



Commander's Corner



Michael Hobbs, Commander

Greetings Legionnaires,

This will be my last contribution to the paper as your Department Commander. I have had a wonderful year traveling around the state and seeing everyone. As you all know, this year has been difficult for travel with the winter season, but I think we are

making up for it now that the weather is getting better. I want to thank all my department officers for the hard work they all have put in this year. I have relied on them multiple times for all the changes this year at department. As I look back on the year, I realize the true reason why I love this organization so much. You all are what makes this organization so amazing. During the district meetings I had the privilege to see some great work being done for veterans all over the state. Gillette College Post 307 is making a huge impact on veterans lives every day. I assumed that all the members would be young, but when we called the meeting to order, I seen veterans that were making life decisions to pursue something different at all stages in life. That is amazing and inspiring! I can't wait to see how the next few years unfold. I would not be doing my job if I hadn't mentioned the Be the One campaign. Be the One

who reaches out to veterans in need. Let's take care of one another.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the department convention in June. I think the speaker list will be appealing to most. We will have people representing the Wyoming National Guard along with others who will have very important information about the Camp Lejeune situation, and they will be representing a firm that is supported by The American Legion. Let's do our part in making sure that we use the proper channels so that veterans are not taken advantage of. I'm sure that Lusk has lots in store for all of us planning to attend. Please get those registration forms sent in so we can have accurate reporting for food and events.

The last person I would like to thank, might be the most important, is our newly installed Department Adjutant, Gina Mayhan (Adjutant Gina). She is a pioneer and the first

Department Adjutant who is not a Legionnaire ever! Very exciting stuff! As many of you know, she has been with the Department of Wyoming for a very long time. She has seen many people come and go in that office but has remained the constant. I am here to let you know that she has been crucial in making sure that the office functions daily and that our membership is reflected correctly at the national level. She has helped other departments with membership and daily activities management. Please make sure that you are responding to her emails in a timely manner so she can get things completed. Her time is very valuable, and she is making sure that the Department of Wyoming functions every day! Thank you, Department Adjutant Gina, for everything you have done for myself and the department this year!

1st Vice Commander's Corner



Doug Johnson, Vice Commander

Wyoming legionnaires let me

thank you for letting me be your Department 1st Vice Commander for the year 2022-2023. It has been a learning year for me. I have been around our beautiful state to the tune of 15,000 miles and enjoyed it immensely. I have been to Wilson, Wyoming for a WW2 Veteran that was attended by veterans from Greybull, Cody and the surrounding area. I was very happy to see so many Legionnaires paying homage to this war hero. We have had our ups and downs during the year but that comes with any organization. During my year I was part of a revitalization in District 4 traveling to Cody and Worland along with District 4 Commander Russell Stafford and Ken George from National who put on a training day at Post 44 in Worland.

It was a great success. With that being said, as you know I'm running for Department Commander. I would like your support at our Department Convention in Lusk, Wyoming on June 16th and 17th. Van Tassell Post 1 is hosting this event. Also, I'll have some raffle tickets with me that I will be selling. They sell for \$40.00 per ticket and you could be the lucky winner of a \$3,000.00 Visa gift card. Who couldn't use an extra \$3,000.00 this time of year.

Membership as I have been talking about these last few months this is the toughest time of year to get people to sign up or renew their membership. Our next goal is coming up really fast on May 17th, so we only have a few days to go for 100%. As we stand right now, we are in 42nd place Na-

tionally and Colorado has just passed us up in the standings. We are only .37% behind them in the standings.

We have our National Commander Jim Troiola coming to Wyoming for a visit on May 21st thru May 25th. Commander Troiola will be traveling thru District 4 that week so if you are around come out and meet your National Commander.

A little about the forms that Adjutant Gina sent out make sure that your Post Data forms were sent in on time. Your CPR's Consolidated Post Reports are coming so let's get them into Gina as well. With that I hope to see everyone in Lusk for the Department Convention June 16th and 17th.

Douglas Johnson
Department of Wyoming Vice Commander

2nd Vice Commander's Corner

Closing out the year, Buddy Checks

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires!

As I said in my last article, I'll be running for Department 1st Vice Commander. I'd appreciate your vote. I'd like to thank all of you in helping me while I was Department 2nd Vice Commander. Special thanks to Department Commander, Mike Hobbs and De-

partment Adjutant Gina Mayhan. A very special thank you to my nutty partner in crime, 1st Vice Commander, Doug Johnson. It's a wonder we got anything done because we were always laughing, joking and messing with each other. They say "BE THE ONE", well I found him and his name is Doug Johnson.

Recently, I noticed that I hadn't seen three certain members around the post. I did a Buddy Check. Glad I did. One of them had a cold/flu and was laid up for roughly two weeks. The other two had heart medical problems. All of them are doing fine. Why am I telling you this? BUDDY CHECKS, BUDDY CHECKS, BUDDY CHECKS! Two of the three, their only family, IS THE AMERICAN LEGION. Let's check on our fellow veterans. Especially the ones who are stubborn as all get out.

Bill Barnes
For God and Country,



**Bill Barnes
2nd Vice Commander**

Department of Wyoming 2nd Vice Commander

Post Everlasting 2023

District 1

- Post 36 Ft. Bridger
Roy Richins (37)
- Post 78 Big Piney
Robert Looney (35)
- William Budd Jr. (1)

District 4

- Post 26 Powell
Gerald Barlow (10)

District 6

- Squadron 54 Saratoga
Les Daniels (30)



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

Chaplain's Corner

Service to God and Country



Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming

Fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members

Recently I was asked what “Be the One” was about and I had to do some research, and this is what I found on <https://www.legion.org/betheone> website. “The program will destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One. Today, the number one issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It has been estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans/servicemembers take their lives each day.” That’s over six thousand a year.

At the 2022 department convention the theme was “Remember the 22”. Many of us have family, friends, even acquaintances who suffer from mental illness. PTSD, panic disorder, depression, anxiety, etc., all seem to have this stigma associated with the diagnosis. Who has heard the phrase “pull up your bootstraps”, “put on your big boy/girl

pants” (that one sets my teeth on edge), or even just “suck it up”?

When facing a mental illness, that’s not helpful and can even be detrimental to the person who may just be asking for help in maybe the only way they are able. I am hoping that this new program will help us respond differently to those who are asking for and needing help.

“At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

The Be the One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities. Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support. While this program is designed to help all veterans, it is acknowledged that everyone responds differently to stress, have different life experiences and have varying results in types of treatment. However, the following are guidelines intended to provide help before a crisis situation develops. The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to: Talk with others about how you are feeling. Ask for help when you know you need it. Know there are millions of people ready to help you. Remember your family and friends care.” If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: Call 988 and press 1 / Text 838255 / Visit the VA Crisis Line website at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.” As a department, we can work together to help our fellow veterans and each other to stop the “22”.

Vanessa Stuart
Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL

Adjutant's Corner

An Update from Your Adjutant



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

DSO Office, with the retirement of Dwight Null. We made a very good choice in hiring Rhonda Rasgorshek to replace Dwight. She is already doing amazing things.

For the past year, I have run Department Headquarters as a one person show. There have been some overwhelming days, that’s for sure, but with the help of many members of the Department Executive Committee, I have been able to do the things that needed to be done. National has also been a god send. I have relied on them a great deal this year, and they are always willing to help.

I believe in the American Legion, and what it stands for. Helping our Veterans every single day is what we are all about, and I am honored to be a part of that. I believe we need to work together to end Veteran suicide. I believe in the Buddy Check system. I believe we need to reach out to the younger Veterans and get them to sign up as members. I believe that if you put the right people in the right positions, the American Legion can soar. I’m not going to stand back and hope it happens, I am going to be right in the middle of it, doing my part the best I know how, because I believe in the American Legion.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Adjutant. I will continue to work hard to make Wyoming Department Headquarters the best Department it can be.

Department Convention is just around the corner, and that means new officers will be elected. This is a bittersweet time for me as Adjutant. After spending a year with the officers in place, they are voted out and new ones arrive. I think I have gotten closer to the officers we have in place this year, than I have in the 8.5 years I have worked here. Commander Hobbs has guided me every step of the way. He has taken late night phone calls and texts because unfortunately, my brain does not shut down at 4:00 pm when my work day is supposed to be over. To say that I am going to miss Commander Hobbs as my “boss” is an understatement. It is going to be rough to say the least.

We have also seen a change in the



OUR NEW COINS AND PINS HAVE ARRIVED!

- Coins - \$10.00
- Pins - \$5.00

You can order through
Department
Headquarters:
American Legion
1320 Hugur Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Coins and Pins made at:
4Heros.com

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AMERICAN LEGION WYOMING Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

Official Publication of

The American Legion, Dept of Wyoming
Editors: Legion - 1320 Hugur Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001
Telephone: (307) 634-3035 Fax: (307) 635-7093
Auxiliary - Peg Sullivan, PO Box 186, Buffalo, WY 82834
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WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE (USPS 574-210) is published the months of September, December, March, June by the American Legion, Dept. of Wyoming 1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001 and printed by Wyoming Tribune Eagle, 702 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82001. Periodical postage paid at Cheyenne, WY and additional offices. Subscription for members (\$2.50) is included in the annual membership dues. Non-members subscription price is \$5 per year. Postmaster: Send address changes to The American Legion, Dept. of Wyoming 1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001

2023 DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING CONVENTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

18:00 Registration -
18:00 Finance Committee Meeting -
19:00 Department Executive Committee Meeting -
FRIDAY: June 16, 2023
07:00 Past Commanders & Adjutants Club Breakfast
Best Western Hotel
08:00 Registration -
09:00 Department Convention - Opening Ceremony
Call to Order - Welcome Post 1 Commander * Turn meeting over to
Department Commander*
Colors in place
Invocation - Department Chaplain Vanessa Stuart
POW/MIA Ceremony - Department Chaplain Vanessa Stuart/SAA
Richard Dansereau
Pledge of Allegiance - Doug Johnson
Preamble of The American Legion - Bill Barnes
Call to Convention - Department Adjutant - Gina Mayhan
Report of Rules Committee - VC - Doug Johnson
Roll Call of the Posts - Department Adjutant (Voting Strength) -
Gina Mayhan
Introduction of guests - Department Commander - Michael Hobbs
Report of Credentials Committee - _____ and _____
09:30 Report of Resolution Committee Keith Davidson, Mike
Cooke, and _____
09:35 Constitution Changes reading 1 - Committee Chairman
VC Doug Johnson
10:05 National Executive Committeemen Report - Keith Davidson
10:15 Break
10:30 Camp Lejeune Litigation Team - Liz Hartman (Bergman
& Moore)
10:30 Greetings to The Auxiliare - Doug Johnson, Bill Barnes
11:00 National Committee and Commission Reports 5 Minutes
each: Americanism Commission - Ken Persson Jr.; Americanism
Council - PDC Ken Persson Sr., PDC Rick Dansereau; Emblem Sales
Committee - PDC Ron Wood; National Security Commission - ANEC
Mike Cooke; Employment & Veterans' Preference Committee VC
Doug Johnson; Veterans Benefit Committee - DFO Deanna Hurlless
11:30 Legislative update - Keith Davidson
12:00 Lunch
13:15 Department Officer Reports 5 minutes each: Depart-
ment Finance Officer - Deanna Hurlless; Department Chaplain
- Vanessa Stuart; Department Historian Report - Penny Merryfield;
Department Adjutant - Gina Mayhan; Department Service Officer
- Dwight Null / Rhonda Rasgorshek; Department Judge Advocate

- Gary Hartman; Department 2nd Vice-Commander - Bill Barnes;
Department Vice-Commander - Doug Johnson; Department Com-
mander - Michael Hobbs
14:15 Break
14:30 District Officer Reports - 5 Minute each: District 1 - Joe
Tallon; District 2 - Don York; District 3 - Ken Persson Jr.; District
4 - Russell Stafford; District 5 - Chuck Gifford; District 6 - Vanessa
Stuart
15:00 Caucus
15:30 Candidates for Department Offices Roll call of Post's.
16:00 Bids for 2024 & 2025 Dept. Conventions Roll call of Post's.
16:30 Recess
17:00 Post Everlasting - _____
18:00 Commander/President Dinner (outgoing)
19:30 SAL Detach. Exe. Committee Meeting - _____
SATURDAY: June 17, 2023
07:00 Past Department Commanders Breakfast
09:00 SAL Detachment Convention -
09:00 Department Convention Reconvenes
Pledge - Vice-Commander Doug Johnson
Roll Call of the Posts - Department Adjutant Gina Mayhan
Report of Credentials Committee Leonard Merrill and

09:15 2nd Reading of Constitution Changes and Vote Chairman
VC Doug Johnson
09:45 WALRUS Report - Director Shane Harris
Wyoming Veterans Commission - Director Tim Sheppard
Wyoming Senator - John Barrasso
Department Committee Reports 5 minutes each: Oratorical - Don
York; Boys State - Brett Kahler; Shooting Sports - Ed Tirado; Base-
ball/Women's Fast Pitch Softball - Jack Simms; Boy Scouts - Ed
Morrow
10:15 Break
10:30 Department Committee Reports Continued 5 minutes
each: American Legion High School Rodeo - Ken Persson Sr.; E. A.
Blackmore Memorial Foundation/Committee - Ron Wood, Deanna
Hurlless; Hospital Committee - Keith Davison; Newspaper Commit-
tee - Gina Mayhan, Penny Merryfield; Ways and Means Committee
- VC Doug Johnson
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Reconvene - Final Report of Credentials Committee
13:10 Report on National Convention - Department Adjutant
Gina Mayhan
13:15 SAL Detachment Report - Donovan Dusel
13:30 Department Awards: Post Commander of the year;
Post Adjutant of the year; Membership Worker of the Year; Legion-

naire of the Year; Outstanding Club Manager/Bar Tender of the
Year; Citizen Soldier of the Year; Lawman of the Year; Firefighter of
the Year; Educator of the Year; EMT of the Year; District Commander
of the Year; Health Care Worker; 4 Chaplin's; Youth Services
The following awards are judged through information submitted on
the Post Activities Report.
• Lloyd Seaman Athletic Trophy • Americanism Plaque • Community
Service - Large Post • Community Service - Small Post
14:30 New Business - Resolutions Committee Report
Unfinished Business
14:45 Caucus
15:10 Election of Department Officers: PDC votes one vote each
Department Commander
Department Vice Commander
Department 2nd Vice-Commander
Department Finance Officer
National Executive Committee Person
Alternate Executive Committee Person
Election of Delegates to the 103rd National Convention
Appointment to National Committees- NEC / Alt. NEC Keith David-
son, Mike Cooke
15:45 Confirmation of Future Department Conventions - 2023
Convention - Worland, WY
2024 Convention -
Good of The American Legion
Confirmation/Installation of District Officers - Installation of De-
partment Officers -
16:30 New Department Commander remarks
Benediction Department Chaplin Vanessa Stuart
Retrieve MIA / POW Table
Retire the Colors
Close Department Convention
17:00 Department Executive Committee Meeting
18:00 New Officers Dinner (incoming)
SUNDAY June 18th, 2023
9:00am
Walrus Poker run Post 28, 38 North Center St. Green River
10:00am Kick stands up
NOTE: All reports must be typed or neatly handwritten and
turned into the Adjutant and or Department Commander. You can
email them if you choose to. This is done to ensure the minutes of
the convention can be typed up.
Department Commander 2022-2023
Michael Hobbs

The American Legion Family
Department Convention
June 15th - 18th, 2023

Edward Tirado, Ferdinand Brandstetter American Legion Post #1
PO Box 22, Lusk, WY 82225 307-340-1420 edwardtirado@yahoo.com

Thursday meetings will be at the Lusk Elks' Lodge

All other meetings will be held at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds

Post Everlasting will be held at the Lusk Cemetery, busses provided.

