

Commander's Corner



Douglas W. Johnson
Commander

I am hoping all the veterans had a great veteran's day. On Saturday the 11th I will be traveling to Fort Bridger Post 36 for Veterans Day. I also want to wish everyone a very blessed Thanksgiving. I have had a very busy schedule this year with the National Convention, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Then it was off to Indianapolis for fall meetings. Both Gina and myself learned a lot from these meetings. I met several new friends while in Indianapolis. This is where you make your wagers with other Departments from your region. My new found friends are Cory Brockmann from the Department of Oregon, and Ninzel Rasmussen from the De-

partment of Utah. We became very good friends in the short time we were at Fall Meetings. So, we made a wager on who would be number one between the three of us by June 30th of 2024. The wager is \$250.00 each to the winner and it will be donated to the CWF fund. This is Commander Seehafer's commanders project for the year. We had National Commander Daniel Seehafer and his Aide Mike Rohan for a visit. They are from Wisconsin and Commander Seehafer is a very nice person. We met them in Jackson on September 12th and only had them a short time until the 15th of September. We toured through Jackson meeting the oldest Wyoming Veteran; what an honor. Then we proceeded to Pinedale then it was off to Rock Springs. From there we took a tour of a trona mine at Fort Bridger and toured the old Fort Bridger. It was a great week spending time with Commander Seehafer and Mike Rohan.

While I was at the National Convention I am assigned to the Employment and Education commission. We had a very busy year with 5 Resolutions submitted to the NEC. Three of them went to the NEC and one had to be pulled because of language so the commission is working on that last resolution so it can be submitted to the spring meetings and one rejection. Here are the Resolutions submitted by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. Resolution

number 13, the title of this resolution is Transition Assistance Program App. I am just going to give the answer to these resolutions. Therefore be it RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2023, That The American Legion urges Congress to direct all federal executive branch agencies involved in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to establish a private-public partnership to create a transition app with artificial intelligence component; and, be it finally Resolved, that the created app equip active-duty servicemembers and veterans with the necessary information on the resources and benefits available to them throughout the military life cycle.

Resolution #14. Title: Support the Armed Forces Retirement Home. RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2023, That The American Legion urges Congress to increase funding to The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) to ensure its existence and growth; and, be it finally Resolved, That The American Legion supports partnerships between the AFRH and other entities designed to benefit Veterans.

Resolution #15; Title: Military Hire Memorandum of Understanding. RESOLVED, By the National Executive

Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2023, The American Legion foster, through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Military Hire, a working relationship intended to increase awareness, resource utilization and veteran membership through collaborative cross- promotion for the benefit of transitioning service members and veterans.

Resolution #16, was rejected for the Expansion Of Joint Application Eligibility For Loans From The Department Of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution #25 is the resolution sent back to The Veterans Education & Employment Committee.

I am also sending Best Wishes For a Very Merry Christmas. Please do not forget to do your Buddy checks during this holiday season. These are very important because we have veterans out there that do not get anyone to visit with them. A visit to any veteran is like getting the best Christmas present in the world during our holiday times.

Reminder that Mid-Winter Conference is January 12-13, 2024. Its in Cheyenne at Post 6.

Thank You For All That You Do For Veterans & For God And Country
Commander Doug
Department of Wyoming

Adjutant's Corner



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

Since I last had my story printed in the Legionnaire/Auxiliare, it has been a whirlwind of activities. Department Convention came and went, with not too many hiccups. I said goodbye to an amazing Commander and welcomed the new one. I think this transition has to be one of the hardest parts of my job. I just get one Commander trained, and another comes onboard and I start the process all over again!

Next up was National Convention.

Talk about a fish out of water. I have never been to North Carolina. It was an experience like none other. I enjoyed every single second of it, except for the food. Oh my goodness, people eat some strange stuff in other states. I was absolutely enthralled with the whole process of the Convention itself. I got to see people I have only spoken on the phone with. I got to shake hands with our new Commander. I got to go up on the big stage. It was a very awesome experience for this small town gal.

In October, I was once again able to attend Fall Meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The first two days is training just for the Adjutants. I learned so much that I was able to bring back to my Department and share with the DEC. I was able to speak with our Judge Advocate. I was able to speak with our National Adjutant. I got to spend time with our National Commander. After that, it was on to the Commander and Adjutant's meetings. Again, so much information to process

and soak into my brain. I was able to attend a meeting with my NEC and ANEC. I attended so many different dinners and events with my Commander. We had some really good times. I think the Fall Meetings are the most important meetings an Adjutant goes to, and I am glad I am able to attend.

Now it is time to catch up with everything from June to November. Filing, paperwork, processing transmittals and using the new practices and informa-



**American Legion Department Adjutants
Fall 2023**
Department Adjutant - Gina Mayhan in the front row sixth from the left at Adjutants training.

tion I learned at all my events.

Below are a couple of pictures from Fall Meetings that I would like to share. Both pictures mean so much to me. The first is a picture of the Adjutants I attended classes with. We make a good looking group. The second picture is my favorite. Getting to have my picture taken with the National Commander was an honor, and something I won't forget. He is an amazing guy, and I think he is going to do great as the American Legion leader. I look forward to this year with him and my Department Commander Doug Johnson.

Gina Mayhan
Department
Adjutant.

National Commander Dan Seehafer and Department of Wyoming Adjutant - Gina Mayhan





Post Everlasting 2023

District 2
James Hilbird (16)

District 5
Post 25 Moorcroft
Tim Wattenberg (39)

District 3
Post 2 Casper
Claude Peterson (3)
Clarence Pearson (32)



District 6
Post 6 Cheyenne
Robert Dill (7)

District 4
Post 20 Cody
Russell Francis (4)

“the numbers in parenthesis designate years as a Legion Member.”

Post 122 Rawlins
Daniel Rutledge (11)



Chaplain's Corner Service to God and Country



Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming

the guys said, I volunteered 200 hours. A friend said, way to go, you win. We laughed but afterwards I thought about this. How many of us compare what we do or are able to do with someone else? Then I went a step further, how many of us don't realize that we have all done the same things but we look over them or don't think about it. So, Here's what I came up with; three things all Legion Family members do no matter how active we are. 1) Help Veterans and current service members. That's pillar 1 and 2 of TAL. Veterans and Defence. Our membership gives a voice to make sure we're all heard and taken care of. 2) Help children and veterans in need. That's Pillar 4, Youth. Our membership helps the Legion Family continue the programs we have for our youth. 3) Strengthening our country. Again being part of the American Legion Family gives us a BIG voice to ensure those who have sacrificed for our country, veterans and families alike, are not forgotten. Pillar 3 Americanism. Just by being a member, you do so much! Don't discount yourself or what you have done for so many people, just by being part of the American Legion Family.

One final thought as we move into the holiday season; many of us always make sure to think of our families and fellow man and help where we can but don't forget to make time for yourself. You are important and valued as a person. As one of the officers of the Department, I know we all appreciate each and everyone of you and wish you the best holiday season and a joyful and prosperous New Year.

For God and Country,
Vanessa Stuart, Commander, District 6
Dept. WY; Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming American Legion
307-314-8923

Greetings!
The year is coming to a close and the holiday season is upon us. This is my favorite time of year. I look forward to the sights, smells, and sounds-especially the sounds, starting around August but I hold off playing Christmas music until November 1st. I keep it quiet and only play when no one is around until the day after Thanksgiving, then I play it all the time. I was listening the other day to "So This Is Christmas"-John Lennon version. "So this is Christmas, And what have you done?"

Another year over, And a new one just begun." And I got to thinking about what I had done this past year and then what was I proud of? How many of you do that? Look back to see what you accomplished in the year and what you are proud of? Several of my friends and I talked about this yesterday and I found I'm not the only one who does that especially when that song comes on for the first time in the year. The answers varied from witnessing the birth of a grandchild to getting a promotion at work, stuff like that. One of



Merry Christmas



FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Commander Doug Johnson

Adjutant Gina Mayhan

Vice Commander Bill Barnes

2nd Vice Commander Russell Stafford

Finance Officer Deanna Hurless

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2nd Vice Commander's Corner



Russell Stafford
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

the stance of ensuring that our four pillars would be defended and fought for by this organization. Those pillars are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; Child Welfare; Americanism; and National Security. We continue to fight for these at our national level, but what about at the post level? How many of our posts participate in anything other than Burial Details? Don't get me wrong, those are highly important, and we do a great job of honoring our fallen. But what about the living? Do we get out and provide the community with information for voting or helping our elderly get to polling stations? Do we provide our halls for constructive debating? Do we help our local community with other events to help our children and families?

