

THE AMERICAN LEGION



IDAHO FALLS POST 56

DECEMBER 2018

Message from the Commander

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving Day with great food, cherished traditions, and hopefully quality time spent with family and friends. At the risk of sounding overly sentimental, I must admit that Thanksgiving Day is one of my favorite holidays. And the reason that this is a favorite holiday for me, besides the traditional meal, is my family's practice of taking a moment to reflect on "Why I Am Thankful".

Even though we are now closer to Christmas and New Years, with your indulgence, I would like to convey some of my personal observations. If I have not said it enough, please know that I am indeed Thankful for each and every member of our Legion Family. It is only through the selfless acts and dedication to the "Four Pillars" of The American Legion, that we continue to thrive. Whether we are talking about the pillar of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children and Youth, or National Security; our Legion Family remains steadfast in promoting the programs that benefit our fellow Veterans, our service members and their families, the youth of America and the citizens of our community.

One doesn't have to look far, or too hard for that matter, to discover the positive impact we have on each other. Our members, and there are too many to individually name here, prove daily that we are indeed family. They affectionately watch over their brothers and sisters, providing not only support, but relief to those facing hardship. They are quick to remind us all that the sacred bonds of brotherhood will not be broken. They will take time out of their busy schedules to lend a helping hand, provide a shoulder to lean on, or travel the distance to ensure that no member of our family is left feeling excluded or neglected.

Likewise, we do not have to look too hard to see the positive impact we have, on the patriotic values of our community. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our members, we had a direct influence on shaping the new flag policy for Idaho Falls. This new policy now guarantees that the POW/MIA flag will continue to fly 24/7, 365 days a year on several city flag poles, as a crucial reminder that far too many of our Nation's heroes are still missing from our ranks.

Additionally, because our members are considered pillars of the community, we have been able to enjoy a special bond with some very special friends. Recently, volunteers from Home Depot and Senator Crapo's Office went the extra mile to prepare and serve Veterans Day breakfast (approximately 160 people enjoyed this meal). Our community's schools and local businesses came together to make this years Pocatello Veterans Home Food Convoy a success. The requests for veterans in the classroom continues to grow at a steady pace. Plus, our Americanism programs continue to prosper.

There are additional reasons as to why I am extremely "Thankful" for each and every one of you, and everything you do, but in an attempt to keep this message brief I will begin my closing thought. Our Legion Family has worked diligently to further the aims of The American Legion within our community. Whether this has been through active participation, or by paying annual dues to provide the funds needed to guarantee continued success, we would not be where we are today without each and everyone of you. And for this I am extremely grateful, not only today, but every day of the year.

— Commander Darrel Homer

Message from the Adjutant

The 2019 Membership Year began on July 1, 2018. Membership renewal has been good to date with 72% renewal for our 2019 goal of 500 members. THE AMERICAN LEGION speaks for all veterans at the national and state levels for benefits earned by proudly serving our nation.

Members are requested to disregard any PAST DUE notices, if you have paid your 2019 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.**

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 28, 2019. Membership must be current for 2019 to be eligible for the drawing.

DUES INCREASE REMINDER: On January 1, 2019, Post 56 dues will increase to \$45 per year. This is necessary due to a \$5 annual increase in Department of Idaho dues. Members should renew their 2019 memberships prior to December 24, 2018 in order to process their membership by the January 1, 2019 date.

Veterans Information can be found online @ www.idahofallsveterans.org.

Al Arnold - Post 56 Adjutant



2018 AMERICAN LEGION POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Darrel Homer	208-403-2163
1st Vice Commander	John Gentry	208-757-7909
2nd Vice Commander	William Hayes	208-534-8085
Finance Officer	Richard Kearsley	208-821-5746
Sgt-at-Arms	Mark Byers	208-206-9696
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

2018-2019 Auxiliary Officers

President	Mary Wilding	208-589-4005
Secretary	Holly Rice	208-589-5493
Treasurer	Paula Golicova	208-346-0044
Chaplain	Joyce Stultz	208-529-2468
Sgt/Arms	Darci Phelps	208-360-3529
Exec Board	Toni Gimpel	208-521-9872

Sons of the American Legion

We have some pretty exciting news for our SAL members. Actually, it's pretty exciting news for the ALA members as well.

No cost LegionCare has been opened up, to now include the entire Legion Family. SAL members in good standing are now eligible for up to \$5,000 accidental death insurance coverage, at no cost to you.

The \$5,000 accidental death protection is a member only benefit. Should a tragedy occur, your beneficiary will receive a check for \$5,000 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while traveling to or from (or participating in) any event conducted for Legion business. \$1,000 will be paid for all other fatal covered accidents. And again, you pay nothing for this coverage other than keeping your dues current.

