



Commander's Corner



Michael Hobbs, Commander

Greetings Legionnaires! I sure hope that everyone is navigating this winter without any issues. I think mother nature has been reminding us of the price we pay to live in such a beautiful state. This weather has made it almost impossible to get around. Please make sure that you are checking in on other veterans in your community. When the snow gets deep it can be difficult for some to get help if they need it. I have still been able to attend a few different post meetings and I have also been to Cheyenne recently for some Department business. I am sure that everyone has already heard, Michelle Jones stepped away from the DSO office for personal reasons at the end of January. She has helped so many veterans

with their claims I can't even count. She will be missed. Dwight Null will also be retiring as the Department Service Officer. Dwight has been helping veterans navigate claims for over 13 years! I asked the Wyoming Veterans Commission if they could give me some numbers on claims that Dwight has processed. They could not give me a number. That should say something about the number of veterans Dwight has helped. I did receive an email from Tim Shepard that stated, "Just a quick note to say how much we've appreciated Dwight's service as your Department Service Officer. Vicky and I agree that Dwight has been awesome, and we will miss him. Personally, Dwight and I have grown to be friends much to do with my appreciation of his professional and dedicated service. I have always known that I could count on Dwight to help a Veteran--regardless of the complexity or ambiguity of the situation. Dwight has made a difference for thousands of Veterans and has asked little in return--the thanks of the Veteran is all he ever needed! I will certainly miss him, but I will never forget him."

I'm sure that Dwight has brought MILLIONS of dollars to this great state in veteran benefits. Not to mention other states where the veteran started in Wyoming but had moved

out before the process was complete. Dwight has offered to stay till the end of March 2023 to help train the incoming DSO and VA Claims Consultant. We are currently in the process of getting those positions filled and I am confident that we will be introducing them in the coming weeks and during the district meetings in April. A very big shout out to Post 307 for helping the Department with making sure this gets done quickly and efficiently.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in April for the District meetings. As of right now I will be making it to every meeting! For those of you who know my current schedule, that is quite a big deal. I would like to remind everyone that we need to get our recommendations in for our Department awards. I know for a fact that there are educators, bar managers, law enforcement, and health care individuals out there who are deserving of this recognition. Let's do our part in getting those individuals recognized at the Post, District and Department levels! I would love to send in a full stack of awards to national so that Wyoming is represented well this year.

I also want to remind everyone of my project to raise funds to finish out our commitment for the Veterans and Children's foundation. Every donation made to the Department of Wyoming

will be issued in one big check at the next National Convention. I will make sure that the donation will be in honor of IPDC Jerry Clark. This will also be following the family's request that donations be made to The American Legion. We have heard from a number of posts all over the state but I would like to really get this ball rolling during the District meetings in April. I know that together we can complete our commitment to National.

Thank you again for trusting me to be your Commander this year. It has been a learning experience in all aspects of The American Legion. Every time I meet someone new who is a Legion member it always reminds me that we are the best veteran organization on earth! The membership is what makes this organization great. I cannot wait to see all of you at the district meetings. I look forward to seeing the elections and district leadership. Always remember that this organization is ran from the post level up! Make sure that you are getting those who want to drive change into those leadership roles. Start grooming them now so they are ready when the time comes! This is how we become better, getting fresh ideas into positions that can share the information throughout the organization.

1st Vice Commander's Corner



**Doug Johnson,
Vice Commander**

Membership

Membership, membership, membership, what more can I say. Membership is the life blood with any organization.

Without membership an organization will not function. That is why membership is so important in the American Legion. Without its membership we cannot function as an organization and without its members we cannot promote the four pillars of this organization. Take for instance pillar one, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation without membership, V.A. & R would be dead in the water. They would not have access to Health Care, Vet Centers, Veterans with special needs, Final Respects, Homelessness, or the GI Bill Benefits. Pillar II, National Security Support for the troops or size of the Armed Forces, Homeland Security or Operation Comfort Warriors. Pillar III, Americanism - we could not have funds for Flag Protection, Illegal Immigration, Voter Registration, Legacy Run, Boys Nation and American Legion Baseball. Pillar IV, Children & Youth, we could not support Catastrophic Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, Immunizations, Media Violence, Drug Abuse, Child

Sexual Exploitation, Temporary Financial Assistance or the Child Welfare Foundation. So, you see how membership affects the American Legion on how we finance our programs. It supports all of these great programs. So, lets all be a team member and renew your membership. Lets all of us BE THE ONE!!

At this time, I would like to thank the following Districts and Posts for being 100% on this date. District 1, Post 43 Jackson Hole, Commander Joe Burk, Adjutant David Hill, 102.33%. Post 88 La Barge, Post Commander/ Adjutant Ray Fritz, 107.14%. District 2 the following Posts are at 100% or greater. Post 70 La Grange, Post Commander Donald Kessler and Adjutant John Beightol, 100%. Post 75 Chugwater, Post Commander, Robert Kissel, Adjutant Benjamin Glenn, 107.69%. District 4 the following Posts are at 100% or greater. Post 18 Thermopolis, Post Commander Nate Messenger, Adjutant Michele Messenger, 106.67%. Post 20 Cody, Post Commander/Adjutant John West, 102.22%. Post 32 Greybull, Post Commander Bobby Werner and Adjutant Tommy Kershner, 120.83%. District 6 the following Posts are at 100% or above. Post 60 Pine Bluffs, Post Commander John Wise, Adjutant Penny Merryfield 102.38%. Thank You all for reaching these mile stones.

I would like to remind everyone that February has many dates that we need to remember. One is four Chaplains Day on February 9th. This important day will come and go by the time this paper will be out but remember it for next year. February is also Black History Month and Presidents Day. We should be doing something in your post or make your presence felt in your community. I would like to remind everyone that March is coming up and we have some important dates to remember. One is right around the corner on March 1, this is the date when your Eagle Scout of the Year applications are due to Department headquarters. March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, March 9th is the Membership 90% Target Date, March 13th is when we go on Daylight Saving Time, March 15th is the American Legion Birthday, March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. April is also a very busy month as we start having our District Conventions. Lets go to our District Conventions and help plan what we want to do in the future. I would like to THANK all of you for the support you have shown me during my year as your Vice

Commander. Doug Johnson, Dept. of Wyoming V. CMDR.

2nd Vice Commander's Corner

Workshops, Visits with National, and now change



Bill Barnes
2nd Vice Commander

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



Penny Merryfield/Historian
2nd Vice Commander Bill Barnes seated with Department Commander Michael Hobbs listen to NEC Keith Davidson give his report.

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



Adjutant's Corner



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

and members to cancel coming to Mid-Winter. It was still a good meeting and once again I had the privilege of shaking hands with Senator Barrasso. I was quite surprised that he remembered me!

Membership numbers are down and that is not good. I know that it has been tough getting members to come in and pay their dues because of the nasty weather we have been having, but they can always renew online or snail mail their dues in.

It is now time to plan on attending District Conferences. A list of where those will be held, along with date and time can be found in another section of the paper. Please make an effort to attend these events.

Department Convention is just around the corner. It will be sponsored by Post 1 - Van Tassell and will be held in Lusk.

I am still pushing the Be the One campaign from our National Com-

An Update from Your Adjutant

mander. It is so important that we reach out to our Veterans and make sure they are okay. If you feel a veteran in your community may be at risk, please call for a welfare check from your local police department. Suicide among our veterans has to be stopped. We need them to know we are here for them. Please get the word out:

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

My office hours are Monday

through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The office phone number is 307-634-3035, which transfers to my personal cell phone, so please keep this in mind when I am returning a call. Your phone will not show the office number, it will show my cell phone number, which starts out with 307-679-xxxx.

If there is anything I can do as your Department Adjutant, please feel free to reach out to me. If I don't have the answer, I will get it for you. I have a lot of resources to go to, to get the assistance I need.

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 IN THIS ISSUE

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Thanking
Our Veterans
during
National Women's
History Month

AMERICAN LEGION
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Post Everlasting 2023



District 1

District 4

District 5

Post 36 Ft. Bridger
Perry Dobyms (22)

Post 20 Cody
Marion McClure (32)

Post 25 Moorcroft
Bruce Lang (11)
District 6

District 2

Squadron 8 Douglas
David Yearout (8)

Post 44 Worland
Derald Cheeney (27)
William Shepperson (22)
George Bower (4)
Vince Cervantes (47)
Fred Frandson (32)
Donald Conway (16)

Post 6 Cheyenne
Charles Garcia (27)

Post 54 Saratoga
Mark Persognelli (1)

Post 60 Pine Bluffs
Lawrence Silvey (5)



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



Chaplain's Corner

Service to God and Country



Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming

sponded with this story. I had to contact one of our members on a committee we jointly served on about our report for the meeting that night. I had the member on speaker phone briefly and my husband heard his greeting to me which was like the way my dad who passed several years ago used to greet me on the phone using a term of endearment. After the call, my husband asked who was greeting me like that as it sounded odd to him. I explained and we had a laugh. At the meeting I joked with the member about it and he asked if he was a surrogate and I said, “Yes you are”. We “fist bumped” and then I got a hug. It was then that I truly understood why I do what I do. The Legion family is my family. With more “surrogate” dads, grandfathers/grandmothers, uncles/aunts, brothers, and sisters than I have ever had. For many of us, this is true. The Legion is our “safe

space” if you will. That place where we can share our stories with our fellow legionnaires who have similar experiences. We can laugh, cry, celebrate, and mourn with each other and know that we are part of something truly special and that we help other veterans and families as well. This is why so many of us love the American Legion. Remember that word, love.

The verse in the Bible, John 15:13, ‘Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends’, has a special meaning for many veterans. As we go into Spring, we celebrate and/or remember two special holidays. The first is Easter where many celebrate/remember the gift that Christ gave to us all-his life for our eternal lives. This is love. The second is Memorial Day where we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. This too, the sacrifice of so many

veterans, is love. Why do so many Legionnaires do what they do? Love. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

This is why I can truly say, I love the American Legion, who we are, what we do, and who we help. Have a wonderful and blessed Spring and I look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention.

For God and Country,
Vanessa Stuart
Chaplain, Dept. of Wyoming
American Legion



First, I would like to thank the Department of Wyoming for allowing me the honor of serving as Chaplain. My door / phone is always open. For those who don't know me, I joined the American Legion in 2015. My first office was post Chaplain for two years before becoming 1st Vice CDR and the CDR of my post.

Recently, I was asked why I always do so much for my post and the Legion. I re-



O God,
by whose mercy
the faithful departed find rest,
look kindly on your departed veterans who

gave their lives in the service
of their country and later.
Grant that through the passion, death,
and resurrection of your Son

they may share in the joy of your
heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you
with your saints forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



“Be The One to Listen” to A Veteran’s Story



Courtesy Photo
Above: Robert Kittrell, out of basic training.

Penny Merryfield, Pine Bluffs Post

One has to listen beyond the words, beyond facial expression and beyond body language to hear sometimes. Not only that, but sometimes one has to listen in a way as to overhear but you know, eavesdrop to hear and understand what someone has gone through or going through. All the changes a person makes after a tragic event such as war, sometimes turns someone into a different person. Thus was the case of Robert E. Kittrell upon his return home from Vietnam.

Kittrell was a U. S. Air Force veteran, who served for over twenty years. In his military travels, he would go to Iceland, Japan, Vietnam and several bases in California. He was an air craft painter.

Kittrell was stationed at Edwards AFB, California in 1965 when he received orders for Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

This was a rough time in the life of his family as two of his girls were “teenagers” and the time of “Peace, Love and Rock

N Roll” was the way the world was going. Those that served and went over to Vietnam, Thailand or Cambodia were treated badly upon their return.

When Kittrell, who spent a year there, returned home, his family picked him up in Northern California, and as some of the military men and women walked through the air port they were called names such as murderers and baby killers. As his family stood there waiting, anxiety and fear grew as these brave men and women were slurred in name and spit on.

This was only the beginning of the change they would see. Not



Courtesy Photo
Above: SSgt. Robert Kittrell in Vietnam.

only in the way people would treat him, but the change in him as well.

The family couldn’t fathom why such a change could take place...what happened over there that was so bad, their dad would come home a different man...they just wanted to understand.

