Falls. My Guest speaker this fall was Jeff Nelson. Commander Klose was there as the Chief Agitator! *His words*, it was an honor to have them both. Paradise Commander Darin King his Adjutant Marilyn Bischof and Thompson Falls Commander Bill Beck did a great job of setting up for the District meeting. For a back drop to the head table was a beautiful full-size mount of a crocodile eating a zebra! The banquet meal was very good, and I heard a lot of compliments on it. The Auxiliary had a large variety of item for the silent auction. I would like to thank them all.

Membership: last year many Posts missed goal in District #4 by as few as 3 or 5 members again. The 4th District missed 100% by only 29. There were nearly 50 that could have been transferred. Many said they would prefer a call from the local Post Commander or anyone that would make it more inviting. Please contact the DMS or 105 list and get them transferred to your Post as they come available before the list becomes too long and overwhelming. This is the simplest way to gain numbers. Hopefully a resolution solving this problem can be passed at this Fall Conference. Membership is not just the responsibility of the Vice-Commander, it's a Post effort. I see no reason why when towards the end of the year a Post that is sitting only 2 or 3 from Goal cannot just buy those memberships and worry about collecting later. Especially if they are sitting on the credits with Department already. This would best be for hardship cases or those confined to rest homes that could be made Honorary Life Members even to include those who have been faithful in paying dues for 30 years or more so long as the Post is able. So please consider the option of an Honorary Life Membership with your Post. Many times, I have been told by a few Commanders and Adjutants that they don't understand Target Dates or their importance. Please read the National Membership Awards Points Manual (also available at www.Legion.org/publications under the membership section. And please put to use the Post Membership Team Training Guide. Both should have been in the Post packets put out by Department and delivered by your District Commander. Everyone should know someone who is a Veteran. We should always have with us a brochure to show new recruits titled "Why You Should Belong". I think perhaps we should rethink it to "Why Do I Belong" Why are you a member? Why do you continue to pay your dues each year? Why do you attend meetings regularly" (*and if not ask yourself Why?*). And mostly, why are you a part of this organization called The American Legion, and Why is it important to you. Maybe this will give the potential new recruit a better understanding of what we're all about! Also, regular well conducted meetings can make a big difference. If your Post isn't meeting regularly, orderly or

interestingly how can you expect the membership to care. Let alone convince the new recruit why they should belong! *Note to Commanders and Adjutants, please do not sign off on a stack of Auxiliary membership forms. The sponsoring Veteran still needs to be verified as a Legionnaire and if deceased proof of service.*

I was asked to perform the Post Everlasting Ceremony during my visit to Thompson Falls Post #52. I agreed and thought it went well as it was a first for both of us. Then I realized that since the joining of my Post, Ronan Post #138 in the last five years we had lost 15 of our Comrades. Not once had a Post Everlasting ceremony been performed. Granted several of us as members of the Veterans Honor Guard were present to render final Honors for them, but it's not the same. Commanders I implore you to become conscious of the essence of pomp and circumstance. There is more to a meeting than rapping a gavel and following the guide. It's called the Officers Guide and "Manual of Ceremonies", Manual of Ceremonies being key here. If you haven't done so, please read it and learn how to conduct the basic rituals that could make a new Legionnaire feel they are a part of something other than another boring business meeting. We need to initiate our new members and make them feel a part of something bigger than themselves, install the new Officers with the oath affirming their allegiance, perhaps this will make them feel like they are doing more than just filling a spot because no one else wanted it. Properly retire "Old Glory" with the dignity she deserves. And by all means Honor our departed Comrades. These ceremonies aren't difficult or lengthy, many can be abridged to fit the situation and the Post.

A finally I feel this is an issue that needs to be addressed! *Somewhat along the lines as our lack of support for American Legion Baseball.* Not only am I currently the Commander of the 4th District Department of Montana but in April I was elected as Commander of Ronan Post #138 and around that same time became Commander of the Veterans Honor Guard. As Commander of the latter and being a Legionnaire, this is where my gripe comes in. The Veterans Honor Guard is its own entity with its own 501 c 3 with its own EIN number. We are a conglomeration of 3 American Legion Posts, 2 VFW Posts and have representatives of all branches of the Military from WWII to the GWOT. We have traveled long distances to perform Final Honors when the call is given to assist other groups when they are shorthanded or overwhelmed and always consider it an Honor to do so. Lately we have been getting calls from the Garden City Mortuary in Missoula to perform services on Saturday's because for whatever reason the Honor Guards in that area flat refuse to perform Honors on Saturdays. What? This is unthinkable? My team doesn't mind the occasional road trip to Missoula or Seely Lake and they have been quite lucrative for us. One of us is a WWII Veteran in his 90's who was in Tokyo Bay when Japan signed the surrender papers, several are Korean War Veterans, many times I am the youngest member of the team. My dismay here, is, there are 4 American Legion Post in Missoula County alone with over 517 members not counting any VFW Posts there. Are you really going to say that it impossible to acquire a team that's ready and able? Is it too much to give "Final Honors" to our fallen Comrades? The last line of the Preamble reads "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." It's in our first Pillar "Service to

Veterans.” Our installation of Officers- “Ever remember the cardinal purposes of The American Legion are the rehabilitation of our disabled comrades; care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call”. I believe this to include a Three Round Volley, TAPS and presentation of the Flag. Thank God the Veterans Honor Guard and the Mission Valley Honor Guard are able, willing and “Still Serving America”

DISTRICT 5 - COMMANDER

Greg Marose

Met membership target for October with 60.83% of the years goal (fourth if the state).

Accomplishments at District Conference, September 30th, Trapper Creek Job Corps, Darby, Mt, sponsored by Corvallis Post 91:

Department SAL Representative John Meacham presented SAL Squadrons 27,135,94,63, and 47 Honor ribbons.

Post membership goals were set.

Revitalization for District is scheduled for 5 November 14-16, 2018 at Post 27.

Donations made to:

American Legion NEF \$100.00 and Child Welfare Fund \$100.00

All nine Posts in attendance of the October Exec meeting had Veterans’ Day activities

Commander and Chaplain attended Post meetings for Posts: 101, 91, & 125. The remaining will be scheduled before Spring Conference.

Committee appointed to review District 5’s Constitution and By-Laws for need of any updates or revisions.

DISTRICT 6 - COMMANDER

Josh Clement

I continue to enjoy the opportunity to serve the Mining District as their Commander. As we progress into my second year as Commander, the knowledge of the Posts and their status has become much clearer. We had a great District meeting in Deer Lodge that had good turn out and excellent representation from our Department leadership. The meeting fostered good collaboration among Posts and concluded with training that focused on community engagement through Get out the Vote, explanation of non-partisan and non-political and value of knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

While I have not conducted any Post visits for this year, I have made arrangements with a few. My goal is to hit as many Posts in the next two months as I see an opportunity to for the 6th District to finish the calendar year in strong membership position.

Education and knowledge are still two of my key principles for my tenure as Commander. We have restarted the old District newsletter “The Six Shooter” that will be published prior to Fall

Conference. This newsletter is designed to share and be a bridge for information between Department and Posts. The key deliverable is training information and material to be shared at each Post. I am asking all Posts to dedicate 5 minutes of every meeting to Legion knowledge.

Other two principles are mentorship and for the LOVE of Country. For mentorship we are driving to show new and old Legionnaires the value in this great organization. For LOVE of Country is a tag line I have started to use.

LOVE stands for:

LISTEN to our veterans, our members and our community

Provide OPPORTUNITIES to serve our veterans, our organization and our community

Provide VALUE to our veterans, our members and our community

EMPOWER our veterans, our Post and our community

Dillion is looking forward to hosting our spring District meeting where elections will be held for District leadership.

DISTRICT 7 - COMMANDER

Jim Howe

As District 7 Commander, I made sure all the membership packets were delivered in a timely manner. Posts 14, 23, 25, 87, 93, and 99 were picked up at Department Convention. I delivered to Post 30 on 6/28/18, Posts 65 & 118 on 6/22/18, Post 19 on 6/29/18 and Post 78 on 7/3/18. On 6/29/18 I presented a check and certificate to Post 23 for 1st place in the Department Historical Album competition.

Was a part of the honor guard for The American Legion baseball tournaments in Bozeman on 6/28/18 and 7/6/18, I also threw out the 1st pitch at the AA Tournament on 6/28/18.

I conducted the 7th District meeting in Bozeman at Post 14 on 9/8/18. I wish the turnout had been better. We should encourage Post members, not just officers, to attend these meetings.

I was in Ennis at Post 65 on 9/10/18 for their Post meeting and congratulated the Post Commander and Post on being 1st at 100% for membership.

Went to White Sulphur Springs Post 25 on 9/11/18 for a get together. It was well attended by members.

On 9/13/18, I attended Post 14 meeting; it was well run. Will be attending more meetings in future months.

I have been in contact with Posts about membership. At this time, we have met Department targets.

DISTRICT 8 - COMMANDER

Kim Kay Carol McCarty Martin

I was on the 2018 Department of Montana Convention Committee as one of the key members in organizing the conference at the Holiday in Great Falls, MT. A lot of work was done by a few

members of Post 341, Post 130, and Post 3, and Units 130 and 3. During the process of getting registration and ads and Convention booklet put together, I learned a lot more detail on what and how the internal works of putting a Convention on entails. With this process I hope I have learned some valuable lessons that I will not forget and not make the same mistakes twice.

After the Convention, I was delayed in handing out packets, but I did drive to all Posts in District 8 except for seeing Post 3. I also missed seeing Augusta's Adjutant as I got lost and ended up leaving the packet for later pick-up. I enjoyed my trip around as I got to chat with Commanders and Adjutants about how things are going for their Posts. I've challenged most of the Posts to get 100% and thanked them for the hard work they did in membership year 2018.

I was able give a quick brief on what The American Legion does for families of deployed service members at a Yellow Ribbon event on the 21st of July in Great Falls. I was also honored to set up and guard the POW/MIA Table for the Patriot Night in Great Falls on the 1st of August. Again, this year I was able to attend the National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis, MN as a delegate on the VA committee. I volunteered for the community garden project in St. Paul with about 50 other American Legion members. Even though we eventually got rained out we accomplished putting in 4 new raised gardens and prepping 4 for next year's planting.

