

# **Commander's Corner**



William "Bill" Barnes Commander

Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

Thank you for electing me as your next Department Commander. I and the other elected officials will do our best for you and the Department. Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be happy with some of the decisions that will be made by the Department Executive Committee and myself. However, we will do our best to do what's right for all. Floyd Minch Post 44, Commander Justin Pfeiffer and his Legion Family hosted a very good Convention in Worland.

Been traveling a little bit already. We went to Christmas in July in Buffalo. A week later, went to Ron Woods House in Sheridan. Went to Laramie for Boys State. A pleasant surprise was that one of my grandsons was in the class. First Vice Commander Russ Stafford and I went the 61th National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, IN. We've been having lots of ZOOM meetings on various subjects.

National Convention will be 23-30 Aug. The first Leadership class will be 14-15 Sept at Gillette College. National Commanders visit will be 15- 19 Sept.

There's more to come and I'm sure, First Commander Stafford and Second Commander Glenn will enlighten you.

Don't forget BUDDY CHECKS! BE THE ONE!

Department Commander, 2024-2025. William "Bill" Barnes



Penny Merryfield/Dept. of Wyoming Historian Above: Dept. Adjutant Gina Mayhan pins the New Commander Bill Barnes with his commander's pin while Past commander Doug Johnson watches.

# **Adjutant's Corner**



Gina Mayhan Department Adjutant

Membership year 2025 is well underway. Our first goal of 50% is 09/11/2024. A few of our Posts have already reached that goal. Remember, there are two ways to do your Posts' transmittals. You can do them online, under myLegion, or you can send them in to me. If you are close to reaching a goal, keep in mind that if you do them online, it takes 7-10 business days for National to process, but if you send it in to me, it processes immediately. Just food for thought when those goal dates come up.

National Convention is just

held in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am very excited to add this to my places I would have never been able to go to had it not been for the American Legion; however, I have already requested that I be shown where the closest McDonald's is, because we all know I do not eat slimy seafood of any kind. It will be sad to see Commander Seehafer step aside as National Commander. I think he did some wonderous things for the Legion. The upcoming National Commander, Jim La-Coursiere will do an excellent job, I am sure. The hardest part

around the corner. It will be a phone call to get the wheels held in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am very excited to add come a statistic.

I have already had a very full summer, attending parades, BBQ's, meetings and other events at different Posts. It is always an honor to attend these events.

Fall Workshop is coming up in October. I would recommend attending. Breakout sessions will be held where information that can be taken back to your Posts will be taught.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to work for the American Legion, Department of Wyoming. I strive everyday to do my best, so that our Veterans are taken care of. If there is anything I can do to help, or if you have questions, please reach out to me. *Please do not address mail to 1320 Hugur.* Our address is: American Legion Department of Wyoming PO Box 20172 Cheyenne, WY 82003

#### BETHEONE 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.

will be pronouncing his name correctly!

I cannot stress enough how important Buddy Checks are. Times are difficult right now for everyone, there is no doubt about that. They can't fall through the cracks, because if they do, inevitably they become one of the 22 a day. Be the One to check on members in your Post that you haven't seen around. Be the One to reach out to the guy down the street that doesn't seem to be doing very well. Sometimes all it takes is

Gina Mayhan Department Adjutant.



## **1st Vice Commander's Corner**

#### Words from the 1st Vice Commander

I would first like to start out with thanking everyone for their support in making me the 1st Vice Commander for the Department of Wyoming American Legion. I strive to ensure that our department continues to be a rising star in the National American Legion organization.

Mv focus continues to be on programs and ensuring that we focus on the Four Pillars of our organization, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. If we focus on the programs that we already have, we will not only sustain membership but increase it. We must get our image changed from being one of only having the veteran sitting around the bar drinking and swapping war stories to one of being the veteran who continues to serve their community through continued service within the organization.

I would like to also address this: ALL OF US ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION. Yes, you read that correctly. All of us are the American Legion. Not the person you see as holding a commander position, not the person you see wearing a blue and white hat, nor the person wearing a white hat. Yes, they hold positions of title, but The American Legion is a member up organization. That means that members are the most powerful part of this organization. The post can do nothing without the members approval. The Department can do nothing without the post approval, hence the members .....

approval. National can do nothing without the Department approval, hence the post approval, hence the members approval.

Members are the driving force of The American Legion. Not only are all of us The American Legion, but all of us are also recruiters, retention officers, and membership coordinators. I challenge each of you to reach out and get 1 other fellow veteran to join The American Legion and to mentor them. It is up to you to make this the organization YOU want it to be. If you want an active post, doing things in the community, then participate and help. If you only want to donate money to a great organization, then we say thank you and appreciate all that you do.



**Russell Stafford** 1st Vice Commander Dept. of Wyoming

Be safe and continue to make this your American Legion



**Benjamin Glenn** 2nd Vice Commander Dept. of Wyoming

#### I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

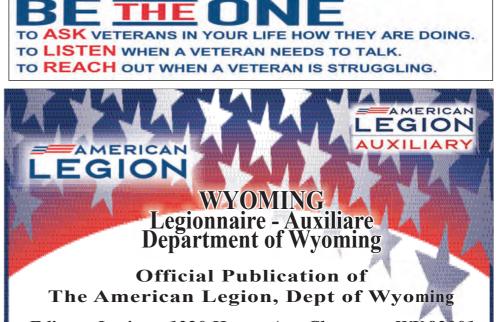
I am excited to be your new Department of Wyoming 2nd Vice Commander for the 2025 legion year. There are numerous challenges facing our department and I will do my best to help resolve them. To start I encourage open dialogue from all our legionnaires. The newest members in our Posts may produce some of the best ideas so let us ensure that every member has a voice from bottom to top. My focus will

remain staying on top of our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program to include staffing our Department Service Office in Cheyenne. I will assist the building committee in providing options for our Department Headquarters building to repair or replace it. I pledge to work with various committees such as the Constitution/by-laws, E.A Blackmore, and Veterans Resource Committee to make the necessary updates. "Be The One" I will support all organized efforts in revitalization/community outreach to help our Districts reach out to all veterans. I will also remain on the High School Oratorical team and encourage all Districts and Posts to get the word out to the High School students in their District about this competition and its outstanding scholarship opportunities. I encourage our entire membership to get out and support all our programs from High School Rodeo and Shooting Sports to Boys State and Baseball. I am excited to see a renewed interest in working alongside our Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legions Squadrons. I look forward to seeing everyone out there this year supporting these outstanding programs. "Service Before Self Not Self Service"

