



WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING



Volume 28, No. 5

1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82003

December 2016

Department Commanders Notes

- Commander Bill Frye

My fellow Legionnaires... Let me first say thank you for your service and thank you for continuing to serve. This year is a pivotal turning point – for our cities, state and our Nation. With the recent elections completed many changes from the local level to our National level are in progress and now is the time for action. The American Legion has been in a decline for many years and the trend must stop now. Now more than ever I urge all Legionnaires, veterans and citizens to step forward and get involved to support one Nation under God. We recently just celebrated Veterans Day and we took time to thank those who have supported and those who still serve the greatest country on earth. Many were ridiculed or abandoned for their participation in wars and actions they selflessly shared in and while many Americans over the years protested the wars and actions of the government, the American people still supported those individuals who were there. Today still there are protests, disagreements and disputes as individuals and groups gather to fight for what they believe. It is now time for all Americans to come together for the good of the country and it is our duty as Veterans to be on the

forefront of action.

Brave men and women over hundreds of years have stood and fought side by side for what each believed was important. Many fought for what others felt was important and thousands fought for those individuals who could not. Mark Twain once stated, “In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot”. We as Veterans must stand for the sake of our country and for the American citizens as we once stood before. Let us come together for good. Not to riot, cause disrespect or to promote hatred; but to celebrate and continue the rich heritage of the United States of America. We as a country have a long history of turmoil, struggle and triumph. We have survived and prospered in the face of adversity and we have done so by coming together as one united nation. America needs your support.

Once again, I thank you all for your service to this great country and ask for your assistance in making The American Legion and our country thrive. This is the year to start turning the corner towards a brighter future and it starts with our Veterans.

Bill Frye, Dept Commander.

Thankful Thursdays Raise \$1,000,000 for Local Charities



What started out as a fundraising idea between Rodeo Rick Darcy and American Legion Past Department Commander Bryan “Alf” Grzegorzcyk six years ago has reached a milestone in Cheyenne. Last week at a Thankful Thursday being held for Project Healing Waters, which is also Department Commander Frye’s project for TAL this year; the weekly event surpassed the \$1 million mark. All of the funds raised have stayed in Laramie County to support close to fifty local charities. Boy’s State and Girl’s State have also been beneficiaries of the weekly event

Local charities have an opportunity to “host” their charity at a Thankful Thursday, which is held at AMVETS Post 10, with all funds raised going to their organization. The program is run by Alf and his group of volunteers with the charities bringing in auction items and food for the event. In addition to these items available, there are card games and 50/50 raffles held that help bring in additional funds.

Alf, who is now being dubbed “The Million Dollar Man”, is the first to say he doesn’t do it alone. In addition to his volunteers which include Department Commander Bill Frye, PDC Gary “Swanny” Swanlund, Auxiliary Past Department President Bobbie Swanlund and Post 6

Commander Shonna Wright, he has many local sponsors who help with the event through donations to the bottle draw prizes. The program continues to be successful because of these local sponsors: Alf’s Pub and Package Liquor, Top Dog Vending, Sons of the American Legion, Oak Tree Inn, Penny’s Diner, Crown Royal, Reiman Corp., Cheyenne Beverage, AMVETS Post 10, High Country Motorsports, Mister B’s Heating and Cooling, Underwood Flowers and Gifts, Lennox Auto Body Repair and Detail Center, Halladay Auto Group, Garbage Guys, Lynn Buys Houses, Blue Ridge Real Estate, Learned Law Firm, WyoLotto, Maverik, Cheyenne Stitch, the D Casino, Peppermill Bar and Liquors and Capital Lumber.

Thank you Alf for your vision and your perseverance. Thank you to the Thankful Thursday sponsors and volunteers for their continued support week after week. Thank you to the charities for embracing this concept. Thank you to the local community businesses who donate auction items to these local charities. Thank you to the patrons for being there every week and your generous donations.

*Bobbie Swanlund
Past Department President
American Legion Auxiliary*

WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE

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**Mid Winter Conference
Agenda, Motel
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Registration Form can be
found on pages 12.**



The American Legion
Department of Wyoming

A Veteran's Christmas/Thanksgiving

By Tim Senter, Chaplain

I have spent seven days praying what to share with you concerning Christmas. As I talked to Commander Persson yesterday, it rather dawned on me. We've all been there. Almost every veteran has been deployed during these very family oriented times. So, wouldn't that be boring? Therefore, maybe you would appreciate something else.

Have you ever wondered why there is so much, love, joy and excitement around Christmas. Why does the spirit of man around this time of year seem sweeter and more giving. It's not the presents, it results in the presents. It's not the increased camaraderie, it causes it. There is a reason.

First, we have to acknowledge the reason for the season. Christmas began with a babe in a manger.

Jesus was born! Isaiah's prophecy, given some 700 years before the event is true (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 11:1; John 1:14). Why the good cheer among most of the people across the globe? Why is so much love displayed? Why the prevailing sense of a great, giving spirit? Because a precious hope of eternal life for mankind sprang forth in the heavenly gift lying in a Bethlehem manger (Matthew 1:23). The child was not born into great opulence, proving that the least among us can have the same divine hope (Luke 2:16). The simplest of mankind can equally enjoy His gift (Jeremiah 17:7; Lamentations 3:26; 1 Peter 1:3-5). God

incarnate came to earth, He humbled Himself to the likeness of man purely out of love (Philippians 2:8).

Second, we see the origin of what many call, the spirit of Christmas. The good news. The Spirit of perpetual giving, the wonderful sensation of the Christmas spirit in song and in our soul is born from God's goodness and love. The Christmas Spirit has nothing to do with giving or receiving gifts. The Christmas Spirit is born from what was given. It came as the greatest and longest lasting gift mankind will ever know. The Holy Spirit is a gift brought through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38). We have the gift of righteousness through Jesus as well. (Romans 5:17) The little babe born in Bethlehem brought with Him so much love and charity it continues to this very day. God's gift through Jesus Christ our Lord is eternal life for all who believe (John 10:28; Romans 6:23).

Why all the Christmas cheer? Eternal life came to man! God gave us the greatest gift, the greatest, most perfect love, the most perfect mercy and a heavenly present on the first Christmas day. God's Spirit came with Jesus and testifies about Him. This heavenly gift's effects remain until even today! This is the Spirit of Christmas, the Holy Spirit of God. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas Post 33, District 3 and the Department of Wyoming! As Tiny Tim noted, God blessed us, every one!

From the desk of the Office Manager

By Gina Mayhan

It is this time of year that membership really takes a back seat to everything else that is going on in our lives, and boy does it ever show!

The first three goals that are needed seem to be the easy goals to meet. Many of our Posts come through with membership transmittals at least once a week if not more. But the end of November hits, and it is like someone puts the brakes on the goals. Department is lucky to get two or three transmittals a week, and that is not good.

Now is the time, during these holiday months, to reach out to our Veterans. Now would be the best time to go talk to the members in your community that have not renewed or have not signed up at all. Many of our Vets are without family this time of year, and a cup of coffee, a warm smile, an embracing hug, could mean all the world to these Vets... and so what a perfect time to open up to them about the American Legion, and what we have to offer.

Some of our Posts offered a free Thanksgiving feast. Some are offering Christmas baskets. These are things our Vets need, and in return... they can become members of that Post, or get their

memberships renewed. Pretty much a pay it forward, win/win situation. Now many of you are going to say, well if they needed to come in for a free meal or get a basket, then obviously they don't have the funds to pay dues. I enjoy a free meal (seriously... who doesn't)... and I also pay my Auxiliary dues. It is my way of saying "thank you for all you do for me"!

We have worked through the dues increase from National. It was hard on a lot of Posts, but I think with the leadership we have at our Posts, they can work through the issues with their members. As always, if problems arise, Department Headquarters is available to assist.

I have been with the Department for almost two years. This has been one of the best jobs I have had. I have met some amazing people at events I never would have attended before. And of course, the Commanders and Adjutants I work with each and every day are the best.

We work for the Vets in our community. I am honored to do that. I would especially like to honor my granddaughter, who recently graduated from basic training. I am one proud grandma!!

The American Legion Department of Wyoming 2016 Membership Report

Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	Rock Springs	445	317	71.24%	17	1	Van Tassel	34	21	61.76%	5
28	Green River	180	141	78.33%	0	4	Lusk	50	9	18.00%	29
36	Ft. Bridger	140	93	66.43%	12	5	Torrington	210	143	68.10%	15
40	Cokeville	18	19	105.56%	0	8	Douglas	200	128	64.00%	22
41	Evanston	54	38	70.37%	3	9	Glenrock	55	47	85.45%	0
43	Jackson	127	81	63.78%	14	10	Wheatland	94	66	70.21%	5
46	Alpine	35	23	65.71%	3	15	Glendo	32	22	68.75%	2
47	Pinedale	45	35	77.78%	0	56	Veteran	15	5	33.33%	6
49	Afton	22	9	40.91%	8	63	Lingle	36	20	55.56%	7
55	Kemmerer	27	28	103.70%	0	70	La Grange	13	8	61.54%	2
78	Big Piney	20	17	85.00%	0	75	Chugwater	13	7	53.85%	3
88	La Barge	18	13	72.22%	1	95	Guemsey	48	33	68.75%	3
D-1		1131	814	71.97%	34	D-2		800	509	63.63%	91
11/30/16 - 75%						11/30/16 - 75%					
Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
2	Casper	280	204	72.86%	6	11	Lovel	17	9	52.94%	4
16	Powder River	15	4	26.67%	7	18	Thermopolis	25	15	60.00%	4
19	Riverton	85	58	68.24%	6	20	Cody	70	51	72.86%	2
31	Dubois	20	4	20.00%	11	26	Powell	155	107	69.03%	9
33	Lander	163	119	73.01%	3	29	Basin	61	32	52.46%	14
61	Pavilion	21	10	47.62%	6	32	Greybul	45	28	62.22%	6
81	Ft. Washakie	40	18	45.00%	12	44	Worland	250	169	67.60%	19
						85	Meeteetse	25	20	80.00%	0
						91	Heart Mountain	12	11	91.67%	0
D-3		624	417	66.83%	51	D-4		660	442	66.97%	53
11/30/16 - 75%						11/30/16 - 75%					
Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2017 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
3	Newcastle	30	35	116.67%	0	6	Cheyenne	1450	926	63.86%	162
7	Sheridan	280	190	67.86%	20	14	Laramie	420	292	69.52%	23
13	Buffalo	145	120	82.76%	0	21	Burns	10	3	30.00%	5
25	Moorcroft	35	34	97.14%	0	54	Saratoga	120	57	47.50%	33
42	Gillette	385	234	60.78%	55	60	Pine Bluffs	45	24	53.33%	10
45	Sundance	20	5	25.00%	10	64	Medicine Bow	55	37	67.27%	4
80	Hulett	45	38	84.44%	0	77	Albin	12	11	91.67%	0
90	Kaycee	12	10	83.33%	0	93	Cheyenne	10		0.00%	8
						122	Rawlins	58	60	103.45%	0
D-5		952	666	69.96%	48	D-6		2180	1410	64.68%	225
11/30/16 - 75%						11/30/16 - 75%					
Current as of:		30-Nov-16				17 HQ.		200		202	
						DEPARTMENT GOAL		6500		4460	
						NATIONAL GOAL		6350		4460	
						11/30/16 - 75%					

Our new DSO Claims Consultant

My name is Michelle Rae Jones. I was born and raised in Sheridan WY.

I am a Navy Veteran. I have been married for 20 years to Travis Jones. We have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I joined the American Legion as a claims consultant in July 2016.

I am very thankful and excited for the opportunity to help out our veterans.



WYOMING

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DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Hello Legionnaires,

First I would like to thank the Department of Wyoming for letting me go to Indianapolis for training as Department Historian. I sure did learn a lot and now have some great connections at National Headquarters. I got firsthand experience in researching information in the National Library. If your post is looking for anything involving history, there are some full time researchers there that will dig thru and help you find what you're looking for. Case in point; Post 85 in Meeteetse found information that they had a charter with another number at an earlier time. We found the original charter and the reason they had to get a new charter. I was glad to help them find that information.

