

Commander's Corner



Douglas W. Johnson
Commander

I bring greetings to the Wyoming Legionnaires. I'm hoping everyone is surviving this winter. As all of you know we had to cancel Mid-Winter because of the weather. Mother nature was reminding us that she is still in charge during our unpredictable winter months. With a wind chill of minus 50 and lower for everyone's safety I didn't want anyone on the road taking a chance of breaking down so that is why I

decided to cancel Mid-Winter.

Going on from there I want to remind all Legionnaires that April will be upon us very soon which means District Conferences. Plan on attending them so you can take valuable information back to your local Posts. It is very important that everyone has a voice not only in your Posts but also your District. While you're at it we have some very talented people in every District that needs to be recognized. Let's get out and identify them so they get the recognition they deserve. We have lots of different categories to select from and you can get a listing of all of them on our department website.

On February 25th I'll be traveling to Washington D.C. for the Legions Washington conference. The Legion will be lobbying our representatives on issues that are important for every Veteran in America. I'll be talking with Harriet Hageman's staff and I'll also be talking to Senators John Barasso and Cynthia Lummis' staff because they are going to be back home in Wyoming on issues that

are important not only to Wyoming Legionnaires but all Veterans across the United States.

It is getting to be that time of year that Department Adjutant Gina will be getting ready to send out packets to every Post in the state with information that has to be filled out and sent back to her. This information that we collect from the Posts like the consolidated post reports (CPRs). With these CPRs our National Commander goes before Congress with this and makes a report to them on what we are doing in the Legion. So, let's see if we can be 100% in getting these reports sent in.

On another subject "BE THE ONE" let's get a "BE THE ONE" outing like Post 36 in Fort Bridger. I'll be participating in their "BE THE ONE" walk in May. It doesn't have to be gigantic by any means but maybe a spaghetti feed with "BE THE ONE" as the main ingredient for the evening. As a last note I would like to remind everyone about my Commanders Project. Let's have a Blood Drive at our Posts so we can maybe save

a Veterans life sometime this spring.

And one last issue that all Posts need to be aware of. National announced at the National Convention in August that they were raising their membership dues by \$5.00 beginning with the 2025 membership year (July 1, 2024). This means that Departments have to raise their dues in order to pay National. A vote went out to the DEC members, and it was determined that Department would raise their dues \$5.00 as well. This means that when you transmit a member, you need to send Department \$49.00 instead of \$39.00. Your Posts need to be made aware of this at your next meeting and Adjutant Gina will be sending out a form that requires you to fill out with your new Post dues amount so that the renewal notices can be sent out correctly.

Thank You, For God and Country Commander Doug, Department of Wyoming

Adjutant's Corner



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

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 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 take 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.

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.

American Legion Celebrates 105 Years



The American Legion turns 105 on Friday, March 15. Posts are encouraged to upload recaps and photos of their birthday celebrations (and other community activities) to le-

giontown.org. To assist your efforts, we've prepared a downloadable speech to serve as a guide for your American Legion birthday event. You can download the speech here: <https://www.legion.org/publications/248270/american-legion-birthday-suggested-speech>. And remember - the Legion birthday is a great opportunity to reach out to your fellow veterans through #BuddyChecks. All it takes is a phone call, text, email or drop-in to see how he or she is doing. It can make a difference. #BuddyCheck #AmericanLegionBirthday



1st Vice Commander's Corner



Bill Barnes
1st Vice Commander

Greetings, fellow Legionnaire's. I'm officially informing my fellow Legionnaire's that I will be running for Department Commander. I would appreciate your vote and support.

As you may know by now, dues will increase very soon. The Department is at 85%; I'm sure we can make 100% by our target date. We can do this!

I still have Department raffle tickets. They are \$20.00 per ticket. 1st prize is \$1500, 2nd prize is \$1000, 3rd prize is \$500, 4th-10th

prize is \$100 and the 11th prize is an autographed NASCAR license plate. The drawing will be held at the Department Convention in June. You need not be present to win.

When doing your Buddy Checks be prepared to Be the One! Recently I found myself involved with helping two sets of relatives get through some rough times. One family was from out of state. The other family lived in various parts of Wyoming. Both families weren't familiar as what to do

for their loved ones. I, along with others pointed them in the right direction. It was very time consuming, frustrating and tiring but well worth the effort.

Remember, Buddy Checks, Buddy Checks, Buddy Checks.

*For God and Country,
Bill Barnes
1st Vice Commander
Dept of Wyoming*

Closing out the year, Buddy Checks

Hello, all my fellow Wyoming Legionnaires. As we begin our lovely spring season in Wyoming, I hope that everyone is well. I have had the great opportunity to be on the Oratorical Contest committee for the Department, with Ben Glenn of Chugwater as the Chair. It has truly been an exciting time and has shown that our youth are willing and able to standup and articulate the youthful views of our United States government. If you have never attended one of these contests, please contact your post to take a look. The Department has opted to start rotating the Department Contest around the State by allowing the winning district to host the next year's contest. So, this year District 4 has the great opportunity of hosting. The contest will be held in Powell, on 23 March 2024, at 2 pm.

Not only am I able to work on the Oratorical Committee, but I have also been assigned to follow up with a resolution that was passed a few

years ago concerning The American Legion, Department of Wyoming's Leadership Training. This will be the "Legion College" of Wyoming. We have on our committee and as lead instructors, 4 fellow Wyoming Legionnaires, Deanna Hurless, Deb French, Mike Cooke, and myself. All these individuals have graduated from the National Legion College and will bring their knowledge and training back to Wyoming. I will be attending as many Spring Conferences as I can with more information and accepting applications for attendance.

Another exciting program that is being started at the National level is SAL U. From the Sons of The American Legion came the following: "The National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion invites you to participate in the Pilot Launch of SAL University (SAL U) to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 2-3, 2024. No more than 12 applications will be accepted for this initial pro-

gram. Those selected will be asked to provide a comprehensive evaluation of content, presenters, and structure." This is exciting as it will help our SAL members to learn more about the organization and its' purpose. For more information, contact your post commander or district commander.

I encourage everyone to go to the following website: <https://www.wyoboystate.org/> This will take you to the Wonderful Wyoming Boys' State website. Boys' State is The American Legions' premiere program for teaching our youth about the correct way our government is supposed to work. In today's world we need this taught to as many youth as we can, and applications are being accepted now.

The Four Pillars of The American Legion are: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security. Each of these pillars has numerous aspects to them and all make up

2nd Vice Commander's Corner



Russell Stafford
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

the whole reason why The American Legion was created by the veterans of a war that was to end all wars.

Lastly, I would like to announce my candidacy for The American Legion Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander for our 2024-2025 year. Thank you to the Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 Leadership and members for their endorsement.

