

Commander's Corner



Douglas W. Johnson
Commander

My year as Commander is quickly coming to an end with the Department Convention coming up in Worland on June 20th and 21st and the election of your new officers on the 22nd of June. A huge thanks goes out to Post 44 for hosting our Convention. It sounds like Post 44 has a lot of activities planned at Post 44 home and Worland Convention Center. If you are planning on attending the Convention you must call the hotels directly to make reservations and mention that you are attending the American Legion Convention to get the discount

rate. These rates will expire after June 1st so make them early. Hotels in Worland are the Comfort Inn and will be the Headquarters hotel. Their Phone number is 307-347-9898, The Days Inn with a phone number of 307-347-4251 and the Econo Inn with a phone number of 307-347-3249 and the Travelodge at 307-347-9236. Get your reservations in early because these rates expire on June 1st.

I attended all the District Conferences this year and District 1 was the largest and District 5 was right on their heels with District 6 was right up there also. District Adjutants don't forget to send a copy of your District Conference minutes to Adjutant Gina.

National membership workshop this year will be July 25th, 26th and 27th in Indianapolis. The Department of Wyoming gets one call-in and that goes to the Vice Commander of the Department. As of yet I haven't received anything from National. This workshop is open to anyone but remember we only get one call-in and if you plan on attending you must pay your own airfare and hotel. If your Post can support a trip that would be great.

Our membership as of May 9th stands at 92.69% with only needing 395 to renew their membership

to reach the 100% mark. We can do this with the help of our District Commanders and Post Commanders to help us reach this milestone. Leading the pack is District 2 followed by District 4 then District 1, District 5, District 6 and District 3. The Sons of The American Legion are doing very well in membership also with a National rank of 35 place at 96.15% only needing 48 more renewals to get to 100%. I feel that they will make it this year. Also don't forget about Christmas in July on the 12th and 13th in Buffalo.

This past year has been great for Legion Baseball. Jack Simms and his staff have done a great job for the Department. My hat is off to Jack and his staff. This year Cheyenne Post 6 baseball team made Legion history as being the first team in Wyoming to make it to The American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina. Great team effort paid huge dividends for all those young men. THANK YOU players and coaches.

Boys State is on the rise in Wyoming thanks to the staff of Brett Kahler, Joel Defenbaugh, Todd Johnson and PDC Bill Frye. I'm thinking we will have close to 60 young men from across Wyoming attending Boys State. My fingers

are crossed and hope they make it. Thank You Boys State staff for all your great efforts to help the Department. You can get all the information you need on Boys State website (wyboysstate.org).

A resolution from 2 years ago has finally arrived. We are starting a Legion College with a start up sometime this fall. The staff has openings for 48 people this year. I have made 2nd Vice Commander Russell Stafford chairman of this committee. You can reach 2nd Vice Commander Stafford @ (706-830-4648). One prerequisite for going to Legion college is that you must complete The American Legion Basic Training.

I very much enjoyed being your Commander for 2023-2024 and Thank You for electing me to this post. If you are in the Chugwater area on Memorial Day stop in and help Post 75 on this great day.

National Convention is August 23 thru August 29 in New Orleans and the Department Fall Workshop will be in Casper again this year on October 4th and 5th. Fall Meetings will be in Indianapolis October 7th thru October 11th, 2024.

*Department Commander,
 2023-2024. Douglas Johnson*

Adjutant's Corner



Gina Mayhan
Department Adjutant

This time of year is exceptionally busy for me, as your Department Adjutant. I had District Meetings to prepare for, and then we hop right into preparing for Department Convention. The awards committee members have chosen their winners for Department Awards and now those all have to be ordered. The numbers for the mallet winners have been tallied, and those will be engraved and ready for Department Convention.

The time of year is also very hard on me as Adjutant. I have spent a year with the Department Commander, who now

prepares to hand the gavel over to some one else. I just get one trained, and they move on, and another comes onboard. It is very difficult to say goodbye to a Commander that you have spoken with almost every single day for a year. This year is no exception. Commander Johnson and I communicated so very well. We helped each other get through some very difficult times, and now he steps aside. I thought last year was difficult saying goodbye to the Commander, but this year is proving just as hard. The Commander and the Adjutant work very closely together. They have to, or Department will fail. Communication is key in those two positions, and if the Commander is not communicating with their Adjutant or vice versa, then issues arise that are hard to control.

I have taken on a new role as well; that as supervisor of the Department Service Officer (DSO Office). This has been challenging for me, but as with everything else I do, I give it my all, reach out for help and trudge along.

I must be doing an okay job, as I have other Department Adju-

tant's reach out to me on a regular basis asking for my assistance. The training that I have received through National has been a godsend, and I look forward to our annual Adjutants meetings in the Fall.

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

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

*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.



Changes coming this summer

As we roll into summer, it means a time of change for our organization. In the spring of this year we had Post elections, June will see new officers for the Department, and August will see the new National officers. This past year has been one of many challenges and exciting opportunities. I would like to thank all the members of The American Legion Department of Wyoming for their entrusting me with the position of 2nd Vice Commander for this past year. This position has been very educational as I have been on many committees and had the opportunity to meet many of you while travelling around the Department.

The most exciting thing for me was the creation of the leadership training for our department. The Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training will be an opportunity for all members to learn more about The American Legion. We have some excited instructors who are ready and willing to start mentoring others in a greater capacity.

I'm excited to be a part of this Department and see the devotion to others from so many. I am always reminded of the great reasons for why The American Legion was organized. We are a no rank organization and no one person is any better or more powerful than any other.

We seek guidance from all members, whether in a titled position or not, as we know that there is knowledge throughout the organization and peers will always help us to grow. We continue to battle for the ones who cannot, and we truly believe in no one gets left behind. We remember to support our fellow veterans and we remember with honor those fellow members who served and have gone to the Post Everlasting. Even if they were not an American Legion member we still honor and respect all who served admirably. We as Legionnaires are the front line in ensuring that Congress does its job, and we need to make sure



Russell Stafford
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

that they remember how important we veterans are.



Vanessa Stuart Chaplain
Dept. of Wyoming

Greetings! Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers daily and as we gear up for all the summer activities around the state. I have a deep gratitude for you all and appreciate all the kind words and opinions throughout the year about these articles. That brings me to the key word, gratitude. Recently I had a conversation with a fellow Chaplain from the SAL and

Chaplain's Corner

we talked about gratitude and how we express it in our daily lives. In The American Legion Family, we show our gratitude to our past and present service men and women daily through our actions and programs. Whether it's Memorial Day where we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, Veteran's Day where we honor those who served, or Armed Forces day where we honor those currently serving, we show our gratitude to them through ceremonies, observances, and some celebrations. Many of us also do things on 9-11 Patriots Day, Pearl Harbour Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, POW/MIA Day, etc. These all show our gratitude to our fellow veterans as well as law enforcement, emergency workers, and their families in some way. We also have programs to help our veterans and their families which vary by post and Department. In July we show our gratitude for being part of this great country by celebrating our Independence Day. But what else do we do to show our daily gratitude? Prayer, meditation,

