



Commander's Corner

- *Commander Mike Cooke*

Unlike the New Year, we have been working the 2021 Membership since July of 2020. Many people forget or do not realize that follows a fiscal year, July to July. Another way to look at it is, the membership year follows the Department Commander election at the Department Convention.



Mike Cooke

In actuality, many members think of membership as the yearly dues that you pay to be able to go to your local post; however, it is far more than that, so I would like to take a moment to cover some of the things it does directly affect.

When I was a new member, I often wondered how our organization was able to pay for scholarships, and all the various programs we had. Naively, I figured it was very generous individuals in my local town. I had not fully grasped the wide reach of The American Legion, and the impact my membership actually had.

Veterans assistance funds in local Posts are a prime example of you membership money at work. Most posts have created and established some sort of Veterans assistance fund and its sole purpose it to assist Veterans, their families in times of need. If you think about that, it

is such a novel concept, a group of individuals getting together for the greater good for their fellow veterans and their families. This is just one of the many publically know services we proudly take on, but it is also one of the most vital to the morale and wellbeing of our communities Veterans and their families!

Scholarships are another benefit provided by membership money. From post level scholarships all the way to National Scholarships, ranging from a couple hundred dollars to thousands of dollars. Our youth are being provided valuable education opportunities that may never have been afforded, if not for you and your membership.

So to answer the question I hear so often, you membership does make a difference, you are providing someone in need, the little push to make it one more day. You are providing the opportunity for a brilliant young mind to make a difference in the world. Most of all, you are continuing to watch out for your Brothers and Sisters in arms and their families. Now more than ever your membership is making a difference, members are working shorter schedules, getting paid less or outright unemployed due to the current situations caused by the COVID Pandemic. Many Posts throughout Wyoming are feeling the financial strain of helping their

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Membership Report

1st Vice Commander Jerry Clark

Hello Wyoming

I would like to start out by saying THANK YOU for all the work you are doing to keep membership moving in the right direction. We have met our 85% goal due on 10 Feb 2021. We are 4.35% away from our next goal of 90%. Members who have not renewed by 24 Feb 2021 will receive another renewal notice from national.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. The American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

So if you have served one day on active duty and have an honorable discharge you are now eligible to join the American Legion.

Our Department Commanders goal is to get all posts on My Legion. Call your district Commander they will show you how easy it is. You can do it on a smart phone also.

Finally I would like to say thank you for all the calls, prayers and cards. Com-

mander Cooke put out at Mid Winter that I was not doing well health wise. That's not correct I am an essential employee at work and my boss would not let me attend Mid Winter.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns, call or email me at 307-272-5907 or sparky198120@yahoo.com. Or contact Legion Headquarters.

*Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commanders
Jerry Clark*



Jerry Clark

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION SITES AND DATES

April 10/11; April 17/18; April 24/25

District	Membership to Date %	Date, Site & Time
District No. 1		Date: 04/25/2021
		Time: 1:00 pm
		Lunch: 12:00 pm
Site: Post 24 – Rock Springs		
District No. 2		Date: 04/24/2021
		Time: TBD
		Lunch: TBD
Site: Post 2 – Lusk – Elks Lodge		
District No. 3		Date: 04/11/2021
		Time: 1:00 pm
Site: Post 33 - Lander Lunch: TBD		
District No. 4		Date: 04/18/2021
		Time: 9:00 am
Site: Post 26 - Powell Lunch: after meeting		
District No. 5		Date: 04/10/2021
		Time: 9:00 am
Site: Post 7 - Sheridan Lunch: after meeting		
District No. 6		Date: 04/17/2021
		Time: 1:00 pm
		Lunch: TBD
Site: Post 14 - Laramie		

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2021 Department Convention

17-20 June 2021

Registration Form on page 10



Taps...



Post Everlasting 2021

District 1

Post 24 Rock Springs

Joseph Hyatt (1)

Squadron 24 Rock Springs

Richard Pinney (6)

Post 88 LaBarge

Donovan Boe (45)

District 2

Post 63 Lingle

O'Leary Flock (49)

Post 70 LaGrange

Robert Seely (17)

Post 75 Chugwater

Lawrence Welty (22)

District 3

Post 2 Casper

John Gilbert, Sr (20)

Beecher Strube (38)

Herbert Souza (3)

George Grenier (21)

District 4

Post 20 Cody

Charles Wright (33)

Post 29 Basin

Eugene Schlattmann (20)

Ralph Wilson (6)

District 5

Post 25 Moorcroft

Oliver Stenbak (11)

James Reeves (8)

Post 42 Gillette

John Norfolk (55)

John Gazzolo (13)

District 6

Post 6 Cheyenne

Wayne Johnson (33)

Gailen Leisky (31)

Post 54 Saratoga

Val Evans (47)

Please note...the number in the parenthesis denotes the continuous years of service to the American Legion.

Commander's Corner From page 1

members in need. These Posts have stepped up and found additional ways to generate funds to help as best they can, and they are making a difference in their community.

I encourage you to reach out in your community to your local post members, Veterans and their families. Talk to them and see how they are doing, you might find someone who is willing to help or they may be in need of help. You will never know if you do not make the effort. You may be surprised, but that phone might just brighten someone's day, it is your choice to make a difference, I hope you to do just that. A simple act of kindness can change the world in someone's eyes and make the day brighter for everyone.

Since being elected Department Commander in June of 2019, I have witnessed how the members of The Department of Wyoming have selflessly given to their fellow legionnaires, Families and Local Veterans. It has been almost a year since our world spun into chaos and without skipping a beat you all stepped up and have done extraordinary things in you communities. Keep up the great work and continue making a difference!

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

— President John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)

