

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## IDAHO FALLS POST 56

MARCH 2018

### Message from the Commander

Each and every day I am humbled by the support and dedication shown by our American Legion Family. The Legionnaires of Idaho Falls Post 56 have established themselves as a pillar of our community, as well as a vital resource to our area veterans. Our Auxiliary unit members are quick to show that they live by the motto "Service before Self". Our Sons of the American Legion members have proven time after time, that they stand at the ready to assist our local veterans and their families, plus provide valued support for our Legion programs. And our American Legion Riders, who enrich the lives of the residents of the Pocatello Veterans Home on a monthly basis, further the aims and goals of the American Legion.

Every member of our Legion Family has contributed to our success in their own unique way. Our post would not be as successful as it is without your support and assistance. For this, I am extremely grateful. A simple "Thank You" does not convey my deepest gratitude, but know that your accomplishments are appreciated more than words can express.

Since the start of our 2018 membership year, we have conducted numer-

ous Color Guard details, several dignified flag disposals, helped to elevate the quality of life for those in need during our annual homeless/veterans stand-down, plus enriched the lives of our community's youth through our Americanism programs. For Veterans Day, we participated in 24 separate events in a four-day period. On Veterans Day, we offered a free pancake breakfast to our area veterans, as well as members of our community, during our grand reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony which showcased our building upgrades to the Veterans Memorial Building. And thanks to the coordinated efforts of our Legion Family, we were able to deliver 8,500 items of food to the Pocatello Veterans Home during the 2017 Department of Idaho Food Convoy.

This is a pretty impressive list of accomplishments, although not inclusive, especially considering it only covers the first seven months of our membership year.

Since our grand reopening and ribbon cutting ceremony, Bob Skinner has been busy obtaining additional grants to continue improvements for the Veterans Memorial Building. Now that the front of our building has a

brand new look, Bob applied for and received a grant, through Home Depot, to renovate our meeting rooms downstairs. When all is said and done, we will have new flooring, the walls will be painted white to brighten up the room and the downstairs bathroom will be remodeled with a new vanity and sink, as well as a taller commode for easier use. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers from our Legion Family and Home Depot, this remodel is nearing its completion and looking great.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our American Legion Birthday Dinner on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Social hour will begin at 5 PM, with dinner being served by North Hi-Way Cafe at 6 PM. An Awards presentation will follow to honor local Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighter, Teachers and Post 56 Legion Members. This will be an opportune time to enjoy camaraderie, while experiencing the amazing results of our building remodel.

In closing, I want to "Thank You" for your service and continuing service to our community.

— Commander Darrel Homer

#### Bonneville County Veterans Ceremonial Team

The Bonneville County Veterans Memorial had a busy year. The team provided Military Honors for 106 Veterans in 2017. The Team, along with the Military Honor Guard, is privileged to provide a final tribute to a deceased veteran. The request for Military Honors is usually requested and coordinated through the Funeral Service Provider.

The Team is getting smaller due to passing and illness of our members. If you would like to join our team, please give me a call.

Joseph Behling – (208) 346-1963

#### POST MEETINGS

Post 56 meets the  
1st and 3rd Monday each  
month at 7:00 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial  
Building  
485 Constitution Way,  
Idaho Falls, Idaho.

## Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7PM.

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 56, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, currently has 47 members. We have 5 new members and 6 renewals that are in the process of being updated by National. Currently, we are at 94% of meeting our Goal of 50 and should be well over 100% Membership as soon as our last transmittals have been processed.

Our members:

1.) Continue to support the AL Post 56 memorial team that performs Military Rights

and Color Guard details at various events.

2.) Have supported the annual food drive in gathering, sorting, and delivery of items to the Veterans home in Pocatello.

3.) Hosted several breakfasts for our veterans and their families

4.) Hosted a fundraiser by raffling off a Henry golden Boy 22 LR rifle. The proceeds help us share costs of the American Legion Auxiliary events.

We are investigating the possibility of starting the American Legion Junior Shooting Program.