Our District 8 meeting was held in Valier jointly with District 3 on the 23rd of September. I held our District meeting in the afternoon with a quorum present but lacking an Adjutant and Chaplain. I had called and left messages with the officers, but none were returned before the meeting, nor since the meeting. I will be looking for a new Adjutant and Chaplain. I volunteered for District 8 to add 3 new members to our membership quota and the membership committee distributed them appropriately. I will be going to Fairfield in November to help train their new Commander and Vice- at the request of their Adjutant. Augusta still needs some prodding, even though they now have a Commander and Vice-Commander, they are not holding meetings. I will be addressing the issue at a meeting in Augusta in December. I am still assisting Fort Benton with the Adjutant position for about another 2 months as a prospective officer is now in training to see if they would do the job permanently.

After receiving an invitation from Vaughn Post 130, I attended their Chili Cook-Off in Vaughn on the 13th of October. Everyone at the event, including myself, had a great time as the auctioning was friendly and the food was delicious. Choteau Post Commander Jerry Collins had invited anyone who wanted to participate on a District 8 Color Guard/Firing Squad for Funerals and events to attend a practice on the 14th of October. I arrived with 2 other members from Great Falls and we were instructed in the procedures before everyone practiced in all three positions in the Honor Guard including the proper way to fold the American flag. I will be excused for most of the Fall Conference due to attending the National American Legion College 2018.

DISTRICT 9 - COMMANDER

Brad Marking

I spend time each month on radio 99.9 KLMB talking about veterans and their benefits. I also had Doug Bell from DAV on the show to help. At the Roundup Trade Show, we set up a table to

sign up new members and talked to people interested in American Legion membership and benefits of joining in our 100-year anniversary.

July 3rd, 2018, I did the morning show on the radio KLMB 99.9 and had special guest Ronnie McDowell- country music star and Vietnam vet and Kimberly Mitchell came from Veteran Village of San Diego to Roundup and was a guest of Post 18. Kimberly was born in Vietnam and was found on the battlefield near Da Nang next to her dead mother. Kimberly was adopted by an Airman and taken back to the states. She spent 17 years in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer was a White House aid with more 600 hundred events by the President and his wife. Her last two years of active duty she served as Deputy Director of the Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Office of Warrior and Family Support. Also, she was the former President and Co – Founder of the Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services in Washington D.C. She is the official spokesperson for the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemorative Committee. We spent time talking about our nation's Navy veterans and their needs. At 11:00 a.m. that morning we road down Main Street on a Veterans float honoring our veterans. That evening at the concert at the Roundup outdoor stage Ronnie McDowell performed many of his number one hits. Concert was started with color's brought in by Post 18 Vets. Midway through the concert time was taken to honor Ronnie McDowell with a Vietnam 50th Commemorative Pin for his service in Vietnam. His pin was awarded by Kimberly Mitchell. Kim also stayed in Roundup on the 4th of July and took part in other events with our veterans. I meet with Dahia Melendaez Committee of Veteran Affairs from Washington D.C. on the VA Mission Act 2018 in Billings, Montana. Most of the conversation was on how this program was going to affect health care providers and how this was going to be rolled out and when another meeting is going to take place in November. Time will tell if the program will help Veterans in Montana.

On July 21, 2018 I met with Lacy J Dalton county music star at the concert in Roundup, Montana. We spent time together talking about veterans and a program she is involved in Called Let'em Run Foundation. Preserving American Wild Horses. Also, part of the program helps veterans with PTSD being involved with horses. She has previously been in Roundup, Montana sponsored by Post 18 to take part in a 50th Vietnam Commemorative ceremony for Honoring Roundup's Vietnam Vets. Also, present was LT. General Paul Funk Commander of Combined Middle East Forces, who grew up in Roundup, Montana and Kimberly Mitchell.

I went to Post 70 of Judith Gap to visit Demorise and Fran Allen. I was invited to hear about the Boys and Girls state on how their trip to state went. It tells me that this is a well worth program. Always a great time at that Post. Thanks Mr. and Mrs. Allen, what great mentors.

I spent the evening at Post 15 in Harlowton, Montana had a great meal, my time there was spent talking about the VA Mission Act and how it will affect them.

Oct 7, 2018, we had a District meeting at Post 15 in Harlowton. What a great Post. They put on a great luncheon with good support from their Post members. Thanks Post 15 always a good place to meet fellow vets. I must also comment on Post 16 Commander Don Bost on his commitment to keep District 9 membership at 100 percent. Thanks Don for the great tips to our other members. Planning already for 2019 looks like another eventful year.

DISTRICT 10 - COMMANDER

Dave Ofalt

I attended the Department Convention in Great Falls where I was sworn in as District 10 Commander. I was assigned to the membership committee and we met at the Conference. Placed flags on Main Street in Forsyth for the 4th of July celebration. Delivered packets to Posts 28 Glendive, 32 Terry, 35 Baker, 44 Colstrip, and 60 Ekalaka, due to geographical locations I mailed packets to Posts 29 Circle and 114 Fairview. Went to Glendive for the District Class A baseball tournament where I assisted in the presentation of the colors during the opening ceremony. Attended the opening ceremony for the State Class A Baseball tournament in Miles City. Went to Miles City for the championship game of the Class A Legion Baseball, which was an enjoyable game to watch. I assisted in handing out the trophies to the winning teams along with Zone Commander Clancee Collins and Department Commander Richard Klose. I look forward to watching more American Legion Baseball. Attended the membership workshop in Indianapolis on August 10-11 and toured the National Headquarters. Participated in the parade in Forsyth with The American Legion Riders and helped with their raffle on main street during the towns' annual celebration. Went to a wild game feed hosted by Post 44 in Colstrip on Labor Day where they had a good turnout. Directed several honor guard services for Post 39. Conducted the fall District meeting in Baker. Audrey Mayo accepted the position as District Adjutant. Lame Deer Post 77 had 2 members attend so I am hopeful they can get that Post running again. Contacted Post 28 Commander and he agreed to host the spring meeting, which is good since they haven't had one there in quite a while. Coordinated with the Forsyth High School principal to plan the upcoming Veterans Day service at the High School auditorium.

DISTRICT 11 - COMMANDER

Jim Lish

Greetings from your 11th District Commander. I would like to thank everybody for their hard work last year on membership. Everybody has their membership packets and should be good to go for 2019 year. I have touched base with most every Post Commander in our District and have offered support to each one. I want to apologize for not making the District Meeting. Unfortunately, our family experienced two deaths and we were attending funerals. Post 119 Billings hosted our District meeting on October 6th and it was held at Post 4 in Billings. The attendance was great, and District Vice Commander Gil Floyd conducted the meeting. Department Vice Commander Nelson was the guest speaker for lunch and did a great job. Thanks to all the attendees that were there. This year we are starting out slow in membership. Post Commanders please call your members and advise them to get their dues paid as early as possible so that we can make our 100% again this year. We will be having a 11th District Revitalization this year, (dates to be determined) I will notify everyone when it will occur. Thanks for all the support and again I apologize for being out of the area. Thanks for all the support.

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRS **AMERICAN ISM**

George Blackard

Every year I get to look at the Consolidated Post Reports for every Post in the state. Some Posts do a great job of filling them out and some do not. One reason a CPR is left mostly blank is because the Post either hasn't done much or doesn't realize that what they have done counts and

should be recorded. Do not leave this up to one person to fill out, the person whom it falls to may not know what all the Post has done through the past twelve months. Do it as a group at a Post meeting and don't wait until the last minute to do it. Take a little time at a couple of meetings or more to make sure you get everything you have done checked off.

There are 40-line items under the Americanism category which is the largest category on the CPR. You do not have to spend a lot of money to be able to check things off, in fact, much of it you do not have to spend a dime to be able to count. For instance, numbers 79 through 92 can be done with no outlay of capital at all if you work at it.

No matter the size of town you live in you can observe Memorial Day. Get even two Post members together, invite some people from the community to meet at the local cemetery, say a few words and offer up a prayer. It's not about how grand the ceremony is, it's just the fact that you held a ceremony, recognized the day, and showed someone in your community that it is important. "We don't have an Honor Guard" is not a good excuse for not having a Memorial Day Ceremony.

Community Service costs nothing to do. It doesn't have to be a big project, put your Legion Cover on and go pick up trash along the streets in your town. Clear the snow off someone's driveway or walk. Anything that helps others or improves your community.

Vets in The Classroom can be accomplished by visiting a school on Memorial Day or doing a flag presentation or flag folding demonstration for a class. It only takes ONE Legionnaire to do this.

Do a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day. Have a picnic in the town park on the 4th of July.

There are five things you can easily do and mark off on the CPR. It's not just about marking things off on a report either. If you do those things it will give your Post members a sense of accomplishment, will raise awareness within your community, make your community a cleaner brighter place your community can be proud of and on and on. The ripple effect can be enormous.

BASEBALL

Ron Edwards

2018 marked the first time that all our Post season tournament games were played as 7 inning games. Re-entry and courtesy runners for regular season games were also new rules that were introduced for the season for the first time. Our baseball program dropped from 63 to 62 teams this season. Malta added a new Class B team in the North. Deer Lodge was back initially as a Class A team but dropped back to a Class B schedule. We had 1,018 players registered to play in 2017 and 982 in 2018, a decrease of 36 players. Our teams and registered players:

2018 TEAMS

Class	District	Total
AA		10
A	East	7
	North	8
	South	8
	West	8
A Total		31
B	East	4
	North	3
	South	6
	West	8
B Total		21
Total Teams		62

Age	Overall Players	Class AA	Class A	Class B
13	15	0	2	13
14	58	0	15	43
15	166	2	64	100
16	213	19	109	85
17	250	49	156	45
18	159	60	97	2
19	121	45	62	14
Totals	982	175	505	302

2018 CLASS A & AA TOURNAMENTS

The Class A State Tournament was hosted by the Miles City Mavericks in Miles City. The Miles City baseball committee did a fantastic job hosting the tournament. Commander Richard Klose spoke at the banquet. He was also at the opening ceremony and the presentation of trophies after the championship game along with District 10 Commander David Ofalt, and Eastern Zone Commander Clancee Collins. Teams qualifying for the State A tournament were the Belgrade Bandits, Bitterroot Red Sox, Tr County Cardinals, Gallatin Valley Outlaws, Glacier Twins, Laurel Dodgers, Lewistown Redbirds, and host Miles City Mavericks. The Glacier Twins beat the Bitterroot Red Sox to win the tournament. Both Bitterroot and Glacier advanced to play in the Northwest Regional Class A tournament, and Glacier went on to win the NWCART



beating Cody Wyoming in the championship game.