Our organization was feared by Congress when we were organized. Shouldn't we be that way again? One of the biggest mistakes our posts make is stating that we are apolitical and as such we can have no politics take part in our posts. This is not true. Apolitical is defined as "politically neutral; without political content or bias." This means that we need to provide an opportunity

for all sides to state their opinions and positions. The only time we would not allow a party to be associated with us, is if it is opposed to the United States Constitution or our form of government. We have a responsibility and duty to promote voting and ensure that our form of government is operating to the best of our abilities.

With all the national politics happening, I would like to remind everyone in the Department of Wyoming that our local and state politics are probably most important.

There are close to 51,000 veterans listed in Wyoming according to the last census taken. The American Legion currently only has a membership of 5,404 of these veterans. We have veteran owned businesses that need our support, not by purchasing their wares, but by fighting at the local and state level to ensure they have fair treatment with taxes and regulations. We have veterans who are struggling with property taxes because we are not pushing our local and state legislatures to honor their promises of fighting for the veteran. We have fellow veterans who are suffering mental

health crisis because of food insecurities and utility bills are outrageously priced. All these items need to be fought for by us.

Additionally, regarding buddy checks, many posts failed to perform their buddy checks during the National Veterans Affairs Buddy Check week which was held in October. Buddy Checks were started by The American Legion and were adopted by the VA this past year. Our organization can proudly state that it has once again led the VA into positive and productive programs. From the GI Bill, Veterans Home Loan programs, Agent Orange assistance, the PACT ACT, and numerous others, The American Legion has fought and succeeded in changing how our government fairly treats its veterans.

Thank you for your continued support and please reach out to at least one other veteran this season to ensure that we lose no others to suicide. BE THE ONE

Sincerely,
Russell Stafford
2nd Vice Commander
Department of Wyoming
The American Legion

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS



November News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has had a very busy fall. We have continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and our Post has continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our membership has grown to more than 140 members who joined or renewed for 2023. On October 28, Post 43 celebrated the 103rd anniversary of our charter. We are very proud of our Post building that was built 95 years ago, and it is a historic log structure in the center of Jackson.

Jackson Visit by American Legion National Commander: On September 12-13, the new National Commander of the American Legion, Daniel Seehafer visited our Post with his Aide, the Wyoming Department Commander, and three other State Officers. Our Post held a breakfast "meet and greet" at the Post for the visitors on September 13 that was attended by a large number of Post members and also a group from "Honoring our Veterans." Following breakfast, the group moved to the Town Square to view our veteran's monument. The Commander also had the opportunity to meet our Post member, Fred Miles, who turned 106 on October 25, and who

is the oldest living member of the American Legion. One of Fred's assignments during WWII was to help train the famous Black Panthers, known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Presentation by Dave Hill: Our



Post Adjutant, Dave Hill, gave us an interesting presentation on his background and experiences as an Army Officer and as a patent and trademark lawyer for over 40 years. He graduated from West Point in the class of 1969. He was commis-

District 1



sioned in the Army Corps of Engineers, went on to attend Airborne and Ranger Schools, and was assigned to an Engineer Battalion in Germany. He described his various assignments over the next 4.5 years in Germany, including serving as a Platoon Leader in a bridge company, a Company Commander of a Combat Engineer Company, and an Officer in the North Bavaria District Engineer Office. He also described some of his experiences as an attorney with a Washington, D.C. patent and trademark law firm that grew from 15 to over 400 attorneys during his 42 years with the firm.

Presentation by Joe Rice: At our September meeting, Post member Joe Rice, gave us a great presentation on his background and experiences as a Marine pilot, and his subsequent entry into the restaurant business in Jackson and Bozeman. After retiring from the Marines, he moved to Jackson and began his restaurant business career by purchasing the then very small Merry Piglets open air operation. Joe credits his

experience in the Marines for teaching him the values that he maintains in his business and in his family.

Presentation by Eric Cole: Our Post member, Eric Cole, who manages the National Elk Refuge, was the guest speaker at our October meeting. He described his background and experience in the Army, and his subsequent education focused specifically on the study of Elk. His comments on the day-to-day issues dealing with our large Elk population at the refuge were fascinating.

Army-Navy Game at the Post: The annual Army-Navy Game will take place on December 9 at 1300. The Post will be open that afternoon for everyone to enjoy the game together.

Veterans Day Plans: November 11 is Veterans Day, and our Post again will celebrate with a ceremony on the Jackson Town Square. The Post also will be holding the annual Ruck March and food collection on Veterans Day.

Honor Guard and Color Guard Activities: Post 43 has continued to provide honor guards for funeral services and color guards for other events in the Jackson community. On September 26, the Post provided a color guard for the opening ceremony of a State Conservation meeting at the Teton Raptor Center. Our member, Karee Jaeger sang the National Anthem as a part of that ceremony. On October 6, our Post provided a color guard at the Jackson Hole High School Homecoming Football game.



District 2 District News and Activities District 3 McDonald and Voight Post #75 Chugwater George W. Vroman Post 2 Casper

Orville Cussins

McDonald and Voight Post 75 will celebrate Past Adjutant Orville Cussins' 95th birthday and 70 years of membership in the American Legion on January 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Perkins Restaurant in Cheyenne WY. Please let Ben Glenn know if you would like to attend.

Ben Glen, Adjutant



District 3

Don Stough Post #33 Lander

American Legion Family Christmas Dinner: Our annual Post 33 Family Christmas Dinner will be held on December 2 at the National Guard Armory, beginning at 5 p.m. Sherri and Angela will cater. There is no cost for the meal and members and their families are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Ken Persson Sr., at 349-2881, text to the same number or e-mail to ppersson@tcinc.net. We need a good headcount so we have enough food for everyone. The menu will roast beef, ham, salads, fixins and individual cheesecakes. The dinner will be in lieu of our regular December meeting. If you are able to help with set-up or tear down, please contact 2nd VC Bruce Gallinger at 307-345-4888.

honor the service and sacrifice of all veterans in this manner.

Membership: The Membership Committee will be hitting the streets soon knocking on doors or calling, to remind those who haven't renewed of the benefits of Legion membership. We can always use more volunteers on this committee; if you are willing to help, contact our Adjutant for inclusion. Remember, membership recruiting for both current and future members is every Post member's responsibility. If you know a veteran who isn't a current member, please talk to them about joining our Post. We will again offer incentives to those who renew or join early. We will draw for \$100 on Veterans Day, \$75 at our Christmas dinner in December and \$50 at our Legion Birthday dinner in March. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024, do so now so your name will be included. You may renew online at legion.org, send a check for \$45 to Post 33, PO Box 6, Lander, or bring it with you to the Christmas Dinner or our next monthly American Legion meeting.

Veterans Day: Lander Valley High School and Pathfinder Schools held their annual Veterans Day Celebration to honor all military veterans. The celebration was held at the fieldhouse at LVHS at 1p.m. on Friday, November 10th. The public and especially our veterans were invited and encouraged to attend. We are very fortunate that our students chose to



OUR NEW COINS AND PINS HAVE ARRIVED!

Coins - \$10.00; Pins - \$5.00

You can order through Department Headquarters:
American Legion PO Box 20172, Cheyenne, WY 82003
Coins and Pins made at: 4Heros.com

Post 2 was requested to provide an update on what we have been working on during the last year. Many of the items are actually annual missions that we do each year.

We at Post 2 are very proud of all the organizations we work with and all the good we do throughout the community.

1. Post 2 places Flags at Veterans Park, The Memorial, Mills Park on each Holiday including Pearl Harbor Day.

2. Donated a power chair to a disabled former teacher / coach

3. We received 50 new flags from the local Elks Lodge to help us replace the worn flags as they need replaced.

4. Performed 3 different Color guard duties, D3 Commander helped out with the Central Wyoming Fair Color Guard.

One color guard was for the Indian Relay Races in conjunction with the Arapaho Warriors Post 96

5. Assisted The Wooden Derrick Café in a Veteran Appreciation Dinner and served Veterans with free Prime Rib and even had Governor Gordon and First lady Jenny in attendance.

Funds were divided up to the VFW 9439, DAV and the Kenny Project (train veteran service dogs)

6. Put a Tomb of the Unknown float in the parade with our members in another trailer and the Post 2 Flag trailer.



7. Replaced ropes and flags on the damaged poles at the Sheppard of the Valley Nursing Home for the Veterans that live there.

8. Help a disabled Veteran move his family to a new home while he waited for surgery on his back.

9. Sponsored a Bed Build with "Sleep in heavenly Peace" beds for kids without beds. Post 2 members assisted in building 20 beds on a Sunday build project.