Part of my Historian training was in class for one day and the next day we were paired with national judges who were judging actual 2016 histories that were sent in by Departments. I was paired with a past National Historian. I now know a lot of details that I can pass on to all posts in Wyoming. I also have a copy of the power point training we used. I would love to share it with all historians. In order for me to share, I must establish a contact list, to include name, phone number and current email for all Historians at Post and District levels. This includes the Legion, Auxiliary, Son's of the American Legion and the Riders; each should have their own Historian. Our Legion family must work together to build our individual post and 100 year history. Once I have the list, we can share information by helping each other. I can answer any questions you may have, provide training, and send out the latest updates as needed. Working together we can share stories and photos to build our histories. For example, this photo is Post 2 Casper Junior Color guard Champions from August 1966 at National Convention. This is the kind of information we can share.

Each Post should have a copy of the "American Legion 2016 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies". On page 147 is the section about Post histories. There are two ways to present your history. Post Narrative, with instructions on how to compile and National judging standards on page 151. Post Yearbook starts on page 152 with National judging standards on page 155. Each one has their own set of rules. I would like to have an open class of history, so you can bring anything you have done, not fitting the formats listed above. We can sit down together and go over

what it would take to make it ready for judging. Did you know Post 91 Heart Mountain provided training to the government on how to load ammo on mules; or that Post 26 in Powell has the original stencil for the Wyoming cowboy that was put on vehicle plates in 1936? The hat in the cowboys's hand was down by the horse (Rawhide) on the original.

By mid Winter I should have all the Past Department Commander photos scanned from 1919 to present. If you're interested, please bring a jump drive and I will share.

I would like to ask all the Past Department Historians if they have any old photos and or documents they may have collected, and would be willing to share. I can send a jump drive to you or bring it to Mid Winter. I would like to invite you to join NADHAL (National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion). Dues are \$5. This goes to help the library at National get more materials and you help to establish the judging standards. A big change this year is you get feedback from the judges after they score your work. They are going to post the winning histories on the NADHAL web site. www.nadhal.org

Remember our 100 year celebration is fast approaching; the centennial committee is working hard on some raffles and possibly a challenge coin for fund raisers to help us get ready for the big day. According to my count we should have 57 Legion posts, 41 Auxiliaries, 20 SAL squadrons, 7 Rider chapters and 6 Districts that equal's 131 historians. We could sure use your help. Commanders, see if you can fill any empty historian positions.

I am excited to do this work. I look forward to Wyoming sending in some history to National to be judged. I have over 350 pages done on my post history and working on the department 100 year history. I am very honored to be a part of the 100 year celebration. Preserving this history will help looking forward to the next 100 years. I look forward to meeting you at Mid Winter, and helping with your history. Please send your contact information and if you don't have a historian you can volunteer to help. Everyone grab your old photos and write down some of your memories or old stories you have heard. Get them to your historian and he or she can scan them and give them back to you. We have to work together to get this done. Nobody can do this by themselves. Check out national web site at www.centennial.legion.org.



There are training videos and a lot of resources to help you get started. Form a Centennial committee at your post. Dig thru all the boxes in the back room and have fun learning about your history. I think it would be

cool to do a consolidated Post report for 100 years just to sum up all that was done, you would be surprised.

Department of Wyoming Historian 2016 -2017
Jerry Clark



THE AMERICAN LEGION SONS 2016 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership As of		Detachment Target Date			
11/30/2016		11/30/2016		45%	
SQUADRON	CITY	YEAR END GOAL	ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP	% of YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET TARGET
2	Casper	25	11	44.00%	1
5	Torrington	80		0.00%	36
6	Cheyenne	200	60	30.00%	30
7	Sheridan	105	62	59.05%	0
8	Douglas	28	28	100.00%	0
13	Buffalo	15		0.00%	7
14	Laramie	77	60	77.92%	0
24	Rock Springs	250	139	55.60%	0
25	Moorcroft	12	5	41.67%	1
26	Powell	30	16	53.33%	0
28	Green River	83	24	28.92%	13
33	Lander	36	17	47.22%	0
36	Ft. Bridger	60		0.00%	27
42	Gillette	145	66	45.52%	0
43	Jackson	13	8	61.54%	0
44	Worland	105	64	60.95%	0
54	Saratoga	47	11	23.40%	10
60	Pine Bluffs	10		0.00%	5
80	Hulett	20	13	65.00%	0
122	Rawlins	17	11	64.71%	0
Goal for	Detachment	1358	595	43.81%	16
	National	1298	595	45.84%	0

Taps...

Post Everlasting 2016



District 1

Post 24 Rock Springs

Comstock, Delbert (4)
Porter, Boyd (8)
Flor, Robert (18)
Gradert, Clayton (5)
Clark, Alex (14)

Post 28 Green River

Newey, Donald (3)

Post 36 Ft Bridger

Fanos, John (37)

Post 40 Cokeville

Mitchell, Elmer (26)

Post 41 Evanston

Hutchinson, Earl (5)

Post 43 Jackson

Leisinger, Otto (31)
Ryan, Donovan (43)

Post 47 Pinedale

Wadsworth, Ronald (8)

District 2

Post 5 Torrington

Applegate, James (61)
Hohnstein, Dale (19)
Mercer, Walter (29)

Post 10 Wheatland

Schroeder, Herman (7)
Zwieg, James (15)

Post 95 Guernsey

Andreen, Everette (11)

District 3

Post 19 Riverton

Allen, Mark (6)
Woodyard, Thomas (21)

Post 33 Lander

Patik, George (2)

Post 61 Pavillion

Johnson, Paul (17)

Post 81 Ft. Washakie

Engavo, Joseph (14)
Baldes, Alfred (15)



District 4

Post 20 Cody

Dawson, Oliver (45)
Skates, Jack (46)

Post 26 Powell

Fordham, W.R. (9)

Post 32 Greybull

Terry, Tom (20)

Post 44 Worland

Rudd, Chris (1)
Moore, Clarence (28)
Kinsey, T.F. (20)

Post 85 Meeteetse

Weber, Jake (46)

District 5

Post 7 Sheridan

Shaffer, Frank (68)
Johns, Jared (16)
Squadron 7 Sheridan
Torres, Thomas (7)

Post 13 Buffalo

Lopez, Edith (45)
Larkin, David (53)
Squadron 42 Gillette
Jenniges, Richard (37)

District 6

Post 6 Cheyenne

Backman, Richard (40)
Brand, Ernest (Tim) (26)
Cross, Alton (11)
Ortega, Jose (38)
Pinter, Joseph (16)
Rodekoeh, Carl (17)
Rosenberg, Larry (14)

Squadron 6

Cheyenne Jackson, Billie (16)

Post 14 Laramie

Nottage, Bruce (2)
Young, Frank (13)
Marquardt, Mark (6)
Brunett, Emery (28)

Post 64 Medicine Bow

Bartholomew, Kelly (10)
Dronebarger, Lyle (5)

Post 122 Rawlins

Ratcliffe, Dennis (16)

Post 17 Department Headquarters

Clark, Charles (39)

Veterans Plaza Moved

A working group of Veterans was formed to help ensure the integrity of the Veteran's plaza as it was moved from inside the stadium in the North end zone to a location between the Northeast Stadium gates and the Indoor Practice Facility (IPF). This move was needed to accommodate the High Altitude Training Center, for which they broke ground this past weekend, using the land north of the end zone.

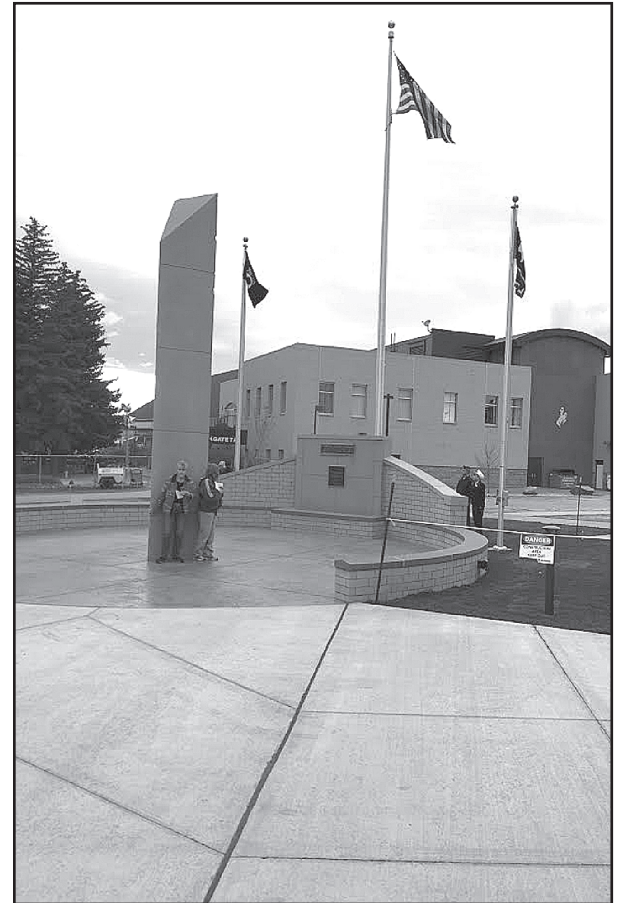
Working closely with the Athletic Department, the architect BG (RET) Stephan Pappas, the construction company, and our working group, we think we achieved the desired effect.

The Veteran's plaza will have 24 hour access, night lighting, and be accessible to all who pass through that area.

The two photos of the informal flag raising ceremony was conducted at 1600 on Friday, October 21. "To the Colors" was played and the flags were raised by those representing each branch of service. A great ceremony organized by John Hursh.

We'll provide some photos down the road when we have those bluebird skies Laramie is known for and the breeze is holding the flags out for all to enjoy!

We're negotiating with the artist and foundry for the WW II era



Soldier's Cross which will complete the Veteran's Plaza. I anticipate that we'll need some fundraising for this! This will complete the plaza and tie the two sides of the Memorial together with the Soldier's Cross.

Many thanks to all who helped achieve this important move! Thanks to John Hursh for keeping us focused on the prize!

I'm quite certain our efforts were instrumental in ensuring the Pokes win over Boise State. That will be a game for the record books!

Larry D. Barttelbort
COL, USA (Ret.)

Director
Wyoming Veterans Commission



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

Powder River Post 13

By Post Commander Don Sullivan

We continue to do our 2nd and 4th Sunday Breakfast for the community and serve between 75 and 100 people. Teams "A", "B", "C" do a great job making breakfast under the direction of our head chef Clarence.

Our Color Guard and Firing Squad have been busy with funerals and Veterans Day. These guys take time out of their lives to give our departed comrade the respect he deserves. The Funeral Director and other community members have commented on the dedicated squads. A thanks goes out to all including Jerry Tift, our contact person.

The joint Legion and VFW Veterans Day Ceremony at the downtown Memorial Wall was well attended. Community members plus 300 elementary students attended. Guest Speaker Bill Novotny III gave an inspiring talk. We were honored to have Senator Enzi and Mrs. Enzi attend also. Powder River Unit 13's 2016 Girls State attendees showed how to properly fold the flag while the meaning was read. Fol-

lowing the ceremony an Open House with chili was provided at the Post Home. The Color Guard and Firing Squad left the Open House to provide military honors to Legion member Dave Larkin. What a way to finish Veterans Day.

The Post is gearing up and planning on promoting Boys State, Oratorical Contest and E.A. Blackmore Scholarship. Members reading this who have a son/grandson who is a Junior tell them about Boys State. Our school promotes school programs during the summer and we have a hard time getting participants.

Christmas Day several members have volunteered to cook and serve a turkey dinner with all the fixings. Our Senior Center doesn't deliver meals on Christmas Day so meals will be packed and delivered before serving dinner to community members who come down to the Post.

I want to thank all you members who have paid your dues. We have met every monthly membership goal so far. In order to continue we need new members. I believe each of you

knows at least one if not two veterans who are eligible to join the Legion. Ask them.

This past Sunday two of our members were presented with a "Quilt of Valor". Our new PA System made it possible for Vicki; she was serving breakfast, to hear her name called. We thank the Buffalo Quilting Gals for making the quilts.