BE THE ONE
TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
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AMERICAN LEGION **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

WYOMING Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

Official Publication of The American Legion, Dept of Wyoming

Editors: Legion - 1320 Hugur Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001
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WYOMING LEGIONNAIRE - AUXILIARE (USPS 574-210) is published the months of September, December, March, June by the American Legion, Dept. of Wyoming 1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001 and printed by Wyoming Tribune Eagle, 702 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82001. Periodical postage paid at Cheyenne, WY and additional offices. Subscription for members (\$2.50) is included in the annual membership dues. Non-members subscription price is \$5 per year. Postmaster: Send address changes to The American Legion, Dept. of Wyoming 1PO Box 20172, Cheyenne, WY 82003

The American Legion Department of Wyoming Legion Leadership Training (Legion College)

It is with great excitement that The American Legion Department of Wyoming announces the inaugural session for the Legion Leadership Training (Legion College). The course is dedicated to improving the personal growth and development for The American Legion membership. This training will provide the opportunity to continue your service to family, community, and The American Legion through the knowledge of our programs and the importance of why we do what we do.

Instructors will be Wyoming Legionnaires who have graduated from The National American Legion College. The initial course instructors will be Deanna Hurless, Deb French, Mike Cooke, and Russell Stafford. There will be presentations provided by others who are/have provided leadership for the Department. (i.e. Past Department Commanders, Department Adjutant, Service Officers, and Past National Executive Committee persons.) All of these individuals will provide instruction over a 3 day period, Friday at 1500 hrs (3 pm) to Sunday NLT 1300 hrs (1 pm).

The date and location for this training will be put out as soon as it is available and open to all American Legion members and Sons of The American Legion members.

Graduates are equipped with the resources necessary to succeed at any organizational level within The

American Legion Department of Wyoming; graduates will continue to grow as organizational leaders through continual mentoring and networking relationships as a direct result of their program attendance.

Legion Leadership Training is a developmental experience granted to promising American Legion members of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels to seek self-improvement facilitating selfless service to veterans, the community and The American Legion Family in a more impactful manner.

The curriculum shall challenge students to think critically and creatively about issues facing The American Legion Department of Wyoming. American Legion leaders are trained to make a difference in their communities and enhances attendees' knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization and the vitality of our programs. The college shall prepare attendees for leadership positions in posts, districts, squadrons, and department through education, development, and understanding. The curriculum challenges attendees to think critically and creatively about issues confronting the Department of Wyoming American Legion.

Please contact your Post Commander or District Commander for more information and an application to attend this training.

Chaplain's Corner Service to God and Country



**Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming**

As we approach the Easter holiday, many of us are planning things with our families whether that be a traditional family dinner, church services, Easter egg hunts, or just a family outing. My favorite memory is the year my late husband, Eric, and I decorated eggs with my three kids and then hid them. They had so much fun that we had to hide them again and then they each took turns hiding eggs – that's right FIVE egg hunts. Many of the eggs were so crunched up we couldn't use them for anything but trash fodder, but my three kids now all in their 30's, still remember that and we all smile because it's such a happy memory. Holidays can be wonderful times to make memories but unfortunately, many of our veterans don't have fond memories of

holidays.

This is when you can be the one. You can contact a vet and just say hello. See how they are doing, listen to them, and if they need assistance, point them in the right direction or of course help if you are able and willing.

During the pandemic, several of us at our Post got together and drew names of our elderly and infirm and took them Easter baskets. I happened to draw the name of someone who was pretty cantankerous to everyone. No biggie. I made a basket with stuff for this person and their dog and when I took it to them and stayed for a visit, they were so grateful and happy that we both had a wonderful time chatting. Sometimes we have to push past our own notions to find that gold nugget we might have missed if we just kept to ourselves.

For many of us, the spirit of Easter means forgiveness because Jesus died so our sins would be forgiven. What would have happened, I wonder, if Jesus said, "I'm not doing this because so and so in the year 2024 will do such and such and they don't deserve forgiveness." Boy, am I glad he didn't.

**Vanessa Stuart
Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL**

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS



February 2024 News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and has continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our Post membership is currently 132 TAL members, and 22 SAL members. Our renewals for 2024 have exceeded our state goal of 130 members, and our Post was the first one in our District to reach 100% of our goal. We also were the first Post in Wyoming to reach 100% of our SAL Squadron goal.

Assistance for a Post member in need: In January, our Post became aware that one of our long-time members was under severe financial pressure. Upon identification of this need, several Post members offered gifts to be donated to this member. Shortly after the meeting, we were also informed that this individual had been in a serious car accident on January 15. A GO-FUND-ME account was set up by his daughter-in-law to raise money to help with his medical bills and other expenses. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please contact our Post.

Presentation by Ray Pilgrim and Joe Burke: At our monthly Post meeting in November, Post members, Ray Pilgrim and Joe Burke took turns describing their backgrounds and experiences as members of the U.S. Coast Guard. After initial training on a cutter, Ray was trained to handle ships' boilers. On a buoy tender, they serviced light ships, light houses, and buoys. One of the lighthouses could only be accessed by a winch. Joe discussed his own training and later assignment to as a hospital corpsman at the USCG Air Station in Mobile, Alabama. He later served in an air detachment that deployed to the USCG Cutter Glacier out of Long Beach, CA in 1969-1970. His trip to the Antarctic was highlighted, including a well-documented experience when his ship, the Glacier, was frozen in the ice for almost two weeks.

Presentation by Erich Wilbrecht: Our Post was honored to have Erich as a speaker in January. Erich, whose father is a Post 43 member, is a former Olympic Biathlete and local Ski Club Hall of Fame member. He grew up in Jackson from age 16, when his dad became the manager

District 1

of the National Elk Refuge. During college, he was a member of the Dartmouth Nordic ski team, and also became exposed to biathlon competition. After college, he made the U.S. National biathlon team. He spent the next eight years training and went on to make five World Cup Teams and the 1992 US Olympic Team.

Army-Navy Game at the Post: The annual Army-Navy Game took place on December 9, and our Post was open for lunch and for everyone to enjoy the exciting game, won by the Army team. A large gathering of members and guests attended.

Honor Guard and Color Guard Activities: On December 2, our Post presented the colors for the opening ceremony of the Annual Rylee McCollum Wrestling Tournament at the Jackson Hole High School. Following that event, Post members gathered at a large bonfire site on the nearby Hereford Ranch. After a brief ceremony, the bonfire was lit and all of the worn out flags that had been collected by the Post were consumed by the huge fire with the help of a strong wind.

Veterans Day Ceremony: On November 11, our Post celebrated Veterans Day with a ceremony attended by a large crowd on the Jackson Town Square. The Jackson Community Band provided a warm up of patriotic music, which was followed by an opening prayer, reading



Jackson Hole Veterans Day

of a Proclamation from the Jackson Town Council, and very moving and sincere remarks by our Post member, Ed Liebzeit on the history and meaning of Veterans Day. Our Post Honor Guard followed with the traditional rifle salute and the playing of Taps. The Post also supported the Annual Ruck March and food collection effort which resulted in a very large donation of items to those in need.



Veterans Day at Jackson Hole Kindergarten

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 1 Continued



Submitted by Summer Havens
- First Vice Commander

TOM WHITMORE POST 28 GREEN RIVER

At Tom Whitmore Post 28, we have had the great honor of working with our community to help build one of the most successful and profitable veteran fundraisers in the nation. Our Legion, Auxiliary, and Son's members have been instrumental in building success with many of our programs.

