



WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING



Volume 29, No. 4

1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82003

December 2017

From our Commander

- *Commander Kenneth Persson, Sr*

It has been a busy past few months. Our annual Fall Workshop was held in Powell and hosted by The American Legion Family of Post #26. They are to be congratulated for an outstanding conference. Attendance was great and I believe a benefit for all who were able to attend. Following our Fall Workshop in Powell District 5 participated in a District Revitalization in Gillette. We were able to recruit, renew, or transfer 70 members in Posts throughout the district. Thanks to Post #42 for hosting this important event and a special thanks to all those who took time to support the revitalization efforts.

The annual Commanders and Adjutants Conference was held in Indianapolis and Doug Hensala and I attended along with National Committee members Doug Uhrig, Todd White and Jerry Clark and our NEC Terry Miller. We were able to retain all of our National Committee positions as well as participate in updates on The American Legion.

The Department was asked by Representative Liz Cheney to participate in a conference call regarding the Bells of Balangiga, housed at FE Warren AFB as a memorial to soldiers killed during an attack. The call included representatives of the VFW, DAV, Wyoming Veterans Commission, Governor's Office (Judge Hartman), Dave McCracken, MG Reiner and Representative Cheney and her staff. The purpose of the call was to discuss the Bells of Balangiga. These bells were used to initiate an attack on American troops during the Philippine-American War on 1901.

Two of the bells were brought back to Ft

D.A. Russell (F.E. Warren AFB) in 1904 and have been there ever since as a Memorial to the troops killed during the attack. Several attempts have been made to return the bells to the Philippines and the Catholic Church from which they were taken. The American Legion Department of Wyoming has always maintained that these are not War Trophies, but a memorial to our fallen comrades. The follow-on to this meeting was a face to face with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia at Warren AFB and Doug Hensala attended to represent the Department. At this time no further action to return the bells has taken place.

I had the opportunity to attend the winter meeting of the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association in Casper. This is an American Legion program and one we have supported in the past and one we must continue to support in the future. There are a number of ways we can provide assistance to this outstanding youth program. The WHSRA gives out a large number of scholarship to graduating seniors each year. Post or individual may contribute to the WHSRA scholarship fund to support education. Posts or individual may also choose to sponsor a belt buckle by contributing \$250 or Posts may want to help sponsor the annual Awards banquet in Rock Springs. A number of our Posts have contributed to this program over the years and it is important that we continue. One other area we can assist American Legion High School Rodeo in is support at the local rodeos held around the state. I will have the schedule and location of the events at Mid-Winter and again

See 'Commanders Notes' page 4



2017 Legion College class graduates ready to lead, mentor

Nov 03, 2017

Are you ready?

That was the question posed to the 2017 American Legion College class by National Commander Denise H. Rohan Friday morning, prior to the start of their graduation in the National Executive Committee Room at National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

"Are you ready to share your experiences, your talents and the knowledge you gained here this week?" she asked. "Are you ready to mentor the future leaders of this great American Legion Family? Are you ready to be ambassadors of The American Legion and know that everywhere you go, any time you are wearing The American Legion emblem, people will be looking at you as heroes? And they will be

expecting you to set an example. Are you ready to be part of a special group of men and women who are so proud to call themselves National American Legion College alumni?" All 55 students applauded in their answer to Rohan that they were ready to leave Indianapolis with a set of new leadership skills and tools and share them with their posts, districts and departments.

"I want to go back and inspire other Legionnaires. And also be able to mentor them," said Valerie Scheuering of Post 37 in Nevada.

"The comradeship we have developed this week has been fantastic," said Thomas Schreck of Post 1830 in New York. "With the interchange of all the different ideas, we've all picked up something from everybody that will help us in going back and helping our fellow veter-

ans and Legionnaires in our hometown."

"I didn't know much about Legion College before coming here," said Paul Edwards of Post 255 in Minnesota. "My mentor strongly suggested that I come. The path before me was not clear. After attending Legion College, I still don't know exactly where my path is leading but I do know it's going the right way."

As the five districts' participants lined up to accept their diploma from Rohan and receive their Legion College pin from Past National Commander and Legion College Chancellor Dave Rehbein, the district leaders spoke a few words about their group and about their hope for all 55 of the students.

"It is amazing to watch 55 Legionnaires come together for the sole purpose of evolving themselves to be a strong force and

See 'Class Graduates' page ?

WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE

label

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The American Legion
Department of Wyoming

Vice Commander

- Richard Dansereau

Greetings,

I hope this paper finds you well. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Are Ya'll ready for Christmas?? I'm not, but I know something you can give for Christmas that will be a present to all; more American Legion members!! It would be a great present for that person to be able to join us in assistance to children, veterans, our community. It would be a great present to your post, district and department. It would be a great gift to National.

Do you know right now we are **67 members behind** what we had last year at this time? We need 118 more members to make our 75% goal by

12/13/17 and after that we will be looking at our 80% goal. We have several posts in Wyoming that are really struggling. I know there are posts that say, "We already talked to everyone in our area" or "Our community is not that big, we have everyone we can get". Well then, get out there and help another post out!! There are plenty of veterans in Wyoming that are not members of our Legion family that could be.

Our biggest problem with recruiting new members is US. WE are the enemy. Either by not talking to that veteran you see in the store, or by not welcoming someone to your post activity, or by not letting a fellow vet-

eran participate in honors to another veteran or a simple flag ceremony. We are the biggest thing that keeps other members from joining. If we promoted all the things we do here in Wyoming; how many volunteer hours we give, how much money we donate to local causes, how many people spend the time to help a veteran or plan a post event. Even as individuals, if you knew how much our fellow Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary did for veterans and their communities it would blow you away.

I remember talking to a post adjutant one time about the Consolidated Post Report. He told me "Oh, we don't have anything to put on it." Having

already talked to other members of the post, I knew that wasn't true. I said, "you do any funerals?", "Ya", "You do fund raising dinners?", "Ya", "You went over and helped that veteran fix his house?", "Ya", "You have a local baseball team? You support Boy Scouts? You take veterans to appointments? etc....", "Well, Ya". Those are the things no one knows we do, unless you tell someone. It may not seem like much at the time, but it adds up.

Is the lid on your bucket?

Best Wishes to all of you,

Richard Dansereau

Department of Wyoming Vice Commander

From the desk of the office manager

- Gina Mayhan

As I reflect back on the past three years of employment with the American Legion, Department Headquarters, I can, with all honesty, say there hasn't been a bad day at the office. Getting to process membership into the American Legion is not just a job, it is an honor. To see the names of so many men and women that have served this great country of ours is very humbling; they risked their lives each and every day and stood proud beside their fellow comrades.

With that being said; however, membership in the American Legion takes a real nose dive this time of year. It always seems like the first three goals National sets for us are met with no problem but from here on out, it is a real struggle to meet those goals. I have Posts at the present time that are short over 100 members and yet, on the other end of the spectrum, I have Posts that are just short that 1 member.

This is where each and every one of you reading this article come in to play. If each of you would reach out to one

Veteran, inquire as to whether or not they belong to the American Legion, and get them to either renew their membership or sign up as a new member, then another of our goals would be obtainable. It really is that simple. I myself have asked people at choir concerts, sporting events, restaurants, the car wash, you name it... I have been there and I have asked the people I see wearing Veteran hats if they belong to the American Legion. I always carry membership applications with me, and if they say they are not a member, then I give them the application. And I thank them for their service.

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.

We work for the Vets in our community. I am honored to do just that.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Department Headquarters.

The American Legion Department of Wyoming 2017 Membership Report

Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	Rock Springs	420	307	73.10%	8	1	Van Tassel	32	26	81.25%	0
28	Green River	205	137	66.83%	17	4	Lusk	42	26	61.90%	6
36	Ft. Bridger	130	95	73.08%	3	5	Torrington	173	135	78.03%	0
40	Cokeville	20	14	70.00%	1	8	Douglas	180	123	68.33%	12
41	Evanston	54	23	42.59%	18	9	Glenrock	56	47	83.93%	0
43	Jackson	115	69	60.00%	17	10	Wheatland	91	62	68.13%	6
46	Alpine	33	18	54.55%	7	15	Glendo	29	23	79.31%	0
47	Pinedale	45	47	104.44%	0	56	Veteran	12	5	41.67%	4
49	Afton	18	3	16.67%	11	63	Lingle	30	28	93.33%	0
55	Kemmerer	34	22	64.71%	4	70	La Grange	12	9	75.00%	0
78	Big Piney	21	18	85.71%	0	75	Chugwater	10	9	90.00%	0
88	La Barge	19	12	63.16%	2	95	Guernsey	45	22	48.89%	12
D-1		1114	765	68.67%	71	D-2		712	515	72.33%	19
	75% - 11/30/17						75% - 11/30/17				
Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
2	Casper	280	204	72.86%	6	11	Lovell	20	22	110.00%	0
16	Powder River	10		0.00%	8	18	Thermopolis	22	15	68.18%	2
19	Riverton	85	54	63.53%	10	20	Cody	67	51	76.12%	0
31	Dubois	20	8	40.00%	7	26	Powell	158	115	72.78%	4
33	Lander	170	123	72.35%	5	29	Basin	55	37	67.27%	4
61	Pavillion	21	8	38.10%	8	32	Greybull	40	27	67.50%	3
81	Ft. Washakie	40	16	40.00%	14	44	Worland	225	136	60.44%	33
						85	Meeteetse	26	21	80.77%	0
						91	Hearth Mountain	12	10	83.33%	0
D-3		626	413	65.97%	57	D-4		625	434	69.44%	35
	75% - 11/30/17						75% - 11/30/17				
Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2018 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
3	Newcastle	40	47	117.50%	0	6	Cheyenne	1400	920	65.71%	130
7	Sheridan	250	179	71.60%	9	14	Laramie	415	268	64.58%	43
13	Buffalo	150	112	74.67%	1	21	Burns	10	4	40.00%	4
25	Moorcroft	35	30	85.71%	0	54	Saratoga	115	64	55.65%	22
42	Gillette	350	240	68.57%	23	60	Pine Bluffs	45	51	113.33%	0
45	Sundance	20	25	125.00%	0	64	Medicine Bow	52	43	82.69%	0
80	Hulett	40	30	75.00%	0	77	Albin	11	11	100.00%	0
90	Kaycee	10	7	70.00%	1	93	Cheyenne	10	5	50.00%	3
						122	Rawlins	60	49	81.67%	0
D-5		895	670	74.86%	1	D-6		2118	1415	66.81%	174
	75% - 11/30/17						75% - 11/30/17				
Current as of: 6-Dec-17											
DISTRICT TOTALS		6090	4212	69.16%	356						
17 HQ.		200	160								
DEPARTMENT GOAL		6290	4372	69.51%	346						
NATIONAL GOAL		6000	4372	72.87%	128						
		75% - 11/30/17									



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Class Graduates From page 1

agents of change," said Joshua Clement, a 2015 Legion College graduate and member of Post 2 in Montana. "These Legionnaires understand the value of being a grassroots organization and know how it takes drive and effort to continue to grow us. They are all change agents. Everyone in District 1 is ready to lead up and continue to purple up to make this organization grow. Because we are The American Legion."

Mick Sobczak, a 2015 Legion College graduate from California, reminded the class that "this (Legion College) pin that you are receiving today will only mean something if you use it. And in The American Legion, it's the veteran we serve who matters the most."

More than 900 Legionnaires have graduated from American Legion College in the past 18 years, and over the course of that time the program's curriculum has evolved to focus more on leadership development. Deanna

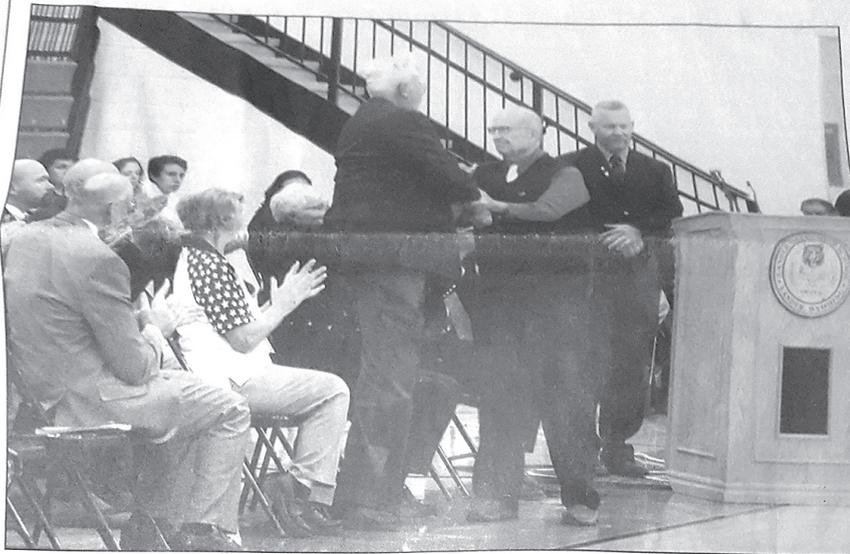
Hurless of Post 14 in Wyoming has been looking forward to attending the program to gain more leadership tools and knowledge and this past week she's "learned a lot," she said. "Now I need to pass it forward. Because that's the reason we are here ... to pass it forward."