Once again I want to thank Post 13 for the great job you all do. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

District #5 News

By District Commander Don Sullivan

All the Posts in District 5 have events taking place. I have made visitations to several Posts and District Vice Tim is visiting others. Email me with your events and I will try to attend.

As a District we are doing great at membership. At this writing, November 14th we are in first place. Way to go District 5. I'd like to congratulate **Newcastle** for going over 100% and meeting GOAL. Excellent Job! **Moorcroft** you only need 2 more members. Great job! **Buffalo** needs 20 members and I hope you get it done. **Sundance** needs 15 members; **Hulett** you 14 members; **Kaycee** get those last 6 renewals and I know you will. **Sheridan** you need 110 to make goal so let's get crankin'. Call

them or make a home visit. Post 7 let's get excited. Come on **Gillette**, you need 189 members to make goal. You all need to step up to the plate and call members to renew. I realize the economy is down in Gillette but remind them the National Emergency Fund might be available. I believe Post 42 can easily make goal so let's git it done!

A reminder to all Posts to be thinking about the Oratorical Contest, Boys State and E.A. Blackmore Scholarship. Vice Commander Tim will be contacting you with dates for the District Oratorical Contest. Remember to email or call me with questions or events.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a great 2017. God Bless America!

VETERAN'S DAY IN BUFFALO, WY



Post 13's Veteran's Day Parade in Buffalo, WY.



Buddies in Business

Reach your Wyoming Veterans

Advertise in the
Department of Wyoming
American Legion Publication

\$60

2 inch business card ads for \$60 for 4 issues.





Who Will Help You?

Today's travel can involve unexpected financial risks. But you're **GUARANTEED** help in case there's a medical emergency away from home.

The **Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) Program** offers you and your family *security* you need while traveling. *EA+ delivers high-value benefits to protect you* such as:

- ☞ Emergency Medical Assistance
- ☞ Medical Evacuation & Transportation Home
- ☞ Travel Assistance For You & Your Companion





From Your
American Legion
Department

To learn more about the benefits and services provided to you by Your American Legion Department, visit us online today at www.theLIT.com/EAP or call **1-888-310-1547**.
This information is only an overview of the plan's features. Terms & Conditions apply.

District 3 News

By Dean Welch District 3 Commander
Hello Legionnaires,

I hope you all enjoyed time with family and friends over Thanksgiving.

There is so much for all of us to be grateful for and after the elections we will all be watching as the country settles in with a new President and cabinet.

We are all hoping that the economy will improve so all our miners and oil field workers can go back to work which as we all know will also improve the local economies.

As some of you may have heard there was a homeless Navy Vietnam Veteran that had moved to Wyoming and passed away in Casper and had no family to attend his funeral.

The word was quickly passed by all the Veterans groups to attend the funeral and I know there were many Veterans that heard about it nationwide and expressed their hope that the local Veterans would be able to attend and funeral to give this fellow Veteran the proper send off he earned for his service to this Great country.

It's impressive to see the concern and comraderie that is shown by all Veterans when something like this happens.

It is times like this that make me proud to be a member of the Worlds Largest Veterans Group.

Many of the local Veterans groups made a concious effort to ensure that the funeral was well attended and they even found some of Seaman Stephen Carl Reimans family to be there as well.

The Patriot Guard Riders formed a Flag line for him at the cemetery and each group was well represented as well as many citizens that took the time to be there to show their respect to this Veteran.

No matter if there is no family available for a Veterans funeral the American Legion Posts along with others always ensure each Veteran is given a Honorable and Respectful send off as they move to their final Duty Station.

Posts 19 and 61 Work in tandem almost 90% of the time, additionally they work with the local DAV Chapter 7, Marine Corps Det. 683 and VFW 3628. These are the units that are members of the Veterans Hall, here in Riverton. The Veterans Hall is a new concept. It is non profit and is a stand-alone. It is through this endeavor that they have all come together, pooling resources to be active in the Community. To date their Honor Guard, complete with a bagpiper has rendered

25 Military honors. They have provided a Veterans Day program to the Shoshoni High School, The Weather Service, Tribal Center at Central Wyoming College and The Manor. Additionally, a second annual Military Dinner was also hosted and the annual Veterans Day Pancake breakfast. They have a monthly Commanders Corner on the local radio Station additionally, They provide color guard for parades and dedications.

The current long term program is redesigning and updating the Veterans Memorial Park in Ridgecrest.

While each VSO retains its own meetings and membership it is through the joint efforts of their veterans that they are all committed. The Veteran's Hall is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 to 1 with the mission of helping veterans and their families. They work closely with VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA and the State Service Officer to ensure veterans in need are taken care.

They are leading the way on how to do the most they can as Proud Veterans.

Thanks to PDC Pat Lawson for the update on their accomplishments.

It was good to see the nice piece on the TV about the Flag Ceremony and Dist 3 Vice Commander Warren Hess was given a chance to speak about and show how the American Legion is involved in their community.

Post 2 has also been keeping the spirit of the Legion going in Casper, as part of the Natrona County United Veterans Council they participate in many of the funerals provided for our fallen and have been utilized to perform as Color Guards for several events.

Keeping the Legion in the public eye is the only way many of the citizens realize how dedicated and involved the Legion is in every community.

Thank you to each volunteer that takes their membership to heart and makes themselves available to support their Post and community projects.

District 3 has also been working hard on membership and as District Commander I am grateful for all the hard work and Proudly welcome all the new members and welcome back all our continous members.

Patriotism is not born but learned and earned !!

Be Proud, Be Patriotic, Be Dedicated, Be Legion but most of all Be American !!!

"My Oath Of Enlistment Has No Expiration Date"

God Bless American and The American Legion



Dean Welch

George W. Vroman Post 2 Casper News

By Dean Welch District 3 Commander, P2 Commander

Hello Legionnaires,

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

With the fall season upon us we took advantage of the local traditions and once again had a large booth at the K2 Super Garage Sale which brought us in some needed cash to continue our donations to local charities.

We have started a tradition of putting flags around Veterans Park for each military holiday. Dean Morgan Junior High School does a Veterans Appreciation program and asked if we would again place flags around the school.

Several members showed up early in the morning and we place 50 flags around the school as well as the flags around Veterans Park, some of the students helped and they also had coffee and donuts waiting when we were finished.

We have been requested several times to be the Color Guard at rodeo's, hockey games and for other organizations. It is great to have more members willing to help out on these functions to honor our Flag, National Anthem, Veterans and help promote the American Legion.

We had a great turnout for our Thankful Thursday and had our best fundraiser ever. We gathered enough money to carry us through for another year. We would like to thank our VERY Generous donors for this great accomplishment:

Dick Sorenson, Dave Lee, Noland feed, Artist Choice, Bridger Steel, Parkway Plaza, Ramkota, Hilton Inn, Black & Gold Grill, Moss Saddle, Boots & Tack, Movie Palace, 3 Crowns golf club, Casper Country Club, Events Center, Brenda Bennett, Marilyn Walker, Auto Zone East, Lavin Tile, Krissy Borchert, Willam Allard, Johnny J's, Hat Six Truck Stop, Casper Coyote Hockey, Fish Tales Guide Service, Popular Wine and Spirits, Davidson Mechanical, Lou Talberts, Contractors Supply, Brattis Meat Market, Waste Connections & City Landfill, Keyhole outdoor living, El Marko Bowling Alley, Sunrise Bowl, The Sand Trap, Stoval Beverage, Chapman Valdaz & Lansing, Aaker signs, Fremont motors, Worthington, Lenhart &



Carpenter, Rocky Mt. Therapy, Dr. Jones, Bruce Parker, Dr. Bergquist.

Post 2 Vice Commanders Larry Seems and William Ahrndt were instrumental in getting the donations to make this such a wonderful surprise, thank you gentlemen.

We teamed up with the Casper Legion Baseball team and Toys for Tots which were both big benefactors of the funds raised.

Sadly someone had stolen the dog tags off our Combat Cross Memorial but on a good note a company (Metal Memories) contacted us and generously offered to replace all the tags at no expense. It always warms my heart to see the patriotism of Americans when they see a problem and step forward to fix it.

Post 2 and all its members wish everyone out there a Safe and Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Friend us on Facebook www.facebook.com/casperlegion or check out our website www.casperlegion.wordpress.com

"My Oath Of Enlistment Has No Expiration Date"

God Bless American and The American Legion

Post 33 News

The past few months have been busy for the post. In addition to our regular meetings, which have been well attended, Post members have participated in a number of Military Funerals in conjunction with other Veterans Service Organizations. During September, the Post supported the annual Fly-In on September 10th and sponsored a booth. The Military Science Class of Lander Valley High School provided the color guard for the event. The event not only provided public exposure for the post but resulted in a number of membership leads.

Three post members attended the Department Executive Committee meeting in Green River and the Fall Workshop on 10-11 September as well. Our Americanism picnic was held on 24 September and was well attended. Our guest speaker was Don Ryan, Korean war veteran and Commander of the Wyoming DAV. He spoke of his experiences in Korea and again the military science class provided the color guard.. We were also able to formally recognize Lander Valley High School teacher, Liza Moss as the Department Educator of the Year.

During October the Post promoted both the Safe Halloween program as well as the Get Out the Vote campaign. On October 26th members of Post 33 were in Cheyenne to present a check to Sallee Call of the Veterans Remembrance Memorial in the amount of \$500. The donation will help fund a permanent replica of the Vietnam Wall to be placed in the Cheyenne VA.

Plans for Veterans Recognition Day and Veterans Day were presented. The mayor formally recognized Post member JD Darnell for his service to the community as well as the nation. The proclamation reads in part:

WHEREAS, it is our duty to honor the men and women who served in the military and who nobly defended the freedom of the people of



Pictured at the presentation are Dept Service Office Dwight Null, Sallee Call, and Post 33 members Ken Persson Sr., Dept 1st Vice, Dept and Post Chaplain Tim Senter and Post member and Wyoming Veterans Service Office Lori Crump.

the world and of our nation; and WHEREAS, John Dee "J. Dee" Darnell served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps, serving a tour in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, J. Dee Darnell continued to serve this community with his commitment to various service organizations including The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Marine Corps League, and Lions Club, forty years with the Fremont County Sheriff's Office, and volunteerism on various boards and committees; and WHEREAS, J. Dee Darnell represents the epitome of service to our community and nation, a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Del McOmie, Mayor of Lander, Wyoming, do hereby recognize this Veterans Day, November 11, 2016 as J. DEE DARNELL DAY in the City of Lander and urge all Lander residents to give heartfelt thanks in honor of the service he so selflessly gave.

Veterans Day was celebrated with cannon fire beginning at 5am, followed by a breakfast at the local VFW Post. Lunch was also served. At 1 pm, the students of Lander Valley High School put on their annual Veterans Day program in recognition of the service of the veterans in the community. Students from LVHS, Pathfinder High School and Lander Middle School were there to honor and recognize our veterans. Nearly 70 veterans were so

honored.

WHEREAS, the members of the American Legion are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans; and WHEREAS, the 97th observance of American Legion Day provides an opportunity to recognize Legionnaires in our community for their many contributions to our community; and WHEREAS, Don Stough Post 33, The American Legion, Department of Wyoming, Lander, Wyoming, has been and continues to be an active and supportive part of our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Del McOmie, Mayor of the City of Lander, Wyoming do hereby proclaim September 16, 2016, as THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY in the City of Lander and urge all Lander residents to show their appreciation for the service and commitment to the community by our Legionnaires,



Veterans in attendance.



Honoree J. Dee Darnell and wife Beckie. Also picture is veteran Mel Tafoya being thanked by one of the students.



LVHS Senior Sydney Polson delivers the Keynote address Vet day

Richard Pogue Post 81, Ft Washakie, participates in several local Veterans Day events.

On Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 1 PM there was a Veteran Ceremony at the loop in front of CWC Main Hall where the flags are flown. The ceremony was performed by the Riverton Color Guard and members of the Fort Washakie Legion Post #81. The ceremony Friday consisted of posting and flying the flag of Ray Huenefeld, a recently deceased World War II Veteran from Riverton.