Service to God and Country

or just taking a moment however we may to reflect on our gratitude and thankfulness for all that we, as Americans have and have endured. It's easy to be grateful for the good things but much harder for many of us to be grateful for the adversities. An example of this is Memorial Day. Three years after the civil war officially ended in 1865, General Logan issued his General Order calling for the "decorating of graves of comrades who died in defense of their country...". Five years later in 1873, New York became the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. Although many states followed suit, it wasn't until after WWI that it became an occasion to honor those who died in all wars. However, it was 1971 when congress actually passed the Uniform Monday Holiday act that established Memorial Day to be observed on the last Monday of May. What this example is meant to show is how difficult it can be and how long it can take to show gratitude for the difficult things in our lives and country. As human beings,

it's often easier to harbor a grudge than to forgive and to realize that the adversities that we face should be looked at as opportunities to learn and grow as individuals. In the moment, it can seem impossible, but as we get further away in time from the situation, we can look at it more objectively to see it for the opportunity it was/is. That's where gratitude comes in. The Latin root, gratus is also linked to gratia -the root of grace. Having grace for people or things that create adversity leads to gratitude for helping you become a better version of yourself. In doing that, we can all become better citizens, neighbors, and...Legion family. Gratitude is not weakness but strength and a gift to not only those we are grateful to, but to ourselves. Again, I have gratitude to and am grateful for each and every one of our Legion Family, our veterans, and our service men and women. May God bless you all and I hope you have a wonderful summer! -Vanessa

Vanessa Stuart
Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL

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AMERICAN LEGION **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

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DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 3



DON STOUGH POST 33 LANDER

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, some of these men and women paid the ultimate price for our freedom and never returned to take their rightful place among the ranks of their fellow comrades and 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, Private Donald C. Stough served his country in the United States Army as a combat soldier with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division in France during World War I; and

WHEREAS, Donald C. Stough died on the battlefield and was laid to rest in the Aisne-Marne Cemetery in France with 2,289 of his brothers in arms; and

WHEREAS, Donald C. Stough was the first Lander soldier to die in WWI and is the namesake of American Legion Post 33 in Lander, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Donald C. Stough represents

the epitome of service to our nation and our way of life, a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Monte Richardson, Mayor of Lander, Wyoming, do hereby recognize 27 May, 2024 as

DONALD C. STOUGH DAY

in the City of Lander and urge all Lander residents to give heartfelt thanks in honor of the service he so selflessly gave and the ultimate price he paid.

On this 27th day of May, 2024;
Monte Richardson
Mayor
Lander, Wyoming

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 5



POWDER RIVER POST 13 BUFFALO

May 2024



Chuck Guilford
Post 13 Commander

Post 13 has been busy since the start of the New Year. The Post continues to serve breakfast to the community on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The community loves having a nice place to go on a Sunday morning and members and auxiliary members work together to make the breakfasts and serve those who attend.

The weather has been cooperative and a few of our members began working on the Veteran markers at the cemetery. This has been an ongoing project for several years. Our Post has applied for a grant to assist with the purchase of the markers and we are just waiting for the results.

Our Post has five boys that applied for and will be going to Boy's State next month.

There will be Christmas in July at the Veteran's home again this year. The Sons plan the event with the veterans at the home and members of the POST attend and assist with the project. This is scheduled to be held July 13th this year.

Post 13 - Buffalo
Chuck Guilford - Commander

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 6



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER REPORT



Vanessa Stuart District 6
Commander

Michaud P60,
Membership Worker: Vanessa Stuart P14,
Outstanding Club Manager of the Year: Vanessa Stuart P14,
Legionnaire of the Year: Deanna Hurless P14,
Youth worker of the Year: Spencer Rabou P60,
Healthcare Worker of the Year: Autumn Silvers P14
Nominations and elections for D6 officers and delegates to National convention were as follows:
Penny Merryfield for D6 CDR, Walt Shafer for D6 VCDR, Deanna Hurless for delegate and Bill Frye for alternate delegate to National Convention. Penny Merryfield appointed Vanessa Stuart to serve as D6 adjutant. The meeting was followed by a donation lunch of homemade soup, bread, and dessert by Post, S.A.L., and Auxiliary members.

Vanessa Stuart
D6 Commander,
For God and Country

District 6 held its annual Spring Meeting on 14 April at 10am in Laramie at Husted-Pendleton Post 14. The weather was mild, thankfully.

District 6 awards to the following individuals were voted on by committee and announced:

Educator of the Year: William Luna P21,
EMT: Brenda Armstrong P60,
Firefighter of the Year: Stephan



Post 6 Adjutant Bill Frye, Musician Jim Wilkinson - a Gold Star Son, and First Vice Commander Bill Barmes. Mr. Wilkinson was presented with plaque for Appreciation



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Of Wyoming News Letter, May 2024

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



Jim Andersen
SAL Adjutant

DETACHMENT NEWS:

This past winter, the Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Donald Hall Jr, issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons nationally to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To accomplish this, all we needed to do was to raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children and Youth) and our (WY) department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). Upon completing all four, the squadrons will receive an award for being a National Four Pillars Squadron. I sent an email to the squadrons and there was an immediate acceptance and enthusiasm to participate in the program. The Detachment is proud to say we have seven squadrons that accepted the Sons National Commanders challenge and to date we have accomplished our mission. The seven squadrons involved with the chal-

lenge are: Worland Sq. 44, Saratoga Sq. 54, Powell Sq. 26, Gillette Sq. 42, Douglas Sq. 8, Rock Springs Sq. 24 and Jackson Sq. 43. I'm very proud of our squadrons and the hard work by their members to accomplish this endeavor.

MEMBERSHIP:

Every year the Detachment along with the squadrons start the year with a lot of energy and enthusiasm regarding membership goals. This year as of this news article, the Detachment has accomplished the 95% goal. We are very close to 100%, needing 27 members to achieve the national goal. The following squadrons have at least made 100% as of 5-12-24. They are as follows:

- Sq. 2, Casper, 125 %
- Sq. 5, Torrington, 108%
- Sq. 6, Cheyenne, 103%
- Sq. 8, Douglas, 115%
- Sq 13, Buffalo, 100%
- Sq. 24, Rock Springs, 100%
- Sq 26, Powell, 103%
- Sq. 33, Lander, 105%
- Sq 43, Jackson, 109%

- Sq. 44, Worland, 100%
- Sq. 54, Saratoga, 114%

Congratulations to the above squadrons and officers that worked their roster and exceeded their goals. Many thanks!! Remember, without membership we cannot exist as an organization! We all need to continue to work membership and make it a team effort, its not just a few but rather it is the responsibility of all of our membership to assist in the renewal of members.

Christmas in July update: The Detachment will be working on several new project ideas at the Veterans home in Buffalo, WY. One significant project is a replacement of the bridge on the south side of the fishing pond. We have also purchased a flag pole to be placed near the picnic tables and the fishing pond. Lots of exciting projects and something the veterans will appreciate. The fishing event will take place on July 13, 2024. The Detachment and squadron members all look forward to the event and spending time with the

veterans while they fish!

