

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## IDAHO FALLS POST 56

JANUARY 2015

### Message from the Commander

In 2014, the American Legion Team accomplished many great things. Veterans Day was a big success for us since we were in many schools and got a chance to relate our experiences to many students from first graders to high schools – we were at them all. We hit 41 events in all and reached hundreds of students. It continues to be a busy time for the Veterans Memorial Team – two at the same time two Saturdays in a row - but we pulled it off without a hitch. It is a great service we provide for the Veteran and their families – thank all of you who are involved. Membership is going well – we have several new members

who are somewhat younger and we all need to keep looking for more. If you know a Veteran invite them to one of our meetings and let them see all the good work we do every day. The Christmas party, held on December 15, 2014, was an all Veteran affair with approximately 140 members and guests attending the party. Hope to see you all at our Birthday Dinner in March. Come celebrate the American Legion with us and help us honor the service anniversary of your fellow members as well as the policeman, fireman, sheriff's deputy, teacher and state patrolman of the year.

— Commander Bob Skinner

### War Bonnet Rodeo

Work on the War Bonnet now goes year round since it has grown into a major event. I have signed contracts for the people involved in the Rodeo this year. We will probably not be doing the Sunday Bull Riding Event this year, since it did not make money for us last year. We are still looking at options. Rodeo is July 30, 31 and August 1, 2015. We will need lots of help so please block of those dates in your calendar.

### Membership

We find ourselves in a place where we need to dig deep and get those memberships in. If you have not turned in your membership by now please get them into Al or at the next meeting. We are in a tight race and need to get them in. Remember that as a large post in Idaho we are eligible for Cash... So get them in ASAP.

Abe  
1st Vice Commander

### Building Work

I'm sure you have all noticed the work being done on our building. I have received two grants to get work done on the building. First is a grant to construct a handicapped access to the building and renovate the upstairs bathrooms. We will be constructing a ramp between the building to the east and our building with a door to be installed in the east wall of the meeting hall. The second is refurbishment of the building brickwork on the front and install new doors and windows. I believe both projects will take about two years to complete – maybe longer. We are also replacing the downstairs sink and installing some new cabinets. My next plan is to apply for a Home Depot grant to do some rework downstairs. Most funds for these projects come from fund raisers by several area businesses with some funds from the County Commissioners.

Bob Skinner, Chairman  
Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Commission

## Message from the Adjutant

The 2015 Membership Year began on July 1, 2014. Membership renewal has been good to date with 90% renewal for our 2015 goal. In these troubled economic times it is important to have a voice speaking for the veterans. THE AMERICAN LEGION speaks for all veterans at the national and state levels. I urge each member to renew your membership and ask your fellow veterans to join us in securing the benefits all veterans have earned by proudly serving our nation.

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 March 6, 2015.

Veterans Information: Veterans information and information about local Veterans Service Organizations can be found online @ [www.idahofallsveterans.org](http://www.idahofallsveterans.org).

Al Arnold  
Post 56 Adjutant

### Bonneville County Veterans Ceremonial Team

The Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Team had a busy year. The team has provided Military Honors for 111 Veterans in 2014. 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.

Jim Greenhalgh – 346-1963

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 56 OFFICERS

2015

Commander	Bob Skinner	757-7434
1st Vice Commander	Charles Abrahamson	357-5226
2nd Vice Commander	Bill Robinson	524-3806
Finance Officer	Richard Kearsley	821-5746
Sgt-at-Arms	Richard Zopff	552-5330
Chaplain	Jim Greenhalgh	346-1963
Historian	Max Harrison	520-9255
Adjutant	Allen Arnold	529-0445
Service Officer	Mike McLendon	243-1045
Executive Bd. Member	Ken Collins	521-7706
	Tommy Ogawa	522-5962
	Bob Woods	522-1883
Past Commander	Ron Walquist	357-5226

## Sons of the American Legion

I would like to report on the latest meeting of the SAL, since the squadron hasn't been active for quite some time. Currently the squadron has 17 members on the rolls, which puts the squadron 113.33% for the 2015 membership year. We recently held a squadron meeting in which four members were in attendance. The rest was either too young to attend or out of the area. As you can tell from this, the squadron needs help in getting the membership numbers up.

The squadron is requesting your help in identifying and getting eligible people to join the squadron. While I was in the hospital recently, I had people come in to visit who were visiting veterans and thanking them for their service. I talked with a couple of gentlemen who were very open to the idea and I invited them to the Legion Christmas party. Hopefully, we will be able to show them what the Legion family does for the community and entice them to join.