10. Attended 2 separate New Citizen Naturalization ceremonies where we present each new citizen a flag, flag etiquette book and a bag to carry all their certificates and gifts.

11. Celebrated the 1 year anniversary of the "Wyoming Fallen Veterans" memorial completion which included helping with the Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

12. Presented granite base gifts with a picture of the memorial to all major donors as a small Thank You for their support.



They are all proud of how the memorial turned out and want to help more in the future.

13. Donated a framed picture of the memorial to large donors to the memorial project.

14. Presented over 75 Veteran certificates at funerals to the fallen Veterans family.

15. Placed our annual 50 flags of remembrance at the State Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day.

16. Placed over small flags on the Veterans graves at the 2 private cemeteries. With the assistance of the American Legion Baseball, Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol cadets.

17. Presented a "Patriotic Supporter" plaque to The Wooden Derrick Café that has continually supported Post 2 and this year coordinated the Veteran Appreciation Dinner on Veterans Day.

18. Received a 1999 Chevy Impala from a lady as a donation to the Post. We were able to resell the car to a high school kid.

19. Received a 2003 Chevy Pickup for a Korea Veterans Widow.

Were able to sell the truck quickly for more funds in the Post account.

20. Presented a "Patriotic Supporter" plaque to Rocky Mountain Discount Sports for letting us place a retired flag collection Box and for allowing Post 2 to park our Flag Trailer in their parking lot so people get to see it when on CY Avenue.

21. Placed a retired Flag collection box at Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply which allows citizens 3 locations in Casper to drop off old and damaged flags for proper disposal.



22. We will again be a part of the laying of the Wreaths Across America wreaths on Veterans grave in December.

23. George W. Vroman Post 2 will be working with the City of Casper to remove and replace the Wyoming Fallen Veterans Memorial parking lot so it has a second entrance, fresh smooth asphalt to improve the access for the disabled to more easily visit the memorial. This will include several handicapped parking spaces.

Courtesy Photo
The American Legion George W. Vroman Post 2 flag trailer. This trailer stores all the flags we put out each holiday and out at the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day.

BE THE ONE

TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

District News and Activities Continued



District 4 Robert Boyd Stewart Post #11 Lovell



After such a busy summer, we are glad to have had a more relaxing fall. We continue to sell raffle tickets which is raising money to purchase new funeral equipment and also giving us a chance to recruit to new members. Welcome John and Jennifer Raymond-Forrester to Post 11!

Post 11's Family and Friends Fall Dinner gave us an opportunity to thank our

family members and community sponsors who support us in our activities. We had a great time and ate too much food! We were fortunate to participate in four



Veterans Day celebrations. November 9th, we participated in a heart-warming Veterans Day program in Cowley. On November 10th, Lovell also presented a wonderful Veterans Day program. After the program, we hosted a luncheon com-



plementary for all veterans at the Lovell Senior Center. Our guest speaker was Lee Hudon who comes from a family who has served in the armed forces since

the Revolutionary War.

As in past years, the senior center ladies quilt group presented quilts to this year's veteran recipients. On Veterans Day itself, we hosted a breakfast for veterans and their families. Every year, this breakfast grows in attendance and also grows more rewarding for us and the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Fink - Post 11 Commander
Nicolle Laffin - Post 11 Historian



Floyd Minch Post 44 - Worland



Courtesy Photo

EARLY BIRDS ALL IN A ROW – Attendees at the Post 44 Early Bird Dinner go through the line as they fill their plates with good groceries before sitting down to a fine meal and fellowship.

WORLAND – Floyd Minch Post 44 of The American Legion hosted its annual Early Bird Dinner for paid-up 2024 Legion family members at the Post Home on Saturday October 14.

Post 44 Trustee and Past Post Commander Terry Bankert said the menu for the event featured chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, a roll and cheesecake for dessert. "We like to thank our Legionnaires for helping us meet our membership quotas as the year progresses," he said, adding that the Early Bird Dinner is one of four free annual events at Post 44 that provide tangible value to the intrinsic meaning of Legion membership.

Post 44 Trustee and Past Post Commander Justin Pfeiffer echoed Bankert's thoughts. "It's always a good time to get to visit with our members at these events, see how everyone's doing and catch up. Plus, we get to show off our new kitchen setup and serving appliances." An artilleryman (13B) through most of his military career, Pfeiffer switched his MOS to cook (92G) before his retirement, and enjoys the beans as well as the bullets.

The other free events at Post 44 each year are the Veterans Day Breakfast in November, the Legion Birthday Dinner in March and the annual Post 44 Picnic on the first Sunday in August. Post Adjutant Don Hall said the events "help bring us together as Legionnaires within the Legion Family and encourage fellowship as we continue to do the work of the Legion on behalf of veterans.

WORLAND – Veterans Day is always a time of dedication and honoring all U.S. veterans at American Legion Floyd Minch Post 44, but this year a new feature was added to the celebration.

Post 44 has hosted its Veterans Day breakfast for all veterans and their families for more than 60 years, and performed a flag retirement ceremony for unserviceable U.S. flags. This year, however, some of our veterans chose to get in a little exercise before sitting down to a plateful of breakfast goodness.

Post 44 Legionnaire and retired Army Special Forces SFC Steve Rakness organized an early morning 'ruck' march of nearly five miles on the way to the Post Home. Starting at the Bomber Mountain Barbell Club, the squad-



Courtesy Photo

SERVICE WITH A SMILE – Post 44 trustees and Past Post Commanders, from left, Justin Pfeiffer, Ryan Decker and Terry Bankert are ready to serve Legion Family members at the annual Post 44 Early Bird Dinner at the Post Home on October 14.

sized group made its way on a loop route that ended at the Post Home.

Post 44 Legionnaires put on a full breakfast spread for all veterans that



Courtesy Photo

DINING AT THE LEGION -- The tables begin to fill up as Post 44 Early Bird 2024 members enjoy a thank-you dinner for paying their Legion dues by the middle of October.

morning, more than 150, and conducted the honorable flag retirement ceremony afterward.

Courtesy photo

Right, Legionnaire Steve Rakness, left, pauses with his ruck marchers before heading inside for breakfast.





District News and Activities District 5

Campbell County Post #42 Gillette Putting up the new Legion Family sign!

Powder River Post #13 Buffalo



Photo by Peg Sullivan

While residing in Mesa Regal RV Park in Mesa Regal Arizona, Post 13 Past Commander Don Sullivan explained the POW/MIA table at the Veterans Day Program for the RV Park Veterans Club. He is also the Commander for the RV Park Veterans Club.



Courtesy Photo

L-R Commander Clarence Barry, Lisa Wagner Auxiliary President, Phil Wagner SAL Sargent at Arms; Bill Kern SAL Adjutant, Bill Languemi Legion Adjutant and SAL Chaplin.

District 6

Donald Eisenhower Post #60 Pine Bluffs



Jo Radcliffe/Post 60

Above: Members of the Donald Eisenhower American Legion Post 60, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 60 and members of the community with hands over their hearts sing the National Anthem.

Jo Radcliffe, Finance Officer Post 60

Veterans Day! A day to honor and celebrate our former and present fighting men and women, who strive diligently to help keep our country free. There are older veterans who would be willing to be called back into the fray and take up arms and fight again if necessary. There is a camaraderie among veteran's, whether they are sharing war stories, peacetime stories or ribbing each other on their choice of military branch. However, they all know that every soldier, sailor and airman has a specific job to do, and in doing so they will get the job done.

On November 11, 2023, the Donald Eisenhower American Legion Post 60, along with Unit 60 Auxiliary, held a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Plaza to do exactly what they do year round. Honor Veterans! A nice small crowd gathered round as Pastor J. R. Atkins, United Methodist Church, offered a prayer.

Melinda Gibson, standing next to her husband Paul, asked the congregates to join her in America the Beautiful. Her beautiful voice carried on the wind, the flags flew and hopefully anyone in the general vicinity would be able to hear the amazing music

emanating from her strong pipes.

Commander John Wise then paid homage to the Veterans, living and deceased after which, Pastor Atkins offered a closing prayer. Commander Wise read aloud a moving poem concerning veterans then invited everyone to the Legion hall for a chili lunch to feed the body and camaraderie to feed the soul.

Upon entering the Post home the warm and inviting aroma of red and green chili permeated the air. There was no rush to get to the food line. Guests meandered in chatting with each other, finding a comfortable place to sit and just enjoying the day as it was. The Auxiliary ladies never fail to put together an amazing spread. If anyone who attends a Post 60 event ever walks away hungry it is not due to the lack of sustenance. Red chili, cinnamon rolls, green chili, tortillas, cornbread, vegetables and cookies. All laid out before you to fill you up and send you home happy and possibly ready to take a nap.

