Volume 36. No. 2

1320 Hugur Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82003

**JUNE 2025** 

# **Commander's Corner**



Russell Stafford Commander Dept. of Wyoming

Once again, it is time for our Department Convention. This year it will be hosted by the Newcastle Post 3 in Newcastle. The dates are 19-22 June 2025. I am excited to present the Commander and President Banquet on Friday night. This is done every year, but there are some changes being added. Awards for Post Commander of the Year, Post Adjutant of the Year, and Legionnaire of the Year. The ban-

quet will be semi-formal or Wyoming formal. This is jacket, collared shirt with tie, slacks and similar attire for female attendees. Price for the banquet is \$30 per attendee. The menu is prime rib or chicken and sides. We also have a guest speaker.

This year has presented many different challenges. Many of these challenges could have been solved by communication. Communication has been getting bottle necked at District and Post levels. Some of this is due to not knowing what needs to be distributed and some of it is just not sending it on to others. If you receive information of any kind remember to share it. The American Legion is not a top-secret organization and only works properly if all entities have the correct information. Remember that this is a bottom-up organization. That means that the membership is in charge and tells the next level what they would like to have happen. I have heard way too many posts state that they aren't going to do something unless District or Department tells them to. This is the incorrect thinking that will slowly collapse our organization.

Unfortunately, another challenge

that has come to the attention of Department is the ceremonial rifles and who controls them. When TACOM issues ceremonial rifles, they do not issue them to individuals. They issue them to organizations, usually ones that are Nationally recognized, with a designated individual receiving them on behalf of the organization. When there is a change in leadership or every 3 years, a new inventory sheet is completed and sent to TACOM. If a post closes or the individual chooses to leave the organization, the rifles DO NOT GO WITH THEM. The Department will take possession and turn them in to TACOM or sign them over to the incoming personnel. If you need additional information on this please reach out to the department JAG, Doug Uhrig, or to the Ad-

After attending the district meetings this April, I am very pleased with the number of activities that all our posts and membership are taking part in. It is refreshing to hear of so many activities and events happening. This is why we are part of The American Legion, to interact and participate with our fellow veterans

and communities for the betterment of all. Keep up the good work and remember to notify District and Department of what you're doing so others may participate.

The applications for Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training (Session 2) are available. Please reach out to your post adjutant, post commander, district commander or the department for an application if you are interested. It is also available on wyolegion.org. This session will be held in Rock Springs in September. Those who attended the first session have all returned to their posts and done amazing things. It is a great opportunity to learn how this great organization works. You will take away many lessons, even if you have

been a member for years.

Please stay safe, remember to reach out to be the one or to get help. We are all in this together. I hope to see you all at the department convention in June.

Sincerely,
Russell Stafford
Department Commander
The American Legion
Department of Wyoming

# **Adjutant's Corner**



Vanessa Stuart Department Adjutant

Greetings, fellow legionnaires and legion family members! A big thank you to everyone for the support and assistance during our transition at Department. I am working at the headquarters building in Cheyenne. The building still needs a little TLC but it's coming along nicely. I'm excited for the upcoming Department Convention where there will be some training this year for Be The

One and "Mylegion" and the Friday night Banquet will be semi-formal and have awards as well. Post 3 is really working hard to make this a great convention.

As I have moved into this new position, I have heard from many posts about some of the activities they have coming up this summer. This is not the time to be modest. Posts should be "tooting their horns" about the great things they are doing in their communities. CPR's help us to tell National what our posts do, but we need to communicate to our communities and fellow veterans as well via local news outlets, social media, or whatever works for your post. Communication will help you keep your members and gain new ones if everyone knows what your post is doing. We are working on making sure our posts know what Department and National are doing as well by forwarding emails to the District and Post Commanders so that we are all in "the loop". Thank you all for all the amazing things you do for your fellow veterans and families. God Bless, Vanessa

Vanessa Stuart Department Adjutant.

# 1st Vice Commander's Corner



Benjamin Glenn 1st Vice Commander Dept. of Wyoming

#### Words from the 1st Vice Commander

The beginning of summer is just around the corner, which we all know is Department Convention time. This spring, I attended all the district meetings in Wyoming and was impressed by the efforts to support our veterans. The elections of new officers in each district have been exciting to watch and I look forward to working alongside all of you in the upcoming legion year.

Our State Convention this year is shaping up to be a busy session. Several resolutions have been submitted up from district and will be sent to the floor for vote. We will have guest speakers participating in the convention on both Friday and Saturday. I would like to see all posts represented and please bring your post flags so we can proudly display them at the convention. Make sure you get your required post reports submitted soon so you will be eligible to cast your votes on the floor. Any questions contact Interim Adjutant Vanessa Stuart at Department Headquarters.

Our Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training Course (WALLT) is ramping up for this September in Rock Springs. Please get your applications submitted as soon as you can. I look forward to seeing all the participants there!

The Ways and Means Committee will conduct a Silent Auction and the 50/50 drawing to support ongoing veterans' initiatives. We look forward to your support at the upcoming Department Convention.

I am counting on everyone to support the Department of Wyoming in strengthening our membership base by encouraging our members to renew and recruit. See you all soon in Newcastle!

> "Service Before Self Not Self Service"

# **2nd Vice Commander's Corner**

Wow, according to the calendar it is Spring. Yesterday morning (04/24/2025) as I left the Veterans Thursday morning breakfast at the VFW you wouldn't know it was Spring as large snowflakes were in the air. Springtime in Wyoming is always subject to change.

I have not been able to make it to any of the district meetings due to my work schedule. I have attended several zoom calls getting work done not only for the department but, more importantly good work done for the Veterans we serve in Wyoming. I have attended committee meetings when possible. I hope we can clearly define the missions of committees. Is there anything documented describing what the mission is of our committees?

I am looking forward to our de-



Chuck Guilford 2nd Vice Commander Dept. of Wyoming

partment meeting in June. It will be good to see and have face to face conversations with the membership.

As always, stay safe, Chuck Guilford

# **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS**

# District 1



David W. Hill District 1 Commander Wyoming American Legion District 1 Report for May, 2025

District 1 Meeting: As the recently elected District 1 Commander, it is my pleasure to send this report, and to introduce myself to the Posts in our District. Our annual District 1 meeting was held on April 12 in Green River. I was elected as the Commander despite being on a trip in Morocco. Thank you to Joe Tallon, who reached my by phone to accept the nomination. Steve Greenwell of Post 78 in Big Piney was elected as Vice Commander, and Tom Niemiec of Post 28 in Green River was elected as District Adjutant. The District delegates also approved nominations for Firefighter of the Year, Lawman of the Year, and Legionnaire of the Year, which have been submitted for consideration by the Department. Also, Resolution No. 1 concerning the eligibility to serve as the Wyoming Department Adjutant, made by the Archie Hay Post 24 in Rock Springs, was approved and it has been submitted to the Department for further considera-

Commander Introduction: I am new to District level Legion work, having been the Adjutant of Post 43 in Jackson for the past 4 years. I have been a Legion and Post 43 member for 16 years. I grew up in a small town in southern Massachusetts. My prior service began as a cadet at West Point in 1965. After graduation in 1969, I attended airborne and ranger schools, and the Engineer Officer Basic Course. I was then assigned to the 24th Engineer Battalion in Furth, Germany. My Battalion was later reflagged as the 16th Engineer Battalion, part of the 1st Armored Division. I

#### ==AMERICAN **EGION**

was a Heavy Raft Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Company Commander from 1970-72. I then transferred to the Nordbayern Engineer District, also in Furth, where I was chief of Master Planning and Real Property until August of 1974. At that point, I resigned from active duty and entered the Army Reserve. I stayed in the Army Reserve for another 15 years, and did annual duty assignments at the Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, the Pentagon, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and Camp Zama in Japan.

One week after leaving active duty in 1974, I started law school in Washington, D.C. at George Washington University. That began my 2nd career as a Patent and Trademark Attorney. After working as a part time law clerk at two law firms during law school, I worked for one year as a technical adviser to a Federal Judge on the U.S. Court of Customs & Patent Appeals. Then I joined a Washington, DC Patent law firm where I practiced law for the next 42 years. For the last nine of those years, since 2009, I was living in Jackson, and practiced remotely with my firm. Also, in 1986, I opened the firm's first branch office in Tokyo, Japan, where I lived with my family for three years. I am still a member of the Wyoming State Bar, and act as an Arbitrator and Mediator in legal disputes.

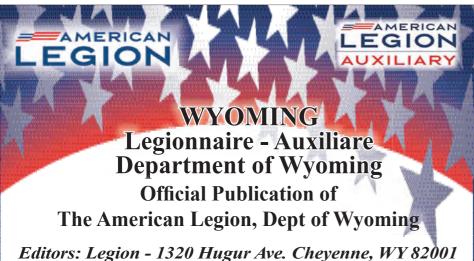
Looking Ahead: I am looking forward to learning more about the responsibilities of the District Commander, and I ask for everyone's help in bringing me up to speed. One of my tasks will be to visit all the Posts in our District to get a better idea of each one and how we can help them. I also plan to communicate regularly with our District Posts, to develop a closer working relationship among all of us. I welcome your support and advice as we move forward into our work, and I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in June way out east in New Castle! Please feel free to call me anytime, or email or text me with any ideas or questions. We can all learn together about how to keep our District as one of the best in Wyoming.

David W. Hill. District 1 Commander 2760 S. Silver Fox Lane Jackson, WY 83001 Tel: 202-230-4129 Email: hilldw46@gmail.com

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.



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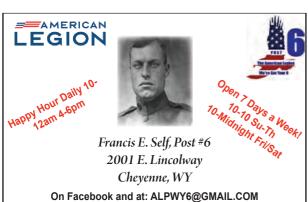
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# Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business





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District 1 Post 24 Rock Springs Jack Beatty Michael L. Walker Post 28 Green River John W. Bennett Post 46 Alpine Eugene C. Shinkle Post 47 Pinedale Robert A Post

# Post Everlasting 2025

Post 55 Kemmerer Gerald L. Boan

District 2 Post 8 Douglas Richard A. Middleton

District 3 Post 19 Riverton Roger C. Pennev

Post 33 Lander Larry F. Elliott Ralph A. Green David A Nicholls

District 4 Post 44 Worland Christopher A. Wright

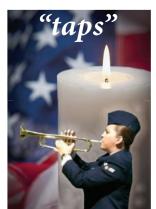
District 5

Post 3 Newcastle

Kenton K. Hunter Post 42 Gillette Kenneth L. Kercher

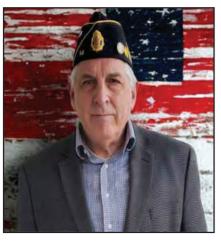
District 6 Post 6 Cheyenne Ed Nix Jim Krasovich Barry J. Baccei

Service to God and Country



== AMERICAN

# Chaplain's Corner



Jim Wilkinson Chaplain Dept. of Wyoming

**Greetings!** 

A Wyoming Veteran is 20.4 times more likely to commit suicide than the National Average! According to the VA Veteran Suicide Data sheet and this 2021 data sheet is the most current and authoritative document at this time.