Nine years ago, we were approached by the members of Zamtrip, a local rock band. They decided helping veterans was a cause close to their hearts and were interested in holding their 2nd fundraising concert at our Green River, WY post. Only they knew the incredible event this would become. Last year was the 10th Annual Music for Vets concert. We have been fortunate to work alongside Zamtrip, and their families, as they have seen great success in their music careers and in helping our community. Through the combined efforts of the band, our post, local businesses, and community members, Music for Vets raised over \$66k for veterans in Wyoming, just this year alone. We are grateful for Zamtrip's dedication.

Post 28 is fortunate in many ways. We have dedicated members who make things happen, from concerts and comedy shows that bring people together, to keeping our post running. Through intelligent financing, our building was paid off this year, several months early. And most weekends you will find our post bustling with energy. Entertainers pass the word along to others in their field that we are welcoming and the perfect little

venue in the pretty little town.

Our Auxiliary is always making things happen. From ensuring every interested female high school junior makes it to Girls State, donating gift cards at the holidays, hosting an Angel Tree, and collecting cookies year-round to send to the Sheridan VA, Post 28 Auxiliary is always finding new ways to improve our community and to help others. Members discovered a need at the elderly care home for bath supplies, better than just the bulk body wash that dries out our parents and grandparents' skin. They decided our families could use a little more love and held a Bath Products drive. We collected shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion that keeps our elders squeaky clean but also oh so comfortable. All because our Auxiliary realized our older community members deserve more than just the bare minimum.

We tragically lost one of our Legion Family members a few years ago, but our post didn't just say goodbye. Our Auxiliary created a beautiful memorial program called Brenda's Closet. We collect formal dresses, inventory them, and make them available to our community. While open all year, we hold events just before school proms to help young ladies find the perfect dress for the big occasion. Always finding ways to go above and beyond, our Aux members reach out to local businesses to put together goodie bags to give the girls to make the day even more exciting.

We also have a highly successful Ladies Paint

Night. Beginning last year with a few attendees, last month we had over 40 people painting canvases to their hearts content. Our Aux members held a free pancake breakfast on Veterans Day with the help of the Boy Scouts, teaching our young men humility and service.

Because of the success of our outreach programs, a community member asked to bring her homeless veteran care package program to our post this year. Roberts, a previous oil field worker, was informed veterans were living under a bridge, in the next town over. It was winter in Wyoming, always a brutal time. According to Roberts, she had more money than she knew what to do with, so she decided to help. This one person chose to make a difference. The first year, she raided friends and relatives' closets for supplies. 15 years later, she outgrew her work space and reached out to us to help her in her project. The first year, Roberts threw together 24 care packages. This year we were able to provide Roberts with donations, funding, volunteers, and the bottom half of our building. We are proud to help an incredible community member build almost 200 care projects, through her Wyo Hawk Campaign.

Even more shining examples of how our Legion families work together to make our post successful and useful to our town and our veterans. Every program held at our post is another way we reach out to let our veterans know we are here, with open doors and open hearts.

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 2



Submitted by Squadron 8
Adjutant Ron Casalenda

SAMUEL MARES POST 8 and SQUADRON 8 DOUGLAS, WY

In conjunction with The City of Douglas, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, various organizations, businesses and individuals Samuel Mares American Legion Post and Squadron 8 completed the Veterans Path near the main pedestrian entry of the Wyoming State Fairgrounds, at the sight of the Blue Star Memorial Highway. A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted to mark the occasion. This project took a concerted effort on the part of everyone to include volunteer labor/materials, financial donations to purchase the bronze placards as well as state authorization to erect it on WYDOT property. This project was constructed as a memorial to all the brave men and women who have served this great county.



Samuel Mares Post 8 - Veterans Path



DUES INCREASE NOTICE

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, FOR THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR OF 2025, THE NATIONAL DUES WILL BE INCREASED BY \$5.00, AND DEPARTMENT DUES WILL BE ALSO BE INCREASED BY \$5.00. THIS MEANS THE OFFICERS OF THE POSTS SENDING IN TRANSMITTALS WILL HAVE TO SEND IN \$49.00 INSTEAD OF \$39.00. THE \$49.00 WILL ALSO BE WHAT IS TRANSMITTED WHEN DOING MEMBERSHIP ONLINE.



Brandon Frye(City of Douglas Parks & Recs Director), JD Cox(City of Douglas Administrator), Mark Ayen (WYDOT Engineer), Jim Willox(WYDOT Board member/Converse County Commission Chair), Trent Kaufman(Converse County Commissioner), Kim Pexton(City of Douglas Mayor) Ann Rex



Endorsements

For First Vice Commander



Russell Stafford
Dept. 2nd Vice Commander

Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 of Powell, Wyoming would like to formally endorse Russell Stafford as candidate for The American Legion Department of Wyoming First Vice Commander. He is currently the Department 2nd Vice Commander and was District 4 Commander for the 2 years prior to that. He held the Post 26 Commander position

for 4 years and we believe The American Legion Department of Wyoming will benefit from his dedication and experience. Russell is a graduate of The American Legion National College and a part of the Department Executive Committee for the past 3 years.

For Second Vice Commander



Benjamin V. Glenn Jr.
District 2 Chaplain

McDonald & Voight Post #75 would like to officially nominate Benjamin V Glenn Jr. for Department 2nd Vice Commander. He currently holds the position of District #2 Chaplain and State Oratorical Chairman for this past year and has been the Post Adjutant for the last 4 years. After taking over as the Post Commander, we quickly recognized that Ben would be a

big benefit at the department level. His experience representing the State of Wyoming as a delegate to the National Convention and his steadfast commitment to helping get our Department Service Office back open and supporting Veterans makes him a great fit for our department going forward. "Service Before Self, Not Self Service"

For Department Finance Officer



Deanna Hurlless
Department Finance Officer

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

Deanna joined the American Legion in 2009. She served in the U.S. Air Force as a Ground Radio Communications Specialist and was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB. She currently works for a credit union as the Loan Processing Manager, she has worked there for 28 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 has been 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

**The American Legion Family
Department of Wyoming Convention**
June 20 -- 23, 2024
Floyd Minch Post 44
129 S. 7th Street, Worland, WY 82401

Pre-registration (includes convention pin) Deadline June 1 \$10 \$ _____
Registration at the door \$15, \$5 for pin

Thursday, June 20
Registration at Post 44 -- 3 p.m. -- 7 p.m.
No Host dinner at Post 44 -- 6 p.m. \$XX

Friday, June 21
Registration at Post 44 -- 8 a.m. -- 9 a.m.
Past Commanders & Adjutants Breakfast \$10 \$ _____
6 a.m. -- 7:30 a.m. Post 44
Department Luncheon \$10 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Culbertson Ave.
Department Commander and President Banquet \$15 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Culbertson Ave.
Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu,
Entertainment (DJ) at Post 44 following dinner

Saturday, June 22
Past Department Commanders' Breakfast Free
6 a.m. -- 7:30 a.m. Post 44
Department Luncheon \$11 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Culbertson Ave.
Menu:
Department Banquet \$25 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Culbertson Ave.
Menu: Flatiron Steak,
Entertainment (Band) at Post 44 following dinner

Sunday, June 23
Chaplains' Breakfast Free
6 a.m. -- 7:30 a.m. Post 44

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Post 44
Name _____
Address _____ City /Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Post/Unit _____ Office: Post: _____ Dist.: _____ Dept.: _____