Because of this and all the changes that were taking place, one of his daughters - a teenager-also known as sneaky Pete would go sit in the hallway bathroom



Courtesy Photo

Above: The house where the Kittrells lived and talked on the porch - encircled is the bathroom window in which Sneaky Pete would eavesdrop.

crack the window and listen to her dad talk with fellow veterans about things on the front porch. He did not share with his children, or his wife.

Now one must understand, although “Sneaky Pete” was a girl, this was her dad...the girl that went hunting, fishing, and working on Model A’s together!! Her dad had changed and the closeness they had as father and daughter changed drastically.

Pete would listen, sometimes take notes on the conversation, but she grew to understand why he didn’t talk about Vietnam. It was a sad time in his life to see how war hurt people. Many innocent such as children.

Pete learned of an incident that happened and her dad witnessed first hand. It would be engraved in her mind forever. Her dad sat on the porch talking with a friend, and as they talked about this incident, she climbed up to look out the window and saw her dad crying, his friend has his hand on her dad’s shoulder talking softly, consoling and attempting to comfort him. What she came away from this incident was perhaps

the most poignant point in her young life. How could they rig a bomb to a baby, how could they hurt children and use them to hurt our soldiers?

Yes this was one of the many things she overheard, and while it was wrong, she gained a respect that couldn’t be changed. She saw her dad in a new light.

The old saying that “War is hell” lives on today. It is not just the war that happened in Vietnam, but all wars, and they do have lasting affect on the lives of those serving and those connected to those who served.

The American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola took his office with his “Be The One” campaign. Be The One...to Ask Veterans in your life how they are doing?...to Listen when a Veteran needs to TALK.... Be the One to Reach out when a Veteran is Struggling.

In listening to her father talk “Pete” was able to help in later years, from her listening she learned to also Be the One for others.

****ATTENTION POST 17 MEMBERS****

Were you aware that your membership resides in the Headquarters holding Post? We appreciate your membership in The American Legion and the support for all that the Legion does; however, I would like for you to consider transferring your membership to a Post in your local area. With each membership, a portion of your dues stays at your local Post in order for them to conduct events and sponsor youth activities and scholarships.

The dues you pay should support the activities your local Post participates in. Many

Posts across the state recently put forth a lot of fanfare and effort to honor all Veterans on Veterans Day and without the funds derived through the membership dues from each member, those events might not have taken place.

Many of you joined through the online process and may think that as a result you are already a member of your local American Legion Post; however, that is not necessarily the case. Typically, you are placed into Post 17 and you must request to be transferred to a

Post in your area.

Keep in mind that the amount of involvement you have is still up to you and your availability but I would encourage you to attend a meeting at your local Post to see all that they do. Most importantly though, pull out your membership card and see which Post you are a member of. If you are a member of Post 17 and would like to see your dues remain in your local community, give me a call and we can make that happen. Thank you again for continuing to serve!



Department DSO and VSO

Meet the new DSO and VSO



New Hires in the DSO Office

With the resignation of Veterans Service Officer Michelle Jones, and the retirement of Department Service Officer Dwight Null, two new hires have begun training in the DSO Office.

Laura Lampman will be the new Department Service Officer. Laura Lampman was born in Carbondale IL to Edward and Peggy Smith on January 16 1968. She was raised in Illinois, Montana and Wyoming, where her parents worked in education. She graduated high school in Lovell WY in 1985. She married Tim Lamb and then spent 11 months in the US Army, taking Basic Training at Ft Jackson SC and AIT at Ft Gordon GA, before beginning her first assignment at Ft Campbell KY. She was discharged in 1987 and returned to WY, where she and Tim had 2 daughters before they divorced in 1993. Laura attended Northwest College (NWC) in Powell WY from 1992-1994, where she worked in the college library, served as literary editor of the student arts magazine and earned her associate's degree. She then attended the University of Wyoming (UW) via distance education and earned her bachelor's degree in 1996, while raising 2 children, working part time in the NWC library and volunteering as a crisis intervention counselor. She was named UW's Outstanding Student in the Administration of Justice in 1996. Laura married Eric Lampman in 1995 and worked a year awaiting their first child. She attended law school at UW from 1997-2000, where she worked in the student clinics. She also served in the WY Army National Guard during this time. Laura graduated law school in 2000, passed the WY bar and was admitted to practice law in WY in 2001. Laura joined the US Air Force as a member of the JAG Corps and was trained at Maxwell AFB in AL. She was assigned to Malm-

strom AFB in MT from 2001-2004, where she served as Claims Officer, Victim/Witness Program Coordinator, and Disaster Response Group Representative. From 2004-2007, Laura was then assigned to Lackland AFB in TX, where she investigated and reported on medical law claims and also represented the AF in civilian cases heard in US District Court. Throughout these 6 years, she advised commanders, provided legal assistance services to beneficiaries and prosecuted Courts-Martial. From 2007-2008, Laura served as special counsel for the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB), representing AF members who challenged the disability rating assigned to them by the AF medical board process. From 2008-2011, She was assigned to a HQ unit at Scott AFB in IL, reviewing military justice actions and advising on civil law issues for 12 bases. From 2011- 2014, Laura was assigned to Tinker AFB in OK, where she again had the opportunity to provide legal assistance to beneficiaries and advise commanders. She served as Chief of Military Justice, presided over several discharge board hearings, reviewed many \$1B + contracts, and supervised the annual financial ethics program reports. Laura was medically retired in 2014. She returned to WY, where she finished raising her 4th child and assisted with 4 grandchildren. She is active with rockhound clubs and serves as leader of a 4H geology club.

Rhonda Rasgorshek will be the new Veterans Service Officer. Rhonda was born in Grand Forks, ND. She has two sisters and one brother. Her dad was in the Air Force for over 20 years, and they moved around a little bit in her younger years. They lived in North Dakota, California, Panama, Nebraska and then her dad was stationed at Scott AFB in Illinois. This is where she did most of her

growing up. After Rhonda graduated high school, she decided to move to Nebraska and attend Chadron State College. While at college, she got pregnant with her daughter and decided not to move back to Illinois but wanted to be closer to family. Rhonda then moved to Kimball, NE, which is where her grandparents lived. She enjoyed the small town and thought it was perfect to raise her daughter. While in Kimball, Rhonda worked a few different jobs but nothing felt like the right place. She finally joined the Air Force in October of 2010. She thought this would be perfect for her daughter and herself. It was a steady income, insurance, and some family time. Rhonda then spent the next 4 years in the service. Upon her discharge from active duty with the Air Force, Rhonda went to work for Clean Harbors Environmental Services. She was employed with the company for almost 8 years. She held 3 different positions in the company. Rhonda was then offered a job at Frenchman Valley Coop in April of 2022 for more money which was needed at the time. Rhonda and her sister decided to start a daycare in October of 2022. Rhonda is married to Rodney and she has one daughter, Maddison. Through all of her jobs and her military career, Rhonda always enjoyed helping others. She truly loves the military (it is a family love from her dad, mother and cousins) and wants to be able to help other Veterans. Rhonda is very excited to start her role as the Veteran Service Officer in Cheyenne, Wy.

The Department Service Office is located in the Cheyenne VA. The normal business hours are Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. The phone number is 307-433-2750 for Laura and 307-433-2751 for Rhonda

Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

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)

DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION SITES AND DATES April 01/02; April 15/16; April 22/23

District	Membership to Date %	Date, Site & Time
District No. 4	82.27%	Date: 04/01/2023 Time: 10:00 am Lunch – Yes - donation
Site: Greybull Elks Lodge 622 Greybull Ave		
District No. 6	76.96%	Date: 04/22/2023 Time: 10:00 am Lunch: Yes-donation
Site: Senior Citizens Center 309 Elm Street – Pine Bluffs		
District No. 2	76.07%	Date: 04/15/2023 Time: 10:00 am Lunch: Yes - donation
Site: Chugwater Community Center 311 State Hwy 313		
District No. 1	74.72%	Date: 04/16/2023 Time: 1:00 pm Lunch: Yes - donation
Site: Kemmerer Events Center 215 Hwy 233		
District No. 3	72.94%	Date: 04/02/2023 Time: 1:00 pm Lunch - No
Site: Dubois Museum 909 W Ramshorn St		
District No. 5	71.00%	Date: 04/23/2023 Time: 1:00 pm Lunch: Yes
Site: Gillette Technical Center Pronghorn Board Rm 3251 S 4-I Road		

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS



District 1



The past few months have seen a lot of activity at our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43. We have continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and our Post has continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our membership has grown to more than 130 members who have joined or renewed for the 2023 year, with many younger members who served during more recent eras. In October, Post 43 will celebrate the 103rd anniversary of our charter. Our Post building was built 95 years ago, and it is a historic log structure in the center of Jackson.

Passing of William Smith: Our long-time Post member, Bill Smith, passed on in January after a battle with cancer. Bill made many important contributions to our Post, including his work to help secure the funding and layout of the new Veterans Monument, his design of the Post logo and website, and his regular participation in Honor Guard services for deceased veterans. Bill, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who served in the Marine Corps, was an accomplished artist.

Color Guard for 2nd Annual Rylee McCollum Jackson Hole Wrestling Tournament: On Saturday, December 3, the Jackson Hole High School held the second annual wrestling tournament. The tournament is named in honor of local Marine Rylee McCollum, who was killed in Kabul by the suicide bombing which also killed 12 other American service members. Our color guard looked sharp with the flags and our member, Karee Jaeger, sang a wonderful version of the National Anthem.

Army-Navy Game: On December 10, Post members and guests gathered to watch the annual Army-Navy Football game. A good crowd enjoyed the very close game, which culminated in a thrilling double overtime victory for the Army team.

Presentation by Navy Captain (ret.) Charles "Chip" R. White, Jr.: At our November Post meeting, Captain White, who is now the President of the Wyoming Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, gave an inspiring and informative talk on the years leading up to his joining the Air Force, and later becoming a pilot in the Navy. His descriptions of the historical background of the Vietnam war were colorful and reflected his strong feelings of patriotism and love of our country. The primary focus of his remarks then shifted to the final evacuation of U.S. and Vietnamese sympathizers from Saigon following the attack by the North Vietnamese Army on the Tan Son Nhut Airbase in April, 1975. He vividly explained the massive helicopter extraction from the U.S. Embassy

in Saigon (now Ho Chi Min City) to ships offshore, where he was present. Over 7000 people were flown by helicopter out of Saigon in just three days in around the clock efforts.

Special Event on the Kissing Sailor and THE Sullivans: Our Post hosted a very special event on January 5 for members and their guests. Hort Spitzer, a member of our Post, arranged a talk by his friend, Hal Burke. It was an inspiring presentation on the famous Sullivan Brothers, including many interesting and little-known facts about the boys and their family. Hal also described in detail the history of the famous Kissing Sailor photo that was taken in Times Square when the Japanese surrendered on 8/14/45. His numerous photos and other memorabilia were extremely interesting. Hal presented each of those present with a copy of the Kissing Sailor photo, as well as a Poster showing the USS The Sullivans. He also gave each attendee a beautiful challenge coin commemorating both the Sullivans and the Kissing Sailor.

Jackson Veterans Monument: As previously reported, our Post completed a major effort to replace the Veterans Monument in the center of the Jackson Town Square. The new Monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020. Last summer, a number of additional names were added to the Monument, and a few names that contained minor errors were corrected. As time goes on, we will periodically add new names as information becomes available to us.

Scholarship Awards: In past years, our Post has provided several scholarships to graduating students at various Jackson Hole High Schools. Last year, we awarded six scholarships in amount of \$1000 each to graduating seniors for use toward continuing education. We are currently reviewing the applicants for the 2023 scholarships.

Boys State Support: Our Post has supported the Boys State program for many years, and we will be sending another delegate this year.

Support of Jackson Hole American Legion Baseball Team: Post 43 is a sponsor of the Jackson American Legion Baseball Team and provides financial support and color guards for important events during the season. Last year, our Post approved awarding two annual scholarships to members of the Post 43 Giants team, in addition to the other scholarships described above. We also provided a new sign for the Giants Baseball Field. We are now discussing how our Post can help support the team in the coming season, which will include hosting the state tournament in Jackson this July.