The day was sunny, the wind a bit chilly, but overall a beautiful day to pay respects to all who serve or have served. Thank you Veterans for all you have done, did do and will do, past, present and future.



Jo Radcliffe/Post 60

Above: Enjoying a lunch of Chili and all the fixings after the Veteran Day ceremony, are: Julie Butler (back), Jim Hudson, Lewis Laboray, Chuck Chaires, Mike and Pat Reher. Standing in back Mary Chowns.

BE THE ONE
 TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
 TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
 TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

2024 Mid-Winter
January 12-13, 2024
Francis E Self Post 6
2001 East Lincolnway
Cheyenne WY 82001

DON'T FORGET!



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Of Wyoming News Letter, November 2023

Past Detachment Commander and currently Detachment Adjutant, Jim Andersen
HOWDY LEGION, AUXILIARY AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS!!!!

Detachment News:

The Detachment had a successful summer of events, Convention and the election of officers, but our favorite program, Christmas in July has always been memorable and very gratifying to hold our "Fishing Derby followed by a luncheon prepared by the cooks at the Veterans home in Buffalo, Wyoming. In the last newspaper article I shared a lot of information and details concerning our event. My news article for November will reflect pictures of our fellow men and women who have served our country so that we may have our freedom. At the time of this article we are approaching "Veterans Day", so I am sharing pictures of some of our contestants in support of their services. The Detachment is very proud to hold this annual event every year and spend time with all of the veterans.

For God and Country, Jim Andersen, Adjutant, Detachment of WY



Jim Andersen
SAL Adjutant



Courtesy Photo

Above left: Jack Youngs, National Vice Commander, West Regional visiting with Patrick McGowan, perhaps fishing tips or military discussion? Above center: Fishing Derby - Edward Pickett, 2nd place, Army; Above right: Sam Ross, 1st Place, 2023, Navy. Below left: Patrick McGowan, 4th Place, Navy. Below center: Bill Wintermute, 3rd Place, Marines. Below right: Consolation winner - Edward Majors, Army; Second row below: Consolation winner - Kelly Doyle, Navy. Center: Vernon Page, Marines; Right - Alan Love, Navy.



Courtesy Photo

Above left: Team picture: Veterans in front row, and the WY Detachment with Jack Youngs, yellow cap in second row and WY. Department Commander in white cap, Doug Johnson. Middle and back row Detachment Officers and Squadron members. Above center: Above photo: the gathering of some of the Sons members on a floating dock constructed last year. Above right: At Lusk Convention - Above photo: Elected Detachment officers, Left to right, Charlie Keith, Alternate NEC, Jim Andersen, Adjutant, Donavon Duesl, Commander, and Levi Dusel, Sr. Vice Commander. Not pictured Greg Bushman, Jr. Vice, Gary Swanlund, NEC, Tim Johnson, Sergeant-At-Arms, Gary Temple, Children and Youth Chairman and Jim Andersen, Membership Chairman.

Right: In recognition to our departed fellow Legionnaire and Detachment Officer, Jerry Clark, we placed a plaque on a bench next to the fishing pond recognizing all his years supporting our Veterans - Jerry Clark.





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 42 NEWS

Now that it is fall things are back in for swing at Post 42 and the SAL has been busy. We began our Friday night dinners at the Post and the SAL cooks every 4th Friday. We have had 2 successful nights serving 56 smoked brisket meals on 9/22 and 71 bbq ribs meals on 10/27. Every meal comes with a choice meat, potatoes, veggie, salad, and dessert all just for \$10.

Post 42 held their Early Bird Dinner on 10/14 for all members who paid their dues early. We had three young SAL members earn a new SAL cap helping the Auxiliary with cleanup during and after the dinner. It was great to see how polite and helpful they were. A big SAL salute to Audric Metli, Howard Milhous, and Zaiden Metli.

The SAL joined the Post and Auxiliary in hanging new Post 42 signs on our Chamber of Commerce welcome

signs on 10/1. It was a great joint effort.

We hosted our annual Dead End Haunted House again this year. It was a great event netting over \$2000 for the SAL. Special thanks to Amanda Wright, Fred Paypay, Bob Wright, Sonja Wright, and the host of scarers and volunteers who helped with this great fundraiser.

Squadron 42 will be helping with the Veteran's Day activities at the Post on 11/11. This will include putting up and taking down flags at the cemetery, Veteran's Day Parade, and a dinner that evening. We would like to thank all the Veterans and active military for their service and providing us the freedom we have.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Kern
Adjutant, Squadron 42
Gillette, Wyoming
Cell: 307.299.4029



Courtesy Photo
Three of the young SAL members that helped with the Early Bird Dinner at Post 42 - Gillette L-R - Audric Melti, Howard Millhouse, Zaiden Melti.



Membership

TAL Membership Report

Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	350	278	79.43%	0
28	190	127	66.84%	16
36	101	92	91.09%	0
40	10	1	10.00%	7
41	35	21	60.00%	5
43	130	124	95.38%	0
46	36	24	66.67%	3
47	34	24	70.59%	2
49	15	4	26.67%	7
55	30	20	66.67%	3
78	20	18	90.00%	0
88	16	10	62.50%	2
D-1	857	743	76.84%	0
75% - 12/13/2023				
2	230	175	76.09%	0
16	10	2	20.00%	6
19	68	52	76.47%	0
31	15	7	46.67%	4
33	230	165	71.74%	8
61	10	2	20.00%	6
81	22	18	81.82%	0
96	16	0	0.00%	12
D-3	601	421	70.05%	30
75% - 12/13/2023				
3	74	35	47.30%	21
7	185	129	69.73%	10
13	155	123	79.35%	0
25	25	19	76.00%	0
42	325	253	77.85%	0
45	19	15	78.95%	1
80	36	32	88.89%	0
90	13	6	46.15%	2
307	28	5	17.86%	13
D-5	860	617	71.74%	28
75% - 12/13/2023				
current as of: 3-Dec-2023				
1	31	21	67.74%	2
4	23	17	73.91%	1
5	126	100	79.37%	0
8	167	90	53.89%	19
9	46	39	84.78%	0
10	69	54	78.26%	0
15	25	17	68.00%	2
56	10	6	60.00%	1
63	19	13	68.42%	1
70	10	8	80.00%	0
75	14	15	107.14%	0
95	25	21	84.00%	0
D-2	565	401	70.97%	23
75% - 12/13/2023				
11	35	26	74.29%	1
18	16	15	93.75%	0
20	45	31	68.89%	3
26	170	114	67.06%	14
29	44	32	72.73%	1
32	26	20	76.92%	0
44	188	130	69.15%	11
85	22	17	77.27%	1
91	12	9	75.00%	0
D-4	558	394	70.61%	25
75% - 12/13/2023				
6	1131	820	72.50%	28
14	310	247	79.68%	0
21	10	3	30.00%	5
54	80	47	58.75%	13
60	50	37	74.00%	1
64	33	19	57.58%	6
77	10	5	50.00%	3
93	10	2	20.00%	6
122	44	35	79.55%	0
D-6	1678	1215	72.41%	44
75% - 12/13/2023				
DISTRICT TOTALS				
17 HQ.	175	41	23.43%	90
DEPARTMENT GOAL				
NATIONAL GOAL				
75% - 12/13/2023				

"For God and Country"

	2024 Mid-Winter January 12-13, 2024 Francis E Self Post 6 2001 East Lincolnway Cheyenne WY 82001	
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LEGION:	FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024	AUXILIARY
6:30 pm	Department Finance Committee	4:00 p.m.
7:00 pm	Department Executive Committee	7:00 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024	
9:00 am	CONFERENCE	9:00 a.m.

All Pre-Registration due no later than December 30th.

	FEE	NUMBER	TOTAL
REGISTRATION	\$10.00		\$
LUNCH	\$12.00		\$
TOTAL			\$

Auxiliary _____ Unit # _____
 Legion _____ Post # _____
 SAL _____ Squadron # _____

Mail Pre-registration to:
 The American Legion
 Department Headquarters
 PO Box 20172
 Cheyenne, WY 82003

Hotel - Tru by Hilton
 307-222-3600
 423 Fox Farm Road
 Cheyenne, WY 82001
 \$149.00 plus tax

Fairfield Inn
 307-634-0401
 1820 W Lincolnway
 Cheyenne, WY 82001
 \$107.00 plus tax



A block of rooms will be held until **December 25, 2023**

Tell them you are with the American Legion / Auxiliary





American Legion Auxiliary News

“One - The Number to Remember” *Tammy Harris, Department President*



Tammy Harris
President

Over the years, we've heard a lot of numbers in relation to the number of veterans who lose the internal battles they wage with themselves on a daily basis—14, 18, 22-24. At times, we are told that the number is getting lower, other times, that it is rising. Whether that number is 14, or 24, this year, the entire Legion Family is being asked to focus on the number 1. We are all being asked to “Be the One.” What exactly does it mean to “Be the One?”