12-13 January 2024 DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION SITES AND DATES

April 06/07; April 12/13; April 20/21

District Membership to Date % Date, Site & Time

District No. 2 83.19% Date: 04/13/2024 Time: 0900 hrs
Site: Lusk County Fairgrounds Lunch: Yes - \$11.00

District No. 1 82.73% Date: 04/06/2024 Time: 1000 hrs
Site: Senior Center - Marbleton Lunch: Yes - \$11.00

District No. 6 81.41% Date: 04/14/2024 Time: 1000 hrs
Site: Laramie Lunch: Yes - \$11.00

District No. 4 80.65% Date: 04/20/2024 Time: 1000 hrs
Site: Post 44 - Worland Lunch: Yes - \$11.00

District No. 5 78.14% Date: 04/27/2024 Time: 1000 hrs
Site: Gillette College Lunch: Yes - free

District No. 3 77.70% Date: 04/07/2024 Time: 1300 hrs
Site: Reach Foundation - Riverton Lunch: No



2024 INFO FOR RIFLE RAFFLE TICKETS
Wyoming High School Rodeo Presents
2024 ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

- Multiple Choices Multiple Winners
 - 1: Weatherby Mark V -Bronze-.25-06 Remington Caliber Rifle w/Red Desert Stock, MavenBuilt rifle Scope and American Legion Coin- \$3350 Value
 - 2: Weatherby Orion, 12 Gauge O/U Shotgun-\$1150 Value
 - 3: A 2 Person, 3 day Guided Merriam Turkey Hunt -\$2500 Value
 - 4: 1 of 3 Barto Packer Antler Knives w/sheath-\$150-\$200 Value
 - 5: Weatherby Glam Bag
- Tickets \$10 Each or 12 Tickets for \$100
 Drawing at State Finals in Rock Springs
 Contact Ken Persson Sr. for tickets and more information-307-349-2881

2024 WYOMING High School State Finals Rodeo
JUNE 3-8, Rock Springs, WY—
Sweetwater Events Complex

Subject to Change – WEATHER CAN AND WILL CAUSE CHANGES
 Consideration is being given to sliding all events forward 1 day (June 2-7)
MONDAY June 3-
 1pm Queen meeting with National Director (Exhibit Hall-no judges-parents welcome)
 1:30pm Informal meet & greet with judges (Exhibit hall-

non judged)
 2:30pm Written Test-(Exhibit Hall-contestants only)
 4:00pm Queen Interviews (Exhibit Hall)
 7:30pm Speech/Modeling & Impromptu question (Exhibit Hall)

TUESDAY June 4

8am 1st Go Reined Cow Horse & Cutting- Sweetwater Events Complex-Indoor Barn
 1pm Queen Horsemanship-Indoor Barn
 4pm 2nd Go Reined Cow Horse & Cutting- Sweetwater Events Complex-Indoor Barn

WEDNESDAY June 5

7am FINAL Go Reined Cow Horse & Cutting – Sweetwater Events Complex-Indoor Barn
 10:30am Board Meeting- Pronghorn Room 1-3pm Contestant Check-in-Rodeo Office Under grandstands Main Arena CONTESTANTS must be in Western Attire
 1-3pm Senior Scholarship Interviews- Complex-4-5pm Mandatory Contestant Meeting-Main Grandstands
 5:30 pm Jackpots-TR –Details to come

THURSDAY June 6

7am Church Service- -Main grandstands 8:30am 1st Go 1st Performance WYHSRSF-Main Grandstands Noon-4pm Shooting Sports- Shooting Range
 6pm 1st Go 2nd Performance WYHSRSF-Main grandstands-Tough Enough to Wear Pink

FRIDAY June 7

8:30am 2nd Go 1st Performance WYHSRSF-Main Arena (reverse order of 1st GO)**
 5:15pm Senior Recognition- Main Grandstands-Main Arena

6pm 2nd Go 2nd Performance WYHSRSF- Main Arena- (reverse order of 1st Go) Memorial Night**

SATURDAY June 8

9:15 Grand Entry- Main Grandstands-Main Arena
 9:30am Qualifying Round Performance-Main Arena (National Qualifier Paperwork to be completed during performance and immediately following performance- Outside Rodeo Office under grandstands)
 5:30 pm Awards Banquet/Dinner

SUNDAY June 9

8am Annual Board Meeting- Pronghorn Room or Exhibit Hall

TENTATIVE 2024 SPRING WYOMING HS & JH RODEO SCHEDULE –

(As of 1.31.24) (Subject to change by Board or any local club)
 April 5-7, 2024 – Laramie (Confirmed) JH – Fri (2 rounds) --- HS – Sat & Sun
 April 13-14, 2024- OPEN April 19-21, 2024 – Rock Springs(Tentative) JH – Fri; HS- Sat & Sun – April 26-28, 2024 – Big Piney (Tentative) JH- Fri; HS Sat & Sun –
 May 3-May 5, 2024 – Newcastle (Tentative) JH-Fri : HS-Sat & Sun
 May 9-10-11-12, 2024 – Gillette – (Tentative) TENTATIVE -Junior High State Finals on Thurs 9th-.Fri May 10th - HS Rodeo Cutting & RCH Friday- Shooting HS & JH TBD
 May 17-18, 2024 - Casper (Tentative) May 25, 2024 – Sheridan (Tentative) IN BUFFALO
 May 26-27, 2024 - Buffalo (Confirmed) Will have CUTTING & RCH NO SHOOTING



District 4
Wyoming American Legion

Riders of the United States (WALRUS)

*Get your motor runnin'
 Head out on the highway
 Lookin' for adventure
 And whatever comes our way*

Members must own and ride motorcycles and maintain active membership within The American Legion Family.

District 4 is in the process of revitalizing the Wyoming American Legion Riders of the United States (WALRUS) for the Big Horn Basin area. If you own and ride a motorcycle, come join other members of the District 4 Legion family.

Nationally, American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes, severely wounded servicemembers and scholarships. True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the post level, where the best ideas are born.

The American Legion Riders is a program of the American Legion. Membership is open only to members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Le-

For more information contact District 4 Adjutant Bobby Werner at bobbywerner03@yahoo.com



