

Wyoming High School Rodeo

Ken Persson, Sr. - Chairman



Donation received by High School Rodeo Assn

A check was presented on behalf of the American Legion Department of Wyoming to the Association to support shooting sports. Trap and light rifle are regular events as part of the High School Rodeo program and Wyoming has sent a number of national qualifiers forward to compete in the National Finals Rodeo in these events. The High School Rodeo association is grateful for the support of the American Legion for not only these events but High School Rodeo in general. Our National Qualifiers are extremely proud to wear the American Legion emblem on their National qualifier jackets.

Courtesy Photo

Pictured left are Trigg Thompson of Cheyenne, Student Director for WHSRA Trap Shooting, Shayda Lesmeister of Rozet, Student Director for WHSRA Light Rifle and PDC Ken Persson Sr. Chairman of the Department High School Rodeo Committee and member of the WHSRA Board of Directors.

Adjutant's Corner



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

I can't believe it was over 10 years ago that I started with the American Legion! There have been a lot of bumps along the way, but the experience has been worth them all. I loved the work that I did as the Office Manager, but nothing beats the day-to-day workload of being the Department Adjutant. It is an honor and one that I do not take lightly. Over three years ago I was appointed as Department Adjutant by then Commander Mike Hobbs, with National's blessing, and I have hit the road running. I have attended three National Conventions, three Adjutant's trainings, and numerous Post and District meetings. As I have said before,

the hardest part of this job is the election of a new Commander every year. The change is not always easy, that's for sure. You get used to doing things one way for one Commander, and then the next one is elected and he doesn't do things that way. It is an adjustment for all of us. Communication is the key to a smooth year.

With that being said, communication is also the key to good membership. If the members don't know what's going on in their posts, then they are more apt to not renew the next year, and that is never a good thing. Send out newsletters. Contact your members and remind them of meetings and events that are coming up. Reach out to the ones you haven't heard from in a while; the ones that haven't attended a meeting like they used to. It's called a Buddy Check....and that's one of the most important things the Commander and Adjutant of a Post can do for their members, especially this time of the year. With the holidays fast approaching, many Veterans sink into a deep depression. They are without family, and that can be hard on anyone. Reach out to those members. Let them know you are there for them. Let them know you care, because that one member you reach out to, could be the one you saved that day. Be the One is another im-

portant aspect of the American Legion. Be the One to stop that Veteran who is alone from doing what we all fear could happen. Veteran suicide is not something to brush under the carpet. It is real, and we can help put a stop to it with our Buddy Checks.

My son called me one day to let me know he had received his membership card. He lives in Colorado, but is a member of Post 1 in Van Tassel because I asked him to move his membership. He wanted to let me know that he thinks it is the coolest thing that his membership card is signed by his mom. He says there probably aren't very many other members of the American Legion that can say that. He says he is proud of me. Well, right back at you son. Thank you for your service and thank you for your continued service in the American Legion. Together we can make a difference.

Please do not address mail to 1320 Hugur.

Our address is:
American Legion
Department of Wyoming
PO Box 20172
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant.

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.



1st Vice Commander's Corner

Words from the 1st Vice Commander

Hello fellow Legionnaires. We have certainly been busy this year and have already made the 55% goal. By the time this comes out we will be full on our way to the 75% membership goal and I have no doubt that it will also be met. I am still challenging all of my fellow members to bring 1 new veteran into our organization. However, I am adding to that a new challenge: contact with and mentor 1 member who has only been with your post for 1 or 2 years. We do great at getting new members, but forget to keep them involved and get them to see what the investment is for the organization. Posts should be engaging these members and ensuring that they are able to provide the service that they wish to give. Remember that there are multiple levels to the membership: donations only (only signing up and giving dues), participant in big events (Veterans Day,

Memorial Day, etc.), and the ones who want to give their all to The American Legion. None of these are wrong and should all be thanked and respected.

As we go into the Holiday season, let us remember to do our Buddy Checks. Posts should be doing a formal Buddy Check and each of us, as members, should be doing individual ones. We all know a fellow veteran and we all know individuals who are home bound. Reach out and visit with them if nothing else. Sometimes a single conversation of: hello, how are you, is all it takes to brighten someone's day. Buddy Checks are now being picked up by the Veterans Affairs and they have started doing the same thing. Once again, The American Legion is leading the way to assist and care for our fellow veterans.

I encourage all to take a hard look at what your post is doing in your

community. Is it helping in any way or is it only doing the minimum for remembering veterans? Ask yourself "If my post closed today, would the headline on the front page or would it be a byline blurb on the back page?" Yes, I borrowed that question from Ken George at National. How many of you have been part of a post for years? Do you think your time, energy and money donations are worthwhile and will leave a legacy or will it go away as soon as the post does? If you have been with a post for years, use your knowledge to mentor others. If your new to a post, use the knowledge of others to help you grow. We all need to work together to make this organization work.

Continue to work the four pillars, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children and Youth, and National Defense. Use legion.org



Russell Stafford
1st Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

zation works and how you can help. Go to post, district, and department meetings and events to better yourself and help others.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

2nd Vice Commander's Corner

Touching Base with the Legion, Our State and Communities

legionnaires, in many communities it is a natural occurrence that we take the lead or help support planned events. Veterans Day has my front sight focus right now with the observance in Chugwater to be shared with the (DAR) Daughters of the American Revolution, Post 75 and Auxiliare along with members of our local churches.

The American Legion National Commander Jim LaCoursiere Jr. visited Wyoming back in September. A couple of the key points during his visit was to try and work with other organizations in our different areas. "Be The One" can be anyone not just legionnaires! One Veteran suicide is too many!

It was great getting to travel along with him and visit the Sheridan VA, the Veterans home in Buffalo, and posts along I-90.

Our Fall workshop in Casper was successful and we were able to conduct training and to approve our updated By-laws thanks to the solid leadership of Past Department Commander Ken Persson Sr. I would like to see more of the Posts represented next year because their input is valued as well as their friendship.

Oratorical Contests are just around the corner with most Posts conducting their contests in January after the Department Mid-Winter Conference scheduled for

17-18 January 2025. The District Contests should be conducted in February, and we have set the Department Oratorical Contest date for 22 March 2025. This is based off the National Oratorical Contest Scheduled for 16-18 May 2024 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

The search for a Department Service Officer is in full swing right now with interviews ongoing. The hiring committee is working hard to get the right individual in the seat as soon as possible. I look forward to visiting with you at the 2025 Mid-Winter conference in Rock Springs. Until then, I pray that you all will have a Happy Holiday Season!!!!



Benjamin Glenn
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

The holiday season has arrived, and we will all be busy taking on extra duties around our area. As

AMERICAN LEGION TAL Membership Report

Post	2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
24	350	249	71.14%	14
28	190	127	66.84%	16
36	106	94	88.68%	0
40	10	2	20.00%	6
41	35	9	25.71%	17
43	134	120	89.55%	0
46	36	23	63.89%	4
47	34	21	61.76%	5
49	15	5	33.33%	6
55	30	24	80.00%	0
78	21	18	85.71%	0
88	15	7	46.67%	4
D-1	976	699	71.62%	33
75% - 12/11/2024				
Post	2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
2	230	157	68.26%	16
16	15	10	66.67%	1
19	65	44	67.69%	5
31	15	7	46.67%	4
33	220	152	69.09%	13
61	15	2	13.33%	9
81	24	13	54.17%	5
96	16	23	143.75%	0
D-3	600	408	68.00%	42
75% - 12/11/2024				
Post	2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
3	60	30	50.00%	15
7	165	109	66.06%	15
13	140	114	81.43%	0
25	25	13	52.00%	6
42	325	216	66.46%	28
45	19	22	115.79%	0
80	32	25	78.13%	0
90	10	6	60.00%	2
307	40	9	22.50%	21
D-5	816	544	66.67%	68
75% - 12/11/2024				
Post	2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
11	36	27	75.00%	0
18	16	11	68.75%	1
20	45	32	71.11%	2
26	170	107	62.94%	21
29	44	26	59.09%	7
32	30	23	76.67%	0
44	190	121	63.68%	22
85	22	17	77.27%	0
91	10	10	100.00%	0
D-4	563	374	66.43%	48
75% - 12/11/2024				
Post	2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target
6	1131	718	63.48%	130
14	320	219	68.44%	21
21	12	19	158.33%	0
54	80	37	46.25%	23
60	30	30	100.00%	0
64	25	9	36.00%	10
77	19	6	31.58%	7
93	10	2	20.00%	6
122	44	28	63.64%	5
D-6	1682	1068	63.50%	194
17 HQ	65	30	46.15%	6
DISTRICT TOTALS	5210	3447	66.16%	461
DEPARTMENT GOAL	5275	3477	65.91%	479
NATIONAL GOAL	5275	3477	65.91%	479