God Bless America

Mike Cooke

Department Commander

The American Legion Department of Wyoming 2021 Membership Report

Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	Rock Springs	435	349	80.23%	21	1	Van Tassell	36	28	77.78%	3
28	Green River	255	219	85.88%	0	4	Lusk	34	30	88.24%	0
36	Fl. Bridger	135	111	82.22%	4	5	Torrington	179	137	76.54%	15
40	Cokeville	12	11	91.67%	0	8	Douglas	215	176	81.86%	7
41	Evanston	52	37	71.15%	7	9	Glenrock	55	46	83.64%	1
43	Jackson	121	78	64.46%	25	10	Wheatland	96	75	78.13%	7
46	Alpine	43	38	88.37%	0	15	Glendo	29	27	93.10%	0
47	Pinedale	53	41	77.36%	4	56	Veteran	10	5	50.00%	4
49	Afton	30	20	66.67%	6	63	Lingle	29	24	82.76%	1
55	Kemmerer	43	39	90.70%	0	70	La Grange	15	10	66.67%	3
78	Big Piney	20	15	75.00%	2	75	Chugwater	11	13	118.18%	0
88	La Barge	17	13	76.47%	1	95	Guernsey	38	34	89.47%	0
D-1		1216	971	79.85%	63	D-2		747	605	80.99%	30
	85% - 02/10/2021						85% - 02/10/2021				
Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
2	Casper	293	270	92.15%	0	11	Lovell	42	32	76.19%	4
16	Powder River	10	3	30.00%	6	18	Thermopolis	27	23	85.19%	0
19	Riverton	92	74	80.43%	4	20	Cody	65	53	81.54%	2
31	Dubois	25	17	68.00%	4	26	Powell	200	159	79.50%	11
33	Lander	262	227	86.64%	0	29	Basin	61	50	81.97%	2
61	Pavillion	16	9	56.25%	5	32	Greybull	35	24	68.57%	6
81	Ft. Washakie	27	23	85.19%	0	44	Worland	205	168	81.95%	6
96	Arapaho	14	16	114.29%	0	85	Meeteetse	29	23	79.31%	2
						91	Heart Mountain	13	16	123.08%	0
D-3		739	639	86.47%	0	D-4		677	548	80.95%	27
	85% - 02/10/2021						85% - 02/10/2021				
Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2021 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
3	Newcastle	88	77	87.50%	0	6	Cheyenne	1254	1075	85.73%	0
7	Sheridan	245	185	75.51%	23	14	Laramie	338	322	95.27%	0
13	Buffalo	175	148	84.57%	1	21	Burns	10	8	80.00%	1
25	Moorcroft	42	33	78.57%	3	54	Saratoga	101	88	87.13%	0
42	Gillette	380	319	83.95%	4	60	Pine Bluffs	58	46	79.31%	3
45	Sundance	30	24	80.00%	2	64	Medicine Bow	36	32	88.89%	0
80	Hulett	44	44	100.00%	0	77	Albin	10	10	100.00%	0
90	Kaycee	11	13	118.18%	0	93	Cheyenne	13	11	84.62%	1
307	Gillette College	10	14	140.00%	0	122	Rawlins	69	55	79.71%	4
D-5		1025	857	83.61%	14	D-6		1889	1647	87.19%	0
	85% - 02/10/2021					DISTRICT TOTALS		6293	5267	83.70%	82
Current as of:		10-Feb-2021									
						17 HQ.		87	51	58.62%	23
						DEPARTMENT GOAL		6370	5318	83.49%	97
						NATIONAL GOAL		6211	5318	85.62%	0
						85% - 02/10/2021					

Chaplain's Corner

During the Civil War men followed her into battle.

While going to school as a child we would Pledge allegiance to her.

We see her around town and more on certain holidays.

When we were in the military, we arose in the morning, to see her at reveille.

On a military base, we honored her at the end of the duty day, with the retreat ceremony.

While on a military base we could see her all around.

When we deployed to another country, she was with us.

During our countries battles, she

proudly flew over us.

Men and woman over the years, have bled, and cried, in her presence.

I retired from the military after 20 honorable years, she was handed to me, for safe keeping.

One day when I am laid to rest, she will be draped over my casket.

She is our American Flag, cherish her and remember what she stands for!

By Brian Higgins

People may be able to burn our American flag but those same people will never harm the flag, I carry in my heart.

By Brian Higgins



WYOMING Legionnaire - Auxiliare

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THE AMERICAN LEGION HEART MOUNTAIN POST 91 PROUDLY SUPPORTS AND ENDORSES



JERRY CLARK

**DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER
2021-2022**



Deanna Hurless

for Department Finance Officer

Husted-Pendleton Post 14

**Endorses Deanna Hurless for Department of Wyoming Finance Officer and
would like your full support**

Deanna joined the American Legion in 2009. She served in the U.S. Air Force as a Ground Radio Communications Specialist and was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB. She currently works for a credit union as the Real Estate Lending Manager, she has worked there for 25 years. She served as Post 14 2nd Vice-Commander (appointed) Dec 2010-2011 and (elected) 2011- 2012, Post 14 Commander 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, Post 14 Finance Officer 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, District 6 Vice-Commander 2015-2016 and Department Finance Officer since 2016. She is currently Post 14's Adjutant since 2017. She also is a member of the Laramie Veterans Honor Guard.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The American Legion Department of Wyoming

****PRESENTS****

Wyoming Game and Fish

Commissioners License Raffle

Drawing May 8, 2021

\$50 / ticket

Tickets available at your
local Wyoming posts or Department Headquarters
307-634-3035

*Once issued, license can't be cancelled, fees refunded or transferred to another individual

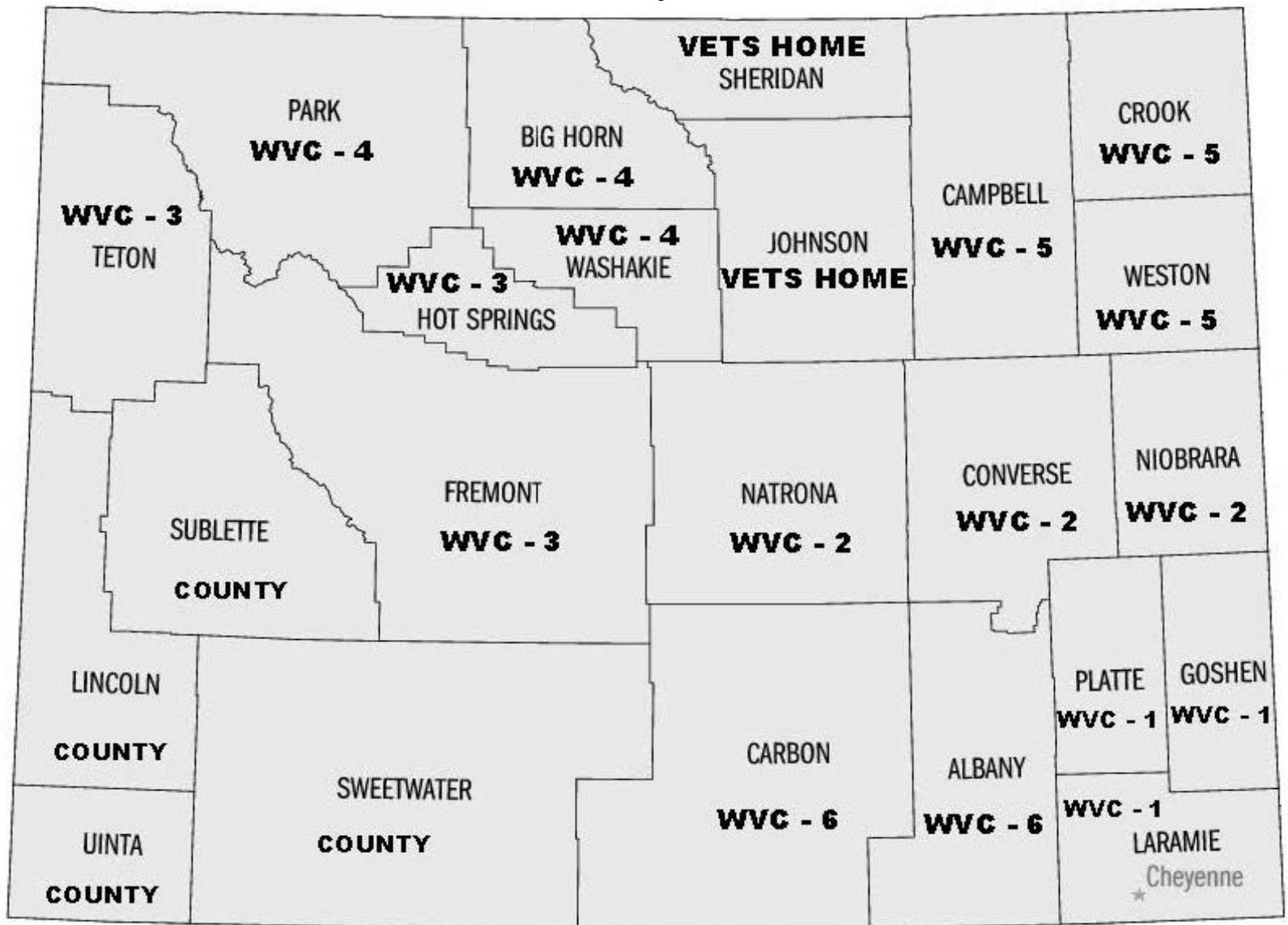
*Elk hunts in Grand Teton Nat. Park aren't covered by this license!