Coins - \$10.00; Pins - \$5.00

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

Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	
24	350	319	91.14%	0	1	31	24	77.42%	4	
28	190	156	82.11%	15	4	23	20	86.96%	1	
36	101	107	105.94%	0	5	126	115	91.27%	0	
40	10	3	30.00%	6	8	167	155	92.81%	0	
41	35	26	74.29%	6	9	46	46	100.00%	0	
43	130	132	101.54%	0	10	69	63	91.30%	0	
46	36	29	80.56%	3	15	25	18	72.00%	5	
47	34	26	76.47%	5	56	10	6	60.00%	3	
49	15	16	106.67%	0	63	19	19	100.00%	0	
55	30	25	83.33%	2	70	10	10	100.00%	0	
78	20	21	105.00%	0	75	14	18	128.57%	0	
88	16	13	81.25%	1	95	25	25	100.00%	0	
D-1	967	873	90.28%	0	D-2	565	519	91.86%	0	
90% - 03/13/2024					90% - 03/13/2024					
Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	
2	230	214	93.04%	0	11	35	30	85.71%	2	
16	10	2	20.00%	7	18	16	15	93.75%	0	
19	68	63	92.65%	0	20	45	44	97.78%	0	
31	15	9	60.00%	5	26	170	145	85.29%	8	
33	230	199	86.52%	8	29	44	42	95.45%	0	
61	10	2	20.00%	7	32	26	28	107.69%	0	
81	22	21	95.45%	0	44	188	175	93.09%	0	
96	16	0	0.00%	14	85	22	19	86.36%	1	
D-3	601	510	84.86%	31	91	12	10	83.33%	1	
90% - 03/13/2024					90% - 03/13/2024					
Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post	2024 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	
3	74	55	74.32%	12	6	1131	1004	88.77%	14	
7	185	150	81.08%	17	14	310	306	98.71%	0	
13	155	136	87.74%	4	21	10	6	60.00%	3	
25	25	22	88.00%	1	54	80	72	90.00%	0	
42	325	297	91.38%	0	60	50	43	86.00%	2	
45	19	17	89.47%	1	64	33	19	57.58%	11	
80	36	33	91.67%	0	77	10	10	100.00%	0	
90	13	6	46.15%	6	93	10	3	30.00%	6	
307	28	53	189.29%	0	122	44	40	90.91%	0	
D-5	860	769	89.42%	5	D-6	1678	1503	89.57%	7	
90% - 03/13/2024					90% - 03/13/2024					
DISTRICT TOTALS						5229	4682	89.54%	24	
17 HQ.						175	53	30.29%	105	
DEPARTMENT GOAL						5404	4735	87.62%	129	
NATIONAL GOAL						5404	4735	87.62%	129	

Current as of: 8-Mar-2024



American Legion Auxiliary News

“One - Reaching out for Membership” *Tammy Harris, Department President*



Tammy Harris
President

Spring conferences are right around the corner. The spring season is so full of hope and signs of new life. Some of you may already be seeing signs of new life and growth, maybe some green grass, early buds of leaves on trees or even signs of the early spring flowers. Some of

you may be eagerly anticipating those signs of warmer weather. I know I am. Spring is a time of new growth—why not use this time as a time to try and grow your membership. Yes, this is going to sound a lot like a membership article, but membership is everyone’s responsibility.

One of the common refrains I hear from our units is that younger people just aren’t joining organizations or volunteering like previous generations. While some people think that younger generations aren’t volunteering because they don’t want to be involved, I want to present another possible reason—lack of time and resources. Think about it. Younger people are at the stages of their lives where they are establishing their careers, raising their families and maintaining households. Time and energy are precious commodities to them and if we are asking them to spend hours of their free time away

from their families, or to take time off of work for a mid-day meeting during the workweek, their answer will be “no.” When we don’t meet our members or our potential members and volunteers where they are we will lose those members. How do we combat this? We begin by offering family friendly activities, by incorporating fun into our service projects, and by not overwhelming them with expectations that they volunteer hours and hours of their precious spare time helping the Unit. We adjust our meeting times to a day and time that has potential to work for our members of all ages. In short, we start trying to reach those members who will be future leaders in the organization with activities and events that will bring them in.

We need to start making changes in our Units to show potential members the value of membership and to build up a community of caring peo-

ple. Change can be frightening and is definitely uncomfortable, but I encourage you to try new things to encourage growth in your units. After all, the worst that can happen is that something you try doesn’t work. I want to encourage you all to try one new thing between now and Department Convention to see if you can expand your Unit and by doing so the impact you have in your communities.

Finally, with a little change in gears, I want to encourage you all to attend your Spring Conferences. Everyone who attends their Spring Conference will be entered into a drawing for a custom charcuterie board. I have 6 to give away at Department Convention—one for each District. All you have to do to be entered is to attend Spring Conferences.

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



Cathey Raymer
Membership Chair

Our point dogs and sled teams are making their way through the north central part of the state. District 2 with the point dog, Yukon has quite the lead over the other teams but he shouldn’t rest just yet; the other dogs are gaining ground.

The first goal of 50% by November 10th, the American Legion Auxiliary’s Birthday, had 26 Units in the drawing. Congratulations to Unit 60 Pine Bluffs for winning the prize of \$25! The 75% goal deadline was Valentine’s Day, Febru-

Campfire Chat & Membership

with Chairman Cathey Raymer

ary 14th. With the mail service being a little slow, the drawing will be held on February 21st at 6:30pm on the Department Facebook page. We want to make sure that all the transmittals that are postmark the 14th are included. As of today, there are 30 Units in the drawing. The Units are doing a fantastic job this year with membership.

National set a Unit goal of 100% by December 31st. Units that reached that goal are to receive a flag membership ribbon. Wyoming had 4 Units reach that goal; Unit 36 Ft. Bridger, Unit 1 Van Tassel, Unit 9 Glenrock and Unit 60 Pine Bluffs. Congratulations!!

Remember, membership is everyone’s job,

not just the membership chairs in each Unit. If you know of a family member, a friend or someone in your Unit that hasn’t renewed their membership, check in with them. See how they are doing and give a gentle reminder about their dues. We want to keep our number strong so that we can continue to support and help our veterans.

Are you still leaving your house “Fully Dressed”. You never know when the opportunity may come when you can talk about the American Legion Auxiliary and recruit a new member.

HIKE, HIKE, HIKE TEAMS (GO, GO, GO TEAMS)

Membership



DISTRICT 1	UNIT	GOAL	CURRENT	DISTRICT 4	UNIT	GOAL	CURRENT
	Rock Springs	274	217	26	Powell	117	104
	28 Gr. River	130	99	29	Basin	53	50
	36 Ft. Bridger	49	51	32	Greybull	10	0
	40 Cokeville	27	25	44	Worland	70	66
	46 Alpine	28	22	Total		250	220
	47 Pinedale	33	32				
	78 Big Piney	29	20	DISTRICT 5			
	88 LaBarge	16	0	3	Newcastle	16	15
Total		586	466	7	Sheridan	87	77
				13	Buffalo	132	117
DISTRICT 2				25	Moorcroft	78	64
	1 Van Tassel	13	19	42	Gillette	181	156
	5 Torrington	126	98	80	Hulett	51	35
	8 Douglas	63	61	90	Kaycee	34	31
	9 Glenrock	48	48	Total		579	495
	10 Wheatland	36	31				
	15 Glendo	82	73	DISTRICT 6			
	70 LaGrange	35	34	6	Cheyenne	250	192
	75 Chugwater	15	13	14	Laramie	75	65
	95 Guernsey	43	38	54	Saratoga	51	52
Total		461	415	60	Pine Bluffs	33	35
				64	Medicine Bow	40	27
DISTRICT 3				77	Albin	25	19
	16 Powder River	11	7	Total		474	390
	19 Riverton	20	7				
	33 Lander	74	62	17	Headquarters	287	17
	81 Ft. Washakie	21	15				
Total		126	91				Date 3.7.24

News from your Secretary



Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary

Remember members who hadn't paid their dues by January 2nd received a renewal notice in the middle of February.

The next month will be BUSY in the Office. Unit Assessments and/or Poppy and ALA MIS invoices will be emailed on February 22, 2024 and are due April 1st. Please contact me if the Unit hasn't received it. The Spring Conference Schedule is printed in this issue.