Be the one—to Save One. This is the very heart of the Be the One mission and the message is clear. Together, we can save lives, one person at a time. How

can you do this, you ask. Our National President has broken it down into three steps: ALR.

A—Ask a veteran how he or she is doing. I don't have to think very hard to come up with a list of veteran friends to reach out to on a regular basis. It can be as simple as a quick text, a phone call or even an invitation to coffee. I challenge us all to make a list of at least 5 veterans that we commit to checking in on at least once a month.

L—Listen. Make sure that when you listen, he or she knows you are listening. The simple knowledge that someone cares enough to reach out and listen can go a long way.

R—Refer. If someone you know is in crisis, help that person get in touch with qualified mental health professionals. Offer to go to the first appointment. Be supportive and help that person get connected with qualified individuals.

We can all Be the One—it doesn't take a degree in counseling and we don't have to be mental health professionals, or even pretend that we

are. We just need to be there and to let the people we care about know that we care. And while the focus of “Be the One” is on our veterans, don't forget the spouses and other family members of our veterans. Sometimes they need a quick check in too. I know that when I receive a random text from a friend reaching out to check on me because he or she hasn't seen me in a while, that text can so often bring a smile and warm feelings after a particularly rough day. Perhaps Leo Buscaglia had it right when he said that “too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” So my Legion family, I leave you with this challenge: pick 5 people to check in on at least once a month and Be the One to let those five people know that someone cares.

As always, in the spirit of service and not self.

Tammy Harris,
Department President

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Mid-Winter Conference Post 6 - 2001 East Lincolnway Cheyenne, Wyoming

Friday, January 19, 2023

7:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee - Unit 6 meeting room

Saturday, January 20, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Opening**
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Preamble to the Constitution
Welcome
Response
Introduction of ALA District, Department, & National Officers
Introduction of Past Department Presidents
Roll Call - Units and Officers
Finance Committee Report
Department Executive Committee Report
- 9:30 a.m. Growing Leaders—How do we do it?**
- 10:30 a.m. Break** Greetings to Legion
- 10:45 a.m. Extra! Extra! Read All About It—In a Report
- 11:45 a.m. What's in a Name? or A Picture Tells a Thousand Words
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. Resource scavenger hunt
- 2:30 p.m. Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Sock Hop Service Project
- 3:30 p.m. Tidbits
- 3:45 p.m. Chaplain Remarks & Benediction
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks



Cathey Raymer
Membership Chair

Time is flying and the holiday season is upon us. As I write this, the weather has been beautiful but colder. I'm sure that the change to winter is just a few days away. As you bundle up to face the cold outside, are you leaving your house “Fully Dressed”? Are you prepared to talk about the American Legion Auxiliary, the Legion Family and our mission? Do you have that application with you?

Keeping with the Auxiliary National President's

Campfire Chat & Membership

with Chairman Cathey Raymer

Great Membership Sled Race, our Districts have adopted their lead shed dogs to race to the finish line for membership. It is a long race that will take them across our great state but our dogs are strong and well equipped to face the weather and terrain. We had a great start to the race. As of now our Department numbers are up and way ahead of where we were last year at this time.

Let's keep these dogs strong and fueled to get them to that finish line.

We did set up some Department goals to help encourage our racers.

11/10/2023 - Auxiliary's Birthday 50% \$ 25

02/14/2024 - Valentines' Day 75% \$ 25

06/21/2024 - Department Convention 100% \$100

If your Unit reaches these deadlines then your Unit will be in a drawing for the prize. The 1st drawing is at Mid-Winter. Let's get these memberships transmitted so your Unit has the opportunity to win the prizes. You are doing your members a disservice by holding on to the transmittals until the deadline of December 31st.

**HIKE, HIKE,
HIKE, TEAMS!!!
(GO, GO, GO
TEAMS!!)**

Membership



DISTRICT	1	UNIT	GOAL	CURRENT	%	DATE	DISTRICT	4	UNIT
	24	Rock Sprir	274		0.00%	19-Sep		26	Powell
	28	Gr. River	130		0.00%	15-Oct		29	Basin
	36	Ft. Bridger	49		0.00%	31-Oct		32	Greybull
	40	Cokeville	27		0.00%	27-Nov		44	Worland
	46	Alpine	28		0.00%	1-Nov	Total		
	47	Pinedale	33		0.00%	27-Nov			
	78	Big Piney	29		0.00%	1-Nov	DISTRICT	5	
	88	LaBarge	16		0.00%			3	Newcastle
Total			586	0	0.00%			7	Sheridan
								13	Buffalo
DISTRICT	2							25	Moorcroft
	1	Van Tasse	13		0.00%	27-Nov		42	Gillette
	5	Torrington	126		0.00%	27-Nov		80	Hulett
	8	Douglas	63		0.00%	27-Nov		90	Kaycee
	9	Glenrock	48		0.00%	27-Nov	Total		
	10	Wheatland	36		0.00%	28-Oct			
	15	Glendo	82		0.00%	9-Nov	DISTRICT	6	
	70	LaGrange	35		0.00%	27-Nov		6	Cheyenne
	75	Chugwater	15		0.00%	9-Nov		14	Laramie
	95	Guernsey	43		0.00%	9-Nov		54	Saratoga
Total			461	0	0.00%			60	Pine Bluffs
								64	Medicine B
								77	Albin
DISTRICT	3						Total		
	16	Powder Ri	11		0.00%				
	19	Riverton	20		0.00%	9-Nov			
	33	Lander	74		0.00%	20-Nov		17	Headquar
	81	Ft. Washa	21		0.00%	27-Nov			
Total			126	0	0.00%				
GRAND TOTAL			2763	0	0.00%				

Rock Springs, Laramie and Cheyenne area

"In the Clouds"