Summer Convention: Just a reminder about our summer convention which is hosted by Worland, Post 44. I know the convention committee has been working hard to make this a successful event, with great food, music with a live band and dancing. There will be an opportunity for individuals to attend an American Legion baseball game during your stay in Worland. Hope to see "ya all"!!

Detachment agenda: Our detachment meeting will be held on the morning of 6-22-24. I will email the agenda with specific items and times for our meeting at a later date.

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



High School Oratorical



Above left: 2nd Vice Commander Russell Stafford, Oratorical Winner Riley Laffin, 2nd Place Winner Lillian Duncan, Oratorical Chairman Benjamin Glenn. Above right: Oratorical Winner Riley Laffin, Governor Mark Gordon, 2nd Place Winner Lillian Duncan.

Courtesy Photo

Department of Wyoming American Legion High School Oratorical Contest 2024

The Department of Wyoming American Legion conducted the annual High school Oratorical Contest on 23 March 2024, at Powell High School. The final two remaining contestants from across the State went head-to-head this past Saturday afternoon. After a visit by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and some words of encouragement, Lillian

Duncan of Green River sponsored by Post #28 faced off against Riley Laffin of Lovell sponsored by Post #11. The Department of Wyoming American Legion High School Oratorical began in 1938. This contest provides an opportunity for high school students across our state to learn about the U.S Constitution and grants them an opportunity to earn

Scholarship money to assist them in getting through college. Upon completion of the competition, Riley Laffin edged out Lillian Duncan on the scorecards for the State title. Riley Laffin will compete at the National American Legion Oratorical Contest this spring at Hillsdale College in Michigan, 17-18 May 2024.



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
DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING
OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
JUNE 20-22, 2024, WORLAND, WYOMING**

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

PURPOSE

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

REPRESENTATION AND REGISTRATION

The Department Convention shall be composed of two delegates and two alternates from each Post, and each Post shall be entitled in addition, to one delegate and one alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof, as disclosed by the official records of Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the date of the convening of the Convention. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted, and the vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of delegates present from their Post. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, except the right to vote when the delegates for whom they are alternates are present.

Each Post shall elect its delegates and alternates in such a manner as its Constitution or By-Laws prescribe, and the names of the delegates and alternates shall be furnished to the Department Adjutant or Credentials Committee prior to the seating of the delegates.

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

Each Past Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Wyoming, provided they are a member in good standing of a Post of the Department, shall be a delegate to the Department Convention with votes to be exercised aside from their Post.

All delegates are required to register.

RESOLUTIONS

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

**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 coin) Deadline June 1 \$15 \$ _____
Registration at the door \$20, \$5 for convention coin

Thursday, June 20
Registration at Post 44 -- 3 p.m. -- 7 p.m.
Dinner at Post 44, no charge -- 6 p.m.

Friday, June 21
Registration at Post 44 -- 8 a.m. -- 9 a.m.
Breakfast at Post 44 -- 7:30 -- 9 a.m.
Biscuits & Gravy, eggs, potato cakes, bacon, sausage
Past Commanders & Adjutants Breakfast \$10 \$ _____
7:30 a.m. -- 9 a.m. Post 44
Meetings start at 9:15 a.m.
Department Luncheon 12 noon \$10 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Cullerison Ave. Menu: Taco Bar, beans and rice
Department Commander and President Banquet 6 p.m. \$20 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Cullerison Ave.
Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Bread with dipping
Entertainment: Rattlesnake Ridge at Post 44 following dinner

Saturday, June 22
Breakfast at Post 44 -- 7:30 -- 9 a.m.
Biscuits & Gravy, eggs, potato cakes, bacon, sausage
Past Department Commanders' Breakfast \$10 \$ _____
7:30 a.m. -- 9 a.m. Post 44
Meetings start at 9:15 a.m.
Department Luncheon 12 noon \$11 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Cullerison Ave.
Menu: French Dip, Salad and Chips
Department Banquet \$25 \$ _____
Worland Community Center
1200 Cullerison Ave.
Menu: Red Wine Braised Beef Short Ribs, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots
Entertainment: Legion Baseball in afternoon; (DJ) at Post 44 following dinner

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

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Post 44

Name _____
Address _____ City / Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Post/Unit _____ Office / Post: _____ Dist.: _____ Dept.: _____

DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING CONVENTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

- 6:00 pm Registration at Post 44
6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting at Post 44
7:00 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting Post 44

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

- 07:00 Past Commanders & Adjutants Club Breakfast Post 44 Home
08:00 - 09:00 REGISTRATION - Post 44 Home
09:00 Department Convention - Opening Ceremony Call To Order - Welcome Post 44 Commander Mike Williams
Turn Meeting over to Department Commander Doug Johnson
Colors in place
Invocation- Department Chaplain - Vanessa Stuart
POW/MIA CEREMONY - Department Chaplain Vanessa Stuart/ Sgt at Arms
Bobby Werner
Pledge of Allegiance - Vice Commander Barnes
Preamble of the American Legion - 2nd Vice Commander Stafford
Call to Convention - Adjutant Gina Mayhan
Report of Rules Committee - Vice Commander Barnes
Roll Call of the Posts - Department Adjutant - (Voting Strength)

- Gina Introduction of Guests - Department Commander
Report of Credentials Committee - _____ & _____
09:30 Report of Resolution Committee - _____
09:35 Constitution Changes reading 1 - Committee Chairman PDC Kenneth Persson Sr.
10:05 National Executive Committee Report - Keith Davidson
10:15 BREAK
10:30 Greetings to The Auxiliary - VC Bill Barnes, 2nd VC Russell Stafford
10:30 National Committee & Commission Reports 5 Minutes each
Americanism Commission - Ken Persson Jr.
Americanism Council - PDC Kenneth Person Sr., PDC Rick Dansereau
Emblem Sales Committee - Ron Wood
National Security Commission - ANEC Mike Cooke
Employment & Veterans' Committee DC Doug Johnson
Veterans Benefit Committee - DFO Deanna Hurless
Legislative Report - Keith Davidson

- 11:30 -12:00 -LUNCH-
13:15 Department Officers Reports 5 Minutes each
Department Finance Officer - Deanna Hurless
Department Chaplain - Vanessa Stuart
Department Historian Report - Penny Merryfield
Department Adjutant - Gina Mayhan
Department Service Officer - Jamie Cosey
Department Judge Advocate -
Department 2nd Vice-Commander - Russell Stafford
Department Vice-Commander - Bill Barnes
14:15 -BREAK-
14:30 District Officer Reports - 5 Minutes each.
District 1 - Joe Tallon; District 2 - Edward Tirado
District 3 - Nancy Eustice; District 4 - Terry Bankert
District 5 - Brian Yeager; District 6 - Vanessa Stuart
-CAUCUS-
15:00 Candidates for Department Offices Roll Call of Posts
16:00 Bids for 2026 & 2027 Conventions Roll Call of Posts (make sure Newcastle Post 3 is still in for 2025 Convention)
- Recess -
16:30 Post Everlasting - _____
17:00 Commander/President Dinner (outgoing)