On Friday, November 11, the Post hosted their traditional Veterans Day Breakfast from 7-11 am, an event that dates by to the early 1940s when it was started by WWII members.

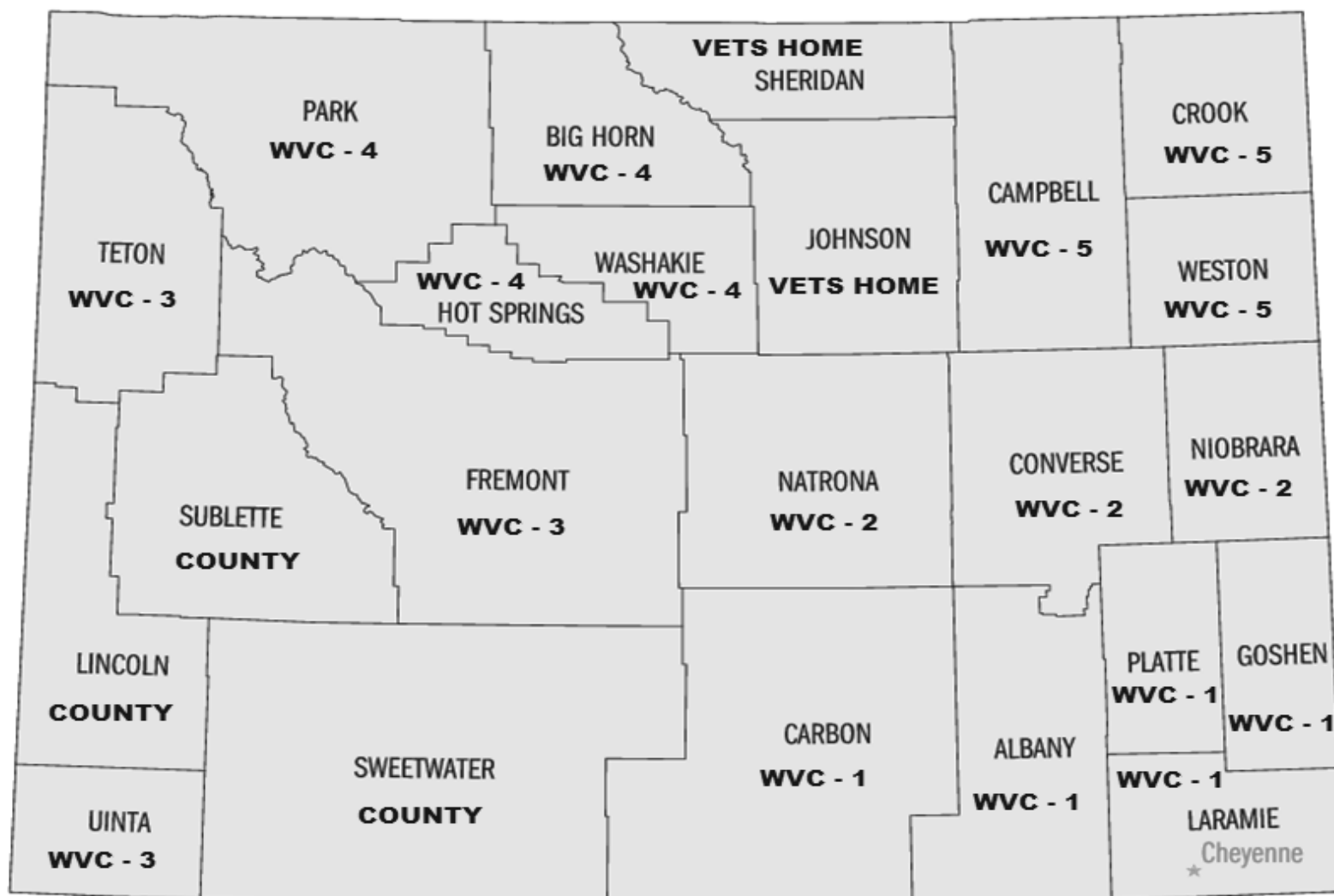
Also on Friday Wyoming Indian Middle



and Elementary School's invited all veterans to an Honoring and Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Wyoming Indian Elementary School. This recognition has become a tradition for the students.

WYOMING VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER COVERAGE

As of November 14, 2016



Organization	Code	VSO Name	Phone Number	VSO Email
Veterans Commission	WVC - 1	Ms. Vicki Richards Mr. Greg Gauntlett	307-214-2112 307-2747747	vicki.richards@wyo.gov greg.gauntlett@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 2	Mr. Dave McDonell Ms. Ivette Orozco	307-234-6271, ext. 4553 307-234-6271, ext. 4551	david.mcdonell@wyo.gov ivette.orozco@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 3	Ms. Lori Crump	307-438-2101	lori.crump@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 4	Mr. Brad Cline	307-250-3890	brad.cline@wyo.gov
Veterans Commission	WVC - 5	Mr. Brian Yeager	307-687-5396	brian.yeager@wyo.gov
Veterans Home	Vets Home	Ms. Lisa Griffith	307-620-0884	lisa.griffith@wyo.gov
Sweetwater County	County	Ms. Sam Esquibel Ms. Hazel Koenig	307-922-5442 307-922-5441	esquibels@sweet.wy.us koenigh@sweet.wy.us
Lincoln County	County	Ms. Nancy Stafford	307-877-3110	staffordn@sweet.wy.us
Sublette County	County	Ms. Cheryl Allen	307-367-4877	allenc@sweet.wy.us
American Legion	Cheyenne	Mr. Dwight Null	307-433-2751	dwight.null@va.gov
DAV	Cheyenne	Mr. Leroy Kenner	307-433-2752	leroy.kenner@va.gov
VFW	Cheyenne	Ms. Cheryl Shannon	307-778-7340	cheryl.shannon@va.gov

Twas the night before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate
A bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve
In a land far from home.

That very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
He whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."



Saddle up for our Veterans

Saddle up for our Veterans

Hello ladies of Wyoming !!!!!

We have sure been saddling up for our veterans this fall, with all the cookies for the VA Hospitals and clinics, all the items donated for our veterans. Plans are being made and carried out for our veterans for Christmas and it sounds like they will truly have a wonderful one !!!!!

I want to thank each and every one of you for all the hospitality you showed my granddaughter and myself when we visited with your units on our Wyoming Tour. We had such a good time and I enjoyed getting to visit with all of the ladies I had not seen in ages. I also loved meeting your new members too. Each and everyone of you is cherished by me, by our veterans and each other. Keep up the good work that you do.

I got to see towns that I had not seen in awhile and also saw some towns and country I had never seen. We did not see much wildlife, except one mountain sheep over by Pinedale. He sure was spectacular. The leaves were turning almost every place and the colors were sure beautiful. And the weather was wonderful, NO SNOW !!! Perhaps by now some of you have experienced old man winter.

At the end of October Peg Sullivan, Vicki Paddock, Peggy Miller, Gina Dusel, Susan Dansereau, Heidi Yaklich and myself, drove to Spokane WA for the Mission Training. Ladies I can't tell you how wonderful and educational this was. Again, the weather was great, Spokane is beautiful,

and the Washington ladies were so hospitable. We listened to items from a few of our programs, VA & R, Community Service, Girls Nation, Children and Youth, Education, Poppies and National Security. I believe we all



Sonja Wright

learned a few things. I really want you all to know that this training isn't just for officers or past officers. All members can benefit. So I hope next year we can get a few more people interested in going. I can't say where it will be but hopefully somewhere close by again.

Thank you to Green River for hosting us at Fall Workshop and we are looking forward to being in Cheyenne for Mid Winter. I am hoping the weather is good for traveling so we can have a fantastic turnout. Look in this issue for hotel information and the registration form. We are going to have some fun again and learn interesting items from our chairmen.

By now our Unit Chairmen should have sent in their Mid Year reports to the Department Chairman. The Department Chairman will be sending in their Mid Year report to their appropriate National Chairmen soon. This year is certainly going by fast. For Mid Winter we will have a special guest—our Northwest Division National Vice President Virginia Nelsen from Nebraska. So I do hope we have decent weather and a very nice attendance from our Wyoming delegation.

We have some great things coming up the rest of the year, so I need you all to watch for bulletins and information.

I hope everyone had very nice holidays and I hope to see as many of you as possible very soon.

Mid Winter Conference

Registration information and forms can be found on page 11

"Cowboy Up" for membership!!!!

Happy Holidays to one and all.

Veterans Day has come and gone. How many units used this time to work on their membership? We have promised to honor those who have given their lives to save ours. Without a strong membership, this will be hard to do. All we do through the auxiliary is for the Veterans not ourselves.

I have had several people ask me why they should join. My first response to them is "To honor the Veteran in your life who gave his all." This usually breaks the ice and I can go on to tell them what we do as an organization. Just like every other organization, you have the donors and the watchers. Do not criticize

those that can't or won't help out with every project. One example is the Plarn mats for the homeless. All your membership can be involved in this project. Members can collect, cut, roll and crochet the mats. It takes all your members to complete a project.

Make meetings interesting but keep them to a certain time period. Long drug out meetings are no fun for any one. As you gain new members try to keep them involved with activities. Do not give them just the menial tasks.

Last but not least PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE. Everyone wants to hear that what they are doing is noticed and appreciated. Hope to see a lot of you in Cheyenne for Mid-Winter.

Vicki Paddock

Thank You

A thank you was received from Crook County Fire & Emergency Management for the donation made this summer.

Frances E. Self Unit 60 was also thanked for their direct donation.

American Legion Auxiliary Directory Corrections

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Alternate NEC | Sonja Wright; 2 Peak Ct; Gillette WY 82716; 689 3247 |
| National Security | Becky Allred; PO Box 577; Basin WY 82410; 568-2235 |
| Juniors | Sunny Hobbs; 220 Polk St; Rock Springs 82901; 932-2712 |
| Membership Team - | |
| District 4 | email: sbrgallred@gmail.com |
| District 1 | Mailing address: 220 Polk St; Rock Springs 82901; 932-2712 |
| Finance Chairman | Address: PO Box 1493 Telephone: 689-6084 |
| VAVS Cheyenne | Bobbie Gertsch email: daisy97549@gmail.com |
| Joyce Menke | address: PO Box 72; Elk Mtn. |
| District 1 Unit 47 | Dues: \$26.00 Lenore telephone: 367-2126 |
| District 3 Unit 2 | Street: McKinley |
| District 3 Riverton 19 | Meeting time: 12:30 pm |
| District 3 Vice Pat | Phone: 349-8127 |
| District 4 President | email: sbrg@gmail.com |
| District 4 Powell 26 | President: Zaffarano-Anderson |
| District 4 Basin 29 | email: sbrg@gmail.com |
| District 4 Unit 44 | Meeting time: 6:30 pm |
| District 5 Moorcroft 25 | Meeting day: 1 st Monday |
| District 5 Unit 42 | Meeting time: 5:30 pm |
| District 6 Laramie 14 | President email: flynnwyo@gmail.com |
| District 6 Laramie 14 | Lynda Rinker: Street Address: 1751 N 18th St; 742-7464 |

NOTICE

MID WINTER DATE CHANGE

Please note that the date of Mid Winter 2017 has changed. Commander Bill has scheduled Mid Winter for January 14th in Cheyenne. The Finance Committee and Department Executive Committee will meet on **January 13th** late afternoon and evening. The registration for and list of hotels are in this newspaper, on the webpage and emailed to each Unit. We have invited the National Northwest Vice President Virginia Nelsen to attend.