November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony: Our Post 43 took part in the annual Jackson Veterans Day Cer-

emony on November 11 at the Jackson Town Square. We provided the usual Honor Guard with flag bearers and a rifle squad, and our Post member, Ed Liebrecht, who is also Commander of the Jackson VFW Post, was the master of ceremonies. Our bugler, Judge Tim Day, provided his usual wonderful version of Taps. The ceremony was attended by over 900 students from the Jackson Hole High School, and included the school chorus, which entertained the crowd prior to the start of the ceremony with patriotic music. Our Post member, Karee Jaeger also performed a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem. Ed provided an inspiring overview of his own journey as an Air Force officer during the Vietnam War, and an explanation of why he and other veterans choose to serve our country. Jackson Town Council member Jim Rooks read a proclamation on behalf of the town thanking all veterans for their service, and also reminded the ceremony attendees of the battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War where the temperature was -36 degrees. A video of the ceremony was recorded by the Jackson Hole News & Guide, and can be viewed at the following link on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jhnewsandguide/videos/662328295480409>.

Veterans Day Ruck March and Food Collection: In addition to the Veterans Day Ceremony, members of the community participated in a Veterans Day Ruck March and Food Collection effort. Despite the inclement weather, several people completed the 11-mile hike, some carrying packs with 35 pounds of donated food items. Others dropped off food donations for ultimate transfer to local charities. The Jackson Hole High School stu-

dents collected a large amount of food in support of this effort.

Post 43 Member Turns 105: LTC (ret) Fred Miles, who is resident at St. Johns Sage Living in Jackson, celebrated his 105th birthday on October 25. Fred served over 27 years in the Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force as a pilot in WWII and Korea. He was the recipient of numerous awards and decorations during his long service to our country. We are trying to determine whether Fred may be the oldest currently living member of the American Legion.

Honor Guard Activities: Post 43 has continued to provide honor guards for funeral services. Two different ceremonies were held on October 8 at the Aspen Hill Cemetery in Jackson, both for Navy veterans. Our own Post member, Doug Ayers, passed on November 5 after a six month battle with Leukemia. A Celebration of Life was held for Doug on January 14 at St. John's Church, and a very large turnout of people attended. During the service, an American Flag was presented to Doug's wife, Nancy, on behalf of our Post and a grateful nation.

Post Officers and Chairs:
 Commander: Joe Burke
 Vice-Commander: James Hillman
 2nd Vice Commander: Steve O'Donnell
 Adjutant: Dave Hill
 Finance Officer and Boy's State Chair: Ray Pilgrim
 Sergeant at Arms: Eric Helgoth
 Armorer: Doug Eggers
 Chaplain: Gregg Wogan
 Historian: Bob Hobart
 Oratorical Chair: Crystal Haney
 Legion Baseball Representative: Jim Clouse



Above: Jackson Hole Veterans Day Ceremony, November 11, 2022

Courtesy Photo

District 3 District News and Activities



American Legion Birthday Dinner: Our annual Post 33 Family Birthday dinner will be held on March 18th at the National Guard Armory, 32 Leedy Lane, beginning at 5 pm. There is no cost for the meal and members and their families are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Ken Persson Sr., at 349-2881, text to the same number or e-mail to ppersson@tcinc.net. We need a good headcount so we have enough food for everyone. The menu will include corned beef and cabbage, ham, all the fixin' and strawberry shortcake for dessert. The dinner will be in lieu of our regular March meeting. If you are able to help with set-up please contact 2nd VC Bruce Gallinger at 307-345-4888.

High School Oratory Contest: This year Post 33 again sponsored the annual American Legion High School Oratory contest. This year's winner is Ani Kincaid of Lander Valley High School. Ani was the recipient of our \$250 Ora-

tory scholarship and then moved forward to compete at the District 3 contest where she placed 1st and received a \$200 scholarship. She will now move forward to compete at the Department contest in Douglas on March 5th. Ani is the daughter of Post 33 members Dewey Sutich and Misti Kincaid. Congratulations and good luck at Department. If Ani places 1st at Department she will move forward to Nationals in Indianapolis where she will receive a first round \$2000 scholarship and a chance at \$25,000.

Veterans Crisis Line: On July 16, the Veterans Crisis Line transitioned to a new 3 digit number: 988. The new number is easy to remember and share in times of crisis. Veterans and current military members can dial 988 on any phone and press 1 to speak with a responder trained in crisis management and military culture. Anyone can call if they're worried about a loved one who may need crisis sup-

port. Be the one to help. 1-800-273-8255 is still active.

Avenue of Flags: Thanks again to Vice Commander Keith Trouwborst for coordinating the Avenue of Flags on Main Street. Keith and

have been helping as well. Flags will be out on Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day (July 4), Patriots Day (September 11), and Veterans Day (November 11). De-



Above: Ani Kincaid, pictured with her mother, Misti Kincaid and Post 33 Adjutant PDC Ken Persson Sr. Ani is the 2023 Post 33 as well as District 3 Oratory winner.

his crew have done a great job of setting out and taking down the flags on Patriotic Holidays and observances. Our American Legion Baseball team members and Scouts from Pack 17 and Troop 52

pending on how the holiday falls, flags may be up for several days. The next observance will be Memorial Day. If you are interested in helping, contact Keith at 719-650-6761.

District 4 District News and Activities



**Russell Stafford
District 4 Commander**

Happy Spring!! I hope that this newspaper finds everyone in good health and spirits. District 4 has been busy this new year and will continue to be so at least for the foreseeable future.

On February 4, we conducted our annual Oratorical Contest in Greybull. Thank you Bobby Werner and

Lin Bashford for making sure that the contest went well. We were even able to get Greybull a new member because of the event. This is a great opportunity to remind everyone that every time we do an event it can be a recruitment opportunity.

Greybull will be hosting our Spring Conference on April 1, 2023 at 10am. We will be having a lunch provided and are asking for donations to help offset the cost. I know that the District 4 Auxiliary Units are planning on providing some wonderful goodies to go along with the Chili Lunch. And as always, they are providing us with some yummy breakfast snacks. Thank you Trudy and the Auxiliary for doing this.

I'm proud to announce that we have been the number 1 membership renewal and membership recruiting district in the Department of Wyoming. This has been because

of all the fantastic work done by the post commanders and adjutants. I really cannot stress enough how important it is to remember that everyone of us is a recruiter. Too many times I have heard that because the commander or the adjutant or whoever is in charge of recruiting never contacted me so I just didn't sign up or renew. This is a completely volunteer organization and it only works as hard as the membership does. If you aren't going to try then the organization isn't going to succeed. Stop assuming someone else is going to do the job, because there really is no one else. The buck stops with you.

Remember that the Consolidated Post Reports are ready and you can start filling them out online. The CPR is the record of what your post and membership has done for the year. This report is compiled at

Department level and sent to National, who then reports our activity and volunteering to Congress. The American Legion is the only veteran's organization that has been chartered by Congress and because of this, we have the most pull when it comes to getting veterans and military taken care of. The PACT act was a prime example of this. So was the GI Bill and the VA itself.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Spring Conference on April 1 at 10 am in Greybull. Please stay safe and healthy. And remember to "Be The One".



District 4 Commander
Russell Stafford




**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!!**



District 4 Continued

Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 - Powell



Russell Stafford
Post 26 Commander

Hello everyone and happy spring. Post 26 has been extremely busy these past few months with not only Cornhole league starting, but also with refurbishing of our post home. We were able to secure funding from a local grant that has allowed us to completely redo the duct work in our hall, which was extremely worse than first anticipated, and to raise the ceiling to its original height. Since we were already doing construction, we decided to go ahead and remove those brown, dingy, and depressing wall paneling and replace it with updated and bright walls. Of course we needed to come up to code with

our electrical, so we did that as well. Now we have a beautifully remodeled hall. Don't forget that we also have black lights installed and are now conducting glow bingo on a regular basis. Our open house will be conducted on March 17, 2023 from 4pm to 6pm. This remodel has now opened the eyes of our community and we already have multiple community members using the facility. On Wednesdays at 3pm we are partnering with Anytime Fitness and conducting yoga courses. We are also conducting monthly art projects with Ana Gale. Don't forget that we have Extreme Music Bingo every Friday starting at 7pm. This is an exciting form of bingo that allows for your knowledge of music as well as luck. We of course, continue to have our Friday and Sunday regular bingo. And don't forget that the Cornhole league has started up and is in full throw. Our second annual Cornhole Tournament is coming up in May and already have teams and groups from across the nation planning to attend. Keep your eyes open for the information on this tournament. For information on any of these events please contact a post

officer or drop in at the club.

The other exciting news is that it is once again election time for our post officers. We will have a new post Commander as Russell has opted to progress with the Department officer positions and wishes to be a mentor to a new commander. Danielle Rempfer has announced that she will be running for 2nd Vice Commander, and Todd Johnson will be running for 1st Vice Commander. Please remember that Todd has committed to our Department of Wyoming's Boys State program and as such this will take up a lot of his time. Congratulations by the way to Todd for being selected as the Boys State committee secretary. Speaking of Boys State, we are in the process of accepting applications for the 2023 event. If you know of any students who are in their Junior year of High School, encourage them to apply to either the Boys State or Girls State program.

Once again, Powell has the District 4 winning oratorical contest winner. This makes 5 years in a row. Our contestant will be attending the Department contest in Douglas in March. We are extremely confident

that we will have the Department winner for the 3rd year in a row. Challenge sent out to the other posts in the Department!!

It is that time of the year that we start gearing up for our American Legion Birthday event and it will be held on March 17 at 7pm. Once again our Auxiliare will be providing the cake and helping us to celebrate our 104th year. Please also note that we are going to be gearing up for the annual Avenue of Flags event on Memorial Day.

Exciting news, we will be hosting the National Commander in May. We will be having a special rsvp dinner on May 22, 2023 at 6pm. Only 60 seats will be provided for this dinner. Don't worry though because at 7pm we will open the doors for a meet and greet with everyone who wishes to attend. Please keep a look out for information coming out.

Please stay safe and remember to "Be the ONE!!" This means that we need to continue to reach out to our fellow veterans when we need help.

Sincerely,
Russell Stafford
Commander

Greybull Post 32 - Greybull

Post 32 hosted the District 4 Oratorical contest, this was the first time in several years that an Oratorical contest was held in Greybull.

Special thanks go out to our Judges, Post 32 members Jerry Ewen and Ted Menke as well as Greybull Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Jeff Suket.

We greatly appreciate the support from other posts in District 4 that participated in the event.

Other participants were Lin Bashford of Post 26, Bob West, Roger Hall and Tom Bercher of Post 32, Rich Fink and Nicolle Laffin of Post 11, Frank Lee(?) of Post 44 and John Mabe of Post 85. Without your support we would not have had a successful event. Post 32 is already working with local school officials to start preparing for next year's local contest.



Contest Judge Ted Menke and Jerry Ewen of Post 32, Contest winner, Bobby Werner, Post 32 and Jeff Suket, Greybull Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler.

Revitalization and recruiting efforts continue, we have contacted several members and worked with them to get their membership updated and recently added a new member to our post.

District 4 Commander Russell Stafford performs the initiation ceremony for Tom Bercher



District 4 Commander Russell Stafford (L) and Post 32 Commander Bobby Werner (R) welcome Tom Bercher (C) to Post 32 and The American Legion.



Plans are underway and preparations are in the works for Post 32 to host the District 4 Convention to be held Saturday, April 1st, 2023 at the Greybull Elks Lodge, more information will be sent out.



District 4 Adjutant and Post 32 Commander Bobby Werner congratulates the contest winner.

AMERICAN LEGION 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.

District 5

Monroe-Bland Post 3 Newcastle



Science Fair Newcastle, Wy Feb 1 ,2023 - Monroe-Bland Post 3, in Newcastle Wy, had the privilege to be included as judges- Vice Commander John Sandoval, Duke Ottema, and Chaplin Mick Bohn, of the Science Fair, at Newcastle High school...and the winner was Jayden Harrington. She won a \$500.00 scholarship to any college of her choice. Congratulations Jaden!