The Auxiliare is available either printed and mailed or read on the Department Website: www.wylegionaux.org. The Auxiliare is available on the

website a week before those mailed.

Please let your Unit President or Membership Chairman know if you have a preference.

NEW MEMBERS who join after April 2, 2024 will NOT be listed or a 2025 card issued. Please make sure your new members are entered into ALA MIS as soon as they pay.

Special Thank you to all members for paying your dues and to ALL membership chair that submit them. If you are like most, there are times you want to throw up your hands and call it quits; but then you remember your "WHY"! Your/Our Veteran!

Cheyenne VA

ACTIVITIES at the CHEYENNE VA
Martie Harbick, Representative



Courtesy of Martie Harbick

Above: Members of Troop 116 Daniel Sanchez and brother Noah presented "Bird Houses" (left) during BINGO, for an Eagle Scout Project. Left: Treat bags during Bingo. Below: Unit 6 Nikki and Post 6 Matthew helping.



Dawn Kennedy
Unit 7 Sheridan
Wyoming Girls State Director



didates at this time. The Feb 8, 2024 official registration deadline is March 15th. To register you will need to pay \$30 to Department of WY, P.O. Box 186, Buffalo, WY 82834. Then mail or email the signed registration and Girls State Pledge to Wyoming Girls State Director, 941 Pinyon Pl. Sheridan, WY 82801, wygstate@wyo.gov. If a delegate wishes to register for college credit, make sure they check the correct box on the registration form. Make sure they do not use a school email. It often blocks any communication from outside of the school. The registration 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. I look forward to seeing your forms. Final payment is \$325 and will need to be

Girls State Report

Hi all! Girls State will be June 9-15th at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We have a goal! We want 90 delegates this year so we can run 2 courts!! That means each District needs to send just 15 delegates!! We can do it! All Units should be recruiting and interviewing their can-

sent by April 15th to Peg.

If you feel overwhelmed, need help in paperwork, or organizing meetings with your delegates.. You have a resource! We now have Girl State District Coordinators to help! For District 1 and 6 Cathey Raymer at catheyraymer55@gmail.com. For District 2 and 3 Shareen Johnson sharene.lander@gmail.com. For District 4 and 5 Susan Sironen sironen2014@gmail.com. They are incredible resources and we are so grateful for their willingness to pitch in and help.

We have zoom meetings for you to connect "face to face." March 7th at 7 pm for any questions about registration and training up your delegates. April 11th at 7pm is for any questions on Bill submissions and how to check if your delegate has turned their bills in. May 16th at 7pm is for any questions on what to send with your delegates to Girls

State.

Please contact your Girls State District Coordinators if you would like Girls State to offer zoom training for your delegates on Bill writing, flag etiquette, dress code and running for office at Girls State.

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 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.

Sincerely, Dawn Kennedy
Unit 7 Sheridan
Wyoming Girls State
Director 2022, 2023, 2024



Children & Youth Committee

April is Month of the Military Child (#momc).

April 15th is Day for Military Children, so Purple Up!

If these statements don't ring a bell, then you need to log onto the American Legion Auxiliary National webpage where there is a wealth of knowledge available to members which is very easy to access.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/children-and-youth>

By May 15th, each Unit Children & Youth Chairman is asked to email a report to (shareen.lander@gmail.com), spelling out their activities for the entire year (04/01/2023 - 03/31/2024). Please remember to report on the following if your Unit participated in any way:

1. Youth Hero/Good Deed awards
2. Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) – an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed into a war zone, serving a short tour, or on

an extended temporary duty assignment.

Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2" buttons/stickers can be distributed.

Host a KDH2 celebration with recognition buttons/stickers to let military kids know we appreciate their sacrifices.

3. "Proud Parent of a Military Child" buttons

4. Halloween coloring book

5. Military Child's Table Setting ceremony

6. Child Welfare Foundation

7. April 15th – Purple Up! Day for Military Children

8. Assistance provided to homeless veterans' children

9. Celebration for children during April for Children & Youth month as well as Month of the Military Child (#momc)

10. Dinner, game night, or community fair to bring military and non-

military families together

11. Promotion of all American Legion Family youth programs – Boys & Girls State, Legion baseball, Oratorical contest, Junior Auxiliary activities, Sons of The American Legion activities, etc.

12. Any other activities held for the youth in your community (Halloween/Christmas parties, Easter egg hunt, family movie night, etc.)

NOTE: There is no limit to the number of words allowed in the narrative report. NO COVER SHEET IS REQUIRED. Pictures should be included, if available, and should not be compressed when emailed with the report. Remember to get signed permission from parent/guardian if an individual child is recognized. Note in the report if other members of the American Legion family assisted with any of these activities. Include number of hours, amount of money spent or in-kind donation, and number of children served. Email a



Shareen Johnson
Children & Youth
Chairman

copy of the report to the Department Historian Jessica York for inclusion in the Department History country-girljdy@gmail.com

One last comment...there is no such thing as NO REPORT...everyone touches the life of a child in some way throughout their day, so tell us about it!

Respectfully submitted, Shareen Johnson, Children & Youth Chairman

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Report



Susan Sironen
VA & R Chairman

By the time you read this article, spring should be on its way. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet for Mid-Winter due to our lovely Wyoming weather. For those of you who collected socks for veterans to bring to Mid-Winter, please bring them to the Dept Convention in June.

Also by the time you read this article, we will be almost finished with our year-end reporting. In watching some of the Facebook pages of Auxiliaries around the state, it appears you are all doing a great job assisting our veterans. Several units participated in the Wreaths Across America program either through their own sponsorship or by purchasing wreaths through other organizations. Also, several units provided Christmas gifts and money to veterans at the Cheyenne and Sheri-

dan VA hospitals. These kindnesses are very much appreciated. Now is the time to report all those hours and dollars spent both in your year-end reports (including by individual) and on your Impact Reports. Please also provide photos with explanations with your year-end reports (separate photos, not Facebook or photos imbedded in the report). Don't forget the Creative Arts Festival.

A webinar was held about the difference between the National Security and VA&R programs. That webinar is available on the National website. Here are some notes about activities in other states that may give you some ideas for projects for your veterans: lap blankets or pillows were given to veterans – some said American Veteran and others American Hero.

Help was given cleaning apartments for veterans and cards for veterans were sent on various holidays. Children activity bags were assembled (450 of them) to be handed out at veteran clinics for children to play with while the parent is visiting with the doctor – coloring books and crayons, small puzzles, stuffed toys, etc. And of course, Be The One training and assistance around the country. Just a reminder, Be The One is not a catch phrase. It is to be used for the veteran suicide prevention program only. Many units around the country do Christmas gift shopping for veterans in VA hospitals and wrap the packages for them to hand out to their families.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans!!

District and Unit News

District 1 Report

Unit 28 Green River donated gift cards to the veterans at the nursing home and the assisted living facility. Several of the members participated in the ceremony for Wreaths Across America at the cemetery. It was a sold out event for their Paint Night! Forty people came and enjoyed an evening of good food, paint-



Paint Night

ing and a lot of fun. They have the next paint night scheduled for April. The Unit made a donation to the American Legion baseball team. The members decided to help sponsor Kendra Huntington, barrel and pole

racer attending the Hoosy Jr Patriot World Finals in Ft. Worth, TX. The Unit is holding a Gun and Spa Basket Drawing for Mother's Day. They will also have a Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for their projects. The Unit is teaming up with the Hawk Campaign to put together Homeless Veterans Care Packages. They will be hosting a "Yes to Your Dress" event to help high school girls find a dress for prom in "Brenda's Closet" in March. The members are bringing personal care items for the nursing home at their meeting in March.