American Legion Auxiliary News



Chaplain's Cloud

IN MEMORIAM

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emma Fosdick-Unit 6 | Ruby Salig-Unit 6 |
| Sherry Hirst-Unit 6 | Cora K Anderson-Unit 33 |
| Sharon Verley-Unit 7 | Jolene Aharonian-Unit 40 |
| Leta Helvey-Unit 7 | Loraine Sahl-Unit 15 |
| Rose Brown-Unit 29 | Phylis Gurtsale Carlson-Unit 2 |
| Betty Hudspeth-Unit 33 | Bonnie Patterson-Unit 70 |
| Kliss Sparks-Unit 40 | J. Laura Rahm-Unit 47 |
| Christina Dabalos-Unit 44 | Marie Huntley-Unit 54 |
| Clara Rangel-Unit 44 | |

SYMPATHY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Family of Emma Fosdick-Unit 6 | |
| Family of Verna Wood-Unit 6 | |
| Family of Sherry Hirst-Unit 6 | |
| Codee McKinzie-Unit 7 | loss of father |
| Kayleen McKinzie-Unit 7 | loss of father |
| Brandy Fox-Unit 7 | loss of father |
| Family of Leta Helvey-Unit 7 | |
| Connie Martinez-Unit 26 | |
| Family of Betty Hudspeth-Unit 33 | |
| Family of Kliss Sparks-Unit 40 | |
| Wanda Johnson-Unit 44 | loss of sister |
| Pauline Austin-Unit 44 | loss of sister |
| Mayleen Boyce-Unit 47 | loss of husband |
| Merne Gibson-Unit 63 | loss of husband |
| Tarvie Goddard-Unit 63 | loss of father |
| Tracie Patrick-Unit 63 | loss of father |
| LaLani Johnson-Unit 33 | loss of husband |
| Shannon Keller-Unit 44 | loss of father |
| Joyce Menke-Unit 64 | loss of father |
| Family of Fred Huckfeldt-Unit 64 | loss of grandfather great grandfather |
| Elvina Thornock-Unit 40 | loss of daughter |
| Catherine Gustin-Unit 33 | loss of husband |
| Janice Lytle-Unit 26 | loss of brother |
| Family of Phyllis Carlson-Unit 2 | loss of mother |
| Jackie Brand-Unit 6 | loss of husband |
| Patricia Wiseman-Dept of NE | loss of husband |
| Emily Wadsworth-Unit 47 | loss of husband |
| Anna Thompson-Unit 33 | loss of husband |
| Lorraine Smith-Unit 60 | loss of father |
| Mary J. Prah-Unit 70 | loss of mother |
| Jo Ellen Radcliffe-Unit 60 | loss of father |
| Diane Meidinger & family-Unit 26 | loss of sister-in-law |
| Kay Horne-Unit 70 | loss of daughter |
| Kristine Thomsen-Unit 6 | loss of sister |
| Eva Moore-Unit 6 | loss of son |

GET WELL

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Dora Jones-Unit 6 | bronchitis |
| Leta Helvey-Unit 7 | cancer |
| Kittee Johnson-Unit 7 | surgery |
| Amy Rindell-Unit 15 | surgery |
| Wanda Baldwin-Unit 24 | stroke |
| Connie Martinez-Unit 26 | eye surgery |
| Carol Petersen-Unit 63 | heart surgery |
| Beverly Nelsen-Unit 63 | illness |
| Vickie Scott-Unit 64 | shoulder surgery |
| Betsy Kirkpatrick-Unit 60 | ankle surgery |
| Jackie Graham-Unit 26 | open heart surgery |
| Jeri Underwood-Unit 26 | |
| Nancy Curtis-Unit 15 | knee replacement |
| Alexandria Gibson-Unit 63 | broken arm |
| Mary Green-Unit 70 | heart problems |
| Delores Quaschnick-Unit 45 | |
| Katherine Murphy-Unit 26 | shoulder surgery |
| Peggy Lucas-Unit 26 | infection |
| Diana Stelling-Unit 47 | pneumonia |

THINKING OF YOU

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Juanita Pennington-Unit 6 | 90th Birthday |
| Cynthia Purcella-Unit 7 | husband hospitalized |
| Donna Allen-Unit 45 | heart problems |
| Loraine Sahl-Unit 15 | illness |
| Rita Wambeke-Unit 26 | needs a "lift" |

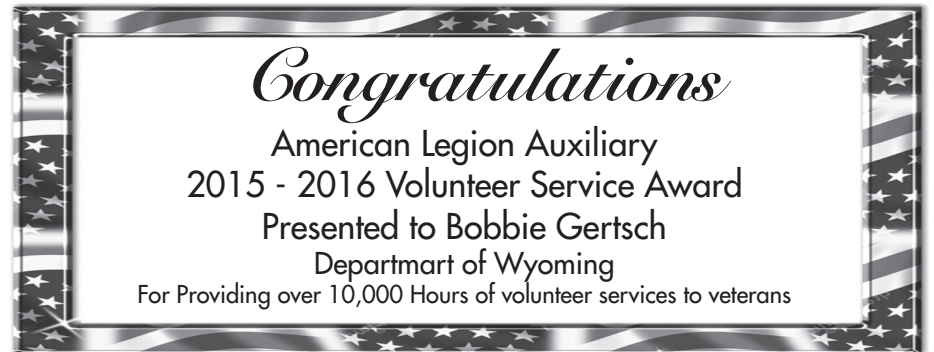
Units please make sure you send your Chaplain form to Susan Dansereau; 2110 Wyoming Dr; Green River 82935 or email: dansereau_r_f@hotmail.com

MID YEAR REPORTS

Think back to April 1, 2016 and remember what projects your members and/or unit has done. How about Memorial Day, Poppy Day, Veterans Day, Halloween Parties, purchased school supplies your school or students who some needed, donated to Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) or Child Welfare, to the Veteran's Homes (Cheyenne, Sheridan or Buffalo) Girls State? How about hosting the Department President and learning about programs? Did anyone attend Fall Workshop and hear about Americanism, Membership, Leadership or Veterans Affairs

and Rehabilitation (VA & R). Did all of you vote or work the Primary and General Election? Are you remembering? Quick write an email to the Department Chairman and "blow your member's and unit's horn) tell them what you did.

Mid Year Report are due to ALL Department Chairman by December 15th. It can be as little as a sentence, a paragraph or a full report. Just report what your Unit has done. Can't remember the chairman's email -- Send to the Department email deptaux@vcn.com and I'll make sure the chairman receives it.



DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

Have you sent your dues into your Unit? Some of you! Has the Unit sent them into Department? Most of the Units Has Department sent them into National? Weekly Membership Chairmen it is your responsibility to make sure your Unit Officers have paid their dues by December 31, 2016. Officers who are not current cannot run a meeting or write checks. Please remind them

if they haven't paid them. 2nd Dues Renewal Notices from National will be mailed from the printer January 15, 2017. Please remind your members that if they received a renewal notice and KNOW they have paid their dues, contact their membership chairman. Maybe she forgot to send them on to Department. Department has transmitted ALL dues received within a week.

MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

Going along with Department Sonja's theme "Saddle up for Veterans" and Department Vice President and Membership Chairman Vicki 's theme "Cowboy Up" each District has a western theme. So what better way to handle District Membership than a rodeo. When you go to a rodeo, you see the list of contestants but don't know what the outcome will be. That's the excitement! No

two Districts have the same ending total; only Vicki and I know what Round 1 place your District is. Our membership report consists of the "Contestants -Districts" with the "ride-total of paid members". Round 2 is Spring Conference and Department Convention will be the FINALS. Membership Awards this year at Department Convention are going to be a "Wait See".

So members, if you haven't paid your 2017 Dues please do so and help your District rope up 1st Place.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 367 Members | #1 Saddle Up with Sunny |
| 403 Members | #2 Kick Up with Kathy |
| 99 Members | #3 Galloping with Ginger |
| 212 Members | #4 Becky's Brigade |
| 408 Members | #5 Lasso with Linda |
| 428 Members | #6 Fireside Tales with Fran |



Mid Winter Conference Agenda January 13-14, 2017

Friday Jan 13:

- 5:00 – 8:00 Registration at Post 6
- 5:00 – 7:00 Dinner at Post 6
- 5:00 Finance Committee Meeting
- Post 6 Auxiliary Room
- 7:30 Department Executive Committee Meeting

Sat. Jan 14:

- 8:30 Open Mid Winter
Colors in place
Prayer by Chaplain Susan Dansereau
Pledge of Allegiance by Gina Dusel
Preamble led by Tammy Harris
Welcome from Marti Harbick, Unit 6 President
Response from
Roll Call of Units and officers
Introductions
Minutes of Fall Workshop
Finance report – Peggy Miller
- 9:00 Membership – Vicki Paddock
Leadership – Peg Sullivan
Children and Youth – Jessie Poire
Child Welfare – Linda Johnson
Americanism – Gina Dusel
Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Shareen Johnson
Legislative – Ginger Fross
Junior Activities – Sunny Hobbs
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 National Security - Becky Allred
Girls State – Bobbie Swanlund
Past Presidents Parley – Leila Dean
Education – Belle Temple
Community Service – Susan Dansereau
Tidbits from Peg
- 11:55 Break for lunch
- 1:00 V A & R – Twila Palu
Reports of Hospitals and Buffalo Home
Constitution and By Laws – Tammy Harris
Public Relations – Fran Payne Rogers
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Report of Mission Training – attendees
- 2:45 District President Reports
Sunny Hobbs
Kathy Troupe
Ginger Fross
Becky Allred
Linda Johnson
Fran Payne Rogers
- 3:45 Historian report – Gina Dusel
Chaplain report – Susan Dansereau
Secretary report – Peg Sullivan
- 4:30 Retire colors
Prayer
Close

Mid Winter Conference Hotel List January 13-14, 2017

Francis E. Self Post 6
2001 E. Lincolnway, Cheyenne WY 82001
307-635-3696 ext.11 ~ E-mail: alpwy6@gmail.com

Friday January 13, 2017

Registration: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Post Home
(Friday Night Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 7:00pm-Pay at Door)

Saturday January 14, 2017

Meeting: 9:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Lunch: 12:00pm
Banquet Dinner: 7:00pm

Hotels (Listed Below) – When calling for reservations, please remember to mention The American Legion Mid Winter Conference.

Radisson Inn(Formerly Holiday Inn)

204 W Fox Farm Rd, Cheyenne WY 82007
\$89 + tax per night (Singles/Double)
Tel: 207-638-4466
Reserve before January 2, 2017

Fairfield Inn & Suites Southwest

1820 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne WY 82001
\$99 + tax (Single/Double)
Tel: 307-634-0401
Reserve before December 31, 2016

**THE AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING
MID WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 13-14, 2017
FRANCIS E. SELF POST 6, CHEYENNE, WYOMING
REGISTRATION FORM**

Meeting Locations:

- LEGION:** Post Home Ballroom – 2001 E Lincolnway, 307-635-3696 ext 11
- AUXILIARY:** Post Home Auxiliary Room, 307-635-3696 ext
- SAL:** Department Headquarters 1320 Hugur Ave; 307-634-7093

Friday: January 13, 2017

Registration: 5:00pm – 8:00pm \$5.00 _____
Friday Night Dinner: 5:00pm-7:00pm Beef Macaroni Bake/Roll \$6.00 Pay @ the Door

Saturday: January 14, 2017

Lunch: Smothered Chicken Sandwich with French Fries \$ 6.00 _____
Department Commander & Department Dinner \$20.00 _____

Roast Beef Chicken (Please check one)

Dance to the Allison Draw Band at Post Home following the banquet

Total Enclosed \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ WY. ZIP _____

PHONE# _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

POST# _____ OFFICE: Post _____ District _____ Dept _____

UNIT# _____ OFFICE: Unit _____ District _____ Dept _____

SQUADRON# _____ OFFICE: Squadron _____ Dept. _____

LEGION RIDERS # _____ OFFICE: _____

Make Checks Payable to and Mail to:
The American Legion Post 6; Midwinter
2001 E Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001-5128

Or email Shonna Wright at alpwy6@gmail.com

Please RSVP NO LATER THAN 4 JANUARY 2017(to help with plannina meals)

**Chairman if you are not attending,
please contact Department President Sonja.**



Fall Workshop in Green River

District Presidents Kathy #2, Linda #5, Becky #4, Vice Eva #6, Ginger #3 and Sunny #1 "Cowboy Up" for Membership.



Romona Jacobs VAVS Sheridan Rep receiving her 1st hour bar as VAVS. Romona is a member of Unit 13.