I am Jim Wilkinson, your new department Chaplain. I have been the Chaplain at Post 14 in Laramie for 5 or 6 years and it is an honor to serve all of you now. I have a small product development company in Laramie and over the last few years, have seen 2 of our employees move on to other things before committing suicide. Both of these guys had serious PTSD symptoms. This is one of the worst scourges of Lucifer spread on this great land of ours.

As Joe Friday would say, the facts, just the facts. According to this data sheet (1) here are the treatment-centers-wyoming) facts as of 2021:

The suicide rate in the general population in 18.0 per 100,000.

The suicide rate in the Veteran ming) population is 33.9 per 100,000.

The suicide rate among Wyoming veterans is 80 per 100,000.

Wyoming Veterans in the age group of 18-34 is a staggering 366.7 per 100,000! Both of our guys were in this group. The report points out however that this figure is not statistically valid due to insufficient data.

The leading causes of suicide are (2) (3) (4):

Mental health disorders including PTSD.

Substance use disorders.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TMI) and Physical Injuries.

Access for weapons.

Social and Economic Stressors. Relationship and Isolation.

We make a priority on hiring veterans and from what I am observing, PTSD can drive the Veteran to most of these other situations. I have noticed how they slowly drifted away. The official word on help for PTSD in Wyoming is:

VA Medical Centers and Clinics VA Cheyenne Health Care System

Private Communityand Based Treatment Centers (https://www.psychologytoday. com/us/treatment-rehab/ wyoming?category=veterans; https://addictionnomore.com/ptsd-

The Gathering Place (Sheridan, https://addictionnomore. com/ptsd-treatment-centers-wyo-

Warrior Care Network and Wounded Warrior Project (https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/warrior-carenetwork)

Wyoming Veterans Commission and Helplines - 866-928-6339

There are other projects such as the fly tieing group in Cheyenne and some work Dan Starks in Dubois is doing. I will have more on that soon. There is one big, huge, piece left out of all this – GOD. It is like taking our car to a mechanic when we should be looking at the owner's manual written by the guy who made the car to begin with. I know one veteran who through the intervention of a Godly man now has his own personal relationship with our Lord and is now a pastor, leading a healthy and productive life. A couple references from God's word, the Bible: Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 1:2; Colossians 3:2; Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 26:3 and 18 other Bible verses all talk about being transformed by the renewing of our minds. Do you wonder WHY God put so many verses in the Bible about this? Maybe an issue even 2000 years ago or longer? Is there some magic to this? NO magic. We have a God who loves you and me enough that He was

willing to take the human form of Jesus and actually live as a perfect human so He could take all of our sins on His shoulders and pay for them. You and I have the choice to accept this gift by making Jesus the Lord and Master of your life instead of Lucifer. You are going to choose one or the other. there is no other option. Romans 10:9-10 says that if you believe in vour heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Master that you would be saved. From what? Eternity in hell is what. More so, here and now you can be set free from the bondage of PTSD, mental illness, depression, whatever you want to call it. I know people who have done it. I have done it. As a member of Marked Men for Christ, I have seen many men do it. You can do it. You only have to pray to receive His gift and start your journey.

If you are a post Chaplain, please drop me a note. I would love connecting with you.

If you want to talk about this article, please drop me a note.

If you are depressed or struggling, plug into one of these resources - NOW.

If you are a post member, keep an eye out for your brother and sister, do buddy checks.

If it is panic go time dial 911. That number is 911 SEND

For God and Country, Respectfully,

Jim Wilkinson

Past Chaplain, Dept. Of WY, TAL





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**DETACHMENT OF WYOMING** 

Commander: Mike Hobbs Adjutant: Jim Andersen

1320 Hugur Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001

# **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS**

# District 1





May 2025 News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and we have continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our Post membership is currently 132 TAL members, and 32 SAL members. We are working hard to reach our state goal of 134 TAL members. We have already surpassed our goal for SAL members for 2025.

Presentation by Jason Huggins: At our November Post meeting, Jason Huggins, who recently retired after 15 years as coach of the Jackson Hole Post 43 Giants baseball team was our guest speaker. Jason described his background briefly, which included time spent coaching a number of different teams in various locations. He began coaching the Post 43 Giants team in 2009, when there were only nine team members. He then traced the growth and wonderful success of the team through the years culminating in his retirement in 2024. He then introduced his successor, Randy Strand, who gave us a snapshot of his own life, and his plans for the team going forward.

Presentation by Doug Eggers: Our guest speaker in January was Doug Eggers, who is a 30-year member of the American Legion and our Post 43. Doug walked us through his military service, from the time he received his draft notice, including time spent in training and later, in Germany. He discussed the Reforger exercises that were held annually during the cold war, and his role in helping to gather the pre-stored equipment used by the units that came to Germany from the U.S. for the training. He also explained the heightened security that occurred in 1968 when there was a fear of a possible Russian invasion of West Germany. Doug described his transition to working for the Forest Service after he left the military, and his involvement with Post 43, including his work as the Armorer for many years, and his Ruck Run.

continued participation in the Honor Guard.

Presentation by Mike Halpin: At our April Post meeting, Mike Halpin gave a very interesting talk on his role as the new sextant of the Aspen Hills Cemetery in Jackson. One of Mike's tasks is to conduct an inventory of the gravesites, and to properly catalogue the veteran's graves. Mike is a long-time Jackson resident, whose dad was a Navy Seabee in WWII. He told some interesting stories of his father's experiences in the Pacific during the war.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43: Over the past year, Post 43 has been working to recharter an Auxiliary Unit for Jackson. Our Post had a very active Auxiliary Unit from the 1920's until sometime in early 2012. In January the unit held its inaugural meeting. Several officers from the District and the Wyoming Department were present at the meeting to assist our Unit 43 with all the paperwork needed for a charter. In February, the unit held another meeting to complete the requirements for the charter, and to develop a priority list of activities for its first year. We are excited to have an active group of members who have come forward to form this unit.

Post Everlasting: Our Post was saddened by the passing of a long-term Post member, Harry Baxter, in January. Harry was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a Legion member for 69 years. Also, our Post member James Dick, a Coast Guard veteran who was Vietnam veteran and a Legion member for 42 years, passed away in November.

Veterans Day Ceremony and Food Collection Ruck Run: Our Post conducted our usual Veterans Day Ceremony on the Jackson Town Square on Veterans Day, November 11. We also supported the Annual Food Collection and Ruck Run held in conjunction with Veterans Day. The Jackson Hole High School brought over 900 students to the Veterans Day Ceremony, and the High School Honor Society supported the collection of food and other household goods for the Ruck Run.

Honor Guard, Color Guard, and other Post activities: On November 21, our Post provided a Color Guard presentation for the opening ceremony of the Wyoming District Conservation Manager's Conference at the Virginian. Our Post member, Karee Miller, provided the attendees Post has provided support for this event. On Saturday, December 7, our Post provide a color guard again for the opening of the Annual Rylee McCollum Wrestling Tournament at the Jackson Hole High School. The Tournament is named after

the former wrestler who attended Jackson High School, and who was one of the Marines killed in the bombing in Afghanistan. On

the bombing in Afghanistan. On Saturday, December 14, our Post building was open for lunch and the viewing of the Annual Army Navy Football Game. We had a lively crowd of members and guests, and the Navy team beat the odds with their upset victory over the Army team, which gave them the Commander in Chief's trophy for 2024!

Below: Courtesy photos Post 43 Color Guard





# Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business



# DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 4 News from Lovell American Legion Post 11

Post 11 said 'thank you' to Rich Fink for all of his years of service as Post 11 Commander. Rich stepped down to take on other roles in the post. Tom and Tim have been serving our local community by cleaning and repairing a local cemetery that was overrun by cattle. Nicolle Laffin Post Commander presented the 'military uniform' corner of the Lovell-Kane Museum during the Lovell Middle School field trip. We are receiving applications for Boys State and getting ready to distribute Poppies in a couple of weeks. Stu and Rich updated our constitution and bylaws. Summer is going to be busy!

Nicolle Laffin, Post 11 Commander



Courtesy Photo Janice and Rich Fink with Commander Nicolle Laffin

# **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS**

# **District 5**

#### **News from Gillette American Legion Campbell County Post 42**



Clarence Barry

For retired Master Sergeant Clarence Barry, service to his fellow veterans here in Gillette has been something that he has grown into over the past 16 years.

A common sight in the community's Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day ceremonies, while Gillette may not have been the city he was born to, Barry has done what he can for his fellow vets

Following 27 years of service in the United States Air Force, Barry came to Gillette in 2008 and joined the American Legion in 2012. Since then, he has come to understand

join together to support one anoth-

"Whether it's the American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League or Veterans Council, if you want to make a difference in the community, especially with military veterans, then step up and become a member of one of these organizations, or all of them," said Barry, 57. "We try and do our best to help our veterans, the best way to do that is through numbers."

Barry said that integrating into the local veterans community was a slow process, but he really stepped up after the formation of the Campbell County Veterans Council a fewyearsback, making more of an effort to be involved with his local American Legion Post.

Barry chairs the veterans council and also is the commander of American Legion Post 42 in Gillette.

As part of his position in the American Legion, Barry has the heavy, but important, job of organizing the honor guard for servicemen who pass away, something he found especially important for those with little or no local ties, such as the case of Grant George

how important it is for veterans to Babbs, who was laid to rest in late January 2024.

Informed of Babbs' passing and his veteran status, Barry used his connections to assemble a group of fellow veterans to serve as an honor guard for Babbs' burial in Mount Pisgah Cemetery as well as speaking with the man's family outside of Wyoming ahead of the funeral.

"We don't want any veteran being laid to rest by themselves, we want to serve them: give them honors and give them a proper burial," Barry said.

As one of the members of the Campbell County Veterans Council, Barry is working with representatives of other veterans organizations in an ongoing effort to secure a full-time doctor for the Gillette VA clinic, as well as getting a veterans service officer for Campbell County.

Barry said he hopes to hear more from fellow veterans in the city and their needs.