WYOMING

Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

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"For God and Country"



Post Everlasting 2024

District 1
Post 43 Jackson
 Gap Pucci (11)
 Donald Siegel (2)

District 2
Post 4 Lusk
 Keith Lemons (21)

District 3
Post 2 Casper
 Robert Tanner (46)

Post 19 Riverton
 George Burns (73)

District 4
Post 44 Worland
 Edward Skworch (34)
 Gary Young (3)

District 5
Post 42 Gillette
 Jerry Tift (73)
 Arthur Pickett (25)

District 6
Post 17 - Headquarters Post
 William Kemerling (40)
Post 54 Saratoga
 Justin Brown (1)
Squadron 54 Saratoga
 Robert Hartley (16)
Post 64 Medicine Bow
 Patrick Eastman (2)



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

Chaplain's Corner



Service to God and Country



*Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
 Dept. of Wyoming*

Hello to all! The year seems to have flown by and again we approach the holidays. Please remember our fellow comrades who are alone at this time of year.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Patton Veterans Project (PVP) which is run by the grandson of General George S. Patton II, Benjamin Patton. This project is funded in part by the VA as another way to reach veterans in rural communities to help with mental issues. It is a 3-day workshop where veterans from the local

area learn about filmmaking and make their own short films by the end of the weekend. It is a collaborative effort and by the end I had several new friends and confidants-to say the least this was an amazing experience! PVP will be in Cheyenne 6-8 December. If you are interested in this worthwhile event, you can send an email to: workshops@pattonveteransproject.org or call (970) 657-5500. I invite you to also check out their website at <https://pattonveteransproject.org/>. If you go to the featured films page, you will find a short

film (less than 4 minutes) titled “BE THE ONE”-this was the film my team created. There are several other films as well all created and starring veterans. These can be very emotional films as they tell our stories.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season. May Heavenly Father bless you all!

For God and Country,

Vanessa Stuart
 Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 and Family

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and we have continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our Post membership is currently 134 TAL members, and 26 SAL members. Our renewals for 2025 have been moving along well, and we expect to exceed our state goals of 134 TAL members. We have already surpassed our goal for SAL members for the 2025 year.

Presentation by LTC Robert Shumaker: Our guest speaker at our August meeting, LTC Robert Shumaker, is currently assigned as the Battalion Commander of the US Army Recruiting Battalion, Mountain West. This Battalion is responsible for recruiting and enlisting applicants for the regular Army and Army Reserve. The Mountain West Battalion handles recruiting operations in seven states, including Wyoming. LTC Shumaker reported on the current Army recruiting efforts and discussed what our Post can do to assist in those efforts. He particularly emphasized that he and his unit will contact any person who has questions or an inter-

est in joining the Army. You can log in to GoArmy.com/refer, and enter the contact information for any prospective candidate, and his staff will contact that person in a very short time. He also described how the Army is paying bonuses, and training new recruits to meet industry standards in a variety of professions so that they will already be certified if they later choose to leave the service. He acknowledged that there are challenges to meet recruiting targets, but he stated that the Army recently has been achieving or exceeding its goals.

Presentation by T.R. Pierce: At our September Post meeting, our guest speaker, Post member T.R. Pierce, talked about his experiences as an NCO in the Army during the Vietnam war. He told the story of how he ended up as a gunner on helicopters. He and a couple of other infantrymen were sent to an aviation base to show crewmen how to operate machine guns. When it was time to return to his unit, he was told that there were no orders for him to go back. He ended up with the helicopter unit where he completed several hundred combat missions. He also

related how he went to college after his service and ended up in Jackson Hole working in banking.

Presentation by Myles Still: At our October Post meeting, Post member Myles Still was our guest speaker. Myles was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After High School, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and he was commissioned as an Ensign upon graduation in 1966. After attending Airborne School at Fort Benning, he trained in Pensacola. He was assigned to the 314th Marine Fighter Attack Squadron in Chu Lai, Vietnam, where he was credited with 437 combat missions over the next year plus. After he returned from Vietnam, he spent 3 years at El Toro, including Top Gun training at Miramar. His later tours included the Naval Academy, eight years in Hawaii, and a tour in Iwakuni, Japan and Yechon, Korea. He retired from the Marines in 1991.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43: Over the past year, Post 43 has been working to recharter an Auxiliary Unit for Jackson. Our Post had a very active Auxiliary Unit from the 1920's until sometime in early 2012. Progress has been made, and it is

expected that our Auxiliary Unit 43 will be able to complete the requirements for a new charter in the coming months. We are excited to have an active group of prospective members who have come forward to form this unit.

Honor Guard, Color Guard, and other activities: Our Post was saddened by the passing of two Post members and two SAL members in the past few months. Our Honor Guard conducted services in October for one of those members, and also for another deceased Navy veteran. Color Guards were also provided in the past few months for several Jackson Hole High School events, including the graduation ceremony on June 8, and the Homecoming Football Game in October. Our Post also staffed a booth for the opening day of Old Bill's Fun Run, which has become one of the largest non-profit fundraising efforts in the Town of Jackson and the surrounding communities.

Veterans Day Ceremony and Food Collection Ruck Run: Our Post will conduct our usual Veterans Day Ceremony on the Jackson Town

See Jackson Page 4



DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 1



News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 and Family Continued

Square on Veterans Day, November 11. We will also support the Annual Food Collection and Ruck Run held in conjunction with Veterans Day. The Jackson Hole High School will be bringing 900 students to the Veterans Day Ceremony, and the High School Honor Society is supporting the collection of food and other household goods for the Ruck Run.

Veterans Day Recognition Lunch

and Assembly: On November 7, the Jackson Hole High School invited all veterans to attend a special Veterans Day Recognition Lunch and Assembly. Eighteen of our Post 43 members attended this wonderful event along with many other local veterans. Bennett Lieberman, the High School Principal and Master of Ceremonies is a SAL member of our Squadron 43. This was the first such luncheon

in the last five years mainly due to Covid. The High School planned a wonderful program that included a large line of welcoming students, escorts for each veteran, a nice lunch for all, and an assembly in the auditorium for all the 11th and 12th grade students. All the 9th and 10th grade students were able to watch the program in classrooms on streaming TV. Each veteran was given a

chance to introduce themselves, and two of our members were invited to give additional remarks about their military service. This was a wonderful program that honored all veterans, and the students showed their appreciation with loud applause and by thanking each veteran as they departed.

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 3



News from Lander American Legion Post 33 and Family

American Legion Family Christmas Dinner: Our annual Post 33 Family Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 14th at the Wyoming National Guard Armory, beginning at 5pm. Sherri and Angela will cater. There is no cost for the meal and members and their families are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Ken Persson Sr., at 349-2881, text to the same number or e-mail to ppersson@tcinc.net. We need a good headcount so we have enough food for everyone.

check for \$50 to Post 33, PO Box 6, Lander, or bring it with you to our next monthly American Legion meeting. We will continue to encourage early renewals by drawing \$100, \$75 and \$50 winners from our list of renewed members! The first drawing will be held on Veterans Day (\$100), the second at our Christmas Dinner (\$75), and the final drawing at our Legion Birthday Dinner (\$50). So, renew early for your chance to win some money! During the months of October and November, your membership committee will be working to identify and contact veterans in our community who have not joined the American Legion. If you know of anyone; co-worker, friend, neighbor, etc., who fits in this category, please talk to them about joining or forward their names to Keith Trouwborst, 1st Vice. Remember, membership recruiting is every Post member's responsibility!

Support our Youth Programs: Both American Legion Baseball and Scouting programs are supported and chartered by Post 33. Please consider supporting these activities to the greatest extent possible.

Scout Troop 52 is having a fundraiser, A "Breakfast for dinner" meal on Saturday, November 9th at the VFW Hall from 4 to 6 pm. Pork sausage and pancakes.