**2nd Vice Commander's Corner** 

# **LEGION** TAL Membership Report

Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To mee Target
24	Rock Springs	350	186	53.14%	0	1	Van Tassell	31	12	38.71%	4
28	Green River	190	56	29.47%	39	4	Lusk	23	7	30.43%	5
36	Ft. Bridger	106	70	66.04%	0	5	Torrington	126	25	19.84%	38
40	Cokeville	10	2	20.00%	3	8	Douglas	167	20	11.98%	64
41	Evanston	35	7	20.00%	11	9	Glenrock	46	22	47.83%	1
43	Jackson	134	71	52.99%	0	10	Wheatland	69	8	11.59%	27
46	Alpine	36	14	38.89%	4	15	Glendo	20	2	10.00%	8
47	Pinedale	34	19	55.88%	0	56	Veteran	10	5	50.00%	0
49	Afton	15	4	26.67%	4	63	Lingle	19	7	36.84%	3
55	Kemmerer	30	18	60.00%	0	70	La Grange	10	2	20.00%	3
78	Big Piney	21	9	42.86%	2	75	Chugwater	25	10	40.00%	3
88	La Barge	15	0	0.00%	8	95	Guernsev	27	8	29.63%	6
D-1		976	456	46.72%	32	D-2		573	128	22.34%	159
	50% -09/11/2024						50% -09/11/2024				
Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To mee Target
2	Casper	230	131	56.96%	0	11	Lovell	36	19	52.78%	0
16	Powder River	15	2	13.33%	6	18	Thermopolis	16	3	18.75%	5
19	Riverton	65	35	53.85%	0	20	Cody	45	9	20.00%	14
31	Dubois	15	3	20.00%	5	26	Powell	170	72	42.35%	13
33	Lander	220	104	47.27%	6	29	Basin	44	4	9.09%	18
61	Pavillion	15	2	13.33%	6	32	Greybull	30	16	53.33%	-1
81	Ft. Washakie	24	9	37.50%	3	44	Worland	190	54	28.42%	41
96	Arapaho	16	0	0.00%	8	85	Meeteetse	22	12	54.55%	0
						91	Heart Mountain	10	10	100.00%	0
D-3		600	286	47.67%	14	D-4		563	199	35.35%	83
	50% -09/11/2024						50% -09/11/2024				
Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To meet Target	Post		2025 Goal	Actual	%	To mee Target
3	Newcastle	60	19	31.67%	11	6	Cheyenne	1131	568	50.22%	0
7	Sheridan	165	79	47.88%	4	14	Laramie	320	166	51.88%	0
13	Buffalo	140	79	56.43%	0	21	Burns	12	17	141.67%	0
25	Moorcroft	25	12	48.00%	1	54	Saratoga	80	35	43.75%	5
42	Gillette	325	146	44.92%	17	60	Pine Bluffs	50	20	40.00%	5
45	Sundance	19	13	68.42%	0	64	Medicine Bow	25	8	32.00%	5
80	Hulett	32	14	43.75%	2	77	Albin	10	5	50.00%	0
90	Kaycee	10	6	60.00%	0	93	Cheyenne	10	1	10.00%	4
307	Gillette College	40	8	20.00%	12	122	Rawlins	44	26	59.09%	0
D-5		816	376	46.08%	32	D-6		1682	846	50.30%	0
	50% -09/11/2024					DISTRICT	TOTALS	5210	2291	43.97%	314
	Current as of:	19	-Aug-202	24		17 HQ.		65	26	40.00%	42
	For God		•			DEPARTME	NT GOAL	5275	2317	43.92%	321
<i>((</i> <b>-</b>											



Editors: Legion - 1320 Hugur Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001 Mailing: PO Box 20172, Cheyenne, WY 82003 Telephone: (307) 634-3035 Fax: (307) 635-7093 Auxiliary - Peg Sillivan, PO Box 186, Buffalo, WY 82834 Telephone: (307) 620-5697 Email - deptaux@wylegionaux.org

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 PO Box 20172, Cheyenne, WY 82003

#### Page 3

#### AMERICAN LEGION

**District** 2 Post 1 Van Tassell **Donald Heckert (34)** 

> **District 3** Post 2 Casper Larry Stroh (5)

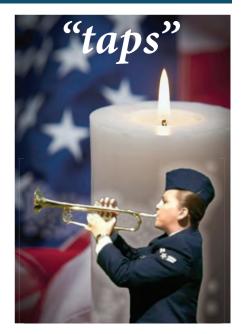
**District** 4 Post 26 Powell Cleda Loper (43)

# **Post Everlasting 2024**



**District 5** Post 7 Sheridan Hardee Tharladson (5) Post 25 Moorcroft Arnold Altaffer (14)

**District** 6 Post 6 Cheyenne Norman Devilbiss (23) **Donald Hershey (32)** Raymond Schwab (14) Monte Fertig (3) Robert Musgrave (23)



"the numbers in parenthesis designate years as a Legion Member."

# **Chaplain's Corner**



Vanessa Stuart Chaplain Dept. of Wyoming

hope your summer went well. As we step into fall and all the activities and fun things (like pumpkin spice, fuzzy sweaters, and eggnog) it brings, I want to remind each of you that you matter. Not just to the organization but as a special unique person-YOU MATTER. Recently my husband and I had dinner with a long-time church friend and missionaries. My friend and I used to do this once a month at her house-she had the room and I like to cook. Due to health issues we had to stop for a while, and

# Service to God and Country

a message to impart, and this one was about foundations. This reminded me of Sunday school singing the song about the wise man who built his house upon the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. What is your foundation? Is it God or Christ or something else that has great meaning to you? Perhaps a friendship or family relationship or meditation maybe? Does it keep your house from falling apart when the rains come down? Some of us turn to our faith but not evewe just started doing this again. ryone feels the same and they

Hello Legionnaire Family! I The missionaries always have turn to something else. Are you maybe someone's foundation? That person they can go to when the winds threaten to beat them down. That's what it is to Be the One. It can be as simple as a phone call. I know sometimes it seems like that's all we talk about but just remember that if it wasn't important, we'd be focusing on something else. I hope you all have a wonderful fall full of love, laughter and if important to you, pumpkin spice, fuzzy sweaters, and eggnog. May you all be blessed!

> Vanessa Stuart Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL

#### **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District** 1 News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 and SAL Squadron 43

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 and our SAL Squadron 43 have continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and have continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our membership is currently 134 TAL members, and 24 SAL members. Our renewals for 2024 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. Our Post member, Jack Cook, who is a 94-year old Korean war veteran, has received a certificate commemorating his 70 years of membership in the American Legion! Commemorative Plaque: A beautifully framed plaque in memory of our deceased member, Bill Smith, is now occupying a significant place in our Post This plaque, gener-Building.

ously presented to the Post by local resident, Horton Spitzer, depicts the "Kissing Sailor" photograph taken in Times Square that became famous. Hort had this plaque made in commemoration of the end of World War II and to honor the late Bill Smith for his dedication to our Post and the American Legion. Our Post is extremely grateful to Hort for his generosity in donating this plaque to us

ber Dennis Jones, gave an interesting history of his youth in Jackson, including working as a gas station attendant near the Post, where he was held up at gunpoint one night while closing the station. He also discussed his unusual training and service in the Marine Corps. Joe thanked Dennis for his remarks.

Presentation by T.J. McCann: In July, Post member T.J. Mc- Post was the lead unit again in Cann, gave us an interesting the Jackson Town Parades on talk on his service as a pilot, including time on active duty in the Marine Corps, and in the reserve. He discussed his training on various different aircraft, and how he was able to continue his love of flying long after his service ended. Wyoming Veterans Benefit Night: A very successful Wvoming Veterans Benefit Night took place at our Post on Tuesday, March 12. Representatives from the Wyoming Veterans Commission and the VA were there to help with information



on veterans benefits and other claims issues for the 40 or more veterans and spouses who attended the meeting.

Jackson Veterans Monument: Our Post added a number of new names to the Veterans Monument on the Jackson Town Square in May.

Memorial Day Ceremonies, Parades, and Color Guards: Our May 25 and again on July 4. A large crowd attended our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on the Jackson Town Square on May 27. This was followed by Honor Guard Ceremonies with rifle salutes at three Jackson area cemeteries, and the Snake River Bridge. Post members placed American Flags on all veteran graves just prior to Memorial Day. Our Color Guard also presented the colors at the graduation ceremony of the Jackson Hole High School on June 8.

Presentation by Michele Voor-Post member, Michele hees: Voorhees, was our guest speaker in April. Michele took those present on a trip through her life with many powerpoint slides and photos of the various assignments in her Army career. Her many jobs included several deployments overseas where she commanded a number of different units. She began as a Private in the Texas National Guard, and eventually retired as a Colonel. Presentation by Dennis Jones: At our June meeting, Post mem-



### Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

September 2024

## DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 3 LANDER, WYOMING DON STOUGH POST #33

#### AUGUST 2024 LEGION-TAL

*American Legion Americanism Picnic:* Our annual Post 33 Family Americanism Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 31st at Northside Park, beginning at 11am. Sherri and Angela will cater. There is no cost for the meal and members and their families are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Ken Persson Sr., at 349-2881, text to the same number or e-mail to ppersson@ tcinc.net. We need a good headcount so we have enough food for everyone. There will be typical picnic fare, hamburgers, salads, desserts, beans etc. The picnic will be in addition to our regular August meeting. If you know a veteran that is not a member of the Legion, ALA or Sons, please consider inviting them as our guest. We are planning to honor a number of our youth champions. If you are able to help with set-up, please contact 2nd VC Ella Riggs at 307-922-1193.