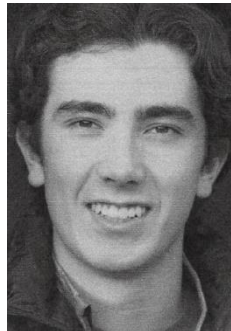
The Class AA Tournament was held in Kalispell. The host, Kalispell Lakers also did an outstanding job. Past Department Baseball Chairman George Haegele was presented with an award at the banquet and threw out the first pitch to start the tournament. In the championship game the Billings Royals narrowly defeated the Lethbridge Elks 6-5. They advanced to the Class AA Regional Tournament in Missoula. The Billings Royals will host the State AA Tournament in 2019. The AA Northwest Regional moves to Lewiston Idaho August 7-11.



Tournament	Host	Champion	Runner-up
North A District	Tri-County	Lewistown Redbirds [9]	Tri-County [8]
South A District	Helena	Belgrade Bandits [1]	Gallatin Valley Outlaws [0]
East A District	Glendive	Laurel Dodgers [6]	Dawson County Blue Devils [1]
West A District	Bitterroot Red Sox	Glacier Twins [15]	Bitterroot Red Sox [8]
State A	Miles City	Glacier Twins [8]	Bitterroot Red Sox [6]
State AA	Kalispell	Billings Royals [6]	Lethbridge Elks [5]

2018 Scholarship Winners

There were no Class A applicants this year so two AA players were awarded scholarships. The \$1,000.00 Scholarship winner was Keaden Morisaki from Kalispell and \$500 to Clayton Franke from Missoula



This year's World Series again had all 15 games televised live on ESPNU. This year's National Champion is Wilmington, Delaware, Post 1. Games were all played as 7 inning games for the first time in its history.

Unforeseen Legal Expense

Part of my job as the Baseball Chairman is to certify the rosters of our teams that are going to our state tournaments. Our National Rules state very clearly that all players who are playing in Post season tournaments must be listed on the official team rosters that submitted into the national database. During my review of the AA rosters, I found that the Great Falls Chargers AA team had two players that were not on the official roster. I notified Great Falls of this to let them know that the two players would not be eligible to play in the state tournament. The Great Falls baseball program proceeded to file a lawsuit in the 8th Judicial District Court three days before the tournament. I was the Legion official working the South District tournament in Helena. Gary White was also working the tournament for the Helena Legion program. After conferring with Gary, we decided to hire an attorney to fight the suit as it was clearly a violation

of our baseball rules. Gary and our attorney travelled to Great Falls on Friday, the day before the tournament was scheduled to start to appear in court.

The judge issued a Preliminary Injunction deeming the two players as eligible under the rules of the American Legion Baseball Rulebook, and that any game protest of the eligibility of the players will not result in forfeiture of any game by the Chargers. As was advised that if I did anything to keep those players from playing I would be found in contempt of court.

Before every game of our tournaments we have every team repeat the American Legion Code of Sportsmanship. The first line of the code says: "I will... KEEP THE RULES...". Each team is responsible for entering their team rosters and they had from January 1 to June 25 to do this correctly. I was very disappointed that one of our American Legion baseball teams would resort to these tactics. I also suspect that they pursued this without talking to their sponsor Legion Post. The attorney we hired to fight this ultimately cost our Legion baseball program \$2,200. We don't budget for program expenses like this, but the we may need to start.

Thanks to Carl Hennell our AA Chairman and District Chairmen Ural Wayne Raymond, Jim Monteith, and Pete Moe. I also want to thank Commander Richard Klose for taking time in his busy schedule to attend our State A tournament last summer, and Adjutant Gary White for his support and help.

For more baseball news and information please visit www.montanaLegionbaseball.org.

BOY SCOUTS Roger Hancock

National is scheduled to conduct a phone conference with all Department Chairmen on November 15th for sharing scouting information, brainstorming and networking. I plan to participate to gain from the collective knowledge of Boy Scouters. There has been a change at National, Shayne Abrahams the Programs Manager of Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports and Scouting youth programs has departed the national staff. Jill Druskis, Director of the Americanism Division, is covering scouting until a new youth programs manager can be brought on staff.

BOYS STATE Don Jones

1. 73nd Session

The 73rd session of Montana American Legion Boys State will be held at Carroll College from June 3-8, 2019. The fees will be \$300.00 per delegate.

Delegates do not need to be in Helena before 8:00 am on opening day as they cannot check in until that time, they need to be checked in by 11:00am on opening day the 3rd of June. Any late arrivals are to be verified and permission given by the American Legion Director, Greg Pohle. All delegates must register on-line again this year.

We are still looking for Committee representatives for the eastern parts of the state (i.e. Miles City and east to North Dakota border). If truly interested in Boys State, please contact Don Jones at 406-647-8940, or Gary White at Department of Montana.

2. Indianapolis Conference September 2018

Greg Pohle attended the conference. Brainstormed with many other state programs and brought back ways that may enhance our program to get more delegates involved during the election process i.e. Will be getting with Greg Pohle to go over conference ideas and discussed ways to get more delegates and funds to support the program. Decided to do a raffle starting with the fall conference in 2018.

3. Reminders

The 2018 session of ALBS will be June 2-9, 2019

On-line registration address is: <http://mtlegion.org/department/boysstate-registration.html>

No Shows will not receive a refund from American Legion Boys State program.

Start talking to your schools now about American Legion Boys State, brag up the program, help the school understand the importance of this program, be proud of this organization and what it has done for over 100 years. Those that led the way had just as hard a time then as we do now. Don't be afraid, their people just like you and I. Those of you that had delegates apply for the Samsung scholarship need to remember those delegates are eligible to be members of your Sons of the American Legion and many of those parents may be eligible as well.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Ray Read

This is the fourth Fall Conference Report to the Montana Department, The American Legion by the Department Centennial Committee. Some of this is a repeat from the Department Historian Report.

During the 96th Annual Convention the Department Executive Committee addressed the establishment of the Centennial Committee. I was subsequently appointed as the Chair of this Committee. I, in turn choose three Legionnaires to assist me in the development of a program to complete the mission of telling Montana's Rich American Legion history. I can be reached at 470 Ronda Road, Helena, MT 59602, Telephone: 406-458-9847/Cell 406-235-0290; email: myfun51@msn.com.

The Committee currently consists of the following Legionnaires:

Joyce Babcock (AC Buckner Post, Post #111), Custer, Montana) P.O. box 21, Custer, Montana 59024, Telephone No. 406-348-2089; email: donandel@midrivers.com

Michael Shepard, (Columbia Falls, Post 72), 351 7th Ave. East N., Columbia Falls, Montana 59912 Telephone No. 406-250-9806; email: michaelshpard7@gmail.com

Lowell Long, (Blaine Post # 48), P.O. Box 1144, Chinook, Montana 59523. Telephone 406-357-2387 email: lowell.long@hotmail.com.

The Centennial Convention Committee appointed by the Department Executive Committee for the 100th Annual Convention met at 1:15 p.m., June 22, 2018 Main Lobby, of the Holiday Inn, Great Falls, Montana The Convention Committee consisted of 5 members. They were: Jen

Dalrymple, Dave Capps, Reese Haily, J. D. Atkinson, Ray Read, Chairman. The Convention Committee reviewed the Montana's Centennial progress and developed recommendations. That report is available upon request from the Centennial Committee.

The following are the identified goals and objectives of the 100th Anniversary Centennial Committee at this date. They are subject to review and modification:

1. Plan and conduct a Montana Department Centennial Commemoration for the 2019 Department Convention dovetailing with interim celebrations in 2017 and 2018 and a grand finale in 2019. Of significance Montana was chosen as one of the displays of the GI Bill Exhibit as developed as part of the American Legion Centennial. See a separate report on this subject!
2. Plan and conduct a robust collection and interpretation of Department History through the eyes of the current 126 Posts, broken down in 11 Districts, 4 Zones Commands rolling up the Department Program as approved by the Department Executive Committee with emphasis on accomplishments of The American Legion of Montana. The major tool is the National Headquarters Post History portal located on the American Legion Centennial site.
3. Planning for and publishing a Department 100th Anniversary Book, utilizing previously collected history of the various Posts, American Legion auxiliary units, and the squadrons of the Montana Detachment of the American Legion.
4. Surveying the various members of the American Legion Family to identify and quantify various activities to better demonstrate the strengths, lineage and honors of the American Legion of Montana.
5. Engaging the various communities of Montana that have an American Legion Post presence with meaningful dialogue and performance supporting the American Legion Four Pillars.
6. Conducting outreach in those communities that do not have an American Legion presence to bring them into the Centennial activities.
7. Working with the seven Tribal reservations engaging Montana Native American Veterans in meaningful ways.
8. Working closely with the American Legion National Centennial Committee to accomplish the mission as laid in resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee, Stating,

“The American Legions wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by the American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions to national security, and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities...”

The American Legion wishes to set forth the objective and aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of our country as intended by these programs and activities...”

9. Inculcate the sense of the importance of participating in the American Legion Centennial to the American Legion Family, American Legion communities, and State of Montana. Specifically:

- Identifying Montana Department American Legion Posts who are Centennial Posts (those chartered from August 1919-June 1920). Recognition by the Department with an appropriate Certificate and other documents.
- Identifying those American Legion Posts who 75 years or older; 50 years or older; those 25 years or older and those under 25 years. Recognition by Department with an appropriate certificate and charter documents.
- Special recognition for those American Posts who maintain a presence in their community/area with a Post home.

10. Build an adequate funding stream for all activities of the above. Currently the budget is \$750.00 for Committee activities.

11. Accomplishments to date:

a. Energizing various Posts to actively participate in the Centennial Program as outlined.

b. Twenty-Five Montana Department American Legion Posts have signed onto the American Legion's Centennial site to tell their story.

c. Active displays and information have been provided to the American Legion Posts through the Fall Conference and the Department Convention. Also, communications utilizing the *Montana Legionnaire*.

d. Various Press Releases concerning the History leading up to the establishment of the Montana Department.

e. Convention Committee meetings conducted during Fall Conference and Annual Department Convention.

f. Several American Legion Posts submitted applications to the Pritzker Military Museum/American Legion 100 Cities/100 Memorials with two receiving matching grants Dillon Post 20 and Missoula Post 27. These projects are in progress. Also, of Note is that Post 72, and local veterans Group have taken upon themselves to rehabilitate the Doughboy Statue located at the Veterans Home, Columbia Falls, Montana.

g. Continued identification of Memorials and monuments related to the military and American Legion. This activity is on-going. Estimate is that there are over 100 Cemeteries, Monuments and memorials located with the boundaries of Montana. All American Legion Posts need to submit those to the Sacred Places Database being maintained by the American Legion National Headquarters.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sharon Doig

Last month I attended the Legion Children and Youth Conference. I was great to see many Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members from previous conferences. The chair from Alaska was there and for the first time there was one from Hawaii.