2016 Girl State

Powder River 2016 Girl State Delegates Stephanie Camino and Governor Sadie Gruntmeir with chairman Natasha Kay. The delegates participated in Post 13's Veterans Day Ceremony showing the proper way to fold Our Flag and what each fold stands for. Stephanie also sang The National Anthem.

John Prince Unit 15



John Prince Unit 15 President Dorothy Williams and the Ladies of the Auxiliary spearheaded a project to renovate and update the Veteran's Memorial in the Glendo Park. A committee was formed of three Auxiliary members, three Legion members, and one Glendo resident for the planning of the Memorial. Through vigorous fundraising and a generous contribution from the Town of Glendo and local residents, the project was completed a year ahead of schedule. An Honor Wall, which memorializes veterans and their families from the Glendo area lines the new walkway to the Memorial which stands along side the flag base.



The Dedication was held on Veteran's Day at 7AM. Present were local dignitaries, over 100 members of the surrounding communities and the Glendo School students. As Dorothy Williams and Adam Blackburn raised the flag, the students lead the group with the Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic songs. Everyone in attendance was invited to the Veteran's Day Breakfast following the festivities.

Vietnam Women's Memorial Replica Statue

Sheridan College Veterans Plaza was the site Thursday May 5th, 2016 for the unveiling ceremony of a two-foot-tall replica of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington D.C. During his speech, College President Dr. Paul Young referred to Diane Carlson Evans, who led the campaign to have the full sized bronze monument placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C., and was instrumental in bringing the replica to Sheridan.



Of the 100 replicas that were made, the one at Sheridan College is the only publicly displayed outdoor sculpture in the United States besides the original full-size version in the nation's capital.

National Convention 2016



2016 Wyoming Delegation to National Convention.



Department President Sonja being sworn in at National Convention

Excerpt from a Message from National Membership Chairman Martha Corriher

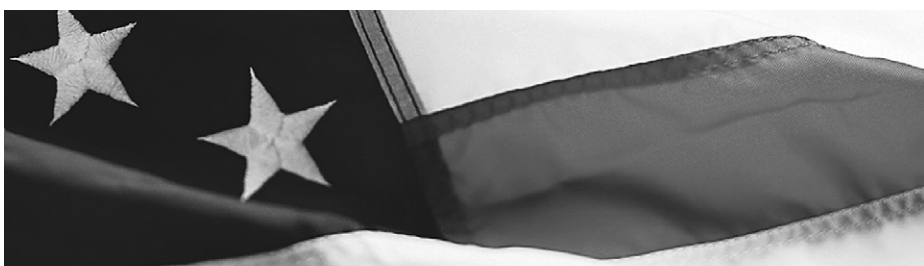
Membership, just like Christmas, is a time to celebrate. These two have more in common than for only celebrating. First, membership and Christmas are personal. You joined the Auxiliary because your loved ones cared enough to give themselves to serving our country. Some served for a short time and some gave the ultimate sacrifice, just as Christ gave His life for our salvation.

Second, membership and Christmas should be a positive way of thinking. We should want to grow our membership in the Auxiliary to show support for veterans, active duty military and their families. When good things happen that's a great feeling of accomplishment. At Christmas, we try to stay positive about what will Santa bring, will the family be in harmony and will there be enough of everyone's favorite food to share. Your national membership committee is positive that if we all take to heart our mission we will move the numbers up in a positive direction,

Most communities know something about the American Legion Auxiliary, but it's up to us to show them Who we are, What we do and Why we matter. It only takes ONE spark to set the fire. Your ACTIONS speak much louder than words and are remembered longer.



2016 National Parade in Cincinnati, Ohio



DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 pm to 2 pm
 Tuesday 4 pm to 9 pm
 Friday, Saturday, Sunday CLOSED

Leave a message and I will return your call - before - after - during office hours



FREEDOM
 IS NEVER FREE





The District News



Saddle Up with Sunny District 1

The ladies of District 1 continue to blow me away with how hard they work- year round- to get the brand out to our communities, and how dedicated they are to the veterans and active duty families they serve. Monthly bingo games are in full swing, community calendars are being handed out, mats for homeless vets are being made, and high school students are being contacted in relation to scholarships and Girls State/Boys State for the coming year. You would have to make an effort to live in District 1 and not know about the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, or Riders.

There seems to be a spotlight on service to others over the holiday season. The women in this district have not shied away from the need presented in their respective communities during these last two months. A donation only lunch was served, and over 4,000 pieces of candy were given out by two of our units over Halloween. Lunches were served (at no cost to veterans), goodies bags and poppies handed out, centerpieces made, and festive decorations furnished in every corner of District 1 for Veterans Day. Thanksgiving baskets (full of food, turkey included) were handed out, families have been adopted, and a full free community dinner was hosted at Thanksgiving-all by different units. Looking ahead to Christmas is more of the same: entire dinner baskets will be put together and delivered to community members in need, candy packages, along with wreaths and ornaments, will be delivered to troops, veteran families have been adopted (meals and gifts), parades will be walked in, and Legion family parties are being planned. Six of my units plan to get together at some point this month to just enjoy each other's company, to spend time together, and to recharge. I was happy to hear that, and thankful they have decided to do so. We all work so hard to provide everything we can to those around us, I think it's important to remember to take time for ourselves, and to remember why we like each other so much.

I hope everyone has an amazing holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all at Mid-Winter in January.

~S.

Kick Up with Kathy District 2

District 2: President Kathy visited all 10 units this fall, starting with Unit 1 on August 28 and ending with Unit 70 on November 7. I shared my notes from the Fall Workshop and learned of the many great programs they are all doing.

Ferdinand Bransetter Unit 1 (Van Tassell) distributed poppies in May at the community Memorial Day program at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds. Unit 1 held their fall meeting in the Town Hall of Van Tassell and elected a new secretary-treasurer, Shirlee Lambert. Funds for the CWF piggy banks were turned in and will be added to the funds generated by coin marches at meetings to the "fill with love" blue cup.

Travis Snow Unit 5 (Torrington) hosted the visit of Department President Sonja on Sept. 22, at the Post Home and provided supper. Other area units attending were Unit 70 LaGrange, Unit 63 Lingle, Unit 95 Guernsey. Unit 5 also hosted the supper visit

for District President Kathy in October. Members of Unit 70 and Unit 63 also attended.

Samuel Mares Unit 8 (Douglas) attended the lunch visit with District 2 President Kathy and Vice President Alise in Glenrock on Sept. 17. The Unit is in the process of getting back on track and membership is coming in.

Jesse Martin Unit 9 (Glenrock) held a noon luncheon at their August meeting in honor of their two Girl State candidates. Unit 9 hosted the visit with District 2 President Kathy and Vice President Alise on Sept. 17 at a local restaurant. At the October meeting members worked on the star packets for the Veterans Day program. Plans for Operation Christmas were made in November. The Unit sends care packages to overseas military. Boxes will be distributed at Glenrock businesses. On November 28 members will be addressing boxes and mailing labels with packaging and mailing the packages December 5 and 6. An estimated 120 plus boxes will be packed and mailed.

Ora Call Unit 10 (Wheatland) hosted the visit of Department President Sonja in September, which was also attended by Unit 75 Chugwater members. Refreshments were served. Unit 10 met with District 2 President Kathy at the October lunch meeting. Members donated pies for the Veterans Day Dinner.

John Prince Unit 15 (Glendo) Unit 15 spearheaded the Honor Wall Veterans Memorial renovation and repair project in the Glendo Town Park. Topics at the Oct. meeting were progress on the project and Veterans Day plans for the dedication, annual breakfast and Auxiliary Coffee at Town Hall. On Veterans Day a special ceremony was held to present the completed wall of bricks and repaired walkway and flag base.

Reed-Gobble Unit 63 (Lingle) attended the visit in Torrington with Department President Sonja and the October visit with District President Kathy. Unit 63 hosted the local Veterans Day supper on November 14. It was a carry in and a men's vocal group provided entertainment. Donations were received for Year Round Christmas. Apples were given at the school for American Education Week.

John McGill Unit 70 (LaGrange) attended the September visit of Department President Sonja in Torrington. Members also attended the October visit of District President Kathy. The unit hosted a Halloween story time in conjunction with the library. They also hosted the Veterans Day Dinner. A silent auction for the emergency fund was held that night also. Unit 70 is working on an ongoing restoration project of veterans' photos which sustained water damage while being displayed at the War Memorial Community Building. The unit is gathering advertisers for their annual community calendar fundraiser.

McDonald and Voight Unit 75 (Chugwater) hosted the Memorial Day community dinner with over 100 people in attendance. The Auxiliary Scholarship was presented to MacKenzie Cronk for the fall semester at LCCC. President Valorie and Secretary Lindy Schroeder met jointly with Unit 10 Wheatland as they hosted Department President Sonja in September. Lots of information was given and all enjoyed desserts.

Unit 75 helped with the Veterans Day dinner hosted by the churches of Chugwater on November 13. Members helped serve the meal, and one member, Irma Baker, cut stars from the American flag to be included in the bags given to the Veterans. About 30 veterans were in attendance with their families.

President Valorie, Lindy Schroeder and Tricia Sagner took fruit baskets and cookies to the Chugwater Elementary and High School in recognition of American Education Week.

JJ Webb Unit 95 (Guernsey) held a salad supper following their September meeting to welcome members after the summer break. On September 16 members participated in the dedication of the flagpole and flag that was purchased for the G-S School Football Field along with Post 95 and Post 95 AL Riders. For Veterans Day Unit 95 members baked and distributed cookies to Camp Guernsey (Army National Guard Camp) and to local convenience stores for veterans. Members donated desserts and helped serve at the annual VFW Veterans Day dinner. Unit 95 members cleaned the S. Guernsey Hwy. in Nov. Unit 95 took meat and cheese trays to the local G-S School and the Early Childhood Development Center for American Ed. Week. At the Dec. meeting members will bring goodies and fill Christmas trays for local veterans who live alone.

Galloping with Ginger District 3

Casper has been busy this fall meeting with Sonya Wright, Department President, Ginger Fross, D3 Pres. and Pat Persson, D3 VP. The unit had two cookie days, sending 261 dozen cookies to the Sheridan VA. Fifteen dozen cookies were also delivered to the Clinic in Casper. Members hope to provide cookies for the Veterans Clinic in Casper on a regular basis. Members helped the American Legion Post with their Thankful Thursday by gathering items to be auctioned off. Members also attended Veterans Day Activities and helped the community with Election Day and other service projects. The AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) fund raising sheets were given to members so they might sign up to have their 2017 Auxiliary dues paid, if they win! At the time of this report the membership renewals stood at 54%. Upcoming projects for Unit 2 include Promise Purses in February for homeless females in Casper, Valentines for Veterans at all of the VA facilities in Wyoming. Girls State interviews and selection will take place in January or February.

Riverton – The unit sent money to the two VA hospitals and the Buffalo Home. The ladies have been busy sewing 61 ditty bags given to Buffalo and pillow cases to Cheyenne VA. Towels and shirts were given along with 140 dozen cookies to the Sheridan VA last April. Lap robes, neck pillows, wheel chair bags, quilts, 2 Urbie bears were made and given to the Family Violence Center. Also given to the same Center was pj's, bathrobe, slippers, bedspreads, 1 afghan and a box of silverware. One member gave a \$25 gift to the Family Violence Center. One member has been crocheting a rug for the homeless. Glasses were given to the Kiwanis and two large bags of pop tabs were given to Ft. Washakie for their dialysis. One member spends an hour every two weeks to visit a neighbor who is home bound. One member gave 25 rulers and 3 backpacks to the school. She also sent neck pillows and bibs to Ivins, Utah to the Assisted Living facility. One member placed a wreath on the memorial at the Veterans Cemetery. One member sent two boxes of gifts to Missouri for 'A Soldiers Wish List' program. The gifts will be packaged in boxes

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The District News



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and sent in time for Christmas. One member gave books to a Veterans Home in Iowa while visiting her mother. Only two members worked poppy day – one two days for four hours each and one four hours and one to spell us working two hours. Two members spent \$5 each on gifts for the homeless shelter that was being closed. One member sold poppies at the Lost Cabin Gas Plant. Of the five members present at the November meeting, all had voted and talked to many people about the election. One member worked as an Election Judge. It was voted at the last meeting to give the Legion Post \$75 to help them with their Christmas party. They also decided to give \$25 for a military person's Easter or birthday gift. They are looking forward to their Christmas party in place of their December meeting. They decided to buy food for the homeless in place of gifts again this year. They are looking forward to seeing who their girls are who will be attending Girls State. Membership is a little over 71%.