Pre-Registration (includes convention pin) Deadline June 1st \$10.00 \$ _____

Registration at the door \$15.00, \$5.00 for pin

Thursday, June 15

Registration at the Lusk Elks' Lodge - 3:00-7:00 p.m.

No Host dinner at the Lusk Elks' Lodge - 6:00 p.m. TBD by the Elks

Friday, June 16

Registration at The Best Western Pioneer - 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Past Commanders & Adjutants Breakfast \$10.00 \$ _____ 0600 -0700 hrs.

Best Western Pioneer Court (free with stay at the BW or the Townhouse) 731 South
Main Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Department luncheon \$10.00 \$ _____ Niobrara County Fairgrounds
4080 US Highway 20, Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Menu: Baked Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Dessert

Department Commander and President Banquet \$15.00 \$ _____

Niobrara County Fairgrounds 4080 US Highway 20, Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Menu: Chicken Fried Steak w/ Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Green Salad, Bread &
Dessert (Cash bar and entertainment (DJ) provided after dinner)

Saturday, June 17

Past Department Commanders Breakfast Free

0600 -0700 hrs. TBD by past Department Commander

Department luncheon \$11.00 \$ _____

Niobrara County Fairgrounds 4080 US Highway 20, Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Menu: Pulled Pork, Macaroni & Cheese, Coleslaw, Buns, Dessert

Department Banquet and Dance \$25.00 \$ _____

Niobrara County Fairgrounds 4080 US Highway 20, Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Menu: Certified Angus Choice Prime Rib, Baked Potatoes, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll,
Dessert (Cash bar and entertainment (Band) provided after dinner)

Sunday June 18

WALRUS Meeting to be held in the Niobrara County Fairgrounds

Poker Run will be held immediately following the WALRUS meeting.

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: The American Legion Post #1

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Post/Unit _____ Office: Post _____ Dist., _____ Dept. _____

2023 Department Convention Hotels

All motels need to be contacted directly, inform the front desk person that you are
booking for the American Legion Convention

The Best Western Pioneer Court \$134.99 Single \$143.99 Double + tax /night
731 South Main Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2640

The Townhouse Motel single queen \$104.99 +tax/night double queen \$114.99
505 South Main Street, Lusk, WY 82225 307-334-2376

The Trail Motel All rooms \$50.00+tax/night
305 West 8th Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2530

Rawhide Motel \$15.00 off room rates 805 South Main Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225
307-340-0642

Covered Wagon Motel Single queen \$75.00+tax/night. Double queen \$85.00+tax/night
730 South Main Street Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2836

THE AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING
OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
JUNE 16, 17 2023, LUSK, WYOMING

The Annual Convention of The American Legion,
Department of Wyoming is hereby called:

PURPOSE

- 1. To receive the reports of Department Officers and
Chairmen.
2. To receive the Reports of National Commission and
Committee members.
3. To elect Department Officers for the ensuing year.
4. To elect National Executive Committeeman and
Alternate for a two-year term.
5. To confirm the District Officers for the coming year.
6. To amend the Department Constitution and
By-Laws, if needed.
7. To elect the Delegates and Alternates to the
National Convention.
8. To select the next Department Convention Site.
9. To transact such other business as may come
before the Convention.

REPRESENTATION AND REGISTRATION

The Department Convention shall be composed of
two delegates and two alternates from each Post, and
each Post shall be entitled in addition, to one delegate
and one alternate for each fifteen (15) members or
fraction thereof, as disclosed by the official records of
Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the
date of the convening of the Convention.

Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Voting
by proxy shall not be permitted, and the vote of any

delegate absent and not represented by an alternate
shall be cast by the majority of delegates present from
their Post. Alternates shall have all the privileges
of delegates, except the right to vote when the
delegates for whom they are alternates are present.
Each Post shall elect its delegates and alternates in
such a manner as its Constitution or By-Laws pre-
scribe, and the names of the delegates and alternates
shall be furnished to the Department Adjutant or
Credentials Committee prior to the seating of the
delegates.

If any Post shall fail to furnish the Department Adju-
tant or Credentials Committee with names as herein
required or shall fail to furnish the
Department Adjutant with certification of its
officers, its delegates shall not be seated at the
Department Convention.

Each Past Department Commander of The American
Legion, Department of Wyoming, provided they are a
member in good standing of a Post of the Depart-
ment, shall be a delegate to the Department Conven-
tion with votes to be exercised aside from
their Post. All delegates are required to register.

RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions requiring action by Department
Convention must be submitted as provided for in
Article IV of the By-Laws of the Department of
Wyoming.



Endorsements For Commander



**Doug Johnson,
Vice Commander**

Wyoming Legionnaires, today I'm announcing my candidacy for Department of Wyoming Commander. I joined the American Legion 11 years ago at Samuel Mares Post 8 in Douglas. While a member at Post 8 I served as Post Adjutant for 6 years and enjoyed every minute of it. While I served as Post Adjutant in 2020 I received national recognition for getting Post 8 over 100% renewals. I also served as District 2 Commander for 3 years. During the 3 years that I was District Commander I received

the following awards. District Commander of the year in 2020, National Achievement Award for membership in 2020, National Achievement Award for membership in 2021, 100% District Commander Award for membership in 2020. I was elected District 2 Delegate in 2021 to the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona and again elected District 2 Delegate in 2022 to the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I currently serve on the Veterans Employment and Veterans Preference National

Committee. I served my country in the U.S. Air Force and was based in Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam, Utapao, Air Base Thailand, and Clark Air Base in the Philippines. I enjoy working with Veterans and would like your support at the Department Convention in Lusk, Wyoming on June 15th, 16th, and 17th being hosted by Post 1, Van Tassell. Thank you for your support,

Doug Johnson Department of Wyoming Vice Commander

For First Vice Commander



**Bill Barnes
2nd Vice Commander**

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires! As we are headed towards convention and starting a new year with the Legion, I would like to announce that I'm running for Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander. I'd appreciate your vote.

I'll be winding down my fourth consecutive year as Post Commander for Post 6 in Cheyenne. In the 104 year history of our post, I'm the 1st to have held this position for so long. It has truly been an honor! My last official duties as Post Commander will be after elections

on March 8th.

I've attended several ZOOM meetings recently. One being the Constitution and By-Laws. Wow, talk about a lot of work! However, we finished the Constitution portion and our chairman, Department 1st Vice Commander Doug Johnson forwarded it on. The By-Laws portion will be done at a later date.

The second, was the Ways and Means Committee. I'm really excited about this one. We'll be selling raffles at \$40.00 a raffle and only 500 raffles will be sold THROUGH OUT THE STATE!



The prize is a \$3,000.00 gas card of your choice. I have a list of 34 takers, so far. The drawing will be held during Department Convention in June. Good luck to all!

I have visited Post 60 in Pine Bluffs, and went to Mid-Winter Workshop in Casper. As Second Vice, my duties have also been to be on visits with National Commanders, etc. We have had great visits and tours of FE Warren AFB.

Thank you for all your support this year. It has been an honor to serve.

Bill Barnes, 2nd Vice Commander

For Second Vice Commander



**Russell Stafford
District 4 Commander**

RUSSELL STAFFORD ENDORSEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT SECOND VICE COMMANDER

Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 of Powell would like to officially nominate Russell Stafford for Department 2nd Vice Commander. He currently holds the position of District 4 commander and has been the post command-

er for 4 years. We believe that he will be a benefit to our Department not only from his experience, but also from the training he received from National and the Department. He has been on the Department Executive Committee for 2 years and has attended the National American Legion College this past December.



For Department Finance Officer



**Deanna Hurlless
Department Finance Officer**

Deanna Hurlless for Department Finance Officer Husted-Pendleton Post 14 Endorses Deanna Hurlless for Department of Wyoming Finance Officer

Deanna joined the American Legion in 2009. She served in the U.S. Air Force as a Ground Radio Communications Specialist and was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB. She currently works for a credit union as the Loan Processing Manager, she has worked there for 27 years.

She served as Post 14 2nd Vice-Commander (appointed) Dec 2010-2011 and (elected) 2011- 2012, Post 14 Commander 2012-2013 & 2013-2014, Post 14 Finance Officer 2014-2015 & 2015-2016, District 6 Vice-Commander 2015-2016, and Department Finance Officer since 2016. She is currently Post 14's Adjutant since 2017. Deanna was appointed to the Wyoming Veterans Commission as the Albany & Carbon County Commissioner in 2020.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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.



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.





Endorsements



ARCHIE HAY POST 24 ROCK SPRINGS PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF



**MIKE COOKE
FOR ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEEMAN**



Keith Davidson announces candidacy for Re-election to the National Executive Committeeman (NEC)

My name is Keith Davidson, I have served as your National Executive Committee (NEC) representative for the past 2 years. I am seeking re-election to that position this year. As many of you will remember I served as your Department of Wyoming American Legion Commander for the 2012-'13 year, which was a great honor. I also served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman (ANEC) from 2016-2018 and 2020-2021. I have been a member of the American Legion Roy Montgomery Post 80 since 1978, and a PUFL since 1981. In addition to serving as Department Commander I have served as: Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander 2011-'12, Department of Wyoming 2ND Vice Commander 2010-2011, Department of Wyoming Historian 2008-'09 & '09-'10, Department of Wyoming Boys State Committee 2012-'15 Treasurer, Post 80 Historian 2009-'20, Post 80 Service Officer 2010-'13 and 2014-'120, Post 80 Adjutant/Finance Officer 2013-'14, (Selected as Post Adjutant of the Year by the Department of Wyoming) Post 80 Adjutant/Finance Officer 2014-'16, District 5, Commander 2009-'10, District 5 Vice Commander 2008-'09, Post 80 Commander 2006-'09, and 2017-2020 Selected as Wyoming Boy's State Director 2011, Post Legionnaire of the year 2010-'11, District 5 Legionnaire of the year 2010-'11, Boys State Staff 2007-'13, Post 80 Boys State Coordinator 2011-'16.



**Keith Davidson
NEC**

VA&R Commission.

I have served for the past fourteen years as the Legion Representative to the VA/VSO (Veterans Service Organization) to the Sheridan VA Health Care System; and I have served the last six years as a Legion representative to the VSO/Congressional Forum at the Black Hills Health Care System (western South Dakota).

I have been a Wyoming Delegate to the Annual Washington D.C. Conferences six times including 2023, and I have attended the annual "Membership Training" in Indianapolis four times. I have also attended many trainings provided by the Department of Wyoming, including the American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) course and the train the trainer course for the ALEI course.

I have been a Wyoming delegate to the National American Legion Convention six times.

I believe with my experience in the American Legion I am qualified to serve as your National Executive Committeeman, and would greatly appreciate your support. I look forward to representing the Department of Wyoming at the national level if your votes support me to do so.