"Step up, become a member of one of these organizations," Barry said. "Come to our meetings. You don't have to come to all the meetings, but just let your voice be heard."

Made a Difference: 2024

District 6



Submitted with permission from the Gillette Record by Senior Writer Jonathan Gallardo

John Wayne - Campbell County Post #42 Adjutant District 5

# **Bryce Rumph** 100th Birthday



Bryce Rumph was presented an American Legion Jacket donated by Phil (Son's, Post 42) and Lisa Wagner (Auxiliary President, Post 42). Pictured: Lisa Wagner (Front Row), Rod Warne, Clarence Barry, Bryce Gillette News Record's Ten Who Rumph, and Phil Wagner (Back Row).

# **DISTRICT AND POST NEWS**

#### **District 6 Commander Penny Merryfield**

This year has been a whirlwind, and has gone by so fast. First and formost, I would like to thank everyone in District 6 for all their wonderful support as I learned so much as the District Commander.

While this year has een a growth for me, it also has been a growth for the Legion. I am very proud of all the Posts in District 6, and as we near the end of the year, some have seen a growth in membership as well.

A big thank you to our Department officers and all the help from Commander Russell Stafford, 1st Vice Commander Ben Glenn and all the way to our interim Adjutant Vanessa Stuart who all gave me words of wisdom and advice throughout the year.

To all my great Posts who are so active and do what they can to serve our Veterans and families. I salute you all, and a big hug and thank you.

For God and Country Penny Merryfield, Ditrict 6 Commander

# **Donald Eisenhauer Post 60 - Status of our Post**

At the April 9, 2025, regular meeting time for the post I, Buzz Canady was nominated and elected as Post Commander (since the last officers decided to step down and resign from the Legion).

In the short time, we have had great support from the town's people, other Posts and Legion Headquarters. I had put the word out and within hours we had 8 tables, 20 chairs and a gas stove. We also got kitchen utensils, some plates and coffee cups, all donated to the post. Headquarters lent us a printer. Another business purchased a new laptop for us to use.

It is great to have people, businesses and organizations who step up in a time of need.

Here are a few things our Post is stepping up to do: we will be doing funerals, parades and ceremonies. We also plan on doing Friday night meals with local deliveries to our shut-ins. We may have a Bingo night and possibly cribbage games. We are checking on veterans daily to assure their well being. We also plan

like when I started it 16 years ago (but with a twist).

If you or your post have any items you would like to donate towards our fundraiser, please contact me and we will make arrangements to get them.

Our Veterans have been helping with local organizations with their food deliveries, Easter egg hunts, snow removal for elderly, veterans and handicaped.

We are also stepping up our involvement with our First Responders. We have Legion members that are also members of our volunteer fire department, they help our EMS also when possible.

I have taken upon another way to help our veterans who suffer from PTSD (as myself) and live in small towns and rural areas. I'm working with Casper Fire Dept. Crisis Intervention/Mental Health people to set up support groups, individual therapy and on-call personnel for our veterans, first responders, dispatch, EMS, fire departments, their families and loved ones. Our goal

# ==AMERICAN LEGION

ing. We feel a lot of these people just need someone who will listen (I know, it helped me). We want to help with grieving, PTSD, loneliness, suicide and self medication. Nobody needs to feel they are alone (no veteran left behind).

These are just a few things we are working on trying to get up and going. It has been difficult since I became Commander but as we say in the SeaBees - Can Do!

I would like to also thank the Past Commander John Wise, the Auxiliary and all members of both, I want you to know that we saw what all you have done in support of our veterans and their families. I salute you and yours - Thank you for your patriot attitude and hope we can work together because Veterans are our priority.

God bless this great nation! Commander Buzz Canady Donald Eisenhauer Post 60 Pine Bluffs, WY

# Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business



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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **DETACHMENT OF WYOMING** 

**Commander: Mike Hobbs** Adjutant: Jim Andersen

1320 Hugur Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001

# Endorsements For Commander





Russell Stafford Dept. Commander

With the nomination and endorsement of Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 in Powell, it is my pleasure to announce that I am running for the Department of Wyoming Commander for the 2025-2026 year. Being part of The American Legion has allowed me to continue to serve this great nation and assist not only my fellow veterans, but the community as well.

I served with the United States Army from October 1990 to December 1999. I served as a Combat Engineer, Transportation Specialist, and Human Resources Supervisor. My duty stations were Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Fort Lewis Washington, Camp Castle Korea, Fort Stewart

Georgia, Fort Drum New York, and Fort Gordon Georgia. I started my American Legion journey at Post 26 in Powell. I began as Post 2nd Vice moving to Post Commander. I was District Commander and then on to the Department Command structure. (2nd Vice, 1st Vice, etc.) I attended the National American Legion College in 2022 and was appointed to the Media and Communications Committee,

which I have held for the past 3 years. I would be honored to have your support and vote for continued service to The American Legion Department of Wyoming as the Department Commander.

Thank you and God bless.



Benjamin Glenn 1st Vice Commander Dept. of Wyoming

# For First Vice Commander



With the endorsement of McDonald and Voight Post #75 in Chugwater, I am announcing my candidacy for the Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander for the 2025-2026 year. The American Legion has offered me the opportunity to continue to serve Wyoming Veterans as well as being a voice for our people on active duty.

I served in the United States Navy from December 1988 to February 2015. I served as a US Navy SWCC, stationed at Naval Base Coronado California, Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base Virginia, and retiring after 27 years as a Chief Warrant Officer from Naval Base Guam.

My American Legion journey began while on R&R at "Allen Pop Reeves" Post # 123 in Angeles City Philippines. After I retired from the Navy my wife, and I moved back to Chugwater to help my uncle with his place. I attended a Veterans Day Observance at the Chugwater Veterans Park and subsequently became a member of Post #75. One year

later, following an absence from a meeting, I was appointed as the Adjutant of Post#75. The district #2 Commander asked me to become the district #2 Chaplain the following year. I was subsequently appointed to the Internal Affairs Committee by the Department Commander to represent Wyoming at the National Convention, a role I have held for the past two years. I am currently serving my second year as Department of Wyoming Chairperson of the High School Oratorical Contest. While serving as Post #75 Commander, I was elected Wyoming's 2nd Vice Commander for the 2024-2025 term. I graduated from the National American Legion College in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 22, 2024.

I would be honored to have your support and vote for continued service to The American Legion Department of Wyoming as the Department 1st Vice Commander.

"Service Before Self Not Self Service"



Chuck Guilford 2nd Vice Commander Depart. of Wyoming

# For Second Vice Commander

Powder River Post 13 would like endorse Chuck Guilford for The Department of Wyoming 2nd Vice Commander for 2025-2026. Chuck has been a member of the American Legion for the past ten years. Chuck is a member of Powder River Post 13, Buffalo, Wyoming. Chuck was elected to Post Commander in 2019 and served as Commander till

2024. During that time, Chuck was also elected to Commander of District 5 and also one term as Vice Commander District 5.

Chuck served in the U.S. Army from June of 1975 thru January of

1981. Chuck's first assignment was to an MP Company in Meisau, Germany. Chuck was a wheeled vehicle mechanic. Later Chuck transferred to Pirmasens Germany to anothe MP Company as a mechanic. This was also where Chuck met his wife, Suzan. In April of 1978 Chuck re-enlisted and changed duties and became an MP. In July of 1980 Chuck was transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. January of 1981 was Chuck's ETS month. Chuck later worked for the Veteran's Hospital in Sheridan, WY and also spent time in the Washington, D.C. office. Chuck retired from the VA in 2016. Chuck is



currently employed with the Johnson County School District as an Activity Bus Driver.

Chuck enjoys his membership in what he consider to be one of the greatest organizations that he belong to. The American Legion was established by Veterans for Veterans. Veterans helping Veterans, Veterans helping families, Veterans helping in their communities.

Chuck would be honored to have your vote at the State Convention in June 2025, Newcastle, Wyoming.

Sincerely yours,

Cecil Benner Post Commander



Deanna Hurless Department Finance Officer

# For Department Finance Officer

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

Deanna joined the American Legion in 2009. She served in the U.S. Air Force as a Ground Radio Communications Specialist and was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB. She currently works for a credit union as the Loan Processing Manager, she has worked there for 29 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

# **Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business**







# Endorsements

# 





Ron Wood for NEC

**NEC Announcement** Past Department Commander, Ron Wood is seeking the office of National Executive Committeeman, for the 2025-2027 term.

Ron has a long history of involvement with the American Legion, beginning as a Boy Scout in the Legion sponsored Troop 107, in Sheridan, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. After serving in the US Army, during the Vietnam War and attending Ohio State University, he returned to Sheridan a to raise his family.

He joined the 7th Cavalry Drum and Bugle Corp, becoming the Corp Manager and attending the monthly Post #7 meetings. He served as the Post #7 Commander in 1984-1985 and joined the Wonderful Wyoming Boys State Staff. He was the Boys State Director in the early 1990's and went on to be the Department Chairman of Boys State for

many years.

In 2004, Ron was appointed and continues to serve as a consultant on the National Emblem Committee. He has introduced new products and worked on changes to Emblem Sales, which improved sales and efficiency. He also has assisted many Wyoming members with order issues.

He was District #5 Commander and served as Department Commander in 2011-2012.

Ron has attended all National Conventions, except one, as a Wyoming Delegate or Alternate since 2004. He sat on numerous Convention Committees and many Department committees. He was also an escort for the Wyoming Honor Flights, help-

ing WWII Veterans visit their memorial in Washington DC.

He was on the Wyoming Veterans' Commission for 20 years and served as the Chairman for one term.

He served on the Sheridan Chamber of Commerce Board for six years and was Potentate of the Kalif Shrine and chosen as Shriner of the year in 2006. He has also served on multiple boards, serving Wyoming's

He has a wealth of experience in leadership and feels that he is highly qualified to represent the Department of Wyoming at the National level.

Please vote for Ron as the next NEC officer for Wyoming.

# Rick (Richard) Dansereau Jr. For Alternate NEC

Please consider me for filling the position of Alternate NEC for the upcoming term.

I have held many offices in the American Legion: Post, District and Department.

I will do my best to represent the Department of Wyoming.



# Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business



BUG, Inc.
Ranching Company

PO Box 72, Elk Mountain, WY 82324-0072

307-348-7003

\* \* \* \*

Samuel Mares American Legion Post 8 600 Oak Street Douglas, WY 82633 307-358-9981 wyopost08@gmail.com In Support of Our Veterans





#### Department of Wyoming 2025 Membership as of 5/8/25

#### WY Dist 0001 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0024	Archie Hay	Rock Springs	26	21	301	5	353	350	100.86
WY-0028	Tom Whitmore	Green River	4	21	145	6	176	190	92.63
WY-0036	Fort Bridger	Fort Bridger	11	12	94	0	117	106	110.38
WY-0040	Lavoy Thornock	Cokeville	0	0	3	0	3	10	30.00
WY-0041	Medicine Butte	Evanston	0	3	26	0	29	35	82.86
WY-0043	Jackson Hole	Jackson	4	17	109	2	132	134	98.51
WY-0046	Alpine	Alpine	0	2	23	3	28	36	77.78
WY-0047	Phillips-Edwards	Pinedale	0	4	20	0	24	34	70.59
WY-0049	Star Valley	Afton	0	1	11	0	12	15	80.00
WY-0055	Kemmerer	Kemmerer	3	1	26	0	30	30	100.00
WY-0078	Dee Fox	Big Piney	3	- 1	20	О	24	21	114.29
WY-0088	La Barge	La Barge	2	0	12	0	14	15	93.33
		SUM:	53	83	790	16	942	976	96.52

#### WY Dist 0002 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0001	Ferdinand Brandstetter	Van Tassell	4	3	20	0	27	31	87.10
WY-0004	Wieten-Dupes	Lusk	О	2	15	О	17	23	73.91
WY-0005	Travis Snow	Torrington	2	18	77	О	97	126	76.98
WY-0008	Samuel Mares	Douglas	13	13	136	2	164	167	98.20
WY-0009	Jesse Martin	Glenrock	6	3	29	О	38	46	82.61
WY-0010	Ora Call	Wheatland	О	4	62	0	66	69	95.65
WY-0015	John Prince	Glendo	0	2	11	0	13	20	65.00
WY-0056	Marlyn B Anderson	Veteran	0	3	3	1	7	10	70.00
WY-0063	Reed-Gobble	Lingle	0	2	16	0	18	19	94.74
WY-0070	John A Mc Gill	Lagrange	О	О	10	0	10	10	100.00
WY-0075	Mc Donald And Voight	Chugwater	5	5	14	1	25	25	100.00
WY-0095	J J Webb	Guernsey	1	4	21	0	26	27	96.30
		SUM:	31	59	414	4	508	573	88.66

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	Tran	Totals	Coal	Goal
WY-0002	George W Vroman	Casper	2	37	155	9	203	230	88.26
WY-0016	Henry Whiteaway	Powder River	7	-0	3	Q	10	15	66.67
WY-0018	Riverton	Riverton	2	10	42	1	55	65	84.62
WY-0031	Philip Burlingham	Dubols	0	2	7	.0		15	60.00
WY-0033	Don Stough	Lander	6	11	174	2	192	220	87.27
WY-0061	Washakie	Pavillon	0	2	.0	0	2	15	13.33
WY-0081	Richard Pogue	Fort Washakie	0	2	14	0	16-	24	66.67
WY-0096	Arapaho Warriors Cpl Bil	Riverton	7	- 10	16.	0	23	16	143.75
		SUM:	23	64	411	12	510	600	86

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0011	Robert Boyd Stewart	Lovell	2	10	19	0	31	36	86.11
WY-0018	Walter Haynes	Thermopolis	0	2	12	0	1-4	16	87.50
WY-0020	Fred Coe	Cody	0	6	35	0	41	45	91.11
WY-0026	Hughes-Pittinger	Powell	10	13	119	6	148	170	87.06
WY-0029	Marion Tanner	Basin	2	3	33	0	38	44	86.36
WY-0032	Greybull	Greybull	2	3	25	1	31	30	103.33
WY-0044	Floyd Minch	Worland	5	18	141	1	165	190	86,84
WY-0085	James Oliver Hogg	Meeteetse	0	4	17	0	21	22	95.45
WY-0091	Heart Mountain	Heart Mountain	0	2	8	0	10	10	100.00
		SUM:	21	61	409	В	499	563	88.63

#### WY Dist 0005 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0003	Monroe-Bland	Newcastle	2	10	44	2	58	60	96.67
WY-0007	John Donald Garbutt	Sheridan	15	18	121	0	154	165	93.33
WY-0013	Powder River	Buffalo	4	27	111	4	146	140	104.28
WY-0025	Moorcroft	Moorcroft	0	2	12	0	14	25	56.00
WY-0042	Campbell County	Gillette	25	25	244	7	301	325	92.62
WY-0048	Crook County	Sundance	- 5	-4	18	1	28	19	147.37
WY-0080	Roy Montgomery	Hulett		2	29	0	32	32	100.00
WY-0090	Hole-In-The-Wall	Kaycee	0	5	9	0	6	10	60.00
WY-0307	Gillette College	Gillette College	1.0	3	40	Ó.	57	40	142.50

#### Department of vvyoming 2025 iviempership as of 5/8/25

#### District Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1	WY Dist 0001 LGN	53	83	790	16	942	976	96.52
2	WY Dist 0002 LGN	31	59	414	4	508	573	88.66
3	WY Dist 0003 LGN	23	64	411	12	510	600	85.00
4	WY Dist 0004 LGN	21	61	409	8	499	563	88.63
5	WY Dist 0005 LGN	66	96	620	14	796	816	97.55
6	WY Dist 0006 LGN	95	193	1,168	38	1,494	1,682	88.82
7	WY Dist 0099 LGN	0	4	43	0	47	65	72.3
	SUM:	289	560	3,855	92	4,796	5,275	90.92

#### Department of Wyoming 2025 Membership

#### as of 5/8/25 County Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

	District		New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1			289	560	3,855	92	4,796	5,275	90.92
	s	UM:	289	560	3,855	92	4,796	5,275	90.92

#### THE AMERICAN LEGION

#### DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING

#### OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Wyoming at Newcastle, WY on June 19th through 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. is hereby called: PURPOSE:

- 1. To receive the reports of the Department Officers and Chairman.
- To receive the reports of National Commission and Committee members.
- To elect Department Officers for the ensuing year. To confirm the District Officers for the coming year.
- To consider amendments to the Department Constitution and By-laws, if needed.
- 6. To elect Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention.
- To select the next Department Convention Site.
- 8. To transact such other business as may be brought 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  $\ \, \text{delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of delegates present from}$ 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.  $% \label{eq:continuous} % \label{eq:co$ 

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 fails 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, a copy of the Post's CPR, the Annual Post Data report, and Annual Activities Report, its delegates shall not be seated at the Department Convention.

 $\ \, \text{Each Past Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Wyoming, provided they are a light of the provided of the provided they are a light of the provided of the prov$ 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 ANNUAL CONVENTION June 20 - 22, 2025

CORRECTED DATES

Hosted by: MONROE-BLAND POST 3 NEWCASTLE P.O. BOX 657, NEWCASTLE, WY 82701 John Sandoval, 406-670-7720

#### Registration & ALL Meetings held at Fairground Event Center and Search and Rescue Building 24 Fairgrounds Road – Newcastle WY

EVENT		HOW MANY	TOTAL
PRE-REGISTRATION (includes chip)	\$15.00		1
* Deadline May 21, 2025			
REGISTRATION at the DOOR	\$20.00		
CHIP	\$ 5.00		
FRIDAY – JUNE 20, 2025			
07:00 - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION			
07:00 AM PAST COMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS BREAKFAST VFW Post 2516 – 2990 W Main			
07:00 AM PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS			
09:00 AM CALL TO ORDER			
12:00 PM LUNCH - ON YOUR OWN			
06:00 PM WESTERN SEMI-FORMAL BANQUET	\$30.00		
08:00 PM OLDIES BINGO - proceeds to Girls State Program	\$1.00/sheet		
	Pay at BINGO		
SATURDAY – JUNE 21, 2025	BINGO		
09:00 AM CALL TO ORDER			
12:00 PM LUNCH – ON YOUR OWN			
RAFFLE DRAWING / SILENT AUCTION at Closing of Convention			
SUNDAY – JUNE 22, 2025			
09:00 AM WALRUS MEETING - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING: RIDE TO MT. RUSHMORE			
TAKE TIME TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL BLACK	HILLS!		
**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO STATE 25** TOTAL I	ENCLOSED		

<u>Check One</u> \_ prime rib \_\_\_ or margarita chicken \_\_\_\_ for Banquet POST/UNIT \_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_ POST/UNIT POSITION

#### MAIL REGISTRATION & CHECK TO: MONROE-BLAND POST 3 NEWCASTLE P.O. BOX 657, NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

HOTEL/MOTEL INFORMATION
Super 8 Motel V
307-746-9906 3
\$149 + tax E wcastle Convention Center 307-746-9906 Dry Camp Camping

When calling specify Pines Country Inn or 307-746-4334 \$95 + tax

#### Detachment Of Wyoming 2025 Membership as of 4/22/25

Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0024	Archie Hay	Rock Springs	22	0	187	0	209	224	93.30
WY-0028	Tom Whitmore	Green River	2	0	58	0	60	80	75.00
WY-0036	Fort Bridger	Fort Bridger	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.00
WY-0043	Jackson Hole	Jackson	6	0	26	0	32	23	139.13
WY-0047	Phillips-Edwards	Pinedale	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
		SUM:	30	0	271	0	301	352	85.5114
WY Dist 0	0002 SAL								

Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	Goal
WY-0005	Travis Snow	Torrington	3	0	34	0	37	63	58.73
WY-0008	Samuel Mares	Douglas	5	0	47	0	52	53	98.11
		SUM:	8	0	81	0	89	116	76.7241
WY Dist 0	0003 SAL								

			l	1	1		1	1	Goal
Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal		Totals	Goal	Goal
WY-0002	George W Vroman	Casper	2	0	15	0	17	20	85.00
WY-0033	Don Stough	Lander	0	0	23	0	23	42	54.76
		SUM:	2	0	38	0	40	62	64.5161
WY DIST	0004 SAL					HQ Tran			% of
Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal		Totals	Goal	Goal
WY-0026	Hughes-Pittinger	Powell	6	0	37	0	43	40	107.50
WY-0044	Floyd Minch	Worland	- 5	0	95	0	100	124	80.65

VV T-0026	nugnes-Fittinger	Powell	0	U	37	U	43	40	107.50
WY-0044	Floyd Minch	Worland	5	0	95	0	100	124	80.65
		SUM:	11	0	132	0	143	164	87.1951
WY Dist	0005 SAL								
						HQ Tran			% of
Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal		Totals	Goal	Goal
WY-0007	John Donald Garbutt	Sheridan	6	0	29	0	35	40	87.50
WY-0013	Powder River	Buffalo	4	0	23	0	27	24	112.50
WY-0025	Moorcroft	Moorcroft	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
WY-0042	Campbell County	Gillette	26	0	152	0	178	191	93.19
WY-0080	Roy Montgomery	Hulett	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.00