Hurless has only been a member of The American Legion for nine years because she didn't know about the organization, as there wasn't a presence in the community where she grew up and was never informed about the organization upon her military discharge in 1983. But once becoming a member of Post 14, she hit the ground running.

"The first time I read the preamble it was very emotional for me because of how much it meant to me. I believe in everything it says," Hurless said. "The American Legion is definitely a passion of mine. I believe in what we're here for - the four pillars."

Mayorial Proclamation

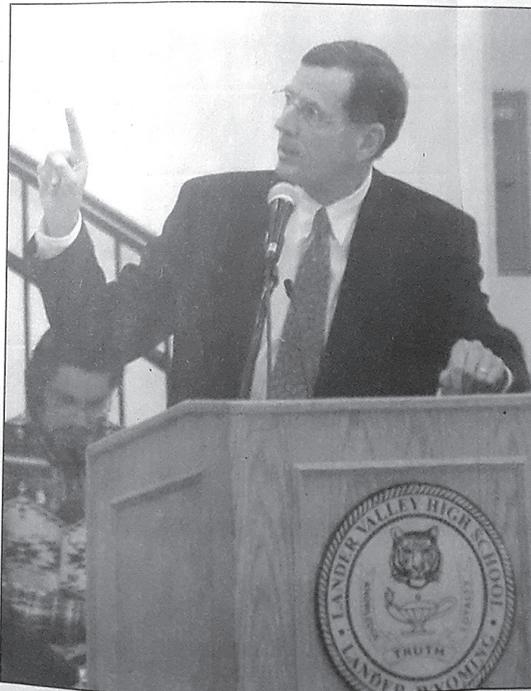
Thanking Veterans



Mayor Del McOmie declared Nov. 11, 2017 as Kenneth V. Persson Sr. Day in honor of his 37 years of military service and his commitment to the Lander area once he retired during the annual Lander Valley High School Veteran's Day program. Persson was Command Sergeant Major in the Army and a Senior Enlisted Soldier in the Wyoming Army National Guard. He has been a part of the Wyoming Game Warden's Association, One Shot Antelope Hunt and currently services as the American Legion Commander for the Department of Wyoming. Also in attendance was U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., who thanked the Veterans who had put their lives on the line for their country, presenting Veterans in attendance a military challenge coin.

Pictured above, from left, Sen. Cale Case, R-Lander, Patricia Persson, Persson, Mayor Del McOmie and Kenneth Persson Jr.

Pictured at right Barrasso spoke to the Veterans and students in attendance at the program.



Photos by Kelli Ameling

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Richard Gardner: A Veteran's Story



By Penny Merryfield
Post Publisher
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Courtesy Richard Gardner
A young Richard Gardner stands tall in uniform.

Enlisting with some high school buddies, Delbert and Dwight Eisenhower, in January 1943 to the Marines, Richard Gardner experienced a let down due to size and weight.

Pilots learned to take off and land on carriers from Gardner and the others division trainers aboard the carrier.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, Gardner returned home to Pine Bluffs and the family farm.

From veteran to farmer was an easy adjustment for Gardner. It was what he knew, and was handed down from generation to generation.

Gardner, now 92 years of age, is slowly settling down and is in the process of retiring from the farm. "We sold the cattle a couple of years ago, and now we are just waiting to hear on the farm," said Gardner. "The farms been in the family since the late 1880s, and its time!"

Farming led him to other achievements, as he did in the military.

He was on the board for and served for 18 years in the Southeastern Laraine County Conservation District, active

with 4-H and was an avid bowler for many years in Pine Bluffs.

The Marines rejection was taken hard, but then Gardner enlisted in the Navy and was accepted in a special program USNI, due to his eye sight. His disappointment faded.

Gardner graduated from Pine Bluffs High School, and headed to Denver, then to the Great Lakes for more training, as a mechanic in the Air Corp. Finally landing in Miami, Florida.

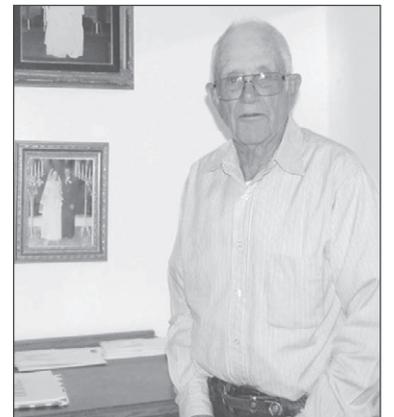
During his time as a mechanic, he felt unchallenged. "I became bored to death with my job," stated Gardner. He started seeking different jobs he could transfer to in the Navy with more challenge.

Gardner was informed of a "pilot program" training pilots. He applied to and was accepted to the new program to train pilots in landing on aircraft carriers. He found himself in Pensicola, Florida training pilots on the U.S.S. Guadalcanal.

The U.S.S. Guadalcanal saw much action in WWII and was awarded three battle stars, a Presidential Unit Citation for service in World War II. Her Presidential Unit Citation was personally ordered by Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations. She was then sent to serve as a model for pilots to train on.



Courtesy Navysite.de
The U.S.S Guadalcanal with her deck loaded.



Penny Merryfield/Pine Bluffs Post
Richard Gardner at home talking memories and moments.

Gardner liked to square dance as well. This Veteran stands tall, like his crops and cattle. We thank him for his service in the Navy.



Sponsored by



Attention Wyoming veterans!

If you are looking for a job, please contact your nearest Department of Workforce Services office. Our trained staff will assist you in all aspects of the job search. Remember, all of our services are free. You served our country, now let us serve you.

Taps...



Post Everlasting 2017

District 1

Post 24 Rock Springs

McFadden, Pat (13)
Cloyd, Louis (1)
Larrabaster, John (27)
Meduna, Henry (16)
Carter, Charles (28)
Caller, Richard (13)

District 2

Post 5 Torrington

Hageman, Wayne (9)
Dennis, Keith (8)
Nordholm, Larry (32)

Post 8 Douglas

Christy, Thomas (47)

Post 63 Lingle

Carroll, Samuel (45)

District 3

Post 33 Lander

Kniffen, Ralph E Jr. (46)

District 4

Post 20 Cody

Sidwell, Roger (35)

Post 26 Powell

Short, Eldon (53)

Post 32 Greybull

Ridgway, Donald (8)

District 5

Post 3 Newcastle

Fox, Thomas (20)

Post 7 Sheridan

Foslien, Clinton (71)
Coulter, John (47)
Dillon, Charles (7)
Hassey, Keith (27)
Squadron 7 Sheridan

Hlousek, Richard (15)

Post 13 Buffalo

Potts, James C (12)

District 6

Post 6 Cheyenne

Garrido, Raymond (26)
Fast, Diana (1)

Post 14 Laramie

Brown, James W (22)

Post 54 Saratoga

Hutchinson, Carl (6)

Post 60 Pine Bluffs

Wisroth, Carol (6)

Post 17 Department Headquarters

Erpelding, Gerald (2)

Hodder, Warren (?)

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

Christmas Time 2017 Happy Holy-days

This time of year seems magical to many people. The colorful decorations, the happy conversation as families gather together, the joy and excitement around the Christmas tree as presents are exchange, the wonder and delight of the children. All this is Christmas. But there is so much more. There is the promise of Hope.

To our Veterans this can also be a time of joy, a time to share the love of family and to friends. But for some Veterans there may be no magic at all, only loneliness and sadness. We must be sure to reach out to our Veteran brothers and sisters and share words of encouragement and comfort. Take time to visit the Veterans who can't leave their homes and the ones who are in assisted living facilities. Let them know they are important, that they are not forgotten, that they can have Hope as they anticipate the new year ahead. Because there is so much more. There is the promise of Hope.

There is a message of Hope we can share, the celebration of the birth of the Savior who was sent to us by the God of Hope. In the Holy Bible, the book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6 it says,

For to us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This message was given by God through Isaiah the prophet, over 700 years before the birth of Jesus the Christ. In the book of Luke, chapter 1, verses 26 through 34, the angel Gabriel was sent to tell a young girl that she would be the mother of the Messiah. This was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14.

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and

considered what manner of greeting this was. *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

The promised Messiah, the Savior of mankind, was born in Bethlehem of Judah, in Israel. This is another prophecy found in Micah 5:2. He was laid in a wooden manger and died on a wooden cross. The greatest gift ever given was given by God. John 3:16-17 says,

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The God of love sent His gift of love, His messages of Hope for all of mankind. Hope that through a relationship with Jesus the Christ we can know God and enjoy Him forever. This is the true meaning of Christmas. It is a celebration of Hope.

I pray for Veterans and their families this Christmas Season. I pray that you will find the Savior, the Hope of Christmas. Seek Him, ask for forgiveness of sins, turn your life over to Him and you will see a new life of Hope in 2018.

Merry Christmas and a very blessed and joyous New Year.

Chaplain Vandivort

*Department Chaplain, Wyoming
Jim.vandivort@tctwest.net*

Commanders Notes From page 1

ask for support.

I had the pleasure of attending the Veterans Recognition Dinner with Post #47 in Pinedale, the Americanism picnic with Post #33 in Lander and the Veterans Day dinner with Post #36 in Ft Bridger. I appreciate the invitations and look forward to visiting more of our Posts in the future. I would like to give a special thanks to Post #36 for their contribution to this year's Commander's Project. Between the Post, American Legion Riders, Sons of the American, American Legion Auxiliary and their Troop Committee, they donated \$1000 towards the E.A. Blackmore Scholarship fund and Oratorical Scholarship fund. My sincere thanks. Other Posts have also substantial contributions including Post #33 and Sons Squadron #42.

I was able to attend the meeting of the Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Interim Committee in Thermopolis. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and solicit public comment on two pending bills. One is the Purple Heart Day and State. This House Bill would establish August 7th of each year to recognize our Purple Heart recipients and establish Wyoming as a Purple Heart State. We stood in support of the bill and it was moved forward. The second bill, a Senate File, dealt with establishment of a Veterans Skilled Nursing Center. Again, The American Legion stood in support and the bill moved forward but with some opposition. We need to work with our local legislator to support this important piece of legislation. Our Legislative Committee will be coming out with additional information and I would ask that we strongly support this effort at the Post level.

And finally, as most of you know, we are currently looking for a new Adjutant. Doug has decided it is time to retire and devote more time to family and other interests. Doug has served the Department exceedingly well over the last few years and we thank him and wish him well in the future. With

his help, the transition should be a smooth one and we will continue to count on his help as a member of the American Legion, Department of Wyoming. The Department leadership and the DEC are moving forward with the selection process and we will hopefully have a new Adjutant in place prior to Mid-Winter.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year. I know that our District and Department officers and Staff have the best interest of the Department upmost in their minds and I believe we have a great team in place. On behalf of the staff and leadership of the Department, I wish all of you a Joyous Holiday Season.

Commander Ken Persson Sr.

Warrior Expedition

RAWLINS — Every spring, several military veterans embark on a journey of healing along the Continental Divide Trail. And for three of the last four years, fellow veterans at American Legion Post 122 in Rawlins have dedicated time and efforts to helping those hikers as they pass through Wyoming. “We take them around town so they can resupply, we take them out to eat or cook dinner or have a picnic in the yard — we just make them feel at home,” Legionnaire Mike Sherr said. The Continental Divide Trail hike for veterans is part of a program put on by the non-profit Warrior Expeditions. Starting in April, the hike takes the veterans from its beginning point at the U.S.-Mexico border all the way north to the Canadian border. In mid-July, the path takes them through Rawlins, where the American Legion Post, other veterans and civilian community members show appreciation for the warriors’ service by accommodating anything they need. A host family puts veterans up while they stay in the city. RV World Campground has also let hiking veterans stay for free, as the owner is a veteran himself, Sherr said. Local restaurants provide free or discounted meals when the legionnaires bring them in. No matter what they do while they’re here, Sherr said it’s always an enjoyable occasion. “The first year, we did a spaghetti dinner at the VFW, and there were probably 30 people there with the guys,” Sherr said. “They went to a baseball game with us — it was a blast. We look forward to them coming. It’s always an adventure to see who shows up.” Many of the hiking veterans suffer from mild to severe cases of post-traumatic stress disorder or struggle with other mental and physical challenges, Sherr said.