Thank you, Keith Davidson

I was appointed by the Department of Wyoming to be our representative to the National and Homeland Security Council 2009-'12 (Vice Chairman), and to be a member of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission (Veterans Benefits Committee) 2012-2021. From 2021 to present I have served as an NEC Liaison to the

TAL Membership Report Membership

Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	Rock Springs	378	325	85.98%	53
28	Green River	261	190	72.80%	71
36	Ft. Bridger	110	101	91.82%	9
40	Cokeville	10	2	20.00%	8
41	Evanston	39	34	87.18%	5
43	Jackson	129	134	103.88%	0
46	Alpine	43	33	76.74%	10
47	Pinedale	40	34	85.00%	6
49	Afton	18	15	83.33%	3
55	Kemmerer	40	30	75.00%	10
78	Big Piney	22	20	90.91%	2
88	La Barge	14	16	114.29%	0
D-1		1104	934	84.60%	170
100% - 05/17/2023					
Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
1	Van Tassell	31	28	90.32%	3
4	Lusk	32	23	71.88%	9
5	Torrington	136	122	89.71%	14
8	Douglas	183	156	85.25%	27
9	Glenrock	47	46	97.87%	1
10	Wheatland	83	69	83.13%	14
15	Glendo	26	25	96.15%	1
56	Veteran	10	5	50.00%	5
63	Lingle	22	18	81.82%	4
70	La Grange	10	10	100.00%	0
75	Chugwater	13	14	107.69%	0
95	Guernsey	34	25	73.53%	9
D-2		627	541	86.28%	86
100% - 05/17/2023					
Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
2	Casper	250	222	88.80%	28
16	Powder River	12	5	41.67%	7
19	Riverton	70	66	94.29%	4
31	Dubois	20	13	65.00%	7
33	Lander	260	220	84.62%	40
61	Pavillion	12	3	25.00%	9
81	Ft. Washakie	25	22	88.00%	3
96	Arapaho	20	16	80.00%	4
D-3		669	567	84.75%	102
100% - 05/17/2023					
Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
11	Lovell	30	31	103.33%	0
18	Thermopolis	15	16	106.67%	0
20	Cody	45	46	102.22%	0
26	Powell	167	169	101.20%	0
29	Basin	44	43	97.73%	1
32	Greybull	24	29	120.83%	0
44	Worland	188	174	92.55%	14
85	Meeteetse	24	21	87.50%	3
91	Heart Mountain	16	15	93.75%	1
D-4		553	544	98.37%	9
100% - 05/17/2023					

Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
3	Newcastle	74	77	104.05%	0
7	Sheridan	203	167	82.27%	36
13	Buffalo	155	144	92.90%	11
25	Moorcroft	26	24	92.31%	2
42	Gillette	345	317	91.88%	28
45	Sundance	19	7	36.84%	12
80	Hulett	43	36	83.72%	7
90	Kaycee	14	13	92.86%	1
307	Gillette College	28	46	164.29%	0
D-5		907	831	91.62%	76
100% - 05/17/2023					

Current as of: 11-May-2023

Post		2023 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
6	Cheyenne	1202	1089	90.60%	113
14	Laramie	306	299	97.71%	7
21	Burns	10	6	60.00%	4
54	Saratoga	81	77	95.06%	4
60	Pine Bluffs	42	45	107.14%	0
64	Medicine Bow	30	22	73.33%	8
77	Albin	10	9	90.00%	1
93	Cheyenne	11	5	45.45%	6
122	Rawlins	49	44	89.80%	5
D-6		1741	1596	91.67%	145
DISTRICT TOTALS		5601	5013	89.50%	588
17 HQ.		174	37	21.26%	137
DEPARTMENT GOAL		5775	5050	87.45%	725
NATIONAL GOAL		5775	5050	87.45%	725
100% - 05/17/2023					

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS



District 1



Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has been continuing 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 134 members who have joined or renewed for the 2023 year, and we also have 20 members of our SAL Squadron 43.

Presentation by Dr. Rich Sugden: Dr. Rich Sugden, a long-time member of our Post, gave us a great presentation at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18. His remarks were inspiring, as he related his early life, and his decision to become a flight surgeon. He explained some of the rigorous requirements of his training, and he related several of his experiences with flying and his practice as a doctor in Jackson. His presentation included numerous photos and other memorabilia that were extremely interesting.

Presentation by Dr. Julie Elledge: At our March Post meeting, Dr. Julie Elledge, who is the founder of "Veterans Talking to Veterans," spoke on the issues faced by many veterans who have returned from various conflicts and other assignments.

Presentation by Bob Fitton: At our February

Post meeting, Post member, Bob Fitton, discussed his role as the Wyoming State Ambassador for the Army Reserve. He described the Army Reserve Minuteman Scholarship Program. Those accepted into this program can receive full tuition and fees or room and board (up to \$10,000 per year), a monthly \$420 Cadet stipend (freshmen-senior year), an annual \$200 book stipend, E-5 drill pay upon contracting, and a guaranteed commission in the Army Reserve with an eight-year service obligation.



Courtesy Photo

Above: Post 43 Commander, Joe Burke, presenting a check for \$1500 to Bill McPeak for Jackson Girl's Softball

Support of Girl's Softball in Jackson: The second season of Girl's Softball in Jackson is now being planned. Our Post recently donated \$1500 to assist the efforts to continue Girl's Softball in Jackson.

Veterans Visits to Local Jackson High Schools: In response to a letter sent by our Post to all local High Schools, the Summit High School immediately asked for a group of our veteran members to visit a history class. A large number of members volunteered to help, and the school selected five members who were all able to visit the school together.

Legion Baseball Tournament: The Wyoming State Legion Baseball Tournament is scheduled to take place in Jackson from July 24-28. Our Post plans to support the team with color guards for games, and a Post member has agreed to donate use of her home to house umpires for the Tournament. We also expect to assist the team in other ways throughout the season and for the Tournament.

Scholarship Awards: On April 26, our Post awarded eleven scholarships to graduating students at a ceremony at the Jackson Hole High School.

District 2 District News and Activities



District 2 has at least 668 "active" members, with a combined continuous membership of 12,077 years, scattered across the United States. (To be current, the year at the top of the membership card must match the current calendar year.)

Every member, early payer or delinquent, is active in one form or another. We all have those members that are doing something for us, but we never see them. The member in Oklahoma that is a active Legion Rider. The snow bird with a mail-drop address...the first to send a check for the building project. The few men that stay after the Post meeting for a game or two of cards to fund the annual Memorial Day celebration. Don't forget the neighbor that rearranges his schedule to provide medical transportation for a friend. Some pay early...and... some pay late, but every day, they are actively polishing the four pillars of the American Legion; Americanism, Veterans Welfare, National Security, and Youth, as veterans strengthening America as they go about business and being an impact the community they live in.

I encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the magnitude of the community impact described in these few words associated with each Post:

Ferdinand Brandstetter Post 1: Memorial Day and Veterans Day school programs. The long term project to identify the all veterans interred in the numerous cemeteries of Niobrara County. Attended District 2 Convention. Host-

ing the 105th Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Wyoming.

Wieten-Dupes Post 4: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Niobrara

Troop 1026. Legion Baseball. Quarterly Flag retirements. Highway Cleanup. Attended Mid-Winter. Attended District 2 Convention.

Jesse Martin Post 9: Memorial Day



Courtesy Photo

Above: Platte County Honor Guard composed of the members of The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

County Cemetery memorial upkeep and improvements. Medical Transportation.

Travis Snow Post 5: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Youth Scholarships. Boys State. Veterans Commission. Attended District 2 Convention.

Samuel Mares Post 8: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Youth Scholarships.

Boys State. Chartered Boys Scout

and Veterans Day programs. Christmas Party. Youth Scholarships. Deer Creek Days.

Ora Call Post 10: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Youth Scholarships. Boys State. Attended Mid - Winter. Attended District 2 Convention.

John Prince Post 15: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs...The entire elementary school showed up for the

Veterans Day program. Upkeep of the City Veteran Memorial.

Marlyn B. Anderson Post 56: They can probably claim the highest percentage of local veterans as a member.

Reed-Gobble Post 63: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs in Lingle and Fort Laramie. Monthly meetings.

John McGill Post 70: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Attended District 2 Convention.

McDonald and Voight Post 75: Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Maintain the Veterans Park. Attended Mid Winter. Hosted District 2 Convention.... Wonderful job...Thank you for having us.

J.J. Web Post 95: Multi-County Legion Riders. Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs.

Results of District 2 Conference:
2023-2024 District 2 Officers:
Commander: Donald L. York (8)
Vice Commander: Edward Tirado (1)
Chaplain: Benjamin V. Glenn, Jr. (75)
Forwarded 3 "of the Year" nominations for Department Consideration

The 2022-2023 Boys State Governor John Paul Anderson, Sponsored by Ora Call Post 10, was the guest speaker, addressing both the Legion and Auxiliary attendees.

Selected for National Convention representation:

Delegate: Benjamin Glenn (75) Alternates: Ronald Derr (5)
Donald L. York, Commander

District 4 District News and Activities



Russell Stafford
District 4 Commander



Courtesy Photo

Above: The American Legion National Americanism Chairman Mark Avis and The American Legion National Vice Commander Kenneth Hylton pose with Emma Johnson of Wyoming at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest where Emma took home third place!



Courtesy Photo

Above: District 4 Commander Russell Stafford presents Emma Johnson with a bouquet of flowers. Just look at that smile!!

District and the Department of Wyoming. I see that we are coming together and will continue to move forward towards better serving our Wyoming veterans and the community.

Thank you,
Russell Stafford
District 4 Commander
Department of Wyoming

District 4 is proud to announce that we were the contributing sponsors of the National American Legion Oratorical contest 3rd place winner. Though we get to have that distinct opportunity, it is The Department of Wyoming's privilege and honor for this to happen. Emma Johnson from Powell High School in Powell Wyoming was our Department's contestant. This was the second year that she was selected for this position. Emma wasn't the only one to participate in the Department Oratorical and it was a very tight contest. This indicates that our students have really been growing in their knowledge

of our United States Constitution. I personally can't wait to see the next year's contestants and am proud of the future generations.

District 4 is also being given the privilege of entertaining and engaging with the American Legion National Commander May 21-24. Our partners in District 5 will also

be participating at the Buffalo post. The itinerary will be posted below.

The district vice commander, district adjutant and myself are very proud of all our posts for continuing to impress with their membership goals. As of 4 May, we are still the first-place district for Wyoming.

I am very honored to serve this



Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 - Powell

Hello from the Hughes-Pittinger American Legion Post 26 in Powell. We have had a busy start to the year here in our part of the Big Horn Basin. The remodeling of the hall is amazing, a huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers that have helped. A bit of excitement for our Post as we were able to welcome home the Third Place winner of the National American Legion Oratorical Competition, Emma Johnson, back to Powell following her stay in Indianapolis for the contest. Welcome home and CONGRATULATIONS!

We conducted our Post elections in March and held our induction ceremony on 2 May and would like to introduce our newly placed Executive members: Tim Heine - Commander; Steven Olsen - 1st Vice-Commander; Danielle Rempfer - 2nd Vice Commander; Monica Leahy - Adjutant.

As the newly elected executive group, we look forward to serving our Post and Community, and we are excited to tackle the upcoming year. We also inducted our appointed members into their role as well: Sergeant at Arms Frank Cropanese; Finance Officer Ernest 'Bud' Schrickling; Assistant Finance Officer Lin Bashford; and Post Chaplain Aaron Swaney.

During our induction ceremony we were blessed to have in our audience a Korean War Era Veteran, David Coquille - Army Artillery, who was recognized by all, receiving a standing ovation of gratitude. As part of the induction ceremony we were able to recognize a few of our members for their outstanding accomplishments over the past year, as well as recognize some members of our amazing community: John Fraser - Legionnaire

Volunteer of the Year; Steve Burtoft - Legionnaire of the Year; Lin Bashford - Outstanding Post Adjutant for 2023; Kristy Larsen - Educator of the Year; and Monica Leahy - Membership Worker of the Year. Great job and congratulations. We were also able to present Certificates of Appreciation to Funkes Cleaners of Powell, WY, for their dedication and support in maintaining and caring for the flags and Honor Guard uniforms for the Post, THANK YOU!

As a Post, we are looking forward to continuing our strong relationship with the community and enjoying the great weather. If you find yourself in our part of the Basin, swing by and check out our beautiful Hall.

Let 'er Buck
Tim Heine Commander Post 26

Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 - Powell New Officers



Courtesy Photo

Above left: The outgoing Commander Russel Stafford (Left) and incoming Commander Tim Heine (right). Above right: Newly elected and appointed officers. From Left to Right: Sergeant at Arms Frank Cropanese; Assistant Finance Officer Lin Bashford; Adjutant Monica Leahy; 2nd Vice Commander Danielle Rempfer; 1st Vice Commander Steven Olsen; Commander Tim Heine; Post Chaplain Aaron Swaney; and Finance Officer Ernest 'Bud' Schrickling.

District 5 Post 42 Gillette Post 45 Sundance



Campbell County Post 42 awarded six \$500.00 scholarships to high school seniors this year. Pictured above are Post 42 Commander Clarence Barry, Thunder Basin High School student Shantel Smith, Past Commander Kevin Knutson, and Thunder Basin High School student Madelyn Drube. Photo taken by Bill Languemi, Vice Commander/Adjutant.

On May 16, 2023 at 6pm, we're holding a meeting at the Senior Center to consider rebuilding Post 45.

I would like to see all vets at the meeting, even if you're not a member of the American Legion or VFW. You're there to consider programs for the upcoming Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, May 20th and May 29. It's our job as Vets to remind the people of Sundance, of those who are not with us, so someday when we aren't here, WE will be remembered.

Brett, who's in charge of Boy State in Wy, sent me an application from a young high school student in Sundance who applied for Boys

State, something the American Legion is known for. However, he had to apply to the Laramie Post, as we don't have one in Sundance.

I also received a call today from a young Vet while writing this article, his name is Travis and we talked for 20 min.

He said, "I may not always be available for meetings, but will join the American Legion to support the Post, and then, when possible, I'll work on any Post projects."

I can't say it any better than he just did. Your call, Vets.

Life is a gift, so unwrap it, then live, love, and laugh as God Intend

Phil Colozzi, Interim Commander Post 45



Vanessa Stuart
Commander District 6

Our Annual District meeting was held on 22 April at 10am at Pine Bluffs Post 60. We had 5 posts out of 9 represented. The newly elected officers for the upcoming year are Commander - Vanessa Stuart Post 14 and Vice Commander - Penny Merryfield Post 60. Rhonda Rasgorshek Post 60 was appointed as D6 adjutant. Dwight Null was elected as the D6 delegate for National Convention and Deanna Hurless was elected as the alternate delegate. Delicious pre-meeting donuts were provided by Currie's Family Dining and Bakery. Unit 60 Auxiliare provided a donation lunch of ham and sides which was fantastic!

Vanessa Stuart-D6 Commander For God and Country,

District 6 News, Events etc.