Proceeds to benefit the programs of the American Legion Department of Wyoming



WYOMING VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER COVERAGE

As of January 21, 2021



Organization	Code	VSO Name	Phone Number	VSO Email
Veterans Commission	WVC - 1	Ms. Stephanie Davis Ms. Crystal Emig	307-274-7747 307-256-1778	stephanie.davis@wyo.gov crystal.emig@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 2	Mr. Dave McDonell Mr. Marshall Griffin	307-258-1100 307-315-4187	david.mcdonell@wyo.gov marshall.griffin@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 3	Ms. Yvonne Snider	307-438-2101	yvonne.snider@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 4	Mr. Brad Cline	307-250-3890	brad.cline@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 5	Ms. Sandy McFarland	307-687-5396	sandy.mcfarland@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 6	Ms. Emily Study	307-399-1821	emily.study@wyo.gov
Veterans Home	Vets Home	Ms. Lisa Griffith	307-620-0884	lisa.griffith@wyo.gov
Sweetwater County	County	Ms. Sam Esquibel	307-922-5442	esquibels@sweet.wy.us
Lincoln County	County	Ms. Nancy Stafford	307-877-3110	staffordn@sweet.wy.us
Sublette County	County	Ms. Billie Hamby	307-367-4877	hambyb@sweet.wy.us
American Legion	Cheyenne	Mr. Dwight Null	307-433-2751	dwight.null@va.gov
DAV	Cheyenne	Mr. Leroy Kenner	307-433-2752	DAV.VBACHY@va.gov
VFW	Cheyenne	Ms. Melissa Gilliam	307-778-7340	melissa.gilliam@va.gov

DISTRICT & POST NEWS

Post 6 - Cheyenne

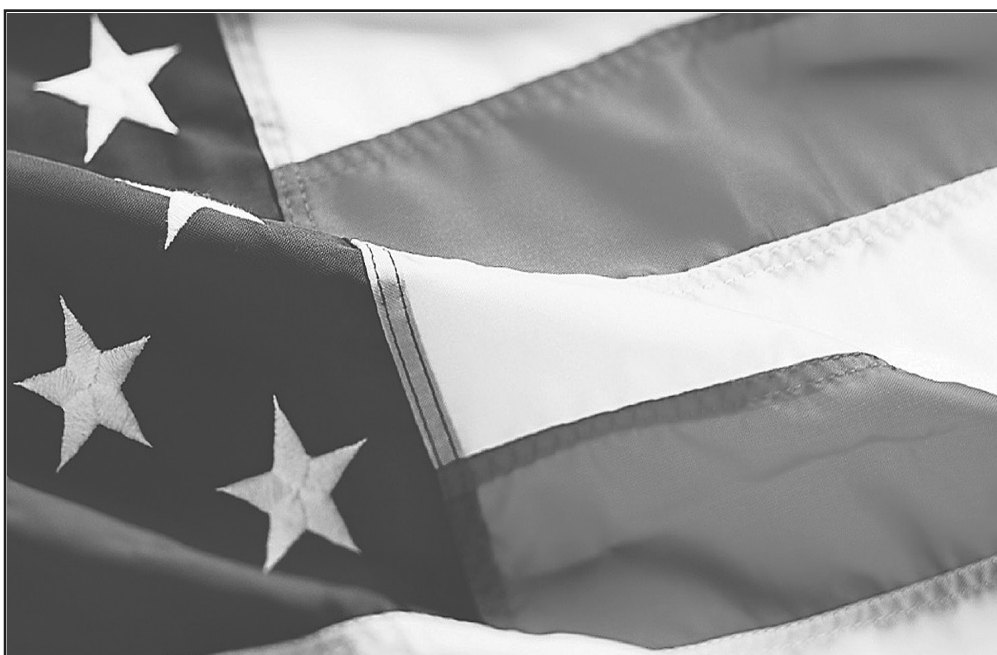
Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires!
We have a great group of people in and around the post who make us look good. One such group is our very own, Post 6 Honor Guard! These men and women are led by Honor Guard Commander Terry Harbick and Drill Commander Bruce Koerwitz.

Before going out to an interment, members are given assignments by Terry. Members either carry a flag or are on the firing team/squad. One member is assigned as the bugler. Once they get to the assigned site; they go through a quick dry run. This ensures everyone is on the same page. Bruce gives several commands to the firing team/squad to ensure they are ready. Afterwards, they wait for the funeral procession to arrive. As of this writing, the Honor Guard has performed 95 military honors for our fallen comrades in 2020. Of these, four have been at the Cheyenne National Cemetery.

The Honor Guard does more than just perform military honors. They received a special invite to the Cheyenne National Cemetery opening ceremony. They also, march in the Cheyenne Frontier Parade, The Christmas Parade, sporting events opening ceremonies and the list goes on. They sometimes hold flag folding classes for school age children. Explaining not only the proper way to fold a flag, but why it's folded that way. For more information on how to join the Honor Guard contact Terry Harbick. He can be reached at the post most normal business hours.

So, if you see any of these fine men and women at the post, please, thank them for what they do. They make us PROUD!

*For God and Country, Bill Barnes,
Commander - Post 6*



F R E E D O M
IS NEVER FREE

2021 – Mid-Winter – Gillette



Congratulations Post 42.



L-R – Cmdr Mike Cooke – District 5 Cmdr Deb French – 2nd VC Mike Hobbs – Post 3 All Time High Award.



L-R – Cmdr Mike Cooke – District 2 Cmdr Doug Johnson – 2nd VC Mike Hobbs – Post 75 All Time High Award.



L-R – Cmdr Mike Cooke –Lin Bashford – 1st VC Post 26– 2nd VC Mike Hobbs – Post 26 All Time High Award.

2021 – Mid-Winter – Gillette



New Charter – Gillette College – Post 307.



L-R – Cmdr Mike Cooke – 2nd VC Mike Hobbs – District 1 VC Rich Keating – Post 28 All Time High Award.



L-R – Cmdr Mike Cooke – District 2 Cmdr Doug Johnson – 2nd VC Mike Hobbs – Post 15 All Time High Award.