• In Memoriam •

Mavis Lund 70 year member Unit 90

Veronica Johnson

Beverly Crawford Unit 13

Jeanie Meyers Unit 13

Joyce Engling Member for 77 years Unit 15

• Sympathy •

Becky Allred, Death of Husband

Linda Meyers, Death of Mother, Unit 13

Kim Norman, Death of Mother Unit 13

Sydney Norman, Death of Grandmother Unit 13

Sharon Soule, Death of Son Unit 13

Vyonne Kraen, Death of Husband Unit 13

Cindy Rosty, Death of Aunt Unit 90

Tanny and Ronnie Engling, Death of Mother Unit 15

Nancy and Todd Dysart, Death of Mother Unit 15

Linda and Mike Broughton, Death of Mother Unit 15

Cheryl and Dan Ellis, Death of Mother Unit 15

Sandi and Robbie Engling, Death of Mother Unit 15

Jessica Wermer, Death of Grandmother Unit 15

Kim and Riley Britton, Death of Grandmother Unit 15

Julie Dysart, Death of Grandmother Unit 15

Danielle Coakly, Death of Grandmother Unit 15

Linda Boughton, Death of Brother in Law Unit 15

Todd Dysart, Death of Brother in Law Unit 15

Kimberly Britton, Death of Father Unit 15

Nancy Dysart, Death of Husband Unit 15

Cheryl Ellis, Death of Brother in Law Unit 15

Robbie Engling, Death of Brother in Law Unit 15

Ronnie Engling, Death of Brother in Law Unit 15

• Get Well •

Sherry Bushman, Unit 28

Gayle Bacila, Unit 28

Andrea Schuck, Unit 28

Denise Johnson, Knee Surgery Unit 6

Gail Keeler, Back injury Unit 6

Jane Miller, Knee and Hernia Unit 6

Dwight Null, Various surgeries Unit 6

Elizabeth Miura, Surgery Unit 13

Gayle Brewer, Illness/heart Unit 28

Andrea Schuck, Recovery from illness Unit 28

Debbie Gray, illness Unit 6

Margie Sanborn, illness Unit 15

Jane Miller, illness Unit 6

• Thinking of You •

Mary Schuck, Unit 28

Sonja Olsen Fowler, Unit 28

Linda Feezer, Unit 25

Deb Gray, Unit 6

Rebecca Allred, Unit 28

Kiera Pullman, Birthday Unit 15

Jerry Williams, Birthday Unit 15

Tyfani Sager, Birthday Unit 15

Dana Sanborn, Birthday Unit 15

Kimberly Britton, Birthday Unit 15

Ashley Wheeler, Birthday Unit 15

Inez Todd, Birthday Unit 15

Dorothy Williams, Birthday Unit 15

Margie Sanborn, Birthday Unit 15

Denise Delgado, Birthday Unit 15

Kathleen Fulton, Birthday Unit 15

Cheryl Ellis, Birthday Unit 15

VA Client, Birthday Unit 15

VA Client, Birthday Unit 15

VA Client, Birthday Unit 15

Eltana Shepard, Birthday Unit 15

Gayle Bacilla, Heart Surgery

Shannon Swearingin, illness Unit 6

• Thank You •

Lenore Perry, Unit 28

Sunny Hobbs, Donation Unit 28

Lenora Perry, Donation Unit 28

Margaret Foss, Unit 13

Anne Metzler, Unit 19

Kelly Atterbury, Donation Unit 15

Diane Medinger, Unit 26

Valerie Gervais

Evelyn Brown, Unit 90

Gail Keeler, Unit 06

Sage Bridger, Unit 15

News from your Secretary

From Your Secretary.....

Thank you for your membership in the ALA Department of WY. Your membership, whether you are active or otherwise, your important. Your membership and volunteer hours is reported to the US House and Senate in February to maintain our "non-profit" status and help get funding for our Veterans.

Unit Membership Chairmen are doing an awesome job. This has been our best year so far. Thank

you!

Checks were mailed to Units for PUFL Members a couple days ago. Checks were also issued for members who have paid on-line. No Unit credit this year.

Units who sent in their poppy order and payment were either handed out at Fall Workshop or mailed. The postage will be added on the Assessment Invoice. The Units who didn't send in an order will not

receive poppies but will be billed

\$15.00 (see C & B).

Thank you to Officers and Chairmen who submitted their articles on time. It is very much appreciated.

Conflict of Interest Forms for Officers. If you haven't returned your signed form to the Department Office, do so ASAP. You will not be able to vote if your form hasn't been returned.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Peg Sullivan

Department Secretary

2023 Department Poppy Report



I hope this finds you all well and appreciative in this holiday season. Depending on how you look at it, we are either at the end of the calendar year or halfway through our Auxiliary year. Hopefully you all had an opportunity to use poppies in your Veteran Day programs. That's right poppies aren't just for Memorial Day, they are highly appropriate on Veterans Day. Of course, I think every day is Veteran's Day!

I accepted this chair position not knowing entirely of what the poppy program consisted of. I have learned so much! I learned that our poppies are made by veterans, in most cases. I learned you can order kits to assemble your own poppies. I learned that we could have a Little Miss Poppy as a junior member in our Auxiliaries. I learned that Little Miss Poppies can promote the poppy program and

raise funds to donate to veterans and veteran programs. I learned more about the poppy poster contest. I have found our members have terrific ideas on how to promote poppies to remember veterans. I have increased my love of poppies even more than I loved them before.

I would like each of you to find a way to assist in your poppy poster programs. Have classes encouraging youth to participate and teach them the importance of the poppy and why we use it in remembrance of veterans, especially those we've lost. It would be fantastic to have entries from each age group or division that go to Districts and then to Department. I would love to send an entry from each division to National!

I know that our state has a great deal of love and respect for veterans, and I want to be sure we show that through

our poppy program. We doled out thousands of poppies at Fall Workshop. I know they all went or will be going to great use. I look forward to hearing reports on how they were used, be it in passing out, decorating, promoting the American Legion and Auxiliary, with the poppy posters, any and everything.

If you cannot find my contact information on the Department website, I'll give it to you here, address: ALA Poppy Chair, B-Jo Laing, PO Box LaGrange, WY 82221, phone: 801-717-6783, email: bjovfwaux@gmail.com. Get in touch with me for any questions, reports, or just chatting about poppies and veterans. Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

B-Jo Laing
Department
Poppy Chairman



To the Wyoming ALA members,
Thank you so much for your warm hospitality the past few days! Visiting with guests & members is my favorite!
Also huge thanks to you for your donation to my NP Project - The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund! Much much thanks to you all, Jessi

American Legion Auxiliary
National President
Lisa Williamson



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary

First off, **THANK YOU MEMBERS** for your past donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Our Department donated \$1,927.56 to National and received 1st Place for Highest Donation per Member for 2023. Congratulations.

Updates to the Auxiliary Emergency Assistance Grants (AEF):

1. The grant has been divided into 2 categories – Disaster Relief Grant and Hardship Assistance Grant.

2. The Grant has increased from \$2,400 to \$3,000.

3. Applicants 2024, 2023 and 2022 dues are current.

4. The Grant is confidential, the member applies for the Grant and submits. It no longer is signed by your Unit or Department for certification.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND GRANTS AWARDED

Full Year- October 2022 – End of September 2023

Grants awarded – 169
Dollars awarded - \$ 239,134.29

The Department is again offering to pay 2 members 2025 Dues. I emailed a sheet of tickets for the Dues Drawing to the Unit email contact this past week. Fill out a sheet and send to the Department Office. Unit donations are also eligible to win a 2025 Dues by filling out a sheet and including it with the donation.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Peg Sullivan, Chairman



Vicki Paddock
Americanism
Chairman

Star Spangled Kids kits were distributed at Fall Workshop to all that attended. These kits were obtained with a CWF (Child Welfare Grant). A box of items were then shipped to Department. The kids included coloring books, flags, stickers, Consti-

tution and other patriotic items. Also included was a sheet on how to promote patriotism and another sheet on where you could find the items that were in the bag. Any Unit that was not in attendance can contact me and I will try to get them a kit. Ameri-

canism essay's can be started anytime. The theme this year is "What does Freedom mean to me?" IF you need a cover sheet you can find it on our website , www.wylegionaux.org, under unit forms. The winners will need to be to me by March 15th.



Dawn Kennedy
Unit 7 Sheridan
Wyoming Girls State Director



egates: 15 from each district. This will allow us to run 2 courts which will give more opportunities to more girls.

Here are the important things you need to know. There are new deadlines for Girls State: Quota sheets are due Nov. 15th. Delegate Registration is March 15th (mail or email me with the signed Girls State Pledge). Registration fee is still \$30. Delegate fees are now \$325. All money needs to be sent to Peg Sullivan. Please contact me if you need help with fundraising ideas.

Zoom trainings for Unit Chairman will be at 7pm: Feb. 8th-Contacting

HS, Applications & Registrations, Mar. 7th-Registration questions, How to train your delegates for Girls State, April 11th-Bills-how to submit/how to check if your delegate has turned in their forms. May 16th-What to send with your delegate to Girls State.

We are in the process of setting up Zoom training for delegates to help unit chairman who need it. Training will cover topics like: How to write a bill, how to dress professionally, flag etiquette, how to run for office, etc. If you are really good at training your delegates on a particular topic, please contact me. We would love

your help in helping each delegate be successful.

Please make sure I have your current email address so I can send you the zoom links and all updated information. I will send training times to the emails I receive on your quota sheets. Also note, I have since moved. To mail anything to the Director please send it to 941 Pinyon Pl., Sheridan, WY 82801.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to get involved: Dawn Kennedy, wys-director@gmail.com

GIRLS STATE
Dawn Kennedy, Director



Photo by Cathey Raymer
Above right: Secretary Peg Sullivan, President Tammy Harris, National President Lisa Williamson and NEC Vicki Paddock at Unit 13.

Photo by Cathey Raymer
Left: Department's donation to our National President Lisa Williamson for her "Be The One" project.

Photo by Penny Merryfield
Right: District 6 President Joyce Menke, Department President Tammy Harris, Department Membership Chairman Cathey Raymer and National President Lisa Williamson.





Veteran's Affair and Rehabilitation Report

Sheridan VA Healthcare Network

Holidays 2023

Holiday Greetings from all at the Sheridan VA and Clinics. Your continued support makes life so much more comfortable and easy.

If you wish to donate items for Thanksgiving, Christmas and/or New Years, please contact Eric at 307-675-3226 or Brad at 307-675-3225. They are still in need of winter gear – coats, long johns, warm socks, hats and gloves – since the weather has gotten cold. New or slightly used blue jeans are always in demand. They are low on cookies.