Thank you  
Greg T. Stultz

## War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo Input

The War Bonnet Roundup continues to improve, and the City of Idaho Falls is doing a great job growing the it into a destination Rodeo. This year the parking fees have bought aluminum bleacher seats on the west side and actual chairs in the grandstand. If plans come to fruition, there will be better ventilation in the kitchen, so people will not have to cook while they are working in there. Parts of our Rodeo will be televised by the Wrangler Network this year and we are trying to get the whole Rodeo televised next year. Our sales have increased yearly with this year promising to be even bigger. That results in more work for us but also results in more money being made for our programs. Be sure to sign up with Al Arnold at the yearly picnic if you want to help again this year. If you cannot make the picnic be sure to let Al know before the Rodeo that you want to work. As security continues to tighten your name will need to be on the list of workers to get in. Parking will probably be the same as last year, but we are always able to make it work no matter what. Thanks to everyone in advance for all the help and let's make 2018 our biggest year yet.

- Bob Skinner

## 2018 AMERICAN LEGION POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Darrel Homer	208-403-2163
1st Vice Commander	John Gentry	208-757-7909
2nd Vice Commander	William Kelley	301-717-0302
Finance Officer	Richard Kearsley	208-821-5746
Sgt-at-Arms	Richard Zopff	208-346-1576
Chaplain	Joseph Behling	208-346-1963
Historian	Max Harrison	208-520-9255
Adjutant	Allen Arnold	208-520-4021
Service Officer	Ken Collins	208-524-1561
Executive Bd. Member	Ken Lembrich	208-313-2238
	Bill Isle	208-535-1244
	Bill Robinson	208-524-3806
Past Commander	Robert Skinner	208-757-7434

## From the Post Service Officer

The 2017 Appeals Modernization Act was signed into law and will take at least 18 months to go into effect while the VA works on the 460 back log legacy appeals. Beginning November 1st, 2017, the VA mailed out 500 "RAMP" letters and another 5,000 on December 1st, with more to come. The letters are being sent to veterans with pending appeals and offer them the option of either remaining in the current legacy system or to waive their rights under the legacy system in order to move their appeal into the Appeals Modernization system. If a veteran accepts to move into the appeals modernization system, they cannot go back to the legacy system. If someone chooses to move into the new Appeals Modernization system, they can currently only accept 1 of 2 options. Option 1, which is a higher level of review and will get a new rating decision within 30 days. If this option is chosen, no new supporting information can be submitted to support the appeal and it will be reviewed by a Rater more senior than the one who made the previous decision. Option 2 allows the veteran/claimant to submit additional evidence to support the appeal and it will then be reviewed/rated again. The option of having the appeal sent to the Board of Veterans of Appeals for a decision under the new Appeals Modernization Act will not go into effect until February 2019 (at the earliest). If you know of anyone who receives a RAMP Letter, please have them contact a Veteran Service Officer to discuss whether the Appeals Modernization is the right fit for their current appeal or if they are better off remaining within the Legacy Appeals System.

- Ken Collins

## Membership Renewal FAQs

I would like to take a minute or two, to talk about the American Legion's membership renewal procedure. Membership in the American Legion is based on the calendar year, beginning January 1st and continuing through December 31st of each year, the renewal process actually begins on July 1st of each year.

As we all know, membership in the American Legion carries valuable benefits. Some of these benefits include discounted prescriptions, discounted hearing health, medical alert systems, travel and lodging discounts, plus moving and relocation discounts. Our membership benefits also include guaranteed whole life insurance, special savings on insurance and financial services through USAA, plus no cost accidental death benefits for Department of Idaho members, termed Legion-Care. This LegionCare benefit will protect you anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, which includes a benefit of \$5,000 accidental death insurance when you are traveling on

official Legion business, and \$1,000 for all other covered accidents.

Our annual dues fund Americanism programs, Children and Youth programs, plus advocacy for Veterans earned benefits at the National and Department levels.

Additional benefits and details can be found by visiting [legion.org](http://legion.org) and clicking on the "Members" link. The American Legion relies on having membership renewals completed by January 1 of each year. Renewal notices are sent to members during the following months: July, October, January, March and May. When a member renews online National updates the membership record, usually within 24 to 48 hours, and removes the member's name from the renewal mailing list. When a member renews at their local post, members may receive an additional renewal notice due to US mail delivery times.

Only a small portion of members dues are retained by the local post. This small portion helps to offset

the costs associated with mailing membership cards, newsletter bulletins and other administrative costs. If dues are renewed early in the membership year, the savings from additional dues mailings can be used to help support our community service projects and provide assistance to veterans.