Members of the Sons attending Mid-Winter.

BEE

ON THE MOVE FOR

VETERANS

From the Heart of the Hive

Welcome to 2021! I hope you all had a safe and healthy holiday season, and that the new year has brought more sunshine than the last.

I want to thank everyone for getting their midyear reports in! Each member contributes to these from members at the Unit level participating in the programs, to Unit chairmen writing up reports, to Department Chairmen who compile these individual stories into a cohesive narrative that accurately represents the Department of Wyoming. The reports compiled are important not only on the National stage but a critical part of the Department of Wyoming's history.

Please plan to attend the Spring

Meeting for your district! The schedule, with locations and times, are printed in this issue of the paper. If you have trouble finding it please do not

hesitate to reach out to your Unit or District President, or to me!

If your Unit has not had me visit and would like to there is still time! Just give me a call or send me an email and we can work together to come up with a date.

I look forward to seeing you all at Spring meetings!

In service of our Country and her Veterans,

Gina Dusel



Gina Dusel



News from the Hive

Tammy Harris Membership Chairman



I hope that this article finds you all in good health. As I sit here trying to write this article, the wind is blowing outside and I am thankful to be in a warm house where I am sheltered from the storm that is blowing in. It is a good day to hunker down, make a cup of tea or hot chocolate and snuggle under a blanket. Just as I want to stay in, my bees are staying in and sheltered. Even though they are staying in, they are still busy. My bees are busy keeping each other warm and taking care of their home. Just like bees, this is the time of year for us to take care of each other and to take care of our Units.

The last year has been very challenging for us all. The shutdowns a year ago kept many of us from meeting or getting together for any type of social gathering. Your unit may have members who do not feel comfortable coming out, or being around groups of people. The limits on gatherings, the not wanting to be in large groups and now the cold, winter weather all serve to keep people home and away from others. All of this helps contribute to a feeling of being disconnected from others. I know I've felt it these last few months. Now, more than ever, we need to be checking in on our members who we don't see, or who haven't renewed their memberships yet.

This membership year has certainly been challenging for many of our units. As a Department, we are sitting a little behind where we were at a year ago. We have approximately 300 fewer members transmitted this year than we did at this time last year. There could be many reasons for this. Is your Unit membership chair getting renewals in? Is the chair transmitting those renewals or new memberships to Department? Or, are

you just not getting the renewals you normally get? These can all be contributing to our lower numbers this year.

Even in the midst of all that is going on for our units this year, I have every confidence that we can reach our goals of just one new member over last year for each of our Units. The week of caring and sharing will be coming up in April. It is a week that National has set aside for Units to reach out to all of our members, and especially to those who haven't renewed yet. We can reach out to our members before this week to check on them, tell them they are missed and to see if they need anything. Knowing that someone cares might make the difference for them.

One of the areas that also might get overlooked for membership is our junior membership. If you don't have an active Junior program, you may not get renewals. One Unit in the Department helps offset this by passing the hat at its Christmas party to take donations to pay for junior memberships. They ensure that all junior members keep their membership current. Perhaps your Unit has someone who has traditionally been an active member but can't afford to renew this year. Could your unit pay that members dues for the year? Our members are facing a variety of challenges this year but if we pull together we can make it through this crazy time.

I want to leave you with a small word of encouragement from Helen Keller as we move through the last half of this membership year—“alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.” Keep up the great work and together, we will all survive and thrive through these challenging times.

Buzzin' Around

from the
DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Thank you to all the Units that have emailed or called with questions. It is great to hear from you and to try and boost moral.

District Assessments and Poppy Invoices will be emailed by March 15, 2021. If you've paid for your poppies, the amount won't be listed.

Has your Unit changed the Dues Amount for next year? If so, please notify the Department by

April 15, 2021.

I don't know if you feel the same, but Covid has had an affect on Auxiliary. We don't seem to have the comradery due to not having meetings. The personal touches and perhaps “pride” is dimming. Let's try and bring back the light of helping Veterans and our Community. Plan on attending your Spring Conference and get a spark.

SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE PLAN ON ATTENDING

April 10, 2021	District 5	9 am Sheridan
April 11, 2021	District 3	1 pm Lander
April 17, 2021	District 6	9 am Laramie
April 18, 2021	District 4	9 am Powell
April 24, 2021	District 2	TBA Lusk Elks Lodge
April 25, 2021	District 1	1 pm Rock Springs Post 24

BE WATCHING -- District Presidents will be sending information to their Units.



2021 Department Convention

17-20 June 2021

Registration Form on page 10





American Legion Auxiliary News



In the Clouds

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Bessler, Unit 26
 Delores Quashnick, Unit 15, 46 yrs a member-
 Michele Hinderliter, Unit 47
 Elaine Perreault, Unit 77
 Betty Taberna, Unit 7
 Sandy Zilner, Unit 7, Sgt at Arms
 Janice Lytle, Member since 2016, Unit 26
 Leong, Member since 1965, Unit 26
 Edna Dooley

SYMPATHY

Linda Ellefson, Unit 80, Loss of husband
 Loretto Preuss, Unit 80
 Patricia Arndt Family, Unit 19, Pat Arndt
 Family of Barber Bessler-Jodi Arneson, Unit 26,
 Barbara Bessler
 Berry Rigeley, Son of Delores Quashnick
 Kermit Zilner, Husband of Sandy Zilner
 Jean Arzy, Unit 7, Death of mother
 Pauline Fitchner, Unit 7, Death of husband
 Deb Kipp, Unit 80, Death of Mother
 Joan Copeland, Unit 6, Death of Brother
 Jane Miller, Unit 6, Death of Father
 Laila Illoyay, Unit 47, Death of Mother
 Evva Bonzelman, Unit 80, Death of Husband
 Patsy Addington, Unit 7
 Betty Taberna, Unit 7
 Maxine Nyquist, Unit 7, Death of Husband
 Kay Embree, Unit 64, Death of Uncle
 Anna Huntley, Unit 64, Death of Great Uncle
 Lisa Williamson, National Chairman, Death of Mother
 Susan Layman, Loss of mother, Unit 33
 Trudy Zaffarano, Loss of mother, Unit 26
 Leslie Cain, Father in law, Unit 95
 Barbara Turnbull, Death of father, Unit 28
 Tom Nemic, Death of father, Unit 28
 Tony Nemic, Death of father, Unit 28

**Units please make sure
 you send your Chaplain
 form to
 Chaplain Judith Killion
 PO Box 941;
 Green River WY 82935,
 email: judithkillion1949@
 icloud.com**