Above left: Dept. Commander Mike Hobbs, Post 60 Commander John Wise, Post 60 First Vice - Michael Votruba, Post 60 VSO Jeff Stottlemyer, Chuck Chaires, Post 60 SAA Jim Merryfield, Dept. First Vice Doug Johnson, Dept. Second Vice Bill Barnes at the District 6 meeting. Above right: Members of Post 6 and Post 60 enjoy conversation before meeting starts.



Courtesy Photo

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.

American Legion DSO Rhonda Rasgorshek

Greetings fellow Legionnaires!! My name is Rhonda Rasgorshek and I am the new Department Service Officer. I want to first start off by congratulating Dwight Null on his retirement. He did a fantastic job as the Department Service Officer for 13 years! I have some huge shoes to fill and I am excited to step up and attempt the job. I have been in the office since the beginning of March and have learned so much and still have so much to learn. That being said, I have been extremely busy with filing claims and working with veterans to help make this process a smooth one.

Through out the state, there were 281 new claims sent in for the month of April. Of the 281 claims, there were 15 new claims out of the DSO office. These numbers do not include any supplement claims, or

pension claims. May is starting to look to be just as busy!

My goal for this office is to keep the door open as much as possible. I strive to be able to help and have contact with as many veterans as I can. I put aside time each day to make sure I call individuals back and do what I can to help each and every one of them. I try to make appointments for anyone that is needing to file a claim, so we can have time to sit down and I can get to know each individual veteran. I want to make each contact personal and make them feel welcome and not rushed. I do have lots of walk-ins and I strive to do what I can to help.

If you need any assistance in filing a claim, or understanding a letter that you have been sent, please feel free to reach out and let me



Rhonda Rasgorshek
Dept. Service Office

know how I can be of assistance. Veterans may reach me at (307) 433-2751 at the VA hospital. I look forward to working with all of you and continuing to help my fellow Veterans. Thank you all for your service!!

**AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE IS
HOLDING A RAFFLE
ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
\$40.00 EACH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN A \$3000.00 GAS CARD
(GIFT CARD)
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POST
TO BUY A TICKET OR TWO!!**



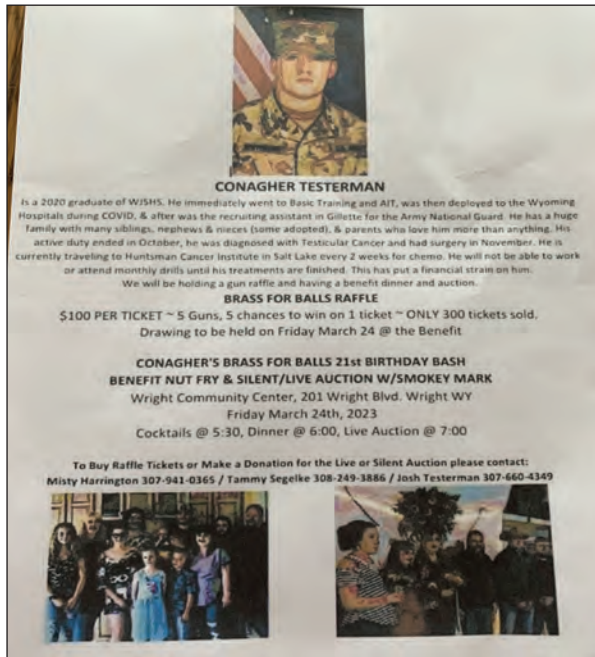


Weston County American Legion Riders District 5



Courtesy of Ann Will

Above: Craig Creed, Kirk A. Will and Rhonda Reed (\$500 Check Donation)



Courtesy of Misty Harrington

Above: Conagher Testerman Benefit Flyer



Courtesy of Misty Harrington

Above: Silent/Live Auction items.

Monroe-Bland Post 3 Newcastle Conagher Testerman Benefit

On March 24th, 2023 the Weston County American Legion Riders Post 3 had the privilege to help support Conagher Testerman, a young man who went to Basic Training and AIT, as well as was an active recruiting assistant in Gillette for the Army National Guard. His active duty ended in October 2022 when he was diagnosed with Testicular Cancer.

He has not been able to attend monthly drills or work until his treatments are finished. This has put a financial strain on him. A benefit was held in Wright at the Community Center for Conagher, which included donations/silent auction/live auction/raffles and a Brass for Balls Bash. The WC ALR Post 3 were pleased to make a donation of \$500.00 to Con-

agher to help him with medical expenses, as he has been traveling to Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake every 2 weeks for chemo treatments. The Benefit Bash raised over \$5000.00!

Riders Lead the Way!

Kirk A Will - WC ALR Dist. 5 Post 3 Director
WY ALR Sgt. at Arms



American Legion Riders



WALRUS Meeting is on Sunday,
June 18

Attention all ALR members:
There will be a WALRUS poker run
after Department Convention.
For further information contact your
WALRUS Director Shane Harris.



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.



THANK YOU!
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Visit our Department
Webpage!
www.wyolegion.org



Where you will find the latest news,
up coming events, contact
information, forms and publications



High School Oratorical



The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship

It takes a lot of manpower to hold a contest. At every level, there is a need for judges, timers, a moderator, tabulators, ushers, the setup crew and the cleanup crew. Every contest relies on these volunteers. I thank those many selfless givers. While I can't name them all, I want to acknowledge the commitment of Crystal Haney of Jackson Hole Post 43 who volunteered to work the National Contest held April 21-23. When asked what she would say about the event, she said, "Tell the students, remember the focus of the prepared speech is how the Constitution applies to you." Since 1938, the responsibility of the citizen to the Constitution has been a key component the judges score on.

For her Oration, titled, "I'm Not Throwing Away My Shot," Wyoming's Contestant, Emma Johnson, was inspired by the musical production "Hamilton". Her approach carried her out of the field of 48 contestants to 3rd place at the National Finals Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the \$20,000 Scholarship that accompanies the title.

Emma Johnson is a very active young lady. As a Junior at Powell High School, she is the Speech and Debate Captain, the Robotics Co-Captain, National Honor Society Historian and the

Editor in Chief for the school newspaper. Emma is part of the Jazz Swing Choir, Erocne, and her favorite subjects are Literature & Composition and History. Playing her part in Government, she is a member of the Student Council, the Powell Student Body President, and is the State President of the Wyoming Association of Student Councils. She rounds these activities out through soccer in the Spring, managing the cross country team in the Fall, and with The Hidden Opponent Campus Captain, a mental health organization. Then – she finds enjoyment in reading realistic fiction and poetry.

"There is nothing that can capture the magnitude of the bonds formed at the local or National level of this competition." Emma says.

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship, like other American Legion National Scholarships, has an eight year shelf life, with time on hold during military service, and may be used for any post secondary education.

Let me close by saying, the entire Department of Wyoming is very proud of Emma Johnson. And, somewhere -- there is another emerging leader whose shot rests with the time of a Legionnaire "working in his community."

Lets not throw it away...



Courtesy Photo
Above: Emma Johnson of Wyoming at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest where Emma took home third place!

Emma's oration and assigned topic discourse are available for viewing at www.legion.org/oratorical.

For God and Country,
Donald L. York, Chairman For God and Country,
Donald L. York, Chairman

Donald L. York
Chairman

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The American Legion, Department of Wyoming had its first Oratorical Winner in the person of Diane Wunnicke, sponsored by Francis E. Self Post 6, in 1958 and there has been a winner named every year since.

During the 2023 year, there were 4 participants in the program. Outstanding and capable students, every one, vying for the opportunity to represent the Department of Wyoming as one of the possible 54 contestants at the National Contest.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF WYOMING NEWS LETTER, MAY 2023

Past Detachment Commander and Squadron 44 Commander, Jim Andersen

HOWDY LEGION, AUXILIARY AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS!!!!

Detachment News:

Every year the Detachment along with the squadrons start the year with a lot of energy and enthusiasm regarding membership goals. However, as in the past few years, we seem to run out of steam once we achieved the 80%. Well this year has again been the same story, we failed to meet the 90% and we are having trouble meeting the 100% membership goal. I still have faith we can muster up the members and hopefully make the 100% goal.

The following squadrons have at least made 100% as of 5-10-23. They are as follows:

- Sq. 8, Douglas, 102%
- Sq 13, Buffalo, 104%
- Sq 26, Powell, 117%
- Sq 43, Jackson, 125%
- Sq. 44, Worland, 100%
- Sq. 54, Saratoga, 102%
- Sq. 80, Hulett, 118%

Congratulations to the above squadrons and officers that worked their roster and exceeded their goals. Many thanks!! We also have a number of squadrons that are very close to achieving the 100% goal, including Cheyenne, Green River and Gillette. Remember, without membership we cannot exist as an organization! We all need to continue to work membership and make it a team effort, its not just a few but rather it is the responsibility of all of our membership to assist in the renewal of members.

Our Winter Conference was not very successful, no fault of our planning efforts though, the real culprit was our unfavorable weather conditions in WY. Roads were closed for many of our officers to attend our meeting, therefore Commander Dusel and I decided to reluctantly cancel our meeting. We are looking forward to the warmer weather and open roads for our Summer Convention. Yahoo!!

Agenda items for the Summer Convention:

Finalize awards standards for Commander, Squadron Commander, Adjutant and Volunteer of the Year.

District Coordinators discussion, non

functioning squadrons

Christmas in July update, National Vice Commander visiting

Children Welfare Foundation
Department and Detachment dual meetings

Children and Veterans Foundation
Election of Detachment officers.

Our annual Christmas in July with the veterans at the Buffalo home will be held on July 14 and 15 in Buffalo, WY. This year we have a special guest, Jack Young, National Vice Commander for the Sons of The American Legion will be present for the fishing derby awards, luncheon and perhaps he may assist us on our project or supervise the work. This year we will construct a walking bridge on the south end of the fishing pond to provide additional fishing areas to our veteran fishing enthusiasts. It will also provide a safe path to a different portion of the pond.

Post 44 Worland:

The American Legion Post 44 and squadron 44 has sponsored and contributed money toward an American Legion baseball team for the summer of 2023. There are currently 15 kids, ages 13-15 years, that have signed up and are currently practicing. Their first game is May 30th. The team name is Worland Chiefs and will have the logo of American Legion Post 44 on the jersey. The team will play Cody, Powell, Lovell in the Northwest Quad and will also play Lander, Riverton and Buffalo.

Worland American Legion baseball has a very successful history, starting with the name, Worland Indians of the American Legion Post 44. They won American Legion State Championships in 1935, '36, '41 and '42, '51, '54, '61, '95,'97 and 1998!! It's been many years since Worland had a team and now these kids are excited and hungry to reduplicate the past success and hopefully bring back State Championships! I'm sure they will and Post 44 and Squadron 44 are very excited to be a part of a great game and helping our kids within the community.

It has been a very busy year of renova-

tion of the Post kitchen and the bar which has been expensive but very rewarding. Thank goodness we have a lot of good dedicated members that helped with labor and supporting fund raisers to pay for the upgrades.

Another project the Post, along with the Squadron and Auxiliary, supported a significant repair cost on a monument in one of Worland's parks. The monument was starting to deteriorate from a lack of maintenance. We combined our money resources and paid a contractor to repair the rock wall and concrete. This was originally erected by the Washakie Chapter of American War Mothers in 1953 to honor "All War Veterans" of Washakie County. The contractor started the project last fall, however due to the amount of damage and the extreme cold winter, the project was finally completed this spring.

The following pictures are our continued support of all of Veterans by providing maintenance to existing structures honoring our Veterans that served our Country in Wars:

Worland Squadron 44:

Every year our squadron holds a golf tournament to raise money for our scholarship program for Worland, Ten Sleep and Hot Springs High school seniors. This year we awarded 7 scholarships to seniors that applied and qualified to receive money ranging from \$600 to \$1,400 for a total of \$5,600 to attend college this fall. Other events we hosted were a chili cook off between contestants cooking their favorite chili dish with the winner's awarded money for their efforts. This year we had 14 contestants competing for the top money, first, second, and third place, with people's choice awarded to fourth place. Our squadron will continue to raise money to support the American Legion and our veterans that have served our nation. Our membership continues to support and participate on the honor guard for military funerals and on parades and Memorial Day service. Last month the squadron re-elected our existing officers to hold the same positions as last year. Thank good-



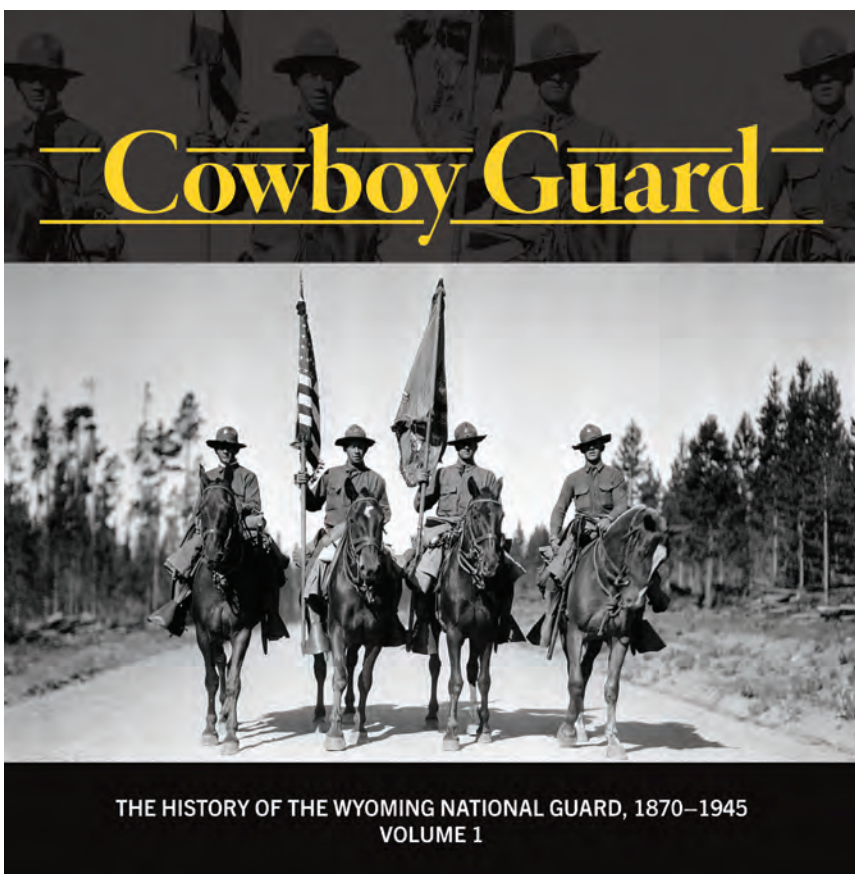
Jim Andersen
SAL Adjutant



Courtesy Photo
Above: We provide maintenance to the above structures honoring our Veterans that served in our Country in Wars

ness for their continued commitment to our organization!!