Lander Legends Baseball is having a fundraising raffle. In conjunction with Maven, they are offering \$4700 worth of prizes (a rifle, optics, coolers etc.) to support them in the 2025 season. Tickets are available online. <https://mavenbuilt.com/products/lander-legends-fundraiser> Paper tickets are available by contacting Brian Oland- brianoland@gmail.com or wyoanderlegion@gmail.com.

DON STOUGH POST #33
Lander, WY

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #33

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 33 finished up the 2024 membership year with 38 members. We are always looking for new members and welcome any Legion members whose father/grandfather were members of the American Legion to join up. We would also love to sign up those sons of current Legion members into our Squadron. As the Squadron grows and becomes more active in our community, younger blood will help in our endeavors. The Sons meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm before the regular American Legion monthly meeting. Come see what the Sons are up to!

Keith Trouwborst, Squadron 33 Commander.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, thousands of citizens answered the call to serve our nation in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, these men and women returned from the Armed Forces as experienced veterans overcoming many challenges to take their rightful place among the ranks of all Wyomingites; and

WHEREAS, veterans contribute to our nation not only by military service but by continuing to serve their fellow veterans and citizens from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, these veterans bring to us now a sense of duty, patriotism, discipline and willingness to serve others that remind us of our obligations to our country and the price that is paid for our freedom; and

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

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Joseph J. Nemick served his country in the Wyoming Army National Guard, first as an Equipment Records Clerk, Battery Clerk and Unit Supply Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, SSG Joseph J. Nemick continued to serve in the Guard as Battalion Retention NCO before retiring with over 20 years of military service; and

WHEREAS, Joseph J. Nemick continues to serve this community as a volunteer on boards, committees and Veterans Service Organizations as well as working as a Regional Wildlife Management Coordinator, retiring with over 37 years with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and

WHEREAS, Joseph J. Nemick represents the epitome of service to our community and nation, a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Monte Richardson, Mayor of Lander, Wyoming, do hereby recognize November 11, 2024 as **JOSEPH J. NEMICK DAY** in the City of Lander and urge all Lander residents to give heartfelt thanks in honor of the service he so selflessly gave.

On this 11th day of November, 2024;

Monte Richardson

Mayor

Lander, Wyoming

Each year at the LVHS Veterans Day assembly, a local Veteran is honored, and a mayoral proclamation is made declaring that year's Veterans Day as an official honor to that specific Veteran.

This year's honored Veteran was Joseph Nemick, who was introduced by Student Council Vice President Lizzie Whiting and Mayor Monte Richardson.

Joe serves as the Finance Office for Don Stough Post 33 as well as the Adjutant for District 3.



Courtesy Photo

Above: Joseph Nemick and Mayor Monte Richardson.

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DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 4



News from Lovell American Legion Post 11



Post 11 finished up another great summer with the post Friends and Family Picnic. The weather was perfect and the food delicious!

We have been focused on our membership drive this fall and have met our membership goals for each month. We have also focused our efforts on all of our Veterans Day events. Our Veterans Breakfast was another big success. Thank you to the local youth group who serves the veterans that day. Veterans Day itself was very busy. We supported both Lovell and Rocky Mountain High Schools with their Veterans Day program.



We hosted our own program at the North Big Horn Senior Center. It was another great program ending with giving quilts to our local veterans. Thank you to the Senior Center Quilt Group!

Quilt recipients Bruce Dempster, Leroy Collins and Ted Mickelson; Department Oratorical Winner Riley Laffin; WY High School Rodeo Queen Peyton Bischoff; Post 11 Boys State Delegate Jarrett Allen

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicolle Laffin, Post 11 Historian



News from Powell American Legion Post 23



Above left: Gabriel Villalobos, of Scout Troop 26 sponsored by Powell's American Legion Hughes-Pittinger Post 26, recites the Scout Pledge prior to being awarded Eagle Scout during a ceremony at Post 26. Above right: Gabriel and Daniel Villalobos embrace after Gabriel was awarded the Eagle Scout pen during a ceremony Tuesday night. Daniel also advanced to Eagle Scout in 2001. Tribune photo by Mark Davis.

Generations of excellence

Student follows Father to Scouting's Top Honor

BY MARK DAVIS Tribune senior reporter

As Gabriel Villalobos was awarded his Eagle Scout pen, his mother and father, Ana and Daniel, beamed with pride.

In the crowd, his grandfather, Ed, recorded the moment in a video while grinning from ear to ear. He had planted the seeds of scouting excellence for Gabriel when he introduced his son (Daniel) to the organization.

Growing up in California, the Villalobos family lived in a dangerous neighborhood. Daniel's father, who was also a scout, introduced him to the organization to keep him off the streets.

"We grew up in a very poverty stricken, gang violence area, and this is one of the things he did to get me out of that and show me there's a better way in life," Daniel said.

After he earned his Eagle Scout pen in 2001, Daniel got involved in local leadership, including being a den leader and Scoutmaster. It was natural for Gabriel to follow his father into Boy Scouts. But it wasn't always easy for Gabriel.

A shy kid, Gabriel started his scouting career in California. But then the family moved to Powell, forcing him to make a decision on whether to con-

tinue in the organization. He made the right decision, his mother said.

"It's been a long journey, but I'm glad it's finally over. I'm glad he finally did it." Ana said of Gabriel's decade in scouts.

Daniel, a patrol officer for the Cody Police Department, said he was at a loss for words after Scoutmaster Donnie Peterson and Assistant Scoutmaster Tim Heine replaced Gabriel's red neckerchief with a blue one representing his scouting achievement.

"I'm kind of overwhelmed with emotion. It's very good. I love scouting he said. "What else could I ask for? Right? He's doing good, he's going to college, he is a 4.0 student, has won many letters in high school and he is continuing in scouts as a leader. I couldn't ask for anything more," Daniel said.

Gabriel's Eagle project was an American flag disposal container. Basically, it's a flag retirement box so people who have destroyed American flags can dispose of them in a respectful manner, he said.

During construction Gabriel was supposed to be relatively hands off - his job was to lead about six of his fellow scouts through the roughly 36-hour-long construction process. He had been in leadership positions before but it was hard to be assertive, he

said in a previous story with the Tribune, especially when he was encouraged not to be hands-on with his project.

When the box was complete and installed at the law enforcement center it "felt like a long time coming. It felt really good, seeing the hard work me and my scouts and my adult supervisor's friends helped with," he said.

Gabriel is enrolled in pre-professional science at Northwest College,

"I'm thinking of going into the medical field," he said.

He has come a long way from being that introverted cub scout to a junior adult leadership role in the organization. His father has seen his son grow from a boy to a man, in part due to his involvement with scouting.

"Scouts have really helped him. He used to be very introverted prior to this. Now he's very outgoing, even despite moving," Daniel said. "We moved a year and a half ago to a brand new troop, and he was able to bring that scouting mentality from that troop to here."

(Reprinted with Toby Bonner, General Manager/Owner permission to Edward Morrow)

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 5

News from Gillette College Post 307

Hosts the First Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training



The inaugural Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training (WALLT) was held 13 September 2024 to 15 September 2024. The instructors for this inaugural session were Russell Stafford, Deanna Hurlless, Deb French, Keith Davidson, and Ken George from National American Legion.

Our attendees (guinea pigs) for this session were Steve Anderson, Commander Bill Barnes, Ray Simms, Danielle Rempfer, Steve Olsen, Kirk Will, Rex Harvey, Rod Warne, Bernadine Andersen, and John Wayne. They were from multiple posts throughout the Department of Wyoming and provided the

instructors and others with great knowledge and helped to provide for a fantastic session. Thank you to all who took the time to attend.

A great thanks also goes out to the Gillette College and Gillette College Post 307 for providing us with a fantastic venue. Without their help we would have had many more struggles than we did. Mike Hodge and Brian Yeager also deserve a huge thanks for helping to coordinate this session.

Please keep an eye out for when the next session will be provided. We are trying to rotate the sessions around the state to ensure all have opportunities to attend.



Courtesy Photos

Above: Instructors and participants in the Inaugural Wyoming American Legion Leadership training.

News from District 6 Commander Penny Merryfield

District 6



Fall has started off with a busy schedule for most of the Posts in District 6. Activities have ranged from parades and fairs, to special events and Veterans Day activities.

Francis E. Self Post 6 in Cheyenne hosts karaoke every Friday night, as well as they held a Trunk or Treat on Halloween.

In November they had a wonderful Veterans Day program that was well attended. Also in November, they celebrated six members of the

Post 6 Softball team who were signing to play softball in college.