We had some great speakers and the two that impressed me most was a mother and son, Dede and Peter Dankelson. Dede is on the Board of Directors for Children's Craniofacial Association and Peter was born with the syndrome eighteen years ago. Peter is a high school senior. I hope to get his book, Pete's Diary. They have been sharing his story with schools since 2013 encouraging students to choose kind, embrace diversity, and end social isolation.

Pete was premature and had not only cranial but numerous internal problems. Pete is comfortable with himself and has a great sense of humor. He has a left ear prosthesis and inside his skull above the left ear he has a magnet. He sometimes puts an eyeball where the ear should be! If you want to learn more about this young man who wants to be a rock star, find them online at PetesDiary.com Their organization received a grant from The American Legion Child Welfare Grant. Veterans helping children.

Since July 1 there was one TFA sent to National and approved and helped a veteran's family with two children. I received another one, but it was incomplete and although I told the veteran what needed to be done, I never heard anything further.

The Coordinated Children and Youth Committee helped a veteran and his family with \$300 as well as the Post helped with matching funds. They didn't qualify for a TFA, but the committee was able to help.

Points to remember when an investigator is gathering information:

1. Be sure all blanks on the application are filled. If you have questions, contact me.
2. TFA's are reviewed every Tuesday and Thursday morning unless it is a holiday.
3. TFA's are for children under 18 that are the veterans and living in the home.
4. Requested funds would be for rent or mortgage, basic utilities (not phones), food, and clothing for the child or children.
5. Medical assistance must be preapproved by National.
6. Birth certificates, marriage licenses, divorce/child custody information is needed.
7. Checks are made out to the veteran/utility company or mortgage, etc.
8. The best way to send the application to me is email.

If your Post has a healthy checking account, consider having a policy where the Post can assist requests even if it is for only \$25 and use the TFA guidelines for rent/mortgage, basic utilities, food, clothing for the child or children.

I encourage Posts to do more for the children and youth in their community. As Department Chair, I look at all our Posts Consolidated Reports and surprised how many do nothing. Surely a Post or its members can donate to one of the many children and youth activities such as: a donation by Post or individual members to Child Welfare Foundation, Family Support Network or The American Legion Endowment Fund. Even small Posts should be able to donate \$25 to

any one of these. Ask members if they have donated to any of these Legion programs which should be noted on Consolidated Reports. Take the credit! Information on these reports helps National when they go to Congress and give annual reports. Veterans helping veterans.

CONSTITUTION & INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sandy Youngbauer

(No Report Submitted)

CONVENTION 2019

Jeff Nelson

The centennial year is fast approaching for The American Legion. The Convention will be held in Polson at the KwaTaqNuk conference and banquet center on June 26th through the 30th of June 2019. There will be many amenities available to people staying at the resort, such as; casino, boat slips, swimming pool, and entertainment to name a few. The meeting rooms and breakout rooms are set up along with the evening banquet facilities to accommodate those attending the Convention.

The Auxiliary will have their meeting room adjacent to the Legion meeting so that everything is within one facility.

For those not wishing to stay at the resort there are other motels within blocks of the Convention center. There are also RV parks located around the Polson area for those wanting to bring a motor home or camper.

On Thursday night there will be a 2-hour cruise around the bay on the tour boat "Shadow". A barbeque is planned while on the cruise with entertainment supplied. Also, on Thursday there will be a golf scramble at the Polson golf course, cost will be \$55 per couple including golf cart

For those that would like to explore some of the sites around the Mission Valley, there is plenty to see. The National Bison Range in Moiese, the Mission church with its beautiful painted frescos on the ceiling in St. Ignatius, Museums in both Ronan and Polson, and don't miss the "Miracle of America" located just outside of Polson. There is a 27-hole golf course in Polson, one of the biggest dam's in the west, Kerr Dam, is located just a few miles from town. Other activities on the lake include rafting, kayaking and public beaches. Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater natural lake west of the Mississippi.

We hope to make this Convention one of the best, so if there are suggestions to make this an "event of a life time" please let us know. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

CONVENTION 2020

Jim Lish

Andrew Pearson Post 117 is honored to be able to host the 2020 Department Convention. We are working on several possible locations for the Convention and will report back when one is nailed

down. We look forward to having a great Convention and having all our fellow Legionaries join us.

CONVENTION 2021

Bill White

Convention planning under way with contract with Delta (Marriott) for rooms, meeting rooms and amenities.

Committee assignments are being made and the logistics are being looked at with more to come as the Convention draws near.

DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Karen Semple

Thankfully, this report has much, much less to report in the way of disasters in Montana since Convention in June. Due to record snowpack in the mountains, flooding continued into July. Fire season was relatively quiet compared to the report this time last year. Thankfully, no members' homes were damaged significantly to prohibit habitation following floods or fires resulting in no National Emergency Fund Grant Requests being submitted to National.

Sadly, other parts of the country did not fare so well with horrible, devastating fires in Arizona, California (burning over 1.5 million acres with thousands of homes destroyed), Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming with firefighter and resident lives lost. On August 20th alone, over two million acres were on fire in the United States. Careless human behavior, drought, heavy fuel loading in forests, and lightning were all contributing factors to the various fire starts. The Howe Ridge fire in Glacier National Park closed a significant portion of the park to tourism for most of the summer economically hurting nearby communities dependent upon the tourism trade. It was the largest Montana fire this year at only 14,522 acres burned with all other Montana fires contained at less than 10,000 acres.

A tornado was spotted in Carter County on June 28th while northeastern Montana was ravaged by two severe storms within 90 minutes on July 10, with the town of Plentywood suffering damage from winds and hail. Thankfully, no one was injured nor displaced. Billings also saw damage with severe thunderstorm activity.

Hurricanes Florence (September) and Michael (October) caused significant property damage and loss of life. The National Emergency Fund is in great need of replenishing. Please donate!

Wrote and submitted two articles for the Legionnaire (June and September).

Finally, October is National Earthquake Preparedness Month. There is still time for Posts to have earthquake drills or spread the word on earthquake preparedness throughout their membership. You can also report this activity to the Governor's Office (and get a certificate) by reporting your earthquake drill on The Great Shakeout website: <https://www.shakeout.org/montana/>

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Jim Grosset

I am so sorry to report that no Canadians were able to attend our Department Convention in Great Falls. Alberta said that no one was available, and the Comrades from Saskatchewan came down with a virus. Thus, I went with the NEC and met the Leading Candidate for National Commander of the American Legion, Brett P. Reistad at the Airport. We took him on a tour of Ft. Benton where we witnessed a parade and he met some of the locals. We also took care of Past National Commander Mike Helm.

I will have the honor of presenting Comrade John Mahon with American Legion Friendship Medal while he is at Canadian Legion meetings in Calgary.

FLAG ALLIANCE

Linda Cousineau

1. H.J. Res. 61 - 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Introduced in House (02/02/2017) [previously introduced as H.J. Res. 9 - 114th Congress (2015-2016) and many other titles in 6 previous sessions]

02/08/2017 Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Action By: House Judiciary

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States

Currently has partisan support of 31 Republicans. Since Jun 2018 report, four additional Rep. have signed on; OH, NM on 06/05/2018, Rep Greg Gianforte, MT on 07/03/2018 and AZ on 07/18/2018.

2. S.J. Res. 46 – 115th Congress (2017-2-18) Introduced in Senate - Judiciary (06/14/2017)

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

Sponsor: Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]

Mr. Daines (for himself, Mr. Graham, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Heller, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Isakson, and Mr. Rubio) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Currently has partisan support of 13 Republicans.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within 7 years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

“The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.”

There have been no changes since last report.

In the past several months Governor Bullock has declared two proclamations for the flag to be flown at half-staff; for Senator McCain for 7 days and for Patriots Day.

Governor’s Proclamation

I hereby order all flags flown in the State of Montana to be flown at half-staff on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, in honor of all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and in observance of Patriot Day and National Day of Service.

Each year, September 11th reminds us of how much we lost, but also what brought our nation together in the face of tragedy and what binds us all as Americans. We owe an enormous debt to our men and women in the Armed Forces and to our first responders. We are truly blessed to live amongst these heroes who are willing to give so much to ensure the safety of our communities and that the freedoms and ideals of the United States are upheld.

Dated this 10th day of September 2018.
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

Governor’s Proclamation I hereby order all flags flown in the State of Montana to be flown at half-staff to honor the memory of U.S. Senator John McCain from Monday, August 27th, 2018, until Sunday, September 2nd, 2018, the day of his interment. Senator John McCain was a hero in war and in Congress. His moral courage, his perseverance, and his ability to work with all those who wanted to advance the values of the American people will never be forgotten and will continue to guide us through challenging times.

Dated this 27th day of August 2018.
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor.

REMINDER, as a community effort, consider giving a new flag and ‘Thank You for Being a Patriot’ certificate to low income senior citizens, veterans and other individuals in the community who have faithfully displayed the American flag but may need financial assistance to continue to do so. The certificate should also include directions on where to take their old flag for proper disposal.

I am honored to continue to be your Flag Alliance Chairman and will keep you updated on status as it develops.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Elmer Palmer

I assumed the duty as Finance Chairman at the close of The American Legion of Montana Convention in Great Falls, Montana.

The first duty of the office was generated by the approval of Resolution 17- , Reorganization of the Finance Committee approved by the delegates. The members of the committee were assigned to two subcommittees, three members in the new Ways and Means Subcommittee and three members in the new Endowment Subcommittee. The Ways and Means subcommittee consist of Randy Kemp, Joe Yeoman and Jed Damson, and the Endowment Subcommittee consist of Demorise Allen, Jim Carlisle and Lori Perkiio.

I have attended a non-profit endowment development course in Helena. I have garnered some material to provide to the members of the endowment subcommittee. I have requested information on upcoming sessions of the endowment workshops and hope to share those dates with the subcommittee.

One of the requirements for the Montana Non-Profit Tax Credit program is that the endowment needs to be a 501 c3 entity in order for the members to take advantage of this program. I have spoken with the Judge Advocate concerning the creation of a separate entity for the endowment and receiving 501 c3 classifications to allow members to make a donation to the endowment and receive the tax credit.

I have verified the financial transactions of Adjutant White for June, July and Aug. and find them to be in order. I have received the Sept. transactions and will be reviewing them shortly.

HEROES TO HOMETOWN COORDINATOR

Sue Davidson

There has been no action for the Hero to Hometown Committee so far this year. I attended my District 11 fall meeting.