*Patriots Day:* Although no plans have been finalized, we are planning on an event much the same as in past years. The Post is planning a Honorable Flag Disposal ceremony the afternoon of September 11th. This ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial at Mt. Hope cemetery, following any celebration the City of Lander holds for Patriots Day. Further details will be announced during the August monthly meeting.

Membership: At the end of the 2024 Legion year, Post 33 had not reached our membership goal for the year. We will be pushing early this year to meet our 2025 goal of 220 members, so expect phone calls and knocks on your doors if not paid up. Renewal notices for 2025 should be in the mail soon, if not already in your mailbox. You may renew online at legion.org, send a check for \$50 to Post 33, PO Box 6, Lander, or bring it with you to our next monthly American Legion meeting. We will continue to encourage early renewals by drawing \$100, \$75 and \$50 winners from our list of renewed members! The first drawing will be held on Veterans Day (\$100), the second at our Christmas Dinner (\$75), and the final drawing at our Legion Birthday Dinner (\$50). So, renew early for your chance to win some money! During the month of August, your membership committee will be working to identify and contact veterans in our community who have not joined the American Legion. If you know of anyone; co-worker, friend, neighbor, etc., who fits in this category, please talk to them about joining or forward their names to Keith Trouwborst, 1st Vice. Remember, membership recruiting is every Post member's responsibility!

*Veterans Crisis Line:* The Veterans Crisis Line has transitioned to a new 3 digit number: 988. The new number is easy to remember and share in times of crisis. Veterans and current military members can dial 988 on any phone and press 1 to speak with a responder trained in crisis management and military culture. Anyone can call if they're worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. Be the one to help. 1-800-273-8255 is still active.

Avenue of Flags: Flag display on Main Street occurs 5 times a year and is facilitated by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 33. We have been fortunate to receive help from both our Scout Troop and the Legion baseball team in putting up and taking down the 80 flags during these periods. The last two events this year will be Patriot Day and Veterans Day. Expect flags to go up on 10 Sep and down on 12 Sep. Times will be dependent on Scout/ baseball team school schedules those days. For Veterans Day, we will put the flags up on 8 Nov and take them down on 12 Nov. Specific times and dates for Memorial Day weekend, Flag Day and Independence Day will be determined in the springtime.

*Chaplain's Corner:* Post 33 Chaplain and Service Officer Lori Crump is available for prayer and comradeship. Please call 307-330-3310.

Today's Scripture comes from Paul's Epistle to the churches in Galatia. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

# DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 4 Commander Bobby Werner



Above left: L-R: Kate Decker, Michael Williams, Bobby Werner, Ryan Decker, Bob Campos. Above center: L-R: Bobby Werner, Michael Williams. Above right: Kate Decker, Bob Campos, Bobby Werner, Michael Williams. Left on the trike: Bill Harvey and Sandy Bearden.

Good day! As the recently elected District 4 Commander I want to intro- brother-in-law Mike Toyne (Major, USAF Retired) to honor all Vietnam Vet-

duce myself to those who I may not have met in the past. I retired from active duty after serving 21 years in the USAF, I have worked as a defense contractor for 20 years in various locations worldwide and the past three years for the U.S. Forest Service.

I have already worked closely with the D-4 Vice Commander Nicolle Laffin on a couple of issues for local veterans. Nicolle also serves as a Commissioner for the Wyoming Veterans Commission for our area, we are very fortunate to have her as part of our D-4 team.

Additionally, Steven Olsen who currently serves as the 1st Vice Commander of Hughs-Pittinger Post 26 has volunteered to serve as the D-4 Adjutant. I look forward to working with Steve and Nicolle in the coming year

D-4 Big Horn Basin Riders - American Legion Chapter officially reinstated as a part of Wyoming American Legion Riders of the United States (WAL-RUS) at the recent Departmental Convention. Members of the newly activated charter made an inaugural ride on Sunday June 23 from Worland to Powder Pass on the Big Horn Mountains (see photos) Other members were able to make the Red Lodge Poker run in July. (see photo)

Attended an event in Thermopolis sponsored by Amie Toyne and her

erans from the Big Horn Basin, which includes Big Horn, Fremont, Park, Hot Springs and Washakie counties. Each veteran present was personally welcomed home by Mike and presented with a "Band Aid for the Heart Pin." The Band Aid for the Heart Pin is to help heal the hearts for the treatment these Veterans received when returning home. Four members of the American Legion from District 4 were in attendance.

Met with D-4 Vice Commander and various Post members and discussed ideas to get The American Legion (TAL) Post's in D-4 more active within their communities.

Accompanied Veteran Commissioner and D-4 Vice Commander Nicolle Laffin to Thermopolis to attend the interment ceremony for Ronald K. Philips, retired Army SSGT. At the request of the family, Nicolle ensured an Honor Guard from the Wyoming National Guard, and a Flag detail and Bulgar from Post 44 were present.

I'll be attending the National Convention and look forward to learning more about the resources available that we can implement to enhance our efforts at the Post, District and Department level.

Bobby Werner, District 4 Commander

### Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

## DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 4 Continued LOVELL, WYOMING ROBERT BOYD STEWART POST #11

The Robert Boyd Stewart Post 11 has had another busy spring and summer. We hosted three Memorial Day ceremonies and attended three parades. We were so fortunate that the Department Oratorical winner, Riley Laffin, represented our post as well as this year's Wyoming American Legion Rodeo Queen, Peyton Bischoff. We also received an excellent report back from our Boy's State attendee, Jarrett Allen.

This spring we reinstated our Poppy program much to the delight of everyone in town. We had a large attendance at our Flag Retirement ceremony where we were able to congratulate Mr. Walker for 50 years of American Legion Membership.

We look ahead to our post picnic, resuming our flag etiquette program for the schools and town, and of course, this year's Veterans Day programs.

Respectfully Submitted, Nicolle Laffin Post 11 Historian







#### WORLAND, WYOMING FLOYD MINCH POST #44

American Legion Floyd Minch Post 44 has had a very busy summer this year, keeping the Legionnaires hopping through some unusually high temperatures.

Summer for Post 44 begins, as always, with our annual Memorial Day ceremonies, holding services in both Worland and Ten Sleep cemeteries. Flags are placed on the graves of all veterans buried in the cemeteries and services held at veteran memorial sites in the cemeteries. This year our main speaker was Wyoming U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman, who offered inspirational words in memory of our veterans.

This year, Post 44 hosted the Department of Wyoming Annual Convention, an event which brought Legion Family members from around the state to conduct business and enjoy Legion camaraderie. Hosting the convention found Post 44 Family members cool on the surface, but paddling like mad behind the scenes.

Next, Post 44's Honor Guard provided a Color Guard to lead the Ten Sleep Fourth of July Parade, an honor Post 44 has enjoyed for more than 50 years

The Washakie County Fair in late July provided Post 44 with an important and lucrative opportunity for fundraising with the beer sales concession and a food booth at the fair. Volunteer Legionnaires manned two beer locations and the food booth, which sold loaded baked potatoes, built on one-pound spuds, which proved to be very popular with fairgoers.

The first Sunday in August always finds the Post 44 Family gathered for the annual Picnic, held at the Pavilion at Veterans Park in Worland. The Post provides burgers, brats, pop and beer; members bring in the side dishes. The guys broke in a new Pit Boss grill at this year's picnic, and gave it high marks. The picnic is always a good time and one of the four free events the Post offers to paid-up members.

August found Post 44 Legionnaire volunteers manning the beer wagons at the 23rd Annual Nowoodstock Music Festival at Vista Park in Ten Sleep. The three-day event offers live music, food trucks, pop, and beer. Post 44 has worked the beer wagons for 20 years, bringing in muchneeded funding for Post veterans' programs and Post Home building maintenance.