Upcoming events for them are: Community Christmas, Children's Christmas Party on December 15th.

Donald Eisenhower Post 60 in Pine Bluffs, is very active and recently held their Veterans Day program followed by a chili lunch at the post.

As District Commander, I have made a couple of Post visits and will continue to do the rest as time

allows.

Post 21 is growing, and I give kudos to them for making a 158.33% so far this year. It is the little Post that refused to go away!! They are in the process of looking for a Post home, as they currently meet in the Burns Library.

At their last meeting, the Post was presented a gift from "Buzz" Canady of Hooligan Horseshoe Art, and a member of Post 60.



Courtesy of Penny Merryfield Above: Hooligan Horseshoe Art owner and veteran Buzz Canady with Commander Walt Schaefer.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING FRANCIS E. SELF POST #6

District 6



Courtesy of Bill Frye

Left: Members of East High Singers perform the National Anthem. Above: Yummy food by Nordy's BBQ. Right: Veterans, family and friends attended the Veterans Day program at Post 6.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our Veterans on their day! Emcee Jim Wilkinson ran a terrific ceremony with many in attendance from our great community. Guest speaker was Scott Mattson, Major USAF, retired, who gave a fantastic speech. Thank you to the East High Singers who performed the National Anthem flawlessly! Free lunch was provided from Nordy's BBQ and sponsored by the Nu-Vision Credit Union. Thanks to all their volunteers who made the day special. Final event was the rousing performance in the lounge by Wild Jim Wilkinson. Happy Veterans Day!

Bill Frye, Post 6 Adjutant



DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

American Legion Riders Post 6 Cheyenne

District 6 Continued



On October 5th, members of the Post 6 American Legion Riders made a donation of \$1,152.00 to Cheyenne based “Veteran’s Rock”, a local organization that provides “Rock solid support for veterans, active duty in need, and their families”.

Courtesy Photo

Left: Members of Post 6 American Legion Riders present check to Veterans Rock. Left to right: Dan Brown, George Pitcock, Rob Larsen (Viking), Cindy from Veterans Rock, Mick Tether (Chief), Mark Pfenning (Gunner), John Cazahous (Pokey), Mike Persinger

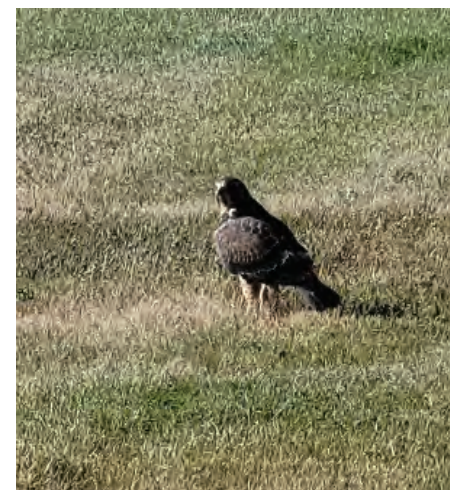


American Legion Post 54 Saratoga - Squadron 54

SQUADRON 54 HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, August 18th Squadron 54 in Saratoga hosted their 3rd annual two person scramble golf tournament at the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort golf course. The weather cooperated for the 18 teams in this year’s competition and plenty of wildlife was found on the course as well. New this year was the greenkeeper’s revenge hole, this hole had a mowers parked in the fairway, the green and several hand implements scattered around the green, none of the items were allowed to be moved. Proceeds from the event go towards the squadron’s scholarship fund, special thanks goes to Commander Logan Adams for organizing the event.

Photos and story contributed by Brent Brugger, Squadron 54



Department of Wyoming Ways and Means Committee

Hello from the Department of Wyoming Ways and Means Committee. If you haven’t heard, there is a fantastic opportunity being presented for all members of The American Legion family. A raffle is being held at the 2025 Convention where the winner will receive a 1-year membership from the Department.

For The American Legion members, an additional opportunity has been presented where you can win a multi-year membership from the Department. The reason we can’t offer this to our family members in the SAL or Auxiliare is because they don’t have that option available at the National level.

Each ticket costs \$10. If you wish to purchase a raffle ticket, please reach out to your District Commander or a Department Officer who will gladly get you one.

Now, we know that there are members who are already

PUFLs (Paid Up For Life) and who have already taken advantage of the multi-year membership. We encourage you to still purchase a raffle ticket and use it for a fellow member or even offer it at your post for a similar raffle.

Something new from The American Legion Ways and Means committee will be the opportunity for 50/50 raffles and raffle prizes at all Department level meetings/conventions. At the Department Convention in Newcastle, we will also have multiple silent auction items that all can bid on. (A little secret; but District 4 has a wonderful District Commander who has partnered with a quilt maker to get some beautiful quilts made).

Remember that it only takes 1 ticket to win. GOOD LUCK!!!



Doug Johnson announces candidacy for National Executive Committeeman



Douglas Johnson
IPDC

My name is Doug Johnson and I'm announcing my candidacy for National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Wyoming. I am the Immediate Past Department Commander for the Department of Wyoming in 2023-2024. In my short career as a Legionnaire, I have held the following positions in the Department of Wyoming. I was the Department 2nd Vice Commander 2021-2022, Department Vice Commander 2022-2023 and the Department Commander 2023-2024, District 2 Commander 2017-2022 and Post 8 Adjutant 2011-2017. I was elected as Department District Commander of the Year in 2020, National Achievement award in 2019 for membership as District 2 Command-

er and National Achievement award for membership in 2020 as District 2 Commander. I was elected District 2 delegate in 2021 to the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona and again elected District 2 delegate to the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2022. I have been to Indianapolis two times for training; once for Adjutant's training and once for membership training and attended the Washington Conference as a delegate in 2024. I served on the Veterans Employment and Preference National Committee for 3 years from 2021-2024. I am a U.S Airforce Veteran and was based in Phan Rang, Vietnam, Utapao, Air Base in Thailand, and Clark Air Base in the Phil-

ippines. Keith Davidson, the current NEC, has done a great job representing The Department of Wyoming but I would like to take it up a notch and explain the resolutions that get passed at the NEC national meetings so that Wyoming Legionnaires understand the issues that we face. With my experience in the American Legion, I feel qualified to serve as your National Executive Committeeman and would greatly appreciate your support in Newcastle next June at our Department Convention. I would love to represent you the Department of Wyoming at the National level. Thank You for your support Douglas Johnson IPDC

Plaque Updated for Boys/Girls State Representatives

Jim Merryfield Pine Bluffs Post

Tucked away between two large display cases in the common area of Burns High School is a plaque that shows the representatives that went to the American Legion Boys State and Girls State events. This plaque had not been updated since 2016. There is quite the effort put into going to this event by the students and is a huge honor for them to be selected by the sponsoring American Legion Post and Auxiliary.

Jeanette Nusbaum noticed this and decided this was not acceptable. She took it upon herself to update the plaques and ensure that the students that were selected to represent were named. It was quite the undertaking going back that many years and looking up the students that won. According to Nusbaum the Booster Club picked up the price for the new name-plates.

among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs. Legion posts select high school jun-



Jim Merryfield/Pine Bluffs Post

Above: American Legion Boys/Girls State plaque receives names added for the first time since 2016.

selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The participants are assigned to mock cities and either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party."

Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

Candidates should be keenly interested in government and current events and show strong leadership abilities. Because the structure of state and local government varies, ALA Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values.

iors to attend the program. In most cases individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is open to high school female students who have completed their junior year and are competitively

Huge thanks to Jeanette Nusbaum for noticing this missed opportunity of recognition for the young leaders and her team on updating this important honor.



Wyoming American Legion Mid Winter Conference

January 17-18, 2025

Holiday Inn 1675 Sunset Dr, Rock Springs, WY

Host : Archie Hay Post 24

Pre-Register by January 1st, 2025

DEC and Finance Meetings will be at Post 24 January 17, 2025 Starting @ 6:30 pm

Dinner will also be available @ Post 24 donations for Columbarium

Lunch at noon Main ball room @ Holiday Inn

Catered by Old Chicago

TAL Conference Saturday, Jan 18th to begin at 09:00 AM

Holiday Inn Grand Ball Room

Auxiliary will meet at
Holiday Inn Small Ball room

Riders will meet in the Small Ball room

Lunch Buffet Medium Ball Room- Build your own Deli Sandwich with in the

Build your own Deli sandwiches, Includes oven-roasted turkey, Hickory Ham or Roast Beef, sliced cheeses. Served with homemade pasta salad, fresh fruit and potato chips. Comes with unlimited Sodas, Lemonade and Iced Tea.