SATURDAY: JUNE 22, 2024

- 07:00 Past Department Commanders Breakfast
09:00 SAL Detachment Convention - Post 44
09:00 Department Convention Reconvenes
Pledge - Vice Commander Bill Barnes
Roll Call of the Posts - Department Adjutant - Gina Mayhan
Report of the Credentials Committee - _____ & _____
09:15 2nd Reading of Constitution Changes & Vote - Chairman Ken Persson, Sr.
09:45 WALRUS REPORT - Director Shane Harris
Wyoming Veterans Commission - Director Tim Sheppard
Wyoming Senator - John Barrasso
Department Committee Reports 5 Minutes each.
Oratorical - Ben Glenn
Boys State - Brett Kahler
Shooting Sports - Mike Williams
Baseball/Women's Fast Pitch Softball - Jack Simms
10:15 -BREAK-
10:30 Department Committee Reports Continued 5 Minutes each.
American High School Rodeo - Ken Persson Sr.
E.A. Blackmore Memorial Foundation/Committee - Ron Wood, Deanna Hurless
Hospital Committee - Keith Davidson
Newspaper Committee - Penny Merryfield, Gina Mayhan
Ways and Means Committee - VC Bill Barnes
12:00 -LUNCH-
13:00 Reconvene - Final Report of Credentials Committee
13:10 Report on National Convention - Adjutant Gina Mayhan
13:15 SAL Detachment Report - Donavan Dusel
13:30 Department Awards:
Post Commander of the Year
Post Adjutant of the Year
Membership Worker of the Year
Legionnaire of the Year
Outstanding Club Manager of the Year
Citizen Soldier of the Year
Lawman of the Year
Firefighter of the Year
Educator of the Year

- EMT of the Year
District Commander of the Year
Health Care Worker of the Year
4 Chaplain's Award
Youth Services Award

The following awards are judged through information submitted by the Post Activities Report.

- Lloyd Seaman Athletic Trophy
Americanism Award
Community Service - Large Post
Community Service - Small Post
14:30 New Business;
Resolutions Committee Report
14:45 Caucus
15:05 Election of Department Officers: PDC votes one vote each
Department 2nd Vice Commander
Department Vice Commander
Department Finance Officer
Department Commander
Election of Delegates to the 105th National Convention
Appointment to National Committees - NEC / Alt. NEC Keith Davidson, Mike Cooke
15:40 Confirmation of Future Department Conventions
2025 Convention - Newcastle, WY.
2026 Convention - _____
Good of the American Legion
Confirmation/Instillation of District Officers
Instillation of Department Officers
16:30 New Department Commander Remarks
Benediction Department Chaplin Vanessa Stuart
Retrieve MIA/POW Table
Retire the Colors
Close Department Convention
17:00 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
18:00 New Department Officer & Auxiliary Officer Dinner (incoming)
SUNDAY: JUNE 23, 2024
09:00 WALRUS meeting

NOTE: All reports must be typed or neatly handwritten and turned into the Department Adjutant and/or Department Commander. You can email them also to the Department Adjutant by July 1st, 2024. This is done to ensure the minutes of the Convention can be typed up.
Department Commander
Douglas Johnson 2023-2024

Table with 6 columns: Post, 2024 Goal, Actual, %, To meet Target. It lists various posts and their performance metrics, including a summary row for DISTRICT TOTALS and a final row for DEPARTMENT GOAL and NATIONAL GOAL.



American Legion Auxiliary News

“The Final Roundup”

Tammy Harris, Department President



Tammy Harris
President

Where has the time gone? As I sit in front of my computer trying to put into words all of the thoughts, feelings and emotions of the last two years, I find myself at a loss for the right words. As a Department, our membership is small, but boy are

we mighty. You reminded of just how mighty we are as I sat through your District meetings and listened to all of the great things you do in a year in support of our veterans, active duty military, their families and your communities. I truly hope you sent your reports to this year’s chairs so that they can brag on you in their reports to the divisional chairs.

The last two years, we have tried some new things in the Department. We now have a Zoom account that we use for Department leadership team and committee meetings, a presence on Facebook and have utilized technology during Department meetings. These changes are hopefully helping us to all feel a little bit more connected to each other.

At the unit level, members have stepped in and stepped up to keep units going. Units that were on

the brink of folding have begun to grow. There are even discussions about chartering at least three new units—how exciting is that. In those units whose membership is struggling, the remaining active members are tenaciously continuing to work at least two programs. Wyoming, for all of its rugged beauty, is not always an easy place to live and thrive, but your dedication to the mission and determination to keep going drive the success of your units.

Looking back on the last two years, I will forever cherish my time spent as Department President because of each of you. Your warm welcome and hospitality mean so much. During the District 2 meetings this year, District President, Jessica asked everyone to introduce themselves, tell the group who they joined under and why they continue to be members. At the

time, it was hard to articulate why I stay, but as I write this final article as your Department President, I stay because of each and every one of you. We come from different backgrounds, have different political and religious beliefs and may have very little in common except our dedication to the spirit of service not self.

I hope to see you all at the final roundup for the year when we gather in Worland, June 21 and 22 when we celebrate all of your accomplishments.

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

Tammy

PS—you will have two more chances to be entered in the drawing for 1 of 6 custom charcuterie boards. All you have to do is show up to Convention.



Cathey Raymer
Membership Chair

The Department of Wyoming’s “Great Sled Dog Race for Membership” has really intensified as the finish line approaches. At the start of the race, Yukon, the lead dog for District 2, burst from the starting line with remarkable speed and maintained that large lead until January. Since then, Dakota, lead dog for District 4 and Loki, lead dog for District 5, have been applying pressure and have not only caught up to Yukon but also passed him in the race. The race to the finish line at the Department Convention is shaping up to be a tight one. Despite the finish line being within reach and our Units striving for their goals,

there has been a significant drop in membership transmittals compared to last year at this time. Nationally, Wyoming’s membership stood at 88.69% last year, whereas this year it has decreased to 82.16%. With that in mind, currently there are 11 Units that have reached their membership goals. Out of these, 9 Units have exceeded their goals by gaining new members. Congratulations to all of them and their hard work.

Throughout the year, the “Fully Dressed” campaign has continued. “Fully Dressed” signifies the importance of always having an application on you when you leave home. You never know when the opportunity to have a conversation with a potential new member for your Unit may arise unexpectedly and without an application on hand, that chance could slip away.

Many Units are coming up with creative methods to promote the Auxiliary and their community projects to recruit new members. Some establish booths with information and applica-

tions at local events, including county fairs, chamber of commerce luncheons, parades, pancake breakfasts and at their paint night festivities.

Often, our members lose contact with their Units, and the Units fail to reconnect with them. Nevertheless, some Units are making an effort to reconnect by sending postcards listing upcoming events and meetings and some are distributing newsletters that highlight past events, future projects and meeting schedules. One Unit included a “Thank You” note in with the members’ new membership cards. The note expressed the Units gratitude for the member’s continued membership and an invitation to attend an upcoming meeting.

Your efforts in growing your Units and contributing significantly to your communities have been outstanding. I am grateful for the privilege of serving you over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathey Raymer

Membership with Chairman Cathey Raymer



Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary

My 12th year as your Secretary Treasurer is winding down and I’m already working on next year.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Secretary Treasurer and I encourage to continue asking questions and learning about this great Veteran Organization.