August 24 found Post 44 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 44 on the links at Green Hills Golf Course in Worland, hosting the annual SAL 44 Scholarship -- Legion Baseball benefit golf tournament. The tourney attracts plenty of golfers and raises money to fund scholarships for graduating seniors from Worland, Ten Sleep, Riverside (Basin) and Hot Springs County (Thermopolis) high schools, as well as the recently revived Worland Chiefs



LEGION

Courtesy Photos Above left: Jim Thomas and Rich Fink. Above center: Bruce Dempster, Tim DeFuentes, Jim Thomas, and Tom Dillon. Above right: Nicolle Laffin and Lewis Walker. Left: Bruce Dempster, Tom Dillon, Mike Kitchen, Nicolle Laffin, Scott Fink, Leroy Collins

# **LEGION**

American Legion Baseball Program. Also during the summer Post 44 Legionnaires completely refinished the Club 44 walk-in cooler, painting all surfaces, installing new metal wire rack shelving and laying down a bed liner type floor.

After a busy and productive summer season, on the horizon for Post 44 are moving indoors for the NFL and UW Cowboys football seasons and our Early Bird Dinner in October.

In all the events and programs Post 44 conducted throughout the summer, and year-round, we are fortunate to have strong support from the members of Auxiliary Unit 44 and SAL Squadron 44, which are active in their own right. They will jump in to help the Post at every opportunity.



#### Page 5



LEADING THE PARADE – The Post 44 Honor Guard leads the Ten Sleep Fourth of July Parade, with two Sons of the American Legion Squadron 44 members carrying additional rifles to escort the flags as they advance along the street at the front of the parade. Photo by James Yule



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR – Kate Decker of Worland, a middle school teacher at Greybull Middle School, was named the American Legion Educator of the Year at the legion Department Convention in Worland on June 23. In the photo, from left to right are Department Commander ----- Kate Decker, Post 44 Commander Justin Pfeiffer, Depart. Vice Command-Bill Barnes, Depart. 2nd Vice Commander Russell Stafford.



THANKS FOR YEARS OF SERVICE – Jim Andersen, center, Past Squadron 44 and Detachment Commander and present Detachment Adjutant, receives a plaque from Post 44 Commander Justin Pfeiffer at the Post 44 annual picnic at the pavilion at Veterans Park in Worland, on Sunday, August 4. SAL 44 member Steve Roseberry looks on. Andersen has been very active and instrumental in growing Squadron 44 and the Detachment for many years, and is a regular helper with Post 44 activities.

#### September 2024

#### **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 4 Continued CODY, WYOMING** AMERICAN EGION FRED COE POST #20

Post 20 recently honored retiring finance officer William Garlow with a plaque for his many years of service to the Post. Legionnaire Garlow has given more than thirty years of service to The American Legion.

**Pictured from left to right: Post** 20 adjutant and commander John West; William Garlow; Legionnaire Robert Richard; Legionnaire John Broullette and Legionnaire Duane Orkney. Photo taken by incoming finance officer Legionnaire Karl Lampe.



#### **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 5 BUFFALO, WYOMING** AMERICAN LEGION **POWDER RIVER POST #13**

Hello from Powder River Post 13. We have been busy, participating in Christmas in July at the Veterans Home of Wyoming, and attending the Department meeting in Worland. We have been involved in many Veteran funerals. We continue to serve breakfast twice a month. We provided Color Guards for Longmire Days. We'll provide Color Guard for the

Johnson County fair and rodeo parade. We'll also be selling beer in our booth during the Johnson County Rodeo. I wanted to remind our members, a new fiscal year has started July 1st, so dues are due. You can pay for 3 years at a time now.

I hope everyone is having a great summer.

**Commander Cecil Benner** 

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.

### **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS News from District 6 Commander Penny Merryfield**

Congratulations to Post 6 Legion Baseball for winning state!

Francis E. Self Post 6 is busy as always. Amongst their normal busy schedule of Karaoke on Friday nights, a band and dancing on Saturdays, they also have cribbage tournaments, and their Color Guard/Honor Guard are always doing honors. One of the special events was participating in the parade for the 2024 Cheyenne Frontier Days. Upcoming events for September is the Labor Day picnic held at the grassy area of the Post on September 2, and their regular membership meeting is on September 11th.

Husted Pendleton Post 14 Laramie held a S.A.L. Charity Dinner on June 29th; a wonderful Fourth of July Celebration with a rib dinner, and corn hole on the lawn; their Friday night brisket on July 26 followed by a BBQ on Saturday July 27 hosted by Unit 14 Auxiliary; A Membership Monday on July 29th with brisket tacos; and the Patio Party on August 30 was free and open to all Veterans and Legion family. Upcoming events for them are: Oct. 12 - Concert with Shawn Hess and Casper Allen; Oct. 19 the Early

Bird Dinner; Oct. 26 Military Appreciation Day at the UW game Cowboys versus Utah State at War Memorial Stadium: to close out October, they will be hosting a Halloween Party on Oct. 31.



Courtesy of Penny Merryfield Above: Robert Hogan Post 21 Commander Walt Schaefer, Burns High School Principal Bobby Dishman, Post 21 SAA Jim Merryfield.

I want to give Robert Hogan Post 21

a special congratulations for not only working hard to save their charter, but for being the first in the 24-25 year to make 100% in membership. This little Post is working hard at growing and being active in the community. During Burns Day, Commander Walt Schaeffer had an information table about the Legion set up and is doing the same thing at Grover Day. They recently delivered about \$120 worth of school supplies to Burns High School. I think we will all see more from this little Post with the big heart!

I met up with Adjutant James Sorensen of Albin Boyce Marlatt Post 77, and spoke briefly. Presented him with their membership cards and information for the 24-25 year. I am looking forward to my post visit with them.

I paid a visit to the home of Post Commander Jack Flores of Garcia Castaneda Post 93, and presented him with his membership cards and information for the 24-25 year. It was a pleasant visit with him and his wife and Department Adjutant Gina Mayhan.

Post 60 serves breakfast on Satur-

### **District 6** = AMERICAN LEGION

days and is free will donation for all. During the Pine Bluffs Trail Days, Post 60 Color Guard led the parade, and on Sunday, they held their Annual Brick laying ceremony for Veterans and their families. There were 34 regular bricks and one Purple Heart brick laid. The speakers at the ceremony were Tim Shepherd - Veterans Commission Director, Governor Gordon and First Lady Jennie Gordon.. It was well attended by Veterans, family members, Mayor Justin Fornstrom and his wife Kara, along with Town Council member Allie Leitza and myself - District 6 Commander.

I will be reaching out to our other Posts - Angus England Pst 54 Saratoga, William Horne Post 64 Medicine Bow, and Hittner Engstrom-Duncan Post 122 in the near future

I am hoping this is a wonderful year of American Legion Family growth and camaraderie for our District, and across the state. Hopefully we see all at the Fall Workshop in Casper.

For God and Country

Penny Merryfield District 6 Commander

### **CHEYENNE, WYOMING FRANCIS E. SELF POST #6**

= AMERICAN LEGION

strong.

The post recently honored and thanked Jim Wilkinson for his service to our Veterans and the community. Jim performs at the post on many occasions and fundraisers and even performs at the Cheyenne VA for our Veterans. He is a strong supporter of our military and the public. Thank you Jim! Bill Frye, Adjutant

Frontier

through another

Well, Post 6 has made it Days! With the float in all four hosted the 4th of July Picnic parades including the Honor Guard and the Legion Riders, to the Charcuterie Table from Vegas, and with entertainment in the lounge; it was a busy week. The Unit 6 ALA

and was a rousing success! Sadly, the Post 6 Honor Guard has been keeping busy with KristyAnn's Kitchen from Las funerals. They are always looking for new members to join and keep the Honoring of our deceased Veterans going





**Courtesy Photos** Above left: Francis E. Self Post 6 Legion family in the Cheyenne Frontier Days parade. Above right: Charcuterie Table from KristyAnn's Kitchen.

### DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 6 Continued PINE BLUFFS, WYOMING DONALD W. EISENHAUER POST #60

On Sunday, August 4th at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Pine Bluffs, as part of the Trail Days celebration was the annual Bricking Laying ceremony by the Donald Eisenhauer American Legion Post 60. The veterans or the families of veterans purchase a memorial brick to be displayed in the plaza. It was an incredible ceremony. There were a total of 35 bricks presented and placed at the plaza. They were from all the different branches of the military, along with the different eras of the wars throughout time. It was time for everyone to reflect on how important each one is of our time and their time through the veterans military time. The veterans that placed their own brick took a moment to reflect on the memories that got them to the here and now. Families were about treasuring their loved ones that has once been here and are now gone. Tears were shed of relief, loss, and honor at the ceremony. It is important, each veteran is a precious person to each of us even though we the people may not know them personally.