The Department of Idaho, of The American Legion, fully endorses this coverage. It is a valuable benefit, only available to Legion Family members, but confirmation is required to finalize LegionCare. Please visit thelit.com, to sign up today.

Membership

From the Adjutant's Column, you were informed that a dues increase will become effective on January 1, 2019. This increase is a direct result of the Department of Idaho raising their dues \$5. With this being said, an explanation for the dues increase is necessary.

The decision to raise the dues for the Department of Idaho, was not an easy decision to make. There were several factors that were carefully considered. The first consideration was membership. When a member signs up on line, via legion.org through Direct Membership Solicitation, the dues are paid directly to National. The new member is immediately transferred to their respective Department, however, National retains the entire sum of the first years dues to offset marketing costs. In this manner, new members are attained, but both Posts and Departments lose their share of a new members dues, until renewals are paid.

Alternatively, through traditional membership drives, when a member is recruited at the Post level, a portion of their dues are retained by the Post and Department. Even though the small portion of dues retained by Posts/Department do not cover the entire operational

costs of the organization, they do support our programs and administrative expenses. These funds provide scholarships and related expenses for programs such as Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Scholarship program, Boy's State and Boy Scouts, plus provide the funds needed for veteran benefits advocacy at the local level.

Another reason why the dues increase was put to the question, was the supplemented income being decreased from corporate donors. Companies such as USAA, who have been great supporters of Idaho American Legion in the past, were not able make as generous of a contribution as they had in previous years. With programs like Legion Insurance Trust (LIT), where members in good standing are eligible for up to \$5,000 accidental death insurance, at no cost, participation in this program had not warranted sizable contributions. LIT has made a past practice of giving back to Legionnaires. By signing up for the free insurance, we are giving permission to receive information on other products sold. These are quality products, at a very affordable rate, and there is still no obligation to purchase additional coverage.

The final reason I will discuss, involves contribution campaigns. In the past, National retained a marketing company who sent out address labels and/or calendars to our members. The money that was returned in the form of donations was distributed between both National and Department, however, it was only a small fraction of the funds that Department received. Occasionally, we will still receive either address labels, or other promotional items during contribution campaigns, but you will notice a different address on the return label. If the return address is listed as 901 W. Warren Street, Boise, Idaho, this campaign has originated from the Department and nearly all of the contributions will be retained by the Department. So if you happen to receive address labels in the mail, you can rest assured that your \$5, \$10 or any size of donation that you wish to remit will be used for the Department of Idaho's operating costs and programs.

I hope that this explains some of the reasons behind our dues increase. Remember, if dues are paid prior to January 1st, you can save the extra \$5 and have peace of mind knowing that you have invested in our continued success.

The Digital Age

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Bob Skinner, who has a proven track record as an accomplished grant writer, and the talented skills of Art Gimpel, additional renovations of our post home have been completed. Bill Kelley and Frank Smith are taking these renovations to the next level, as they complete the set up of WiFi in the Veterans Memorial Building and install large screen TVs for our enjoyment.

As we plan social gatherings to watch sporting events, or classic movies, we will make every effort to keep our members up to date on future post activities. To help with this goal, we would appreciate your assistance in

developing a better communication system. We have identified email addresses for almost half of our membership. If you currently receive email notifications, as several have been sent out over the past year, please take a moment to confirm receipt of these announcements by sending a short note to darrelrh@cableone.net. If you have not received any of our emails and would like to be added to the list, please send a request for notification to the same address (please remember to include your name in the email). And if you would prefer to receive additional notifications by text, please text your name to (208) 403-2163.

Centennial

2019 is a milestone for not only The American Legion, but also Idaho Falls Post 56 as well. Most everyone knows that The American Legion came to life on March 15, 1919 and our next Legion Birthday marks 100 years of continued service to our veterans, our service members and their families, the youth of our nation and our communities. But were you aware that Idaho Falls Post 56 also turns 100 years old this coming March. It's true.

As members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris, France for the first American Legion caucus, they knew that their returning comrades would need help with medical care, reintegration into the work force, educational assistance and many other issues brought on by their involvement in the war. Their reasons to unite with their brothers in arms led to not only to the birth of the largest wartime veterans service organization, but also to the formation of the US Veterans Bureau (the forerunner of the Veterans Administration). From the beginning, they advocated for veterans benefits, influenced considerable social change and created numerous programs for children and youth.

Membership quickly rose to over 1 million, as local posts sprang up across the country. Like their brothers attending the first American Legion caucus, our charter members quickly answered the call of continued service in 1919.