Unit 46 Alpine set up an activity table with ornaments to color and letters to write to the area veterans for the Town of Alpine Santa event. The members also presented a tree with patriotic ornaments and a small area with military related coloring books. The ornaments that the children colored were added to the December Veterans Food Bank Night donations. The President met with Sgt. Austin Krueger when he

visited the area to present information on the WY ARNG Military Funeral Honors program. The second annual Wreaths Across Star Valley ceremony was performed at the Alpine and Thayne Veterans Memorial. The wreaths were placed by the Boys Scout Prater Peak Pack #1307. The Unit made up booklets and added veterans' names to the wreaths. The Auxiliary and the Legion joined with the VFW and the Auxiliary to host the All Veterans Christmas Dinner, 125 veterans and their families were served. At the dinner there was an ugly sweater contest and a short program recognizing Boys and Girls State and various VFW contests. It is an annual tradition for the Unit to serve the community by planning and organizing the Christmas Food Basket program. They work with the community partners to serve over 140 individuals with baskets with grocery items for Christmas dinner and additional staple items. A local veteran has approached the



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

Unit about doing a spring basket for those in need. This is in the planning stages.

Unit 47 Pinedale attended the local High School's Military Appreciation Basketball game. The veterans received a free dinner and a "Hoops for Troops" t-shirt. At the Units next meeting, they will be reviewing their Memorial Day activities and talking about the poppy tables being placed in their area.

Unit 78 is planning the Spring Conference.



District and Unit News

District 2 has been busy for our veterans and communities. Around Christmas, Glenrock Unit 9 packed up 60 boxes of goodies to send to Wyoming deployed troops and packed up baskets for their local veterans, while Guernsey Unit 95 made trays of Christmas goodies for their local veterans. Glendo Unit 15 has been



working on Year-Round Christmas; they received a wish-list for all of the patients at the Cheyenne VA, which they then fulfilled. All of our Units are busy recruiting for Girls' State, while other Units are working with their schools on Poppy Posters and Americanism Essays. In November, we had Units participate in National Education Week in various ways, in-

cluding donating fruit baskets to the teachers to having a veteran present to the students. Douglas Unit 8 participate in quarterly flag retirement ceremonies, retiring on average 100 flags each time.

District Vice President Linda & myself are looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Conference.

John Prince Unit 15
The John Prince Auxiliary Unit



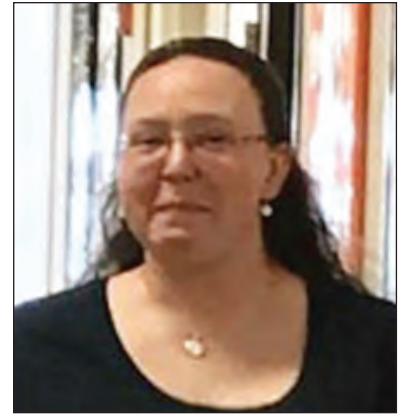
Unit 15 has been participating in Year-Round Christmas Program for the

District 2 Report

Veterans in the VA Medical Center in Cheyenne for quite a few years. Last year we voted to work with the Volunteer Services and collect a wish list from each resident. We collected items, filled our first gift bags and delivered them in June of 2023.

This year we expanded our efforts by pushing a fund raiser and collecting donations at the local Fall Festival and Craft Fair. On Veterans Day at our annual Coffee, we displayed a list of suggested items from the Wish Lists. As a result, quite a few attendees not only contributed generously monetarily but provided items for the gift bags. We were able to obtain all of the requested items such as calendars, toiletries, movies, snacks and candies, slippers, nightgowns, magazines, socks, tee shirts, shaving supplies, lotions and shampoos, combs and brushes, board games, word search and crossword puzzle activity books, stuffed animals, Amish and Christian books, Black Rifle Coffee, sodas, stationery and stamps and plus a zippered hoodie and lap throw for each resident. This was a \$1200 adventure...that was worth every penny.

We packed the gift bags and they were delivered to the Chey-



Jessica York
District 2 President

enne facility on December 20th. Paul Roberts of the Volunteer Services and Martie Harbick, District 6 President met with Sage Bridger, Unit 15 Chaplain to accept the delivery of 23 generously packed Christmas bags. The Ladies of Unit 15 under the leadership and guidance of Sage Bridger worked very hard to make this happen.

The Ladies of Unit 15 will continue working with the Volunteer Services and fulfill wish lists. It is a very rewarding experience seeing the happiness of the residents when their wishes are fulfilled.

Jessica, District 2 President

District and Unit News

Unit 29 Basin

The Basin Unit provided \$25 for each veteran in the Wyoming Retirement Home for Christmas (22 of them). We also purchased socks for the "sock hop" for the Mid-Winter Conference, which was cancelled. They will be delivered to the Dept Convention in June. Our attendance at the American Legion Birthday dinner has dwindled so this year we are combing our March Post and Auxiliary meetings and providing birthday cake and ice cream to celebrate the event. The plan is for each entity to give details about their activities, programs, fundraising, etc so we can better support each other. Ten Americanism essays were received and have been judged. Awards and certificates will be given out in February and the winners sent on to the Department Chairman. The Greybull ALA Unit has folded so we are working with their schools (Burlington and Greybull) for Girls State participation in addition to the Basin girls. The first applications are due Feb 9 and we've had

a lot of interest so far. Membership is going well - we are 3 away from 100%.

Unit 44 Worland

Signed Christmas cards for three local care facilities. We did a community gathering of clothing items that were distributed to the Sheridan VA and the



District 4 Report

Buffalo home. Blankets and socks were given to all the local care facility veter-



ans with a personal visit. Contact has been made with three schools pertaining to Girls State. The unit is looking into hosting a birthday month at the Worland Healthcare and Rehab Center as an outreach project.

Unit 26 Powell

Looking back, we had the Halloween party, the Christmas party, and delivered commodities, Veteran's day, Christmas and Valentine's Day



Trudy Zaffareno
District 4 President

goodies to the veterans. Most recently we had a sip-n-paint where the artist donated half of the proceeds back to support veterans.

Looking forward, we have the Cherry Pie Luncheon February 16th to raise money to help the Girls State program, the Legion birthday March 15th, and the Governor's visit on March 23 for a Vietnam Vets Coming Home event.

Respectfully,
Trudy Zaffarano President

District and Unit News

Do you think Mother Nature has an issue with Midwinter? District 5 (Robin especially) was very disappointed to not making it to Cheyenne! I was looking forward to seeing everyone and shopping for new shoes! And now, here it is time for updates from our Units!

Unit 80, Hulett, has been busy reaching out to the community, schools, members and Veterans. They sent apples to the schools as a thank you to their educators, donated to "Blessings and Backpacks", held a Veteran's dinner and recognized Veterans at the 1st Baptist Church. Cards are sent to members, and poinsettias were delivered to Auxiliary veterans and churches. They enjoyed a scrapbook workshop for a meeting and they will be selling bracelets as a fundraiser. Membership is going strong!