WALRUS Update



Greetings fellow Riders. It was good to see those of you who were able to make it to MidWinter. Those of us who were able to attend talked about several things. First, we are going to be working on getting our social media back up and running. We hope that it will help us have better communication and information sharing among the chapters. We are also looking into the possibility of a website dedicated to the Riders. Second, I would like to put together a list of contacts that we can distribute throughout the Department. If you would send the name and contact information for your chapter to shharris@wyoming.com, I will get the directory put together and sent out. Please be sure to include preferred mailing address, phone number and email. Third, riding season will be on us before we know it and it would be nice to put a ride schedule together that includes the events, rides and activities for each Chapter. As soon as you know your dates and specifics, email them to me so we

can put a calendar together and send it out to the various Chapters. Hopefully, we can support each other in the coming riding season. Finally, have you heard about 100 Miles for hope? It's a fundraising drive where all proceeds benefit the American Legion's Veterans and Children's Foundation. If each of our Chapters were able to put on a short (100 mile) fun run and the entry to ride was a donation that could be sent into the Department prior to August 15, the Department Representatives would be able to present those funds on the floor of National Convention. I encourage you to work in your local Chapters to put on a run to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. Thank you for all you do in your local Posts, Units, Squadrons and Riders Chapters.
Shane Harris,
WALRUS Director

Monroe-Bland Post 3 Newcastle

WC ALR District 5 Post 3 Newcastle Totes of Hope Silent Auction

On February 22, the WC American Legion Riders of District 5 Post 3 out of Newcastle, WY worked together on a Silent Auction Basket for the "Totes of Hope" benefit fundraiser which was held on February 23rd during the local Newcastle High School basketball games. The WC ALR basket raised \$100 for the "Totes of Hope" benefit. Newcastle Totes of Hope is an organization dedicated to providing meals for the weekends for food insecure students. It was initiated in 2012 with 30 bags per week sent home. There have been as many as 90 per week since then, with 71 presently. One in three students attending school in Newcastle qualify for free or reduced meals at school. The organization is operated totally by volunteers with all funding received from donations or grants. Food is ordered from the Food Bank of the Rockies in Casper, WY where they are able to get the most food for their money. Totes of Hope also orders fresh fruits and vegetables from the local grocery stores in Newcastle to try to provide the healthiest meals possible. Volunteers help pack the bags every week. These volunteers include church groups, high school FBLA students, retired volunteers as well as local business individ-

uals when available. Inspirational cards are also included in the bags each week which many students look forward to reading. The bags are then placed confidentially in their backpacks or lockers at the end of the week. Totes of Hope provides bags every week throughout the school year and supply students food throughout the summer making bags available on the local bookmobile or with delivery by the bus drivers. They hope to continue the Totes of Hope Program for years to come as they have seen what a difference it makes to students as they learn and grow. The Totes of Hope Program presently provides food to the elementary, middle school and high school students (Eileen Vickers - TOH). The Silent Auction raised \$5,320 for Totes of Hope during the basketball games, which the local Newcastle High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) group organized for them as part of their community service commitment. The WC American Legion Riders were proud to support such a worthy cause in our community. Riders Lead the Way!
Kirk A. Will, Director
WC ALR District 5 Post 3
WY ALR Sgt. At Arms



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Sandoval
Cindy Sandoval, Rhonda Reed, Deb French and Ann Will (Left to Right)

District 5 Legion Riders

AMERICAN LEGION POST 42 RIDERS LYNN AND VICKIE BROWN PRESENT WREATHS TO VETERANS AT PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY





District 5 Continued Legion Riders



Holiday Celebration with WC American Legion Riders Post 3



The Weston County American Legion Riders started off the month of December by participating in Pinnacle Bank's 19th Annual Festival of Trees on the 2nd of December. Wreaths were donated to local businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals to decorate and then be auctioned off to help support non-profit organizations of Pinnacle Bank's choice in our community. In the spirit of caring our ALR group chose to decorate a wreath to benefit our non-profit organizations. Members, Deb French, and Ann Will took on the task of designing and decorating the wreath – which brought in \$600.00 at the auction – purchased by Newcastle's Black Hills Dental Group! Our local business, Lunatic's, owned by our ALR member, Anthony Sandoval, contributed a monetary donation of \$100.00 in support of decorations for our wreath along with other decorations donated by members, Kirk & Ann Will and

Deb French. With keeping in the giving spirit of Christmas, on Sunday, December 11th a group of the WC ALR members gathered and visited with our local Veterans at the retirement centers. We joined the Veterans, residents and the ministerial association in singing Christmas Carols and then presented each Veteran with cards and a monetary gift. Old fashioned peppermint candies were handed out by our very own Santa, John Sandoval, and the candies were enjoyed by all who attended. Deb French shared this comment from a fellow Veteran residing in one of the retirement centers – "It's been a long time since I had cold hard cash in my wallet!" It's the little things we can give to our Veterans that mean the most – time, camaraderie and other meaningful gifts from the heart!

To round off our December celebrations, Ann and I

hosted a Christmas Party at our home to enjoy some fellowship with our American Legion Rider members. Amazing snacks and appetizers were brought by all who attended and were enjoyed with the hot chocolate, homemade apple cider, and eggnog that was served. Deb French, Christmas game coordinator, created a massive saran wrap ball with small gifts hidden inside that fell out as it was unrolled during an exciting shake of the dice (rolling doubles were the hit of the game to be able to take a turn at finding some treasure). Needless to say – I witnessed some NOT so sharing like behaviors in our little group. LOL There was lots of laughter, friendship, great food, and drinks shared by all who joined us in celebration of each other!

Riders Lead the Way!
Kirk A. Will, Director - Weston County American Legion Riders Post 3, District 5



**Vanessa Stuart
Commander District 6**

- Francis E. Self Post 6 CDR, Bill Barnes, went to the Military Appreciation at the Senate and House of Rep. at the Capitol on Feb 2. representing post 6. Post 6 Honor Guard CDR Terry Harbick and Past Post CDR Russ Telander were on the floor in support of the family of former Vietnam POW Theodore Gostas.
- Post 6 will also be supporting the local JROTC at their awards ceremonies this spring.
- Husted-Pendleton Post 14 had the honor of being the kickoff point for the 307 VetConnect part of WY

District 6 News, Events etc.



First Lady Jennie Gordon's Hunger Initiative on Feb 1. Several local community programs had booths on site and a free soup supper was served to all who attended.

The Laramie High School Rodeo held its annual fundraiser dinner and



Courtesy of Vanessa Stuart
Above: LHS Rodeo Club, Todd Miller, Deanna Hurless, SAL member Derek Mancinho

honored Legionnaire Todd Miller, Post 14 Rodeo Club chairman, for all the hard work he does for the LHS rodeo club.

- Post 14 has also initiated a Fish

FRYday every Friday, 5:30-7:30pm which is open to the public. It has been well received and growing in numbers since it started in January.

- Unit 14 is continuing to hold its Soup Saturday the 4th Saturday each month which has grown in popularity. Karaoke follows the delicious soups, salad, and dessert.

- Angus England Post 54, would like to announce the Governor will be here March 25th at 8 am. We will pick him and his people up at the airport and bring him to the Legion for about 45 mins. We are his first stop. We are serving homemade cinnamon rolls, coffee and water. Governor Gordon would like to talk to as many veterans as he can. Come on down.

- Donald W. Eisenhower Post 60 held its annual Christmas Social in December, which is one of the annual fund raisers. They served Rocky mountain oysters, smoked beef brisket with all the trimming. During the event, a silent auction was held. It was a great evening.

- On February 5, Post 60 held a soup luncheon and a movie in honor of the Four Chaplains. Several different soups were on hand as well as little sandwiches and desserts. It was well attended, by members and the public.

- Post 60 also held a Sunday movie and snacks to view the movie 'Dear Sirs' on February 19. This is a wonderful tribute to a grandfather from his grandson. It follows the story of a grandson's journey to go to Europe and travel where his grandfather had gone during World War II.



Courtesy of Penny Merryfield
Above: Early attendees waiting for the movie to start.



District 6 Continued Post 6 News, Events etc.

Post 6

Meeting and Elections

Annual meeting and Post elections will be held on 8 March starting at 7:00pm. Your current Post 6 credentials will be verified prior to the election.

Annual St. Patrick's Day Lunch

The post will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day lunch on March 17th.

Starting at 1100 hours and going until the food is gone. Jim Wilkinson will be performing in the lounge from noon to 4 p.m. Don't forget to get your tickets for the booze, cooler and chair. Drawing will be held that day. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Available at the bar.

District Meeting

The spring meeting of District 6, Department of Wyoming will be held on April 22, in Pine Bluffs starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served

also. Come out and meet some of your fellow Legionnaires in the area and enjoy some good company and see what your District is doing.

The Post 6 Honor Guard is always looking for new members. This is a great organization promoting The American Legion and also honoring our fallen veterans. Wind, rain or shine! The Post 6 Honor Guard is continually' busy and needing new members. They are always out performing their important duties.



Bill Barmes, Commander Francis E. Self, Post 6



Penny Merryfield, Post 60

Post 60 News, Events etc.

Dear Sirs

A Grandson's journey in his grandfather's footsteps

Sgt. Pedri was in the 95th Infantry in the Army. He was drafted and sent to war. During his time in the war, Pedri and his platoon would be captured and became prisoners of war. This was an unknown fact that wasn't discovered by his family until ten years after Sgt. Pedri's death.

Grandpa Pedri was already a hero in his grandson's eyes but now Mark Pedri would see his grandfather in a total different light. Now he was a military man, a Veteran, and a Prisoner of War, also.

This gave Mark Pedri a side of his grandfather he did not know.

After some serious thinking and planning, Mark Pedri set off on a tour of where his grandfather had traveled with the Army and as a POW, including where he was encamped and held.

After getting beverages, and snacks, the movie watchers settled into their seats and waited for the movie to start.

The Donald Eisenhower American Legion and Auxiliary Unit 60 provided the snacks, appetizers, and beverages for the movie. Food consisted of: popcorn, taquitos, beans, salsa beef sausage,

cheese, cinnamon rolls, strawberry puffs, bbq little smokies, and chocolate truffles.

"At times the movie was hard to watch," said one of the viewers, "knowing this is what my uncle went through. It is very moving, and brought tears to my eyes."

Everyone who attended spoke highly of the event, and is looking forward to the next movie event next month. While most of the movies will be military related, an occasional "comedy or other type of movie" might be available for everyone to enjoy.

We thank Mark Pedri for his moving account of his grandfather - Silvio Pedri and the wonderful story he has shared with the world.

The Donald Eisenhower American Legion Post 60 and Auxiliary Unit 60 thanks everyone who came to see the movie, and hope to see you next time.



Courtesy of Amy Votruba

Above: Members of the Legion and Auxiliary enjoy the movie 'Dear Sirs' with guests.



Wyoming Veterans Commission



NASDVA

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

Executive Director and Junior Vice President -NASDVA



Tim Sheppard Wyoming Veteran's Commission Exec. Dir.

tribut of Kiwanis. In short, he loves people, especially veterans, and is dedicated to helping them understand their benefits and how to attain them.

Recently, at the mid-winter conference in Arlington, Virginia, he was elected to serve as the junior vice president for the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs or NASDVA. This is a three year commitment culminating in a year as association president. "I am both humbled by the confidence the association has shown in me and excited by the opportunities this experience will present," stated Sheppard.

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) is an organization with the history dating back to 1946 in the aftermath of World War II many veterans earned state and federal benefits, which required coordinated efforts to ensure veterans received these entitlements. Thus states developed a department or agency specifically to manage veterans affairs and carry out the responsibility for veterans ser-

vices and programming, NASDVA was formed to connect the leaders of these agencies in order to foster the effective representation of persons, claiming entitlements on account of the honorable military service of any person as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101 provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and information, facilitate reciprocal state services, secure, uniformity, equality, efficiency and effectiveness and providing services to veterans and their family members in all states and territories, and maintain an interest in all veteran legislation.

The NASDVA members represent all 50 states the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands nationally. We are the second largest provider of services to veterans and our roles continue to expand state directors as leaders of governmental agencies are tasked by their respective governors state boards, and or commissions with a Responsibility to address the needs of veterans regardless of age,

gender era of service, military branch or circumstance of service collectively states contribute more than \$6 billion annually in service of our nations veterans, and their families we are connected by the bonds of honorable service and united by our common goal, to make a positive difference in the lives of our veterans and their families



Courtesy Photo

Above: Members of the new board are sworn in. Tim Sheppard (WY) is back row, second from left.