RSVP to adj_post24@outlook.com mail registration to:
Archie Hay Post 24
Mid Winter Convention
551 Broadway, Rock Springs, WY 82901

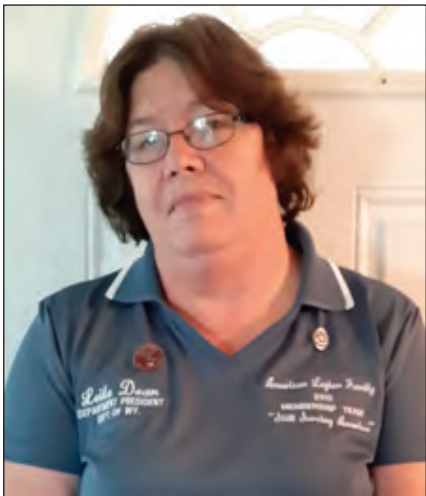
Name:	Address:			Registration \$10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City:	Zip:	Phone:		Saturday Lunch Deli-Sandwich \$15.00 each	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email:					Columbarium Donation \$20
Post #:	Office:	District:	Dept.:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unit #:	Office:	District:	Dept.:		
SAL #:	Office:	Detachment:		Total	45.00
RIDER'S POST #	Office:				





American Legion Auxiliary News

“Merry Christmas & Happy New Year” *Leila Dean, Department President*



Leila Dean
President

Greetings

First, Membership we are 1st place as of October 30th in the Northwest division we moved up from 5th to 1st in a couple

weeks good job keep up the hard work.

In National we have 1086 members submitted as of October 30th compared to November 2023, we had 1210 we are 124 members short.

I am proud of all the hard work you are putting in to get this done.

National has a new Welcome for new members. You can get on the National website. Maybe consider sending the member's benefits flyer when you send their cards to them.

One of the main things we need to really work hard on is making good leaders within our Units as you know we have had some hard times getting members to step up in leadership roles as a result many of our past President's have done more than one year. This is happening in our

Unit, District's and Department levels. So I would like to see all Units to stress doing the ALA Academy classes on the the national website. In case you do not know the national website is alaforveterans.org if this is your first time to visit you will need to register and get a username and password you will need your membership number to register. Then go to the member portal to find the ala academy.

I received a real nice letter from National Pres Trish Ward letting us know how much she enjoyed her visit to Wyoming. She emphasized her main objectives while she was with us in Casper 1st one was her Merit medallion recognition and what we needed to achieve to get this recognition in Tampa for the Dept. of Wyoming. Also her new initiative of a renew crew which

any leader in our organization should be a part of. Oh yes there is a t-Shirt. You can also go to the National website look under the get to know National Pres. Trish Ward.

The Jackson people are still working toward getting a new Charter. They have the new members that are required and they are working out all the next steps they need to accomplish. Hopefully when we are in New Castle for Department convention we will be welcoming a new Unit to our organization. We have lost so many in the past few years it will be nice to have a new one. Hopefully we are going to see more growth in the future.

Until next time remember to Be the One for our Veterans
Department President 2024-2025

News from your Secretary

home with remaining poppies being mailed out after the 1st of the year.

Units are using the ALA Membership Information System (ALA MIS) either in Unit Write - able to see reports or Unit Full able to run reports, enter new members and pay members dues on line. Unit Write - Douglas, Buffalo, Glendo, Powell, Basin, Worland, Hulett and Guernsey. Unit Full - Van Tassel, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Rock Springs, Moorcroft, Green River, Lander, Fort Bridger, Gillette, Big Piney and Fort Washakie. If your Unit has an interest in ALA MIS, contact the Office or any of the Units listed above.

Mid Winter will be held in Rock Springs on January 18, 2024. The Registration form can be found in the Legion section.

Veterans Day is over but we continue to look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let us not forget our veterans, remember a smile, a hello and a thank you goes a long way.

Leadership

A successful leader needs a few tools to work with:

1. You need a mission and a vision to carry it out,..GOT IT
2. Knowledge of what you are leading...alaforvets.org is our go to for information
3. The people who will work with you. in abundance from the National level/State/District/Unit to each and every member.

So what can you do to make every member aware of the importance of our organization? Start at the beginning. Your unit members may need a few simple things to help them understand their unit. I did a 2-minute test...starting with the basics... Name/Number of your Unit, your District and Department. Who was your Unit named after? What year? Who are your elected officials? What year was the Auxiliary formed nationally? Seems simple but some members may not know the answers! Ideas for future 2-minute tests...what does our insignia colors stand for? What are the



Robyn Ruff
Vice President/Leadership

main programs we endorse? Who are the Department elected officers? What National Division do we belong to?

Questions are endless. It is up to each one of us to educate ourselves and others. The more information under our belt will promote self-confidence and that will lead to leadership skills. Do keep exploring our organization and build those skills.



Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary

Notes from your Secretary Treasurer

The Office continues to process membership, pay our bills and answer questions or

find out answers from our members. Our accountant filed the Department 990 Taxes

several Units filed their 990 e-postcard and Department filing for other Units. 990 e-postcards were due October 31st.

Attendance at Fall Workshop was pretty good. We had 14 Units with 35 members answering rollcall. Poppies were sent

MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES

MID WINTER January 17-18, 2025 Rock Springs

SPRING CONFERENCE TBA

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION June 20-21, 2025 Newcastle



Visit our Department Webpage! www.wylegionaux.org

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

We

Support Our

Veterans



District News

The holiday season finds District 1 Units busy like elves working hard to serve their veterans and communities. I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter in Rock Springs.

Unit 28 Green River took part in the Truck or Treat providing candy for all the treaters. The first Paint Night of the season was a success, and the potato bar was a hit with the painters and the patrons that attended Queen of Hearts at the Post. For Veterans Day the members are putting together cookies treat bags for the Veterans at Mission nursing home and Mansface. A pancake breakfast is being hosted by the Auxiliary member, Sherry Bushman and the Boy Scout Troop 312 will be serving. On Thanksgiving the Veterans will receive Smith's gift cards at the Mansface assistant living facility. An Angel Tree will be put up in the Post so that the Legion Family can provide Christmas for the Veterans at the nursing facility. The Auxiliary members will provide hot chocolate and candy canes for the mayor's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on the first of December. The December meeting is a holiday party for the Auxiliary members with a potluck and White Elephant gift exchange and a giveaway for a 2025 membership renewal.

Unit 36 Ft. Bridger in October held their annual craft fair and Santa's Secondhand Store. November have

them decorating the Post Hall for the Veterans Day dinner. November is also their cookie month, so the members will bring their cookie donations to their meeting, and then they will be sent to Sheridan. In December, the members get together and make cookie plates for the shut-in veterans in their community. The December meeting is the Auxiliary Christmas party.

Unit 46 Alpine: monthly the members take turns supporting the Thayne Food Bank with either fresh baked goods or chosen bakery items from the local store. On Patriot's Day the Unit gathered with First Interstate Bank volunteers to put together 48 blessing bags for the Star Valley veterans. For the BE THE ONE campaign, throughout the month of September, social media posts were made to recognize mental health awareness. BE THE ONE flyers were posted within the community along with wallet pamphlets placed in local businesses. October was the first Bingo of the season. The Auxiliary sold concessions at approximately 60 players. The loaded nachos were a hit and sold out quickly. A BE THE ONE display with 22 flags representing a life taken by a veteran's own hand. Along with the display resources were provided and BE THE ONE stickers and magnets were available. Multiple members joined the Afton Army Guard,

VFW Post 4797, The American Legion Post 46 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 46 in being recognized by the Star Valley Football Team during the pregame activities. The Upcoming events include distributing the blessing bags, the Veterans Day breakfast, Veterans Day school programs, bingo in December and the Christmas Meal Baskets that the members put together and distribute for the holiday.