The hike is designed to help the warriors transition into post-service life through the physical activity, beautiful scenery and fellowship with other veterans, as well as times of solitude. For those he’s stayed in touch with, Sherr said he’s heard positive results. “It’s a way to relax and get back into society,” Sherr said. “We had a guy last year that said, ‘I get a big stick and I just yell and get my frustration out.’ (After the hike), he said, ‘It’s working and I’m fitting back into society. I can sit down and talk to people.’ ... Even just by the time they get here, they’re loosening up, laughing and joking.” In July, four veterans on the trail stayed in Rawlins, where the legionnaires and others provided accommodations and company. For Legionnaire James Ross, as long as the opportunity is there to help his fellow veterans, he feels it is his duty. “Even though we’re veterans ourselves, we still owe it to our comrades,” he said. “The Legion started in 1919 with the goal of helping veterans. When we got out (of the service), we had Legion people helping us. ... I think every veteran should at least have that respect to give all the help you can give them. We owe them everything.” And while the assistance they provide to the hiking veterans might be one of the year’s more notable instances, Legionnaire Merlyn Smith said there’s never a time they won’t help those who’ve served. “We help any American veteran, anywhere,” he said. Sherr said anyone looking to make contributions to veterans can contact him at the American Legion Post

“Special thanks to the members of American Legion Post 33, VFW Post 954, and American Legion District 3 for hosting the Continental Divide Trail Warrior Hike veterans during



(Left to right) Heath Lanctot, Jeremy Tierney, John Finch and Brian Flatt stopped through Rawlins mid July after spending several months on the Continental Divide Trail. The military veterans continue to take part in a five-month Nonprofit Warriors Expedition.



Pictured left to right: Warrior hiker Heath Lanctot, Post 33 VC Bob Keiser, DC Ken Persson Sr., Post 33 Cmdr Ken Persson Jr., and Warrior hikers John French and Jeremy Tierney

their stay in Lander WY!”

In 1948, Earl Shaffer told a friend he was going to “walk off the war” to work out the sights, sounds, and losses of World War II. Four months later, Earl Shaffer became the first person to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Following in Earl Shaffer’s footsteps and in recognizing the therapeutic effects of long distance outdoor expeditions, Warrior Expeditions created the Warrior Hike, Warrior Bike,

and Warrior Paddle programs which are designed to help combat veterans transition from their military service.

For several years various American Legion Posts in Wyoming have hosted and supported the Continental Divide Trail Warrior Hike. This year hikers past through Rawlins, Lander and Dubois on their way from Mexico to the Canadian border covering 3100 miles through 5 states. Hats off to all those who supported this great program.

District 3 News

A Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Wyoming was presented to Lander business Shirts & More by Department Commander Ken Persson Sr. The certificate, signed by the Department Commander, Auxiliary President, Detachment Commander, and Riders Director, recognizes their contribution to various American Legion Family programs and events. The certificate reads in part:

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to

God and Country. For Outstanding Support of The American Legion Family by providing quality merchandise and services to promote Legion programs and activities

Presented by the American Legion Department of Wyoming This 25 Day of August, 2017

In the past, Shirts & More has provided T-shirts for the local Military Science Class at Lander Valley and Pathfinder High Schools as part of their PT uniform and more recently provided Wyoming logo polo shirts at a substantial discount for Wyoming delegates to wear in the National Convention Parade.



Pictured above left to right: Department Commander Ken Persson Sr., District 3 Vice President Pat Persson, owners Dan and Gina Carey, and staff members Cody McCreary and Sheena Whipp.

DISTRICT NEWS

District 5 News

Don Sullivan, District Commander

I am very proud of the Posts in District 5. We have been in the Top 3 for membership. Thank you to all members and adjutants. Contact with all Posts is very important. Here are highlights of District 5 Happenings:

NEWCASTLE Post 3 - I was invited to attend the joint Legion/VFW Veterans Dinner on November 11th. It was great to be present when Newcastle Unit 3 was presented their Charter by my wife, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer Peg. Commander Dafoe was instrumental in helping them. Post 3 has reached their goal. Congratulations! The Post, in cooperation with the school, have a program where High School students will sign up and help local veterans with projects around their homes. Plans are being made for Boys State and Oratorical. It is exciting to see Post 3 doing Legion Programs including veterans, youth and community. Keep up the good work!

SHERIDAN Post 7 - is working hard on membership, programs, serving the community and supporting an working with veterans at the Sheridan VA.

BUFFALO Post 13 - Veterans Week was busy working in conjunction with the VFW. Monday after school in conjunction with Unit 13 a flag folding

ceremony was held at the Boys and Girls Club. Each of the kids helped fold the flag and showed respect. Tuesday we finished our disposal of flags; Wednesday a fellow Vietnam Veteran gave an excellent program at the Library recounting his experiences; Thursday started off with the weekly Veterans coffee and donuts at the VFW followed by breakfast at the Senior Center provided by Marna M. Kuehne Foundation. The Color Guard and Honor Guard presented colors with talks given by Commander Sullivan and VFW Commander Zorbas. The High School held a Veterans Program on Friday with posting of colors, flag folding, music, lunch by Marna M. Kuehne Foundation and talks from veterans in the classroom throughout the day. Buffalo High School students respect our FLAG. It was a success and the school would like to continue next year. The week continued with our Annual Veterans Day Program at War Memorial for the public followed by an Open House at Post 13 with chili provided by Unit 13. The week concluded on Sunday with the Legion 2nd Sunday Breakfast and the Baptist Church providing lunch.

The next big community project is the Christmas Dinner held in conjunction with United Congregational Church. The Legion does the cooking, helps deliver meals to shut-ins and serves members of the public who come for dinner. Last year even in a blizzard, 42 meals were delivered and 40 dinners were served at the Post.

SUNDANCE Post 45 - On November 6th Tim Wattenberg D5VC, PDC Keith Davidson and I had the privilege and honor of getting Post 45 up and running. Nominations of officers and installation was held with Jim Bowman being elected as the new Commander. Following installation, the meeting was turned over to the officers. The officers and members got down to business and are excited to get the Legion up and running again. I truly think they will do good.

MOORCROFT Post 25 - is working and doing great on membership. They held their annual Veterans Day Dinner in conjunction with their Auxiliary.

GILLETTE Post 42 - is struggling membership wise and promoting Legion programs. By the time this article comes out, the Post will have a new Commander following the resignation of DeWayne. DVC Tim and a couple of Department Officers attended that

meeting to see how they can help Post 42 get their act together. The "good ole boys" attitude has to change because it is detouring new members and driving current members away. The drill team does a great job but needs to include lady veterans. When members walk into a meeting, they need to leave their attitude at the door and do what's best for Post 42. I challenge Post 42 to WORK TOGETHER, WORK on MEMBERSHIP and WORK Programs.

HULETT Post 80 - is also doing great with membership and pushing Legion programs. The members have a working relationship with the school.

KAYCEE Post 90 - is holding on. Membership is coming in slowly. I would like to meet with the Post but regular meeting isn't held.

The District 5 Revitalization held in September was a huge success with 60 members being transferred from Post 17 and renewals. Thank you to National Membership Michele, Department Commander Persson, Department Adjutant Hensala, Service Officers Null and Yeager and NEC Miller. Members of the Post and Auxiliary from Gillette, Newcastle, Moorcroft, Buffalo and Sheridan called and visited with former members or Post 17 members.

District 6 News-American Legion Strategic Plan

By Toni Elliott - District 6 Vice Commander

What is the American Legion Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth? Have you fallen asleep yet? Does this sound like it's about to be another boring membership article/rant? I hope not.

My goal is to let you know about the National and Department (state) strategic plans in a clear way that is (hopefully) somewhat engaging. This is article 1 in a 5-part series.

The National Strategic Plan's mission statement is: to increase membership and post development by creating a culture of growth. Add "through the application of programs" and you've got Wyoming's mission statement.

That last part that Wyoming added, in my opinion, is huge. That's where most of our posts shine in one way or another.

There are five priorities, or objectives, that National has targeted as areas we can all work on.

The first one is Create Brand Awareness-target members and non-members to create awareness of who we are and what we do.

I have a little story regarding this objective. I grew up being *very* active and involved in Job's Daughters. I spent multiple hours a week for *years* at the Masonic Temple, which happens to be right

next door to the American Legion. In all of those years I never, not once, thought about what that building next door was. True, teenagers are a little self-involved and that may be part of the reason I had no idea what an American Legion was or that there was one right next door. But if you know anything about the Masonic family, you know that it is based in a lot of patriotism. It amazes me that we never got together with the American Legion next door for any patriotic programs or holidays. I never knew... till I was an adult, that the building next door was the American Legion. And even then, as a Navy veteran, I didn't know for 15 years what they did or that I was eligible to join. I was never approached by a post member to join. It was an American Legion Auxiliary member that suggested I go down to the American Legion and check it out.

Growing up I had no idea that Legion Baseball, Boys State and Girls State had *anything* to do with the American Legion. So, to create brand awareness, we must *own* our programs. Don't talk about Legion Baseball, talk about American

Legion Baseball. Similarly, promote American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, etc. Be proud of all of our programs and let members and non-members know what we do. We have so many programs in our state. Not every post does every program, so concentrate on what your post knows and does well.

Another way to promote your post and create brand awareness is to wear your cover (and encourage fellow post members to as well) everywhere you can. People will be curious and come ask you questions...and that's when you wow them with the programs your post puts on.

Lastly, always carry a membership application...or 5...in your wallet or purse. Put your name and information on the application prior to that, so that when you meet an interested veteran you will impress him or her with your eagerness and organization. Even if the meeting is brief, he or she will have a physical reminder of the meeting.

Next issue I'll tackle communication and how we can use that to attract new members and retain the ones we have.



POST NEWS

Post 47 News

The American Legion honors local Veterans

By Sue Shriver, September 18, 2017

More than 60 people gather for food, fellowship, and fun during the annual banquet of American Legion Phillips-Edwards Post 47 in Pinedale. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, Post Chaplain, Rev. Randy Belton, lead the group in a moving tribute to all POWs and MIAs, with the Missing Man table. Randy reminds us to remember and never forget the sacrifices of these Americans. After a delicious dinner prepared

by Pitchfork Fondue, the awards program began. Commander Brandon Shriver presented the first award for 63 continuous years of membership to Daniel resident, Ben Pearson. Ben, an Army veteran, chuckles as he recalls being shot at in the Korean War. Next, having 62 years of membership, Cora resident, Jim Noble, is recognized. Jim is a very active and productive member of the post. Both Ben and Jim are true Patriots and the backbone of our post. Other longevity awards went to John Radosevich 15 years,



Ben Pearson, Army Veteran. Photo courtesy American Legion Phillips-Edwards Post 47.

Raymond Stelting 10 years, Art Hamilton 10 years, Shawn Hamby 5 years, not present Mark Vandervelde 10 years and JD Goulette 5 years.

Auxiliary President, Nancy Shaffer, received honors for her dedication and selfless service to veterans. Lenore Percy was recognized

for her many years of service as secretary for the Auxiliary. District 1 Vice Commander / Post Adjutant, Sue Shriver, received commendation for outstanding service. The group reviews the year fondly, remembering the picnic with the National Commander, the community celebration of Flag Day, helping individual veterans with various needs, working with the Boy Scouts of America, speaking at schools, distributing president rulers, teaching flag folding, choosing two young men for Boys State, choosing four girls for Girls State, awarding

three high school scholarships, conducting the Oratorical Scholarship Contest (a Constitutional Speech), Veterans Day assembly, participation in Memorial Day and more. Dignitaries, Department of Wyoming Commander Ken Persson Sr., his wife, Auxiliary District 3 Vice President Pat Persson, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Mike Cooke joined the special night. They praised the Pinedale post for their accomplishments and dedication to the service of veterans, military families, youth, and the community.