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



Let's make history



The Wyoming National Guard needs your help to publish its first comprehensive history from its origins to today. No document like that exists.

Wyoming Military Department, Wyoming National Guard Association and Wyoming National Guard Historical Society (WYNGHS) are coordinating research, writing and publishing of the history project that Tells our Story.

- Coffee table-style format, 12" x 12" size, including maps, charts, diagrams and sidebar stories highlighting individuals, special events and activities
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- Only private donations for publishing

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Volume 1
Cowboy Guard: 1870-1945,
 publishing 2023
Volume 2
Cowboy Guard: 1945-2020,
 publishing 2024

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Watch Legionnaire for book purchasing information.

Honor those who served
 This is a wonderful opportunity to honor those who are serving, have served, or those who reside

- Questions?**
- State Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Dennis Russell: (307) 631-2314
 - State Command Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Doug Hensala: (307) 630-7429
 - Col. (Ret.) Larry D. Barttelbort: (307) 631-0812, wyo bartt@gmail.com

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This fundraising effort will publish the two volumes.

Book ordering is separate from fundraising. That information will be provided later.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

DISTRICT MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING

Photos Courtesy of Doug Johnson



District 1 Convention - April 12, 2023 Kemmerer
District 1 Commander Joe Tallon



District 1 Convention - April 12, 2023 Kemmerer
AND THE AWARD GOES TO.....



District 2 Convention - April 15, 2023 Chugwater
L-R: Vice Commander Doug Johnson, Post 75 Adjutant Ben Glenn,
Department Commander Mike Hobbs



District 2 Convention - April 15, 2023 Chugwater
Immediate Past District Commander Darrell Curry,
District Commander Donald York



District 3 Convention - April 2, 2023 Dubois
District Commander Ken Persson, Jr., Adjutant Joe Nemick,
Vice Commander Nancy Eustace



Post 19 Commander Warren Hess with George Burns who was
awarded his 70 Year Membership Pin. WOW!



District 4 Convention - April 1, 2023 Greybull
There always seems to be awards handed out at these things!!



District 4 Convention - April 1, 2023 Greybull
District Commander Russell Stafford and Post 32 Commander
Bobby Werner



District 5 Convention - April 23, 2023 Gillette College
Excellent turnout for District 5 Convention!!



District 5 Convention - April 23, 2023 Gillette College
And MORE awards were handed out!!



District 6 Convention - April 22, 2023 Pine Bluffs
Department Adjutant Gina Mayhan, District 6 Commander
Vanessa Stuart



District 6 Convention - April 22, 2023 Pine Bluffs
The swearing in of Post 60 Officers



American Legion Auxiliary News



“Cowboy Up for Our Veterans”

Tammy Harris, Department President

As I sit here this morning reflecting on District Conferences, I find myself struggling to put into words the experiences of this past month. Commander Hobbs and I were fortunate enough to be able to travel together to each District for Spring Conferences. Our travels took us to all four corners of our great State and thankfully the weather was mostly cooperative. I am grateful to have been able to share this journey with him and for each and every one of you, our members who serve your communities so willingly.

What you do in the Department of Wyoming really does matter—from providing cookies for the Sheridan and Cheyenne VA, distributing poppies,

recruiting girls for ALA Girls State, or any other number of activities. Your one dozen cookies or one hour spent at a poppy donation table combined with someone else's one dozen cookies and one hour of time compounded together makes a huge impact. No act of service is too small. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you do each and every day to fulfill the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Speaking of service, are you interested in stepping into leadership roles at the Department Level? Being a program chair (or assistant chair) is a great way to learn about the programs of our organization. Ralph Nader once said, “the function of leadership is to produce more

leaders, not more followers.” As we begin the transition into the new year, I hope that you consider volunteering to serve at the Department level in some capacity. You will not be left without support or help and there are many wonderful people in the Department who are willing to help, advise and suggest. Trust me, I have relied on them a lot this year!

In an effort to help provide continuing support and connection at the Department level, we have held monthly Zoom calls, using the Legion's Zoom account, this year. Topics of conversation have included specific program delivery, ideas on growing our membership and increasing participation at all levels in the Department.

The Department would like to purchase its own Zoom account that can be used to facilitate increased communication at all levels within the Department and is raising funds for that purpose with a drawing for a \$250.00 grocery gift card at Department Convention. The remaining funds raised will help offset the Unit cost of using ALAMIS. There are still a few squares left so be sure to come and find me before lunch on June 17 at Department Convention.

Speaking of Department Convention, I hope to see you there. I am hoping to bring some fun things to sprinkle in with the business that we must conduct. If you have junior members, please consider bringing them



*Tammy Harris
President*

as there will be opportunities for them to actively participate in the Convention.

In the Spirit of Service and not Self.

Tammy Harris

2023 Department Poppy Report



from 15 units. Some of the ways units celebrated Poppy Day and raised funds were: placed canisters in businesses, had a poppy booth, letters to businesses seeking donations, sharing the meaning and history of the poppy and a Poppies & Purses Auction. The total amount reported as money raised was \$8,350.78.

Money raised from poppy donations went to The Sheridan VA, Cheyenne VA, Buf-

falo Home, Ft. Mead VA, Hot Springs VA, National Jewish Hospital, Platte County Legacy Home, Wounded Warrior Project, Cheyenne Stand Down, and to assist Veterans needing a helping hand in various ways.

Poppies were also used to decorate graves on Memorial Day, sent to service members and used for other decorations.

Several units held a Poppy Poster Contest with two districts sending their winning

posters to be judged on the Department level. Most of those who hold the contest are able to do so with assistance from their schools.

I encourage all units to continue to celebrate poppy day and share the meaning. Thank you to those units who held Poppy Poster Contests.

*Linda York,
Department Poppy Chairman*



*Linda York
Poppy Chairman*

I received poppy reports



*Cathey Raymer
Americanism*

Thank you to the 13 Units that took the time to send in their Year-End Reports.

The Wyoming Units open their meetings by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and some sing the National Anthem. Unit 26 starts off their Bingo every Friday night and Sunday with the Pledge

of Allegiance.

All of the reporting Units participate and attend the Memorial Day services in their communities. They help place flags on Veteran graves in their local cemeteries or on fence posts that surround the cemetery. Unit 70 helps with the program that includes patriotic songs, speakers, prayers and a 21-gun salute; Unit 26 lays a wreath in front of the “Wall of Honor”; Unit 47 not only helped with placing the flags at their cemetery, their Junior members placed poppy wreaths during the Memorial; Unit 8 helps decorate the cemetery with flags and poppies on crosses. Along with the Memorial services, some Units serve breakfast or have a carry in luncheon. A few members in Unit 28 travel to Dubois to attend the Memorial Services there.

The Department of Wyoming Units

continue to work with the children in their communities.

The Moorcroft High School made a request for a flag and wall mount. Unit 25 purchased the flag and mount for the school. Unit 9 educates k-6th grade students on flag history and etiquette. Students demonstrate proper etiquette when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and continue to promote Americanism to our youth by supplying the ALA coloring books “America the Beautiful” and “Poppy” to the Genrock Head Start Program. Unit 70 teaches flag etiquette and folding the flag to the Girls State delegates and flag etiquette was also presented during the American Education and Veterans Day observance this year. Some of Unit 8 members participated in the Department of Wyoming High School Oratorical Competition. Unit 46 supports and volunteers for the

5-day Star Valley Patriot Camp. There were 8 Units that submitted essays for the Americanism Essay Contest.

Units 47, 26, and 8 held ceremonies for Flag Day in their communities. Unit 47 has a BBQ after the flag disposal ceremony. Unit 26 shares flag history and the meaning of each fold of the flag that was presented by the Honor Guard and Legion members after the flag disposal ceremony.

The Moorcroft “Soldier Dude” has a new permanent home at the Moorcroft cemetery.

Unit 60 members participate in Honor Guard and Color Guard duties in the community.

All of our Units are continuing to promote Americanism in their communities and to lead by example.

It has been an honor to serve as the Americanism Chair.



Americanism

We

Support Our

Veterans

"In the Clouds"

• In Memoriam •

Becky Boyse Unit 28

Marcia Peterson - South Dakota Member

Benita Harding Unit 24

• Sympathy •

Family of Becky Boyse Loss of Becky Unit 28

Christine Gunniah Loss of Nephew Unit 26

Cheryl Quick Loss of Sister Unit 95

Vickie Scott Loss of mother-in-law Unit 64

Orrin Harding Loss of Wife Unit 24

Gina Harding Dusel Loss of Mom Unit 24

Lucille Moore Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Robert Harmon Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Sally Hymas Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Ronald Harmon Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Susan Odum Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Barbara Bartschi Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Wayne Harmon Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Mike Duran Loss of Rose Harmon Unit 40

Family of Kay Rutherford Loss of Kay Unit 6

Bobbie Gertsch Loss of Niece Unit 6

LaRue Adams Loss of brother and sister Unit 64

Diane Gray Loss of friend Unit 9

Shannon Swearington Loss of Mother Unit 6

Family of Dorthea Parker Loss of Dorthea Unit 6

Family of Nancy Beattie Loss of Nancy

Family of Gladys Kambergar Loss of Gladys

Margrat Foss Loss of family members

• Get Well •

Alice Trussell Broken leg Unit 80

Wanda Lorenz ill Unit 15

Joyce Engling ill Unit 15

Marie Robinson ill Unit 90

Linda Ellefson Surgery Unit 80

Susan Barela ill Unit 6

Trudy Zaffarano Hip replacement Unit 26

Beverly Webb ill Unit 6

Sarah Marlow ill Unit 6

Bobbie Gray surgery Unit 6

Susan Sironen Back Surgery Unit 29

• Thinking of You •

Kathy Stroud Birthday Unit 10

Jody Sanborn Birthday Unit 10

Bailey Ervin Birthday Unit 10

Susan Dansereau Unit 28

Dorothy Williams Unit 15

Bobbie Gertsch Unit 6

Sage Bridger Unit 15

Kyah Mantle Birthday Unit 15

Addison Ervin Birthday Unit 15

Linda Broughton Birthday Unit 15

Sage Rutt Birthday Unit 15

Abigail Stroud Birthday Unit 15

Joyce Engling Birthday Unit 15

Taylor Quance Birthday Unit 15

Caydence Engling Birthday Unit 15

Madison Sanborn Birthday Unit 15

Ruth Cundall Birthday Unit 15

Jenna Jackson Birthday Unit 15

Lanette Sager Birthday Unit 15

Ruth Meyer Birthday Unit 15

Wanda Lorenz Birthday Unit 15

• Congratulations •

Mavis Lund 100th birthday Unit 90

Faith Duncan Accepted to Yale Unit 28

Madison Billings Graduation Unit 13

Ella Maxwell Graduation Unit 13

• Thank You •

Dr Bryan Cropper Donations

Dorothy Woods Chaplain Unit 80

Gail Keeler Chaplain Unit 6

Diane Meidinger Chaplain Unit 26

Sage Bridger Chaplain Unit 15

Martie Harbick Unit 6



From the Chaplain's Desk

The Cowboy Code...



Judith Killion
Chaplain

Tonight, I sit here wondering what to share with you. It seems to me we talk a great deal about how to get things done, how to serve our Veterans, and how to facilitate change. Do not get me wrong—these are all good things, but we often forget to share the work completed. There is no right or wrong way to meet our goals, to serve our veterans, or to serve our

community. The key is service not self for God and Country and meeting people where they are at in their situation. I am sure we can all find our niche somewhere in the mix of these words.

The Cowboy code talks about getting things done, riding for the brand, and finishing what we start. Thank you so much for being diligent in sending in Chaplain Reports. I appreciate the time and effort that goes into meeting the needs of your individual Units. The care and concern, along with the spiritual leadership you represent and provide is more meaningful than you might realize. You all work diligently and are an important part of ALA. Often just your presence, just your smile, or your hug, can make a difference. Thank you for your servant leadership.

I try to be a diligent steward of my office. This year I have sent out a total of 265 accounted for cards. I sometimes forget to log a card when a text, email, or phone call asks for one to be sent. I cannot tell you how many phone calls, text messages, and emails just to reach out to people cross my path every month. I have held memorial services, taken in meals, and visited with ill individuals in my surrounding area. I am grateful that you have allowed me the opportunity to serve in this manner. It is my joy and pleasure to write the cards, make the calls, find those who need ministered to and to be ministered to in love and friendship from each of you.

You are all doing an amazing job! Some of the great things our Chaplains are doing include a card ministry to members who

cannot be active in the Unit but still care and making sure they are kept informed by sharing minutes and agendas with them. Another Unit puts together Christmas Baskets, as a Chaplain project, for veterans. We have one Unit that reaches out to Veterans in low-income housing, assisted living facilities, and a nursing home throughout the year to provide for various needs. This Unit is also working on establishing a Nursing Home Ministry. Another Unit Chaplain is very involved in helping with the local Cherry Pie festival (yum) in February. One Unit makes small prayer books to be given to the family members of deceased members and veterans. I cannot begin to tell you all how proud I am of the work and ministry you do to serve God and Country.