Of the 35 bricks there was also a Purple Heart brick for Specialist Colton D. Sasser, which was placed on the Purple Heart Wall by Natalie Harris, Auxiliary member of Unit 60.

Governor Mark Gordon and First Lady Jenny Gordon were able to attend that ceremony. He talked about his grandfather and friends in the military. Governor Gordon said, "Amer-

ica will always do the right thing. It will be in the right way and it will do it right away." He talked about all the veterans, the living and those who have passed. Those that have yet to come home and also the members of the families. Governor Gordon talked about his father, who served in World War II. He feels he is honored. First Lady Gordon said, "I want to thank the late Larry Silvey for recognizing these great men and women that donned the uniform of the United States of America. This community's admiration and gratitude for all of those that made sacrifices in the service of our country and it will always stand as a reminder to the future generations the their freedom did not come through free." She talked about her family serving in all the branches of the military.

Senator Lynn Hutchings from Cheyenne spoke at the ceremony. She said, "I and my husband have served a total of 74 years in the military." Senator Hutchings talked about our constitution. That it is an anchor and a stable walk for us to give direction on how our government should be governed. She knows that both her and husbands reassurances was that America was well looked after on their watch in many ways.

Congresswoman Harriett Hageman sent a representative along with a letter about her support and gratitude of the veterans and thanked the Donald Eisenhauer American Legion Post 60 for the invitation, as she was unable to attend due to the fire that was still burning her family ranch. The other representative who attended was for Senator Lummis. Lummis sent a letter about the honor of being invited to the ceremony but she was not available.

Tim Shepherd recognized two special awards. Veteran, Ralph Milton earned two stars that are very rare. Shepherd went through Milton's service record on what he had done. His family received a brick of citation. The second citation was for Denton R. Dudrey. Again Shepherd went through his military service history.

Other officials that were at the ceremony but did not speak were Mayor of Pine Bluffs Justin Fornstrom, council member Allie Leitza, and Department of Wyoming District 6 commander Penny Merryfield.

The veterans were called one by one with their families to lay their bricks. Some of them found other veterans they had not seen for years. It is family that is not blood but was blood shed by family. They understand each other from their time serving America even though it was not at the same time.

Jennifer Sherman then presented two families with framed photos of their Honor Flight trips. The Honor Flight families were the Smith's, Julie Butler and Shalane White. They were honored with an awesome trip.

The last of the day was about the



beautiful quilts that are given to veterans for their trip with the Honor Flight. Marilyn Lanham and Barb Jo Carley are part of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This group of 20 women make quilts to give to veterans for their service in the military. Each quilt is different and beautiful. The smiles on the veterans faces that will soon be taking the Honor Flight was shining with honor. There were five veterans that received the quilts. It was very hot but to have the quilt wrapped around them was an honor.

After the ceremony Governor Gordon said, "Pine Bluffs knows how to cerebrate veterans. They remind us of what everyone has given for the freedom we have." The First Lady added, "It was an honor to be here. Continue to support the men and women that keep us safe." Senator Hutchings stated, "This was a great ceremony. I went to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., but this has surpassed it being small town America. It was amazing. I will be back." It was a great crowd for being so hot out. The respect for our veterans was very apparent at the Trail Days Brick Laying Ceremony.

Written by Karen Lipska, Reporter at the Pine Bluffs Post, and Auxiliary member of Unit 77



*Karen Lipska/Pine Bluffs Post* Above: Governor Gordon and First Lady Jennie Gordon address those present for the brick ceremony.



Karen Lipska/Pine Bluffs Post Top right: Natalie Harris, Auxiliary member of Unit 60 places the Purple Heart brick for Specialist Colton D. Sasser.



Karen Lipska/Pine Bluffs Post

Above left: Wyoming Senate District 5 - Lynn Hutchings, American Legion member and bagpipe player Marti Mace, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and First Lady Jennie Gordon, Donald Eisenhauer American Legion Post 60 Commander, John Wise, Veterans Commission Director Tim Shepherd.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 33 finished up the 2024 membership year with 38 mem-

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 33 - LANDER

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



## 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!!!!

#### **DETACHMENT NEWS:**

Wow, this summer is flying by with lots of events occurring the past two months with such events as our Summer Convention in Worland, Post 44, Christmas in July at the Veterans home in Buffalo and now we have some of the new Detachment officers attending the National Convention in August. We are now starting our new membership year, 2025 with new goals and projects to plan for at the Detachment and Squadron level. It will be an exciting year!!

I will start with our Summer Convention in June first. I thought we had a great turnout for the Department and the Detachment. The Detachment had a record number of members in attendance, twenty-two members, from nine squadrons and five out of our six District Coordinators were present. I want to thank

for each of the Four Pillars. We had seven squadrons that accepted the challenge of our National Commander. They are as follows: Douglas, Sq. 8, Rock Springs, Sq. 24, Powell, Sq. 26, Gillette, Sq. 42, Jackson, Sq. 43, Worland, Sq. 44 and Saratoga, Sq. 54. I want to thank all of our Squadrons for all their efforts to achieve this lofty goal, which we were awarded certificates signed by our National Commander, Donald Hall at our Convention. The Detachment gave out awards for Volunteer of The Year to two members tied for the award. They are Kevin Peters from Saratoga, Sq. 54 and Ernest "Bud" Schrickling from Powell, Sq. 26. Don Hall, Worland Sq. 44 was awarded the Adjutant of the Year. Brent Bruggar hand made the plaques. Many thanks to our recipients and Brent Bruggar for making the plaques. Also, there were awards given to the squad-

Hobbs was elected as our new Detachment Commander. Mike is a dual member and will provide experience from his past position as Department Commander of WY. He will most certainly carry on with the Detachments goals and programs we have focused on for a number of years and instill some new ideas. The next elected position was First Vice, which we elected Keith Trouwborst from Lander, Sq. 33. Keith is a dual member and will also bring forth a lot of knowledge to our organi-Derek Mancinho from zation. Laramie, was elected as our Second Vice Commander. Derek has been our District 6 Coordinator for the past year and has gained valuable experience with our organization. Other officers are as follows: Gary Swanlund is our primary NEC member, Charlie Keith is our Alternate NEC, Bri-



Jim Andersen SAL Adjutant

sion and support along with newly elected Department Commander Bill Barnes. We accomplished our goal by installing the flag pole and a pipe fence around the pole to prevent cattle from rubbing on the pole and damaging it.

For the second year in a row, the Navy has won the overall Championship for the most fish caught over the Army and Marines contestants!! It should also be noted Navy had the most fishing contestants. All said and done, all of our Veterans enjoy the fishing contest and do not care who wins!! Or do they?? Competition is always good!!



#### Courtesy Photo

Above: Detachment Commander Donavon Dusel presents a certificate award to Brent Bruggar from Sq. 54 Saratoga for achieving the



*Courtesy Photo* Above: Final inspection by the supervisors. Mission accomplished!! Many thanks to all our volunteers.

an Higgins is our Chaplain, Gary Temple, Gillette, is our Children Welfare Foundation Chairman, Tim Johnson, Lander, is our Sergeant-AT-Arms, and Jim Andersen, Worland, Detachment Adiutant. Christmas in July: The Detachment held their annual event with the Veterans in Buffalo on 7-13-24. Our project this year was the installation of a flag pole next to the fishing pond and constructing a steel pipe fence around the flag pole. We had a great turn out of volunteers, twenty-seven plus we had past Department Commander Doug Johnson to provide supervi-

Membership: Congratulations to the Detachment for making the 100% membership goal by the July deadline!! There was a total of 13 squadrons that achieved 100 % or more for the 2024 membership year! They are as follows: Casper, Torrington, Cheyenne, Douglas, Buffalo, Rock Springs, Powell, Lander, Gillette, Jackson, Worland, Saratoga and Hulett. Thank you all for working membership and accomplishing your goals!