Veteran's Day 2017, Pinedale, WY

By Billie Hamby

Veteran's Day was 11 November but on Friday, the 10th of November most of the country celebrated the day dedicated to those who served their country honorably in the United States military. The American Legion Phillips-Edwards Post 47 helped thank our local veterans by putting on ceremonies at both Pinedale Elementary School and Pinedale High School. The first ceremony was held at the elementary school in Pinedale and was attended by teachers, students and parents. The patriotism was abundant throughout the school and the halls were lined with pictures of veterans past and present. After the elementary school program, Brandon Shriver, Post 47 Commander, Sue Shriver, Post 47 Adjutant and Windy Noble, Auxiliary, visited with the 1st grade students and gave them each a ruler with all the presidents on it. Next the post traveled over to the Pinedale High School Auditorium and with the help of the high school choir and band, local veterans were celebrated and thanked for their dedicated service. The Wyoming Boys State and Wyoming Girls State attendees from 2017 took the stage to share their experiences with fellow students, staff, parents, and community members in attendance. The VIP and guest speaker for the day was Deanna Hurlless, The American Legion Department of Wyoming Finance Officer. After the ceremony at Pinedale High School, the students and community members were invited to join all local veterans for a potluck lunch provided by the Pinedale American Legion with the help of the Auxiliary and the Pinedale VFW Auxiliary. Attendees were treated to a lunch of pulled pork, a variety of salads and some very delicious deserts. Some Pinedale High School students came to eat lunch with the veterans and it was an afternoon filled with many war stories, smiles, hugs and handshakes.



Post 47 Adjutant Sue Shriver and Ms. Jennifer Hayward's First Grade Class.



Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Pinedale High School... (R to L) Chaplain Randy Belton, Post Commander Brandon Shriver, and SAL Commander Mark Reinwald, prepare the POW/MIA Missing Man table before the assembly of nearly 325 students, staff, and community members

TAL National Commanders

1971-2017

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 Kogutek
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 Carey
 RSmith
 Rogers
 Wiles
 Wagonseller
 Eaton
 Matthews

POST NEWS

Post 3 News

AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 Starts ALR

American Legion George Monroe Post 3 is proud to announce the startup of a riders group.

There has always been interest to form a riders organization, and with hard work it has paid off. The riders had the first official meeting in November voting in officers as well as their Constitution and Bi-laws. They have agreed to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month with many projects in the works already.

Their first project will be to assist the Weston County Children's Center in kicking off a reading program. Volunteers will go into the center once a week spending an hour reading to the children and answering questions.

Tina Chick from WCCC says; "I am very excited to have veterans come into our facility and read to the children!"

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Deb French at 602-373-3234 or email at Rainbow4x4@gmail.com.

Students 4 Veterans Program

The American Legion George Monroe Post 3 is proud to announce the Students 4 Veterans Program, Effective 14 November 2017.

Student volunteers from Weston County high schools will provide assistance to disabled and elderly veterans and veteran widows in Weston County. The student volunteers can do yard work, household chores, and the occasional heavy lifting, subject to restrictions for safety of the students and veterans. The Student 4 Veterans Program will be administered in cooperation by the American Legion George Monroe Post 3 volunteers, the office of Newcastle High School principal Tracy Ragland, and the schools' student organizations.

Post Adjutant, Barry Peterson, recognized there are over six hundred veterans in Weston County. A high percentage are elderly, disabled and the widows of veterans are physically unable to perform normal maintenance tasks around their homes. Adjutant Peterson coordinated with High School principal Tracy Ragland to engage student volunteers from student organizations with community service components of both county high schools to provide the much-needed help. Principal Ragland has already encouraged students to interface with veterans by taking students to them monthly Veterans Free

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VETERANS

Do you need help with chores around the house? Unable to do that occasional heavy lifting that needs to be done? Please call 746-8858 to see what we can do for you. We are here to help.

Breakfast, at his own expense.

Veterans, veterans' widows, and their family members, friends, and neighbors interested in requesting home help for elderly and disabled veterans and veterans' widows can contact the American Legion George Monroe Post 3 at 746-8858.



Mark Your Calendar

MID WINTER CONFERENCE

January 20, 2018
Green River

MISSION TRAINING & JUNIOR DIVISION MEETING

October 21, 2017 Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 3, 2018 - Las Vegas, Nevada

SPRING CONFERENCES

Locations to be determined by Legion District Membership
April 7 -8, April 14-15, April 21 - 22

GIRLS STATE

June 10-16, 2018
LCCC - Cheyenne

POST, UNIT, SQUADRON & RIDER DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

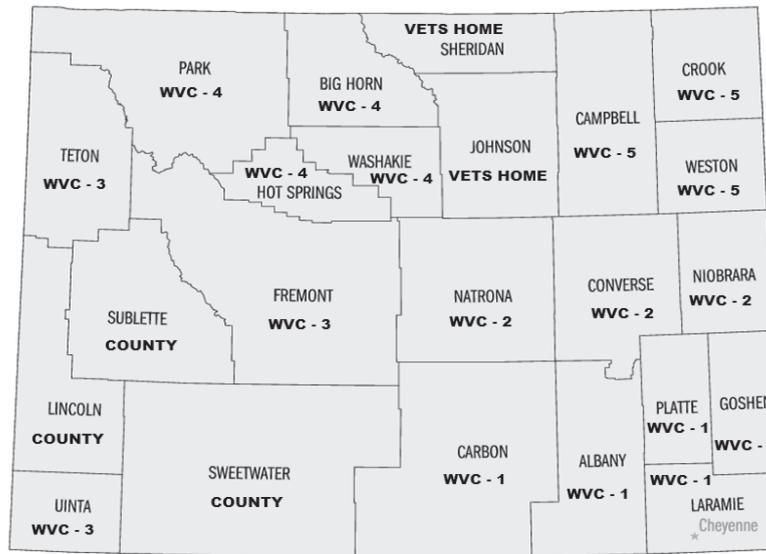
June 21-23, 2018
Cheyenne

NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 24-30, 2018
Minneapolis Minnesota

WYOMING VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER COVERAGE

As of April 20, 2017



Organization	Code	VSO Name	Phone Number	VSO Email
Veterans Commission	WVC - 1	Ms. Vicki Osman Mr. Greg Gauntlett	307-214-2112 307-274-7747	vicki.osman@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	Vacant	307-367-4877	@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

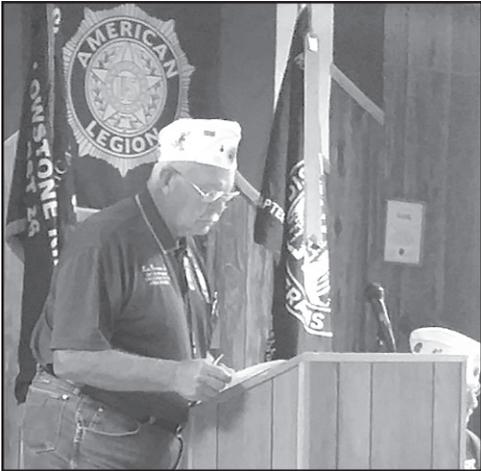
2017 FALL WORKSHOP – POWELL, WY.



Post 85 finally receiving their certificate!
Pictured L-R – Commander Ken Persson, Past Department Commander Bill Frye Post 85 Adjutant Janna Harris, Post 85 Commander James Yockey, Department Chaplain Jim Vandivort, Vice Commander Rick Dansereau and 2nd Vice Commander



Post 60 – Pine Bluffs receiving their certificate for First Post to Reach 50% goal.
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Post 60 Adjutant Chuck Radcliffe, Vice Commander Rick Dansereau and Assistant Director - National Membership - Michelle Steinmetz



Commander Persson getting ready to start things off at the 2017 Fall Workshop.

Darrel Curry – District 2 Commander/Post 10 Commander – accepting his award for Outstanding District Commander! Way to go Darrel!!
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Darrel Curry, Vice Commander Dansereau and 2nd Vice Commander Cooke



District 5 Commander Don Sullivan accepting the certificate for Powder River
Post 13 being first post to reach 50% goal for Division 4.
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Don Sullivan, Vice Commander



Post 3 – Newcastle – Commander Dafoe accepting certificate for being first Post In Division 3 to reach 50% goal.
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Donald Dafoe, Vice Commander Dansereau and 2nd Vice Commander Cooke



Post 11 – Lovell – Commander Rich Fink accepting certificate for first Post in Division 1 to reach 50% goal
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Rich Fink, Vice Commander Dansereau



Post 24 – Rock Springs – Adjutant Leonard Merrell accepting the certificate for first Post in Division 5 to reach 50% goal.
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Leonard Merrell, 2nd Vice Commander Cooke and Vice Commander Dansereau



Thank you, Commander Clark, for hosting the 2017 Fall Workshop. Job well done!!
Pictured L-R – Commander Persson, Post 26 Commander Jerry Clark, Vice Commander Dansereau and 2nd Vice Commander Cooke

A VISIT BY A SPECIAL MAN

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the post,
All the members were dancing and sharing a holiday toast.
Our stockings were hung in the ballroom next to our shoes,
In hopes some post commander would fill them with booze.

Some of us were enjoying the holiday boom
As we grabbed our drinks and rushed to the game room.
We were gonna benefit from what we learned in school
So, we chalked our cue sticks and started shooting some pool.

When out in the parking lot we heard someone shout,
We sprang to the window to see what it was about.
Away to the front door we fluttered like birds,
Pushing and shoving, and muttering dirty words.

The moon was hidden behind some dismal cloud,
And gave the illusion of a funeral shroud.
When what to our bloodshot eyes should appear,
But a Honda Civic, pushed by eight people from the rear.

With a little, old driver who was shouting and cursin';
We knew in a heartbeat it was Commander Persson.
More rapid than Clydesdales his Legionnaires came,
And he screamed and spit, and called them by name.

"Now Hensala! Dansereau! Now Clark, Miller and Cooke.
On Vandivort! Hurless. Now Clark. Don't give me a dirty look.
Push my car to its spot, not into the wall.
Get your butts a movin' or I'll disown you all."

As dry throats feel when in need of a beer,
We heard Commander Persson cry "Thank God we're here!"
So, into the parking slot his officers they pushed,
And in unison, collapsed saying "Damn I'm bushed."

And then, in a twinkling, we heard at the door
A pounding and screaming like never before.
So out of the Legion we vaulted like deer,
As the Commander shouted, "What's going on in here?"

He was all decked out in his American Legion blues,
And had dog doodoo on the bottom of his shoes.
We laughed to ourselves, wondering what had been missed,
Then realized the Commander seemed totally pissed.

His eyes how they blazed, and his nose how it curled!
His face was beet red; he seemed mad at the world.
His mouth foamed up in a hydrophobic sneer,
As he ordered, "I want to see everyone here!"

We stood in a line wondering what was amiss;
We'd seen the Commander mad, but never like this.
We wanted to question why, but remained quiet as a mouse,
Afraid he wouldn't buy a round of drinks on the house.

He stood there before us with his head hung low,
Only making the suspense continue to grow.
Then for some strange reason we knew he wasn't mad,
He had something to say that we hoped was not bad.

In a voice as soft and smooth as baby lotion
He reminded us all of The American Legion's devotion.
Our mission gets harder with each year that zips past
And there's no way of knowing if it'll be our last.

He knew that very soon a new year would arrive,
And he wanted to thank us for our hard work and drive.
He didn't want to cause any trouble or raise a fuss;
He only wanted to share his holiday wish with us.

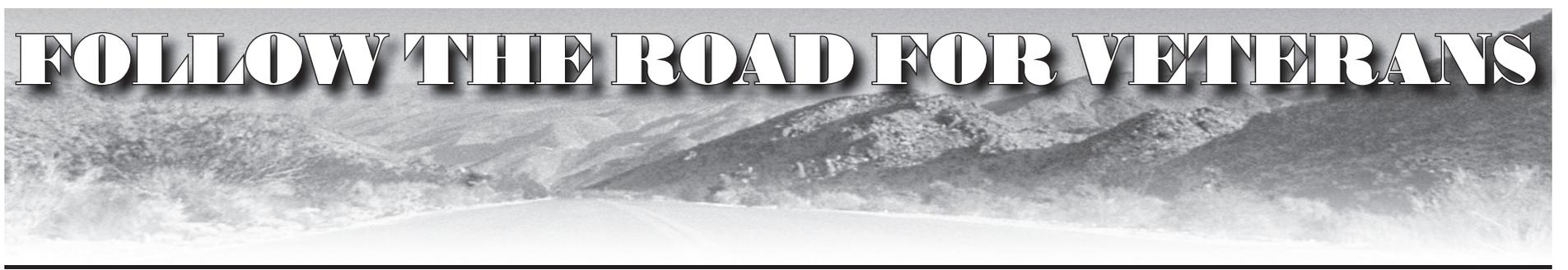
He said he was proud of every post and each member,
Who has given so much from January through December.
He spoke no more words as he shook everyone's hand,
And in that silence, we began to understand.

Being a veteran is more than some lesson to learn
It's the deep friendship and respect we all must earn.
Then with a smile on his face he quickly turned to go,
And walked outside into the white Christmas snow.

He sprang to his car, and to his team gave a yell;
And down the road they flew, all pushing like hell.
And we heard him shout with a voice hale and hearty;

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, now get back to the party!