We were visited by National ALA President Lisa Williamson, NEC Vicki Paddock and District 5/Unit 007 President Robin Ruff on October 16. They were taken on a tour of several areas at the hospital. Recreation Therapists brought out the Virtual Reality Goggles that the Auxiliary purchased access to programs for and gave us all a demonstration as well as all of us trying them (I swam with dolphins). Lisa's project is "Be The One" along with the Legion Family and the VA Staff explained their programs on veteran suicide prevention that has been started in the Sheridan and Casper areas. She thoroughly appreciated the tour. Thank you Sheridan Unit 007 for treating them to lunch following.

We had increased participation in the Creative Arts Festival this year. 17 entries were forwarded to National judging.

Thanks again for all you do.

Linda Orr and Melba Bennett, Reps

Merry Christmas



BE THE ONE
 TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
 TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
 TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

Cheyenne VA



Courtesy of Martie Harbick

Above left: Legion and Auxiliary member Marti Mace with her bagpipe, Auxiliary Unit 60 member Julie Butler, Auxiliary Unit 6 member Gail Keeler, Auxiliary Unit 60 President Diane Wise. Above right: Veteran - Dennis likes to play bingo.

The VA in Cheyenne is very thankful for all auxiliary members. Our Auxiliary is always there in all types of endeavor or to help. Units have been providing all sorts of donations, support and work. Veterans Rock and the veterans in the Cheyenne and the VA are most grateful.

The Veterans at CLC in Cheyenne, were happy to meet with our National President and Dept President playing bingo with them after having a tour of the VA facility. The smiles were overwhelming. Our National President visited Unit 6 for dinner along with members from Unit 60 and Albin. Everyone there was thrilled to have the National, Department and District Presidents there. We hope to fulfill the National

President's dream of helping to prevent suicide among veterans.

Thanks to all who helped with the stand down and the VA baby shower. All donations were greatly appreciated, and the visit was so warming. Volunteers helping with the flu clinic by visiting and serving refreshments were also appreciated.

Saratoga, Laramie, Albin, Pine Bluffs, Glendo, Rock Springs, Green River, Guernsey, Buffalo, Lander, and so many more Units contribute so much to the veterans it is awesome.

Thank you all for what you do for our Veterans.

Cheyenne VA
Martie Harbick, Representative

Wyoming Veterans Home Buffalo



Courtesy of Vicki Paddock

Above left: Leroy Higgins receives a plaque for his service in making 447, 000 poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary from National American Legion Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson. Above right: Leroy Higgins creating more poppies.

We continue to be busy at the Veterans Home. Unit 13 Members go up every Wednesday and serve rootbeer floats, ice cream, birthday cake, sundaes. It is your donations that pay for the Wednesday activities.

Activity Director Mary Sue joined our Unit during our National President's Visit. During her visit, she presented Leroy Hayes, our 1 poppy maker with a plaque from the Department for his 447,000 poppies over the past 22 years. National President Lisa had a tour of the Skilled Nursing Facilities. She was full of questions so we all learned.

The Department has a plaque saying the Auxiliary paid for the Gazebo. It's only taken 25 years! It sounds like the Gazebo will be moved over by the Skilled Nursing Facilities.

The Department will once again provide a Christmas Party for the veterans. Each veteran will receive money from your donations. Thank you.

Wyoming Veterans Home
Edie Taffner, Representative



Courtesy of Martie Harbick

Above left: Serving cookies for Memorial Service are - Riggs and Terry Zuicker, Marti Mace on the bagpipe with Amn. Curtis. Above right: A local Veteran Michael McDonald displays his artwork on the back of his mobile chair. Below: American Legion Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson visits with a Veteran Ken Coates playing bingo.



District and Unit News



District 1 News



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

Unit 28 Green River - Girls State Delegate Lily Duncan talked to the Unit about her experience at Girls State. Lily is going to intern for Cody Wiley this summer. The 1st paint night that was hosted was a great success. The next paint night is scheduled for January. The Unit along with the Boy Scouts is hosting the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast. The December meeting is really the holiday party for the Unit members.

Unit 46 Alpine - They hosted a celebration and farewell luncheon for Nany Hale. She was a pivotal member for their poppy program and get-

ting the Veterans Memorial Garden. She will be greatly missed. The Unit assisted with the coordination and public affairs for the Homecoming Parade and Game. During Bingo season (Oct-April) the members host the concession for the first bingo of each month. The Food Bank holds a Veterans night every month and Gail Harbeck, an Auxiliary member provides baked goods for 8-12 fairies each month. During the upcoming holidays the Unit provides Blessing Bags to the Veterans night at the Food Bank. The members will be hosting the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast, Christmas Baskets Program and the Wreaths Across Star Valley.

Unit 36 Ft. Bridger - The Unit held the annual Craft Fair in October. They are having a drawing for an electric bike. Cookies are being baked to send to the Sheridan VA in November. The Unit will be decorating the Post for their annual Veterans Day dinner and

continue with their program Wreaths Across Bridger Valley.

Unit 47 Pinedale - The Unit distributed copies of the Declaration of Independence/Constitution booklets to the Junior Class for their Constitution Day events. The Veterans Day activities include an assembly at Pinedale Elementary, the assembly at the Middle School followed by an assembly and awards ceremony at the High School. These events are followed by a free luncheon for the Veterans and their families. The Auxiliary members provide homemade desserts, salads and clean-up afterwards. The Unit will have a table for poppy distribution before Veterans Day and have membership applications available. They will have a holiday luncheon and White Elephant gifts at their December meeting.

Unit 78 Big Piney - The Unit pays for the Veterans lunches at the Senior Center. After the Veterans enjoy their lunch, they are provided with a slideshow of the local Veterans and recognize each branch by playing their song. They are holding a drawing for a picture painted by one of their members. They are planning on having a booth at the community Christmas Bazaar to sell tickets. The drawing will be held on Dec. 20th.

Cathey Raymer,
District President

Courtesy Photo
Left: Receiving Pearl S. Buck National Americanism Award is Unit 46- Alpine.



District 2 News



Jessica York
District 2 President

Unit 8 Douglas had a float in the State Fair Parade, hosted their 1st Annual Putts Fore Patriots golf tournament, a dinner for National President Lisa, and their annual bake-a-thon. They will be helping the local Post with the annual service & breakfast.

Unit 9 Glenrock had members who

were able to attend Fall Workshop & National President Lisa's visit in Douglas. They are planning their annual Veteran's Day program at the school on November 9th.

Unit 70 La Grange had members who were able to attend Fall Workshop. They are planning their events for National Education Week and their Veteran's Day chili lunch.

Unit 75 Chugwater is planning to participate in National Education Week this year.

Unit 95 Guernsey had 2 members attend Fall Workshop. They will be helping the local VFW with their Veteran's Day dinner, as well as delivering cookies to the local veterans and Camp Guernsey. They held a dinner meeting to receive the reports of the Girls' State and Boys' State delegates they sponsored.

Jessica York, District President

District 3 News

Richard Pogue Unit #81 - Fort Washakie

Our unit was honored to host ALA National President Lisa Williamson in Fort Washakie on October 17, 2023, along with Department President Tammy Harris and Department Membership Chairman Cathey Raymer. We also welcomed the ladies of Units #33 Lander and Unit #19 Riverton to the meeting. Post #81 Adjutant Lyle Wadda conducted a tour of the Path of Honor Veterans Memorial for the ladies. We had lunch, heard from National President Lisa then worked on our Veterans Day cards to be sent to the Veterans Home in Buffalo, WY. National President Lisa, Department President Tammy and Membership Chairman Cathey, and all ladies present from District spent time working on the cards with the ladies of the Fort Washakie Unit. Unit members also brought bags of candy to this meeting which were distributed to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe Boys & Girls Club and the Early Intervention Program for their Halloween activities. Eight (8) members of our unit took part in the Veterans Day Program at Fort Washakie School on November 10, 2023.

Don Stough Unit #33 - Lander

September - Due to the lack of a quorum we had an abbreviated meeting. Discussed old business. We went over to the Post meeting and attended the presentation of an Honorary Lifetime Membership to Charlie Keith to the Sons of the American Legion. Brought up and tabled ideas for our constitution and by-laws, our finances, our scholarships and ways to improve membership. We also decided dates for our upcoming craft fair, reaching out to members by phone to vote.

October - A few of our members attended the luncheon put on by Fort Washakie for National President Lisa Williamson, we donated to Lisa's Spirit of Youth scholarship project. We are holding a drawing for new members that sign up before December 31 for a free membership. We are working on changes to our constitution and by-laws and will vote on that at our November meeting. We are using our 2022 craft fair profits to help fund Wreaths Across America and a donation to the White Heart Foundation. We are participating in Nationals Star Spangled Kids program. We will hand out packets children that attend the craft fair in December. Our Legion and Auxiliary Christmas party will be on December 2 at the Lander Amory.