#### Four Pillars Challenge from Donald Hall, National Sons Commander.

all of our members that attended our meeting and making it a very open forum for discussion and greatly increased our communications within our organization.

Awards: First of all, I am very proud of our Detachment because we accepted our Sons National Commander, Donald Hall, challenge to all of the squadrons to accept the Four Pillars Challenge to complete in 2024 by raising a minimum of one dollar per member rons that achieved 100% membership for 2024. Congratulations to all for making a successful membership year!

Elections: As always, we held our elections commencing with the Detachment Commander. Donavon Dusel has been our Commander for the past three years and had decided he would step down to allow another member to seek the top command. Micheal

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



# Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming





\*

★ ★ Sseptember 2024

#### THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF LEGION AUXILIARY THE AMERICAN LEGION, AUXILIARY - DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING JUNE 20-22, 2024 WORLAND, WYOMING



 $\star \star \star \star \star$ 

**Members** 



2025 Officers -Peg Sillivan Secretary, Robin Ruff - Vice President, and President Leila Dean



**Members** 



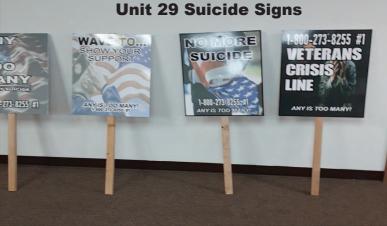
**Memorial Service District 1** 





**Unit 44 Purse Auction for their GS** 

Powell Units at "Photo Booth"









# **American Legion Auxiliary News**

# "The Final Roundup"



Leila Dean President

The 2024-2025 Auxiliary year has begun. I want to thank you for electing me your Department President for this year. I plan to continue much of what Tammy implemented during her 2 years. I will continue to have our monthly Zoom meetings with

my Chairman and the District President's and making our Department meetings fun.

Update on my health, at Convention I told everyone that I could not attend National Convention this year because I had to have surgery. Since then, I have had the second surgery and my Dr. feels that he got everything. He scheduled me to come see him in 6 weeks for a follow up. Since then, I have also been told my cataracts in my eyes need to be removed. I have my preliminary appt with the eye surgeon on August 27th then he will schedule all the appointments for the removal from both of my eyes.

Summer has been hot, this year and it is coming to a close very quickly. But it also means that for those Units that have been on vacation they will be ramping up their plans for this

upcoming year. I hope you Have all had a great summer. So, as we begin to actively get busy in our Units.

My theme for this year is "Be the one" I want all of us to step up and Be the One for our Veteran's and our community. I want all my Units to work hard to get our members to take the National online classes so they can be prepared to step up into Leadership roles within our Units, Districts and the Department level.

I want to thank Robin Ruff for stepping up to run for Vice President this year. There were no announced candidates for this office before Convention so we had to have the Units present to caucus with member's so we could get someone from the floor and that is when Robin stepped up. The trend the last few years has been increasingly scary as no one wants to step up into

#### Leila Dean, Department President

leadership roles. My hope is if members take the classes that they might be more comfortable to step into the roles that are necessary for our organization to continue to thrive. The American Legion Family needs to continue so our veteran's will be taken care of.

I want to mention that we do not have a volunteer for the Cheyenne V.A. at this time. So if anyone in and around the Cheyenne area wants to step up into this position please contact Peg Sillivan at the Department Office.

For now I wish you all a great year and I hope to see you all in October for Fall Workshop in Casper.

Until then We all need to "Be the One"

**Department President** Leila Dean



**Peg Sillivan Department Secretary** 

FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICE

We're off and running for 2025. Let's make this be a "Great Year".

You all should have received your packet the first of July. A couple were a few weeks later. I goofed your address and it took the PO 2-3 weeks to return to sender. Some of the papers in the original separate. your packet had incorrect information. Please check the web-

# News from your Secretary page: www.wylegionaux.org for

all the current forms.

The updates forms include AEF Ticket, Chaplain, Cover Page, Credentials, Unit Quarterly Report, Poppy Order Form and Poster Contest, and Cookie Schedule. The meeting dates and place on the Department Page is current. Make sure you look at the Program Page for Chairmen Lists and the Unit Page for District Information.

Reminder to our Unit Membership Chairmen - please send in a Transmittal/Remittance at least once a month.

Reminder to the Units paying dues on-line. Please forward a copy of the receipt you receive from National to the Office. This information is loaded into a Department Spreadsheet.

Members asked to please have a different picture. I will email Respectfully, Peg



Vicki Paddock Membership Chairman

# Membership Goals

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. And we make a difference. You'll find us in more than 8,000 local communities in the USA and in foreign countries. Founded in 1919 during the first National Convention of The American Legion, the ALA has grown to be one of the largest veterans support organizations. And we'd love for you to be part of our mission outreach.

Reach out and invite friends, neighbors and more to join us.

274 130 49 27 28 33 29 16 586	54	1 1 1	275 131 54 28 29 33		Powell Basin Greybull Worland TOTAL	117 53 10 70		
49 27 28 33 29 16 586	54	1 1 1	54 28 29 33		Greybull Worland	10 70		
27 28 33 29 16 586		1	28 29 33		Worland	70		
28 33 29 16 586		1	29 33			-	78	
33 29 16 586		1	33		ΤΟΤΔΙ	0.50		
29 16 586		1				250		
16 586								
586			30					
			17		Newcastle	16		
			597		Sheridan	87	90	
					Buffalo	132	140	
					Moorcroft	78	78	
13	19	1	19		Gillette	181		
126			126		Hulett	51		
63	67	3	65		Kaycee	34		
48	48		49		TOTAL	579		
36	39	1	39					
82		1	82					
35		2	35		Cheyenne	250		
15			16		Laramie	75		
43		3	41		Saratoga	51	52	
461			472		Pine Bluffs	33	35	
					Medicine Bow			
					Albin	-		
11		1	11		TOTAL	474		
20			21					
74		3			Headquarters	287		
21								
126			126					
					total	2503	2545	
	35 15 43 461 11 20 74 21	35 15 43 461 11 20 74 21 126	35     2       15     3       43     3       461     1       11     1       20     74       74     3       21     126	35     2     35       15     16       43     3     41       461     472       11     1     11       20     21     21       74     3     72       21     22     126	35 2 35   15 16   43 3   461 472   11 1   11 1   74 3   72 22   126 126	35     2     35     Cheyenne       15     16     Laramie       43     3     41     Saratoga       461     472     Pine Bluffs       461     472     Pine Bluffs       Medicine Bow     Albin       11     1     11       20     21       74     3     72       126     126     total	35     2     35     Cheyenne     250       15     16     Laramie     75       43     3     41     Saratoga     51       461     472     Pine Bluffs     33       461     474     25     41     474       20     21     21     287     21     287       21     22     21     21     21     22     126	35     2     35     Cheyenne     250       15     16     Laramie     75       43     3     41     Saratoga     51     52       461     472     Pine Bluffs     33     35       461     11     11     TOTAL     474       20     21     25     11     14       74     3     72     Headquarters     287       21     22     21     21     22       126     126     250     2545

•	•••••		• • • • • • • • • • •				
MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES							
FALL WORKSHOP	October 5, 2024	Ramkota	in Casper				
MID WINTER	January 18, 2025	Rock S	Springs				
SPRING CONFERENCE TBA							
DEPARTMENT CON	VENTION June 20	-21, 2025	Newcastle				

National Goal for WY for 2025 2,545



### Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

#### Sseptember 2024

Our donation almost supported one (1) member having a disaster

This year I 'm trying something

new. to go along with the Draw-

ing for Dues. At Fall Workshop,

we will be playing BUNCO as a

Service Project. The cost is \$10

and no experience is needed.

Our Units support the Program

and I'm trying to have members

participate. Please bring \$10 for

entry. There will be cash prizes.

Units could hold a BUNCO

The 2025 Dues Drawing Win-

ners were Ellie Sterman, Unit 60

Pine Bluffs and Don Stough Unit

Peg Sillivan, A.E.F. Chairman

Night with funds going to the

Auxiliary Emergency Fund.