		SUM:	36	0	204	0	240	278	86.3309
WY Dist	0006 SAL								
Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
WY-0006	Francis E Self	Cheyenne	33	0	147	0	180	166	108.43
WY-0014	Husted-Pendleton	Laramie	11	0	32	0	43	25	172.00
WY-0054	Angus England	Saratoga	10	0	51	0	61	70	87.14
WY-0060	Donald W Eisenhauer	Pine Bluffs	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
WY-0122	Hittner-Engstrom-Dunca	Rawlins	_ 1	0	9	0	10	13	76.92



# **Department President's Report**

#### Leila Dean, Department President



Leila Dean **President** 

#### Greetings Auxiliary Members

Well, here we are coming to the close of another Auxiliary vear. By now all Districts have met and had their yearly meetings so we will be hearing about how our District President's year has gone. Since my term is almost coming to an end, I have been reflecting on this past year but also years since I have been involved at the Department level. When my first term started in 2014-2015 National was asking us to help get a million members nationwide so we can make sure our organization will continue to thrive. Another thing they were

doing was finding what could be done to stop losing members I remember one of the main emphases was on be kind to one another and making people feel welcome at our meetings. It needed to start at the Unit level and continue to the Districts and Department then on to National. I think we have made some progress with that. But we did fail to get a million members. For my second term I have been very worried because we have units that are struggling and our numbers are very low. From where they were 10 years ago. I hope you all start thinking what can we do to make

our organization more desirable? What can we do to bring in the vounger generations to want to join so we can continue with our mission to serve our veterans and their families? We need to be visible and make it fun to be a member. I guess that is enough reminiscing Department convention is coming quickly. I hope to see many of you in Newcastle. See about inviting a member that has never come to a meeting at the Department level so it won't feel intimidating to them.

Hope to see you all soon 2024-2025 Department President Leila Dean



Peg Sillivan Department Secretary

Another year is wrapping up, has

# News from your Department Office

your Unit accomplished a goal (not membership)? I have to say, I didn't accomplish my goal. So.....as I start the new year, I'm setting goals to be better organized in the Office, to not procrastinate both professionally and personally and to be prepared for my reporting at Fall Workshop and especially at Convention.

A big shout out to the Units who sent email, texts or calls asking questions. Another big shout out to all the Units who kept their membership current and let me know when I paid the wrong member. You have to keep me on my toes! Thank you.

As a heads up, Unit Packets will be ready at Department Convention.

Packets that aren't picked up will be mailed by July 1st. Please let me know if you haven't received it by July 10th. Most of the forms will be the same as last year.

Please let the Office know if your "email contact" changed. Email contacts PLEASE pass the information from Department to your Unit in a timely manner.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -FALL WORKSHOP will be in Casper September 20th. I challenge Units to send a representative to the meeting. Did you just say to yourself, "WHY"? At Fall Workshop you will hear what the Chairpersons is planning for 2025-2026, you'll meet your

Department Officers and hopefully our National President and you will meet with other members who support our veterans like you do. Another reason, I have been your Department Secretary/Treasurer for 13 years and I haven't meet someone from every unit in Wyoming. I would like to put a face to a voice or email.

We all have the same mission, the 4 Pillars of the American Legion: VA & R, Children & Youth, Americanism and National Security. You are an important member of the American

Legion Auxiliary. Peg Sillivan Department Secretary Treasurer

**American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Convention** June 20 - 21, 2025 Newcastle, Wyoming Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Department Finance Committee by ZOOM 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 19, 2025 3:00-7:00 p.m Registration at Post 03 -

7:00 p.m. DEC—TBA

Friday, June 20, 2025-

8:00 a.m. Registration-

9:00 a.m. Opening of Convention - Tonya Dafoe, Newcastle President

\*Introduction of District, Department and National Of-

\*Call to Order: Department President Leila Dean

\*Invocation–Chaplain Susan Dansereau

\*Pledge of Allegiance – Americanism Chair Cathey

\*Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary:

\*Constitution and Bylaws Chair Shareen Johnson

\*Reading of the Call to Convention: Peg Sillivan \*Welcome Cindy Sandoval

\*Response to Welcome

\*Introduction of Sgt. At Arms

\*Recognition of Unit 3 - Convention Hostess'

\*Roll Call of Officers and Units: Secretary Peg Sillivan \*Appointment of Convention Committees:

Credentials; Rules and Courtesy Resolutions; Election

Judges and Tellers; Reading of the Rules of Convention—C & B Chair Shareen Johnson; Report of the Pre-Convention Finance Committee-FC Shareen Johnson; Report of the Pre-Convention DEC - Peg Sillivan; Reading of the Rules for Electing Dept Officers C & B Shareen Johnson

9:50 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Break—Greetings to the Legion 10:25 a.m. (Call to order after break.)

Nomination of Department Officers

\*2025 - 2026 Department President

\*2025-2026 Northwest Division National Vice President Candidate

\*2025-2026 District President Nominees

\*Reading of Resolutions-C & B Chairman Shareen Johnson; Credentials Report -

12:00 p.m. Break for lunch 1:15 p.m. Call to Order

\*Roll call of officers and Units

Peg Sillivan

\*Chairperson's reports

\*Children and Youth - Tammy Harris

\*Special Presentation-Junior Members Present

Junior Activities—Sunny Hobbs Education - Linda Lenker-Orr

Poppy - B-Jo Lang

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Susan Sironen

Cheyenne VA - Peg Sillivan Sheridan VA - Linda Orr

Wyoming Veterans Home - Edie Taffner

Public Relations - Chantelle Dunlap Legislative – Vicki Paddock

Girls State - Alyssa Tidbits - Peg Sillivan

Draw for Attendance Incentive

Department Commander and President Banquet - Fair-

\*Election of District Presidents

\*Election of Department Officers and

\*Election of NWD Vice President \*Reading of the Rules for electing Delegates and Alternates to\*National Convention – Shareen Johnson, C&B

\*Nomination of Delegates and Alternates to National Convention in Tampa, Florida

Chairman Reports & Awards: (continued)
Auxiliary Emergency Fund and drawing - Peg Sillivan

4:30 p.m. Recess for the Day grounds Saturday June 21, 2025 7:00 a.m. Past Department Presidents Breakfast TBD 9:00 a.m. Reconvene Convention \*Invocation - Susan Dansereau \*Pledge of Allegiance - Cathey Raymer \*Roll Call of Officers and Units - Peg Sillivan \*Department Memorial Service – Susan Dansereau 10:15 a.m.Break 10:30 a.m. Credentials Committee Report

Secretary

Closing Remarks – President Leila Dean

Installation of 2025 - 2026 Department Officers

National Security - Trudy Zaffarano

Community Service – Sonja Wright

Historian—Jessica York

Leadership – Robin Ruff

vention

Membership – Vicki Paddock

District Presidents' Reports:

Department Officer Reports: Chaplain – Susan Dansereau Secretary/Treasurer – Peg Sillivan

Vice-President - Robin Ruff

Reading of Courtesy Resolutions

President - Leila Dean

**Unfinished Business** 

**New Business** 

District 1 President Cathey Raymer

District 2 President Jessica York

District 3 President Jessie Poire

District 4 President Susan Sironen District 5 President Gloria Taylor

District 6 President Cynthia Ivanszek

Break

Constitution & By Laws - Shareen Johnson

Introduction of Unit Member of the Year

Recess for Lunch -

1:15 p.m. Roll Call of Officers and Units—Peg Sillivan Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Con-

3:30 p.m. Informational Items – Peg Sillivan, Department

Election Results - Delegates and Alternates to National

Acceptance Speech - Department President Elect-Rob-

3:45 p.m. Attendance drawing

4:00 p.m.Adjourn

4:15 p.m. Peg Sillivan, Secretary, meets with National Convention Delegates & Alternates

Post Convention DEC immediately following closing of

WALRUS Meeting - June 22, 2025 Time and location TBA



#### It is with some sadness that this is my last article as the District 1 President. I enjoyed my three years in this position and being able to meet all the members in this District. It is with great joy to welcome Cheryl Craig as the new District 1 Pres-

Thank you to Green River Unit #28 for hosting the District 1 Spring Conference. There were four units represented. Most of the members honored submitted their President's and

# **District 1 Report**

the month of the Military Child by wearing purple. Special thanks to Sunny Hobbs (Green River) for being the most excellent secretary and helping me with everything for the past three years.

Even though most of our Units are small, there is always the core group in all our units that are active. We might be small in numbers, we are mighty.

Seven out of the eight Units

Year-End Impact reports. These units collectively have reported 2,039 hours spent in service of veterans and have reached 6,506 veterans and spent \$21,010. They have supported military families with 677 hours volunteering and have served 473 families.

Our units have exemplified the spirit of serve and not self, proving that size does not determine the eminence impact that they have.



Cathey Raymer District 1 President

# **District 2 Report**



Jessica York District 2 President

I would like to thank everyone

who made it to Spring Conference. And a huge thank you to Wheatland Unit 10 for hosting. It's always great to have the District come together to share what we have all been up to throughout the year. B-Jo, thank you for being a great Vice President this year. You will do amazing as District Present in the coming year. I would like to give a very heart felt thank you to the District for entrusting me to be your Present for the last 6 years. With Department Convention on our side of the state, I hope to see you in

# **District 4 Report**



Susan Sironen District 4 President

The Spring Conference for District 4 was held on April 26 in Powell. A special thank you to Unit 26 for hosting this event, decorating, cooking, etc. We had about 20 members (including several first-timers) from 3 units present plus Robin Ruff (Dept VP) and Shareen Johnson (Dept Const and Bylaws Chairman). It is always great having Shareen help us with parliamentary procedures and we all learned a lot. Information from the units:

Powell (Unit 26) – Powell handles the monthly commodities giveaway as well as the weekly food giveaway with groceries provided by the local Albertsons store. This last year they gave out 129,380 pounds of food to 2,335 families in the area. In November, they applied for a grant where people that qualified by the federal commodities guidelines were given a \$50 gift card to Albertsons for November and December to help with the holidays. \$2500 in gift cards were given out each of the two months as well as 150 Thanksgiving boxes of food. A Christmas party was held

with a "secret area" where kids could go and pick out something for mom, dad or siblings and volunteers helped them wrap the gifts. The annual Cherry Pie Luncheon was held as a fundraiser for Girls State and the Legion Birthday party was hosted by the Auxiliary in March. Girls State -5 attending from this unit.