Tim Sheppard serves as the Commission's Executive Director. He served in the Army and the National Guard for more than 40 years rising from private to colonel over the course of that time. He holds a master of science degree in strategic studies and is extremely proud to hold the title of Distinguished Past Governor of the Rocky Mountain Dis-

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 Hurless
Department Finance Officer**

Deanna Hurless for Department Finance Officer Husted-Pendleton Post 14 Endorses Deanna Hurless 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.





Table with 5 columns: Post, 2023 Goal, Actual, %, To meet Target. Rows include Rock Springs, Green River, Ft. Bridger, etc.

Table with 5 columns: Post, 2023 Goal, Actual, %, To meet Target. Rows include Van Tassell, Lusk, Torrington, etc.

Current as of: 4-Mar-2023
'For God and Country'

The American Legion 104th Birthday 2023

The American Legion Media & Communications Division

Milton J. Foreman was a distinguished general, a World War One hero and a founder of The American Legion.

In 1921, Foreman provided a roadmap for service and national unity in an Armistice address at the University of Illinois.

'Between good and bad no armistice is possible; the fight goes on and on; the sound of its cannon can never cease, as it ceased three years ago in France,' he told the crowd.

On the day of Foreman's Armistice Day speech, fellow American Legion founder Hamilton Fish, Junior, a powerful member of Congress, stood at Arlington National Cemetery for the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Though Past National Commander Foreman did not live to see the horrors of World War Two, his call for training, service, unity, courage and endurance would be answered by the next generation of Americans.

It was Foreman's contemporaries in The American Legion who would create the greatest domestic legislation ever passed by Congress - the GI Bill of Rights.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 would make higher education, home loans, vocational training and readjustment compensation available to those who honorably answered the nation's call during what many viewed as a war for survival.

On the back of every American Legion membership card is the Preamble to our organization's Constitution. In the Preamble, we pledge to 'make right the master of might.'

The American Legion has always believed in 'Might.' It is why our founders included a strong national defense as one of our Four Pillars.

While many of America's wartime enemies had strong militaries, The American Legion understood Foreman's warning that between good and bad no armistice was possible.

For too many veterans, the war does not end when the guns fall silent. Last year, The American Legion witnessed the signing of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act.

Thousands of Legionnaires worldwide wrote, called, visited and messaged lawmakers. They reminded Congress that elected officials should serve veterans as well as veterans have served America.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now mandated to conduct annual Buddy Check Weeks, an initiative started by The American Legion.

There is no single answer to solving the tragedy that thousands of veterans each year die by their own hand. American Legion National Commander Jim Troiola (Tree ola) simply asks that we each commit to 'be the one to save one.'

Since our founding, The American Legion has understood that service encompasses far more than military duty and commitment to veterans.

It is an obligation to our communities, and especially, the youth of America. From Boys & Girls State...to Shooting Sports...to Baseball...to Oratorical contests...The American Legion Family offers the finest programs and scholarship opportunities of any service organization in the country.

An important aspect of our American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation is its training of a strong corps of service officers but that is only part of its mission.

The Veterans & Children Foundation also provides Temporary Financial Assistance to Legion and military families in need due to expenses related to food,

shelter, utilities and health.

These are just a few of the programs in which The American Legion delivers on its motto of Veterans Strengthening America.

The American Legion's true strength does not come from the corridors of Congress or from its national headquarters. It comes from the communities. It is on display when residents of a storm-stricken town take refuge at an American Legion post that is converted into a makeshift emergency shelter.

The strength is in an American Legion job fair, post meeting or troop homecoming event. The American Legion's strength is felt when a group of cap-wearing veterans visit patients at a VA hospital.

The strength of the Legion resonates when volunteers speak about their military experience in school classrooms on Veterans Day.

The American Legion strength is seen when an honor guard pays respects at a veteran's funeral or a Rider's chapter raises awareness for a worthy cause.

One hundred and four years ago, a committed group of World War One veterans from the United States met in Paris, France with a broad vision. Included among their goals was 'to inculcate the duty and obligation of the citizen to the state.'

More than a century later - the duty, obligation and national feeling desired by the founders exists in abundance. It can be found at more than 12,000 American Legion posts around the globe.

Thank you and God Bless our American Legion.





High School Oratorical

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship

three contestants did an amazing job. The girls placed in the following order, 1st place; Emma Johnson sponsored by Hughes-Pettinger Post 26, 2nd place Ani (Pronounced AH nee) Kincaid sponsored by Dan Stough Post 33, 3rd place Sophia Cozzens sponsored by Archie Hay Post 24. Ms Johnson will represent Wyoming in Indianapolis, Indiana next month at the national contest.

Thank you to every post and district who supported this program and held a contest. Nationally, the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest is in its 86th year, with contests being held in Wyoming since 1958. Where have your Department winners hailed from? Five from District 1, twelve from District 2, twenty from District 3, eight from District 4, two from District 5, and nineteen from District 6. With the very first winner being Diane Wunnicke from Francis E Self Post 6.

Don York, Chairman



Courtesy Photo Above: Doug Johnson- 1st Vice Commander, Emma Johnson, and Don York, Oratorical Chairman. Below: Sophia Cozzens, Ani Kincaid, Emma Johnson.



Donald L. York
Chairman

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The Department of Wyoming Oratorical contest was held in Douglas on March 5, 2023. We had three contestants representing Districts 1, 3, and 4. The Oratorical contest consisted of an 8 to 10 minute prepared and memorized oration and then a 3 to 5 minute dissertation on the assigned topic. The assigned topic this year was Amendment XIV, section 1 to the US Constitution. All



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Courtesy Photo

Steve Bickford SAL member received an award for outstanding work at Post 42 for putting in a new door in at Post 42 from First Vice Ace Jackson.

Are you a SON? We want you!

to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion Sons of The American Legion Eligibility

Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, and December 7, 1941, to date, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion

All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American

Membership As of
03/05/23

Detachment Target Date
3/15/2023 80%

DISTRICT	SQUADRON	CITY	YEAR END GOAL	ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP	% of YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET TARGET
3	2	Casper	32	12	37.50%	14
2	5	Torrington	60	49	81.67%	0
6	6	Cheyenne	152	117	76.97%	5
5	7	Sheridan	60	36	60.00%	12
2	8	Douglas	44	44	100.00%	0
5	13	Buffalo	23	21	91.30%	0
6	14	Laramie	50	28	56.00%	12
1	24	Rock Springs	237	174	73.42%	16
5	25	Moorcroft	10		0.00%	8
4	26	Powell	30	29	96.67%	0
1	28	Green River	110	92	83.64%	0
3	33	Lander	42	30	71.43%	4
1	36	Ft. Bridger	36	16	44.44%	13
5	42	Gillette	201	170	84.58%	0
1	43	Jackson	16	18	112.50%	0
4	44	Worland	120	94	78.33%	2
1	47	Pinedale	10		0.00%	8
6	54	Saratoga	51	52	101.96%	0
6	60	Pine Bluffs	10		0.00%	8
5	80	Hulett	11	13	118.18%	0
6	122	Rawlins	15	6	40.00%	6
	Goal for	Detachment	1320	1001	75.83%	55
		National	1298	1001	77.12%	37

THE MID-WINTER WORKSHOP OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING
JANUARY 13-14 2023, CASPER, WYOMING





American Legion Auxiliary News



“Cowboy Up for Our Veterans”

Tammy Harris, Department President

Tonight, as I write this, I am home from a weekend trip to Las Vegas for Mission Training. If you haven't attended one, I strongly encourage you to find one next year to attend. It is well worth the trip to meet other people who are working toward the same purpose. Despite the weather and multitude of closed roads, some of us were able to make it to Casper for Midwinter where we spent the day working in small groups, bouncing ideas off of each other, meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends. For those of you who had planned to attend, but were unable to because of the weather we

missed you. Had the weather been more cooperative, we would most certainly have had a packed house.

The Department has seen a lot of changes this year. We have been hosting monthly Zoom meetings with the Department officers and program chairs. If you attended either Fall Workshop or Mid Winter, you saw some of those changes in action. Making these changes was a little frightening because there was a chance that this would flop. Fear of failure can be paralyzing. But where would we be in this world if Thomas Edison had not tried to make a lightbulb? Or if he gave up after the

first failed attempt, the 10th or even the 999th? Edison didn't fail in his endeavors 1000 times, but he learned a thousand ways to not make a lightbulb. He didn't let fear or even failed attempts stop him—he kept going until he succeeded. As we have worked through the year, we are continually adapting the format of our Zoom meetings based on the feedback received.

On a final note, I have been approached and asked to consider remaining in this role for another year to help solidify some of the changes we have made and to help keep the momentum going. After a great deal of

consideration, consultation with my family, my Unit and with Vice President Leila, I have agreed to serve one more year if you will have me. Leila and I will work together in the coming year to bring you fresh and innovative ways to deliver program content and will continue with regular meetings via Zoom with the program chairs.

I hope to see you at Spring Conferences this year and leave you with this quote from Robert F. Kennedy, “Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” As we finish out this year, I challenge each of you to dare to fail greatly. It



Tammy Harris
President

is not for the faint of heart, but in daring to fail greatly, we will most certainly achieve great things.

Tammy Harris

News from your Secretary

Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary



I'm not sure where the time goes but we are winding down our Auxiliary reporting year. I'll get a head start. The Department continues to run smoothly (except for an occasional goof). One of those goofs is on the website calendar. Unit reports are due to Department Chairman by April 15th. Your District President will let you know when your President Report, Poppy Posters, etc. are due.

I know I'm repeating myself, but I want to thank all the unit membership chairmen for the outstanding job you have done this year. You have made my job entering membership for Na-

tional the best year yet.

We have a problem that all members can help with. The Department received many returned newspapers for incorrect addresses or deceased. The Post Office charges \$0.60 for each returned paper. Please notify your Unit President if you have changed your address or have a deceased member or receiving more than 1 paper. Some members have requested to not receive the Department newspaper. If you would rather not receive the paper, notify your President. The newspaper can also be read on the Department Information Page (after the Officers) on our Website: www.wylegionaux.org

Department will be sending out invoices the 5th of March. These invoices will be for District Assessments (if your District is charging) and poppies (if you didn't send payment with your order). I would appreciate all invoices paid by April 15th.

REMINDER: The National dues share is increasing \$6.00 starting July 1, 2023. Units MUST vote on the dues increase. I need the new dues amount no later than April 25th. April 1st is my deadline to National for the membership roster for your packet. Please make sure you have sent in all renewals and new members no later than March 29, 2023.

National Poppy Day May 26, 2023



be used. As outlined in the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program Guide, Poppy funds collected after the 2013 and the 2014 revisions may only be used for;

The rehabilitation of Veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917;

For the welfare of the families of Veterans honorably discharged after April 6, 1917;

For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;

For the welfare of Veterans, active military personnel and the families of Veterans and active military personnel after April 6, 1917, where financial and medical need is evident.

Poppy funds collected before this resolution can be carried over but should not be co-mingled with funds collected after the revisions of 2013 and 2014. These earlier funds collected prior to this resolution are to be solely used for the intent and purposes of prior resolutions and not for active service members and their families as stated.

The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program Guide can be found on the national website at www.alaforveterans.org and is a free download. This guide provides the latest information on the expanded ways to use the Poppy to raise funds and awareness. You can also purchase pre-printed copies of the guide through Emblem Sales at <http://emblem.legion.org>

Let us recap Poppy, P - (Promote) - o - P - (Participate) - P - (Provide) - y.

Now let us get out in our communities and promote our Poppy Program, participate in collecting funds and with those funds provide much needed services to our Veterans, active military personnel and their families.