Unit 47 Pinedale will provide 90 copies of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution booklets to the Junior class at their high school. They mailed 2 boxes of new clothing, toiletries, lap blankets and other items to the Sheridan VA and they are preparing another similar box to be sent before Thanksgiving. Auxiliary members have been volunteering at the local Food Bank each month. They will have a poppy table prior to Veterans Day in front of the local grocery store. On Veterans Day there will be programs at the elementary, middle, and high schools including speeches from the 2024 Girls State delegates. A free luncheon will be held at the local VFW Hall and the Auxiliary members will provide salads and desserts. The December meeting will be held at the senior center, and it will include lunch and a white elephant exchange.

Unit 78 Big Piney are sponsoring the veterans' lunches at the local

District 1 Report



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

senior center for Veterans Day. They will be hosting informational booths at the Big Piney Library on November 2 and at the Rec Center's Christmas Bazaar. They will be giving away a metal flag to raise money for their high school scholarship. At their November meeting, they will discuss their Christmas party plans, and it will probably be like last year's with a potluck with the Legion. The Auxiliary will be sponsoring outdoor Christmas trees in both Marbleton and Big Piney and they will be decorated with the ALA theme. They are trying to be more visible in their community.

No report from: Unit 24 Rock Springs, Unit 40 Cokeville and Unit 88 LaBarge.

District 2 Report



Jessica York
District 2 President

They are gathering donations for their Christmas boxes to the troops.

Unit 70 La Grange will be hosting their Veteran's Day lunch on Saturday, November 9th. They will be honoring the students and teachers at the local elementary school during National Education Week. They had a Halloween open house at the local library.

Unit 75 Chugwater is co-hosting their local Veteran's Day dinner on November 11th. They are presenting the local school with a fruit basket & homemade cookies for National Education Week.

Unit 95 Guernsey held a dinner in September with their Girls' State delegates to hear about their experiences. They raised their avenue of flags for Patriots Day, and will be taking cookies to Camp Guernsey for Veteran's Day. They are donating desserts to the VFW's Veteran's Day dinner.

Unit 8 Douglas hosted their annual Bake-a-Thon in October. They will be helping with the Post's Veteran's Day breakfast.

Unit 9 Glenrock hosted a luncheon with their Girls' State delegates in July. Their Veteran's Day program will be on Veteran's Day at the local high school. This is their first year hosting Wreaths Across America.

District 3 Report



Jessie Poire
District 3 President

Fort Washakie Unit #81
September Activities:

The unit met and discussed all of their fall activities. We discussed donating candy to two (2) local programs for their respective Halloween parties. We discussed the possibility of activities tied to Veterans Day, including the Fort Washakie School Veterans Day program. We are always invited to participate and received our invitation to participate again this year. We also discussed someone from the unit attending Fall Workshop on October 4 in Casper. We also decided to see if ALAMIS was a possibility for our unit. Will check with the Department office. We decided to order 100 poppies.

October Activities:

We decided to donate Halloween candy to the Eastern Shoshone Boys and Girls Club and the Early Intervention Program. We called and finalized our date for our annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange at Svilar's. It will be on December 7, 2024 at 5:00 pm. We discussed buying flowers for a unit members funeral and we will conduct the memorial service for her at the family's request.

November Activities:

We spend this meeting making approximately 80 Veterans Day Cards for the Veterans Home in Buffalo.

Riverton Unit #19

September Activities:

Our unit met at the Depot Restaurant at noon on September 18, 2024. Two people attended the meeting. One senior and two junior dues were sent to the Department. A check was written to pay for poppies. A check for \$500 was written from the poppy account, \$200 for cookies for the Sheridan VA and \$300 as a donation to the Department.

Greetings from the ladies of District #3, Lander, Riverton, Fort Washakie and Powder River. I've had the opportunity to visit two (2) of the Units, Lander and Riverton. I plan to visit Fort Washakie in the next couple of months.

Lander Unit #33

September Activities:

At the August Americanism picnic, we recognized our Girls State girls and two of them spoke about their experience and recognized Elizabeth and Emma Riggs for their work in getting donations on Memorial Day for Poppies. They are planning fall events. They worked on and approved their operating budget.

October Activities

Jessie Poire, District #3 President came for her annual visit. She gave information from Fall Workshop. It was very informative and a nice visit. We used part of 2024 bake sales to buy food for items for our deployed troops and delivered it to the Armory, who will send it on to our troops. The unit has a new member Ricki, who joined them at their October meeting.



THANK YOU!

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED





District News

District 4 Report



Susan Sironen
District 4 President

Unit 26 Powell - we have assisted our home front families while their loved ones are deployed. We had a float in the Park County Parade at the end of July. August the Aux-

iliary attended the Post Picnic. In September we attended the Patriots Day Ceremony supporting our Post and remembering the first responders. We continue to support our community with our food giveaway every Tuesday and Saturday and with our big giveaway once a month. We are still hosting bingo twice a week.

We were thrilled and honored to host our National Auxiliary President with a dinner and small program to explain what our District is doing. Our District as a hole is rocking it.

In October we held our annual community Halloween party and held a second Poppy Day. We are also organizing our Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed during November Commodities. We at Unit 26 wish our fellow units a very Happy

Thanksgiving and challenge everyone to start November 1st and every day afterwards to write down one thing you are thankful for and to please remember to keep our troops in our thoughts and prayers. God bless all of our troops. Unit 26 Powell

Unit 29 Basin - we continue to hold our Veterans Suicide Awareness Rally on the 22nd of each month. November is busy with Poppy Day, Veterans Day Dinner, Veterans Day program at the local school and our Rally. We will deliver cookies and cards to our veterans in the local retirement home on Nov 11. Our unit is also working with other local organizations to collect items to send to our local soldiers for Christmas. The Americanism essays are due mid-December, and we will be starting Girls State recruiting shortly.

Unit 44 Worland took on a new community service project this year in September. We provided cakes and a small gift to each resident with a September birthday at our local healthcare and rehab center for their monthly cake and ice cream party. Our unit helped at the October membership drive with an early bird dinner. Our members will be helping with Veterans Day and will have our Poppy drive that week. In November we are doing community clothing and hygiene gathering for the local veterans, Sheridan VA, and Buffalo Home. December we will be signing Christmas cards to be delivered to the local hospital, nursing home, assisted living housing, and special needs home. We also give a Christmas gift to our local veterans in these facilities.



Gloria Taylor
District 5 President

District 5
All our units were busy doing Halloween festivities this past

month. From Trunk or Treats to Monster marches. Many members dressed up to pass out candy and patriotic trinkets.

Unit 7 Sheridan
Members continue to provide milk shakes and play bingo at the VA every month. Ghostly members provided candy and patriotic trinkets at Sheridan's Downtown Walk and Dayton's Trick or Trunk for Halloween.

Veteran's Day activities at Tongue River Middle School includes a "Children's Table" presentation by unit members along with the chorus all wearing poppies. 1st baby born on Veterans Day at Sheridan Memo-

rial Hospital received a basket.

There will be a Veterans Day Spaghetti dinner at Post 7, put on by the post.

Unit 13 Buffalo
District President Gloria made her official visit on October 8th. Thank you!

Five members attended Fall Workshop in Casper and supported AEF playing BUNCO.

Members continue to serve the veterans at the Wyoming Veterans Home on Wednesdays. Ice cream, cookies, rootbeer floats and Birthday Cake. Members also spend the 2nd Tuesday playing BINGO and serving brownies or banana bread

for our lone Poppy Maker. Other members travel to Sheridan once a month and serve rootbeer floats. We also have three teams that serve the Post's bi-monthly breakfast.

The Unit exercised their right and voted either absentee or at the Poll. Rides were offered to those who needed a ride.

Chairman Edie has her Poppy Workers all set for Poppy Day on November 8th. Members stepped up and we have Baumgaards, the hospital and Casper College. Our ALA has invited the VFW Auxiliary to make soup and desserts to go along with our soup on Veterans Day.



Vicki Paddock
Membership Chairman

E=MC2 Our Northwestern Division theme is Energy.

Energy equals membership times communication times communication.

At fall workshop each District President, Peg and I were given hats with this formula on it. As each District's membership grows by 10%, they will put a lightning bolt on their hats.

I encourage all members in the state of Wyoming to do the following:

- 1) Carry a membership applica-

Membership

tion at all times. If you happen to run into someone who is eligible to join, they will more than likely sign up at the moment instead of waiting a while.

2) Once they join- mentor them. Communicate, Communicate. We want to keep them interested and involved.

3) Remember why you joined.

4) Have an elevator story ready. If you are with someone you usually have 30 seconds to talk and make an impression.