During a recent meeting, it was decided by the members present to have the squadron meeting **the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.** This will continue until the membership numbers are at a level where we can do more. Please encourage your friends to come out and join us.

- John Gentry, Squadron Adjutant

## Message from the Auxiliary

We want to remind you again that the regularly scheduled meetings are the third Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Veterans Memorial Building here in Idaho Falls. We have continued to work the programs that we've always done and want to thank you for continuing with your support. Many of you can't attend meetings but do help out when we've asked you to assist as we need baked goods, items for the Veteran's Gift Shop, or volunteers to reach into the community when we do the Poppy Program, go to schools for visits and to accept donations they give for the food convoy, or to help in the classrooms during the year. We appreciate your donation of time that you give in the community as you continue to offer service to others. There have been many new Veterans join with The American Legion Post #56, we would love to meet your wife and have her attend one of our meetings. Perhaps she'll be motivated to join with us as we work together with the Legion on so many programs. Legionnaires, just bring her with you to a meeting when you come that way she can see what we do and why we are motivated to serve in the Auxiliary.

This year our Auxiliary members started service as we helped with the War Bonnet Rodeo in August, sure was fun making those Nachos! We have worked down at the Pocatello Veterans Home throughout the fall and at the Christmas Gift Shop. We thanked some local schools for helping raise the awareness of Veterans and how they can say thank you. We have collected non-perishable food items from these local schools that were taken down to the Pocatello Veterans Home in Pocatello in November, part of the Legion Food Convoy. Thank-you baskets were placed in the teachers lounges for National Education Week—they were surprised by all the treats provided from the unit. At that same time we left information on the Americanism Essay contest that students in grades 3 through 12 can participate, we'll go back in February to collect and judge their essays. Also, the Syringa Girls State program is already in the planning and Idaho Falls selects many girls to represent our unit. We will again distribute Poppy's in May close to Memorial Day. The donations received from this goes to aid Veterans, active duty and those that have already

served our country. Our Unit does so much and we could really use more volunteers to help us with all these programs.

Paying your dues has allowed our unit to continue to represent the American Legion Auxiliary as the World's largest Women's Patriotic Veterans service organization. You should all be receiving the National magazine—and if you are not receiving this and have paid your dues, let me know right away so you'll get the magazine.

If you do any service/volunteer work, please just let me know so I can record them for reporting purposes, if you can't attend a meeting then email those numbers to me. Just tell me what you did, the hours you spend, veterans served, and any dollar amount that you spend.

If you want to help but not sure how—give President Darci or myself a call. Darci—208-360-3529 – Toni—208-529-5710

We are the officers for Unit #56 that would love to see new faces at our meetings.

### Veterans Information

Veterans information and information about local Veterans Service Organizations can be found online @ [www.idahofallsveterans.org](http://www.idahofallsveterans.org).

### Boys State

Boys State is coming up at the end of school. I will be getting the application forms out to the schools and am hoping for several applicants. Each year we run at the same time as something – debate finals, speech finals, baseball camp and the list goes on and on. We get the information out to the counselors and see who we can get. I am looking for someone who would like to take this program over from me – it is not a huge task but I need someone else to help me with it. I have all the details so if you would like to help let me know.

— Bob Skinner, Boys State Chairman

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 5, 2015, 5 p.m.**  
Post 56 Oratorical Contest

**January 15-18, 2015**  
Mid-Winter Conference, Red Lion  
Hotel Downtowner, Boise, ID

**January 20, 2015**  
**Time & Place TBD**  
District 7 Oratorical Contest

**Date, Time & Place TBD**  
Area C Oratorical Contest

**February 28, 2015**  
State Oratorical Contest, El Kora  
Shire Building, Boise, ID

**March 6, 2015**  
Post 56 American Legion Birthday  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Social Hour 5:00 P.M.  
Dinner: 6:00 P.M.  
Awards Program to Follow

**March 14, 2015**  
7th District Spring Meeting,  
Ashton, ID

**May 25, 2015**  
**Memorial Day Activities**  
0800  
Flag Raising 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 7-14, 2015**  
Boys State, Nazarene Northwest  
University, Nampa, ID

**June, 2015**  
**Date and Time TBD**  
Flag Day Activities

**July 4, 2013**  
Independence Day Parade and  
activities

**July 30, 31, August 1, 2015**  
War Bonnet Rodeo

### 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.