Unfortunately, if your membership card does not have the year 2018 on it, your membership is considered expired. Legionnaires, who are expired, are ineligible for the benefits described under Legion-Care. This benefit is only paid for members in good standing. Renewing your membership is as easy as visiting [legion.org](http://legion.org), [idaholegion.com](http://idaholegion.com), mailing your renewal dues, or by contacting our Post Adjutant Al Arnold. If you have renewed your membership, or are a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member, "Thank You" for helping to advance the aims and goals of The American Legion. If your membership has lapsed, please consider renewing today.

## Adjutant

The 2018 Membership Year began on July 1, 2017. Membership renewal has been good to date with 88% renewal for our 2018 goal. THE AMERICAN LEGION speaks for all veterans at the national and state levels earned by proudly serving our nation.

Members are requested to disregard any PAST DUE notices, if you have paid your 2018 membership. National Headquarters sends dues notices about every 3 months after the July 1st start of the current membership year. Processing of membership payment can take as long as 4 weeks, during which time a past due notice may be sent to members. **Members can renew their membership online @ [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org).**

Post 56 members, with 25 years or greater **continuous** membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION, will be entered in a drawing for \$250, which will be held at the birthday awards presentation held, Thursday, March 15, 2018. Membership must be current for 2018 to be eligible for the drawing.

**Veterans Information** can be found online @ [www.idahofallsveterans.org](http://www.idahofallsveterans.org).

Al Arnold - Post 56 Adjutant

## Message from the Auxiliary

What a year it has been! We were all very honored this year to support our Veterans both locally, and afar. Our unit activities include: Poppy distributions and Memorial Day ceremonies in May, Independence Day and Veterans' picnic in July, the War Bonnet Rodeo in August, Veterans' Day ceremony and Food Convoy in November, and so many more! Currently we have 85 members, and our Junior Auxiliary is growing as well. This year the Juniors activities included painting rocks as requested from an overseas soldier, writing letters to our Veterans, and organizing food drives for the annual Food Convoy. Auxiliary meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1900 hours at Veterans Memorial Bldg. upstairs. Please share this information with all the women you know. We would love to have you join us!

### 2017-2018 Auxiliary Officers

President	Charlotte Means	716-208-0781
Vice President	Mary Wilding	208-523-6411
Secretary	Holly Rice	208-589-5493
Treasurer	Paula Golicova	208-346-0044
Chaplain	Joyce Stultz	208-523-6411
Sgt/Arms	Darci Phelps	208-360-3529

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
IDAHO FALLS POST 56  
P.O. Box 50275  
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83405-0275

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **March 10, 2018**

7th District Spring Meeting  
Driggs Post 95  
30 E Wallace St  
Driggs, ID 83422

### **March 14, 2018**

All 5th Graders Patriotic Program  
Skyline High School  
Post 56 will provide a Color Guard  
Detail  
All veterans are invited to attend  
Program starts at 7 pm

### **March 15, 2018**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Birthday Dinner  
Veterans Memorial Building  
5 pm Social Hour, 6 pm Dinner  
Awards presentations following dinner

### **May 28, 2018 -Memorial Day Activities**

0800 Flag Colors Ceremony at  
Veterans Memorial  
0830 Ceremony at  
Fielding Memorial Cemetery  
0900 Ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery  
1000 Ceremony at Ammon Cemetery  
1100 Ceremony at Lincoln Cemetery

### **June 3-8, 2018**

Boys State  
Nazarene Northwest University in  
Nampa, ID

### **June 10-June 16, 2018**

Girls State  
Nazarene Northwest University in  
Nampa, ID

### **June 14, 2018**

Flag Day Activities

### **June 14, 2018**

Idaho Falls Bandits vs. Idaho Falls  
Chukars  
Baseball Game @ Melaleuca Field

### **July 4, 2018**

Parade and Celebration Activities

### **July 16, 2018**

American Legion Family and Friends  
Blood Drive  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Time to be announced

### **July 26, 2018**

All Veterans Picnic  
Tautphaus Park Shelter 1  
Beginning at 5:30 pm  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, etc.  
provided by Post 56 and VFW  
Bring a salad or Desert to share

### **August 2, 3, and 4, 2018**

War Bonnet Rodeo  
Concessions operated by Post 56

### **November 29, 2018**

American Legion Family and Friends  
Blood Drive  
Veterans Memorial Building