Lander – The unit members have been working on a highway clean-up project with the Boy Scouts. Along with the American Legion Post family they held an Americanism Picnic at the Pioneer Museum. Don Ryan was scheduled as the speaker as well as recent attendees of Girls State and Boys State. A funeral dinner was held for a former member, Ina Jean Woltman. A lovely thank-you note was received with a generous cash donation to the unit for their help in their time of need. Mitzy Keiser was made an honorary member and her dues will be paid. Her husband, Frank, has been a long time Legion member and will deliver her card in person at the nursing home. A young man named Zachary Grogan was nominated for the Youth Hero-Good Award. He used his scouting skills when he and his brother were lost overnight in the mountains. The unit has 49% membership with 35 seniors and 16 juniors paid up so far. The unit hosted a table at the local craft fair in November selling crepe paper and baked goods. An Americanism Picnic was held in late September. Unit members attended Veterans Day events including a breakfast, luncheon and a ceremony at the High School.

Ft. Washakie – Jessie has been busy trying to set up a time to have a joint D3 meeting with Lander. They are at 25% of their membership.

Powder River – The unit members have five renewals so far.

Becky's Brigade District 4

As we prepare for the second half of our Auxiliary year, my new email address and the snail mail is proving challenging, so much of this article will rely on the official visits I made to the District 4 units.

Greybull Unit #32: President Carol Webb and her members of the unit are working hard to support the veterans, military/families and the community. They were very involved in the Community Veterans Day Dinner. They helped furnish food and patriotic poppy recognition for the veterans and active military members attending the dinner. Cookies and other goodies were donated to the Wyoming Retirement Center and Bonnie Bluejacket Nursing Home. Their current membership is 17 and they had a potential member in attendance at District #4 President Becky Allred's visit. Girls State delegate work has begun; Poppy Program Donation activities are in full swing and many more

activities are being planned by committee members. Carol Webb, President of Greybull Unit #32

Hughes-Pittinger Unit #26, Powell: Unit President Trudy Anderson and her Unit members are really busy serving veterans, military/families and other community programs. They held a Girls State delegates dinner in June; Proclamation for Powell's Poppy Day recognition was signed by Mayor Don Hillman. On Memorial Day Poppy wreaths were laid at the cemetery, breakfast burritos were served as the Post and Girls State delegate recited the "In Flander's Field". In August The Unit held an Annual Potluck Day. It was a great success. Other activities have been completed: First Responders Appreciation Day, Food Bank of the Rockies involvement, Halloween Party/Chili Cook Off for the community held at the Post, with 82 kids in costume; Veterans Day events at Powell and Cody schools; monthly donations for Child Welfare continues; membership is 41, including three new members - 2 seniors and 1 junior. Trudy Anderson, Unit 26 President

Floyd Minch Unit #44, WORLAND: President Becky Fowler and her Unit #44 members are deeply involved in programs and activities for their veterans, military/families and community, as well as they are already planning for June, 2017 State Convention in Worland. During the month of November members are spending weekends in local business promoting Poppy Day donations; a quilt drawing for Girls State delegates funding is being implemented. One of the unit members and her quilting girls donated the patriotic quilt for the drawing. Members are busy reviewing Standing Rules, studying possibilities for possible changes or not and, finally, will participate in a final vote. Presently the membership stands at 50, with a veteran obtaining membership applications just before the meeting, so two of his family may become PUFLL members. Becky Fowler, Unit #44 President

Marion Tanner Unit #29, BASIN: Members of Unit 29 have been busy preparing, presenting and completing program activities, including, Back to School Goodies to the School, Poppy Day activities and Mayor Dennis Peters declaring November, Poppy Day Recognition. Members from Meeteetse are participating in the Poppy Day Donation program. Veterans Day Community Program was participated in by Auxiliary members at the local high school. Girls State delegates presented "In Flanders Field". Membership is presently 45 as of the District #4 President Becky Allred's official visit. Becky Allred, Acting President, Unit #29

District #4 Unit members truly love this organization who work for, honor, respect, and truly love our veterans, military/families.

Lasso with Linda District 5

Thank you for all you do for the veterans and your community. I enjoyed reading your reports. The units in District 5 are fantastic! Mid Winter is January 13th and 14th in Cheyenne. Hope to see you there.

Sheridan: Members of Unit 7 have been busy. Volunteering at the VA Hospital in Sheridan has been done by assisting in a fishing derby, serving Veteran's Day lunch to patients in Mountain View Nursing Home Unit and working monthly bingo in activities along with the Post. Department President Sonja Wright was honored with a no-host dinner at a

local restaurant during her visit. A Halloween Party provided entertainment for 250 children that included games, candy and lunch at the Post Home on the Saturday before Halloween. For purpose of "Branding", the unit provided/is providing name badges with the Auxiliary symbol on them for active members (\$4.95 @ Emblem Sales) so when doing activities, community members know our organization.

Buffalo: Powder River Unit 13 continues to serve our veterans in many ways and in several communities. Unit members go up to the Veterans Home every week to play BINGO and serve ice cream or rootbeer floats. Members travel to Sheridan once a month where root beer floats are served in the different buildings. They also take two cakes to be used in Activities. Powder River Post 13 is the recipient of many hours of Auxiliary members help with breakfast twice a month, supper prior to meetings and bartending. September was their "cookie month" and the Unit took 130 dozen cookies to Sheridan. Members who don't attend meetings were happy to bake cookies.

Thank you members! Department President Sonja attended the October meeting bringing information from Department. A very successful "POPPY DAY" was held November 4th with 19 members canvassing the business places. The Unit had several members serve on Election Boards. Members provided transportation for members to obtain absentee ballots or vote. Patriotism was high as Auxiliary members voted and helped Johnson County with over 100% in voting. Members made chili and served following the Veterans Day Ceremony. The Unit was proud to have last years Girl State Delegates Stephanie Camino and Sadie Gruntmeir help with a flag folding ceremony for the community attending. Stephanie stepped in and sang the National Anthem when the Balladeers were a no show. What a great Junior member we have with Stephanie. A new PA system was purchased from 2016 Convention Funds and a training is needed for speakers to "eat the mic". Several of our members are out of commission due to health and we definitely miss their helping hands and pray for a speedy recovery.

Sundance: Members continue serving veterans and the community of Sundance. The Unit donated school supplies to Sundance Elementary and donated food items to the local pantry. They approved many Christmas related donations for the community and veterans. The Veteran's Day potluck dinner was held at the county library on Sunday, November 13th at 2 p.m. Rocky Courchaine presented a program about his father's service during WWII. It was promoted in the newspaper and on the KYDT radio show. We were honored to have our Department President Sonja Wright at our November 7th meeting. She brought valuable information about the Constitution and By-laws, projects, and programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Kaycee: The Unit continues to support their community and veterans. Unit 90 presented a Veteran's Day Program at the Kaycee Schools on Thursday, November 10th. Navy Veteran Gene Dickerson was the guest speaker. Our annual bake sale was held November 22nd and 23rd, just in time for Thanksgiving. We are hosting a Veteran's Breakfast Saturday, December 10th. District 5 President Linda Johnson attended our September meeting. She talked about how important "Branding" is to our unit. The unit

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American Legion Auxiliary News



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

What: 1st Chance on the 2018 Auxiliary Membership Drawing
When: Mid-Winter Conference (January 14th)
Where: Cheyenne, Wyoming
Who: Any Auxiliary member, Legionnaire, or Sons member
Cost: \$1 a chance or 6 for \$5

Winner designates which Auxiliary members dues to pay
 Need not be present to win

Questions: e-mail shareen.lander@gmail.com

Tickets can be printed from webpage:
www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org

Girls State

Planning is in full swing with preparations for the 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Session. Your committee members are Susan Dansereau, Kathy Wright, Belle Temple, Linda Feezer (Assistant Director) and Bobbie Swanlund (Director). We look forward to working with the units to ensure a successful session.

As many of you may know, the session will be held at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. Three bids were presented and voted on at Department Convention and your Auxiliary Units voted in favor of LCCC. The committee is excited for the change and is working closely with the staff at LCCC on a smooth transition.

Quota sheets are due by January 6, 2017. We use the quota sheets for session planning so it is important that you submit them by the deadline. Please mail or email them to me.

Information has been sent to all schools. Hopefully the unit chairmen are working with these schools and making delegate selections.

Unit and Delegate packets will be available for pick up at Mid-Winter and mailed to those who are not attending.

There are some changes to the program so please make sure you are using the forms given out this year. The session will be shortened by one day and for electives we will only have a Girls State Choir. We will still have the \$30 Delegate processing fee that is due with the first set of paperwork on April 1, 2017. We were able to lower the Delegate fee to \$250 which is due on May 1, 2017.

Updated School, Unit and Delegate packets will be on the Department website page by January 6, 2017. Once again this year we have made all delegate forms fill-able and hope the chairmen will encourage their delegates to complete their forms this way. It is very important that forms are legible and submitted on time.

If you are interested in serving on Girl State staff please notify me immediately as we are beginning to select our staff members. It takes a strong team to have a successful program and serving as a staff member is a very rewarding experience.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. I can be reached by email at gaswanny@aol.com or 307-287-4546.

District News

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needs to identify themselves to the community.

Hulett: The members of the unit have been busy. The Unit made a donation to James Boswell for Special Olympic and received \$60 in donations for poppies at the car show. Department President Sonja Wright visited our unit. We had a potluck dinner before the meeting. Sonja Wright talked to us about the Fall Workshop, volunteer hours, and Girls State. The unit received \$620.26 from the Ruth Davidson Memorial. Ruth was a member for 73 years. The Patriotic Concert was held November 8th at 7 p.m. Veterans had their Veteran's Dinner on Saturday, November 12th. November 14th -18th is Education Appreciation Week. Apples were given to the teachers. We will be doing "Socks for Veterans" during the month of December. Our membership is at 67%.

Gillette: Unit 42 continues to serve our veterans, family and the community. Members have baked over 97 dozen cookies for the veterans at the Gillette Clinic and sent Sheridan VA popcorn. Six wreaths were purchased from "Wreaths across America". They will be placed on the graves of local veterans. Veteran's Day was celebrated on Friday, November 11th. Breakfast was served by the auxiliary after the flags were placed on the graves. A donation was given to the Moose Lodge for their annual community Thanksgiving Dinner. Members placed gift tags on the Veterans Christmas Tree at the Post 42 Club. Veterans or family members of a veteran or active military wishes

and/or needs are written on the tags. The wishes/needs are purchased and returned to the Post 42 Club. The VA & R Chairman and committee deliver the gifts. Department President Sonja Wright visited in November. She talked about VA & R, Community Service, and Children and Youth. Santa will be at the American Legion on Saturday, November 10th. The unit provides hot chocolate, cookies and gifts. The children visits with Santa and then off for a hayride pulled by horses.

Moorcroft: Moorcroft Unit 25 has been busy working on our membership. We were honored to have our District President, Linda Johnson, attend our September meeting. We have donated to the Moorcroft Elementary Treat Street and the Veterans Day Project. The Veterans Day Dinner was a huge success with over 80 people attending. "Soldier Dude" made his appearance once again. Our Poppy Posters were presented and judged by people in attendance. The winners will be announced at a later date. We have given flags (U. S. and Wyoming) to the Moorcroft High School library to display with Moorcroft's History. We have also donated flags to the Veterans Day Project. Our Christmas for the Veterans tree will be going up right after Thanksgiving. The whole community helps with this project to make Christmas very nice for our Veterans. We are collecting bags and making mats for the homeless. We have involved anyone that would help. We have completed 4 mats and working on more.

American Legion Auxiliary Annual Impact Report



\$1.9 BILLION

The value of American Legion Auxiliary members' mission service this year!

That's IMPACT!