Basin (Unit 29) - this unit continues to have their monthly veteran suicide awareness rally once a month on the main street through town. The entire 5th grade school participated in the Americanism essay content as well as one 6th grader. US Constitution booklets were given to each of these students from the Auxiliary since they were studying the Constitution at that time. Our monthly meeting has been moved to the activity room at the Wyoming Retirement Center in Basin. There are several veterans living at WRC, and we encourage them to attend our meetings and talk about veteran needs. We provided root beer floats for one month and cookies another month. We plan to host a picnic for them at the retirement center this summer. Girls State 5 attending from this unit.

Worland (Unit 44) – they applied for and received a \$500 check from the Festival of Trees project to be used for Girls State. The Charter was draped for Wanda Johnson who supported the Poppy program since she was 5 years old. She would ask a person without a poppy "why not, aren't you an American" and would generally get a donation! The unit is working with the Worland Food Bank gathering food donations to help fill the shelves at the food bank locally. They distributed about 150 coloring books about safety to the elementary students. Girls State – 3 attending this year.

# **District 3 Report**



Jessie Poire District 3 President

Greetings from the ladies of District #3, Lander Unit #33, Riverton Unit #19 and Fort Washakie Unit #81. We had a very successful District #3 Spring Conference on Sunday, April 27, 2025 with 7 members of the district in attendance and the Department Vice President Robin Ruff and District #1 President and Americanism Chairman Cathey Raymer. We took care of district business and nominated and elected Ginger Fross of Riverton Unit #19 as District Vice President and, I was nominated as District President.

Our unit news is as follows: Lander Unit #33

As of 03/17/2025, the unit has 51 seniors and 12 juniors for a total of 62 members or 87.5% with a goal of 72. The Legion Family Birthday Dinner was held at the Armory on Saturday, 03/15/2025, at 5 p.m. Although an invitation was sent to President Leila Dean, inviting her to the dinner, she was unable to attend due to the weather and road conditions. Hours spent setting up & taking down the tables & decorations was 3-1/2 hours. Collected \$44.18 for the Child Wellness Foundation. The dinner was well attended and several new members were recruited. Last CWF

deposit was \$84.64 which makes our yearly donation total \$213.09 which has been sent to the Department. Annual Cookies for the Veterans donations were received from Tom & Peny Rogers; Judy Mardock; Patricia & William DeClue; Elsie Freese; Rebecca Daugherty; Susan Layman; and Kathy Ebert, totaling \$265. Thank yous have been sent. Annual donation checks have been sent to the following: Sheridan VA; Buffalo Veterans Home; AEF; and Chapel of 4 Chaplains. Lander has one Girls State Delegate, Zoe Szymanski, and training has started.

Riverton Unit #19

We had our meeting on the 16th of April and we voted on our Credentials for Department Convention. We only get two votes now. We used to have a lot. I am sending the \$200 for cookies, \$300 for the VA's and the credentials sheet soon. I also realized we never sent a memorial for Peggy Thiel, past unit president, to AEF. I am also going to send \$25 for her memorial. I am sending it today.

We had a late March meeting because Pat had a doctor visit on our meeting day. We decided to give the Sheridan VA \$200 for cookies for our May responsibility. I am also going to send \$300 to Department for gifts for the VA's in April after our meeting on the 16th.

Fort Washakie Unit #81

Fort Washakie unit had an informal meeting in March where they went over the list of all of the activities for the past several months, most of which was already reported in the March issue of the Auxiliare. The April meeting was spent working on the flower bouquets for the residents of Morning Star Manor. They made 28 bouquets in bright colorful Spring colors and the vases were decorated so that they would look nice in the resident's rooms. We also went over plans for the Spring Conference on April 27, 2025.



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

# LEGION



Gloria Taylor District 5 President

District 5 has been busy so far this spring and even has plans for the summer. Our Spring Conference was held April 5th with a good turnout! Thank you everyone who came and showed your support!

Unit 3 Newcastle, does a veteran's breakfast each month, helps some get their meals and then pick up plates at the end. We try to work hard on "Be the One" and checking in on ones that don't show up. Girls States is something we love to take part in, helping the girls get ready with all they need to accomplish. The Legion shows them how to properly fold the flag, and we give them their goody bags and corsages before they leave. Upton school invited the whole class to watch the event. The month of May we do May Baskets

# **District 5 Report**

with butterflies and candy for senior citizens in both Newcastle and Upton. Over Memorial Weekend, on Friday we set up and do Poppy's in several places throughout both towns. Saturday, we make a wreath with fresh flowers to be put at the bottom of cross. Sunday we place flags on Veteran's graves. On Memorial Day we take part in the Honor Guard carrying the flags of the different services. After events are over, we take the wreath apart an gives the flowers to Veterans.

Unit 7 Sheridan, this year was slow in January as storms swept through the area. In February we handed out Valentines to the Veterans at the VA during our milkshakes on the third Tuesday of the month. Rochelle Pratte and Melba Bennett compiled a basket and sold tickets from February to March and held a drawing. Funds were collected to benefit activities ongoing at the VA. Several posters and essays were collected from Laura Pruitt and Robin Ruff for the essay contest and poppy poster contest. There were quite a few that placed and sent on to department for judging. April, we have been working on getting girls ready for Girls State and finding local sponsors. The Auxiliary lost Rochelle Pratte in March and helped with her Celebration of Life. Many desserts were provided for the event.

Unit 13 The Unit held a BUNCO party in March, and it was a suc-



cess. Thank you to Robin and Linda for your help. Americanism Essays were judged with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners being invited to our April dinner. We had 12 writers and families attend. We served our signature Baked Spaghetti. Nominations were

held for 2026 Unit Officers. Elections will be at our May meeting. We continue to support the veterans of Post 13 and veterans at the WY Veterans Home and Sheridan. Our last project for 2025 will be Memorial Day. The unit will decorate 110 white crosses with 3 poppies and place them on deceased members gravesites.

Unit 25 Moorcroft had 1 member attend Spring Conference. Had 4 classes of poppy posters with 3 winners going to Department. Getting ready for our June cookie month. Vicki Paddock attended Washington D.C. Conference as Legislative Chairman.

Unit 42 Gillette, in February put on a Valentine's Dinner. March helped with Mid-Winter Fundraiser for the post as well as voted for our outstanding member of the year who was Sandy Cook, and our Outstanding volunteer of the year was Charlene Kirkendoll. April, we had our Deadwood trip.

Unit 90 Kaycee, baked 110 dozen cookies for January delivery to the Sheridan VA. They continue to help with the Veteran's breakfast at the Country Inn. Veteran grave markers will be placed on graves at the Kaycee cemetery during Memorial Day weekend and the month of May will be declared Poppy month in Kaycee.

Gloria Taylor, President



Cynthia Ivaniszek District 6 President

Francis E Self Unit #6: Cheyenne hosted the Spring District Meeting. The hospitality was great with a shared lunch with the Post. Mem-

# LEGION

bers from Cheyenne & Laramie celebrated birthdays with veterans at the CLC the same afternoon.

Unit #14: Husted-Pendleton Auxiliary Unit 14 took on a project to rejuvenate the Post's POW/MIA remembrance table. Resolution 288, passed at the 67th American Legion National Convention Aug. 27, 1985, calls for "designation of a POW/MIA Empty Chair at official meetings of The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for." We are proud to display this table, visible to all, in a dignified and honorable fashion. The next time you are in Laramie,

# **District 6 Report**

we invite you to visit Post 14 at 417 Ivinson to pay honor and remember our POW/MIA veterans.

Donald Eisenhauer Unit #60: Pine Bluffs continues hosting the Saturday morning breakfasts for veterans and community. Supporting our youth, a team of girls will be attending Girls State.

Angus England Unit #54: The Saratoga Auxiliary celebrated in March with an awards ceremony and banquet honoring long-term members and community service. This Spring they will see the Flags Project come to fruition with flags and banners flying high on Memorial Day, Flag Day, and 4th of July

Private Floyd Minch

Killed in Action 10-8-1918

on Bridge St.

William Horne Unit # 64: Medicine Bow has a new Post Home in Fellowship Hall at the Methodist Church. This is great news with more space, improved facilities, and a full kitchen. 48 Easter dinners were "bagged" at the Senior Center and delivered to veterans in Elk Mountain and Medicine Bow. Thank you to the Post Commander for assistance in delivering the Easter Dinners

Boyce Marlatt Unit #77: The Albin Auxiliary's next meeting is a luncheon on May 7 at the Albin Community Center.

# **Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business**

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Lynda Lenz CLU® ChFC® CASL® Agent

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



FLOYD MINCH AMERICAN LEGION POST 44

Serving Veterans in the Southern Big Horn Basin since 1920 Club 44 Hours 4 p.m. - 12 a.m. Monday through Saturday

Legion Family members welcome

129 South 7th Street, Worland, Wyoming



We Support Our Veterans

# **Sheridan VA Healthcare Network**



Linda Orr Rep

Sheridan VA Healthcare Network Ladies and Gents,

Thank you for everything you do. You give so much of yourselves to make life more pleasant for those spending time at the Sheridan VA and throughout the clinics.

Buffalo Unit 13-thanks for the time you spend with the patients sharing root beer floats and friendship. Sheridan Unit 7 - thanks for the enjoyment of milkshakes and fun and treats at bingo; a big thanks to Donna Roberts who is on staff at the VA and a member of Unit 7 who provides staff coverage for the bingo program so that they can play in the evenings. Thanks also to the Unit for providing wrapping paper and ribbons for the Christmas Wrapping Party. Moorcroft Unit 25 thanks all the Christmas items. All Units – thanks for all your cookies and other donations. We know we have missed mentioning many of



Melba Bennet Rep

the units and your donations. We're sorry. Keep up the good work.

The garden has been revamped and is a bustle of activity of being planted. Plans are to put some more emphasis on the Creative Arts Festival. The Clothing Room is now open on Wednesday afternoons to ALL veterans whether in the hospital or down in the community needing clothing. If you are in the Sheridan area on July 5, stop by the hospital as there will be the local KARZ Club show with all sorts of booths, food trucks and activities.

Want list includes large (3X-7X) men's clothing, blue jeans in all sizes, men's sport boxers, socks, tennis shoes, and softball equipment. If you have donations to drop off at the VA, please contact CDCE Manager Bill Szatmary at 307-675-3226.

Thank you again.