Through the years, Legionnaires were directly responsible for the creation of: a resolution supporting the Boy

Scouts of America in 1919; the first Flag Code in 1923; the American Legion Baseball program in 1925; the Sons of the American Legion in 1932; American Legion Boy's State in 1935; the National High School Oratorical Scholarship program in 1938; the GI Bill in 1943; we helped the American Heart Association find their footing in 1946 and also helped the National Association for Mental Health find their footing in 1950; the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in 1954; and the National Emergency Fund in 1969. Although this is only a short list of our accomplishments, there are many other historic successes to be proud of as well.

Today, as we complete our first 100 years of service, we should feel compelled to brag (at least a little) about our accomplishments. We have made great strides to ensure that our veterans receive the health care they rightfully deserve, our community's youth understands and exercise patriotic values, the family of our deployed service members receive support, and the widows and orphans of our fallen heroes are never neglected.

As we look to the future, to ensure that our legacy is carried on for the next one hundred years, we must ask ourselves "Who will fill our shoes". This question was raised by Past National Commander Charles Schmidt. It is an important question that merits serious thought. To assure continued success for generations to come, who will carry on the mission of The American Legion, building upon our pillars of service and advancing our goals. And as a final thought, have we recruited those members yet?

War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo Report

The Rodeo was very successful this year with many improvements being made in the program and facilities. This was the best year ever for the American Legion as far as profits from the concessions. With additional improvements and additional seating planned for the near future it should only get better for us. I appreciate all the help provided by everyone because without you we would not be able to have such a great success. I look forward to next year and the potential we have to do even better. Again, thanks to all for what you do and what you continue to do. What a team we are.

Bob Skinner
American Legion Rodeo Chairman

Veterans Memorial Building

Our building work has just finished remodeling of the basement and the building is looking great. As soon as I can find someone to put some carpet on the stairs the basement upgrade will be completed. We have recently installed WiFi in the building and have purchased some big screen TV's, so we can maybe have some movie nights, game nights, soap opera nights, super bowl parties, etc. The possibilities are endless, so we need some of your ideas to get us together and have some good times. Some of you have asked about a flag for the building and I am still working on that. We have several possibilities and I want to get the one that works the best for us since this is a very important part of the building, so we want it to be just right. Be proud of our building – I know I am.

- Bob Skinner

From the Post Service Officer

There are a few good things that have come out this year from the VA. Probably the best is the opening of the new VA Outreach Clinic at 640 S. Woodruff (208)522-1922 in Idaho Falls. The clinic is a full blown clinic which will consist of 3 Patient Aligned Care Teams (PAC) model that focuses on providing veterans personalized care. Each patient is assigned a small team consisting of a care provider, a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse and a scheduling consultant. Currently the clinic has two of the three physicians and plans to hire one more. The Grand Opening was 6 Dec 2018 at 11:00hr.

On 1 Oct. 2018, the Veterans Choice Program went away. The program has been replaced by the new Community Care Program. VA offers a variety of health care and services for Veterans through community health care providers and other partners outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a provider (doctor) in their community when VA cannot provide the care they need. This type of care is known as "Community Care," and is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA. These services are

provided to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances. Although some changes have taken place with community care recently, Veterans continue to have access to this type of care. The first step is to schedule an appointment with a VA provider (doctor). You must go through a VA Provider. Your VA care team will work with you to see if you are eligible for community care and will schedule your care with participating Physicians.

We are fortunate here in Post 56, our Commander is the Bonneville County Service Officer and we have State Service Officers Rick Poisel and Debbie Harmon Ph: (208) 235-7890 from the Idaho Division of Veterans Services in Pocatello. If you are having problems with the Department of Veterans Affairs, contact a Service Officer.

Ken Collins
collken2@gmail.com

Thank You

VETERANS

National Executive Committeeman

I have been busy in my new job as your National Executive Committeeman. I attended my first NEC meeting in that capacity and it was a great meeting. We passed a resolution to try to get Congress to declare anyone who has served on active duty after Pearl Harbor is eligible for membership in the American Legion. We have basically had people in harm's way ever since Pearl Harbor so the people who have been in harm's way should be able to join our great group. That would be a big plus for our membership. My primary job is to keep the communication going between the people in Idaho and the people at National so if you have something that needs to get to a higher level let me know. We still need to use the chain of command and if we can handle it at the Department level, we need to do that, but some things may need to go higher and that is my job to get them there. Our Department is looked at as one of the best operations in the nation so be proud of yourselves and our Department. Keep on keeping on.

Bob Skinner, National Executive Committeeman

Scholarships

Hopefully you are all aware of the invaluable opportunities we provide to our community youth, through Boy's State, Girl's State, the High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, Scouting and Legion Baseball. Participation in these programs also provide scholarship opportunities as well. On the off chance that you are not familiar with some of the scholarship opportunities available, here is a list of scholarships and their individual requirements.