The thing I need from you, to get a head start on 2025, are your Unit Officers and Membership

Chairman. Those units on ALA MIS, please update your new officers on the Unit page.

Speaking of ALA MIS, we currently have 11 Unit Full User and 14 Unit Write Users. Welcome

Kristel Blair Unit 78 Big Piney.

2025 Forms and Membership Cards will be handed out at Department Convention in

News from your Secretary

Worland on June 22nd. Units who don’t pick up their packets will receive them in the mail by July 1, 2024.

PLEASE be watching for them.

The Department “Membership Attendance Incentives” so far this year are:

Fall Workshop – Unit 81 Ft. Washakie; MW – Unit 60 Pine Bluffs; District 1 – LaBarge;

District 2 – Unit 1 Ferdinand Brandstetter; District 3 – Riverton; District 4 – Unit 29 Marion Tanner; District 5 – Unit 42 Campbell County and District 6 – Medicine Bow. Units attending Department Convention have a chance to win \$100 per day.

A special thank you to this years Membership Chairman. We are a real team and I hope your Unit keeps you as Membership/Treasurer. On another note, when a new membership person starts,

ALL past membership forms, transmittals, etc. go with the position. They belong to the UNIT, not a past chairman.

I look forward to working with all Units and remember, the telephone or email is always open to you.

Respectfully,
Peg



From the Chaplain's Desk



Judith Killion
Chaplain

for you all. The joy is also from the amazing friendships and working relationships I have formed with so many of you. You are all a very talented part of this amazing group.

I have loved serving you. I wish my body was as cooperative as my spirit wants it to be. Due to many issues, I cannot be as dependable as I need to be. I need to be reasonable about what I can do and cannot do. This is a difficult decision; however, I know God is blessing you with a gifted and energetic chaplain who will meet you at your point of need.

I thank God in all my remembrances of you and that you let me serve in this position. Just one more thing—thank you for the great outpouring of love in so many ways when my mom passed. Your kindnesses meant the world to me. Thank you for blessing my life in so many ways.

My prayer for all of you is: May the Lord guide you in His council leading you to a glorious destiny.

Chaplain Judith

It is with some sadness and yet much great joy that I tell you this is my last article as chaplain.

The sadness comes for missing all the wonderful notes, communications, and information that comes from being chaplain. I have loved praying with you and for you and your families. You are all a joy to me in different ways. I am sure that there will be times we will still connect.

The joy is about how wonderful it has been to serve you and pray

Cheyenne VA

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Cheyenne Health Care System

VETERAN APPRECIATION Day

Remember And Honor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STANDDOWN, RESOURCE FAIR, CAR SHOW, OPEN HOUSE AND MORE

SEPTEMBER 7TH - 1000-1300
CHEYENNE
2360 E PERSHING BLVD
CHEYENNE, WYOMING VA
CIRCLE OF FLAGS

AUGUST 24TH - 1000-1400
NORTHERN COLORADO
4575 BYRD DRIVE
LOVELAND, COLORADO VA
FRONT ENTRANCE

For more information, contact Amber Urquides Swann 307.275.5206
or email amber.urquidesswann@va.gov

Creative Arts Festival Sheridan VA

The Creative Arts Festival (CAF) will be held along with the KARZ Club Rod Run and a Veteran Trade Show at the VA grounds. Expecting thousands of folks coming thru - drove thru last year and we didn't stick around. The art show will be in the auditorium - last year they had 19 entries. It is being held Saturday, July 6, 2024.



Girls State Report



Dawn Kennedy
Unit 7 Sheridan
Wyoming Girls State Director

Dear Auxiliary Family,

I am so excited to announce we have 90 girls registered for Girls State!! We are running 2 courts which allow 24 girls to have this experience. I am currently neck deep into final packets, emails, and final preparation so I will keep this short.

I have really enjoyed reading your Girls State reports. You all are doing amazing work and are making a positive impact on our young citizens of our states and I am so honored to be a part of it all.

This will be my last year as director. I have so enjoyed this experience and I am very grateful for all the Girls State staff who have helped me keep this program successful and keep me on the right track. Alyssa Hinkley, our member from Unit 6 in Cheyenne will be taking over this summer. If you have never been to Girls State, I highly suggest you ask to be on staff for the next session. If you happen to be in Cheyenne during June 9th -15th, stop by the LCCC campus and peek at some of the amazing education in citizenship and government these young women are learning.

Sincerely,
Dawn Kennedy
Wyoming Girls State Director

Sheridan VA Healthcare Network May Auxiliare

We want to again thank you for everything that you do. You make "tune up" time for those in the hospital a more comfortable stay. Per the CDCE (Voluntary) folks, cookies and items for the VA can be taken to your local clinic and their courier service will bring them up to the VA.

Congratulations go out to Sheridan Army veteran Carl Morton who earned third place in the 2023 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for his ceramic sculpture titled "Revelation, Smitty isn't a jug".

All veterans enrolled in the VA system are eligible to participate in the Festival. Singing, dancing, poetry, fiber work, painting, drawing and photography are some of the different categories. If you wish to know more about the program, go on line at: department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival.

Locally the competition will

start with an Art Show in the Auditorium on Saturday, July 6 for those who would like to display their work. This is being held in conjunction with the community KARZ Club Rod Run and Veteran Trade Show on the VA grounds. Actual judging will be held at a later date. Contact the Recreation Department at the VA, 307-672-3473, for entry due dates and with questions.

Those entries placing first on the local level will then be forwarded to a national review board for judging. Carl's entry was one of fourteen that were sent on to the national level from Sheridan. The 2024 Creative Arts Festival is being held in Denver May 11-18.

Encourage veterans to participate. It is a fun way to show their creativity and talents.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Linda Orr and Melba Bennet,
Reps

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

The AEF is here for all members of the Department when they have exhausted any local programs in their town. Your dues must be current plus the past two (2) years in order to apply. The application can be found on the National website: www.alaforveterans.org If you haven't been in the "Member Only" page, you will sign in and create a password. The completed application will go directly to National. Several of our members have received up to \$2,500 from the AEF.

Thank you to members or Units

1, 7, 9, 15, 16, 19, 25, 28, 29, 33, 26, 47, 54, 60 and 70 who sent money to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. You all have drawing tickets for 2025. Thirteen units sent in reports with two units donating "in memory" of a deceased member.

The drawing for 2026 Membership will continue next year along with something added. Keep watching!!! Consider donating next year!