Generally, most chairman would write, REPORT, REPORT, REPORT. Not me. I would love to see all members work on membership. It takes us all working together to make great units and a great Department.

At this moment this is how we stand. District 1 =26%, District 2=33%, District 3=48%, District 4= 54%, District 5= 56%, and District 6=48%. Department overall is at 42%

Vicki Paddock
Membership Chairman

UNIT	2024 Goal	2024 Ended	Deceased	2025 Goal	UNIT	GOAL	2024 Ended	Deceased
Rock Springs	274			275	Powell	117	118	
Gr. River	130		1	131	Basin	53		1
Ft. Bridger	49	54	1	54	Greybull	10		
Cokeville	27			28	Worland	70	78	2
Alpine	28			29	TOTAL	250		
Pinedale	33		1	33				
Big Piney	29			30				
LaBarge	16			17	Newcastle	16		
TOTAL	586			597	Sheridan	87	90	3
					Buffalo	132	140	4
					Moorcroft	78	78	3
Van Tassell	13	19	1	19	Gillette	181		4
Torrington	126			126	Hulett	51		
Douglas	63	67	3	65	Kaycee	34		
Glenrock	48	48		49	TOTAL	579		
Wheatland	36	39	1	39				
Glendo	82		1	82	Cheyenne	250		5
LaGrange	35		2	35	Laramie	75		
Chugwater	15			16	Saratoga	51	52	
Guernsey	43		3	41	Pine Bluffs	33	35	1
TOTAL	461			472	Medicine Bow	40		1
					Albin	25		
Powder River	11		1	11	TOTAL	474		
Riverton	20			21				
Lander	74		3	72	Headquarters	287		
Ft. Washakie	21			22				
TOTAL	126			126				
					total	2503	2545	
TOTAL	2271	2476						

National Goal for WY for 2025 2,545



Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Report



Susan Sironen
VA & R Chairman

of 130 VA Facilities participate in the Veterans Creative Arts Program which culminates in the Festival every spring.

The ALA Foundation supports Unit and Department involvement in the Festival through grants in the amount of \$2500. If three Units want to work together on a project, that means you can apply for \$7500. So, what can you do with the funds? You can purchase art supplies, jewelry supplies, music, and other items to support your local VA Facility and the veterans who are interested in participating. The winners may be chosen to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, which will be held between May 11 through 18 in Indianapolis, IN.

The application is easy, yet only a total of 10 applications have been submitted over the past several years. If you are concerned about completing the paperwork, don't be!! The staff at the Foundation in Indianapolis (alafoundation.org/grants) can help so check out the website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cmgrout@comcast.net

There are two deadlines for submission of applications --- December 20th and March 20th.

For Wyoming, contact Linda Orr as the Sheridan VA works with this program.

Basin Unit 29 and Sheridan Unit 7 continue holding their Veterans Suicide Awareness Rally. Powell Unit 26 has purchased their signs and are getting ready to rally. Is anyone else around the state participating in this project?

Wreaths Across America - don't forget to get your wreath orders in. Cemeteries all over Wyoming are being sponsored.

Creative Arts Festival - Information from Cora May Grout. The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board approved one application for a Unit to support a local VA Facility Veterans Creative Arts Program/Competition. An average



Courtesy Photo

Above: Jerri Halsek, Holly Washington, and Rochelle Pratt.
Below: The sign use for the Suicide Awareness Rally.



TAKE ACTION

- Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone
- Start a confidential online chat session at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat
- Send a text message to 838255 to connect to a VA responder
- Take a self-check quiz at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz
- If you or a Veteran you know is in crisis, find a facility near you
- Visit www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net if you are Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard
- Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are deaf or hard of hearing

Cheyenne VA Living Center



Peg Sullivan, Vicki Paddock - Reps for Cheyenne Living Center

Thank you to Gail Unit 6 and Jane Unit 9 for volunteering at the September Memorial Service.

The veterans are all smiles when they receive their birthday card and a \$5 gift card.

The 2nd Sunday Birthday Party is having a few struggles. The staff isn't aware of what Amber wants done for the Veterans. Last month, B-Jo from Unit 70 took homemade cupcakes. The staff said, "it's on the calendar." I've asked Amber to tell the CLC staff to announce around 1:45 pm inviting all veterans to come down to the dining room and celebrate their fellow veteran's birthday.

The Department provides cupcakes but Units are welcome to bring their own. A big thank you to B-Jo and to Cheryl - Unit 14 our December volunteer. Would your Unit volunteer for 1 hour for a 2nd Sunday Party? With winter coming, I hope we have volunteers close to Cheyenne.

Sheridan VA Healthcare Network



Linda Orr
Rep



Melba Bennet
Rep

The leaves have come down, there has been snow several times in the upper altitudes and the Elk Fire in the Big Horns is pretty much contained. Life is good. Now is the time to make the life of the hospitalized veteran and those veterans living outside the hospital but are under monitoring and participating in VA programs special during the holiday season.

If you have donations or wish to participate in holiday activities at the VA, please contact Eric at 307-675-3226. They are looking for groups to sponsor and host holiday parties.

Currently on the wish list are large (4X-6X) men's clothing, blue jeans in all sizes, winter clothing, tennis shoes, men's underwear (not tidy whites), long underwear, toiletries without alcohol, razors and sports equipment such as softballs, gloves, catcher equipment, etc. There is also a need for Walmart gift cards to help with pet/people foods and items not provided by the hospital. Your cookies are always loved. Remember that you can take items for the Sheridan VA to your local VA clinic and ask them to send it with the courier up to the hospital.

Thank you again for all you do. You are amazing.
Linda Orr and Melba Bennett, Reps

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.





Wyoming Veterans Home



Edie Taffner
Veterans Home
of Wyoming Rep.

Season's greetings from Buffalo! We continue to serve our Veterans at the Veterans Home of Wyoming and the brand-new Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)!

We will be serving pumpkin pie Nov. 27th for a Thanksgiving treat!

Plans are formulating for a Christmas party in Dec. There will be fruit, sweet treats and a card with a \$10.00 bill in it for all the residents. We are again collecting calendars if you have extras, you can send them to me.

I am planning to have

more teams of volunteers by the new year to serve the SNF. We will increase our activities there with Bingo once a month and spend time playing cards or games with them.

As always, your help with funds for the projects we chairman do at the VA hospitals and Veterans Home that falls under the VA&R committees is so appreciated!

We would not be able to serve our Veterans without your help! Happy New Year to you all!



"In the Clouds"

Get Well - Auxiliary Member Only

- Dorothy Williams Unit 10
- Gloria Scheall Unit 7
- Jan Gamie Unit 29
- Kay Mowery Unit 29
- Neda Herman Unit 29
- Carla Brown Unit 7

In Memoriam

- Bobbie Gertsch Unit 6
- Ethel Heimer Unit 26
(104 years old)
- DeeDee Buckly (Past NWDVP)
- Myrtle Howery Unit 70

Sympathy

- Adam Blackburn Unit 10
- Kim Britton Unit 10



Susan Dansereau
Chaplain



Alyssa Hinckley
Wyoming Girls State Director

brings together motivated young women from across the state to participate in a week of intensive learning, networking, and personal growth. But to ensure that we have a strong pool of candidates, early recruitment is essential. As the Unit Chairman, your role in identifying and encouraging young women to attend Wyoming Girls State is vital.

Here's why starting recruitment early can make a difference—and how you can make it happen.

Why Early Recruitment Matters

1. Better Engagement with Schools and Communities

When we reach out to schools early, we give counselors, teachers, and community leaders ample time to identify students who would benefit most from Wyoming Girls State. Building these connections well in advance not only increases awareness of the program but also solidifies relationships with those who help select our future delegates.

2. More Time to Identify Strong Candidates

Starting the recruitment process early allows us to meet and evaluate a larger pool of applicants, ensuring we select young women who are truly passionate about leadership and government. By spreading the word now, we allow more time for students to consider this exciting opportunity and for parents and educators to support them through the application process.

3. Less Stress, Better Planning

Early recruitment gives you, as the Unit Chairman, more time to prepare for each step in the process—from promoting the program in your community to coordinating logistics. By setting up a timeline now, you can avoid last-minute challenges and make the experience as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

Tips for Successful Early Recruitment

• Collaborate with Local Schools

Reach out to high school guidance counselors, social studies teachers, and other relevant staff.