The Samsung Scholarship is available to Boy's State and Girl's State participants. \$10,000 and \$5,000 scholarships can be awarded (two in each region) to participants who are direct descendants of wartime veterans eligible for membership in The American Legion. Applications must be submitted online, by the 1st day of Boy's State or Girls State.

The Legacy Scholarship is a needs based scholarship used to fill the gap, after all federal/state grants and scholarships have been utilized. This scholarship provides up to \$20,000 and may be reapplied for up to 6 times. It is available to children of the U.S. military who died on Active Duty on or after September 11, 2001, or a child of a Post 9/11 veteran with a combined disability of 50% or more (as determined by Department of Veteran's Affairs). Applications are due by April 9th and the scholarship must be used within 1 year.

American Legion Baseball Scholarship in the amount of \$500 is awarded to a player in each department. Eight player will be selected (by selection committee) to receive an additional \$2,500, plus a 9th player selected as most outstanding of All Academic Team will be awarded an additional \$5,000. Scholarships must be used within 8 years of graduating high school, excluding military time.

Oratorical Contest. Starting at the Post level, contestants can literally talk their way to college. Winners from the Post Contest receive scholarship money, with the 1st place winner advancing to District Contest. The same format of scholarship awards and advancement is used through the District Contest, Area Contest and Department Contest. The 1st place winner from the Department Contest advances to National Competition, where they will be awarded a minimum of \$1,500 (National also provides airfare and hotel accommodations for the contestant and a parent or guardian). At the National Contest, each 1st place winner who advances,

but does not qualify for Finals receives an additional \$1,500. The winners of the National Contest will receive \$18,000 for 1st Place, \$16,000 for 2nd Place and \$14,000 for 3rd Place. Students in grades 9th through 12th may compete each year, unless they place in the top 3 Nationally.

Eagle Scout of the Year. One \$10,000 scholarship is awarded, plus 3 Runner-Up Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each.

Junior Shooting Sports. One Precision scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$5,000, plus one Sporter scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$5,000. Additionally, one 2nd Place scholarship is awarded in each category, in the amount of \$1,000 each. Winners in both categories will receive an expense paid trip to The American Legion National Convention, where they will be honored as a part of Youth Champions Delegation.

Children of Warriors Scholarship. 15- \$5,000 Scholarships (3 from each of our 5 geographic regions), will be awarded to applicants in Undergraduate study, at a 4 year accredited College or University. The Applicant must be descendant of a veteran who served in the Armed Forces during Time of War and the veteran must have been eligible for membership in the American Legion. The application deadline March 1st

Non-Traditional Student. 5- \$2,000 scholarships (1 from each geographic region) will be awarded to applicants pursuing training in certified trade, professional or technical programs, or a 2 or 4 year degree program. Applicants must be a member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of American Legion, with at least 3 years of continuous membership.

SPIRIT OF YOUTH (3 CATEGORIES). The ALA Girls Nation President will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, the ALA Girls Nation Vice-President will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, and the ALA Girls Nation Outstanding Senator will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. Additionally, an Honorary National Junior Division Vice-President will receive a \$2,000 scholarship (there are 5 scholarships total in this category, 1 from each Division)

For more information and applications, please visit legion.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 21, 2018

All Veterans Christmas Party
Veterans Memorial Building
5:00 p.m. Social Hour, 6:00 p.m. Dinner

January 10-13, 2019

Midwinter conference
Red Lion Hotel
Boise, Idaho

March 9, 2019

7th District Spring Meeting
Post 56
485 Constitution Way
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

March 9, 2019

Department Commander Homecoming
Post 56, Veterans Memorial Building
485 Constitution Way
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

March 14, 2019

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 28, 2019

THE AMERICAN LEGION Birthday Dinner
Veterans Memorial Building
5:00 p.m. Social Hour, 6:00 p.m. Dinner
Awards presentations following dinner

May 27, 2019 -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 2 - 7, 2019

Boys State
Nazarene Northwest University in Nampa, ID
June 9-June 15, 2019
Girls State
Nazarene Northwest University in Nampa, ID

June 14, 2019

Flag Day Activities

July 4, 2019

4th of July Activities

July 11 to 14, 2019

American Legion, Department of Idaho Convention
Worley, Idaho

July 25, 2019

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 1, 2, and 3, 2019

War Bonnet Rodeo
Concessions operated by Post 56



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

Bonneville County Veterans Ceremonial Team

The Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Team had a busy year. The team provided Military Honors for 86 Veterans in 2018. 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.