By Russell L. Telander
Merry Christmas



FOLLOW THE ROAD FOR VETERANS

Presidents Article

I have been busy burning up the road for the Veterans even though the weather tried not to cooperate. I have always known that Wyoming was awesome but had never made it to a lot of places. It is amazing to me how much time and energy is spent for the Veterans around our great state. If we don't report, then the rest of us have no idea what ideas units have come up with to work our programs.

You have to love a small state with small communities.



Vicki Paddock

My Presidents project this year is to raise money for the bowling alley in Sheridan. I have 2 "Prayers for our Country" plaque's that I will be giving away at Mid-Winter and Department Convention. Make sure you have got your ticket for this great prize.

As I visited the units around the state I had lots of information for our members. I have included them in my article because I have not visited all the Units in the state.

Every unit I have visited have welcomed me with open arms. I am finally putting faces to the names I have seen for years. I have meet someone from every unit that either knows someone or is related to someone in Moorcroft.

- 1. National dues increase of \$3.00 for Seniors and \$1.25 for Juniors

starting July 2018.

2. National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day.

3. National Poppy Day pins for sale in Emblem Sales.

4. ALA Academy

5. Discussing the Strategic Plan with each unit.

6. Narrative forms handed out.

7. Girls State Quota sheets

If I haven't visited your unit and you would still like this information just give me a call or e-mail me.

Veterans Day was celebrated across the state. Veterans were recognized at breakfasts, dinners, parades and given gifts. This just preludes the start of Christmas activities for the VAs and local veterans we help.

I want to thank Powell for hosting Fall Workshop. They did an awesome job and made us all feel welcome. I am looking forward to Mid-Winter in Green River. Let's hope the snow stays away for awhile so we can all come together to welcome our National President Diane Duscheck. We have a lot planned so I hope to see a lot of you there.

One last note, I hope that each and every unit in the department reports to the Department Chairmen, so we can let everyone know what we are doing for the Veterans. Report, Report, Report.

Happy Holidays to all my American Legion family and God Bless each and every one.

Vicki Paddock

Veterans Day Baby Baskets

Archie Hay Post 24 Excited To Share Veterans Day With Newest Community Members

Rock Springs, WY, November 11, 2017- The American Legion, along with the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders, make up the Legion Family. We are the largest wartime Veterans service organization, and we are committed to the sponsorship of programs in our community that promote patriotism and honor, advocate strong national security, mentor youth, and continue to show our devotion to service members, Veterans, and their families.

Archie Hay Post 24 in Rock Springs has been honored by the support this community has given to us for many years, and we are always looking for fun ways to give back. The Legion Family is incredibly excited to donate Veterans Day Baby Baskets to the Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County celebrating the birth of the first boy and first girl born

in our community this Veterans Day.

Veterans Day at any Legion Post is full of love and laughter, reminiscing - maybe with a few tears, an unbridled comradery, and an almost tangible love for our country and each other. Archie Hay Post 24 is no exception, and it is our hope that the families receiving these baskets will feel this love, optimism, and joy. We are excited to celebrate vicariously with the basket recipients and wish them all the best in this thrilling new chapter of their lives! Congratulations from the American Legion Family, Archie Hay Post 24!

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Sunny Hobbs at alarocksprings@gmail.com.

Press release sent to all area newspapers and radio stations. Our members heard the release for about a week.

Article is still live on the Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County FB page.



Baby Kimber DiTullio



Baby Axel Belliston (dad is Skyping in from Saudi).



Official picture taken by hospital; sent to all area newspapers.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Diane Duscheck will be attending Mid Winter. Please make plans to attend Saturday, January 20th. Mid Winter will be held in Green River.



American Legion Auxiliary News



In the Clouds

IN MEMORIAM

JUNE HILL-UNIT #29
 LYNN BROWN-UNIT #70
 SYLVIA ROSE MILLER-UNIT #14
 ELLEN HOOD-UNIT #14
 JUDY JENSEN-UNIT #36

DONNA BORCHGREBINK-UNIT #80
 DOROTHY GREENWALD-UNIT #63
 PATRICIA RATHBUN-UNIT #8
 FLORENCE LONG-UNIT #13
 PHYLLIS GERNANT UNIT #32

SYMPATHY

KATHY TROUPE-LOSS OF FATHER
 RITA NAVARRETE-LOSS OF SISTER
 NEVA SLAUGHT-LOSS OF BROTHER
 CHRISTINE SMITH-LOSS OF BROTHER
 GRENEVIVIE TELANDER-LOSS OF MOTHER
 PEGGY MILLER-LOSS OF DAUGHTER IN LAW
 WILLENE NEDENS-LOSS OF MOTHER
 KERRI ROSE-LOSS OF MOTHER IN LAW
 DANIELLE FRIZZELL-LOSS OF GRANDMOTHER MOTHER
 BUZZWOLF FAMILY-
 SALLY NEIMAN-LOSS OF BROTHER
 ROZELLY MAHONEY-LOSS OF MOTHER

CINDY HERRERA-LOSS OF HUSBAND
 CARLA SEGURA-LOSS OF MOTHER
 SHARON THEIS-LOSS OF MOTHER
 INEZ OLIVER-LOSS OF SON
 EVA MOORE-LOSS OF SISTER
 ETHEL HEIMER-LOSS OF DAUGHTER
 LINDA MAHAFFEY-LOSS OF FATHER
 SARA HOVEY-SKOVGARD-LOSS OF MOTHER
 BORCHYREVINK FAMILY-LOSS OF MOTHER
 DORTHY WOOD-LOSS OF SISTER
 MITCH MAHONEY-LOSS OF BROTHER

THINKING OF YOU

DELORES WEATHERS

GET WELL

LARUE ADAMS-SURGERY
 TRUDY ANDERSON-SHOULDER
 MERME GIBSON
 EDIE TAFFNER-SHOULDER PT
 TONYA DAFOE-BACK SURGERY
 DIANNE MILLER-SURGERY
 KEN PEARSON JR-SHOULDER SURGERY
 CELESTE KRAMER-KNEE SURGERY
 BETTY BAILEY- FELL DOWN
 SHEILA SEMLEK-LEG INJURY
 VIRGINIA WOOD-
 EDITH HOOD
 FREIDA DENT-FALL

BRIDGET RUDD-HEALTH ISSUES
 SHAWNA HUMBERSON-
 SHARON SOULE-BACK SURGERY
 HARRIET (PEPPER) WILLIAMS-CANCER
 EDIE STEINER
 CONNIE MARTINEZ-SHOULDER SURGERY
 HEIDI YAKLICH-KNECK PROBLEMS
 CAROLINE BINKYARD-CANCER
 BARBARA GREENE-FALL HEAD INJURY
 ARCALEE MILLHOLLIN-BACK PROBLEMS
 CHRISTINA GREENFIELD-COLD & FLU
 LISA HAGEMAN-SURGERY
 LORETTO PREUSS-HIP SURGERY

Units please make sure you send your Chaplain form to Gina Dusel;
 218 R Street; Rock Springs 82901 or email: dusel75@gmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Report 2017 December, 2017

District 1			District 4		
Unit	Goal	Current	Unit	Goal	Current
Rock Springs	280	80	Powell	121	67
Green River	99	62	Basin	77	48
Ft. Bridger	103	64	Greybull	19	15
Cokeville	36	22	Worland	85	66
Alpine	41	22	TOTAL	302	196
Big Piney	40	23			
Pinedale	45	34			
LaBarge	26	7			
TOTAL		314			
District 2			District 5		
Unit	Goal	Current	Unit	Goal	Current
VanTassel	17	12	Newcastle	16	16
Torrington	182	113	Sheridan	114	76
Douglas	79	71	Buffalo	160	106
Glenrock	46	39	Moorcroft	77	69
Wheatland	42	33	Gillette	185	108
Glendo	92	40	Hulett	82	69
Lingle	34	26	Kaycee	38	25
Chugwater	20	11	TOTAL		453
LaGrange	63	28			
Guernsey	46	24			
TOTAL		397			
District 3			District 6		
Unit	Goal	Current	Unit	Goal	Current
Casper	76	42	Albin	31	24
Powder River	10	8	Cheyenne 6	312	6
Riverton	47	44	Laramie	125	97
Lander	95	61	Saratoga	64	32
Ft. Washakie	26	8	Pine Bluffs	22	24
TOTAL		163	Medicine Bow	61	39
			Cheyenne 83	14	3
TOTAL		1761	TOTAL		225
Goal Units	3,60		Unit 17	15	13
Goal District					

What is Your Why???

At first glance, you probably thought my headline was a mistake. That makes no sense, unless you are thinking in terms of membership.

This question was posed to those of us fortunate enough to attend the National Convention. I also thought it goofy, until I asked myself. "What is your why?" Why do you belong to an organization and give it your time, talents, and certainly spend some money along the way? Why do you constantly tell others about the ALA? Why are you sitting here in a room with ladies from all over the country listening to this guy on stage?

Well ladies, the answer is a little different for each of us. But we all have one goal in common. To be a part of a "family" that collectively is a multi-million member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service. Working to promote patriotism, youth, national security, and most

importantly, advocating for veterans and active-duty military personnel and their families.

So, I ask you, ladies, "what is your why?"

Please take a moment this holiday season to mull this over. And the next time your co-worker asks you why you spend so much time doing things with that **American Legion Auxiliary**, simply remember, that we all have a purpose, a "why", and that is why we serve.

Please keep this organization growing, encourage others to join, and become an active part of what we do. It isn't a hard sell. It just sometimes requires a little encouragement.

Make this a fun group to be a part of, and remember, there is something for everyone to do.

Happy Holidays and I hope to see you in Green River for the Mid-Winter conference.

Susan Dansereau



Department Secretary
 Peg Sullivan
Tidbits

TIDBITS from the Department Office

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

I would like to CONGRATULATE all Units in the Department for helping the Department win the \$1,000 challenge from National. The challenge was to have at least one renewal/new member in all Department Units by October 31st. With the Unit membership chairmen's help, we WON. Thank you to all members and units for helping. Please continue to send in membership on a regular basis.

UNIT OFFICER'S DUES

Membership Chairmen/ President: It is your responsibility to make sure all Unit Officers have paid their dues by December 31, 2017. Officers who are not current cannot run a meeting or write checks. Please remind them **NOW** if they haven't paid them.

2nd Dues Renewal Notices

from National will be mailed from the printer **January 15, 2018**. The notices are sent out based on

NON-Paid members by the first of December. Members if you receive a renewal notice and have not received your membership card contact your membership chairman. More than likely they were sent in after December 1st.

- **Newspaper Corrections** – listed in this issue. Thank you to the members who have emailed or called about mistakes.

ALA MIS

Thank you Cheyenne, Sheridan, Douglas, Rock Springs, Powell, Green River, Gillette, Pine Bluffs for signing up and using ALA MIS. As you know, usually the membership person can go into their Unit and add new members, correct addresses and check membership to make sure your membership is accurate. Units will be billed (\$10.00) for 2018 in January. Please contact the office if you would like Unit rights or to cancel Unit rights.

KUDOS to Vice President Susan and the Rock Springs Unit

for taking ALA Academy. Susan went home from Department Leadership National Conference and her Unit members take the course at a meeting. Wyoming received a LCD player for having the highest per capita of ALA Academy completion in our Department size. **ROCK SPRINGS ROCKED!!**

Presenting The Charter



Press Release by Barry Peterson, Post #3 Adjutant

The George Monroe American Legion Post #3 of Newcastle, Wyoming, is proud to announce the formation of George Monroe American Legion Auxiliary Unit #3-the first in Newcastle. The Auxiliary was chartered by the National American Legion Auxiliary with fifteen charter members. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Secretary/Treasurer, Peggy Sullivan, presented the charter to the Auxiliary during the Veterans' Day dinner at the VFW on November 11, 2017. The charter was accepted by Auxiliary President Tonya Dafoe along with five other charter members.

The Auxiliary has already participated in the Weston County United Fund Pie Auction that was held on November 20, 2017. They will be actively involved in fundraising in anticipation of sponsoring the local Girl's State program in 2018. They will also be assisting in the hosting of the upcoming American Legion District Meeting in April 2018.