HIGHWAY FATALITY MARKER

Karon Kougioulis

Leaving Great Falls after the Department Convention last June 2018, I noticed a fatality marker past the airport turnoff, that was covered with stuff, one could hardly tell what is was. I started noticing more fatality markers that are not maintained. Then on our way home a fatality marker in our area, had a large toy pink elephant on it. We have removed stuff off these markers many times & thought we had an agreement with the family they wouldn't do this, so I removed the pink elephant. That evening, on Facebook, someone asked what happened to the pink elephant, I replied, that I had it & would return it to whoever. A bunch of people on Facebook that had no business in this matter, became abusive & nasty. Even though I Posted a brief message on the rules for the highway markers, and the web site to look them up. Someone from Butte copied the entire rules from mtLegion.org., website. That stopped the Posts on Facebook.

I've had inquired on why there were not markers put up at certain sites. I've worked with Commanders and Adjutants of the Posts in the area, mostly with good results getting fatality markers up. Some Posts don't have the manpower to maintain the markers, some Posts just don't do the program, nor maintain them. I had one fatality marker chairman just not want to talk to me about maintenance, in his area.

The Fatality Marker program was started in 1952, there was less population and traffic in the early years of the program. The fatality markers are confused with being memorials and the decorations & stuff put one them detracts from their purpose of being reminders for safe & sober driving. When not maintained, I feel they distract from safe driving. If American Legion Posts are unable or unwilling to maintain them, maybe it's time to reconsider the program?

HOMELESS VETERAN COORDINATOR

Ray Read

The Montana Department's participation in The American Legion's Homeless Veterans Program is now moving into its Twelfth year. Richard Klose 2018-19 Montana Department Commander re-appointed me as the Coordinator of the Program as the as the Homeless Veterans Coordinator in July 2018. I respectfully submit the following report of the record to date.

Montana Statistics Related to Homeless Veterans is as follows:

Facts: Last reported 2018 --Of the 93,856 veterans recognized and recorded by the VA as being in Montana, 75,312 are indicated as wartime veterans. Breakdown by era is: Gulf War- 31,995; Vietnam- 32,946; Korea-7,978; WW II-3,456. Peacetime veterans' number 18,094. The ratio of gender is Female veterans 8, 203 and Male veterans 85,153. Comment: It is estimated that based on averaging 2.5 members per veteran's household that the total veteran's population including family members is at 249,000+- or nearly 1/4 of the total population of Montana.

National Statistics indicate that up to 3.8% of Montana's population of veterans is at risk or homeless. The definition of homeless as defined by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is, "Without and abode or home, living with family or relative because they cannot afford or qualify for a home residence, or living in an institutional setting because they cannot qualify or are financially unable to rent or own a home."

In the latest Montana Homeless Survey conducted in January 2018 of the 1,247 Household with 1,529-person respondents of which 205 Veterans were identified as to the previous year when 165 had been identified this is a 7.8% increase from the previous year. This also indicates that homelessness among Montana veterans was approximately 7.5% of the total homeless of Montana based on the Survey results. The final 2018 HUD/VA data is not yet available therefore not confirmed.

The information was provided as the result of data acquired through the January 2018 Point in Time (PIT) Survey by Housing & Urban Development conducted in January 2018. These reflect the collection effort based in cities and towns broken into Districts by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These Districts do not emulate Montana Department /American Legion

Districts as currently configured. HUD District 1,2,3-Eastern Montana; District 4- Havre; District 5- Great Falls; District 6- Lewistown; District 7- Billings; District 8- Helena; District 9- Bozeman; District 10- Kalispell; District 11- Missoula; and District 12-Butte. Survey areas did not totally encompass Montana rural areas. Assumption; rural homelessness is under reported. The take away from this is that homelessness is still present and is a problem we must address at Post level and above:

Recommendations for 2018-2019:

1. That the Montana Department of the American Legion continue to develop and conduct its Homeless Veterans strategy in coordination with the National Economics Division of The American Legion, the Veterans Administration of Montana, Federal Housing and Urban Development, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services and the many local service organizations who dedicate resources to reduce and ultimately eliminate homelessness in Montana.

2. That the Department of Montana of the American Legion strive to establish volunteer homeless Veterans coordinators at Post, District and, Zone levels as necessary to interface with the Department on issues and offer solutions of Veterans homelessness. In lieu of dedicated resources the responsibility falls to the Post, District, and Zone Commander by default.

3. That the Department of Montana of the American Legion supports the various Homeless Veterans Stand downs scheduled throughout Montana 2018-2019. Three have been conducted according to the VA Great Falls, Libby, and Havre. They were classified a veteran's resource programs rather than a full stand down. Veteran related events previously identified as being in Anaconda, Plains, Helena, Missoula, Dillon, Miles City, and Libby, and on the High line of Montana with Havre, Montana as the hub.

4. That those American Legion Posts conducting a stand down must coordinate and apply utilizing VA Stand Down Notice of Proposed Event Form available on line and complete the VA Stand Down After Action Report available on line at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Email kmcevilly@nchv.org the website is www.nchv.org. Telephone number is 202-546-1969.

INSURANCE DIRECTOR

Gary White

We have received no new disbursements since the last report in June; our next anticipated disbursements will be in April 2019. We continue to show a decline in policy holders, therefore we will see a decline in revenue from the insurance programs. The free AD & D program has been reinstated for the Department of Montana, now called Legion Care; all Legionnaires, senior (over 18 years of age) SAL and Auxiliary members are eligible for the \$1000.00 AD & D free insurance. However, everyone needs to reregister or register for the benefit. Register by going to thelit.com/Legioncare2, or you can call 800-235-6943. The Legion Care program will pay you \$1000.00 for a covered accident or, if the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family business, Legion Care will cover you for \$5000.00 of AD & D coverage.

We must continue to encourage our members to look at the Legionnaire Insurance Trust programs for their insurance needs. The Trust is constantly updating their programs looking for new and better insurance products for our members. It is not our intent to be selling insurance, but we should be making our members aware of the products available to them.

LEGION RIDERS

Ken McMillon

For right now all is quiet.

It's been a busy year. There were the usual smaller rallies. IE: Corvallis Mini Romp, Moscow, Idaho Romp, Red Lodge Biker Rally, Western Region Romp in Gillett, WY that had a large turnout. Plans are already being made for the next Western Region Ride. Location has not been determined yet.

Belgrade Legion Riders poker run that was a benefit for the St Jude Children's Hospital. On this run, they had 35 riders that participated during this 280-mile ride. After all was done there was \$490.00 that was donated to St Jude's.

Have been in contact with the Western Region Rider director. There are plans being made for next year's rides.

LEGISLATIVE

Roger Hagan

The Legislative Committee continues to actively serve our Department membership. Your Department remains vigilant to all veteran/military issues brought before SAVA and other committees and provides input from our perspective when appropriate. The MT Department was represented at the State Legislature, attending both the State Administration and Veteran's Affairs (SAVA) Interim Committee and the Economic Affairs Interim Committee (EAIC) meetings in July and September.

The July SAVA Interim Committee meeting did not include any military or veteran issues; however, I did attend to address any questions the committee members may have had. For our legislators to see a 'Legion Cap' in the audience sends a positive message. The September meeting agenda included information briefings on the VA Choice Program and transition to the 2018 VA Mission Act. Participants were: representatives from the VA Health Care offices, Veteran issues staff from Senators Tester and Daines offices and Representative Gianforte's office. The American Legion was represented by Commander Richard Klose, Adjutant Gary White and me.

The July EAIC Meeting included further discussions concerning SJR 32 (Community Medicine /Veterans' Assistance). Our efforts to explain available veteran services succeeded in adjustments to the proposed legislation avoiding conflicting processes. The September EAIC Meeting included discussion about the final SJR 32 solution and an update on the Veteran Home Loan Program. It should be noted that the current \$40 million fund set aside from the Coal Trust Fund is fully obligated and there are no funds available to provide veteran first-time homeowners this loan opportunity.

Issues of veteran importance for the upcoming November Election or the 2019 Legislative Session that we will be considering during our Legislative Committee meeting are:

- Initiative 185 – Raises Cigarette Tax from \$1.70/pack to \$3.70/pack (the Veteran Homes are funded by cigarette tax) -November Election-
- State Income Tax Exemption for Military Retired Annuities -2019 Session-
- Disabled Veteran Plate fee waiver for other than DV plates -2019 Session-
- Clarify terms for deployed military hunting license fee waivers -2019 Session-
- Funding for Montana Veteran Home Loan Program -2019 Session-

To assist our membership in future successes, I will again ask that you get involved at the grassroots level. Go out there and get to know your state senator and representative. Talk with them about our military and veteran issues and find out where they stand on those issues. Grassroots is the lifeblood of legislative efforts, both on the state and national level. And, above all, **GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!**

If you have any questions or input, please be sure to share it with your Post or the Department so we can include your thoughts in our deliberations.

MEMBERSHIP

Jim Lish

I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work last year and obtaining our 100%. I am glad to report that it's been 17 years since we last made it. Our membership year has started off a little slower than normal. Please all Zone and District Commanders need to call their Post leadership and remind them to send in membership as you get them and not sit on them. We as a Department are planning several more revitalization's this year. If you are interested in having one, please let me know. Let's get the membership in and make a 100% again this year. Also, don't forget to work the DMS list and get those Post 105 members transferred into your local Posts. Thanks again for letting me be your Department membership chairman and look forward to another great year.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Hal Rice

Friday at National Convention we loaded into a bus to Camp Ripley for a tour. We drove around base where we were shown training areas, then had lunch, back in bus to other training areas. Most impressed by training set up for taking towns with lots of buildings-they reported that this course is used by police and other state guards and it is ranked #1 in the US. Back on bus to Convention. I then attended National Security meeting for National Guard Reserve forces. We had one resolution, issue DD 214 to retiring Reservists; this was rejected.

ORATORICAL

Jeff Holmes

First off, I would like to congratulate and thank Norris Blossom of Helena for representing Montana at the National Oratorical Contest in April. You made us proud, and we are glad that you decided to further your leadership education through The American Legion Oratorical Program. Garret Nielson of Bozeman placed second, Michael McKay of Corvallis placed third, and Sierra Dilworth of Kalispell placed fourth. I would also like to thank Lewis & Clark Post #2 in Helena for sponsoring Norris, and all other participating Posts for sponsoring the Oratorical Contest as part of their Post objectives. This year, we had 6 District winners participating at the Department level.