Article from the Central Division Poppy Chairman



Linda York
Poppy Chairman

Provide

Provide, the third “P” in Poppy is used to help American Legion Auxiliary members become aware of the changes made in how Poppy funds can



"In the Clouds"

In Memoriam

Ilse Wallace 72 year Member Unit 26
Toni Elliot-Steinke Dual Member

Sympathy

Tom Wallace - Loss of mother Unit 26
Debbie Gray - Loss of father Unit 6
Jessie Pacheco - Loss of brother Unit 6
Family of Edde Anderson Unit 6
Pam Eppich - Loss of family member Unit 6
Stella Trujillo - Loss of family members Unit 6
Jennette Fisher - Loss of brother Unit 64
Patti Bustos - Loss of Husband Unit 26
Family of Toni Elliot-Loss of Toni - Dual Member
Edie Taffner - Loss of brother Unit 13
Wendi Stovall - Loss of Grandfather Unit 26
Mr and Mrs Allen Wood - Loss of mother Unit 6
Cheryl Grandstaff - Loss of Mother Unit 70

Get Well

Tammy Harris- Foot Surgery Unit 28
Patricia Stange - Sick Unit 6
Margie Sanborne and husband
Covid Unit 15
Arlene Goodchild Unit 26
Diane Duran Shoulder Surgery Unit 6
Tita Garcia III Unit 6
Dora Jones III Unit 6

Michelle Gibbs Health issues Unit 6
Ruth Ross III Unit 26
Benita Hardinger III Unit 24
Wanda Lorenz III Unit 15
Martie Harbick III Unit 6

Thinking of You

Inez Todd Birthday Unit 15
Marie Wilson Birthday Unit 15
Robin Krizan Birthday Unit 15
Sherry Sullivan Unit 6
Bobbie Gersch Unit 6

Thank You

Gail Keeler Unit 6
Diane Meidinger Unit 28
Kim Britton Unit 15
Jackie Bauder Unit 15
Lisa Wendling Thank you for your service Unit 15
Inez Todd Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Dana Sanborn Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Marnie Prochniak Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Rita Meyer Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Wanda Lorenz Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Libby Lancaster Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Kathy Fulton Thank You for Your Service Unit 15
Sage Bridger Unit 15



From the Chaplain's Desk

The Cowboy Code....



**Judith Killion
Chaplain**

The Cowboy Code

1. Live each day with courage
2. Take pride in your work
3. Always finish what you start
4. Do what has to be done
5. Be tough, but fair
6. When you make a promise, keep it
7. Ride for the brand
8. Talk less and say more
9. Remember that some things aren't for sale
10. Know where to draw the line.

"Do what has to be done"- Sounds easy but it's not. This covers a multitude of things we sometimes forget to consider. It

all applies to our spiritual as well as physical lives and our service to others. So, what are some of the things we need to consider? We should always remember our audience, our purpose, timelines, resources, expected outcomes, and even second chances. Consider all these things and then do what must be done, in the most effective way possible. If we apply Cowboy Logic and biblical principles, sprinkled with love and kindness we just might be successful.

As we look at our organization or our personal lives and what must be done, where do we start? Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has a plan for us-to help us, so we start with prayer and trust. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us there is a time and purpose for everything. Consider the timing of what you need to do-will it fulfill your purpose, is it effective timing for your audience as well as for you? Audience and purpose affect everything we do in our spiritual lives, our personal lives, and in our or-

ganization. Not everything we do will apply to every audience, even if our purpose is the same.

Same purpose, different audiences, and effective timelines all require resources-many resources. What works for one audience will not work for another. Consider that, in Jesus time, the people of Samaria needed to be approached differently than the people in Jerusalem, or in Nazareth. All these people needed different approaches as do the varied people we seek to serve through membership, activities, and leadership. If you read the scriptures with an open mind and heart you will see that Jesus went to where the audience was; he did not expect them to always seek him. Audience, purpose, timelines, and resources all need to be factored in to reach the intended goal.

Setting goals, having expected outcomes, helps us plan what it is we need to do. It works for our spiritual growth-do we need to become more dedicated, passionate, or disciplined. It works in

our personal life-maybe it's fixing a relationship, or budgeting better, or learning something new. In our organization it might be about membership, or events, or involvement, or outreach-whatever it is we need to have goals so we know when we have achieved or what we need to work on.

What we often find is that there are many things we need to work on - to develop more or maybe to change or let go of all together. When this happens it requires new approaches, second chances, the ability to be flexible. When we have considered audience, purpose, timelines, resources, and outcomes we need to make allowances for those possible second chances, be tough but fair with implementing our purpose, in all areas of our lives and sprinkle everything with a generous dose of love and kindness. Remember that God has a plan for us in all areas of our lives-spiritually, personally, and even in the things we are involved in, especially when we are serving others.



Membership



Cathey Raymer
Membership Chairman

Campfire Chat

WOW! What a winter it has been so far. I don't know about you but I feel like I need to be sitting in the fire to keep from freezing.

Eligibility and the "Why".

Eligibility is how you are able to join the American Legion Auxiliary. That loved one that is a veteran, be it spouse, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother or brother. The "Why" to me is your passion.

I will share with you my "Why".

I joined through my husband who is a Vietnam Veteran. I could have joined through my father who was a Korean War Veteran.

Growing up, my father never talked about his time in the Army. We knew that he was wounded in Korea. My sisters and I used to sneak into my parents bedroom so that we could look at his medal, which was a beautiful bronze star on a red ribbon. Years after he passed, I found

out he was awarded a Purple Heart that he destroyed. My Dad had some problems but we thought "that's just Dad".

Fast forward a number of years and I met my husband. We dated about a month before he told me that he was in the Army and served in Vietnam. I pushed for him to go to the VA to get a physical because he hadn't had one in years. I told him to not be like my dad and that he earned it. It took awhile but it saved his life. Watching him navigate the VA system through 13 years to get his benefits was to say the least frustrating. I learned a lot and realized some of my Dad's behavior was from PTSD (even though it wasn't called that then).

Ten years ago, I met my friend Linda who invited me to join the Auxiliary. As I learned about who the Auxiliary is and their programs; I found my passion, my "Why". I could help other veterans and maybe bring a smile to a face or two. The youth programs bring some hope for the future.

The person that made it possible for you to join the Auxiliary brought a face to your "Why". When you remember your "Why" it makes it easier to pay the dues every year. Your "Why" helps you to attend the meetings, to help with a program and to step up and volunteer for an office in your Unit, in the District or in the Department.

What is your "Why"?

Cathey Raymer

Department Membership Chairman



Americanism

Cathey Raymer, Chair

Americanism Essay Contest!!

Yes, it's that time. Have you contacted your schools, home schoolers, 4-H Clubs and/or Boys and Girls Scouts? Are they busy writing and rewriting their essays? Have you planned a special event for your essay writers?

This year's theme is "What does Patriotism mean to me?"

Remember their cover sheets need to be completed and legible. If they win both at the Department level and Northwest Division level; we need to be able to contact them so that they receive their

certificates and prize MONEY! Completed means that all of the information in the checklist section, the student information and the Auxiliary section. Word count is very important. If they go over the count according to their class, they will be disqualified. They work too hard to have that happen.

Deadline to me is March 31st! If you have any questions, please contact me.

I look forward to reading your winning essays.

Americanism – Kathy Raymer



Community Service

Hi Ya'll,

First off, thanks to all of you for all that you do for our organization. I am looking forward to hearing from all of you with your reports. I think that we all know how important it is to be an active part of our community. It is only through interaction with others that we can continue to recruit members and grow the organization. Without members, the ALA is unable to fulfill the mission.

I know how overwhelming it can be to think about getting your reports done. Just remember you are not going to fail at it, but being able brag about the great

things that your unit has done is a good thing. And sharing these ideas with other units is even better! Please include lots of pictures with your report. The due date for this report is April 15, 2023. You can send your report to me at my home, or through e-mail, or both. Please remember to use a cover sheet (found on the Department website). I can't wait to hear about all that you have done.

Jenn Dansereau

718 Ridge Ave.

Rock Springs, WY 82901

jennmstone96@gmail.com

Leadership



End of the year - Leadership

dence and skills to carry out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. No matter the experience, education, or technical skills, anyone can be and/or trained to be a leader if they are willing to make a commitment, devote their time and energy to listen, learn, and communicate.

Some examples of leadership in action are: following Parliamentary procedure, attending Mission Training, attending Unit and/or Department meetings, taking advantage of ALA Online Academy training, or a description of any way your unit enhances or encourages new leaders.

Please have your Unit report submitted by April 15. These

can be submitted either electronically or via USPS. Please be sure to include a cover sheet.

Unit Member of the Year

The Unit Member of the Year award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. This award is designed to recognize dedicated members of the ALA who time and talent to further the mission of our organization but have no desire to serve beyond the unit level. Each unit may select one candidate for Unit Member of the Year.

Submit a narrative of 1,000

words or less. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address.

Recognition of the winners occurs at the American Legion Auxiliary's national convention. The application deadline at the Department level is May 1, 2023.

I look forward to seeing these reports and sharing your accomplishments with all units within the Department.

My address is:

Susan Dansereau

2110 Wyoming Drive

Green River, WY 82935

dansereau_r_f@hotmail.com



Susan Dansereau
Leadership Chairman

End of the Year reports:

The purpose of the Leadership program is to develop existing leaders and enhance members' knowledge to better equip members with the confi-





Children & Youth Committee

CHILDREN & YOUTH/CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

KEY PROGRAM STATEMENTS:

As we move into Spring, there are many opportunities for the Units to help/support our Children & Youth including:

Month of the Military Child - Since 1938, we have acknowledged military children during the month of April. Military children face numerous challenges and difficulties as well as missing their parents because of their parents' service. Today, more than 1.6 million children face these challenges. This is an opportunity to let them know they are not forgotten and are appreciated. What can your Unit do? One easy thing is to wear Purple on April 15th. Or, as a fundraiser, sell something purple and raise awareness at the same time. Have fun and show your appreciation. Also, if you have an event during the month of April, present the "Military Child's Table Setting Program".

Donate books or volunteer to read to students in your local schools

Support local Boys/Girls Clubs of America or Big Brothers/Big Sister programs

Start or support a Shooting Sports program; Hunter Safety; Halloween Safety; Fund and/or advertise scholarship opportunities including Legacy Run Scholarship; Fight childhood food insecurity including supporting local food banks and the "Troop & Family Kids Against Hunger" program.

And don't forget the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), whether your Unit makes a direct donation or supports

their Legion or Squadron's fundraising efforts.

(The Child Welfare Foundation was established in 1954 and is a program through the American Legion established to enhance the lives of children. Directly from the CWF website, it states, "Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth." Remember it is all about the kids. For more information on the Child Welfare Foundation and how you can contribute to their mission go to: <http://www.cwf-inc.org/>)

Special thanks to all those Units who hosted Halloween or Christmas parties in their communities.

Don't forget to keep track of the hours, in kind donations, and money spent & complete your Unit Impact Report!

Respectfully submitted, Shareen Johnson, Department Children & Youth Chairman

Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

C&Y Chairman: (or Youth #1)

"We will begin today with a ceremony to honor our military children."

"Our United States military members answer the call to service every day as

they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the service member, but also for their family, their children."

"When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, 'Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.' Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts. We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new Victory garden. In this garden, we can tend to the needs of the military child."

"Today we would like to present to you the Military Child's Table Setting, inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony, to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children."

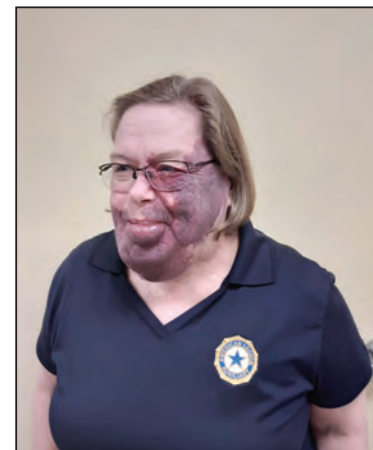
"The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted." (Youth #2 Enters carrying Potted Flowering Plant and sets on table.)

C&Y Chairman: (or Youth #1)

"The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment's notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends and acclimate themselves to a new school." (Youth #3 enters carrying Hand Spade and sets on table.)

C&Y Chairman: (or Youth #1)

"The Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles...Baseball Glove and Ball...and



Shareen Johnson
Children & Youth Chairman

Ballet Slippers represent the fact that sometimes special occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their country." (Youth #4, 5, & 6 enter carrying Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles...Baseball Glove and Ball...and Ballet Slippers and set on table.)

C&Y Chairman: (or Youth #1)

"The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parent represents the foundation of our country's strength... (Youth #7 enters carrying Family Photo and sets on table.)

C&Y Chairman: (or Youth #1)

"families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad...to ensure that our flag continues to fly free." (Youth #8 enters carrying the United States Flag and sets on table.)