Visit our Department
Webpage!

www.wylegionaux.org

Where you will find the latest news,
up coming events, contact
information, forms and publications



WE NEED YOU!

The ALA Department of Wyoming
encourages Units to send a representative to
Department Meetings.

Every meeting provides sharing ideas,
information and renewing friendships



Susan Sironen
District 4 President
Department of Education
Chairman

Department of Wyoming Education Program



posters and thank-you notes for Buffalo Home and Sheridan VA. Patriotic pencils and flags were given to students.

Basin - Goodie trays were delivered to the teachers at staff at the start of the year and 3rd graders competed in the Americanism essay contest.

LaGrange - Arranged a veterans-in-the-classroom presentation with help from two active-duty servicemen, which included some fitness training and treat sacks containing candy, pencils, rulers and messages like "don't do drugs" and "be smart, be educated". Baskets of fruit and snacks were delivered to the staff during American Education Week. The Unit works with the local library supporting literacy efforts such as the Easter egg hunt, story time, summer reading program and the Halloween Bo-o-o-ok party. A book signing was held by Doug Chamberlain, who is a local teacher, legislator, veteran and Marine Corp Captain. His

memoir Bury Him told of suffering, contradictory orders and cover-ups rampant during his command in Vietnam.

Glenrock - Participate in the poppy contest - 11 entries received. Talked to the schools about the poppy importance in remembering our veterans. Posters were displayed in a downtown business. Boxes of apples were delivered to the schools with a letter stating, "You are Awesome to the Core!" and Have an "Apple-Solutely" Wonderful Day!". For Veterans Day, 80 letters of appreciation were sent to local veterans as well as Buffalo Home, Sheridan and Cheyenne VA hospitals. The letters were included in the 67 Christmas boxes sent overseas to our military. The Veterans Day program was held educating our school and community members to always honor our military. Give 10 to Education donation of \$50 to the library for books/supplies, \$50 donation to Miss M's Little Daycare

for art supplies, Head Start program receives \$60 worth of school supplies.

Scholarships Provided by the Department and Units:

Department of Wyoming - American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Scholarship for Girls State - \$500 and a Dorothy Alden Memorial Nursing scholarship for \$300.

Saratoga - \$1,000 and \$500 from Auxiliary with \$500 matched by the Sons

Lander - Local Girls State/Girls Nation delegate - \$500

Pinedale - Scholarship for \$750

Moorcroft - two \$300 scholarships

LaGrange - \$250 scholarship

National Scholarship applications received: 2 for Non-Traditional Student, 1 for Spirit of Youth, 1 for Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship. The winner of each category was submitted to Northwest Division for further judging.

The Department of Wyoming has received 11 Unit reports for the Education Committee. Many Units struggle to get members to participate in this program while others go all out. Following are activities by the various Units:

Glendo - Chat with a Veteran program on Veterans Day.

Buffalo - Americanism Essay at the school with 77 essays submitted.

Guernsey - Baskets of fruit and snacks delivered to the staff at schools.

Worland - Elementary children sang patriotic songs to the veterans at the Senior Center. Grade schoolers made



Melba Bennet
Dept. Chairman
AEF

Auxiliary Emergency Fund



serve as AEF chairperson for the Department of Wyoming. I have learned so much about how we help our Veterans and their families. The help that's available to members of our organization has been a real eye opener, so proud to belong to The American Legion Auxiliary, where we do take care of our own.

This year I have been lucky to join in on Zoom with the National and Division chairs and see and hear some

of the ideas from all over the country.

In Wyoming I have had reports from 9 of the units and have learned that they have a variety of methods to donate to the AEF fund. We have had one unit that donated \$1000.00 and for that we are very grateful. Some of the groups donate each meeting and when the fund hits \$500.00 they donate it, another group donates when they lose a member of their Unit. Other units have donated specific

amounts and have asked for chances to win the membership drawing for next year's dues, then they have their own drawing to determine who wins or they choose a member that may be struggling at the time. One unit is having a pre-Mother's Day Bake Sale to which all proceeds will be given to the AEF fund.

No matter how it is done we are so grateful that the Units are still supporting such a worthwhile program.

First off, I would like to state that it has been a learning experience to

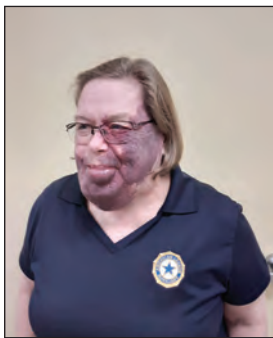


Children & Youth Committee

CHILDREN & YOUTH YEAR END REPORT

Reports were received from 10 of 38 Units in the Department of Wyoming, two of which were "no report". Five Units reported donating a total of \$1190.43 to the Child Welfare Foundation. Funds were raised in many ways including placing CWF pigs in the Post Bar, collecting loose change during Unit meetings, and American Legion Family members placing their loose change in CWF pigs. One Unit provided their members with decorated jelly jars to use for this purpose. The Department also held a fundraiser, utilizing their "Recycle the Brand" sale at Fall Workshop, and raised over \$560 for a reported total donation of \$1750.43 to CWF.

Community wise, Units utilized their Junior members by having them place wreaths on veterans graves on Memorial Day, handed out candy to the children during County, Fair, & 4th of July parades, sponsored or participated in Halloween events, encouraged school age children to honor veterans on Veterans



Shareen Johnson
Children & Youth
Chairman

Day, donated funds or provided items for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and participated in Easter egg hunts and/or provided baskets for local children. Two Units gave a basket of baby items to the first child born in their local area on or after Veterans Day.

Units also provide monetary support to various youth groups including Cub Scouts and local youth rodeo organizations.

Two Units reported providing school supplies to elementary children at the start of school as well as at the beginning of second semester.

It should be noted that several of the activities, funds donated, etc. reported in the Units' Children & Youth reports pertained to other chairmanships including Americanism, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Juniors, or Poppy. For that reason, those activities and funds were not included in this chairmanship report.

Respectfully submitted,
Shareen Johnson

Campfire Chat & Membership with Chairman Cathey Raymer

As we sit around the campfire and reminisce about this past year, we can be proud of ourselves for the work that we have done so far to maintain and grow our Units. As you all know, membership is an ongoing process that we nurture and tend like a garden.

Even though the finish line for this year's race is in sight, we still have a ways to go. As I write this, Nationally we are at 88.69% and in 3rd place in the Northwest Division. In the Department race, we are at 94.15%. We have 10 Units that are in the 100% or better club and 20 Units that are at 90% or better. These are achievements that we can celebrate. Hats off to y'all!!!

This year we have talked about ways and suggestions on how to recruit and retain our members. Some of the things that we have discussed is to be warm



Cathey Raymer

and welcoming to our new members in our Units, making sure that ALL of our members feel valued, to keep our members and communities aware of upcoming projects and events and to remember your "WHY".

I have listened to your concerns and some of the stumbling holes in the racetrack that your Units

are having. I want you to know that you are not alone, other Units are experiencing these same issues across all Departments. These are being discussed in monthly and quarterly Zoom meetings. I'm always looking for solutions or suggestions to help, that I can pass on to you.

All of you are doing a great job working toward growing your Units and being an integral part of your communities. Thank you all for allowing me the honor of serving you this past year.

National Security

Legislation Report



Trudy Zaffareno
National Security
Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY YEAR-END REPORT

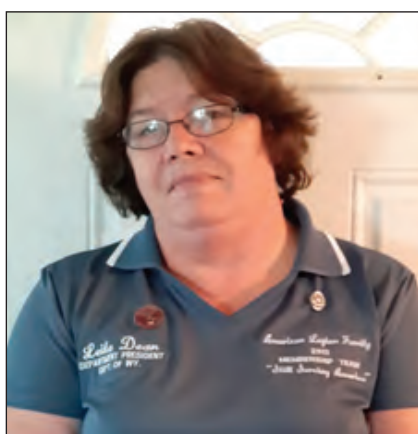
deployed service members by assisting in childcare needs, lawn care in summer and driveways in winter, and collecting coupons for overseas commissaries. They also collaborate with FEMA to act as an emergency response resource during manmade or natural disasters. Glendo has 6 enthusiasts of their 82 members who send greeting cards, holiday cards, and thinking of you cards to those who live far away. They have continued to send pocket prayers that they started last year to deployed service members. Moorcroft sends care packages to active-duty graduates and their schools make gift bags to be delivered to the veterans. Powell takes care of families on the frontline, before, during and after deployment with delivery of commodities when there is a service member or family in need of groceries. They also get a special holiday basket during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Buffalo along with many of the other units proudly wear RED on Fridays to bring up awareness to active-duty veterans and wears them every Friday until they return. It stands for "Remember Everyone Deployed." "Gold Star Banners are presented or sent to families of deployed to be placed in their windows at home representing that they have a member of their family serving.

As Department of Wyoming Chairman for 2022-2023 I received 8 Unit National Security reports.

One of the goals of the American Legion Auxiliary's National Security program is to provide for the needs of our military families on the home front. This includes auxiliary members reaching out and helping support emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military and their families. As a soldier and family readiness specialist for the Wyoming National Guard it makes sense for me to volunteer for this chairmanship.

Some of the things that stuck out to me from the unit reports this year were Ft. Bridger helps military families of

Public Relations



Leila Dean
Public Relations Chairman

This is my first year as the Dept. public relations. Chairman. My co-chair is Chantelle Dunlap. She and I were tasked by Dept. President Tammy to open a Facebook Page for the Department of Wyoming. This has been quite a challenge getting to understand how it works and getting the information out to the Units. We chose to use the new Auxiliary mark for the main page. It can be found by searching Facebook for American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming. We have 4 admins that have full access. Pictures from the District meetings have been uploaded to the page.

I have gotten reports from four Units. Unit 28 Green River Wy. Has an active social media presence on Facebook they have both a page and a group presence and they cross post events. They are researching other possibilities in the upcoming year.

The Unit is also very involved in activities in their community. They had a booth at the town's annual River Festival and shrimp boil where they have the Legion family brand and information about our organization. This event is very popular in Wyoming and Senator John Barrasso has made an effort to be there for this event many times.

In October the Unit had a float in the annual trunk or treat parade the float was put together by the American Legion family including the Juniors and sons. In December, 6 members were able to attend the Mayor's tree lighting event. The unit had a table with the Auxiliary brand on it and sold hot chocolate to attendees of the event.

In June after the Department conven-

tion the unit reached out to the local paper for an interview with newly elected and installed Department officers. The article was printed both online and in the printed newspaper.

The unit also has a program called Brenda's closet where they have gently used formals they rent out for Prom. So that girls who can't afford a dress has an alternative.

Unit 47 Pinedale Wyoming During the month of May several articles published by the Pinedale Roundup including member Mary Bluemel's art. Also, Memorial Day events that the Legion family participated in.

In June an article about the Girls state delegates from Pinedale along with pictures was published.

During November several articles were put in the paper about veteran's day activities the Legion family and VFW participated in.

During Veteran's Day ceremonies

2023 Legislation:

As we are inundated with emails, we quickly review and delete as much as we can. We will flag emails that have importance, but then unintentionally are forgotten. We value our time and reading an email is probably not one of them. How, can we focus on the emails that are in fact of value. First, yes, flag them, perhaps categorized them with a color. Set time aside for 15 minutes and create a recurring appointment on your calendar. Our voices can only be heard through our communication to our public officials. If we don't, then they will cast their vote only from their knowledge and viewpoint.

Be a voice, be active, be involved for less than 15 min for those emails can make an impact to you, your family, and our Veterans.

District and Unit News

We appreciate The Samuel Mares Unit#8 in District 2, Moorcroft Unit#25 in District 5, and Tom Whitmore Unit #28 in District 1 for volunteering in the primary and general elections. The communities are always in need for people to volunteer as this great nation is built on grass root efforts.

We were excited to have Vicki attend the Washington D.C. Conference. This is a great opportunity to network and have a great memorable experience.

Federal Bills Passed 2022

The PACT Act was finally signed into law August 10, 2022, expanding benefits available to veterans nationwide. The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or "presume") are caused by exposure to these substances.



Sherry Bushman,
Legislative
Chairman

2023 Bills

• BILL NO. HB0039

Title: Verifying the veteran designation on a WY driver's license.

Subject: Amending the documentation required for the veteran designation on a Wyoming driver's license and how the designation is made.

• BILL NO. HB0067

Title: Special license plate decals-women veterans

Subject: Special license plates.

• BILL NO. SF0123

Title: Military dependents-school choice

Subject: School transfer for military dependents

Reimbursed for medical insurance premiums as a Wyoming national guard member serving in state active duty

Review Wyoming Bills

(Copy and paste into browser) <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2023> or scan QR code



at the High school a reporter and the manager for the local newspaper were presented Freedom of the press award by the American Legion for supporting the mission of the American Legion and promoting Americanism In addition a member of the Auxiliary Was awarded the American Legion Patriot award for promoting Americanism among the youth and community.

Unit 7 Sheridan Wyoming, had their monthly meetings published in their local

newspaper . Winners of the local Poppy Posters were also printed in the local paper and 1 winner's award went on to the Department level. A basket was presented to the baby that was born closest to November 11th and a picture was in the local paper of this presentation.

Unit 25 Moorcroft Had an article published in their local newspaper about their Veteran's Day dinner.



Courtesy of Sheridan Memorial Hospital

Above: Baby Caysey Jarvis was born on November 11, 2022, pictured with the Jarvis family. The family was presented a basket of goodies from the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 7.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation



Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Annual Report

Seventeen units sent in their yearend updates...a few sent pictures. They showed what wonderful work you do in your communities to celebrate the veteran, our active military, and their families. For those of you not sharing what you have done this last year, we know you were busy within your local area. The hours you volunteered and donated both financially and in-kind were very generous.