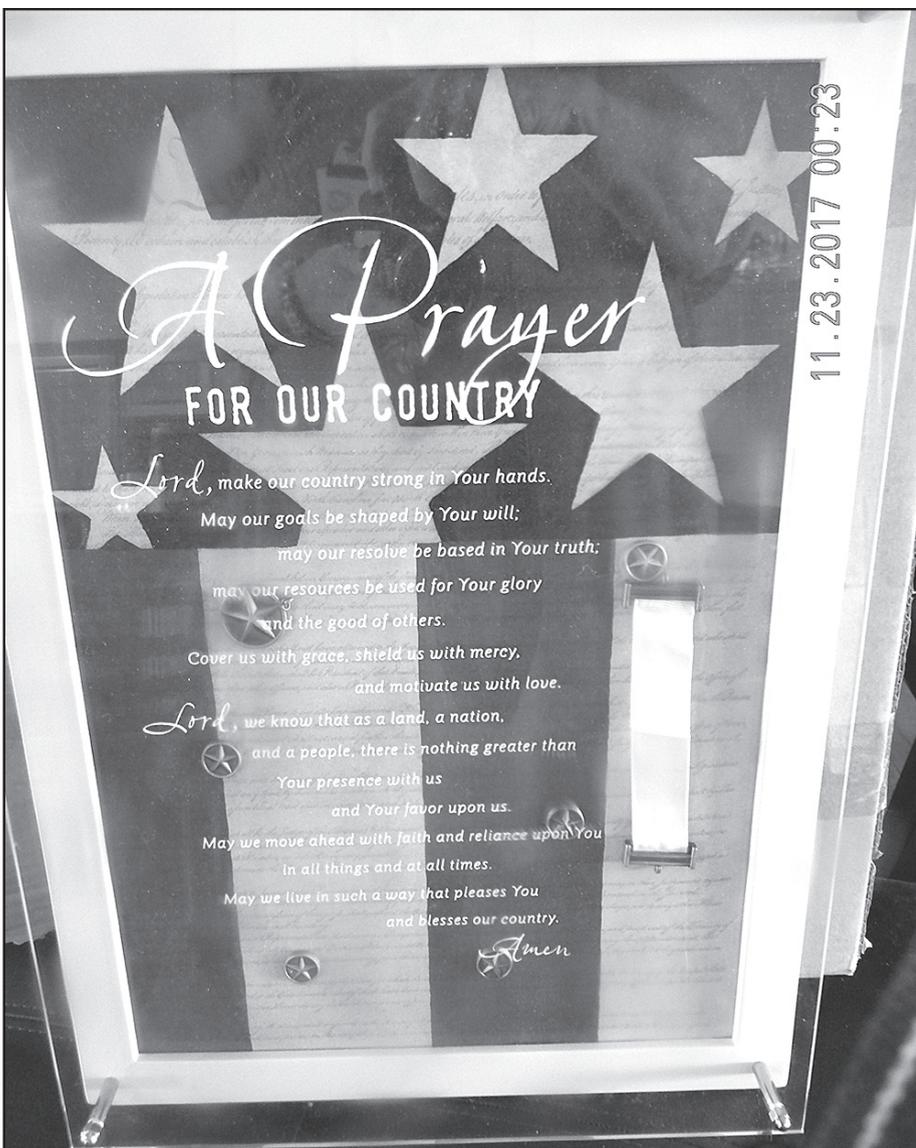
Auxiliary meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the State Forestry Building located at 431 Delaware Street in Newcastle.



Members taking the ALA Academy during Fall Workshop



Department Secretary/Treas accepting Department National Awards for the Strategic Plan



CWF Liaison Linda Johnson accept the Child Welfare Foundation Excellence plaque from National Convention

Left: "Prayer for Our Country" Department President Vicki's Sheridan VA bowling alley project. Drawing at Mid Winter and Department Convention.

The American Legion, Auxiliary
and Sons of the American Legion

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
January 19 & 20 2018

Hosted by Tom Whitmore Post 28
38 N. Center Street, Green River, WY
Pre-Registration by January 01, 2018

Friday 19 January 2018	Pre	Door	Total
Registration 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Legion and Auxiliary		NO CHARGE	
Evening Dinner (Music by: Nowhere Fast)	\$8	\$10	_____
Saturday 20 January 2018			
Registration 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.			
Breakfast 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	\$5	\$6	_____
Lunch 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	\$7	\$9	_____
	Total	Enclosed	_____

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 28

All Auxiliary Meetings will be held at Hilltop Baptist Church, 405 Faith Drive, Green River, WY

HOTEL INFORMATION

Little Bear Motel	Hampton Inn and Suites
1416 Uinta Drive	1055 Wild Horse Canyon Rd
Green River, WY 82935	Green River, WY 82935
(307) 875-7554	(307) 875-5300
Mention American Legion	http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com
One Queen \$64.80 +tax	
Two Queens \$76.50 +tax	
www.littlebearmotel.com	

UNIT MEMBERSHIP GOALS
using Department President Vicki's theme:
"Follow the yellow brick road for our veterans"

- Meet the Scarecrow - 20% Columbus Day, October 9, 2017
- Meet the Tin Man - 40% Veterans Day, November 11, 2017
- Meet the Cowardly Lion - 60% New Year's Day, January 1, 2018
- Field of Poppies - 80% Legion Birthday, March 16, 2018
- Emerald City - 100% Memorial Day, May 28, 2018

1st Drawing for AEF 2019
Dues at Mid Winter

Directory Corrections:

- District 1**
Unit 24 Rock Springs meets the 3rd Sunday at 1 pm
Unit 36 Fort Bridger - Cathey Raymer President
- District 2**
Unit 75 Chugwater Membership address
- 5620 Fossil Creek Pkwy Unit 3202; Ft. Collins CO 80525
- District 3**
Unit 2 Casper - Tara Deiter, Interim President
Unit 81 Ft. Washakie - send ALL mail to
PO Box 804; Ft. Washakie WY 82514
- District 4**
Unit 32 Greybull - Carol Webb email s/b billwebb@gmail.com
- District 5**
Unit 3 George Monroe PO Box 567; President Tonya Dafoe
Unit 42 Gillette - President Robin Evenson
- District 6**
Unit 60 Pine Bluffs - name changed to Donald Eisenhower
Department Chairman - Membership - Joyce Menke PO Box 72

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming
Mid Winter Conference Agenda

Tom Whitmore Post 28 Green River ~ Saturday, January 20, 2018

Friday, January 19, 2018

- 5:30 to 6:30 pm Registration at Post Home
- 4:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 6:30 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 20, 2018

- 8 to 8:45 am Registration at Post Home
- 9:00 am Opening at the Hilltop Baptist Church – 405 Faith Drive
Prayer by Chaplain Gina Dusel
Pledge of Allegiance led by National President Diane Duscheck
Preamble led by Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Tammy Harris
Welcome led by Janet Packer
Response
POW-MIA Ceremony by National Security Chairman Sonja
Roll call of Units and Officers by Secretary Peg
Introduction of National President Diane Duscheck and others
Recap of Department Executive January 19th Meeting
Finance Report – Chairman Linda
Membership – Chairman Susan
Auxiliary Emergency Fund by Chairman Marti Harbick
Girls State by Director Shareen
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Americanism Report by Chairman Gina
Child Welfare by Chairman Linda
District Presidents reports
- 11:55 am Break for Lunch
- 1:00 pm National President –Diane Duscheck
Poppy Report and Activities
- 3:30 pm Tidbits from Secretary Peg
- 3:45 pm Retire colors
Prayer by Chaplain Gina
Closing

Mid Year Reports

Think back to April 1, 2017 and remember the projects your members and/or unit has done since. How about Spring Conference, Americanism Essay, Poppy Posters, Poppy Day, Memorial Day, Girls State, parades, Veterans Day, Halloween Parties, purchased school supplies, donated to Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) or Child Welfare, to the Veteran's Homes (Cheyenne, Sheridan or Buffalo)? Have you hosted or attending a visitation by either the Department President or your District President. Did you learn about programs? Did anyone attend Fall Workshop and hear about ALAMIS, ALA Academy and Leadership. Are you remembering? Quick write an email to the Department Chairman and "blow your member and unit horn). Mid Year Report are due to ALL Department Chairman by December 15th. The report can be as little as a sentence, a paragraph or a full report. Just report what your Unit has done. If you haven't worked that program, send an email saying, "Nothing to report at this time". Chairmen emails are in Directory printed in the September Auxiliare or on the Department Website: www.wyamericanlegionauxiliary.org. If all else fails, please send it to the Department email deptaux@vcn.com and I'll make sure the chairman receives it.



F R E E D O M
IS NEVER FREE



VA Highlights

■ Buffalo

Thank you to all Units for supporting our Wyoming Veterans Home. We have 90 plus veterans living at the home and with your help, we are making their lives a little better. Your donation of time, money, cookies and birthday cards are appreciated. I must say, that without the work of Unit 13 members all of this would not be possible.

ICE CREAM and ROOT BEER FLOAT WEDNESDAYS have become a real hit. I have three teams that go once a month to serve ice cream and homemade cookies and one team to serve root beer floats and homemade cookies. Our attendance varies but we have our regulars. They not only enjoy the ice cream but the visiting with members.

Pumpkin pies were made and served with ice cream/whipped cream the week before Thanksgiving.

Their Christmas Party will be Decem-

ber 13th. Your donations will provide the apples, oranges, cookies and punch while Unit 13 makes candy. The veterans also receive a Christmas card with cash.

Edie Taffner, Rep.

■ Cheyenne

October and November are our busy months. We served the Stand Down with coffee, juice and donuts.

We served the Flu Clinic, hopefully the flu bug will stay away from our residents.

All our activities are going on with a few changes. Ice cream social has added root beer floats and celebrating birthdays once a month. Variety has been a great idea.

We will take the residents of CLC and RRTP out to eat with Year Round Christmas money after the New Year. The daily Coffee Cart servers have really appreciated the homemade cookies. THANK YOU!

We serve between 300 and 400 out patients and employees a week.

When your Unit sends funds for our use it would be helpful if you designate the activity you would like the funds to help. Coffee Cart - Year Round Christmas - Outside Activities for Mental Health (PTSD) - No Longer Homeless Veterans.

Post and Unit #6 served an Outstanding Veterans Day performance honoring our Veterans and those currently serving. Worthy of Mention!

Thank you for allowing us to serve.

Bobbie Gertsch & Betsy Kirkpatrick

■ Sheridan

Ladies, your donations have brightened up the lives of our hospitalized veterans at the Sheridan VA.

We are providing 100 pounds of popcorn for the Auditorium every other month (it is one of their favorite munchies!). A Special Bingo was held for

Veterans Day and we provided gifts for the prizes such as mugs, blankets, trail mix, hats, granola bars, chocolate candy and pop. They were very well received.

The Creative Arts Festival will be held in February of 2018. Please remind all your crafty veterans to contact their Recreation folks in the Sheridan or Cheyenne VA where they are registered for care and then submit their artsy projects for judging. Your donations have made it possible to purchase craft items such as model kits, paints, paint-by-number kits, makings for Dream Catchers, adult bead work items, etc., for their use. These not only keep the hospitalized vets busy, but allows their creativity to shine.

The Sheridan VA can always use homemade cookies, craft items (NOT puzzles), new unused men's and women's underwear and winter wear.

Linda Lenker-Orr and Romona Jacobs

Wyoming Girls State

Preparations for the 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Wyoming Girls State session have begun. The session will once again be held at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. The session will run from June 10th – June 16th. Last year's session, the first at LCCC, went well and we have every reason to believe this year's session will be just as successful.

Quota sheets were due by November 1, 2017. If your Unit has not yet submitted a quota sheet, please do so at your earliest convenience. The information from the quota sheets is used for planning the session, so it is important that the

information be as accurate as possible. Please mail or email them to the Director.

Information has been sent to all high school schools. Hopefully, the Unit Girls State Chairmen are reaching out to their local schools for input in making their Delegate selections.

Updated School, Unit, and Delegate packets will be on the Department website page by the time this issue of the Auxiliare goes to press. Many of the Delegate forms are fillable and we hope the Unit Girls State Chairmen will encourage their Delegates to complete their forms electronically as it is very important that forms are legible and

submitted on time.

Unit and Delegate packets will be available for pick up at Mid-Winter. Those Units not represented at Mid-Winter will have their packets mailed to them. There have been some changes to the forms, so please make sure you are using this year's forms. Once again, the only elective available to the Delegates will be the Girls State Choir. The \$30 Delegate processing fee is due with the first set of paperwork on April 1, 2018. The Delegate fee is still \$250 and due by May 1, 2018.

If you are interested in serving on Girl State staff, please notify the Director im-

mediately, as we are beginning selection of this year's staff members. Serving as a staff member is a very rewarding experience.