Perhaps the biggest thank you goes out to Kim Kay McCarty Martin and David Driver for recruiting all the judges. This is a very stressful job and is perhaps the most important of all. Thanks also to Malori and Tyler from Great Falls College – MSU for allowing us to use their facilities and waiving most of their fees. Thanks also to Mr. White and Mrs. Carpenter for keeping all the paperwork straight and printing out the certificates.

This year the results were contested, and I would like to thank all Legionnaires who helped run the contest and ensuring the placings of the judges were reflected and the whole contest was conducted according to the National Guidelines. I would especially like to thank Dick Ellwein, Lowell Long, and Kathy Long for standing up to the scrutiny. I am truly blessed to have these members on the Oratorical Committee and for the knowledge and professionalism they bring to the contest. A special thanks also to all other Legionnaires who showed up and volunteered to help whenever needed. Our Department Oratorical Contest is truly a team effort and would not happen without your dedication. Thanks again to everyone. Your students and I really appreciate it.

Secondly, I would like to thank Lowell Long for taking time out of his busy schedule to represent Montana at the Combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis in September. It is where we receive our oratorical updates from National and learn best practices from other states. We are excited to see the latest updates and find out how his trip went.

Lastly, just a reminder that our Department Oratorical Contest will be held on Saturday March 9th, 2019 in Belgrade.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & PUBLICATIONS

Jen Dalrymple

First, I would like to say Thank You for your support of The Legionnaire Paper. We have had an uptick in the participation of Posts in submitting articles and photos and I hope you enjoy reading about their activities throughout the state. Second, if you have a member of your Post that you feel would present a good story of Patriotism, Courage, Tenacity or some other characteristics, please contact me to arrange an interview with them. Let's get their story out there for our fellow Legionnaires to enjoy.

We had a successful year with four issues of The Legionnaire. The next issue deadline is 1 January and I look forward to receiving your photos and stories about the month's accomplishments of your Post.

Reminder that if you submit photos, please attach them to your email. Do not embed them in the text of the email. In addition, include photo captions of who's in it, what are they doing and who took the photo for proper credit.

Again, thank you for sharing your Post activities with us and have a blessed holiday season.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (S.A.L.) ADVISOR

Dick Ellwein

The Detachment did well in membership for 2018 at 103%. For their efforts they received a 100% ribbon for 2018 and all-time high ribbon. The 2019 membership is starting out great, they have reached each target date so far. We are currently in seventh place Nationally. I attended the District # 6 Fall meeting in Deer Lodge. In October I attended the SAL Fall NEC conference in Indianapolis IN. The 2019 Sons of The American National Commander is Greg Gibbs (NY). The theme this year is "Honoring the Past...Continuing the Legacy"

SHOOTING SPORTS

Ray Read

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that provides the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, and competition. The program utilizes the .177 caliber air rifle, both males and females can participate, through American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit, or S.A.L. squadron sponsorship. It is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards, and Air Rifle Competition. The Basic Marksmanship Course is a comprehensive package for the beginning shooter with little or no marksmanship experience. Gun safety and marksmanship fundamentals are taught through a balanced mix of short lecture and discussion followed by hands-on activities. The cornerstone of the Basic Marksmanship Course is the SHOOTER'S GUIDE TO POSITION AIR RIFLE, now in its fifth edition. The guide provides a thorough explanation of the essential fundamentals need for success as an entry-level competitive shooter. Another highlight of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is our annual JUNIOR POSITION AIR RIFLE TOURNAMENT. The tournament begins with Postal matches to determinate state and/or regional champions. The next stage is a second stage Qualification Round (also a Postal match) to determine the shooters who will earn expense paid trips to compete in the National Championship.

More than 1,450 youth participated in The American Legion's 2017-2018 Shooting Sports Postal match competition, but only the top 15 shooters in both the Sporter and Precision categories advance to the Legion's 26th annual Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Championships in Colorado. This year Montana JSSP shooters have placed in both categories:

2018 State Champion Elizabeth Lorenz, Seeley, Montana, Hellgate Civilian Jr. Shooters 1, shot No. 13 out of 15 in the Precision competition. Lorenz went on to place 8th out of 15 in the 2018 The American Legion JSSP National Championships. Her score was 2,458 only 17 points out of first place. This is Lorenz' second National. 2018 State Champion Howard Howie Edison of Montana's Mineral Co. Shooting Sports No. 2 out of 15 in the Sporter competition. Edison's final Score was 2,195 placing 8th out of 15 in the 2018 American Legion JSSP National Championships. This is Edison's first National. Congratulations to both. The 2018 Montana Department, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Championship Team Sporter Category is Mineral County Shooting Sports 1 sponsored by American Legion Post 13, St Regis, Montana. The 2018 Montana Department, the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Championship Team in Precision Category is Hellgate Junior Shooting Sports 1 sponsored by Post 27, Missoula, Montana

Other Statistics for 2018:

There was a total of 4- four-person teams competing in the Sporter Category, Hellgate Junior Shooting Sports 1, Hellgate Junior Shooting Sports 2 sponsored by Post 27; Gallatin County 4H Shooting Sports 1 sponsored by Post 87, Manhattan Yellowstone Rifle club 1, Sponsored by American Legion Post 4 Billings. A total of 16 JSSP Shooters. There were a total 10- four teams competing in the Precision Category: Mineral County 4H Shooting Sports 1 sponsored by American Legion Post 13, St Regis; Gallatin County Shooting Sports 1 and Gallatin County Shooting Sports 2, sponsored by American Legion Post 87, Manhattan, MT; Lake County 4H 1, sponsored by American Legion Post 138, Ronan, MT; Flathead County Shooting 4-H Shooting Sports 1, Sponsored by American Legion Post 137, Kalispell, MT; Phillips County 4-H Shooting Sports 1-5, sponsored by Post 57, Malta, MT. A total of 45 JSSP Shooters. Comment: If all programs were to produce one team that would equate nearly 100 JSSP Shooters. Gallatin County 4-H Shooting Sports, Montana, have won the State Championship 8 times (1997, 1999, 2004-2005, 2008-2010, 2012).

Montana has produced a one National Junior Shooting Sports Champion and several runners up in top five. Tempe Regan, Mineral County 4H Shooting Sports, American Legion Post 13, St Regis, Montana was the national winner in 2006 Sporter category.

During the competition, the participants in both the Precision and Sporter category shoot a .177 caliber air rifle in three positions – prone, standing and kneeling. The winning competitor in the National Match in each respective category wins the championship and a \$5,000 scholarship provided by the American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. A \$1,000 scholarship, provided by the American Legion Auxiliary, was awarded to the second-place finisher in each category.

American Legion Posts & Coaches Notes:

As you are getting started we would strongly recommend that you focus your efforts on the Sporter category. It does not take a lot of money to get started in the Sporter category. The junior athletes do not need any sort of sophisticated shooting clothing like the Precision category does. If you have not already done so we would recommend taking a look at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's Webpages. This will give you a very good background on what is allowed in terms of sporter category rifles, clothing, and additional equipment.

With regards to sporter category rifles, those that have been successful in our National Championship tournament have fired the Daisy 753/853 pneumatic rifle, the Daisy M888 CO2 rifle or the Daisy XS-40 Valiant compressed air rifle. More information about these and other rifles can be obtained from the Daisy WebPages @daisy.ifware.com/cgi-bin/daisy2/products_avanti.html. The CMP has an excellent extended payment program to purchase either the 853 or the M888 rifles. More information can be found at the following website: www.odcmp.com/Services/Programs/Sporter_Air_Rifle.htm.

It is up to you, your finances, and the number of junior athletes you will have as to how many rifles you would want to consider buying. Most teams will have 3 or 4 athletes training on one rifle. Of course, this will mean re-adjusting the sights for each of the athletes, but this is good training. As you progress and find that you have two or three athletes that are better than the others you may want to consider letting them fire only their particular rifle. If you continue with the program and have some athletes who are interested in continuing in 3-Position competitive shooting that would be the time to consider moving them into the Precision category. We can provide you with more information if you would like.

2018-19 Awards include:

- (1) Top Individual Precision;
- (2) Top Individual Sporter;
- (3) Top Team Precision;
- (4) Top Team Sporter;
- (5) Participation certificates for individuals and teams;
- (7) Special awards for individual and teams who are chosen to compete national or are ranked nationally i.e. team top five; Sporter and Precision individual).

American Legion Posts need to submit your requests to the Department JSSP Coordinator with information to the Department Adjutant.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Kelly Ackerman

I attended the AL Department Convention in Great Falls, MT June 21-24, 2018 where I chaired the VA&R Committee.

Due to surgery, I was unable to attend National Convention in Minneapolis, MN August 2018.

As the Vice-Chairman of the VA&R Commission, I participated in a conference call on June 20, 2018 to discuss the agenda for National Convention VA&R resolutions. On October 9, 2018 I participated in a conference call to discuss the System Worth Saving agenda for 2019 and resolutions moving forward to the fall NEC meeting.

VETERANS ECONOMICS

Vacant

VA HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE – BILLINGS

Joyce Babcock

Since Department Convention in June 2018, I have visited the Clinic for purpose of delivering written material, (American Legion monthly magazine and Active Service Newspapers) at least 3 times each month. In July I put out five copies of American Legion magazine and twice that same month there were: 4 Army newspapers, 4 Air Force newspapers, 1 Marine Corps paper, and 3 Navy papers for a total of 24 military newspapers in July. I spent 10 hours visiting the CBOC in July 2018.

In August there were the same number of Legion magazine and Active Military newspapers delivered to the CBOC, 5 magazines and 24 newspapers with a total of 14 hours involved plus another 4 hours sorting books in waiting rooms and assisting some elderly veterans with the check in process. This totaled 18 hours for August.

September started with the magazine delivery, 5 copies and the veterans in waiting rooms seem to be waiting for these to arrive. I have suggested to some that they might join The American Legion and then they will receive their own copies. Handed out some contact names to those who expressed an interest. The newspapers arrived and were transported to Billings and left in waiting rooms in both Spring street waiting rooms and Majestic's main waiting room. September was 9 hours which included some "visiting" with veterans in waiting rooms.

October will total at a minimum of at least 6 hours making this Summer and Fall time add up to forty-two hours as VAVS for the Billings CBOC

VA HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE – Fort Harrison

Bill White

1. Attended third quarter V.A.V.S. Meetings at VA Fort Harrison, MT.
2. Continued as an appointed representative to the National VA and R committee
3. Continue working with Gary White to ensure that All American Legion Volunteers are registered so that the American Legion gets proper credit
4. Attended VA and R meetings at the National Convention in Minneapolis
5. Continued to work on the Ad-Hoc committee on up-dating the VAVS Volunteer manual with the American Legion
6. Spoke at the National VA and R meeting in Minneapolis on successful Volunteer Program in Montana.
7. Represented the Department of Montana along with Past Department Commander Larry Dobbs and Clancy Collins and Joyce Babcock in receiving the National award for

Volunteering for the second year in a row at the national Convention.