Unit 90 down Kaycee way hosted a successful blood drive. A breakfast was served for Veteran's Day. A donation was made to the Kaycee Lion's Club to help fund a Vietnam Veteran's Plaque. Special gift bags of pens/pencils/writing materials were packaged

up for Veterans. Color books were given to 22 students and teachers. They celebrated several members who enjoy 70 and 50 years of membership!

Unit 25, Moorcroft, gathered items for Veterans and then taken to the Sheridan VA where they are always appreciated. Poppy posters have been judged from Moorcroft and Rozet will be starting theirs any day! Americanism Essays are in the works are sure to be winners. Everyone was preparing for Midwinter by collecting socks and poppy centerpieces were made. They will make it to Convention in June!

Unit 13, Buffalo, keeps busy serving breakfasts, root beer floats, brownies, chili for after the Veteran's Day program, ice cream on Wednesdays, birthday cakes, meals before meetings, and special occasions. They now serve treats to the newly opened pod at the VA Nursing Home. If that isn't enough food, they partnered with a local church to serve Christmas dinner for homebound Buffalo residents and anyone wanting a Christmas dinner! Americanism, Girl's State and

District 5 Report

their \$500.00 scholarship have all been shared to the public. \$100.00 was donated to "Friends Feeding Friends". Over \$2300.00 was donated during their annual poppy drive!

Unit 7, Sheridan, has really BIG news! We recently moved our regular meeting place to Perkins Restaurant where we had our Christmas meeting/dinner. A big thank you to Grace Anglican Church for allowing us to use their meeting room! A donation was made to a Ranchar family to help with medical expenses and give a little Christmas cheer. We collected socks, made poppy centerpieces, and had a program from the Lagniappe Center. Milk shakes and bingo provide some much-needed fun and activities to our Veterans. Our best was making homemade cat and dog treats (and purchased treats) and taking them to the local shelter. Lots of petting, loving, and laughter were enjoyed with each other and the animals. (luckily i didn't take home 2 or 3 dogs).

Unit 3, Newcastle, had joined with Post 3 for several activities. A wild game feed, a veteran's breakfast, din-



Robyn Ruff
District 5 President

ner were enjoyed. Wreaths were made for the Festival of Trees Auction by Tonya, Rhonda and Vicki. Gifts were collected and distributed to Veterans.

Plus...they are only 1 away from 100% membership!! You Go Girls.

Our little Loki is resting up at Meeteetse and really wants to make it to Worland for Convention in June! So, let's all get together, get those memberships in and meet in Worland! I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of you. Robin Ruff

District and Unit News

District 6 Report

Joyce Menke
Medicine Bow Unit 64
Wreaths



Endorsements

For Northwestern Division National Vice President 2025-2026

Don Stough Unit #33 of Lander would like to endorse Shareen Johnson as the Department of Wyoming candidate for the office of Northwestern Division National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary for the 2025-2026 year.

In addition to serving as Unit President for the past 20+ years, Shareen has served in all of the Department offices including District #3 President in 1993 – 1994 & 1994 – 1995 as well as Department President in 1998-1999, 2013-2014, and 2021-2022. She has held many chairmanships on the Department level including National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Finance Committee, and Membership as well as Girls State which is the chairmanship she is most familiar with, having served on staff for over 30 years, 12 of those as Director. She also served as a Northwestern Division Vice Chairman for two years – National Security and Poppies.

Shareen has been a member of the Auxiliary for 42 years and is eligible for membership under her father, John Sturgeon, a Korean & Vietnam veteran. He was a naval submariner, who retired after 20 years of service as a Master Chief Petty Officer, and who served as the Department of Wyoming Commander in 1986-1987. She is also eligible through her twin sister, Kathleen Ebert, who retired after 20 years in the U.S. Navy. Shareen is part of an extensive Legion Family with her two sisters, two daughters, and five granddaughters all belonging to the Auxiliary. In addition, her son, son-in-law, and grandson are members of the Sons of The American Legion.

Personally, after working as a medical transcriptionist for 21 years for a group of orthopedic surgeons, Shareen then worked for the next 12 years for the State of Wyoming, Department of Health, at the Wyoming Life Resource Center, a facility for the intellectually disabled and dual diagnosis residents until she retired in 2022. Since then, she has worked full time at a local grocery store as the pricing coordinator, scheduler, and night store manager. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren & great granddaughter, bowling, knitting, crocheting, and reading.

Your support for Shareen Johnson as the 2025-2026 Department of Wyoming candidate for the Northwestern Division National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Members of Don Stough Unit #33, Lander, Wyoming

Leila Dean Candidate For Department President 2024-2025

Fort Bridger Unit # 36 has endorsed me to run for Department President for the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year. I am eligible for membership in the Auxiliary under my Father, Art Monroe a WW2 Veteran, and my husband Tom Dean a Vietnam Veteran. I have held many positions in the Department and Unit. I am a Past Department President 2014-2015 and Department Chaplain from 2007-2010. Along with serving many Department chairmanships. At the Unit level I have served for the past four years as President. I have also served as Vice President and Chaplain. This past year I have been serving as your Department Vice President. I am asking for your vote to allow me to serve as your Department President for the 2024-2025 year.

PS just a side note I will be serving as your President exactly 10 years since my first term. If you allow me to be elected to this position again.

Sincerely submitted,
Dept. Vice President
And Members of Unit # 36
Leila Dean

Sullivan For Department Secretary/ Treasurer 2024-2025

Peg joined the Auxiliary under her dad, Duke Hagadone even though her mom said, “you will be worked to death”. We’re glad she joined. Peg is also eligible for membership under her husband Don, daughter Kim and brothers Bob and Tom.

Peg continues to be active in Unit 13. She has/is President of the Unit, and the organizer for Memorial Day. You will see her helping serve the Post’s Breakfast, working the crowd for members.

Once again, Powder River Unit 13 endorses Peg Sullivan for the Office of Department Secretary / Treasurer. Peg has knowledge of the “Ins and Outs” working with National as well as the Department finances. We ask you to elect Peg for 2024-2025.

Members of Powder River Unit 13.



SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

District 1 – 04/06/2024 – 10:00 am – Big Piney – lunch will be served - \$11.00

District 3 – 04/07/2024 – 1:00 pm – Riverton – no lunch

District 2 – 04/13/2024 – 9:00 am – Lusk Fairgrounds – 1 unch will be served - \$11.00

District 6 – 04/14/2024 – 10:00 am – Laramie – lunch will be served - \$11.00

District 4 – 04/21/2024 – 10:00 am – Worland – lunch will be served - \$11.00

District 5 – 04/27/2024 – 10:00 am – Gillette College – lunch will be served – free

Check out all the Auxiliary pictures on our website: www.wylegionaux.org




PURSE AUCTION at DEPARTMENT CONVENTION '24

Worland, Unit 44 will be hosting a silent purse auction at the June convention. Our proceeds will be used for the Girls State program. Any donation of a purse from your unit for our project would be appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.
Worland ALA

Cynthia Pfeiffer



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