The Girls State Committee members for this session are Kathy Wright, Belle Temple, Kristen Tammany, Assistant Director Linda Feezer, and Director Shareen Johnson. We look forward to working with the Units and the Delegates to ensure a successful session.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Director with any suggestions, questions, or concerns. She can be reached by email at shareen.lander@gmail.com or 307-332-4931/307-349-9749.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Auxiliary Emergency Fund more commonly known as AEF. Tickets will be available at Mid-Winter and are on line. \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Winners may designate whose dues they would like to pay, so Legion, SAL, Riders and PUFL's enter the drawing. The first drawing for 2019 Auxiliary membership dues will be held at Mid-Winter. A second drawing will be at Department Convention in June.

AEF helps a three year consecutive member get through a rough time. Members who have exhausted all community and friend resources may apply for a grant. Wyoming members

have received grants up to \$2,500 the last several years. These funds go to pay rent, utilities and medical bills to mention a few.

Units are holding a basket drawing, counting pairs of shoes, windows in their house or cans in the pantry or purchase a unit ticket for each member. If the Unit ticket is drawn, they will do a local drawing. Double Duty for \$1.00. Come up with your own idea to make it a fun donation. The Department gave over \$3,000 to AEF in September. These funds included the unit and individual donations for the hurricane and fires.

Martie Harbick, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Children and Youth: Remember the military children and the children of your community not just during the holiday season but throughout the entire year. The Children and Youth Program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth particularly those of veterans and military family.

The holiday is the worst time for many children in your community. Remember to share the holiday traditions by organizing a Children's Christmas Party or by cheering up minor children of a Veteran and the children of the active military by placing a Military Children's Wish Christmas Tree at your Post or location in your community with Christmas wish tags on the tree. Invite the community to help your unit make their Christmas wish come true.

After Christmas promote the "Star Spangled Kids", American

Legion Oratorical Contest, "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2", "Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony" and the "Youth Hero Award and Good Deed Award". Go on the National ALA webpage – www.alaforveterans.org for information and forms.

Child Welfare Foundation may be included in your Children and Youth Report or sent to me separately. Include a brief description of your Child Welfare Foundation Project and the amount of the unit's donation sent to the Child Welfare Foundation. Your tickets will be added to the drawing.

If you haven't sent in your unit Mid Winter Reports for Children and Youth & Child Welfare Foundation please so ASAP. Send an email giving a simple report of what they have done---if nothing; send an email saying "Nothing to Report". It is important for us to receive an email from every unit.

Linda Johnson

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Diane Duscheck will be attending Mid Winter. Please make plans to attend Saturday, January 20th.

Mid Winter will be held in Green River.



The District News



District 1 President Sunny Hobbs

District 1 News and Such

After a very busy summer (especially when you consider that most of our Units take the summer months 'off') the ladies of District 1 have once again rallied around our common goal. Cookies have been baked and mailed, families adopted for the holiday season, boxes have been mailed to troops, and classrooms have been visited. We were fortunate enough to have nice weather for President Vicki's visit in October. Two meetings were hosted and the entire District was invited to choose the meeting that worked best for them. Five of eight Units were represented, with 30 women in attendance.

We have two new annual events in District 1 that I am excited to share with you all. Green River hosted their first annual Veteran's Freedom Run on Veterans Day this year. This three event race (a Veterans Walk, 5K, and 10K) became a Legion Family event that branched out into the community forging bonds with the local Girl Scout troop and the wrestling team from the local high school, as well as all the runners. I am excited to hear more about the turnout when the numbers are in and will be sure to pass them on.

Rock Springs teamed up with our local hospital to donate our first annual Veterans Day Baby Baskets to the first girl and boy born on or after Veterans Day this year. This project was also a family event, and both baskets were delivered on 11 Nov. Rock Springs has heard (and received pictures from) both families, babies and moms are doing well. This was a very fulfilling project that the hospital and Legion Family have both requested be done again next year.

In the spirit of strengthening our Legion Family the amazing women in Big Piney have decided to invite neighboring Units to join them for a Christmas Party this year. I am so excited to see the District really working together across organizations and town lines. We are stronger together, and I look forward to hearing how all these joint projects go.

We are excited to have Green River hosting Mid-Winter this year, and look forward to seeing you all in January!

~Sunny

District 2 President Kathy Troupe

Unit 1 Van Tassel held the fall meeting on September 23 at the Van Tassel Town Hall, in conjunction with the Post 1 meeting and carry in lunch. Present were ALA Dept of Wyoming Sec.-Treas. Peg Sullivan and Edie Taffner of Buffalo and District 2 Pres. Kathy. Unit 1 was presented with a CWF award for their contribution in memory of their longtime secretary Garnet Heckert. In November an executive work session was held. Unit 1 is working to send one delegate to the 2018 Wyoming Girls State. Monetary donations for cookies have been sent to the Cheyenne VA, Sheridan VA, as well as donations to the Hot Springs VA and the Dept. of WY Creative Arts. Unit Pres. Phyllis attended Department President Vicki's visit in Torrington on Nov. 13.

Unit 5 Torrington met in regular meeting on Sept. 18 and discussed upcoming events. Unit 5 held the annual Veterans Day breakfast and poppy day. Unit 5 held a lunch for the visit of Department President Vicki and District 2 Pres. Kathy on November 13 at the Post home.

Unit 8 Douglas reviewed the unit constitution and by-laws in October and voted on proposed changes at the November meeting. Unit 8 held a bake-athon on Oct. 22 where they baked over 140 dozen cookies. Department President Vicki and District 2 President Kathy visited that day and helped with the bake-athon. Unit 8 received additional donations of cookies and delivered 368 dozen cookies to the Cheyenne VA. As of the end of October, Unit 8 has 3 new members and 66 members paid for 2018.

Unit 9 Glenrock hosted a luncheon on Sept. 30, for the unit visit of Department President Vicki,

District 2 President Kathy and National Executive Committee Woman Linda Feezer. The luncheon was well attended by members. Several Unit 9 members participated in the Veterans Day program at GMS on November 13. Unit 9 gave 200 flag pins to the adults attending. Plans were begun in November for the annual Christmas care packages to be sent to approximately 200 military troops from Wyoming who are deployed overseas.

Unit 10 Wheatland met for the unit meeting, lunch and visit of District 2 President Kathy on Oct. 17th and welcomed Department President Vicki Paddock on Nov. 7th. Unit 10 hosted the annual Veterans Day Dinner at the 4-H Building and was helped by the local VFW Auxiliary. Unit 10 will not meet in December; the unit will reconvene in January.

Unit 15 Glendo was visited by District 2 President Kathy at the Units October 3rd meeting. Veterans Day activities included assisting the Flag Ceremony at the Glendo Town Park and Veterans Day Breakfast with Post 15 at the Glendo Circle G Cowboy Church. Approximately 60 people were served. They concluded the day with their annual Veterans Day Coffee at Town Hall where they accepted donations for the Year-Round Christmas Program for the patients at the Cheyenne VA. For the Christmas season Unit 15 will be placing wreaths at the Horseshoe Creek Cemetery for all the veterans buried there.

Unit 63 Lingle President Carol attended the visit of Department President Vicki and District 2 President Kathy, hosted by Unit 5 Torrington on Nov. 13.

Unit 70 LaGrange partnered with the LaGrange-Bear Creek Library to host Trick-or-Treats at the library for community families. For Veterans Day they invited all community veterans and families to a roast beef dinner on November 13. Decorations featured letters honoring our veterans written by the students of LaGrange Elementary. After sharing the heartfelt letters with the dinner guests, the clever creations were taken to the Cheyenne VA for their enjoyment. A silent auction was held at the dinner and raised \$318 for Year Round Christmas.

For American Education Week, Unit 70 presented a certificate of appreciation to the LaGrange School staff and delivered a basket of fruit, tea, popcorn and cookies for the staff to enjoy. Unit

members attended the student assembly to thank the students for their letters and artwork for the veterans. The unit members handed out treat bags, pencils, "Don't do Drugs" bookmarks and "Our Flag" graphic booklets to encourage the students to honor the flag. During a lively question and answer session the students asked some very relevant and challenging questions. Unit 70 President Susan Hunter did an impressive job of responding. Unit 70n continues to promote membership. The unit is nearing publication of the patriotic Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar, a unit fundraiser. In December Unit 70 will meet to send Christmas cards to veterans and shut-ins.

Unit 75 Chugwater President Valorie and Secretary Lindy attended the visitation of Department President Vicki Paddock with Unit 10 Wheatland on November 7th. The Platte County Historical Society displayed posters at the Veterans Day dinner honoring county soldiers from WW1. Valorie and Lindy sent information about their great uncle, Private Duncan McDonald, Army Medical Department, who died of the flu enroute to France in 1918. He was buried in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France and one of the namesakes of McDonald Voight Post 75.

The Legion Post and Unit hosted the Chugwater Junior Class at the recent meeting to inform and encourage the students to apply for Wyoming Girls State and Boys State. For American Education Week the unit delivered fruit and cookies baskets to the Chugwater Elementary and High School.

Unit 95 Guernsey assisted the local VFW Auxiliary with the Veterans Day dinner. Unit 95 donated ham for soup and provided the desserts. Members helped serve the meal. Donations from the dinner are used to buy veterans' grave markers for the local cemeteries. Members raised the Avenue of Flags on Veterans Day at the cemetery outside Guernsey. Members met with Department President Vicki for an informal meeting and dinner on Nov. 13. Members of the American Legion Post 95 and Riders were also present. On Veterans Day Unit 95 provided cookies at local convenience stores and local bars for veterans to enjoy. On November 14 members distributed cookies at Camp Guernsey National Guard Camp. For American Education Week Unit 95 gave meat and cheese trays to the staff at the local G-S Elementary and High School and the Early Childhood Center. At the December meeting, members will prepare Christmas goody trays to deliver to local veterans who live alone.

Kathy Troupe, District President

District 3 President Jessie Poire

Riverton Unit 19—Alison Johnson thanked the Unit and told about her experience at Girls State. She learned about government and thinks it is a wonderful program. District President Jessie passed on information from Department asked if the Unit had filed their 990E postcard and that members could renew on-line. Dues notices will be sent around September 15. Ginger reported on Department Convention in Worland. Our Unit won two awards 0 2nd place in reaching our membership goal and a plaque for giving the most money/per

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capita to the Child Welfare Foundation. The Unit donated money to the mother of a past Girls Stater to help her attend her Army graduation. National will be increasing the dues for 2019 and the unit needs to change our Constitution and By-Laws. Department President Vicki made her visitation. Poppy Day was held with almost \$1,400. Money has been donated to the Chapel of Four Chaplains and the Senior Center. The Unit has lost three members this fall.

Lander Unit 33 is working on membership. They signed up for highway clean-up in the spring on Sinks Canyon Road with our Junior and Boys Scouts. Annabeth Babcock received The American Legion Department of Wyoming Blackmore Scholarship. She is a past Girls Stater, an excellent student, and a member of the Unit. The local Quilts of Valor presentation was held on 11/14/2017 at St. Mary's Church in Riverton with 109 quilts distributed. The quilters were happy with the \$1,000 donation. Poppies will be handed out at the November Craft Fair. A joint carry-in dinner with the Fort Washakie Unit was held for Department President, Vicki Paddock visited. She gave an informative presentation and explained her Department President fund raising project to raise money for refurbishing the Sheridan VA bowling alley. Tables were rented for the November Bake Sale with Arcalee Millhollin, Kathy Ebert, Kris Sturgeon and Shareen Johnson baking. We will be doing a fund raiser for a gift card at Mr. D's support our local veterans. District #3 President Jessie Poire will make her visitation in January.

Fort Washakie Unit #81 The Unit had their first meeting of the year on September 5, 2017, with 9 members present. Members decided to order 500 poppies, an increase as we need them not only for our Poppy Day but also for our Memorial Day flower bouquets. PPP Dues were paid. It was decided to bring the candy to the October meeting, and it will be delivered to the Boys & Girls Club during the week after the October meeting. We also purchased a box of apples to be handed out at Halloween. After seeing all the news reports on Hurricane Harvey the Unit decided to donate \$100 to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We also collected \$15.42 at the meeting for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Plans are being made to make Veterans Day cards for the Veterans in Buffalo. District President Jessie and District Vice President made their official visit. Jessie shared information she found in old files at home that explained each line of the Preamble of the American Legion Auxiliary.

District 4 President Trudy Zaffarano-Anderson

Greybull Unit #32 reported that they helped with the trunk or treat event in the Community and gave out over 400 pieces of candy. They put together Halloween goody bags for the veterans at the retirement home. They contributed bags of clothing for homeless veterans for the Stand Down event that was held in Cheyenne. District President Trudy picked up items including jeans, shoes, coats and sweaters at the Outreach Thrift store for the Stand Down. Homemade wreaths and

trees are made for each resident at Bonnie Blue Jacket and a box of candy was given as a treat for the help there.