#### Cathey Raymer Americanism Chairman

I am eager to serve as the Americanism Chairman for the 2024-2025 year. Having previously held this position for 4 years; I have found great enjoyment in working this program.

Patriotism is not emphasized in our schools like when I was a student. Although our Wyoming schools do a better job than most. Many children aren't taught the correct way to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I, myself didn't realize I was saying it incorrectly until I volunteered for Girls State. Many children do not know the history of the poppy. We, as members and chairmen of the American Legion Auxiliary are here to help educate our children and our communities to have a better understanding of what Patriotism is and to lead by example.

We would like to get more participation in the Americanism Essay Contest and I'm hearing that the Units are unable to get into the schools. I hope that we, as Unit chairman can address these concerns and see if there are some strategies that we can use to come up with a solution to this problem. The new theme for the essay contest will be published at the National Convention at the end of the month of August.

I would also like to have a flag picture contest for the Units this year. The details will be coming.



# **Auxiliary Emergency Fund**

emergency.



#### Peg Sillivan A.E.F. Chairman

Thank you for your donations to the AEF. The Department sent \$2,359 to National.

# **Community Service**

33.

There have been so many ideas running through my head, but one project I would like to

do is helping our local food pantries and our local clothes closets. People need to be

dressed warmly for the winter and have food to eat when ends just don't meet.

I plan to have this all worked by Fall Workshop.

Thank you and have good rest of your summer.



Sonja Wright Community Service Chairman

# 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

# **Historian Report**

Historian report for Auxiliare August 11, 2024

As the meeting year starts back up, remember that everything we do is our history, and should be recorded so that those who come after us know where we've been. Please remember to keep track of your hours throughout the year and turn in your Unit Impact Reports in April. I look forward to reporting to National everything that our Units and Department due this year.



Jessica York Historian

### Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

"Constitution & Bylaws



ATTENTION: There were numerous changes made to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Standing Rules at the Department convention in June. There were no changes made to the Constitution or the Bylaws. The most current version of all of these documents is available for download on the Department website. If a hard copy is needed, please contact the Department office or myself.

#### I. ORGANIZATION

A. Department of Wyoming - removal of Section #3 concerning the placement of Department awards in the Cavalcade of Memories as it no longer exists.

C. Meetings/Gifts/Flowers/Greetings - removal of Section #6 concerning the sending of Christmas greetings in the name of the Department of Wyoming as this is no longer done.

E. Candidate Endorsements

National Candidate Endorsements - Section #4 added to cover disbursement of Department funds for a national candidacy.

#### V. DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Section #9 updated to read that year end reports are due to the Chairmen by May 1st.

Section #10 removed as award information is no longer placed in Unit packets, but instead published on the Department website.

Section #11 removed as critique sheets are no longer used for award competition.

M. Poppy – Section #3 removed as the Poppy Chairman is no longer responsible for obtaining and distributing the Unit poppy orders as this is done by the Department office. Section #6 updated to read that first and second place winners in each class must be submitted to the Department Chairman for judging.

O. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - changes too numerous to document in this short article. VI. AWARDS

A. Americanism

Americanism Essay Contest - Section #3 updated to read first and second place Unit entries in each class must be sent to the Department Chairman for judging.

H. Leadership - Section #1 updated by changing women to members. Section #2 updated to read recognized at Department Convention with an engraved award. Removal of Section #4 as the National Leadership Committee no longer presents the Unit Member of the Year with an engraved award.

#### VII. DEPARTMENT CONVEN-TION

R. Allowable Expenses - Section #6 updated to remove the Parliamentarian as the Department no longer has one and the 3 voting members of the Finance Committee as the Finance Committee now meets prior to Department Convention via Zoom; and addition of the District Vice President if standing in for the District President.

T. Unit Convention Committee's



#### Shareen Johnson Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Responsibilities – Sections #9, #10, #11 removed as these are no longer required.

A new section was added to the Standing Rules titled XII. AMEND-MENTS. Included in this section are the necessary steps to amend the Standing Rules as this information was not included previously.

Respectfully submitted. Shareen Johnson, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman



By the time you read this article, summer of 2024 will be history. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and your units were able to spend some quality time with your veterans. Please remember to track those hours both on an individual and a unit basis. During the Dept Convention, 589 pairs of socks were collected to be donated to the various veteran facilities. Thanks everyone for your support!! Don't forget the veteran stand down in Cheyenne on September 7. Unit 29 in Basin held their first veterans suicide awareness rally on July 22 on the main street in

Basin. They will be at this same spot with their signs on the 22nd of each month, come rain, snow or shine. And boy did it shine that day – it was around 95 degrees. For a first-time event, they were thrilled with the response from the locals. The Chamber of Commerce provided water, the unit had flags of the various branches of the service which were mounted on a stand next to the members and the members held signs reading "any is too many" with the veteran suicide number listed. Note: they used the national suicide awareness phone number, but it was recom-

**Cheyenne** VA

Department is trying something new with the Cheyenne VA. We are working with Amber, Skilled Bridge Coordinator. Listening to what they would like and expect from the Department, the following will be done:

d. Supply snacks/water for the Monthly Memorial Services: August 24

September 21

mended that we use the Wyoming number of 988 as veterans want to speak with people who understand Wyoming. The ladies waived at everyone who drove by and talked to various people on the street, including a Wyoming Senator who stopped to visit about the program. The signs were made in Powell and come already mounted on the stakes. One of my goals this year as Dept VA&R Chairman is to get more of these rallies started around Wyoming. If you would like additional information, copies of the information on the signs, etc. please let me know. A big thank



Susan Sironen VA & R Chairman you to Jerilyn Hall of Basin, who brought us this program from Colorado.

# **Sheridan VA Healthcare Network**

Thank you Buffalo for the root beer proximately 50 veterans attended. floats and Sheridan for milkshakes and Bingo. The veterans love seeing planned, so if your unit would like vou come to visit! The Victory Garden has received \$45,000 in grants which will go to paving areas for handicap access, making raised beds, walking paths throughout the garden and a shaded area. The KARZ Show on the Saturday of the 4th of July was a great success. They have had interest from several car groups to be included in next year's program. They are expecting 400 cars and over 8000 visitors in 2025.

Holiday activities are being to help with any, please contact Eric at 307-675-3226. Other items needed are winter coats and clothing, tennis shoes, jeans in all sizes, socks, men's undergarments, extra-large (4x, 5x) men's clothing, hygiene items, disposable razors, softball equipment and Walmart gift cards. Explanation of the gift cards – used mainly for vets living in the community for food, animal food, cleaning products, etc.

a. Birthday cards with a \$5.00 Walmart Gift Card

b. Monthly Birthday Party held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m.

c. Supplying coffee pods for the CLC

November 16

We are looking for Unit members close by to help with the Birthday Party and Memorial Services. Unit donations will cover the cost.

Thank you to Post 6 Honor Guard for your donation. Peg Sillivan and Vicki Paddock Chairman



The female veteran POWW was held in Casper in conjunction with the Cheyenne VA August 2-3. Ap-

Thank you for all you do. You are incredible.

Linda Orr and Melba Bennett, Reps

### Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

#### September 2024

### **National Security**



Trudy Zaffareno National Security Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY YEAR-END REPORT

One of the goals of the American Legion Auxiliary's National Secu-

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

Some of the things that stuck out to me from the unit reports this year were Ft. Bridger helps military families of deployed service members by assisting in childcare needs, lawn care in summer and driveways in winter, and collecting coupons for overseas commissaries. They also collaborate with FEMA to act as an emergency response resource during manmade or natural disasters. Glendo has 6 enthusiasts of their 82 members who send greeting cards. holiday cards, and thinking of you cards to those who live far away. They have continued to send pocket

prayers that they started last year to deployed service members. Moorcroft sends care packages to activeduty graduates and their schools make gift bags to be delivered to the veterans. Powell takes care of families on the frontline, before, during and after deployment with delivery of commodities when there is a service member or family in need of groceries. They also get a special holiday basket during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Buffalo along with many of the other units proudly wear RED on Fridays to bring up awareness to active-duty veterans and wears them every Friday until they return. It stands for "Remember Everyone Deployed. "Gold Star Banners are presented or sent to families of deployed to be placed in their windows at home representing that they have a member of their family serving.