Peg Sullivan
Chairman

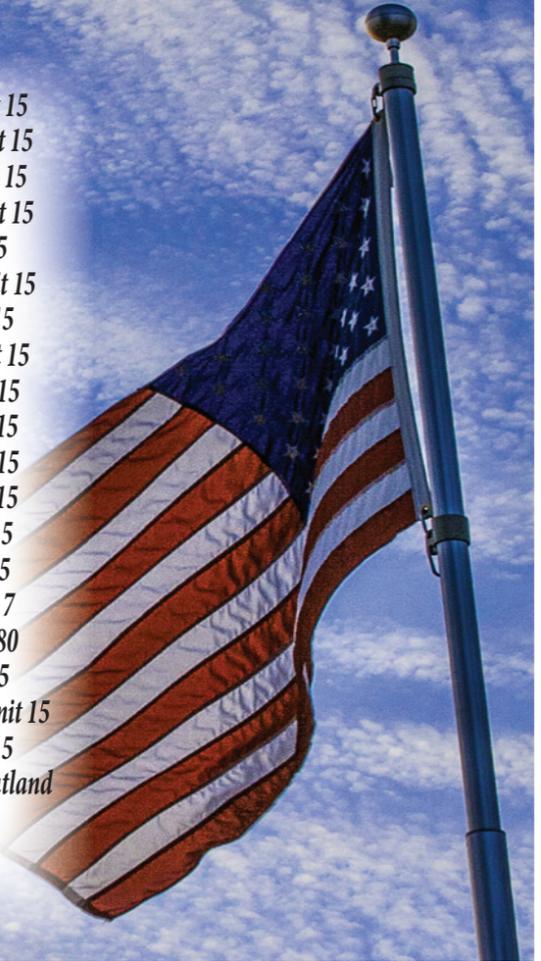
"In the Clouds"

• In Memoriam •
 Alice Smith Unit 13
 Gwen Brown Unit 6
 Tillie Moore Unit 10
 Brandi Forgey Unit 90
 • Sympathy •
 Peg Sullivan Unit 13 Brother
 Sharon Soule Unit 13 Brother
 Peg Sullivan Unit 13 Cousin
 Family of Gwen Brown
 Ruth Ross Unit 26 Aunt and Uncle
 Margie Sanborn Unit 15 Husband
 Georgene McNamara Unit 6
 Loved One
 Diane Wagner Unit 26 Father
 Tammy Harris Unit 28
 Grandfather
 Judith Killion Unit 28 Mother
 Stella Trujillo Unit 6 Brother
 Trye & Beth Hatch Unit 26 Son
 Connie Martinez and Family
 Unit 26 Cousin

• Get Well •
 Alivira Sturlin Unit 13
 Michelle Lofgen Unit 13
 Kathy Salazar Unit 6
 Kathy James Unit 6
 Irene Jackson Unit 6
 Ron and DiAnne Miller Unit 26
 Gloria Dinkel Unit 6
 Sharon Howard Unit 64
 Verna Cook Unit 64
 Trudy Zaffarano Unit 26
 Margie Sanborn Unit 15
 Mary Miller Unit 6
 Patricia Strange Unit 6
 Dora Jones Unit 6
 Todd Anderson Unit 6
 Josie Pacheo Unit 6
 Patricia Stanage Unit 6
 Cheryl Stroman Unit 6
 Shawana Smith Unit 6
 Linda Hollingsworth Unit 6
 Susan Barela Unit 6

Loretta and Greg Pino Unit 6
 Margie Sandborn Unit 15
 Mary Barber Unit 80
 Andrea Schuck Unit 28
 Gayle Brewer Unit 28
 • Thinking of You •
 Loretta Funk Unit 13
 Patricia Brightman Unit 13
 Kathy Hamar Unit 15
 Ruth Cundall Unit 15
 Emily Pindel Unit 15
 Lanette Sager Unit 15
 Rita Meyers Unit 15
 Wanda Lorenz Unit 15
 Beverly Webb Unit 6
 Kasey Stroud Unit 15
 Amy Williams Unit 15
 Jody Sanborn Unit 15
 Kyah Mantle Unit 15
 Addison Ervin Unit 15
 Linda Boughton Unit 15
 Taylor Quance Unit 15

Ridley Lundberg Unit 15
 Caydence Engling Unit 15
 Baily Rutt Ervin Unit 15
 Madison Sanborn Unit 15
 Jewel Pullen Unit 15
 Madison Maroney Unit 15
 Nancy Dysart Unit 15
 Packer Lundberg Unit 15
 Kathy Pamrow Unit 15
 Brenda Hagan Unit 15
 Jessie Wermers Unit 15
 Genella Petsch Unit 15
 Shiron Butler Unit 15
 Riley Britton Unit 15
 Pochelle Pratte Unit 7
 Dorothy Wood Unit 80
 Sage Bridger Unit 15
 Elaine Ruland Amick Unit 15
 Temp Engling Unit 15
 Virginia Howshar Wheatland
 3 to Cheyenne VA



Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitaion Report



**Susan Sironen
 VA & R Chairman**

**Department VA&R Chairman
 Report – Year-End 2023-2024**

In reviewing year-end reports, all I can say is WOW. Our Auxiliary Units are amazing. This year 17 reports were received (50%) and 15 units provided individual veteran volunteer hours (40%). It is really

difficult to highlight all the activities of the various Units. Many supported Wreaths Across America, put out flags for Memorial Day ceremonies and held or helped with Veterans Day programs.

District 1 - Pinedale had a parade with a riderless horse and a pair of boots turned backward in the stirrups to represent a soldier looking back at the troops one final time. Rock Springs put together Buckets for Vets – 5 gallon buckets filled with goodies for veterans in the community. Green River had an “angel tree” at the Post Home to obtain gifts for veterans in the nursing and assisted living facilities for Christmas. They also partnered with a community member and collected items for approximately 200 bags for the homeless including hoodies, drink mixes, ramen, oatmeal, personal hygiene items, etc.

District 2 - Glendo laid 78 wreaths on veteran’s graves and spent \$1200 plus donations to fill wish lists for

veterans at the Cheyenne VA. Plus their Pocket Prayer Projects distributed 75 pocket prayers this year. Douglas held a bake-a-thon for cookies for the Cheyenne VA and held their first annual Putt for Vets Golf Tournament. Guernsey provided goodie trays of baked goods, candy and fruit to 18 veterans who live alone.

District 3 - Riverton supported Chapel of Four Chaplains. Lander sold \$150 grocery cards and raised \$1863.

District 4 - Basin raised \$1800 in poppy funds and gave \$25 to each of the 18 veterans at the local retirement home. They are starting a Be The One/Any is Too Many suicide prevention monthly event standing on the street corner waiving signs with the suicide hotline and thank you to veterans. Worland gathered winter clothes, socks and toiletries for Sheridan and Buffalo – donating about 1200 pairs of socks. Powell delivered goodies to veterans on vari-

ous holidays and 3 of their ALA Juniors in a dance group performed for the veterans.

District 5 - Gillette purchased backpacks, toiletries, socks, sweats, hoodies and pajamas for veterans. Buffalo provided cookies, ice cream, root beer floats, birthday cake or pies to veterans. Three members participated in a cornhole tournament at the Veterans Home. The Unit honored Leroy Higgens for his poppy making over the years – 400,000 poppies and still going strong! Moorcroft is still crocheting plastic bag mats and pillows for the homeless. Sheridan started a bingo program at the VA once a month and served milkshakes for the veterans.

District 6 - Saratoga baked cookies and provided a sit-down prime rib dinner for veterans.