You worked with your American Legion Posts, VFW's, DAR's and local community organizations with holiday celebrations, meals, parades, headstone replacements and burials, and Wreaths Across America to celebrate our vets.

Your units donated holiday and birthday cards with cash to veter-

ans in the VA Hospitals, the Veterans Home and local nursing homes. Cookies and homemade treats are cherished by those spending time away from home. Root beer floats, milkshakes, hostess and escort services as well as bingo parties were volunteer activities participated in at the VA's. Members visited the Veterans Home weekly taking ice cream, Birthday pies or cakes, cards, birthday and Christmas cash presents and other items for the residents. They also worked with the Poppy Program at the Veterans Home in making of the flowers.

You sent care packages to service personnel away from home as well as Pocket Prayers. You held "Angel Trees" at Christmas for items veterans were requesting. You've

filled bags with hygiene products and socks. You've helped with the Stand Down in Cheyenne both in items and time. You've spent time making neck pillows, lap rugs and honor quilts.

You provided transportation, ran errands and helped veterans within your communities. You gave veteran caretakers needed relief. Home cooked meals were a luxury to many.

You supported our National President's Special Project not only with a donation but also by assisting a Creative Arts Festival in which a veteran won first place with her quilting and attended the National Creative Arts Festival held in St Louis in April.

What a support system you have provided to our veterans, military and their families. You must have



Linda Orr
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman

cornered the Battery Bunny for all you do. Thank you again. Keep up the good work.

Linda Orr and Susan Sironen, Chair

Sheridan VA Healthcare Network

What a year! The hospital and clinics are finally coming out of the COVID pandemic and are opening back up Eagle Ridge and some of the residential areas.

Your donations during the pandemic were immeasurable. Your cookies are now being used at the Hostess Desk in admissions as well as on the wards. The Clothing Room has been opened for the use of those veterans living off campus to be able to get needed items such as jeans, socks and underwear. An emergent housing plan was developed at a local motel that allows veterans coming in the day before for their medical appointment a place to stay overnight when they are ineligible to stay at the VA or don't have the necessary funds to stay in a motel. Bus passes have been provided allowing those veterans in programs to get back and forth to work. Gas cards have also been provided for the vet-

eran who have made it to Sheridan for medical care but have no funds to get home.

CONGRATULATIONS go out to Debra Zelenak from Worland. She



Above: Debra Zelenak participating in art activity at National Creative Arts Festival in St. Louis, MO.

placed 1st in two categories – Original Design in Needlework and Fabric Art Kit - at the National Creative Arts Festival held in St Louis, MO, during April for her quilt work. While in St Louis she participated in art and performer classes as well as enjoying the camaraderie of the other veterans. It is so exciting for one of our Wyoming veterans to attend and be show cased for their creative work.

With summer quickly approaching the needs have changed to summer items such as shorts and swim trunks. Underwear/bras are always needed with the long line men's drawers now being preferred over tidy whites. Stamps are also requested. And of course, cookies.

Volunteers are also needed now that things have opened up. Buffalo and Sheridan members are providing root beer floats, milkshakes, bingo parties and escort/hostess activities. Thanks



Above: Volunteer "Vickie" of Unit 7, volunteers at the Sheridan VA every Tuesday morning.

to all for everything that you do.

If you have anything to go up to the VA, please call Eric at 307-675-3226 or Brad at 307-675-3225 to coordinate your drop off.

Linda Orr, Chair

Veterans Home of Wyoming

I am pleased and proud of the service to our Veterans at the Veterans Home here in Buffalo!

In cooperation with the Department VA&R funds, Unit 13 members have 4 teams of 2 members that go to the Veterans Home of Wyoming. They go up on Wednesday for Cookies and ice cream, root beer floats, Birthday Cake or pie. The residents look forward to that each week!

Three times a year we serve pies, and once in the summer we serve melons and fruit outside in the ALA Gazabo.

Activity Director, Mary Sue has started having a Birthday Party each third Wednesday for any resident that has a birthday that month. Your Unit donations furnish a homemade



Edie Taffner
Veterans Home of Wyoming Rep.

cake for that party. Each resident receives a birthday card with a \$5.00

bill. At Christmas their card has a \$10.00 bill in it. All of these services are from the funds you Units send in. How can I thank you? It makes my job so much easier!

The Activity Director, Mary Sue, administers some of our funds to help the Veterans that wouldn't get to go on the activity trips otherwise. All receipts are documented.

I take pleasure in serving and administering the funds for the Veterans Home of Wyoming. Again, THANK YOU to the Units that sent in funds for the Veterans Home!

Edie Taffner,
Veterans Home of WY Representative

**See
you
at
convention
June 15-18**

District and Unit News

District 1 Year End Report



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

The Units in District 1 reported a total of \$33,464 spent and 11,100 hours volunteered during the 2022-2023 year.

We held our Spring Conference in Kemmerer on April 16th with 4 of our 8 Units represented. I'm looking forward to working with all the women in District 1 in the coming year.

Unit 24 Rock Springs has continued to be a major part of their community. The 9th annual Veterans Awareness Walk was on Armed Forces Day with over 85 participants. They participated in several community events, Chamber of Commerce parade with a float and International Days with a booth for a membership drive. They held their holiday parties for the family children filled with games, candy, and fun. The annual Baby Basket for the 1st child born on Veterans Day was won by the great grandchild of a Post member. Thanksgiving dinner deliveries included pies and sides provided by the Auxiliary members.

Unit 28 Green River Legion Family hosted the 2022 Department Convention. Members volunteer to support the annual "Music for Vets" event, raising over \$46,000 for local veterans. A community member assembles care bundles for homeless veterans annually. Unit members helped a community member

assemble 100 bundles for homeless veterans to hand out across the state. They provide gift cards to the nursing home and income assisted apartments to veterans living there. The Unit supports the local youth in the community by sponsoring delegates for Girls State, a kindergarten teacher, speech and debate students, presenting the graduates bound for military service with red, white & blue honor cords to wear at graduation.

Unit 36 Ft. Bridger assisted the Legion with the 4th of July parade and BBQ and sold popcorn and snow cones at the fireworks show. The Legion is hosting Music Bingo and the Unit is selling pop and popcorn. They held the annual craft fair and the Troops Garage Sale. With the harsh winter, members put the wreaths at the end of each row for their Wreaths Across Bridger Valley at Christmas. They sponsored 12 girls for Girls State and contributed toward the bus.

Unit 46 Alpine committed to financially support the Star Valley Patriot Camp for grades 1-6. Several members were camp leaders and others helped with the daily opening and closing ceremonies. They participated in Memorial Day services, Alpine Mountain Days, and the 4th of July parade. Members

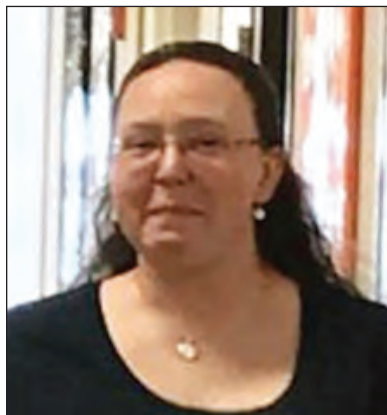
assembled Blessing Bags and delivered them to the Afton VA Clinic and the Thayne Food Bank Veterans Night. The Unit made donations for cookies to Sheridan and gift cards to the Fisher House in Salt Lake City. The Unit participates in the annual Christmas Basket program, 24 families were blessed with baskets filled with a Christmas meal and additional items for their pantry.

Unit 47 Pinedale believes in keeping all the members informed about what's happening in the Unit. The Unit made donations of a variety of items to the Sheridan VA and sent money for the purchase of cookies. They have continued to support Girls State and the Girls State Bus. The Unit offers an Auxiliary Scholarship.

Unit 78 Big Piney has put a priority in supporting and sponsoring Girls State delegates. The Unit joined the Legion for Memorial Day. They have made the wreaths that are placed on 172 veterans graves. With the assistance from the Legion, they are going to make new wreaths to replace the old ones. Following the National Honor Society's Veterans' Day Assembly, the members host the Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the Senior Center.



Courtesy Photo
Above: Commander Mike Hobbs, his daughter Daisy, a junior and her grandfather John Craig - a 26 year U.S.A.F. Veteran.



Jessica York
District 2 President



Vice President Linda & I would like to thank everyone who came to the District 2 Spring Conference, and a huge thank you Chugwater Unit #75 for hosting and the excellent lunch. It's always great to have the District come together to share what we've all been up to throughout the year. I would like to thank Mary Hoyle (La-Grange Unit #70) for always being an

District 2 News



excellent District Chaplain. I appreciate the confidence from the District to be nominated for District President again. I will strive to serve the District well for another year. VP Linda would also like to thank the members of the District for the election for the next year as well.

District 2 Impact: We had 5 of our 9 Units submit Unit Impact Numbers.

They reported 1904 hours of volunteering for our veteran's, 152 hours for military families, 156 hours for children and youth, and 3819 hours for all other programs. Way to go District 2!

With Department Convention being in our District, I'm hoping to have a large showing of District 2 present.

District 4 President's Report



Trudy Zaffareno
District 4 President



As District 4 President, I visited all four of our Units. Greybull's meeting consisted of meeting at the bank witnessing the outgoing President removing her name from the bank signature card and a short visit. Greybull has been struggling with getting any members to be active. Other than my District meetings, I attended the Veteran's Day Dinners in Basin and Powell. Contact was kept through e-mails, text messages and phone calls. Any time Department sent out information, it was forwarded to the Unit Presidents. All four Units contributed hygiene items to the Cheyenne Standdown that I brought to Fall Workshop.

I also attended the Department Convention in Green River and Fall Workshop in Casper. I attempted going to Mid-winter Conference in January, but only got as far as Shoshoni as the roads were closed from there. Information was shared with my Units after these events either in an e-mail or at their Unit visit.

Membership for District 4 currently stands in 2nd place at 89.19% of goal.

Alamis membership system is being utilized by 3 of our 4 units.

Girls State delegates by Unit at this point are Unit 26 Powell - 8; Unit 29 Basin 2, Unit 32 Greybull 6 and Unit 44 Worland 4 for a total of 20 girls from our district.

Impact Report numbers have been submitted to Jessica York and Tammy Harris Department President. Three of the four



Courtesy Photo
Above: Members wearing purple for the Military Child.

Units reported numbers. Total hours members volunteered in service to veterans was 18,236 reported with 11,137 veterans served and \$9,861 spent.

All 4 of my Units recognized Memorial Day by placing flags or wreaths at cemeteries. School supplies were gathered by 2 of the Units and there was also a backpack drawing held. Poppy Day was supported by 3 Units with Greybull not able to get any volunteers. Veterans Day dinners were held by 3 Units and Veteran's Day events were attended by various Auxiliary members. Posters were made by elementary schools and displayed at a Legion. Another Unit recognized veterans through interviews and their stories were shared at the Veteran's Day dinner. Sip n Paint events were held by 3 units to raise money and awareness for veterans and veteran projects. One event was painting on rocks. Our Legion Birthday was celebrated by 3 Units. During the holidays, veterans received food baskets, Christmas cards, smores mason jar treats, stockings filled with treats, \$25 cash donations for trust

funds, flowers, and candy bags on Valentine's Day. Three Units donated to the Sheridan VA, Buffalo Home, and Cheyenne standdown as well as cookies/or money for Sheridan VA.

The District 4 Spring Conference was held in Greybull on April 1st, 2023. Three of our four Units attended. Tickets were handed out for door prizes with tickets given for various fun questions.

Department President Tammy Harris shared thoughts on Best Practices on money matters in the Unit as well as advising remarks by Department officers and chairmen.



District and Unit News

District 5 News



District 5 has experienced a great year...not mentioning the weather that caused several cancellations and missed winter activities. I have really enjoyed visiting the 4 units that I made it to. I hate missing meetings because I miss the smiles, laughter, and shared experiences! The one thing that I have learned in my visits and reports are there are a lot of "Why didn't I think of that?" moments.

As I go through the notes and unit reports, I realize that every unit has the Veterans at the heart of their activities. Each Unit bakes cookies, cakes, dinners, taco bars, milk shakes, or root-beer floats for our Veterans whether it is through their Post, funeral dinners, celebrations or the VA or the Veteran's home. We all provide gifts, money and time for their enjoyment. We send cards to our Veterans...at home and those deployed. Hometown Gratitude boxes are mailed to our Veterans.

We fly the flag proudly on our streets, cemeteries, and homes. We all offer poppies in our communities in some form or another.

After all that, we go into our communities in oh so many ways. Trunk or treat, cotton candy, blood drives, Christmas for community members, gifts for babies. Sponsoring Cub/Boy Scout troops, planters around schools and cemeteries, plarn mats, cook-books, cards, even sponsoring free ice cream to the community! (over 400

served!) Units have sponsored Candidate forums and encourages voting. We teach Sunday schools, volunteer at food pantries and clothes cupboards and attend dozens of community meetings! Sunday breakfasts continue to be served at the Buffalo Post home on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

The Girl State program is promoted widely with one delegate winning a Samson Scholarship! Americanism Essay contests and Poppy posters are done by several Units. I must say that Moorcroft has an amazing success rate with over all winners in the Poppy posters.

Units also take care of each other. We send cards of encouragement, birthday

cards, sympathy and phone calls. If a member or family member is in distress, we reach out to them with monetary assistance, cards, and gifts. We gather at meetings with joy, laughter, and lots of fun. Every member is willing to step in with whatever assistance is needed. A prime example is District Conference. So many of you stepped in at a moment's notice and were really appreciated.

Every member of District 5 should wear their pin, shirts, whatever they have with pride. You have earned the respect and appreciation from each other, your community, schools, your District, your State officers and me. I



Robyn Ruff
District 5 President

am so proud of to be a member of this organization. I look forward to serving as your District President again and I know that Gloria is excited to be Vice President as well.