ALL: Amen.

form can be found on the Wyoming Girls State Website under Unit Chairman. Make sure to have the signature of the local high school principal, your Unit chairman, the parents of the delegates and the delegates themselves. You can scan and email their registration if that is easier for you. Please mail their registration to: Wyoming Girls State Director, 1410 Big Horn Ave, Sheridan, WY 82801. The fee for registration is still \$30 this year. May 1st you will need to send the delegate fee to the same address (change from last year).

I look forward to seeing your forms.

Girls State will be June 4-10th at Laramie Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Wyoming Girls State Director email is wygdsdirector@gmail.com. I am looking forward to a great session this year. So many of you give so much of your time and money to this great program, please know it is deeply appreciated and changes the lives of many young women. Please help, tell everyone one you know about girls state, youth groups, FCA, FFA, 4H, Sports, High School. This is such a great opportunity that we want as many of our youth to experience as possible. Email me if you have any questions or need help. The goal is 100 delegates this year! That's 1 more delegate from every unit! We can do it!

Sincerely, Dawn Kennedy

Unit 7 Sheridan

Wyoming Girls State Director 2022, 2023

wygdsdirector@gmail.com



Legislation Report

2023 Legislation:

List of prefilled bills for the State of Wyoming (please copy and paste in your browser) <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2023>

2023 Bills

HB0036- Space force amendments Adding Space Force as a "Military Service member" and recognized in Wyoming

HB0039- Verifying the veteran designation on a WY driver's license Amending Veteran designation on a Wyoming driver's license to accept specified documentation to verify honorable discharge of a Veteran

SF0015- Military leave for state employees

Striking the one-year employment requirement for a leave of absence for military duty for state employees

SF0053- Wyoming national guard medical insurance premiums

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

To view more American Legion Legislation information (please copy and paste in your browser).

The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 117th Congress, 2nd Session | The American Legion

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, American cultural anthropologist



Sherry Bushman,
Legislative Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE



Dawn Kennedy
Unit 7 Sheridan

Wyoming Girls State Director

Hi all!

There are some big changes on how delegates are now registrar for Girls State. This time of year, All Units should be recruiting and interviewing their candidates. The official registration deadline is April 1st. There is only 1 form this year for you to fill out. The rest will be sent to the delegates email to fill out electronically. The registration



District and Unit News



District 1 News

Unit 36 Ft. Bridger - Their wreath program went well this year in spite of all the snow. They did talk about maybe having taller stands made. The Girls State chair will be getting the letters and applications out to the Junior girls. They are going to include the Evanston High School this year. The Legion is continuing with Music Bingo and the Unit is selling pop, homemade goodies and popcorn to raise money for the Unit. The ladies made up 20-23 plates of goodies and the Legion delivered them to their local homebound veterans. Mountain View High School is hosting their annual "Basketball for the Brave". The Unit members will set up a table with information about their wreath program, red shirt Friday, poppies and about membership in the Auxiliary. They are also discussing ways to reach out to their members to keep them informed

about their activities.

Unit 78 Big Piney - They served 30 veterans at their Veterans Luncheon. They welcome two new members, Ruth Rawhouser and Kristal Blair.

Unit 47 Pinedale - For their December meeting they had a luncheon and a white elephant gift exchange. They have a new member, Chris Arena. Welcome! They handed out certificates to members with 10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 56, 65, and 70 years of membership. The Unit decided to pay the dues for those members with 50 years of membership.

Unit 46 Alpine - The Unit assembled 12 Blessing Bags that they delivered to the VA Clinic in Afton and 14 bags to the Thayne Food Bank for Veterans Night. The bags were so well received at the food bank that they requested more bags for the December Veterans Night. The Unit delivered 12 more Blessing Bags and

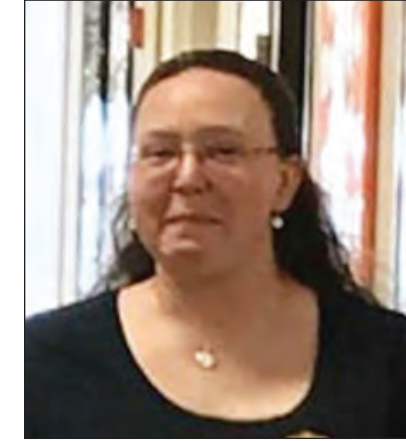
they also included a Christmas ornament in each bag. They are continuing with the bingo concession stand. They submitted the Girls State quota sheet for 7 girls and they may have as many as 12 girls. The members continued their annual Christmas Food Basket program. Twenty four families (76 people) throughout Star Valley were blessed with baskets filled with items for a Christmas meal and additional items to fill their pantry. Many community organizations contributed in donating funds and time. Alpine's Legion and Auxiliary hosted their 1st Wreaths Across Star Valley ceremony at the Alpine and Thayne Memorials.

Unit 28 Green River - The members put together threat bags for the veterans who live at Mansface Terrace. The Christmas potluck party was held at their meeting. The Legion Family gathered together for the



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

Wreaths Across America ceremony at the cemetery and laid wreaths on veterans graves. The Unit worked with the nursing home to have an Angel Tree for the Veterans in the home. Every veteran received a gift that they requested. The members provided gift cards to the staff. The sweatshirt and sweater drive had an amazing number of donations. All of the extra sweaters and sweatshirts were donated to Veterans Rock in Cheyenne. The Unit posted their first event calendar.



Jessica York
District 2 President



District 2 News



Vice President Linda & I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Chugwater on April 15th. Please remember to send in your monthly reports if you would like your Unit activities in the Auxiliare.

Unit 8 Douglas helped with the local Veteran's Day breakfast. They also assisted with the quarterly flag retirement ceremony.

Unit 9 Glenrock participated in the local Veteran's Day program at the schools. They delivered goodie boxes to the local shut-in vets. They sent off 66 boxes of Christmas donations to deployed Wyomingites.

Unit 75 Chugwater presented cookies & fruit to the lo-

cal schools. They helped with their local Veteran's Day dinner.

Unit 95 Guernsey provided cookies to Camp Guernsey & the local convenience stores & bars for Veteran's Day, as well as desserts for the VFW Veteran's Day dinner. For Education Week, they delivered snacks & fruit to the local schools. For Christmas, they prepared trays of goodies to be delivered to local veterans who live alone and in the nursing home. They held their Poppy Poster contest in January.

Editors note: Torrington, LaGrange and Wheatland we would like to read about you.



District 3 News



Don Stough Unit #33 - Lander

September 2022 - Membership 51.28% of 78 member goal. Three new members signed up at Americanism picnic; however, lost two members to death. Gave Lander's Girls Nation Senator Jamison Thatch \$100 for travel money in July. Also awarded Jamison a \$500 scholarship. Unit voted to donate 20 pairs of gloves to the October Stand Down in Cheyenne. 200 poppies ordered and delivered to Unit at Fall Workshop.

October 2022 - Membership 62.82%. Unit pays for all senior members who have at least 50 years membership, who live in nursing homes, or who are first year members and female veterans. Unit also pays for all Junior member dues. Voted to donate 2021 craft fair funds (\$972) to Wreaths Across America plus \$198 from Unit checking account for total of \$1170 which will pay half the cost to place wreaths on the entire veterans section of the local cemetery (other half to be paid by

the Lander Legion). Next fundraiser will be donated to the White Heart Foundation. Member drafted a letter to be sent to all Lander Legionnaires documenting all of the Unit activities, fundraising, etc., and reminding them that their female family members are eligible for Auxiliary membership. Letter to be sent out after the first of the year with Unit paying for printing and postage.

November - Membership 76.92%. Tammy Harris, Department President, visited Lander Unit during their annual craft fair fundraiser. Mr. D's, a local grocery store, donated additional \$50 for the grocery card drawing bringing total to \$150 which raised \$432. Bake sale raised \$956. Poppy donations equaled \$44. Expenses included \$100 grocery card and \$30 poppies, so fundraiser netted \$1302. Fee for tables at craft donated by two Unit members, so no cost to the Unit. Legion Adjutant sent email to all Legion members and several contributed to the bake

sale as well as purchasing grocery card drawing tickets. Unit voted to purchase 20 sheets of Auxiliary Emergency Fund membership drawing tickets at a cost of \$100. If Unit wins a free membership, discussion to be held regarding how to select recipient. Members reminded discussion to be held at January meeting regarding 2024 dues increase.

December - No Unit meeting due to joint Legion Family Christmas dinner. Unit decorated the Armory and provided door prizes. Unit Girls State Chairman participated in Opportunity Day at the local high school and handed out information about Girls State.

January - Membership 89.74%. Unit spent over \$200 in December to provide Christmas gift bags to 8 veterans living in the local nursing home. Unit voted to increase dues to \$40 starting with the 2024 membership year. Unit will invite District #3 President Jessie Poire to the March meeting. Unit Girls State Chairman has provided high school guidance counselor with Delegate applications and set deadlines.

Richard Pogue Unit #81 - Fort

Washakie

September - The unit met at their first meeting of the Auxiliary year. We made plans to ask Department President Tammy to our November meeting. Unit members were advised that Fall Workshop will be held on September 17, 2022 in Casper. Two members attended Fall Workshop in Casper.

October - The unit had an informal meeting.

November - The unit did not meet in November.

December - The unit had their annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange at Svilar's in Hudson on December 3, 2022. We did not have our regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2022.

January - The unit cancelled their meeting due to inclement weather that was forecast for this area. No members made it to Mid-Winter due to the road conditions.

February - The unit met and made Valentine's for Veterans. Over 100 Valentines were made and sent to the Veteran's Home in Buffalo.



District 4 News



Courtesy Photo

Above: President Wendy receiving a \$500 grant from the Festival of Trees for Girls State.

Unit 29 Basin - Our annual Poppy Day was a huge success allowing us to donate \$250 to both the Sheridan VA and Veterans Home of Wyoming in Buffalo. Cookie money was also sent to the Sheridan VA. Local veterans at the Wyoming Retirement Center in Basin each received \$25 donations to their "funds" at the home for Christmas. On Valentine's Day, our Unit plans to deliver flowers and flags to those veterans. The Cheyenne Stand Down for veterans was supported by providing hygiene items. Girls State delegate selection is in the works and we are assisting the Greybull Unit with their Girls State selection and training. Two students submitted Americanism essays which are currently being judged with the winning submission to be sent to the Department. Plans are underway for the American Legion Birthday dinner in March. As a community service project, 3 of our members conducted the wreath judging for the Town of Basin. Membership is going well as we are 2 away from our goal for 2023.

Unit 32 Greybull - Due to current job requirements, lack of membership from moving, deaths and or uninterested past members, Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary will be

stepping down from her position. Patty Hansen and Carol Webb will be caring for Unit 32 the rest of the year. Auxiliary volunteered and assisting Greybull American Legion Post 32.

Memorial Day 2022 - Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary placed wreaths at the Burlington, Emblem and Greybull cemeteries: July 4th, 2022 - Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary assisted Greybull American Legion Post #32 with the Eagle Flag Restoration Project: Posted flyers for Eagle Pass Fundraiser throughout the Big Horn Basin. Assisted with Eagle Flag Restoration Ceremony by setting up speakers, podium, announcements. September 11th, 2022 - Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary assisted Greybull American Legion Post 32 with 9/11 ceremony at Greybull Fire House. Assisted in National Anthem and Prayer during Ceremony Summer and Fall 2022 - Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary assisted Greybull American Legion Post 32 with summer and fall Cloud Peak Drag Races National Anthem Ceremony. - Assisted in speaker set up and breakdown and assisted with playing the National Anthem during flag color presentation. July & September 2022 - Deanna Werner, Acting President of the American Legion Auxiliary organized poppy sale. Unable to find volunteers, which resulted in Poppy distribution = 0.

Unit 26 Powell - October was a busy month as they had a fundraiser for their Community Halloween Party. This was a fun evening of trick or treating, food and socializing. Nachos and hot dogs were served, it was great fun in seeing all the kids' costumes and even some parents were dressed up. Over 300 people in attendance. We also held a fundraiser for a 12-year-old child that needed a kidney transplant. They had a live auction, silent auction, and sold

food. They raised with over \$5,000 from our community.

November came and we distributed 140 baskets to families in need, including 25 veterans' families. The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion helped the Auxiliary successfully achieve this planned project.