**Susan Sironen
 VA & R Chairman**



**Edie Taffner
 Veterans Home
 of Wyoming Rep.**

As we come to the end of our reporting year I reflect on our work for veterans advocacy, serving, educating and giving to America’s finest –

Veterans Home of Wyoming

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Wyoming Veteran Home Year End Report
 Edie Taffner, Veterans Home Representative April 1, 2023-- March 31, 2024**

our Veterans!

Our Unit has two different members that go to serve weekly at the Veterans Home. Each week we trade off with serving ice cream and cookies, a home made birthday cake, pie three times a year, root beer floats or water melon and fruit. This weekly visit is all financed by the Units around the state!

As your Veterans Home Rep., I coordinate volunteers, see that the supplies are available, administer the finances and make a detailed report of the funds spent.

Since the new Skilled Nursing Home has opened, I have gotten acquainted with their Activity Direc-

tor and they are taking it slow. Only the first of three cottages has opened.

We go twice a month to their facility with either root beer floats or ice cream and cookies. The Director said when the other cottages open she would like to see bingo and more activities.

When our National President, Lisa Williamson visited Buffalo, we had a ceremony to honor one of the Veterans Home residents, Leroy Higgens, with a plaque for his great accomplishment of making 400,000 poppies for our American Legion Auxiliary over the years. Department officers, local Unit members and guests also attended!

Each Veteran resident at the home and skilled nursing home receives a birthday card with a five dollar bill in it as well as a Christmas card with a ten dollar bill.

The Veterans are so appreciative of the services provided by our Units around the state!

I would like to take this opportunity say THANK YOU from them and THANK YOU from me as your representative for making my job easier.

**Respectively submitted
 Edie Taffner,
 Dept. Veterans Home Rep.**

District and Unit News District 1 Report

I was invited to visit 4 of the 8 Units in District 1 and managed to visit each of them. Thank you for your warm welcome.

The District 1 Spring Conference, held in the Senior Center on April 6th was hosted by the Post and Unit 78 Big Piney. There were 7 of our 8 Units present. I extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Big Piney for their exceptional hospitality.

Out of our 8 Units, 6 Units have submitted their Year End Impact reports. Units from District 1 have reported a total of 9,557 volunteer hours and \$43,604 spent this year.

In recent years, a bus has been provided to transport Girl State del-

egates from District 1 to Cheyenne. Sponsored by contributions from area businesses and Units, the bus is chartered from LeBus. District 1 had 11 girls participate in Girls State this past June and among the volunteer staff, 5 members come from District 1.

Every Unit in District 1 should take great pride in their contributions to Veterans and their communities. They engage in a variety of activities, including sponsoring and participating in Veterans walks, assembling care packages for homeless veterans, volunteering for Music for Vets, supporting the BE THE ONE mission, providing blessing bags for

Veterans Night at the Food Bank and organizing breakfasts and dinners on Veterans Day. Additionally, they are active in their communities sponsoring and participating in the Patriotic Camp,

4th of July parades, hosting BBQ's and picnics, trunk or treat events for Halloween, serving hot chocolate at Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, providing Christmas food baskets to families, bingo and providing US Constitution booklets to local high school students, among other activities. These are just a sample of some of the activities that our Units are engaged in.

I am excited to serve District 1 in



Cathey Raymer
District 1 President

the coming year.

District and Unit News

Vice President Linda & I would like to thank everyone who came to the District 2 Spring Conference, and a huge thank you Van-Tassel Unit #1 for hosting. It's always great to have the District come together to share what we've all been up to throughout the year. I would like to thank Mary Hoyle (LaGrange Unit #70)

for always being an excellent District Chaplain, and to Barbie Chaffin for stepping up as District Secretary. I appreciate the confidence from the District to be nominated for District President again. I will strive to serve the District well for another year. I'm excited to announce the election of B-Jo Laing as our new Dis-

District 2 Report

trict Vice President.

District 2 Impact: We had 6 of our 9 Units submit Unit Impact Numbers. They reported 2722 hours of volunteering for our veteran's, 978 hours for military families, 778 hours for children and youth, and 6170 hours for all other programs. Way to go District 2!



Jessica York
District 2 President

District and Unit News

Unit 26 Powell had their Cherry pie luncheon in February to help raise money for our Girls State Program. Every holiday, baskets or gifts were delivered to the care center and assisted living to our veterans.

We support our youth boxing program that the post has started. The Auxiliary prepares fruit snacks for the kids along with ice water.

In April we prepared for Memorial Day by making additional wreaths. The ceremony will be held at the Post right in front of the wall of honor. Breakfast will be served to all volunteers that help with the Avenue of Flags.

We continue to sponsor a cub scout pact. We serve the community by distributing food. 648 veterans were included in the food distribution.

Our talented juniors performed a patriotic show they each danced to a song paying tribute to their fathers.

Unit 29 Basin This year we had 10 submissions for the Americanism Essay contest, including one home schooled student. These essays covered 2 age group categories. The winners were sent on to Vicki Paddock for Department judging. Our Unit says the Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting and on special occasions such as Veterans Day programs, etc.

Each month we collect our change and split the money between the Child

Welfare Foundation and the AEF. Also, five members purchased the \$5.00 sheet of tickets for the AEF drawing and the money and tickets were forwarded to the Department.

The Basin Unit assisted with Greybull's Girls State recruiting and training for the 2023 session as the Greybull Unit was disbanding. There were 5 girls from Greybull, 1 from Burlington and 1 from Basin that attended. When Greybull disbanded, they sent a check to the Basin Unit to close out their bank account with the stipulation that the money be used for girls from Greybull and Burlington to attend Girls State as long as the money lasts.

The Boys and Girls State delegates participated in the Big Horn County Fair Parade by tossing out candy during the parade. Always a fun time. We also asked the Boys State and Girls State delegates to attend our Veterans Day dinner and tell us about their experiences.

We started in 2024 to also assist the Worland Unit with their Girls State recruiting and training for the Worland, Ten Sleep and Thermopolis schools. At this time, we currently have 1 from Greybull, 1 from Burlington, 0 from Basin, 1 from Worland and possibly 2 from Thermopolis.

The Greybull Unit 32 disbanded at the end of 2023. Three members transferred their membership to Basin. We

District 4 Report

are currently at 50 members with our goal of 53. We have one lady we are contacting as she supports our Poppy Day and is a Gold Star sister. We are encouraging her to join.

Our Unit has a Facebook page, which we post on for our activities. We are members of the Basin Chamber of Commerce, and our activities and meetings are always posted in their Monday emails to members. In addition, we have information printed in the local newspaper about our activities.

About \$1800 was raised in Poppy donations this year. With this money, we were able to donate \$25 per veteran at the Wyoming Retirement Home in Basin for Christmas as well as sending money for the VA Hospital in Sheridan, the Veterans Home of Wyoming in Buffalo, the Christmas in July program as well as cookies for the VA Hospital in Sheridan.

In March, rather than having an American Legion birthday dinner, the Auxiliary and Post held a joint get together with the Auxiliary providing birthday cake and ice cream.

One of our members is working on a Be The One monthly event. We would stand on a street corner on the same day every month with flags and signs thanking veterans for their service and signs with the suicide prevention phone number on it.