GET WELL

Jeannie Hale, Cataract Surgery, Unit 47
 Margaret Nobel, Illness, Unit 47
 Diana Stelling, Illness, Unit 47
 Keith and Kathy Davidson, Illness, Unit 7
 Alice Coolet, Surgery, Unit 26
 Terry Gray, Illness
 Maggie Jacobs, Illness, UNIT 26
 Lilly Duncan, Illness, Unit 28
 Tony Niemic, Illness, Unit 28
 Shane Harris, Illness, Unit 28
 Melba Bennett, Broken Ribs, Unit 7
 Judy Thorson, Back surgery, Unit 15
 Eva Burton, Illness, Unit 15
 Mike Petsch, Recovering, Unit 15
 Dorothy Williams, Illness, Unit 15
 Glenn Robbins, Recovering, Unit 15
 Josie Sanchez Pacheco, Illness, Unit 6
 Katherine Martinez, Illness, Unit 6
 Willene Nedens, Surgery, Unit 63
 Pauline Fitchner, Ill, Unit 7
 Rhonda Manke, Knee Surgery, Unit 25
 Shirley Anderson, Illness, Unit 80
 Chas Nemic, Unit 28

THINKING OF YOU

Susan Nagel, Unit 7
 Mary Lee Stopka, Unit 7
 Bernice Gertsch, Unit 6
 Dora Jones, Unit 6
 Congratulations
 Baylee and Zack Fryer, Wedding, Unit 28
 Stephanie Dupape, Unit 28
 Gina Harding-Dusel

THANK YOU

Diane Meidinger, Unit 26
 Martie Harbick, Unit 6
 Larry Simons, Unit 26, For carved cowboys
 Sherry Bushman and Veterans Run Team, Unit 28, For
 a great Veterans Run
 Willine Nedens, Unit 63, Service
 Brenda Widhalm, Unit 46, Service
 Brenda Aholt, Unit 40, Service
 Anne Metzler, Unit 19, Service and Cards
 Senator Barraso, Girls State Material
 Miss Daisy, Unit 28, Caring and Sharing
 District 1, Hosting Fall Workshop

CONGRATULATIONS

Rebecca and Brady Turnbull, Birth of Sailor, Unit 28
 Casey Turnbull, engagement, Unit 28

From the Chaplains Desk: Finding Our Perspective

It feels like forever since we have chatted. Much has happened in my personal life as I am sure it has in yours. In our public and community lives there seems to be change, unrest, mistrust, and a plethora of other emotions and actions which create a sense of unsettledness. Let's face it, as Thomas Paine once said, these are the times that try men's souls. We cannot deny that America is in crisis, from within and without. We face new threats of terrorism on our shores, millions of angry and disenfranchised citizens, a reduction in moral standards, and a secular elite intent on restricting foundational principles such as religious liberty and freedom of speech. Although we are protected from the backlash of much of this just by the fact that we live in a rural area we still feel the rumbling tremors of unrest unlike anything we have felt before. As I sit at the Chaplains Desk I am, now more than ever overwhelmed by the need to pray for our country, our leaders, those in authority at all levels, and those who have the responsibility of protecting our freedoms. Praying for our country, on all levels is more important now than it has ever been. I am not talking about praying politics-I am talking about real bible-based prayer.

Praying for our country puts us in good company. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." We pray because, in our own wisdom and strength, we are insufficient for the challenges we face. While one of the most appealing things about American people is our indomitable "can-do" spirit, the fact is, sometimes we "can't do"! We have nowhere else to go, except to God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Kneeling before God in times of overwhelming crisis is also a part of our American DNA.

In -2 Chronicles 7:14 we read: "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face..." God calls His people to pray for the needs of their com-

munity, their nation, their world. If we want God to move on our behalf, we must humble ourselves in prayer. All prayer is most effective when practiced in faith. Though it's easy to become discouraged, we must remember that nothing is too hard for the Lord. He can turn any situation around and draw any person to Himself. It is not our responsibility to judge the situation but our responsibility to be persistent in faith. James 5:16 tells us: "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." When we seek The Lord in prayer on behalf of our nation, there are God-ordained results. We may never meet the political leaders whom we pray for on a daily basis. We may never meet the citizens that our prayers affect, but God's word promises that our prayers do, in fact, make a difference. It's a promise we can trust. Investing time in prayer is investing time in God, in God's plan. It is investing in the future of our families and the legacies of our freedoms.

As we pray for our nation and our leaders there are some things to keep in mind. We must always remember to put our personal desires and agendas aside and be willing to pray for those whose agenda we may not always support. Praying for them does not mean we support them. We can ask that God grant them wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. These things alone could change their outlook, change their policies, change how they do things. Asking God to reveal truth to them or to show them how to practice truth in what they do does not support their private agendas. It takes the process out of the realm of the personal and puts the situation into Gods Hands. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" James 5:16". Pray the earnest prayer for our leaders and our country and in that prayer give God the power to make the intervention, instead of asking Him to do your will. As believers, we are called to pray for all our leaders in government. This can be difficult since we may strongly disagree with our elected or appointed leaders. God does not

See Chaplain page 10



American Legion Auxiliary News



2020 2021 Endorsements

President Department of Wyoming American Legion Auxiliary 2021-2022

Don Stough Unit #33 of Lander would like to endorse Shareen Johnson for the office of Department President for 2021-2022 year.

In addition to serving as Unit President/Treasurer for the past 17 years, Shareen has served in all of the Department offices including District #3 President in 1993 – 1994 & 1994 – 1995 as well as Department President in 1998-1999 & 2013-2014. She has held many chairmanships on the Department level including National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Finance Committee, and Membership. The chairmanship she is most familiar with is Girls State, having served on staff for a total of 30 years, 13 of those as Director. She also served as a Northwestern Division Vice Chairman for two years – National Security and Poppies.

Shareen has been a member of the Auxiliary for 39 years and is eligible for membership under her father, John Sturgeon, a Korean & Vietnam veteran. He was a naval submariner, who retired after 20 years of service as a Master Chief Petty Officer, and who served as the Department of Wyoming

Commander in 1986-1987. She is also eligible through her twin sister, Kathleen Ebert, who retired after 20 years in the U.S. Navy. Shareen is definitely part of a Legion Family with two sisters, two daughters, and four granddaughters all belonging to the Auxiliary. In addition, her son, son-in-law, and grandson are members of the Sons of The American Legion.

Personally, after working as a medical transcriptionist for 21 years for a group of orthopedic surgeons, in 2008, Shareen began working for the State of Wyoming, Department of Health, at the Wyoming Life Resource Center, a facility for the intellectually disabled, where she manages the health care clinic and the clients' medical records. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, bowling, crocheting/knitting, and reading.

Your support for Shareen Johnson as the 2021-2022 President, Department of Wyoming, American Legion Auxiliary, would be greatly appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted,
Members of Don Stough Unit #33, Lander, Wyoming*

Department Executive Secretary - Treasurer

Powder River Unit 13 is proud to endorse Peggy Sullivan for the Office of Department Secretary Treasurer. Peg likes her position saying, "It gives her a reason to

get going in the day". We ask that you consider Peggy for the Office of Department Secretary Treasurer.

Powder River Unit 13

Endorsement National Executive Committeewoman

Unit 25 of Moorcroft proudly endorses Vicki Paddock for the office of National Executive Committeewoman for the 2021-22 and 2022-2023 terms.

Vicki Paddock is currently serving as the National Executive Committeewoman for the American Legion Auxiliary of Wyoming. She was born in Gillette, Wyoming and has lived her all her life in or near Moorcroft.