December was a fun month. We held a sip soda and paint and had it open to families. We had about 20 people in attendance it was great fun in watching the kids do their paintings. It was a patriotic gnome. We made up stockings and mason jar smore treats for our veterans in the Care Center, Assisted Living and The Manor. We also took stockings to two of our members that were over 100 years old.

We continue to assist the Legion with the cornhole league on Wednesdays. The Auxiliary sells food out of the kitchen each week.

Our cub scout packs that we sponsor are doing essays on a veteran that they have interviewed, and these will be judged by the Auxiliary and the top three winners will read their essays at the Legion Birthday party hosted in March by the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary continues to serve the community by distributing commodities monthly. We host bingo for the community every Friday night and Sunday afternoon. We are excited to announce our Black Light Bingo started in January. We con-



Trudy Zaffarano
District 4
President

tinue to pray for our troops and their families. We wish everyone a happy new year and God Bless our Troops. Please remember to check on your neighbors during these cold temps.

Unit 44 Worland - Collected gifts for the Veteran's throughout November. In December deliveries were made to the nursing home and assisted living facility in Worland, the Veterans Home in Buffalo, and the Sheridan VA. Gifts were delivered to Vets Wayne Scheuerman and Clint Carneal at Willow Creek. Christmas cards were delivered to the nursing home, Big Horn Enterprises, and the hospital. They wrote a grant through the Festival of Trees and generously received \$500 to help fund girls for Girls State. They are now planning for the Legion Birthday Party

District 4 Spring Conference will be held at the Greybull Elks Club and the Greybull Chamber of Commerce on April 1st at 10:00 a.m.



Courtesy Photo

Above: Unit 44 members making Valentine cards for Veterans



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Marketing, recruiting, and fundraising uses, such as:

- advertising
- apparel (use word mark, above right, for embroidery)
- business cards, letterhead, email signatures
- credentials, event badges
- press releases
- digital (apps, web, social, PowerPoint presentations)
- promotional communications (flyers, handouts, etc.)
- events (signs, backdrops, tents, tablecloths, swag/ giveaways)

Official, legal, and historical uses, such as:



- uniform caps
- financial documents
- history books
- flags
- legal affairs
- internal manuals and guides
- reports and resolutions
- awards (option emblem or brand)
- building signage (option emblem or brand)
- formal government communications (option emblem or brand)



Robyn Ruff
District 5 President

A hearty hello from District 5. Bad weather and illness have certainly wreaked havoc on activities! Many members planned on attending Mid Winter, but mother nature and roads certainly changed everyone's plans! Better safe than sorry was our mantra! Our memberships continue to grow and our boot is slowly growing. Let me know if I can help in any way.

I love District 5 and hope to see



a super turn out at our meeting April 23 at Gillette. Details will be shared. A big thank you to everyone who jumps in on our monthly Zoom meetings. "Thanks Tammy for setting this up." said Robyn

Unit 13, Buffalo, had to cancel November and December meetings due to the weather! Americanism Chair and Girl State Chair are getting information to schools. It was a bitter cold day for a Christmas party, but Edie, daughter, sister-in-law and Michelle made sure the Veteran's had their party! \$10.00 was tucked into every Christmas card for every Veteran and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Poppy Day in November was a huge success. Breakfast is still being served twice a week at the Post. (and it is delicious). A fund raiser was held when a Christmas luncheon was served to a local organization. On a sad note, a funeral luncheon was served for Edie's

District and Unit News

District 5 News

brother, Russ, who recently passed.

Unit 25, Moorcroft, celebrated Christmas by gathering items that were sent to the VA facility in Sturgis. This is a community wide activity. Poppy posters were judged, and prizes awarded in the Moorcroft schools. Rozet is now working on their posters. Members continue to volunteer at the local food pantry and thrift store. Veteran's bracelets are now being sold. Over 175 Veteran Posters are now on display. They are still actively gathering more information and pictures to add to them.

Unit 7, Sheridan, Had to cancel their December meeting. Getting out when it was 30 degrees below zero was just not appealing. Nevertheless, they gathered gifts and a monetary gift for their Christmas recipient. A fellow member of the Unit was chosen to help with medical costs. Our AEF project is an

"Emergency Basket". It will have flashlight, snacks, blanket, etc. Valentine's Day will see members taking cookies to the Sheridan VA facility. Poppy Posters, Americanism Essay Contests are all being worked on. Members continue to work blood drives, food pantries, as well as many other community activities. Plans are being made to celebrate the Post birthday with a taco bar.

Unit 80, Hulett, has been busy with their membership roster to ensure it is correct and up to date. Poppy Posters and Americanism Essay Contests are being promoted in their schools. Girls State is being discussed. Cookies for their Veterans have been baked and delivered.

From your editor: Newcastle, Gillette & Kaycee we would like to read the great work your unit is doing.



Martie Harbick
District 6 President

Many, many thanks to all units for cookies, cards, gifts to CLC at the Cheyenne VA. One lady at fall workshop made valentine cards for Buffalo, Sheridan and the Cheyenne VA residents. I apologize in not remembering your name.

Unit 6

Units 28 and Unit 24 sent personal care items, along with sweaters for the veterans.

Veterans Rock is most grateful. Veterans Rock is now delivering food to the homes of vets and other items to them like jackets, sweaters, personal care items, etc. whatever the vet needs. Donations are appreciated. All units have been so good.

Quilts and blankets have been given to the Comea shelter, donating food as well. Some of the units have been visiting the vets in nursing homes, socializing, writing letters, and reading to them.

RTTP and CLC at the VA are in need of snacks, puzzles, Christian and western books. CLC would like decor for their rooms. Some of the residents at CLC have asked for lap blankets.

Guernsey, Wheatland and Glendo many thanks for your cards, to the residents and prayers for them. They



District and Unit News

District 6 News



also sent prayer cloths to the military. Thank you so much to all the units making and donating cookies.

CLC enjoyed the bingo, Christmas, Valentine parties and visits.



Courtesy Photo
Above: Residents of the CLC enjoy bingo. Below: Unit 6 members working bingo - Susan Barela, Gail Keeler, and Linga Hollingsworth.



Auxiliary members put these on for the veterans and will continue. Not sure who enjoys it more, the vets or the members being with them.

Saratoga, Unit 54 wasn't sure what they would do for a fund raiser when the Fishing Derby was cancelled. Never fear, a member made and donated a quilt and the Unit is selling tickets. The winner will be drawn during Super Bowl half-time. It looks like the quilt will surpass the Fishing Derby and way less work.

Pine Bluffs, Unit 60 is very active as they provide most of the breakfast foods on Saturday mornings at the Post.

After having their annual Christmas Social in December, January was relatively quiet except breakfast at the Post.

In February Unit 60, provided a soup luncheon with a movie about the Four Chaplains. They also got together and made up Valentine goody bags and delivered them to



Penny Merryfield

Above: Unit 60 member Julie Butler and Unit 60 President Diane Wise helping with the serving for the soup luncheon.

movie day, "Dear Sirs". It was well attended and enjoyed. They are talking about doing a monthly movie about Veterans.

Medicine Bow, Unit 64 is keeping busy watching over our local veterans and assisting them when they need it. Birthday and Valentine cards sent to the Cheyenne VA Hospital. Christmas Angel tree program for two active-duty military children. Planning of serving meals to the newly reorganized post for their meeting with Auxiliary and family members.

A reminder for all District 6 Units - if you haven't done so, it is time to work on Americanism Essays and Poppy Posters.

Department members attended military day along with a POW Veteran, legislator and senate session.

Theodore Gostas was a POW in Viet Nam for 5 years and 10 months. Ted passed away January 31st, his funeral was February 13th, and he is interned at the National Cemetery in Cheyenne.

District 6 meeting will be held April 22, 10 a.m. in Pine Bluffs.



Penny Merryfield

Above: Members of the Legion/Auxiliary and their guest go through the soup line after watching a movie on the Four Chaplains.

all the Veterans in Pine Bluffs. Then on Sunday, February 19, they provided popcorn and snacks for a joint



District 6 News Continued Junior Member Highlight



Danika Harris, Junior Member

In the newly formed Wyoming Girls Wrestling, Junior member of Unit 60, Danika Harris competed for the first State Championship Girls Wrestling. She placed 4th in her weight class 190lbs. She is a freshman at Glenrock. Her first match was a record breaking 18 second pin for the win. She is the granddaughter of John and Diane Wise, daughter of Matt and Natalie Harris, sister to Mackenna, and Kayleen - all members of the Donald Eisenhower American Legion family. Great Job Danika.



Jessica York
Department Historian

Department Historian Historian Report for Auxiliare March 2023



Thank you to everyone who has sent in your pictures of your Unit activities. We enjoyed seeing what everyone had been up to at Mid-Winter. Please continue to send them in. Please remember to send in your Historian Reports to me by April 15th.

Don't forget your coversheet! Members, please make sure you get your impact hours turned into your Unit. Units, please make sure to turn in your impact numbers to your District President. District Presidents, please make sure to get your District impact

numbers to me by April 15th. Everything can either be emailed or mailed. Let's see how close we can get to 100% reporting!
Jessica York
509 N 2nd St, Lot 4, Douglas, WY 82633
countrygirljdy@gmail.com



Penny Merryfield

Above in left corner Cheryl Languemi - First Timer, and other Auxiliare members from around the state get ready for Workshop to begin.



Courtesy Photo

Above left: Family Feud team two vs. right - Family Feud team one at Mid-Winter Workshop

Mid-Winter Workshop January 14, 2023

Units attending had their Unit "Cowboy Hat" placed in a basket with Unit 6 Cheyenne's hat was drawn for \$50. Other Units attending were Douglas, Glenrock, Moorcroft, Green River, Ft. Bridger, Gillette, Pine Bluffs and Guernsey. Congratulations Cheyenne 6.

Family Feud: Sunny Hobbs and President Harris giving instructions on how to play Family Feud.

Family Feud Team 1: Linda and Jessica York Unit 8 Douglas, Vicki Paddock Unit 25 Moorcroft and Dora Jones Unit 6 Cheyenne

Family Feud Team 2: Mary Boldt and Linda Allen Unit 9 Glenrock and Kathy Troupe Unit 95 Guernsey

Juniors: Daisy Hobbs Unit 28 Green

River and Aubree Troupe Unit 95 Guernsey

Juniors: Department President Harris with Wil Dansereau SAL Unit 24 and Aubree Troupe Guernsey Unit 95

Welcome First Timer Cheryl Languemi Unit 42 Gillette VA Facilities

Unit 6 members Susan Barela, Martie Harbick, Gail Keeler, and Linda Hollingsworth played BINGO with veterans at the Cheyenne Living Center.

Unit 13 made and served cake to the residents in honor of Eveleno Cruz 102nd Birthday. Cruz fought in World War II. Pictured with Eveleno is his son and Buffalo Mayor Shrader.

Card of Thanks

Dear Peg and Auxiliare Members:
We are so fortunate to have received your recent donation of women's clothing. Know that your donation will go to help female veterans in our community who may be homeless and distressed or to those in need of just a little assistance to get them through their day. We are so appreciative of your support as we would not be able to help these men and women and their families without your generosity. We know they are truly grateful as we see it every day when they express their feelings of gratitude for your support of what they have done for this great country, the United States of America. We, along with you, want to give them hope for better times ahead. We must be their ROCK-solid support!
Thank you!
Most Sincerely,
Cindy Stockdale Board President - Veterans Rock

Card of Thanks

Thank you
We tend to forget the importance of the Wyoming Girls State Program. We received the following:
"I would like to once again express my gratitude for allowing me the opportunity to attend the 2021 American Legion Auxiliare Girls State. The scholarship that I was offered to Casper College from this event has had a significant impact on my education."
Thank you, Dally Wilkins, Lingle

Department P.R. Chairman


Hello Fellow Auxiliare members things that are happening in our Department. That being said, please always be kind. Make sure the content is Auxiliare related. Pictures are encouraged when you are sharing an event. The Admins will monitor the page to be sure that we are getting the correct content. We are still talking about the business page and we will inform when that is up and running. The web page can be found under groups, search for The American Legion Auxiliare Department of Wyoming. You will find the new poppy logo and a picture of Past Dept Presidents taken at Fall workshop in Casper. Hope to see more of you checking the web page.
P.R. chairman - Leila Dean

AMERICAN LEGION Buddies in Business




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