Hughes-Pittinger, Powell Unit 26 has been really busy helping with the gathering of calendars, note pads, activity books, toiletries, long johns, new underwear and socks for the Buffalo Home. President Trudy Zaffarano-Anderson dropped them off at Edie Taffner's residence to be delivered. Donations for the Stand Down in Cheyenne included 7 new sleeping bags, sleeping bag liners, space blankets, rain ponchos, socks, long johns, toiletries, coats, hats and gloves. These items were delivered to Cheyenne by a veteran that was in Powell for drill weekend and lives in Cheyenne. Auxiliary members joined our commander in recognizing a veteran who turned 99 years young and presented 16 veterans homemade quilts made by Connie Martinez's daughter Kristine on Veteran's Day. At the Veteran's day dinner 33 Vietnam veterans were recognized with a pin from the Department of Defense. Two large boxes for Thanksgiving dinner including a turkey was put together by the Auxiliary and delivered to a veteran's family in Powell. Other Thanksgiving boxes were delivered by an auxiliary member to families in need from a program called "Jack's Box" a 10 year old entrepreneur from Greybull who gathers food items for families in need. You can look up his story on Facebook.

Marion Tanner Unit #29 Basin - Our unit is busy with our community's work for our veterans and military families. BACK TO SCHOOL WELCOMES AND EDUCATION WEEK we shared with the Essay Contest activities. We were successful in our Poppy Day donation program that was shared all the way to Meteetse. Our members draped the charter for three of our dear members and arranged the family and friend's meal for one of them. Veterans Day Community Program was joyous for our veterans and active military, as once again, the high school band added that great sound of patriotic music to the program, as well as the elementary (ALL) sang their delightful and heartfelt songs to our veterans seated on the floor. The annual Veterans day dinner was well attended even as the cold weather set in. Singers shared patriotic songs, joined in by veterans and families. Possible new members will attend our meeting in December. Many members shared our gratefulness to our Post members with cookies and drink for their meeting. Cards and poppies were delivered to 30 veterans at the Wyoming Retirement Center and 10 to Bonnie Blue Jacket Home for Veteran's Day. Already half our year is ending but new awaits.

Floyd Minch Worland Unit 44 helped prepare and served around 200 veterans and families on Veteran's Day. They attended the Marine Corp birthday dinner and cleaned up.

District 5 President Linda Johnson

It is our pleasure to welcome Newcastle Unit 3 to our District 5 Legion Family. Newcastle officially received their charter on Veterans Day at the American Legion and VFW Dinner. "Thank You," Hulett, Buffalo, and Sheridan for inviting me

to visit your unit this fall. I am so proud of your new ideas and project that you are doing. Keep up the good work! I enjoyed my visit.

Newcastle Unit 3 (President Tonya Dafoe): The Unit was presented their Charter by Department Secretary/Treasurer Peg Sullivan. The Units organization meeting was held on Monday, November 6th. Officers elected are President Tonya Dafoe; Vice President Deb French; Secretary Tomi Yeager; Treasurer Marlys Mitchell; and Theresa Kangas; and Chaplain Jeannette Ray. Unit meetings will be held the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the old Armory.

We are excited to have an American Legion Auxiliary Unit to support Post 3 and all veterans.

Buffalo Unit 13 (President Peg Sillivan): Powder River Unit 13 continues to support and help our veterans. Department Representative Edie has four teams of Unit 13 members who go up to the Wyoming Veterans Home on Wednesdays to serve ice cream and cookies. On the Unit level, a team plays BINGO and serves brownies the 2nd Tuesday of each month while another team goes to the Sheridan VA and serves root beer floats and takes two cakes every 4th Tuesday.

Veterans Week has been very busy. The American Legion and VFW wanted more than one day for recognition for our Veterans. The week started off with three members going to the Boys and Girls Club and presenting the proper way to fold our flag. Twenty-two students each had a turn holding and folding the flag. The Unit held our Poppy Day with thirteen members canvassing the downtown as well as Fort and Main Street. Almost \$1,500 was collected in donations. Thank you members! Veterans Day found members continuing their tradition of making and serving chili at the Post Open House. Members who paid their dues received a free breakfast the 2nd Sunday. Pumpkin pies were made and served at the Buffalo Home. The residents look forward to this tradition started by Donna.

Members presented a Flag Folding Ceremony for the Boys and Girls Club. Indivisible- The Story of Our Flag was presented to the Boys and Girls Club, Johnson County Library and two schools. The Unit will be helping the Legion with the Community Christmas Dinner. The Unit and members purchased toys for the Annual Toys for Tots.

Kaycee Unit 90 (President Joan Buckingham): In November, we held a blood drive, provided a funeral dinner for the family of a veteran, and had a Veteran's Day program for the elementary students at Kaycee Schools. We will also be holding our annual Thanksgiving bake sale this month.

Moorcroft Unit 25 (President Vicki Paddock): We took Plastic Mats and winter coats to the stand down in Cheyenne in October. Money was donated to the high school band and Halloween Treat Street. Members helped with the Veterans Day Dinner. Poppy posters were judged at the dinner with winners receiving their awards. We donated money and helped with over 250 goody bags for the Veterans in the area. Coffee was also purchased at the local businesses for the Veterans. The Christmas tree is up and taking donations for the Sheridan VA. Cookies are still being taken to
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the Gillette VA clinic. Poppies were distributed during Veterans Day.

Gillette Unit 42 (President Robin Evenson): Unit 42 has been busy these last few months. Friday night dinners, helping several veterans in our community with funds, helped the SAL with their annual cash bash and prepared the early bird dinner and supplied many different desserts made by members.

Veterans Day was a day full of events, placing flags on the graves of veterans, preparing and serving a breakfast.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 sponsors a Veteran wish tree at Post 42. This tree is for Gillette, Wright, and Moorcroft Veterans, their minor children, and active Military families. With the help of the community and other organizations we are able to find these local Veterans. We have a lot of kids this year so continue to check the tree for new tags every week.

We are starting to work on Girls State, cookies were sent to the Sheridan VA in October, a donated quilt was auctioned off at the Cash Bash with over \$800 going to the Poppy Fund, Terry Case shared the Americanism Essay at the school and Carolyn Eddy reported the Unit received a grant of \$2,800 WY Horse Racing Assoc. and that her quilt ticket drawing made over \$900.00. Membership is down this year. We have 116 members compared to 183 members. Our goal for 2018 is 185.

Sheridan Unit 7 (President Carol Radcliff): Members attended Fall Workshop in Powell. We entertained Department President Vicki and District 5 President Linda with a no-host dinner where we learned all about their projects and programs. Three Girl State delegates talked to us about their experiences at Girl State and how they enjoyed their day in the Capitol. To cover the Girl State expenses, the Unit has been holding a 7 of Hearts fund raiser as well as a mail campaign to local businesses which is having a good return. A change in the Constitution and Bylaws is being made to increase dues to cover National's increase and anticipated Department increase. Donations made September thru November were to AEF, a hard-on-their-times family for Christmas, Christmas Year Round for the Sheridan VA and to Post 7.

Hulett Unit 80 (President Linda Ellefson): Department President Vicki Paddock, District 5 President Linda Johnson, Department Secretary/Treasurer Peg Sullivan, and NWVP Peggy Miller attended our October Meeting. They talked to us about projects, programs, membership and due increases in the future. Peggy Sullivan gave us a certificate of recognition from National for membership.

The unit did a lunch for a memorial on September 30. Apples were given to teachers during Teacher's Appreciation Week. We donated \$90.00 to AEF for hurricane expenses. Dorothy spent over 20 hours cutting plastic bags, and Linda spent 44 hours crocheting the mats for homeless veterans. Ham and Turkey were served at the Veterans Dinner on November 11th at noon. Unit 80 will be giving Christmas socks and cards to our veterans at Christmas. Monies collected from poppies over the summer will be used for Lilies at Easter and Poinsettias at Christmas for our lady veterans. We

ordered 700 poppies this year.

Unit Mid Winter Report due before December 15: Don't forget to send an email with a short message or simple report about what your unit has done or an email saying "nothing to report at this time." Send the report to your project Department Chairman. You will find the names of the project Department Chairman on the Department of Wyoming Web page.

District 6 President Joyce Menke

Unit #6 Cheyenne

- Donations of clothes, crafts, books magazines, toiletries, food to local nursing homes, VA hospital, shelters and home health care.

- Local veterans received walkers and wheelchairs.

- Six members attended Department Convention

- Service dog visits nursing homes

- Served veterans with boutonniere and helped serve ice cream at the VA

- Remembered unit members with cards for special occasions

- Helped provide food and served for receptions, a funeral and Flag Day Ceremony

- Held a Flea Market for scholarship fund raiser

Unit #60 Pine Bluffs

- Held elections and Diane was awarded the PDP Member of the Year Award

- Served drinks and cookies monthly at the rest area

- Observed Armed Forces Day (yellow ribbons on trees), Memorial weekend (poppies, Honor Guard and treats), Honor Guard in three parades

- Sold and laid bricks for the local Veterans Park honoring veterans

- Four members attended Department Convention

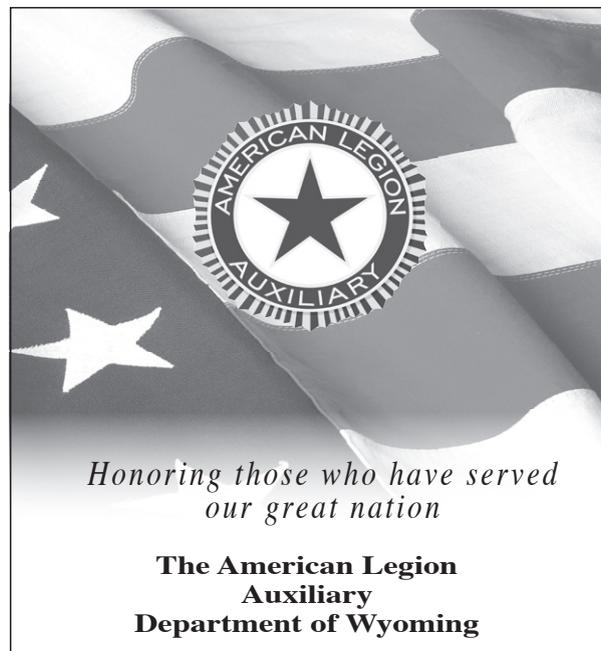
- Held a surprise baby shower for an active duty Air National Guard – big success

Unit #64 Medicine Bow

- Honor Guard for eight funerals, participated with flag carrying for two parades

- Help poppy day, sent three delegates to Girls State and planning for their report dinner this fall

- Join with establishing a Community Pumpkin Patch with our garden spot and a lighted American



Flag that flies 24/7, received a grant to put up a bench there

- Held a joint fund raiser with Pizza Hut for future unit "aid to veterans" projects

- Continue to serve local veterans

- Had one member attend Department Convention and one member is serving as District President

Unit #54 Saratoga

- Fund raiser at Mud Boggs Days

- Painted bench at the Memorial Walk Park

- Participated in the 4th of July Parade

- One member serves as District Vice President

Unit #14 Laramie

- Co-hosted the Girls/Boys State and Boy/Girls Nation report dinner. Sent 10 delegates this year

- Took cookies to the VA Hospital

- Held a raffle to raise money for a local veteran family

Unit #77

- Will start meetings in September

Way to go, ladies. Looking forward to visiting with all of you.

DIANE WISE was the Department MEMBER OF THE YEAR

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(written by L J Coon / L J Coon Music Publishing BMI 2001)



Welcome home my friend, from so much suffering
Welcome home my friend, step out of the pain
It's ok to cry, we've all seen tears before
Its ok my friend welcome home

Talk of love one's lost, seems like years ago
And how you hurt inside, till no more tears would flow
Let the healing start, you can't look back no more
Its ok my friend welcome home

Welcome home, from so much suffering
Welcome home, step out of the pain
It's ok to cry, we've all seen tears before
Its ok my friend, welcome home

Could I somehow sooth, your pain that lives within
If you just let go, the healing will begin
Holding on so tight, letting go is half the test
Its ok my friend welcome home

Welcome home, from so much suffering
Welcome home, step out of the pain
It's ok to cry, we've all seen tears before
Its ok my friend, welcome home

It's ok my friend...the pain won't hurt, no more ...

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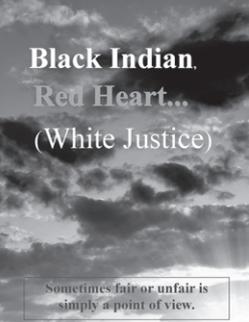


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