Linda Orr and Melba Bennett,

# Constitution & Bylaws

Upon review of the Department files, which currently has 37 Units, the following statistics might be of interest to our members. Two Units currently do not have governing documents on file at the Department. One Unit last updated in 1989 while six Units updated in 2000s, 11 Units in 2010s, and 17 Units in the 2020s. Do you know which group your Unit is in?

Come to Convention for the full report.



Shareen Johnson Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Cathey Raymer **Americanism** Chairman

# **Americanism**

This year, five Units participated in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme was "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)." Despite the topic, the participating students stepped up to the challenge. The efforts of both the students and the Units are commendable.

I am proud to announce the winners of the Department of Wyoming Americanism Essay Winners!

Come to Convention for the full

# Education



Linda Orr Education Chairman

You know that I have been involved in the Auxiliary in all levels for many, many years. When I was asked to take over the Department Education Chair late last year, I thought it would be easy-peasy until I went thru all that this Chair involved and realized that I was way out of my comfort zone. My decisions could/would change people's life as the scholarships range from hundreds of dollars to thousands. I then settled down and realized I could handle it. It showed me that I can work outside my comfort zone and do what was asked of me. I want all of you to realize that you also can

go out of your comfort zone and get involved with the Auxiliary in all levels. It takes ALL of us to make everything work.

The scholarship page on the Department's Web Site was updated so that it was very easy for the applicants to apply for all the scholarships available. We received 2 applicants for the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship which have been judged and at time of print, have gone thru the Department and Divisional levels and are at the National level awaiting final decisions. There are several other scholarships available on both the National and Departmental levels for both youth and adults. Please go thru these so that you understand what is available and next year we can get more applicants.

I was impressed by all the Units that give scholarships every year. It is wonderful of you to do this for the youth of your community. With funds so tight these days, your scholarships make a big difference. Keep up the good work.

Thank you for your yearend Unit updates. They make me so proud of our Auxiliary. You are definitely assets to your communities.

Linda Lenker-Orr, Chair

# Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitaion Report



Susan Sironen VA & R Chairman

Following are highlights of the year-end reports received from around the state so far. A more complete report will be provided at the Department Convention in Newcastle. Be sure to attend and hear about the wonderful ways our Auxiliary members support our veterans both locally and around the state.

Wreaths Across America program was supported by several units.

Food Bank distribution and providing meals were also popular activities supporting veterans. One unit provides a scholarship where the applicant must interview a live veteran and give a summary of the life of the veteran and include photos of the veteran. Lots of activities for Veterans Day including a pancake breakfast, dinners, etc. Lots of cookies are distributed to Sheridan VA, Cheyenne VA, Wyoming Veterans Home as well as to local veterans in assisted living and nursing homes. Cards are signed and sent all over for Christmas. Veterans Day and Christmas seem to get the most attention. Don't forget to connect with our veterans throughout the year. Stand-downs for homeless veterans are widely supported both with money and items for the veterans, including crocheted plastic mats by two units, lots of socks, toothbrushes, etc. Local veterans who were struggling were also assisted with gas cards, transportation, housing, etc.

Thank you to everyone who helps support our veterans!

Susan Sironen

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.





Edie Taffner Veterans Home of Wyoming Rep.

# Wyoming Veterans Home

Our 2024-'25 year has rolled around to the end already! As I look back my heart fills with pride as we add up the hours and dollars that we have spent serving our veterans!

Our organization is front and center with our ALA shirts on, weekly at the Veterans Home. We have added the SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility) to our duties and have six new volunteers to be on hand to interact with the

month.

Chairman have been ask to prepare a budget for the coming year. This is the budget I have projected. It tells you what I have planed for those 2 facilities

residents three of the 4 weeks in the

Pie expense \$150. Activity Dir. Dis. Fund 250. Christmas cards (\$10.) 800. Summer watermelon party 50.
Root beer floats expenses 140.
Unanticipated expenses 200.
Cookies 650.
Birthday Cakes 400.
Birthday cards (\$5.) 400.
TOTAL BUDGET: \$3,

TOTAL BUDGET: \$3,040. I am anticipating that the SNF will have at least 20 more people by the end of the next year. They have the first two pods open at the present time.

Thank you Units around the state that have sent in funds for the VA&R account! Without you these activities would not be happening! Also have to thank Buffalo Unit #13 for stepping up to volunteer to carry out our mission!

President Leila Dean, I appreciated the opportunity to have served as representative to the Wyoming Veterans Home for this last year!

#### A Special Sweet Thank You

THANK YOU to ALL UNITS for your contributions of cookies, clothes, Christmas, birthdays to our Veteran Facilities in Wyoming and South Dakota. All contributions are important to our veterans. The Department received donations from the following Units:

Cheyenne 6, Glenrock 9, Buffalo 13, Glendo15, Riverton19, Rock Springs 24, Moorcroft 25 Basin 29, Lander 33, Cokeville 40, Worland 44, Alpine 46, Pinedale 47, Saratoga 54, Pine Bluffs 60, Chugwater 75, Hulett 80 and Kaycee 90

Once again, THANK YOU for ALL you do for our veterans-locally, Department and National.

# "In the Clouds"

Get Well – Auxiliary Member Only Wanda Lorenz-Unit 15 Trudy Zaffarano-Unit 26 Dorothy Williams-Unit 15 Belle Temple-Unit 25 Dorothy Easton-Unit 15

In Memoriam
Regina Engstrom Unit 9
Jeanie Love Unit 44
Barbara Rapp Unit 1
Wanda Johnson Unit 44
Catherine Gustin Unit 33
Rochelle Pratt Unit 7
Trudy Keenan Unit 77

Mary Barbour Unit 80
Susan Daniels Unit 54
Pat Ellis Unit 75
Lenore Lore Unit 8
Janice Radosevich Unit 47
Grace Post Unit 46
Pat Laramore Unit 42
Vyonne Kraen Unit 13
Virginia Beall Unit 13
Winifred Bush Unit 80
Peggy Thomas Past National
President 2012-2013
Sympathy
Debbie Cropanse- death of niece
Emily

Peg Sillivan -death of nephew Geoffrey T. Family of Past National President Peggy Thomas Trudy Zaffarano-death of brother Edward Farrington Mary Mulleson-death of sister Susan Daniels Family of Vyonne Kraen-death of ALA member

> Congratulations Peg and Don Sillivan-50th Wedding Anniversary



# Membership



Vicki Paddock Membership Chairman

E=MC2 "THE SUCCESS OF OUR UNITS AND OUR DE-PARTMENT DEPENDS ON THE ENERGY WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION. WE CAN GAIN AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP BY COMMUNICATING, COMMUNICATING. KEEP ALL MEMBERS INVOLVED AND INFORMED."

Thank you to everyone who is helping to get membership . We have several units in Wyoming who are above 100%. Congratulations. Our next goal is 95% by May 23rd.

UNIT#	CITY	GOAL	PAID	Percent	UNIT	CITY	GOAL	PAID	PERCEN1
24	ROCK SPRINGS	274	240	88%	26	POWELL	117	122	104%
28	GREEN RIVER	130	95	73%	29	BASIN	53	50	94%
36	FT. BRIDGER	49	50	102%	44	WORLAND	70	86	123%
40	COKEVILLE	27	26	96%					
46	ALPINE	28	27	96%		TOTAL	240	258	108%
47	PINEDALE	33	29	88%					
78	BIG PINEY	29	22	76%	3	NEW CASTLE	17	17	100%
88	LaBARGE	16	14	88%	7	SHERIDAN	87	88	101%
					13	BUFFALO	137	130	95%
	TOTAL	586	503	86%	25	MOORCROFT	76	77	101%
					42	GILLETTE	178	158	89%
1	VAN TASSEL	13	15	115%	80	HULETT	52	35	67%
5	TORRINGTON	126	86	68%	90	KAYCEE	35	30	86%
8	DOUGLAS	63	68	108%					
9	GLENROCK	48	48	100%		TOTAL	582	535	92%
10	WHEATLAND	36	38	106%					
15	GLENDO	82	82	100%	6	CHEYENNE	246	221	90%
70	LaGRANGE	36	34	94%	14	LARAMIE	76	96	126%
75	CHUGWATER	15	15	100%	54	SARATOGA	53	54	102%
95	GUERNSEY	43	38	88%	60	PINE BLUFFS	35	32	91%
					64	MEDICINE BOW	40	25	63%
	TOTAL	462	424	92%	77	ALBIN	26	24	92%
16	POWDER RIVER	11	5	45%		TOTAL	476	452	95%
19	RIVERTON	20	7	35%					
33	LANDER	74	64	86%	17	HEADQUARTERS	73	15	21%
81	FT. WASHAKIE	21	14	67%					
	TOTAL	126	90	71%		DEPARTMENT	2545	2277	89.47%

# Legislative



Vicki Paddock Legislative Chairman

As a member of the Legislative Team, I was invited to attend the American Legion Washington DC Conference in Feb. What an exciting time. I learned so much from the speakers. I was assigned to

National Security. It was almost disheartening to learn that our military is no longer #1. China as become #1. Our representatives on Capital Hill are aware and doing everything within their power to make this right.

I took a tour of the White House followed by a visit to the White House visitors center. As I was waiting for my tour The Presidential motorcade came by me. The next day I joined the legionnaires on Capital Hill for Wyoming Wednesday. We met with the senators and representatives to discuss the Legion priorities. Afterwords I took a tour of the Capital.

I have lots more to report and will do so at Department Conven-

Vicki Paddock

# busy year. I received 12 unit year end reports.

Community Service hours totaled 2,793 and money expended totaled \$20,571.10.

This Auxiliary year has been a

**Community Service** 

1 unit have volunteers that help with the Food Bank truck, 4 units help at local food pantries, 4 units volunteer at local thrift stores, 2 units have Senior Center volunteers.

3 units have church volunteers, 3 units help with hospital gift shops and 3 units volunteer at blood drives. 3 units hold fundraising activities, with 1 unit selling Red t-shirts for our Friday promotions. Election Day saw volunteers from 1 unit.

4 units reported that they promote the American Legion Auxiliary, their Junior programs along with Girls State and The American Legion.

3 units hold dinners and ceremonies for Memorial Day, 1 unit holds a BBQ for Flag Day, 3 units hold dinners, ceremonies, parades for Veterans Day. Flags an flowers are placed in the local cemeteries by 3 units. 3 units have fun activities for children for Halloween. 1 unit purchases wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program. 1 unit helps their post cook and decorate for a Christmas dinner for their community.

1 unit promotes flag folding, 1 unit helps with a flag retirement ceremony where 84 flags were retired.