Explain the purpose and benefits of Wyoming Girls State, and ask them to recommend students who are natural leaders and have an interest in government or community service.

• Engage with Parents and Community Organizations

Local organizations like the PTA, 4-H clubs, and Rotary groups are often looking for ways to support youth development. Ask them to help spread the word and encourage parents to learn more about Wyoming Girls State.

• Use Social Media and Local Media

Promote the program on your unit's social media pages and consider submitting a press release to your local newspaper. Early announcements are an excellent way to reach a wide audience and generate excitement about the opportunity.

• Encourage Past Participants to Share Their Experiences

Nothing is more inspiring to potential candidates than hearing firsthand accounts of the Wyoming Girls State experience. Reach out

to alumni and invite them to share their stories at a school event or local unit meeting. Hearing how Girls State helped them grow as leaders can be a powerful motivator for new applicants.

Make an Impact This Year

Your work as a Unit Chairman plays a crucial role in creating unforgettable experiences for Wyoming's future leaders. Starting your recruitment efforts now will allow you to make the most of this opportunity, helping to ensure that Wyoming Girls State is filled with talented, motivated young women ready to make a difference.

Thank you for all you do to promote Wyoming Girls State. Together, we're building a brighter future for our communities and our country.



Peg Sullivan
Above: Members of the Auxiliary - Vicki, Sonja, Glory, Linda, winners of the Bunco tournament.

National

President's

Visit



Courtesy Photo

Above left: National President Ward with Activities Director MarySue and NEC Vicki in front of a Skilled Nursing Facility. Above right: National President Ward talking to the cows at the Fishing Pond. Below left: National President Ward with MarySue and Peg on the SAL's Fishing Dock. Below right: National President Ward with Veterans Home of WY Director Greg Merideth.



National President visits Wyoming

National President, Trish Ward, arrived on her visit to Wyoming on Oct.2, 2024. National Executive Committeewoman, Vicki Paddock, met her at the Gillette airport. They traveled on to Devil's Tower for a short visit and then on to Newcastle. In Newcastle, NP Trish was treated to dinner as she visited with members and their spouses.

Thursday morning, we departed for Buffalo to have lunch with Powder River Unit 13. After lunch NP Trish was given a tour of the newly opened section of the Veterans Skilled Nursing Facility and Fishing Pond. After the tour we were off again. This time traveling over the mountain to Powell.

Powell greeted us with a warm reception and an awesome Prime Rib Dinner. NP Trish gave a wonderful speech on her goals for her administrative year. Daylight found us traveling to Glendo. But first we did a quick stop at Heart Mountain. What an interesting place and I am so sorry it was not going to be open that day.

Down the road to Thermopolis and the Hot Springs. Once again, we did a quick drive through before it was time to go. Finally arrived in Glendo for lunch with Unit 15 and members and one member from LaGrange. NP Trish held some very interesting conversations with the members.

Casper was the next stop for the Fall Workshop. NP Trish gave an outstanding presentation on her goals for the upcoming year. They are as follows:

- Small-town rural environments are struggling
- Leadership capacity is dwindling
- Membership is aging and churning
- Infrastructure is weakening

The second part of her presentation is the Department Merit Medalion. This has 5 requirements for our department. They are

1. Receive 85% membership by March 15, 2025
2. Submit Department Impact Form
3. Governance Excellence (review of C & B)
4. 990 Compliance
5. Financial Donation (ALA Foundation Grant Fund, Auxiliary Emergency Fund)

Her special project is the ALA Foundation Veterans Project Fund. With all this being said NP Trish was not able to stay for our Fall Workshop to meet more of our members.

Children and Youth News



Tammy Harris
Chairman

Hopefully you have all heard by now that the Child Welfare Foundation has a new name. It is now called the Child Well Being Foundation. The mission stays the same, it just has a new name. Speaking of the Child Well Being Foundation, thank you to everyone who attended Fall Workshop and took a pig or two to fill and decorate. We will be having a contest at Department Convention in June for the best dressed pig. Remember while you are decorating them to fill them up!

This year, the National organization has set a goal to beat the Legion for donations to the foundation.

Please keep filling your pigs, and/or raising funds for the foundation. We want the Department to get the full credit for all foundation donations. Please be sure to send your donations to Peg at the Department Office no later than April 15, 2025 so she can get them all sent in to National.

At the Department Level, we will be drawing for various prizes at Department Convention. There will be several prizes for winners to choose from and more information will be on the Department Facebook page before MidWinter in Rock Springs. So please keep an eye out.

Finally, the Children and Youth

Program has two awards that can be given out at any time during the year and the goal is to have one of each award from each Department. These awards are the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award. They can be applied for through the national website: ALAforveterans.org. They are also a good way to recognize the outstanding youth in our community. Keep your eyes out and nominate a deserving youth today.

See you at MidWinter.
Tammy



Department Poppy Report

I hope everyone had an opportunity to support their veterans on Veterans Day. Did you use poppies? Make sure you send me a report with any pictures.

Are you ramping up your unit for poppy posters and National Poppy Day? Do you need help? Do you need ideas? Please use me as a resource. You can email me at bjovfwaux@gmail.com or you can call at 801-717-6783. I am happy to be a sounding board or even brainstorm ideas.

Remember we will have a poppy display contest during the Department Convention in June. Make a piece that demonstrates your love for veterans, what they mean to you, and how a poppy helps you remember them. Please use at least one of our veteran made poppies in your display.

If you have never had poppy posters, may I suggest you contact art

teachers in your local schools ASAP. They are the ones to help you. You could also hold your own event. Invite a variety of school age kids to come. Explain about the poppy, or even read The Poppy Lady by Moina Belle Michael, as well as the poem, In Flanders Fields by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Then have them draft or sketch out their drawing. Remember to tell them it needs to contain certain words as part of the poster. Other poster requirements can be found at www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-poster-contest. Most importantly, be sure to include a completed cover sheet that has a parent's or teacher's signature. It can also be found on the previously listed website.

B-Jo Laing Chairman



Auxiliary Emergency Fund



Peg Sullivan
A.E.F. Chairman

AEF. We have raised 45% of my goal. Members who attended Fall Workshop took part in "BUNCO". Everyone had a good time and I plan on another "BUNCO".

The National AEF was called upon several times with the destruction and flooding down

south. A member is eligible to receive a \$3,000 grant if they meet the requirements. You can find the AEF Application on the National ALA website: www.legion-aux.org under How we Serve and under Disaster and Emergency Fund. The application is between you the member and National.

Remember we have tickets to "Win 2026 Dues" - 6 for \$5.00. The ticket is on the Department webpage: www.wylegionaux.org

Thank you to the Units and members who sent in donations to



Photo by Gail Keeler

Above: Sweatshirts filled to the hood with items for Veterans at the Cheyenne VA Standdown created by Unit 8 Douglas.

Historian Report



Jessica York
Historian

Did you participate in National Education Week? What did you do for Veteran's Day? Did you help with the Stand Down? Are you planning to provide meals to veterans for the holidays? This is your Unit's history. This is also the Department's history. You are already keeping track of what you do to write a report for all of the individual programs. Please combine all of them into a Unit History as well. When I write the Department history, I would like to be able to mention what activities all of our Units did this year, not just one or two.

Also, please make sure you are keeping track of your hours. Do your members have a hard time remembering everything at the end of the year? Record the hours at each month's meeting. Or encourage everyone to record their hours at the end of each event. Don't forget to include costs and in-kind donations. On National's website, there is an Excel file that can be downloaded that is a

monthly time tracker that goes exactly with the Member Impact Form. If you would like a copy and can't find it, reach out to me and I can email you a copy. It can also be saved as a PDF and printed out. Remember that while an event can be recorded under multiple project headings, each hour can only be recorded once.

Jessica York,
Department Historian
countrygirljdy@gmail.com



GRAND OLD FLAG

PHOTO CONTEST

TAKE PHOTOS OF AMERICAN FLAGS IN YOUR COMMUNITY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

CONTEST OPEN TO ALL ALA MEMBERS, INCLUDING JUNIORS AND YOUNG SONS

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY MAY 15TH, 2025.

<p>ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE: NAME, UNIT, LOCATION OF PHOTO LIMIT TWO PHOTOS PER ENTRANT</p>	<p>TEXT OR EMAIL PHOTOS TO: CATHEY RAYMER CATHEYRAYMER55@GMAIL.COM 307-677-0496</p>
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