Have a relaxing summer (after Convention) and come back with a renewed zeal for our Veterans!



Above: George Monroe Unit 3 delivering May Day Baskets.

Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Above: Unit 13 honored Edie Taffner at her 90th birthday celebration at the Post.



District 6 News

Unit 6 Installation of New Officers 2023-24



Martie Harbick
District 6 President

Courtesy Photo

Installing was Colorado Department President Bettina Kossow, President Debra Gray, Vice April Lish, Secretary Sarah Marlow, Sgt-at-Arms Nina Creswell, Chaplain Gail Keeler; Treasurer Bev Webb not pictured.



THANK YOU!

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



Visit our Department Webpage!
www.wylegionaux.org

Where you will find the latest news, upcoming events, contact information, forms and publications

ALA Juniors

The Department of Wyoming does not have any active Junior Units, but we do have active Juniors and Young Sons!

Our youngest members are busy year-round in Wyoming, volunteering at events from the Post to the Department level. Many of our Juniors and Young Sons also keep busy in their communities, helping at schools, churches, senior centers, and more.

All our young members participated in Poppy programming, and most of Juniors that reported participated in the Wreaths Across America program this year – braving the amazing Wyoming winter to honor our veterans.

In addition to making cards, tray favors, baking (and delivering) cookies, and participating in town parades, we have a few Juniors that are trying to do a bit more. Two of our senior Units invited the Juniors to assist in flag retirement ceremonies, making sure our next generation knows how to respectfully retire the colors. Five of our Juniors and Young Sons met with one of our state senators this year and chatted for a few minutes about their take

on the state of our state! We have one Junior member who visited and encouraged the elementary school kids in her area (when she wasn't prepping for Girls State!) to enter the Poppy Poster contest. One more Junior is assisting a senior member with a cognitive disability at a weekly food stand, teaching the senior member how to count money and count change back.

Wyoming defines the phrase 'small, but mighty and proud', and our Juniors and Young Sons do the same. Their boundless energy, compassion, and their love of their veterans always humble me. I am so excited to see what amazing things they do next.

Respectfully submitted,
Sunny Hobbs
Junior Activities Chair, Department of Wyoming
Number of Active Junior Units: 0
Number of Active Juniors (as reported): 11
Approximate Number of Hours Volunteered: 1100
Approximate Money Donated by Junior Members: \$400
Number of Units Reporting: 12/37



Courtesy Photo Above: A Junior member from Unit 8, Douglas assists with the "Flag Retirement" ceremony.



More Junior and SAL News



Unit 13 Junior member Berlyn and Post 13 SAL member Hudson at their piano recital



Courtesy Photo Above: Junior member Daisy Hobbs helping President Tammy Harris at Workshop.



For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Founded in 1919, The American Legion Auxiliary has nearly 1 million members from all walks of life. The Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs, gives tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs, as well as other worthwhile charities familiar to Americans. It is all accomplished with volunteers.

While originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary has achieved its own unique identity while working side-by-side with the veterans who belong to The American Legion. Like the Legion, the Auxil-

ary's interests have broadened to encompass the entire community.

The American Legion Auxiliary is made up of the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and its ideals.

Above is the new logo adopted by the American Legion Auxiliary



Membership

Unit #	Unit Name	Goal	Total	Unit #	Unit Name	Goal	Total
District 1				District 4			
24	Rock Springs	247	264	26	Powell	116	116
28	Green River	129	119	29	Basin	52	51
36	Ft. Bridger	51	51	32	Greybull	15	6
40	Cokeville	31	29	44	Worland	76	69
46	Alpine	31	27		Total	259	242
47	Pinedale	31	32	District 5			
78	Big Piney	27	23	3	Newcastle	26	17
88	LaBarge	17	16	7	Sheridan	93	86
	Total	564	561	13	Buffalo	144	134
District 2				17	Headquarters	13	22
1	Van Tassel	14	16	25	Moorcroft	81	80
5	Torrington	135	102	42	Gillette	187	174
8	Douglas	65	63	80	Hulett	55	50
9	Glenrock	54	49	90	Kaycee	36	34
10	Wheatland	39	36		Total	635	597
15	Glendo	87	83	District 6			
70	LaGrange	37	33	6	Cheyenne	264	250
75	Chugwater	15	15	14	Laramie	82	71
95	Guernsey	44	43	54	Saratoga	50	49
	Total	490	440	60	Pine Bluffs	31	33
District 3				64	Medicine Bow	36	36
16	Powder River	10	9	77	Albin	26	26
19	Riverton	25	15		Total	489	465
33	Lander	72	76				
81	Ft. Washakie	22	19				
	Total	129	117				
	Dept Total	2566	2427				

5.2.23



Card of Thanks



Thank you

To all Units for your donation of cookies, clothes and volunteering, to our WY Veteran Facilities.

The following donated money.

- Post 06 (3) TAL
- Unit 01 VanTassel
- Unit 09 Glenrock
- Unit 13 Buffalo
- Unit 15 Glendo
- Unit 25 Moorcroft
- Unit 29 Basin (2)
- Unit 33 Lander
- Unit 36 Ft. Bridger
- Unit 40 Cokeville
- Unit 42 Gillette
- Unit 44 Worland
- Unit 46 Alpine
- Unit 47 Pinedale
- Unit 70 LaGrange
- Unit 78 Big Piney
- Unit 80 Hulett



Credentials DUE

JUNE 1st

Make sure you submit your completed Credential Form so your Unit's voice can be heard at Department Credentials ARE DUE!!

WE NEED YOU!

The ALA Department of Wyoming encourages Units to send a representative to Department Meetings.

Every meeting provides sharing ideas, information and renewing friendships





Official Call to Convention

2023 Lusk, Wyoming June 16th thru June 17th, 2023



The 104th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wyoming is hereby called to be held in Lusk, Wyoming June 16th and 17th, 2023.

PURPOSE

To receive reports of Department Officers and Chairmen;
To elect Department Officers for the ensuing year;
To receive and take action on proposed changes to the
Department Constitution and Bylaws;

To transact such other business as may come before the Department Convention.

PRESENTATION and REGISTRATION

Representation in the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to one delegate for each 15 members or major fraction thereof and one delegate-at-large, whose current dues shall have been received by the Department Secretary-Treasurer 30 (thirty) days prior to the meeting of said convention.

Delegates and alternates shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at a meeting called for that purpose not later than 30 (thirty) days prior to the Department Convention. Certification of delegates should be made promptly to the Department Secretary-Treasurer after their election.

All Past Department Presidents of Wyoming in good standing in a Unit in the Department of Wyoming shall be life delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with votes to be exercised with or aside from their Units. One delegate from each Unit will cast the entire vote of her Unit on all ballots.

The voting strength will be based upon the total membership of the books of the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer as of May 16th. All delegates are required to register. The registration fee will be \$10.00.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee is hereby called, as provided by Article IV, Section 1, of the Department Bylaws and will be held at 7 p. m at the Lusk Elks Lodge, Lusk, WY, on June 15, 2023.

All Executive Committee members as provided in Section 1 of Article IV are expected to attend.

Failure to attend will prevent them from collecting convention expenses, as allowed.

Tammy Harris, Department President

Peg Sillivan, Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer

2023 Department Convention Hotels

All motels need to be contacted directly, inform the front desk person that you are booking for the American Legion Convention

The Best Western Pioneer Court \$134.99 Single \$143.99 Double + tax /night
731 South Main Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2640

The Townhouse Motel single queen \$104.99 +tax/night double queen \$114.99
505 South Main Street, Lusk, WY 82225 307-334-2376

The Trail Motel All rooms \$50.00+tax/night

305 West 8th Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2530

Rawhide Motel \$15.00 off room rates 805 South Main Street, Lusk, Wyoming 82225
307-340-0642

Covered Wagon Motel Single queen \$75.00+tax/night. Double queen \$85.00+tax/night
730 South Main Street Lusk, Wyoming 82225 307-334-2836

American Legion National Poppy Day is May 26, 2023





American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Convention June 15-18, 2023 Lusk, Wyoming



Department Finance Committee to be held by Zoom
Date and time TBD

Thursday, June 15, 2023

3:00-7:00 p.m. Registration at the Lusk Elks Lodge
6:00 p.m. No Host Dinner at Lusk Elks Lodge
7:00 p.m. DEC—Lusk Elks Lodge

Friday, 16 June 2023 –

8:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Opening of Convention: Phyllis Hahn
Introduction of District, Department and National Officers

Call to Order: Department President, Tammy Harris
Invocation: Judith Killion, Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance: Cathey Raymer, Americanism
Preamble to the Constitution

Chair

of the American Legion Auxiliary:

Vicki Paddock, Constitution and Bylaws Chair

Reading of the Call to Convention: Peg Sullivan

Welcome: Phyllis Hahn

Response to Welcome: TBD

Introduction of Sgt. At Arms

Introduction of Convention Committee: Phyllis Hahn

Roll Call of Officers and Units: Peg Sullivan

Appointment of Convention Committees:

Credentials

Rules and Courtesy Resolutions

Election Judges and Tellers

Reading of the Rules of Convention: Vicki Paddock

Report of the Preconvention Finance Committee:

Susan Dansereau

Report of the Preconvention Department Executive

Committee Meeting: Peg Sullivan

Reading of the Rules for Electing Department Officers:

Vicki Paddock

10:15 a.m. Break—Greetings to the Legion

10:25 a.m. (Call to order after break.)

Nomination of Department Officers

2023-24 Department President

2023-24 Department Vice President

2024-24 Department Secretary Treasurer

National Executive Committee Woman

2023-24 District President Nominees

Introduction of 2023-24 District Vice Presidents

Reading of Resolutions—Vicki Paddock

Credentials Report—Sunny Hobbs

12:00 p.m. Break for lunch

1:30 (Call to order after lunch)

Roll call of officers and Units—Peg Sullivan

Chairwoman reports

Children and Youth—Shareen Johnson

Special Presentation—Juniors

Junior Activities—Sunny Hobbs

Community Service—Jennifer Dansereau

Education—Susan Sironen

Poppy—Linda York

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation—Linda Orr and

Susan Sironen

Cheyenne VA—Marti Harbick

Sheridan VA—Linda Orr

Wyoming Veterans Home—Edie Taffner

Public Relations—Leila Dean

Legislative—Sherry Bushman

Girls State—Dawn Kennedy, KK Gitchel

Informational Items: Peg Sullivan

4:30 Recess for the Day

Department Commander and President Banquet
Niobrara County Fairgrounds

Saturday June 17, 2023

7:00 am Past Department Presidents Breakfast TBD

9:00 am Reconvene Convention

Invocation—Judith Killion

Pledge of Allegiance—Cathey Raymer

Roll Call of Officers and Units—Peg Sullivan

Department Memorial Service—Judith Killion

10:15 am Break

10:30 Credentials Committee Report

Election of District Presidents

Election of Department Officers and National Executive

Committee Woman

Reading of the Rules for Electing Delegates and Alternates to Na-

tional Convention – Vicki Paddock, C&B Chairman

Nomination of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention in

Charlotte, North Carolina

Chairman Reports & Awards: (continued)

Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Melba Bennett

National Security—Trudy Zaffarano

Constitution & By Laws – Vicki Paddock

Finance – Susan Dansereau

Leadership – Susan Dansereau

Introduction of Unit Member of the Year

Membership – Cathey Raymer

11:55 a.m. Informational Items –

Peg Sullivan, Department Secretary

12:00 p.m. Recess for Lunch –

1:30 p.m. (Call to order after lunch.)

Roll Call of Officers and Units—Peg Sullivan

Guest Speaker – Vicki Paddock,

National Executive Committeewoman

Guest Speaker – NW Division National VP

Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention

District Presidents' Reports:

District 1 President Cathey Raymer

District 2 President Jessica York

District 3 President Jessie Poire

District 4 President Trudy Zaffarano

District 5 President Robin Ruff

District 6 President Martie Harbick

Department Officer Reports:

Chaplain – Judith Killion

Secretary/Treasurer – Peg Sullivan

Vice-President – Leila Dean

President – Tammy Harris

2:50 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. (Call to order following break.)

Unfinished Business

New Business

Reading of Courtesy Resolutions

Election Results – Delegates and Alternates to National Convention

(Short Break to prepare for Installation of Officers)

Installation of 2023 – 2024 Department Officers

Acceptance Speech – Department President Elect

Closing Remarks – President Tammy Harris

4:25 p.m. Informational Items – Peg Sullivan, Department Secretary

4:30 p.m. Adjourn


4:45 p.m. Peg Sullivan, Secretary, meets with National
Convention Delegates & Alternates

5:00 p.m. Post DEC immediately following closing of Convention

Department Banquet and Dance—Niobrara County Fairgrounds


Sunday, June 18, 2023 WALRUS Meeting—Niobrara County Fair-
grounds

AMERICAN LEGION Buddies in Business




**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING**

Headquarters Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed all Holidays
1320 Hugur Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-634-3035 Fax 307-635-7093
Email: adminassist@wyolegion.org web: wyolegion.org



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING**



Headquarters Office Hours
Monday-Wednesday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all Holidays
PO Box 186
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-620-5697
Email: deptaux@wylegionaux.org



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF WYOMING**

**Commander: Donavon Dusel
Adjutant: Jim Andersen**

1320 Hugur Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Happy Hour Daily 10-12am 4-6pm

Open 7 Days a Week!
10-10 Su-Th
10-Midnight Fri/Sat

Francis E. Self, Post #6
2001 E. Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY
On Facebook and at: ALPWY6@GMAIL.COM



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER**


Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday by appointment Closed all Holidays
Rhonda Rasgorshek
2360 E. Pershing Blvd D107
Cheyenne, WY 82001
w 307-433-2750 Fax 307-433-2790
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