At the Department level, she has served as President, Vice President, Chaplain and Historian. She also served Chairman for the following: Community, Junior Activities, Constitution and By-

Laws, Public Relations and Membership. Vicki has been her Unit President for 17 years and District 5 President for 4 years.

She has been a member for 18 years and is eligible under her father Melburn (Bill) Moser who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Other family members who belong to Unit 25 are her daughter Jessi Polk and her granddaughters, Taya Davis, Brook Paddock, Ruby and Gracie Polk. Her son, Cody Davis, is also a member of the SAL in Moorcroft. Her father and mother were both members of the Legion and the Auxiliary until their passing.

Endorsement ALA Department of Wyoming Vice President

Tom Whitmore Unit 28, of Green River, Wyoming proudly supports and endorses Tammy Harris for the position of ALA Department of Wyoming Vice President, for the 2021-2022 Auxiliary year.

Tammy has held many and varied positions at the Unit, District, and Department level for both the Auxiliary and WALRUS throughout her seven years as an Auxiliary volunteer. With the experience gleaned working as a membership chair, secretary, historian, and president Tammy feels confident in her ability to work with all levels of membership, from individual member to the National stage.

Tammy holds her Auxiliary mem-

bership through her husband of 23 years, Shane Harris. Shane proudly served in the Marine Corps from 1991-1995 as an armorer. She is also eligible under her grandfather Albert Walker, who served as a soldier during WWII.

Tammy has helped countless members of her community as an attorney, is an active member of her church, and enjoys tending her bees and chickens. In her spare time, Tammy loves exploring the great Wyoming outdoors with Shane, and their son Garrett.

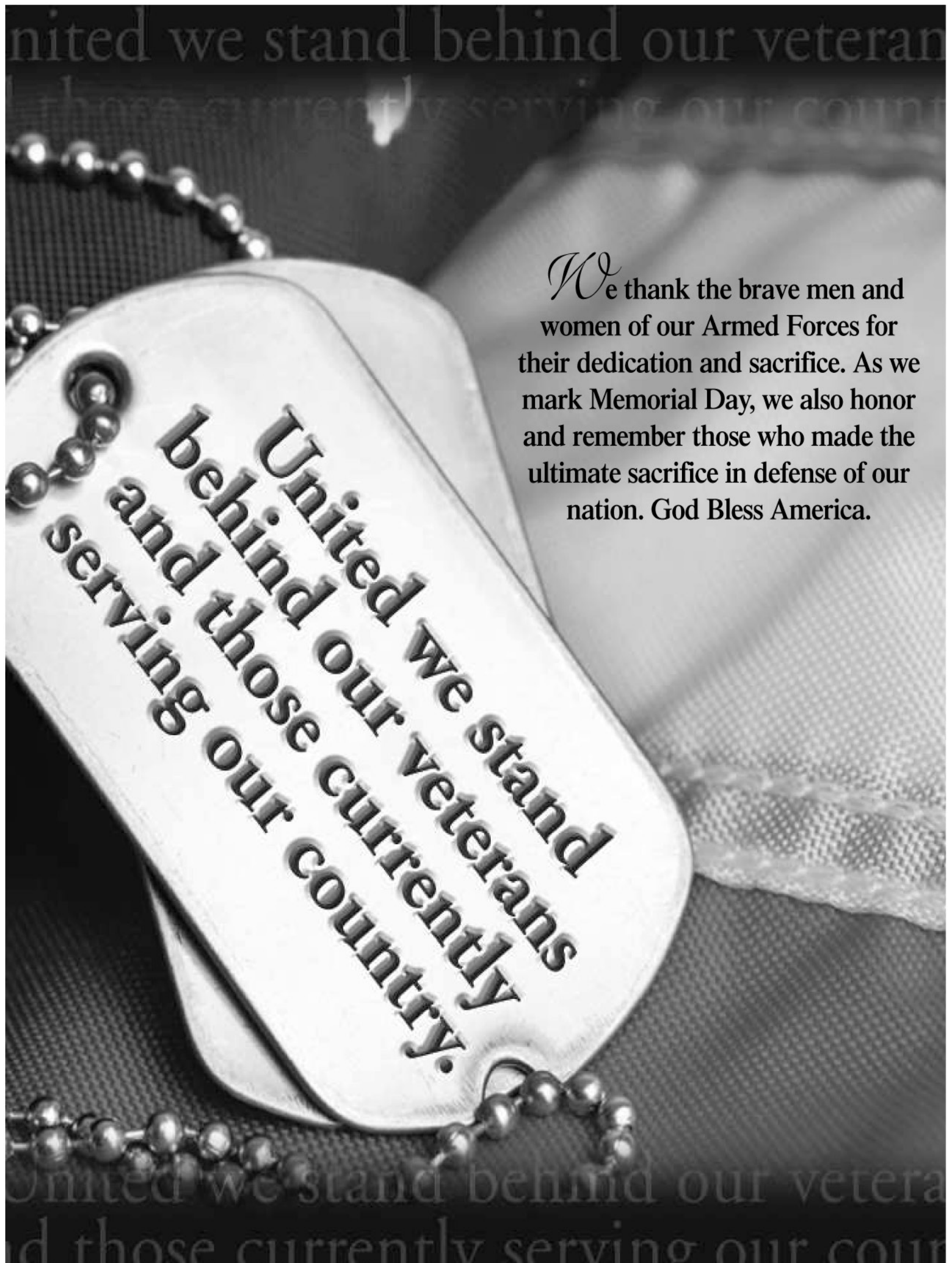
Tammy looks forward to the opportunity of serving Wyoming veterans and the Department of Wyoming Auxiliary membership in expanded ways, if elected to this position.

Attention Wyoming Veterans!

If you are looking for a job,
please contact your nearest Department of
Workforce Services office. Our trained staff
will assist you
in all aspects of the job search.

Remember, all of our services are free.
You served our country, now let us serve you.





We thank the brave men and women of our Armed Forces for their dedication and sacrifice. As we mark Memorial Day, we also honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. God Bless America.



American Legion Auxiliary News



Wyoming Girls State

The 2021 Wyoming Girls State Session will be held on the Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, starting on Sunday, June 6th, and ending on Saturday, June 12th. As participation in the Girls State program has dwindled over the several years, it is our goal this year to share information about the Girls State program with every resource, reach out to all qualified female Junior & Senior students who might wish to participate, and consequently increase the level of participation. Allowing Seniors to apply/attend is a change the Department feels is very important as, through no fault of their own, they were unable to attend the 2020 Wyoming Girls State session due to it being cancelled secondary to the pandemic. It would be helpful if all Auxiliary members would help get the word out to eligible candidates that now is the time to apply for Girls State. If you personally know of a student you feel would make a good Girls State Delegate, either provide the student with information concerning the program or contact your Unit Girls State chairman and provide her with that student's name and contact information. The first deadline isn't until April 1st, so there is still plenty of time increase the number of Delegates and provide our young people with this wonderful educational experience.

Quota sheets were due by November 15th; however, I have not yet heard from all of the Units. As we use the quota sheet information for session planning, it is very im-

portant that each Unit submit one, even if it is just to say that a Unit will not be participating in the Girls State program this year. Please mail or email them to me as soon as possible. Girls State packet information has been uploaded onto the Department webpage. Please make sure that information is shared with the Unit Girls State chairman.