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING MISSION OUTREACH

Reported	Projected
2,170,797	6,288,351

VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVING VETERANS AND COMMUNITIES

Reported	Projected
7,390,564	13,374,771

RESOURCES RAISED & SPENT ON VETERANS, MILITARY FAMILIES

Reported	Projected
\$23,567,560	\$68,291,117

RESOURCES RAISED & SPENT TO SUPPORT YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS & COMMUNITIES

Reported	Projected
\$7,913,855	\$22,748,421

2015-16 results estimated and projected through September 1, 2016



American Legion Auxiliary News



Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation - Cheyenne VAVS

Bernice Gertsch would like to send her sincere appreciation for the presentation of the plaque presented to her from our Department President and our National President. She received the award by serving 10,000 volunteer hours of service to veterans at the Cheyenne VA Hospital.

The coffee cart is going full time again. Our thanks to a new volunteer, Richard Randall. The fall Stand Down and the Flu Clinic were both successes. Our Golden Age Challenged Veterans won lots of Medals and Ribbons at their Competition in Omaha. They earned the funds with the sale of popcorn, candy bars, and various fund raisers. We support them by paying for bowling. We are very proud of them since some of them are wheel chair veterans. Mental Health is high on our list of priorities. They are allowed to be off campus for bowling and other activities. When we get word of a need, like ice cream and toppings we supply. Every two weeks they celebrate those veterans that have completed their program with a graduation party and like to celebrate with ice cream cookies. Lauren Davis a former V.A. employee is now employed at the Denver VA as a Social Worker helping place Veterans into housing. I have five units of supplies of starter kits ready for any registered veteran. All this is due to all the donations from local residents and supporters of the "No Longer Homeless Veterans." All the Units from around Wyoming are my assistants, "Thank You." I have given start up units to 35 "No Longer Homeless Veterans." We are in need of full and queen size bed sheet sets to complete more units. When sending donated items, Please be sure you include your Unit name, address, including zip code. You will get a proper Thank You from the VA Voluntary Services Office.

The holidays are just around the corner. Wishing each and everyone of our Veterans, Service Men and Women, our loyal Auxiliary members a blessed holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Veteran's Home of Wyoming

In July we sponsored our annual watermelon feed in the Gazebo and had 48 residents participate. They consumed five watermelons and appeared to have good time.

We have had such a big success with the ice cream social every Wednesday and we will continue as long as we have residents participate. It is a great way to get to know the residents and be on a first name basis. We serve cookies with the ice cream and once a month we serve root beer floats. A lady from the community plays the piano, which is very enjoyable. The ice cream Wednesday project would not be possible without the help of Vern Short and other volunteers.

We were approached by Ray Chapin; the Activities Director of the Veteran's Home about purchasing some cots and pads for the guys when they go camping as it is very difficult getting up off the ground for some of them. He also requested two tent heaters. I purchased three cots and three pads and two heaters. A month later the Veteran's Home Commander approached me and stated they could not have the heaters in tents, it's a State Regulation. Rather than making a trip to Cabala's, I personally wrote a check and purchased the two heaters.

For June thru Nov. we sent out 33 birthday cards. Each card contained a written birthday wish and \$3.00 cash.

The skirt around the table in the train room is still in the works as we are looking for some special material that will

go with the theme of the train display. With the monetary assistance of the Cheyenne American Legion Post #6, the train room has become a worthwhile and enjoyable project for the Veterans.

We recently served pumpkin pie and whipped cream to 50 residents. Our local Winchesters Restaurant donated four of the nine pies which were greatly appreciated.

We are moving on to Christmas and I want to publicly thank Lois Henry from the Riverton Unit 19 for making over 50 bags to hold the Christmas items and Nancy Lee Beattie of Buffalo Unit 13 for her contribution of a number of bags. That was a big undertaking for both ladies and I am so thankful.

Also, I will be resigning from the Field Service Representative position at the end of June 2017. It has been a fun ride for the past nine years but the Chairmanship needs some new blood and ideas so it is time for me to move on. So think about it and I will be glad to work with the new person any way I can.

Donna Gladson

VA & R Chairman

I am looking forward to receiving the mid-year reports from every unit. All of you have done something for VA & R. If you write up the mid-year report it will be much easier to do the year end report. You just have to add to it. Every packet given out to the units at Fall Workshop included my plan for this year. Please refer to it. The Auxiliary magazine had much the same thing under VA & R in the November issue so there is another reference. Remember that each unit member is to keep track of their volunteer hours to be turned into my committee at the end of the year so we can give out the bars for service. I cannot stress this enough since it is so important to our organization. We need hours volunteered, money spent, in-kind services and the activities that were used. I did not get this information in time to get it to our District Presidents to send on to each unit member. It is to do with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregiver program. This organization is wanting information on unit members who are care givers. You cannot be considered a care giver if you take care of a spouse. It has to be another veteran. The dead line for this information was the last of Oct. Wyoming is one of the states that is being asked to participate so it is something that will need to be done for next year. The mission of the program is to ensure military and veteran caregivers are able to participate directly in the Foundation.

Not for self, for Veterans and active service men/women and families

Wyoming VA & R Chairman Twila Palu



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wyoming Officers



American Legion Auxiliary News



2016 National Convention Report - Cincinnati Ohio

Linda Feezer, Nat'l Executive Committeewoman

Everyone arrived on Thursday or Friday in preparation for the Pre-Convention Meetings held on Saturday, August 27. Assignments had been given to the delegates for the meetings held that day. All Pre-Convention meetings, except the Constitution and Bylaws Meeting were held Saturday morning, with the Constitution and Bylaws meeting that afternoon, so all could attend. The high points of each meeting are listed below:

ALA Foundation: 10 years old in 2016, works to build up funds for programs to help Departments with training, a guideline to receive grants through the Foundation is on the Natational website.

ALA Girls Nation: Delegates were told that for the first time in 34 years Hawaii held an Aloha Girls State. Also discussed establishing mandatory testing and orientation online in all Departments.

Americanism: no resolutions presented but reported pocket flags have been very popular. The winning Americanism essays are on the National website.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund: no resolutions presented, Northwest Division Award-Colorado (Department contributing largest amount per capita from each division), donating nationally surpassed Nat'l Pres. Conatser's goal of \$232,500...over \$250,000 donated to help our membership.

Children and Youth: The ALA members provided comfort bears, backpacks, safety and educational information and scholarships to many children. Five Million Member Awards were given this year.

Child Welfare Foundation: The CWF awarded \$640,395 to 24 non-profit organizations.

Community Service: no resolutions, suggested bags received at conventions and meetings can be donated to crisis centers and others needing bags to carry items in.

Education: no resolutions presented, "Veterans in the Classroom" has been changed to "Veterans in the Community", Samsung Scholarship alumni can re-apply for the scholarship. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship will be changing in 2017 and National Education Week is Nov. 13-19.

Finance: suggested having Finance meetings apart from the regular meetings, have rules in place for the Finance Committee, use checks and balances, know state laws affecting

finances.

History: NW Div. awards-No. Dakota-Best Sr. History, Nebraska-Best Jr. History, noted that Wyoming did not indicate where they stored their annual histories from survey sent out. It was suggested that if a Unit loses their Charter, save the histories and other documents in the Department so as not to lose the information. Departments should keep copies also archived someplace they will be protected from loss.

Junior Activities: no resolutions, Junior members participated in a large number of activities e.g. Volunteering in Veterans hospital, helping Veterans during the holidays, marching in parades, making care packages, preparing and/or serving food, Mission Trainings.

Leadership: no information given

Membership: There were 53 new charters for Units this year. Almost 12,000 members paid online this year. There were 831 female Veterans who joined in 2015, 816 of them renewed for 2016. Social media is the most favorable method for getting new membership.

National Security: no resolutions presented, NW Div. award-South. Dakota (Outstanding Department National Security Program)

Past President's Parley: no resolutions, emphasize mentoring more as a Parley group, have Unit Member of the Year be a priority for Units to submit to the Dept., promote the "Salute to Service Women" Awards.

Poppy: a resolution has been sent to Congress for their action designation a National Poppy Day or Week, beginning Monday before Memorial Day, and continuing through Memorial Day. National Poppy Poster Award to Darbi Buckmiller, Moorcroft, Wyoming in the category 10-11 grades. **WAY TO GO WYOMING**

Public Relations: no information given

Rules and Resolutions: The Rules of Convention were read. No new rules were added. The Pre Convention Committee only deals with resolutions that don't involve a program committee. Each committee acts on the resolutions involving their programs. This is a change from previous years.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation: no resolution, VA and R Guide was revised in 2016 and should be in the hands of every ALA Volunteer.

The Northwest Divisional Caucus was held at 3:30 p.m. the same day. Northwest Division National Vice President Judy Twete presided. The

incoming Divisional Vice President of the NW Division is Virginia Nelsen of Nebraska. This position is rotated among the seven states that make up this division. Wyoming's Peggy Miller of Gillette will be up for election for this position in 2017 at the National Convention to be held in Reno, Nevada.

The Convention Parade was held on Sunday, August 28. Each Department has a delegation that represents the state in the parade.

National Convention meetings were convened on Monday a.m., August 29. 8 delegates and 1 alternate represented Wyoming. Linda Johnson and Pat Persson were the pages for the Wyoming delegation.

Mission Training

Spokane, Washington - October 28th members from the Department of Wyoming arrived in Spokane for Mission Training. Rock Spring members Gina Dusel, Heidi Yaklich and Susan Dansereau went through Idaho and NE members Sonja Wright, Peggy Miller, Vicki Paddock and Peg Sullivan went through Montana and then Idaho. The weather was great and the fellowship even better.

Some attended the Friday night seminar on Compliance and filing 990's. You can never hear enough about this. Saturday was designed for the following:

National President Sharon Conatser of Illinois presided. The meeting ran through Wednesday morning when the meeting was adjourned to join The American Legion for a joint session to hear the Democratic Candidate for U.S. Presidential Candidate, Hillary Clinton. The ALA meeting was reconvened to install the newly elected officers of the ALA. National President for 2016-2017 is Mary Davis from the state of Washington. President Conatser then adjourned the convention.

Thursday a.m. the American Legion Auxiliary was again invited to join The American Legion to hear Republican Candidate for U.S. President, Donald Trump.

Who We Are: Getting Everyone on the Same Page;

What We Do: Mission Outreach;

Why We Matter: Our Impact

Attendees shared ideas, frustrations and learned. A high point was a joint session with the Juniors on "Army Women Speak". A dedicated and inspiring Army recruiter told her story of growing up, joining the service and how she has GROWN. It was awesome.

There was even time to visit the Casino where some left Wyoming money and others brought Washington money home.

Scholarships - Education

It is that time of year when high school seniors are starting to fill out their applications for colleges and with that comes the applications for scholarships to help lighten the financial load. We need to remind them of the opportunities that the American Legion Auxiliary can offer them.

One of these is the "Spirit of Youth Scholarship". This is offered to candidates that have been a Junior member for the past three consecutive years.

Second, is the "Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship". This is offered to daughters, sons, granddaughter, grandsons, great-granddaughters, and great-grandsons of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during certain dates.

Third, is the E.A. Blackmore Memorial Scholarship. This is offered to a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a member or deceased member of The American Legion.


This is a state scholarship.

Finally, is the Non-Traditional Scholarship, which is offered to students that are returning to the classroom after being gone for a period of time. They need to be a current member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion.

Applications and additional information on most of these scholarships can be found online at www.alaforveterans.org or www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at bgtemple54@gmail.com. All of these scholarships need to be turned in to me by February 15, 2017. They will need to be signed and checked for accuracy before they can be submitted to the state or national level.


I hope to see many applications this year.

Belle Temple, Education Chair



Buddies in Business

2 inch business card ads for \$60 for 4 issues of the Department of Wyoming American Legion Publication




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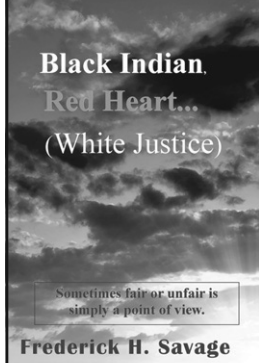
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