8. Attended District meeting invited to as VAVS representative
9. Continued to Participate with new person orientation to give new employees an opportunity to hear some of the problems that Veterans face daily when going to the VA facilities also participating is American Legion members Doug Ham and Rebecca Hoolter.
10. Appointed chairperson for the 2021 Department Convention in Helena, Montana

VA HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE – Miles City

Clancee Collins

I have contacted the Activities Director at the Community Living Center several times to see if they needed anything. She informed me that her funds have been restored and she was in much better shape than she had been the previous year. I am currently revising the budget for Custer Post #5 to see if they will allocate \$200.00 in their budget for any needs the residents might have for the up-coming year. The Activities Director asked if the monies were approved the residents could always use new sweats.

I have also been in contact with Custer Post #5 Auxiliary president if they needed any funds or volunteers to help with their monthly lunches they prepare for the Community Living Center residents. She informed me that of this writing they were managing just fine.

I have completed by application as a VA&R volunteer by receiving my flu shot and TB test this week. Department Adjutant White received my written application at the District 10 meeting in Baker, MT.

WOMEN'S VETERANS COORDINATOR

Kim Kay Carol McCarty Martin

This year's Women Veteran's Lunches have been challenging. With a group of dedicated women veterans, we were able to recognize 6 WWII women veterans for their service and present them with the WWII Service Medal in 2018. I would like to recognize those who spent their time helping me this year. Without their dedication and time this would have been an impossible year. Thanks goes to Dorothy Goodwin, Carol Gruwell, Clara Santopietro, Sue Davidson, Heather McDonald, Linda Johnson, Ruthie Smith, and Nathan Schaldack.

I think the concept of Women Veterans Recognition Lunches is not understood, so after talking with the women from the women's recognition committee on 30 September, we have decided to change the way we are recognizing women veterans. We are going to be holding 2 forums in May and June of 2019. One will be in Missoula and the other will be in Billings with the schedule to be determined yet by the current committee. It will actually take more time and effort on the committee's behalf, but we are hoping the outcome will be as fruitful as the first year was successful. We will be recognizing WWII and Korean Women Veterans. If anyone knows of a

female WWII veteran, please let me know before they pass away so we can make special arrangements to honor them and thank them for their service.

I started a group text for women veterans on my phone to share upcoming events that are held in Montana for women veterans. I've shared 3 events already to over 30 women in regard to fishing and holistic opportunities which have been well received. It will be used only as a way to pass on information fast with basic event and its contact information as sometimes I've just learned about the event and its closing date is near otherwise I will continue using the Women Vets of MT American Legion Facebook page to circulate upcoming events.

I was able to attend all the Spring District meetings except 6 and 7. I handed out updated business cards with Facebook info and the phone number and email addresses for VA women coordinator, Women Vets Call Center, and Center for Women Veterans. I also attended most of the American Legion Auxiliary meetings to extend the ladies the same information to spread the word.

RESOLUTION
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

Resolution No.: FC18-1

Subject: Automatic transfer of AD0105 Membership to Local Posts within Department of Montana

Submitted by: District 4

WHEREAS, It is encouraged for Posts to transfer AD0105 members to their local Post, and

WHEREAS, By doing so allows the members annual dues to work for their local community, and

WHEREAS, An automatic transfer of AD0105 members to the Posts within Department of Montana by the Department of Montana could save the Post Commanders, Adjutants and Membership Committees time and paper work allowing more time to be spent on recruitment, retention and reinstatement, and

WHEREAS, Any member after transfer to a local Post for any reason does not wish to remain in that Post has the right to request a transfer to a Post of their choice, and

WHEREAS, Many vital American Legion programs and fundraising within the Posts could be better served with the extra attention, and

WHEREAS, The implementation of such automatic transfers would be well received by the whole of the Department Executive Committee including its Membership Committee, along with its Districts and Posts, and

WHEREAS, District revitalizations could better focus on strengthening Post leadership, training, and service to Veterans, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Montana, at the Department Fall Conference, assembled at Lewis and Clark Post 2, Helena Montana, on the 26th-27th of October 2018, that the Department of Montana automatically transfer all AD0105 memberships to the local Posts Within the Department of Montana correlating with their perspective geographic location as they are received and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any Post in Department of Montana that does not desire to participate may opt out, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each Post in Department of Montana as per Article IV, Section 5 of the Department of Montana Constitution and By-Laws shall still retain the right to examine the qualifications and demand the production of discharge papers or a duly authenticated copy thereof, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this procedure be adopted and implemented at the end of the Department of Montana Fall Conference.

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved ___ Approved with Amendment ___ Rejected ___ Received and Recorded ___ Consolidated with ___
Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on _____ Other Action _____
Signature of Chairman or Secretary _____

9:30 AM
10/23/18
Accrual Basis

**American Legion of Montana
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 1 through October 26, 2018**

	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 18	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 17	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4010 · Membership Dues	139,098.07	188,014.75	-48,916.68	-26.0%
4031 · Merchandise Sales	5.28	334.81	-329.53	-98.4%
4040 · Big Sky Gas	172.79	199.04	-26.25	-13.2%
4041 · USAA Revenue Share	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100.0%
4050 · Interest & Dividend Income	23.77	11,501.52	-11,477.75	-99.8%
4150 · Miscellaneous Income	27,641.24	2,146.00	25,495.24	1,188.0%
4850 · Fundraising				
4851 · Raffle	266.00	-1,004.42	1,270.42	126.5%
4852 · Big K	5,712.00	4,957.00	755.00	15.2%
4853 · Calendar	3,379.00	-2,140.00	5,519.00	257.9%
4850 · Fundraising - Other	50.00	0.00	50.00	100.0%
Total 4850 · Fundraising	9,407.00	1,812.58	7,594.42	419.0%
Total Income	182,348.15	204,008.70	-21,660.55	-10.6%
Expense				
6005 · National Dues	57,574.00	103,230.00	-45,656.00	-44.2%
6034 · Clothing Allow Adj	265.90	276.47	-10.57	-3.8%
6041 · Insurance - Office	1,541.00	1,541.00	0.00	0.0%
6050 · General Office	3,681.83	3,320.60	361.23	10.9%
6051 · Audit Expense	1,600.00	750.00	850.00	113.3%
6060 · Exec. Committee	-1,092.30	-1,715.02	622.72	36.3%
6071 · Travel - Commander	514.44	-6.00	520.44	8674.0%
6071A · Travel - Cdr Indy	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	-100.0%
6072 · Travel - Adjutant	1,652.95	1,360.95	292.00	21.5%
6072A · Travel - Secretary	800.00	899.60	-99.60	-11.1%
6073 · Travel - NEC	1,523.60	257.93	1,265.67	490.7%
6073A · A Travel -Alt NEC	-21.05	882.46	-903.51	-102.4%
6074 · Travel - Chaplain	527.60	1.03	526.57	51,123.3%
6075 · Travel - S.O.	646.14	624.96	21.18	3.4%
6076 · Travel - Vice Commander	1,779.93	1,115.88	664.05	59.5%
6080 · Department Convention	20.00	0.00	20.00	100.0%
6090 · National Convention	3,859.19	1,638.42	2,220.77	135.5%
6100 · Travel - Historian	574.19	1,361.74	-787.55	-57.8%
6110 · Judge Advocate	0.00	162.96	-162.96	-100.0%
6130 · Montana Legionnaire Paper	8,941.60	8,847.69	93.91	1.1%
6150 · Misc Office Expense	182.50	317.50	-135.00	-42.5%
6160 · Auto Exp. & Insurance	1,472.82	2,476.47	-1,003.65	-40.5%

**American Legion of Montana
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 1 through October 26, 2018**

	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 18	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 17	\$ Change	% Change
6600 · Payroll Expenses				
6601 · P/R Expense-FUTA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6602 · P/R Expense-Medicare	266.46	258.56	7.90	3.1%
6603 · P/R Expense-Social Security	1,139.34	1,105.61	33.73	3.1%
6604 · P/R Expense-SUTA	147.00	71.33	75.67	106.1%
6605 · P/R Expense-Salary & Wages	18,376.38	17,730.70	645.68	3.6%
6600 · Payroll Expenses - Other	0.00	101.60	-101.60	-100.0%
Total 6600 · Payroll Expenses	19,929.18	19,267.80	661.38	3.4%
7000 · Membership Promo	300.00	1,986.57	-1,686.57	-84.9%
7021 · Baseball	106.00	0.00	106.00	100.0%
7022 · Boys State	1,698.49	1,859.66	-161.17	-8.7%
7031 · Legislative	0.00	22.48	-22.48	-100.0%
7050 · Vets Rehab	0.00	46.00	-46.00	-100.0%
7070 · Dist. Guests	0.00	717.66	-717.66	-100.0%
7100 · Education & Training Committee	0.00	237.04	-237.04	-100.0%
7120 · Const. & By-laws	20.00	0.00	20.00	100.0%
7140 · Commanders Discretionary	0.00	39.95	-39.95	-100.0%
7201 · Shooting Sports	0.00	98.00	-98.00	-100.0%
7204 · Womens Vet Coord	314.00	0.00	314.00	100.0%
7206 · Centennial Committee	-711.00	0.00	-711.00	-100.0%
Total Expense	107,701.01	152,619.80	-44,918.79	-29.4%
Net Ordinary Income	74,647.14	51,388.90	23,258.24	45.3%
Other Income/Expense				
7210 · Decrease (increase) mkt value	0.00	-469.81	469.81	100.0%
Total Other Income	0.00	-469.81	469.81	100.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	-469.81	469.81	100.0%
Net Income	74,647.14	50,919.09	23,728.05	46.6%