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

# Department Poppy Report



Remember to send in your Poppy Order to Department with your mon-

ey no later than October 1, 2024. Poppies will be available at Fall Workshop.

Speaking of Fall Workshop, I'm asking everyone who attends to bring something wearable" include at least 1 Poppy, on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Use your imagination!

B-Jo Laing, Department Poppy Chairman

# **District and Unit News**

I'm honored to serve as the District 1 President for the 2024-2025 year.

Green River Unit 28- Members participated in the Memorial Services. In June the members elected a new Unit President, Andrea Shuck. There was no meeting in July. In the August meeting the members set up the busy schedule for projects and programs for the coming months, paint nights, purse action and basket donations for the riders poker run and music bingo.

Pinedale Unit 47- The Unit set up a poppy table on the Friday and Saturday before Memorial Day and received \$456 in donations. They participated in the Memorial Day services. The members participated in the food distribution for the Wyoming Food Bank. They are cur-

### **District 1 Report** rently collecting stuff to send to

the Sheridan VA. One of their members is turning 100 years young this month so all the members are encouraged to send her birthday cards.They have started collecting membership dues.

No reports from Fort Bridger Unit 36, Rock Spring Unit 24, Alpine Unit 46, Cokeville Unit 40, Big Piney Unit 78 and LaBarge Unit 88.



Cathey Raymer District 1 President

# District and Unit News District 2 Report



### **District 4 Report**

#### **District 4 Presidents Report**

Unit 26 Powell - We participated in the Park County Fair parade. We are keeping up with our food program for the community and we are supporting our families of our deployed soldiers. There have been quite a few deployed. Bingo is still happening. We pray for the safety of those deployed.

Unit 29 Basin – In May we assisted with the Memorial Day ceremony at the local cemetery and conducted the laying of the wreaths ceremony. In July our Unit supplied root beer floats during one music in the park event as a community service project. The leftover floats were handed out at a local "cooling center" that opened during the extreme heat. 144 toothbrushes were purchased and sent to Cheyenne for the upcoming stand down. On July 22, we held our first veterans suicide awareness rally (more about this under the Dept VA&R Report. Unit 44 Worland - Unit 44 participated in the Memorial Day ceremony. Several members and juniors participated in hanging the wreaths. The 2024 state convention held in Worland was a great success. We had wonderful attendance from around the state. Our ALA business was attended to

along with some fun activities added in. There were some real "hams" at the Photo Booth and the ladies were off and running with the horse race. A big thank you to all who brought and bid at our purse auction. There was some fun competition for that favorite handbag! Our money raised will be used for Girls State delegates. Several attended the Ten Sleep 4th of July parade. Several members helped serve in the Legion food booth during the county fair. Many will be helping at the booth for the Nowood Stock music festival in Aug. This year we have added a new project.



Susan Sironen District 4 President

We will provide cakes and a gift for those having a birthday in that month.



#### Jessica York District 2 President

#### District 2 report for Auxiliare

August 11, 2024

It's hard to believe that it's time to get ready for the fall start up already! I hope to be able to visit will all of the Units in District 2 this year, and I look forward to working with District Vice President B-Jo Laing. In Sept we will sponsor the birthday party at the Worland care facility.



#### Page 15



# **District and Unit News** District 5 News



Department Vice President Robin, Unit 7 Sheridan promoted our organization at Dayton Days. She had a "rock painting" activity with lots of takers. Photo by Roger Ruff



Powder River's 62-year member, Virginia Rockett celebrated her 100th Birthday on August 5th. Unit 13 Members took a bouquet of flowers and well wishes to her. Congratulations Virginia!

.....

Let me introduce myself. I am Gloria Taylor from Sheridan Unit 7 and your very new District 5 President. Please remember to send in your Unit Quarterly Report so I will have news for the paper. My information is in the Directory so invite me to attend a function or meeting. I work but will try to make it.



District President Gloria Taylor calling BINGO at Sheridan VA Photo by Robin Ruff

#### **CONVENTION THANK YOU**

Not sure exactly what to report. I had on hand a lot of items we used for decorating and Borrowed items. Unit 25 and Buffalo units donated snacks. Basin Unit donated flag pins. I personally spent \$100 between food and purchasing items. Unit 44 spent \$60 for door prizes. Other units brought additional door prizes.

I would like to thank all who came, donated and helped make it a successful convention.

Our final count on the purse auction was \$691 for our Girl State Program. I believe the sock count was 611 pairs of socks for Buffalo, Cheyenne and Sheridan. *Cynthia Pfeiffer* 

> American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Fall Workshop October 4-5, 2024

October 4-5, 2024 Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center-Casper, Wyoming Wednesday, October 2, 2024 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee by Zoom Friday, October 4, 2024 4:00 pm Meet and Greet with National President Trish Ward 6:00 p.m Girls State Training - Alyssa Hinkley, Girls State Director 7:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting Saturday October 5, 2024 9:00 a.m. Opening Invocation - Chaplain Susan Dansereau Pledge of Allegiance - Cathey Raymer Preamble to the Constitution - Shareen Johnson POW MIA Table - Sunny Hobbs and Juniors Welcome -Response -Introductions of ALA District, Department, & National Officers Introduction of Past Department Presidents Roll Call - Units and Officers Audit & Finance Committee Report - Shareen Johnson Department Executive Committee Report NEC Report - Vicki Paddock 9:40 a.m. What is your Why?

9:55 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Be The One

Program PEP Talks

### Audit Committee Report July 20, 2024

Members of the Audit Committee (Robin Huff, Department Vice President; Shareen Johnson, Department Finance Chairman, and Linda Orr, Immediate Past Department Finance Chairman/Past Department President) met at the Department Headquarters in Buffalo on Saturday, July 20th. We reviewed the Financial Records of the Department of Wyoming and found everything to be in order.

Shareen Johnson Finance Chairman



LEGION:	Friday, October4	AUXILIARY
6:30 p.m.	Department Finance Committee	Zoom – 10/2 @ 7 pm
7 p.m.	Department Executive Committee	7 p.m.
	Saturday, October 5	
9 a.m.	WORKSHOP	9 a.m.

Pre-Registration due no later than September 30th. Register at the Door

	FEE	NUMBER	TOTAL			
REGISTRATION	\$15.00		\$			
Necessary to pay for	rental of facility	TOTAL	\$			
LUNCH on your OWN						

Amer	icanism - Cathey Raymer; Children and Youth -	- Tammy Harris; Community Service - Sonja Wright						
10:30 a.m.	Break and Greetings to Legion							
10:45 a.m.	Juniors - Sunny Hobbs; Education	– Gina Dusel; Legislative – Donna Williams						
	National Security - Trudy Zaffaran	o; Leadership – Vicki Paddock						
	Public Relations - Chantelle Dunla	p						
12:00 p.m.	. Lunch—On your own							
1:30 p.m. Re	convene for afternoon session							
	Poppy – B-Jo Laing <b>Bring your</b> " VA & R – Susan Sironen	wearable" poppy item(s)						
	Sheridan – Linda Orr; Che	yenne – Peg; Buffalo Home – Edie Taffner						
	Membership - Vicki Paddock							
1:50 p.m.	Getting volunteers							
2:00 p.m.	AEF Service Project - BUNCO - Peg Silli	van- see article for details						
3:00 p.m.	Break							
3:15 p.m.	Peg's Tidbits/Challenges	Plan on Coming Early						
3:40 p.m.	Benediction	to Meet and Get Fired						
3:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Adjournment	Up With National						
		President Ward!!						





## Legionnaire - Auxiliare Department of Wyoming

September 2024



1309 9th Street. PO Box 458 Wheatland, WY 82201 Bus 307 322 3244 FAX 307-322-3249 lynda@lyndalenz.com



Monday through Saturday

Legion Family members welcome

129 South 7th Street, Worland, Wyoming

Private Flovd Minch

Killed in Action 10-8-1918







Ads - 2 inch business card ads \$60 for 4 issues black and white, \$70 for color for 4 issues