Sublette County established a free program called Veterans Talking to Veterans, 1 held in person and 1 held



Sonja Wright Community Service Chairman

virtually. The program has 2 fully certified trauma-informed health and wellness coaches to aid Veterans in Sublette County.

Unit 24 held a Veterans Awareness Walk which saw 95 participants. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion all banded together to make this event very successful that day.

I want to congratulate all our wonderful units for everything they did for their communities. I know all of the units who didn't write a report still volunteered in their communities and every little bit counts.

President Leila, thank you for asking me to be your Community Service Chairman this year. It has been

Sonja Wright 2024-2025 Department Community Service Chairman



Peg Sillivan, Vicki Paddock - Reps for Cheyenne Living Center

Vicki Paddock and Peg Sillivan attended the Standown on September 7, 2024. It was a very good day. A lot was learned about what to do next time. We gave out sweatshirt bundles from Douglas Unit 8 and Unit 13 from Buffalo. Socks were also distributed from units that were gathered at the Department Convention.

Units continue to help with Memorial Services and monthly Birthday parties. Snacks are ordered for these events.

Supplies are also being ordered for the coffee center. Gift cards are presented for birthdays. We also provide money for bingo prizes and personal items. At this time we are providing for 25 veterans.



Courtesy Photo

Pausing briefly during the Department Leadership National Conference in Indiana is Peg Sillivan, Robin Ruff and Vicki Paddock - representing our Department of Wyoming American Legion Auxiliary.

Department Leadership National Conference (DLNC) The Incoming President, Membership Chair and Secretary were invited to attend DLNC in Indianapolis, Indiana May 2nd - 6th.

Vicki Paddock, Robin Ruff and Peg Sillivan attended meeting focused on how to help units and departments be successful. I don't know how many times someone would ask a question and they were told, "Go to your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules".



The ALA Department of Wyoming encourages Units to send a representative to **Department Meetings.** 

Every meeting provides sharing ideas, information and renewing friendships



# **Auxiliary Emergency Fund**



Peg Sillivan A.E.F. Chairman

Units from around the Department continue to contribute to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). We had eleven (11) Units, and five (5) individuals send in money. A check was sent to National in the amount of \$1,498.23.

The Mid-Winter AEF 2026 Membership ticket was drawn this past week. Samuel-Mares Unit 08 was the winning ticket. Congratulations to Unit 08!! Our next drawing will be in Newcastle at Department Convention.

Thank you for your contributions.

# See you at convention June 20-22

# Department Convention Reminders

\*\* District Presidents bring your Membership Hat \*\* Children and Youth – bring your decorated pig \*\* Poppy – bring a poppy item



#### OFFICIAL CALL TO CONVENTION

Newcastle, Wyoming

June 20th thru June 21st 2025
The 105th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary,
Department of Wyoming is hereby called to be held in Newcastle,
Wyoming June 20thand 21st of 2025.
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 30 (thirty) 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-atlarge 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 on 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 7:00 pm at Newcastle, WY, on June 19, 2025. 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.

Leila Dean, Department President Peg Sillivan, Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer



# Department Poppy Report 🕞



This has been a good year for the Department and its Units for poppies. Fourteen Units turned in reports for the Poppy Program. There was a lot of good done with poppies this year.

Reported money raised by poppy donations for the 2024-2025 year was \$10,682.96. Much of that money was then returned to veterans, in nursing homes, in hospital facilities, or to veterans directly with items they needed. Funds were also used for active-duty military or their families for needed things.

We received Poppy Posters from three Districts in the Department. Choosing a winner to go on to Division was difficult. Poppy Poster winners will be announced at Convention.

Please do not forget to make something for the contest at Department Convention. It can be a centerpiece with poppies, or anything really! As long as it has poppies and at least one is one of our poppies. We will judge the pieces and have a prize for the winner. I look forward to the creativity of each Unit. B-jo Laing, Chairman

# **American Legion Baseball**

The 2025 year of the American Legion Baseball is in full swing. This year marks the 100th year of American Legion Baseball and we are



proud to be a part of this great program. American Legion Baseball has been the stepping off point for many Major/Minor League players. Some of those players are even from Wyoming. (Please put the attached file in here)

Wyoming is represented by outstanding youth players every year. This is evident by the Cheyenne and Powell teams both representing their divisions at the regional level and with Cheyenne attending the National World Series. We are proud of all of our teams, coaches, and volunteers who make this program work. I would like to send out a personal thank you to Jack Simms and his

board for always putting together and handling the American Legion Baseball for Wyoming.

With this being the centennial year



for Legion Baseball, please encourage your post members to attend the local games, help in the concession stands, or by presenting colors prior to tournaments. Show the community that we support our Baseball and its' players.

I want to remind all of you that there are scholarship opportunities available and if you have an outstanding senior player, please nominate them for these scholarships. Reach out to your local post for more information.

 $Russell\,Stafford\,\hbox{-}\,Department\,Commander}$ 

The American Legion - Department of Wyoming

#### WYOMING IN THE MINORS

			Date	ate			Inducted	
Name	Home Town	Position	Drafted	Team	Round	Debut	Wyo. HOF	
	_	_						
Banks, Lance	Casper	P P	1989	San Diego Padres	FA			
Boone, Gary	Casper		1990	Colorado Rockies	FA FA			
Brownell, Jesse	Casper	OF P	2005 1991	Colorado Rockies Saint Louis Cardinals	65th			
Centeno, Sean	Casper	P	1966		+			
Crabb, Terry Cowen, Austin	Casper Gillette	C	2012	Pittsburgh Pirates Los Angeles Dodgers	35th			
Devereux, Mike	Casper	OF	1984	Cleveland Indians	26th			
Devereux, wike	Caspei	OI-	1985	Los Angeles Dodgers	5th	1987	2017	
Drube, Kirby	Gillette	Р	1994	Los Angeles Dodgers	39th	1987	2017	
Eklund, Jerry	Casper	P	1981	Saint Louis Cardinals	9th			
Engels, Jackson	Sheridan	P	2001	Texas Rangers	+			
Farrell, Pat	Cheyenne	C/DH	2010	New York Mets	32nd			
Harris, Bob	Gillette	P	1935	Detroit Tigers	3211u			
Harris, Joe	Gillette	Р	2022	Colorado Rockies	FA.			
Harvard, Dusty	Casper	OF	2006	San Francisco Giants	35th			
riar vara, Basty	сазрет	O.	2010	Chicago White Sox	34th			
Hutchison, Ryan	Gillette	OF	2011	San Diego Padres	49th			
riateriisori, riyari	Gillette	O.	+	Arizona Diamondbacks	FA			
Gilpatrick, T.J.	Riverton	Р	2000	Oakland A's	25th			
Kalinowski, Josh	Casper	Р	1995	Colorado Rockies	37th			
1.0	сазрет	•	1996	Colorado Rockies	33rd			
Keith, Kyle	Casper	Р	2017	Texas Rangers	24th			
Koza, Dave	Torrington	1st/OF	1973	Montreal Expos	16th			
,			1974	Boston Red Sox	2nd			
Lansing, Mike	Casper	INF	1989	Baltimore Orioles	9th			
<u>.</u>	·		1990	Independent	6th	1993	2017	
Lee, Mark	Casper	P	1985	Detroit Tigers	15th	1988	2017	
Malone, Marvin	Douglas	OF	2018	Tampa Bay Rays	16th			
Mapp, Eric	Casper	P	1990	Los Angeles Dodgers	11th			
			1991	Baltimore Orioles	32nd			
McAffee, Josh	Rock Springs	С	1996	Arizona Diamondbacks	4th			
McClosky, John	Laramie	P	1906	+	+			
McHenry, Billy	Cheyenne	OF	2007	Colorado Rockies	50th			
McNamara, Bob	Casper	P	1964	Pittsburgh Pirates	+			
Monjaras, Gavin	Cheyenne	INF	+	Independent				
Mortimore, Travis	Torrington	P	2007	Seattle Mariners	21st			
Nimmo, Brandon	Cheyenne	OF	2011	New York Mets	1st	2016	2018	
Orr, Danny	Cheyenne	P	1989	Oakland A's	45th			
Rogen, Tanner	Gillette	+	2021	Independent				
Phillips, Ben	Sheridan	P	1994	Montreal Expos	43rd			
			1995	New York Yankees	36th			
Phillips, Blaine	Sheridan	C/OF	1996	New York Yankees	33rd			
Piazza, Tony	Cody	C/OF	1999	Texas Rangers	33rd			
, merca, rony	Couy	C/ O/						
8474 Inc.	Barata Barata	F-12	2003	New York Mets	12th			
Schied, Jeremy	Rock Springs	1st	+	Oakland A's	FA			
Shibuya, Tim	Jackson	P/OF	2017	Minnesota Twins	23rd			
Smith, Aaron	Cheyenne	P	2014	Independent				

<sup>†</sup> Unknown Information

To be eligible for this list, a player must have played his high school baseball in Wyoming and signed a minor league contract, or signed with an independent team.

If you know of someone that we have missed, please send the name to <a href="mailto:baseballwyo22@gmail.com">baseballwyo22@gmail.com</a> and we will





Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. The Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military per-

sonnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war.

In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family



distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. Millions of American Legion Auxiliary poppies are distributed annually by ALA units, raising money for veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

Children are involved in spreading the poppy message, too. Poppy Poster Contests are held in local schools for students in grades 2 to 12. The Little Miss Poppy Contest is a fun event for Junior Auxiliary members ages 6-12 who promote the Auxiliary memorial poppy.

Meeting the continuing needs of our veterans should be the concern of every American who values his or her freedom. The Auxiliary promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate.

# Spotlight on a Veteran William Vernon Davis joined the South Dakota National Guard at 16-years old, then he transferred to the Nebraska National Guard after about 5-6 years. He joined the Seabees in 1968. He went to Vietnam in 1969 where he was in charge of the maintenance division MCB-4. He was exposed to Agent Orange when a tank of it exploded at the Da Nang Airport. He spent time on the Mariana Islands after that and then he came back home on emergency leave. The Navy discharged him as a First Class Petty Officer (E-6). Then he joined the Air Force Reserves in California and they made him a Master Sergeant (E-7) where he worked with the Engineers. He stayed there until he retired after about 22 years total. He can't remember when he retired.

Davis lives in Beulah Wyoming. First Vice Commander Ben Glenn

visited him last month. What a nice man born 14 June on the

Army's birthday. He is 89 years old.

He was a "Fighting Seabee" in the US Navy

# **Memorial Day Facts and History**

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2025 will occur on Monday, May 26.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

The Birthplace of Memorial Day and Early Observances

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.



Decoration Day On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War

veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Parades

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.