Trudy Zaffareno
District 4 President

Unit 44 Worland's Cynthia Pfeiffer teamed up with Susan Sironen from Basin to recruit Girls State candidates. Purses were collected at the District 4 Spring Conference to help defer the cost of sending our girls. A survival bag was put together for the Worland candidate and 5 corsages were made for Girl State candidates in the District. We served 45 at our Birthday dinner and started selling raffle tickets for a shot gun to help with the cost of the Department Convention.

We will have a wreaths displayed at the cemetery on Memorial Day.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in June.



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

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of WY Convention
June 20 - 22, 2024
Worland, Wyoming**

Department Finance Committee Meeting will be held by Zoom

Thursday, June 20, 2024

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration at Post 44 - 129 S. 7th Street
6:00 p.m. No Host Dinner at Post 44
7:00 p.m. DEC - Location TBD

Friday, June 21, 2024

9:00 a.m. Opening of Convention - Unit 44
Call to Order - Department President Tammy Harris
Invocation - Department Chaplain Judith Killion
Pledge of Allegiance led by Americanism Chair Vicki Paddock
Preamble to the C & B of the ALA - C & B Chair Susan Dansereau
Introduction of Past Department Presidents

Introduction of 2023-24 Department Officers

Reading of the Call to Convention - Dept. Secretary Peg Sullivan
Welcome - Cynthia Pfeiffer Unit 44
Response - TBD
Introduction of Sgt. At Arms
Recognition of Unit 44 Convention Committee
Consent of Convention Committees
Credentials • Election Judges and Tellers • Courtesy Resolutions
Reading of the Rules of Convention - C & B Chair Susan Dansereau
Report of the Pre-Convention Finance Meeting - Chair Linda Orr
Report of the Pre-Convention DEC Meeting - Secretary Peg Sullivan
Reading of the Rules for Electing Department Officers - C & B Chair Susan Dansereau

9:50 a.m. ALA Downs
10:15 a.m. Break with Greetings to the Legion
10:25 a.m. Nominations of Department and National Officers
2024-25 Department President
2024-25 Department Vice Presideent
2024-25 Department Secretary Treasurer
2024-25 Department District Presidents
2025-26 National NW Division Vice President

Introduction of 2024-25 District Vice Presidents

Reading of Resolutions - C & B Chair Susan Dansereau
Credentials Report - Sunny Hobbs

12:00 p.m. Break for Lunch
1:15 p.m. Call to Order - President Tammy Harris
Rollcall of Officers and Units - Secretary Peg Sullivan
Department Chairman Reports
Children and Youth - Shareen Johnson
Special Presentation - Junior Members
Junior Activities - Sunny Hobbs
Education - Gina Dusel
Poppy - B-Jo Laing
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Susan Sironen
Cheyenne VA - Martie Harbick • Sheridan VA - Linda Orr
WY Veterans Home - Edie Taffner
Public Relations - Chantelle Dunlap
Legislative - Donna Williams
Leadership - Leila Dean

Introduction of Unit Member of the Year

Informational Items - Secretary Peg Sullivan
4:00 p.m. ALA Downs - Drawing for \$100.00 Unit for Friday Attendance
4:30 p.m. Recess for the Day

Commander and President Banquet - Community Center

Saturday, June 21, 2024

7:00 a.m. Past Department Presidents Breakfast - TBD
9:00 a.m. Reconvene Convention
Invocation - Chaplain Judith Killion
Pledge of Allegiance - Vicki Paddock
Rollcall of Officers and Units - Secretary Peg Sullivan
DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL SERVICE - Chaplain Judith Killion
ALA Downs

10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Credentials Report - Sunny Hobbs
Election of District Presidents
Election of Department Officers
Election of NW Division VP

Reading of Rules for Electing Delegates & Alternates to National Convention - C & B Chair Susan Dansereau
Nomination of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention - in New Orleans, Louisiana - August 24 - 29, 2024

Continue Chairman Reports
Auxiliary Emergency Fund & Drawing - Peg Sullivan
National Security - Trudy Zaffarano
Community Service - Jennifer and Susan Dansereau
Constitution & Bylaws - Susan Dansereau
Historian - Jessica York
Chaplain - Judith Killion

Girls State - Dawn Kenneda and Alyssa Hinckley
Membership - Cathey Raymer
Presentation of Goal Units

12:00 p.m. Recess for Lunch
1:00 p.m. Hand out Unit Packets - Secretary Peg Sullivan
1:15 p.m. Rollcall of Officers and Units
Credential Report - Sunny Hobbs
Vote on Resolutions - Susan Dansereau
Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention
District Presidents Reports
District 1 - Cathey Raymer

District 2 - Jessica York
District 3 - Jessie Poire
District 4 - Trudy Zaffarano
District 5 - Robin Ruff
District 6 - Joyce Menke

2:15 p.m. 15-minute Break
2:30 p.m. Department Officers Reports
Secretary - Treasurer Peg Sullivan
Vice President - Leila Dean
President - Tammy Harris
ALA Downs
Unfinished Business
New Business
Reading of Courtesy Resolutions
Drawing for \$100.00 Unit Attendance
Results of National Delegate and Alternate Election
Short Break set up for Installation
Installation of 2024-25 Department Officers
Acceptance Speech - Department President
Closing Remarks - Department President Tammy
Adjourn and Closing of Department Convention 2024
4:15 p.m. National Convention Delegate & Alternate Meeting - Secretary Peg
Post Convention DEC
TBA Department Banquet - Community Center
TBA WALRUS Meeting

OFFICIAL CALL TO CONVENTION

Worland, Wyoming June 21st and 22nd, 2024
The 105th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wyoming is hereby called to be held in Worland, Wyoming June 21st and 22nd, 2024.

PURPOSE

To receive reports of Department Officers and Chairmen;
To elect Department Officers for the ensuing year;
To receive and take action on proposed changes to the Department Constitution and Bylaws;
To transact such other business as may come before the Department Convention.

PRESENTATION and REGISTRATION

Representation in the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to one delegate for each 15 members or major fraction thereof and one delegate-at-large, whose current dues shall have been received by the Department Secretary-Treasurer 15 (fifteen) days prior to the meeting of said convention. Delegates and alternates shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at a meeting called for that purpose not later than 30 (thirty) days prior to the Department Convention. Certification of delegates should be made promptly to the Department Secretary-Treasurer after their election.

All Past Department Presidents of Wyoming in good standing in a Unit in the Department of Wyoming shall be life delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with votes to be exercised with or aside from their Units. One delegate from each Unit will cast the entire vote of her Unit on all ballots. The voting strength will be based upon the total membership of the books of the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer as of May 20th. All delegates are required to register. The registration fee will be \$15.00.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee is hereby called, as provided by Article IV, Section 1, of the Department Bylaws and will be held at 7 p. m at the Worland Community Center, on June 20, 2024. All Executive Committee members as provided in Section 1 of Article IV are expected to attend. Failure to attend will prevent them from collecting convention expenses, as allowed.

Tammy Harris, Department President
Peg Sullivan, Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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



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