**American Legion of Montana
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 1 through October 26, 2018**

	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4010 · Membership Dues	139,098.07	330,030.00	-190,931.93	42.1%
4011 · HQ #105	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4031 · Merchandise Sales	5.28	2,000.00	-1,994.72	0.3%
4040 · Big Sky Gas	172.79	800.00	-627.21	21.6%
4041 · USAA Revenue Share	6,000.00	7,050.00	-1,050.00	85.1%
4042 · Add. Labels	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
4043 · AGIA Programs	0.00	15,500.00	-15,500.00	0.0%
4044 · Credit Cards	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%
4045 · Rx America	0.00	20.00	-20.00	0.0%
4046 · Non Member Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4048 · Pre-Paid Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4049 · Nat. Auto Club	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4050 · Interest & Dividend Income	23.77	0.00	23.77	0.0%
4150 · Miscellaneous Income	27,641.24	20,000.00	7,641.24	138.21%
4850 · Fundraising		2,000.00		
4851 · Raffle	266.00			
4852 · Big K	5,712.00	2,100.00	3,612.00	172.0%
4853 · Calendar	3,379.00	900.00	2,479.00	275.5%
4850 · Fundraising - Other	50.00	11,000.00	-10,950.00	0.5%
Total 4850 · Fundraising	9,407.00	14,000.00	-4,593.00	67.2%
6131 · History Book	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
7209 · Other Income - state checks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Income	182,348.15	406,800.00	-224,451.85	44.8%
Expense				
2067 · Medicare	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6005 · National Dues	57,574.00	205,849.50	-148,275.50	28.0%
6010 · Salaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6020 · Retirement	0.00	5,025.15	-5,025.15	0.0%
6028 · SUTA Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6029 · FUTA Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6030 · UI Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6031 · Social Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6032 · Bonus, Adjutant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6033 · Bonus, Secretary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6034 · Clothing Allow Adj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6035 · Clothing Allow Sec	266.90	900.00	-634.10	29.5%
6040 · Workmans Comp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6041 · Insurance - Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6050 · General Office	1,541.00	1,580.00	-39.00	97.5%
6051 · Audit Expense	3,681.83	11,050.00	-7,368.17	33.3%
6060 · Exec. Committee	1,600.00	3,200.00	-1,600.00	50.0%
6071 · Travel - Commander	-1,092.30	4,300.00	-5,392.30	-25.4%
	514.44	2,600.00	-2,085.56	19.8%

American Legion of Montana
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 1 through October 26, 2018

	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
6071A · Travel - Cdr Indy	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
6072 · Travel - Adjutant	1,652.95	3,700.00	-2,047.05	44.7%
6072A · Travel - Secretary	800.00	500.00	300.00	160.0%
6073 · Travel - NEC	1,523.60	1,700.00	-176.40	89.6%
6073A · A Travel -Alt NEC	-21.05	1,000.00	-1,021.05	-2.1%
6074 · Travel - Chaplain	527.60	700.00	-172.40	75.4%
6075 · Travel - S.O.	646.14	2,000.00	-1,353.86	32.3%
6076 · Travel - Vics Commander	1,779.93	2,200.00	-420.07	80.9%
6077 · Zone Cmndr. Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6080 · Department Convention	20.00	8,000.00	-7,980.00	0.3%
6090 · National Convention	3,859.19	6,310.00	-2,450.81	61.2%
6100 · Travel - Historian	574.19	1,250.00	-675.81	45.9%
6110 · Judge Advocate	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
6120 · Bond Premium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6130 · Montana Legionnaire Paper	8,941.60	30,600.00	-21,658.40	29.2%
6150 · Misc Office Expense	182.50	1,100.00	-917.50	16.6%
6151 · Repl. Office Expense	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.0%
6160 · Auto Exp. & Insurance	1,472.82	5,400.00	-3,927.18	27.3%
6200 · American Legion College	0.00	600.00	-600.00	0.0%
6600 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6601 · P/R Expense-FUTA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6602 · P/R Expense-Medicare	266.46	0.00	266.46	100.0%
6603 · P/R Expense-Social Security	1,139.34	0.00	1,139.34	100.0%
6604 · P/R Expense-SUTA	147.00	0.00	147.00	100.0%
6605 · P/R Expense-Salary & Wages	18,376.38	0.00	18,376.38	100.0%
6600 · Payroll Expenses - Other	0.00	56,915.56	-56,915.56	0.0%
Total 6600 · Payroll Expenses	19,929.18	56,915.56	-36,986.38	35.0%
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7000 · Membership Promo	300.00	8,000.00	-7,700.00	3.8%
7010 · Endowment Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7011 · Nat. Info. Conf.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7020 · Americanism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7021 · Baseball	106.00	350.00	-244.00	30.3%
7022 · Boys State	1,698.49	2,325.00	-626.51	72.7%
7024 · Oratorical	0.00	4,325.00	-4,325.00	0.0%
7025 · Gov. Survey & Educ.	0.00	6,900.00	-6,900.00	0.0%
7026 · Boy Scouts	0.00	3,080.00	-3,080.00	0.0%
7031 · Legislative	0.00	850.00	-850.00	0.0%
7040 · Children & Youth	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00	0.0%
7041 · Coord C&Y	0.00	515.00	-515.00	0.0%
7050 · Vets Rehab	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7051 · MVAD Support	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
7052 · Vets Economics	0.00	750.00	-750.00	0.0%
7060 · Public Relations	0.00	215.00	-215.00	0.0%
		500.00	-500.00	0.0%

**American Legion of Montana
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 1 through October 26, 2018**

	Jul 1 - Oct 26, 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
7070 · Dist. Guests	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
7080 · Finance Committee	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.0%
7090 · National Security	0.00	415.00	-415.00	0.0%
7100 · Education & Training Committee	0.00	1,920.00	-1,920.00	0.0%
7101 · Ways & Means Committee	0.00	945.00	-945.00	0.0%
7120 · Const. & By-laws	20.00	675.00	-655.00	3.0%
7130 · Highway/Fatality Marker	0.00	365.00	-365.00	0.0%
7135 · Homeless Coord	0.00	215.00	-215.00	0.0%
7136 · Dept Emergency Response Coord	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7140 · Commanders Discretionary	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7190 · Legion Riders Liaison	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
7200 · SAL Coordinator	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
7201 · Shooting Sports	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7202 · ROTC Grant - U of M	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7203 · ROTC Grant - MSU	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7204 · Womens Vet Coord	314.00	600.00	-286.00	52.3%
7205 · Liberty House Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7206 · Centennial Committee	-711.00	900.00	-1,611.00	-79.0%
Total Expense	107,701.01	405,175.21	-297,474.20	26.6%
Net Ordinary Income	74,647.14	1,624.79	73,022.35	4,594.3%
Other Income/Expense				
4020 · SAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7210 · Decrease (Increase) mkt value	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Expense				
7211 · Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
8000 · Contingency	0.00	1,900.00	-1,900.00	0.0%
Total Other Expense	0.00	1,900.00	-1,900.00	0.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	-1,900.00	1,900.00	0.0%
Net Income	74,647.14	-275.21	74,922.35	-27.123.7%

American Legion of Montana
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of October 26, 2018

	Oct 26, 18	Oct 26, 17	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1010 · Petty Cash	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0%
1020 · First Security Bank - Checking	9,423.34	15,985.42	-6,562.08	-41.1%
1030 · Valley Bank - Checking	1,260.00	3,246.92	-1,986.92	-61.2%
1052 · First Security - Money Market	131,875.30	141,343.92	-9,468.62	-6.7%
1053 · D. A. Davidson	358,974.04	349,400.09	9,573.95	2.7%
1064 · Armed Forces C U - Endowment Fu	9,554.83	8,204.83	1,350.00	16.5%
1065 · Endowment Fund CD	8,516.86	8,516.86	0.00	0.0%
1066 · Endowment Fund CD #2	12,202.65	12,188.97	13.68	0.1%
Total Checking/Savings	531,817.02	538,897.01	-7,079.99	-1.3%
Other Current Assets				
1071 · Inventory for re-sale	2,940.50	2,940.50	0.00	0.0%
1072 · Inventory - Supplies	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.0%
1073 · Postage on Hand	227.72	227.72	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Current Assets	4,368.22	4,368.22	0.00	0.0%
Total Current Assets	536,185.24	543,265.23	-7,079.99	-1.3%
Fixed Assets				
1081 · Furniture & Equipment	8,587.56	8,587.56	0.00	0.0%
1082 · Vehicle	58,467.00	58,467.00	0.00	0.0%
1091 · Accumulated Depreciation	-60,594.00	-60,594.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	6,460.56	6,460.56	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL ASSETS	542,645.80	549,725.79	-7,079.99	-1.3%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Credit Cards				
2200 · Credit Card	0.00	162.00	-162.00	-100.0%
2210 · First National Bank of Omaha	-0.89	-0.89	0.00	0.0%
2211 · AAA Financial Services	1,057.04	1,057.04	0.00	0.0%
2212 · American Express	781.49	660.75	120.74	18.3%
2213 · American Express Business	-187.50	-187.50	0.00	0.0%
2214 · USAA MasterCard	1,551.50	471.89	1,079.61	228.8%
2215 · Citi	560.90	575.50	-14.60	-2.5%
2216 · USAA VISA	162.63	162.63	0.00	0.0%
2200 · Credit Card - Other	3,925.17	2,901.42	1,023.75	35.3%
Total 2200 · Credit Card	3,925.17	2,901.42	1,023.75	35.3%
Total Credit Cards	3,925.17	2,901.42	1,023.75	35.3%

American Legion of Montana
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of October 26, 2018

	Oct 26, 18	Oct 26, 17	\$ Change	% Change
Other Current Liabilities				
2061 · Federal Withholding	-300.00	-300.00	0.00	0.0%
2400 · Payroll Liabilities	2,112.67	2,184.85	-72.18	-3.3%
2401 · P/R Liability-Federal	-1,516.49	-669.25	-847.24	-126.6%
2402 · P/R Liability-State				
Total 2400 · Payroll Liabilities	596.18	1,515.60	-919.42	-60.7%
Total Other Current Liabilities	-3,010.65	13,443.73	-16,454.38	-122.4%
Total Current Liabilities	914.52	16,345.15	-15,430.63	-94.4%
Total Liabilities	914.52	16,345.15	-15,430.63	-94.4%
Equity				
3050 · Members Equity	24,967.88	24,967.88	0.00	0.0%
3052 · Temp. Res. - Boy Scout Schol.	2,498.33	2,498.33	0.00	0.0%
3053 · Temp. Res. - Oratorical Trust	1,405.58	1,405.58	0.00	0.0%
3054 · Resorration Reserve	17,806.25	17,806.25	0.00	0.0%
3056 · Temp Res - Education Schol	370.00	370.00	0.00	0.0%
3057 · Temp Res - Logan Park	-10,198.97	-10,198.97	0.00	0.0%
3900 · Retained Earnings	430,235.07	445,612.48	-15,377.41	-3.5%
Net Income	74,647.14	50,919.09	23,728.05	46.6%
Total Equity	541,731.28	533,380.64	8,350.64	1.6%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	542,645.80	549,725.79	-7,079.99	-1.3%