Riverton Unit #19

The Riverton Unit 19 had two distinguished guests at our October meeting. We had the Department President Tammy Harris and the incoming National Vice President of the Northwest Division, Shareen Johnson. They helped us with ideas for our small unit. We sent \$25 to AEF as a memorial for our member Shirley Benson, who passed away.

The Riverton Unit #19 is also looking forward to their poppy day on November 11, 2023. They will have poppies at Ace Hardware in Riverton for donations.

Jessie Poire District 3 President

District 4 News



Trudy Zaffareno
District 4 President

Basin Unit 29 - Basin is gearing up for a busy November. Our Poppy Day is this week. Our members are located in 2-3 spots around town and our Poppy Chairman, Kay Mowery, has solicited donations from the local businesses. Our Veterans Day dinner is on Nov 11 at which time we will have our Girls State and Boys State delegates tell us about their experiences last summer. Also, for Veterans Day, we are assembling goodie bags for our veterans at the local retirement home (25 of them) thanking them for their service and recognizing them on their special day. The local school has a program and our local veterans and Auxiliary attend. Our Americanism Chairman, Jerilyn Hall, presented the winner of the Department Americanism award to the winner and distributed the

forms for the essay for this next year. Our Unit is assisting several towns within District 4 with Girls State recruiting this year. Greybull Unit 32 is in the process of winding down and joining our Basin Unit and we are excited to have them as members.

Worland Unit 44 - Unit had members photos taken at the War Veterans Memorial and bench after final cement work finished. One member attended fall workshop in Casper Members setup and decorated for the posts early bird dinner. Unit is doing another ingathering of clothes and items for the Veterans. Halloween coloring books were printed and participated in an Elementary Safety program for 145 Kindergarten and First Graders. Members will be helping with the Veterans Day Breakfast and distributing poppies in the community.

Powell Unit 26 - September we attended the 911 memorial ceremony in the city park. Auxiliary started planning our community Halloween Party for the kids. October 27th we hosted the Community Halloween Party. We had food lots of candy and toys, we served 203 kids and their families. It was great fun. We continue to distribute and give away food twice a week currently we have assisted over 6000 people in park county and big horn county with food. We continue to host BINGO. We are currently planning our Community family Christmas Party.

Trudy Zaffarano District 4 President

District and Unit News



District 5 News



Robin Ruff
District 5 President

Well, Fall Workshop is over and it was Great! I felt District 5 was well represented. We had a good time meeting old friends, meeting new ones and gaining even more knowledge! The meeting of the Frankfurter's was especially an eye opener,

Sheridan Unit 7 - had their last meeting at Ole's and found a new home at the Grace Anglican Church. It will be a great meeting place, even though we won't be enjoying a meal! We did add several new junior members, Our National President visited our VA facility and enjoyed a tour of the facility including the Virtual Reality that is used at the VA. Members then enjoyed lunch with her. Milk shakes and bingo continue to be popular. Rochelle, Rhonda, and Robin enjoyed trunk or treating at the Dayton Community Center on Halloween. Veteran's Day will be celebrated with a cake at the Post Home, a diaper bag for the first baby born on (or close) to Veteran's Day. Poppies will be shared at the Tongue River Middle School Veteran's Day program.

Buffalo, Unit 13 - baked 90 dozen cookies for the VA hospital!! They continue to prepare a meal for Legion and Auxiliary members before monthly meetings! The National President joined members to tour the VA home. She encouraged members to attend workshops. Long time member, Kathy Perry, was given a free membership as a thank you for all the years she has been a member. Chili will be served following the Veteran's Day program at the Legion home.

They will also give a beautiful baby bag filled with items to the first baby born in Buffalo on Veteran's Day, Emma Pehringer was 2023 Girl State Delegate who was then selected to attend Girl's Nation, She has now been asked to be a Junior Counselor at National Girls State in 2025. Wow what an honor.

Moorcroft, Unit 25 - will be buying senior meals for Veterans for one week at the diner in honor Veteran's Day. They will, also, be honored at the Fall Festival on November 11th. A POW-MIA table will be set up. The fund-raising Community Calendars are finished and should be available around Thanksgiving. Contact has been made with the Sheridan VA for their annual Christmas for the Veterans.

Vicki had the distinct pleasure of escorting Lisa Williamson, National President, to Devil's Tower, Gillette, Sheridan VA and the Buffalo home. She also enjoyed the Virtual Reality program used at the Sheridan VA. (she did an awesome job hosting Lisa, by the way).

Kaycee, Unit 90 - recently lost a valuable much loved member. Mavis Lund was 100 years old and will be missed. They hosted the October blood drive. Veteran's Day will be celebrated by taking color books and treats to the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Gillette, Unit 42 - as had a busy October! The Early Bird dinner was well attended. A fund raiser trip to Deadwood to fund Girl State was a huge hit and another is already being planned! Monthly / are a big part of their activities as are funeral dinners, National President, Lisa, also visited for a fun evening. Members were present as Terry Case presented a flag to Caroline Rush, Veteran's Day activities include decorating wreaths for the Veterans at Legacy with help from Primrose residents. Check out their face book page: Am.legionauxiliary Gillette WY and don't forget to look on Amazon for their cookbook...Cooking with American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 Gillette WY. You won't be sorry!

No news from Hulett or Newcastle But I know you are alive and well,

And So District 5...everyone on you are valuable and appreciated. Be sure to BE THE ONE and GO LOKE and get those memberships coming in!

Robin Ruff, District 5 President

District 6 News



Joyce Menke
District 6 President

UNIT#6 (Cheyenne)-Successful Halloween party with great costumes and lots of candy. Hosted our National President with a dinner and talk about what her pin stands for. Thanks to all for helping make this a great evening. Carol Tabor, Our Gold Star Mother, joined us along with Department President Tammy Harris, District #6 President Joyce Menke and Department Membership Chairman Kathy Raymar. NFL Sunday meals are going again. September's Labor Day Hog Roast, working with the Son's to make it a great event. Thanks to ALL that helped.

UNIT#54 (Saratoga)-May's activities for Memorial Day, poppies and the AEF, 2 scholarships and election of officers. July-held a raffle, rode in the parade, served concessions at two local events and sent birthday cakes to veterans in hospice. September helped with a Son's fund raiser. October - baked cookies for VA hospital and did a donation to Veteran's Rock.

UNIT #60 (PINE BLUFFS)-Successful trunk or treat, attended the dinner for our National President, doing Saturday morning breakfasts, donated to the VA baby shower, send birthday, anniversary or get well cards to veterans, had 2 members serve as Honor Flight guardians and did virtual pictures for deceased veterans, hold monthly movie and snack night, planning a Veteran's Day program and chili feed. Leading the District in the membership race. Great job, ladies.

UNIT #64 (MEDICINE BOW)-Baked cookies for VA hospital, donations to Veteran's Rock, made baby caps for hospital, will have treats for our veterans for Veteran's Day and been working hard to get arrangements for our Wreaths Across American for our three cemeteries.

UNIT #77 (ALBIN)-Leading our district in second place with membership. Yeah!

Joyce Menke District 6 President



Penny Merryfield/ Unit 60

Above: Deb Gray, Unit 6 President, Gold Star Mother - Carol Tabor, and National President Lisa Williamson at Post 6 in Cheyenne. Below: Auxiliary members and their spouses go through the food line at the dinner for the National President.



Courtesy of Robin Ruff
Above: Rochelle and Rhonda at the Halloween Walk in Sheridan.

Honoring our Veterans on Veterans Day November 11, 2023



Photo by Mary Hoyle: Unit 70's cake served during the Veterans Day Program



Photo by Melody Dugan: President Betty and Mary hold one quilt presented to a veterans during the Veterans Day Program.



Courtesy Photo: Doris and Cynthia Unit 29 Basin ready to deliver 25 "Goody Bags" to veterans in the Retirement Home.



Courtesy Photo: Green River Unit 28 delivered "Goody Bags" to shut-in veterans on Veterans Day.



Photo by Mary Hoyle: Unit 70 LaGrange make and serve chili on Veterans Day. Girl State Delegate, Taylor gave a report, Poppy Posters are displayed.



Courtesy Photo: Fort Washakie Unit 81 Members take part in Veterans Day Program



Photo by Jessie Poire: Fort Washakie Unit 81 Members take part in Veterans Day Program




Merry Christmas...

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