Girls State fees will include the \$30 Delegate processing fee which is due with the first set of paperwork on April 1st as well as the Delegate fee which is due on May 1st. Please remember that the Delegate fee has been raised to \$300. Although all monies are to be sent to the Department office. As we hope to increase participation this year, Units should not allow a lack of funding to limit the number of Delegates they select. If local fundraising efforts are insufficient, funding may be available from another Unit or through the Department Girls State Committee as there are funds available in the Girls State savings account.

Weather permitting, I hope to attend all the Spring Conferences to share information about the session and answer questions. To raise funds for the Girls State program, we have started a project called "Recycling the Brand". Members have donated Auxiliary items (clothing, jewelry, etc.) in good repair that they no longer need, use, or want. These items will be available for a monetary donation to the Girls State program at the Spring Conferences as well as the Department Convention. We

are also in need of donations. If you have any Auxiliary, Legion, or SAL branded items that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the project.

If anyone is interested in serving on Girls State Staff, please contact me, as we are always looking to recruit new staff who are interested in helping with the program. It does re-

quire a commitment to stay the entire week, but the rewards are worth it! Looking forward to a very successful 2021 Girls State Session!

Respectfully submitted,
Shareen Johnson, Director (307-349-9479 or shareen.lander@gmail.com)

Dawn Kenneda, Assistant Director (307-321-0848 or rdkenneda@yahoo.com)

Girls State		
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Dawn Kenneda rdkenneda@yahoo.com	1410 Big Horn Avenue Sheridan WY 82801	321-0848
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Susan Sironen sironen2013@outlook.com	P O Box 1002 Powell WY 82435	250-6060
Cathey Raymer catheyraymer55@gmail.com	PO Box 1085 Lyman WY 82937	677-0496



Mark Your Calendar

GIRLS STATE
June 6 – 12, 2021

**POST, UNIT, SQUADRON & RIDER
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Cheyenne
June 17-19, 2021

EDUCATION

Deadlines are soon approaching, and we need to contact our counselors in our schools and promote our scholarships. The Counselors can access the scholarships from the American Legion Auxiliary website, so they can share that information with the Seniors Class. Our Senior Class members need our help to further their education and a scholarship will help them.

Here is the timeline for scholarships. The applications are due to the Units by March 1, 2021! Then the applications are forwarded to the Dept. Education Chairman, Linda Feezer by March 15, 2021 at

831 South McKinley, Casper WY 82601. I will send the winning application to the NW Division Chair, by April 1, 2021, who will select the Dept. Winners and send them to the National Chairman for final selection by April 15, 2021.

Please contact me with any questions you might have. My phone number is (307)234-0246 and I will return all calls. Written questions can be sent to the above address; my email feezerfamily@msn.com is not reliable.

Thank you,
Linda Feezer
Dept. of Wyoming Education
Chairman

Visit our Department Webpage!
www.wylegionaux.org





The District & Unit News



DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Hello there from District One.

While we are all navigating through these trying times, I am happy to report that the Units in District One are finding ways to continue their longstanding traditions of serving our veterans and communities.

While many activities have been cancelled due to restrictions on gatherings, Unit 24 was still able to hold its annual kids Christmas party. The event looked different from years past but they were still able to provide gifts and a visit (of sorts) with Santa to the children of the Legion Family at Post 24. They also continued their program of providing a large goodie/gift basket to the first baby born on Veteran's Day at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County.

Unit 36 in Fort Bridger continued its "Wreaths Across the Valley" event by laying wreaths at veteran's graves in the Bridger Valley area. They placed the wreaths on December 20 and picked them up on January 2. Unit 36 has also gathered together for crafting and sewing times. They are making crafts to sell to raise funds and have assembled some fidget items for the Sheridan VA.

Unit 47 in Pinedale set up a table outside of the local grocery store on November 9 to distribute poppies. They also sent a large box to the Sheridan VA with winter clothing, puzzle books, adult coloring books model kits and other similar items. They also participated in a Veteran's Day event attended by the Governor.

Unit 28 in Green River provided gift cards to local veterans for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also fulfilled the Christmas wish lists of the 6 veterans who are residents of Mission at Castle Rock, the local nursing home and made a substantial donation to the Music For Vets event held in January in Green River.

Our units continue to assist with the activities of the Legion Family and support their communities. We are looking forward to gathering for Spring Conference in April.



Tammy Harris

DISTRICT 2 NEWS

Unit 8 Douglas is working to promote the Americanism Essay and Girls' State. We will be helping with the American Legion High School Oratorical Competition.

Unit 9 Glenrock sent care packages to the troops for Christmas. In February they will be distributing Valentine's baskets to the locals. They are working on promoting Girls' State, poppy posters, and the Americanism essay.

Unit 95 Guernsey has worked with the local schools to promote the poppy posters. The sent cookies to Camp Guernsey for Veteran's Day, helped the VFW with their Veteran's Day dinner, and raised the avenue of flags.



Jessica York

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

This year has been difficult to navigate through due to Covid - 19. Many units are not having meetings. At Mid-Winter we learned that we need to be having meetings or we would be breaking our own Standing Rules. We do the best we can. I have visited the Lander unit so far in January. I am scheduled to visit the Riverton unit in February.

Lander Unit #33 - held a bake sale, which is a big money maker for the year. They have handmade items and baked goods for sale. They also put out the poppy cans to collect donations.

Casper Unit #2 - made a welcome to Wyoming basket for a couple who just moved here from Hawaii. The basket was filled with homemade goodies, gift cards from local businesses, get started home items and a refillable \$50 Visa card. A member picked them up from the airport and showed them around town. Then they took them shopping and out to lunch. The unit also participated in the 'Fallen Hero Memorial' which traveled through Wyoming last summer. Unit members traveled to Tor-



Ginger Rae Fross

rington and helped escort the display to Casper. Before and after it is moved it needs to be set up and taken down. The members helped with the display and ushered it to Sturgis, SD for the next stop.

Riverton Unit #19 - sent money to the three veteran's hospitals in our state. They are sending birthday and holiday cards to lonely veterans in the Cheyenne VA. One member sent lap robes to accompany her birthday greetings.

Fort Washakie & Powder River Units 81 and 16 - have not been visited yet.

I attended Mid-Winter Workshop in Gillette in January. We had a good training with great meals and snacks from the Gillette Unit members. We had several members not able to make the meeting, so we couldn't vote on anything, but learned about important information. The ladies had a Silent Auction and door prizes which made a fun time for everyone.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Ginger Fross, D3 President*

DISTRICT 4 NEWS

The District 4 Spring Conference will be held in Powell on April 18, 2021 starting at 9:00 am. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$7.00 per person. If possible, let us know if you plan to attend by emailing alaunit26@outlook.com or texting/calling 307-250-6060. All registration, meetings and lunch will be at the American Legion, 143 S Clark St, Powell. Susan Sironen, District 4 President

Unit 26, Powell

Our Unit has been busy, even with the Covid situation, or should we say especially with the Covid situation. In November, we distributed commodities and obtained donations so that we were able to give all families either a whole chicken or a turkey depending on the size of the family. This brought about the idea to fundraise to do hams for Christmas.

We raised \$452.00 for hams. Along with that, The Market of Powell grocery store donated hams and Blairs grocery store donated a pallet of turkeys and a pallet of toilet paper. This was our largest distri-



Susan Sironen

bution, with giving 292 households food boxes and either a turkey or ham. We did up goodies bags that contained fresh fruit and candy for the children of these families in Christmas bags donated by one of our members. We also made up and delivered bags of goodies to our veterans in the local care centers for Christmas.

We continue to do our pay it forward to our community and our President donates each month to the Child and Welfare Foundation fund. The Legion was closed for about 3 weeks in December, but our activities are back up and running, including Bingo, which is held on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons and is run with the help of the Post, Sons and Auxiliary. We've added some new pull-tab type of bingo games that have been very popular.

Our Cherry Pie Luncheon is scheduled for February 12. This is our fundraiser for Girls State and will be take-out only this year. We are in the beginning stages of planning the American Legion Birthday dinner, which will be held on March 20. It is planned to have 3 seating times to allow for social distancing - 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Take out will also be available. The Boy Scouts sanitize the tables between seatings.

We continue to check on our friends and neighbors and continue to hope that we will see an end to the pandemic. God bless our Healthcare workers, God bless our Troops, and God bless America.

Patty Paulsen, President
Unit 29, Basin

Is busy working on the final four reports for the year. We did not meet for January, as members were showered with other needs. As of now, we will not be having the March Birthday dinner as the Post Commander does not want to do it. We are trying to get the Girls State selections going, but there are many challenges with Covid.

Becky Allred, Unit 29, President.
Unit 32 Greybul

No meeting was held in December, but we were able to give our veterans and residents at the nursing homes in Basin and Greybull lotion and cards for Christmas. In our January meeting, we will pick our Girls State delegates. We have 4 Junior girls to pick from and hope to be able to send all 4 girls as we have not had this much interest in years. God Bless All.

Marie Gemmell, Secretary



The District & Unit News



Unit 44 Worland

Has not had a meeting for the last few months due to Covid and the holidays. We hope to start meeting again in February. The Unit is starting to sell drawing tickets. The item is a "Metal Distressed Flag" made by Matt Lungren. The funds will go to Girls State as well as Children and Youth Welfare. The drawing will be on Memorial Day

Debbie Fiends, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

Greetings from the frozen North! I do believe we have Winter among us at last. I don't like the cold any better than anyone else, but the moisture is nice. Surprisingly we have a nice bunch of reports, from most of our units.



Melba Bennett

Newcastle Unit #3

We decorated sandwich bags with American Legion Auxiliary stickers, hearts, flags, eagles and so on. We used store bought cookies this year (Covid-19).

We did enough for Newcastle and Upton Veterans with some extras for the senior citizens. Stay warm and healthy.

Unit 42 Gillette

Our Unit has decided not to do a Luau as we have in the past to raise funds for our scholarships, we give each year. This year we decided to try some different activities.

We have decided to make a cookbook and plan to have it ready to sell later this Fall. Anyone having recipe that you would like us to include you may email them to our Auxiliary email: amlegionaux@hotmail.com. Please include your name and Unit.

Our second project is we are putting together a raffle for several different items.

The third project we are looking into is selling flower arrangements for Mother's Day.

We want to thank everyone that attended the Mid-winter Conference and all shared information. It was fun and informative.

Sheridan Unit 7

Had a booth downtown for Halloween hosted by the Chamber of Commerce giving away toys, candy and patriotic items; was

well received.

Unit assisted with a Life Celebration at the Post Home for a member.

Rather than assisting a family at Christmas, funds were donated to the People's Assistance Food Bank.

Members donated hygiene products to the Food Bank instead of a gift exchange.

Plans have started for hosting Spring Conference for District 5 on April 10th

Membership is at 92.5%

Kayce Unit 90

We delivered 100 dozen cookies to the Sheridan VA for January. We have discussed having a flag retirement sometime this Spring.

Buffalo Unit 13

Our unit did not meet in November, but we did have Poppy Day. Our members were reluctant to canvas the business' because of Covid. Edie Taffner decorated jars and filled them with poppies along with an explanation about Poppy Day. The jars were placed in businesses and the banks around town. She also wrote each business and the banks a Thank you card. Because of her efforts we received over \$700 in donations. Thank you Edie

In January we started our evening with a meal for the Legion and Auxiliary members. The Americanism chairman was chosen. Two applications were received for our \$500 scholarship. Girls State Chairman has contacted and working with two teachers at the High School to get applicants. Unit is purchasing the US and Wyoming flags for the Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo.

Hulett Unit 80

The Unit met and welcomed a new member. Thank you's were read and bills paid. Members planned on attending Mid Winter but due to weather didn't make it.

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

I am very excited/happy to see some of our units get creative during the Covid time. It is not an easy time with our units and their usual projects. It was wonderful to see some of District 6 units attend Fall Workshop and look forward to them and more units attend the workshop in Gillette January 15



Martie Harbick

and 16th. These workshops are so informative and the training, ideas, suggestions, are awesome. I know everyone enjoyed getting together, sharing, visiting.

Unit 77 Albin was sad to lose their treasurer after many years of service, she stepped down. Thank you for your time, service and support. Barb McDermott was pleased and honored to celebrate Bertha Sandberg 100th birthday and still a member of the Auxiliary. Whooooohooo.

Unit 54 Saratoga continues to bake cookies, they even passed out candy for the trick or treat. What fun. Saratoga had members at the polling places for the general election, helping out in anyway they could. The history of the Star Bangled Banner was presented to all local school classes, to teach them about Veterans Day. The auxiliary hosted a dinner for Veterans and guests. Wow, ways to reach out.

Unit 60 Pine Bluffs, been busy donating money. Unit 60 was able to donate \$200.00 to Firefighters of Mullen Creek Fire as well as donating \$100.00 to the EMT's. They continue to serve juice and cookies at the rest stops as well as serving juice and cookies for the Veterans at the flu clinic. The Legion National

Commander was served dinner by the Auxiliary. It was very much appreciated. Veterans Day brought about a Veteran program and chili feed. Unit 60 got together to make 100 Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless at the Discipleship center.

Unit 64 did not submit a report. Let me remind you Unit 64 and Unit 54 were surrounded by fires.

Unit 6 collects household items, blankets, towels, sheets, clothing, etc., for the Veterans and also now with Veteran Rock, cleaning supplies for the John Edmonds home for Veterans just moving into a home of their own. Unit 6, I am sure other units write cards and letters to the CLC nursing home. Presently Unit 6 is asking for non-perishable food item to help the homeless Vets. Unit 6 has started their poppy campaign and discussing drive by poppies. The auxiliary has been working hard to attract new members, new ideas and communication. Linda Hollingsworth unfortunately lost her mother this past month to Co-vid. Our condolences to President Linda.

Please continue your good work, remember to submit highlights of your unit, send pictures, plans of what your unit is doing.

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