



POST 90 GAZETTE

Edited by Amy Ostler

State and Federal Benefits Fair

Come visit with VA experts and learn about resources and opportunities improving the lives of our Veterans.

For more information please visit www.veterans.utah.gov

**Wednesday,
Feb. 6, 2019**
11 AM to 3 PM

**Southern Utah
Veterans Home**
160 N 200 E, Ivins UT 84738

VETERANS BENEFITS OPEN HOUSE



Save the Dates!

American Legion of Utah District 7 Spring Conference

Saturday, April 20th, 2019
11:00 am - 1:00 pm (lunch served 12:30 pm)
\$15.00 per person (includes meal, cookies and water)
PAY AT REGISTRATION TABLE
136 North 100 East, St George

RSVP by April 10th, 2019 martibigbie@gmail.com

2019 Department of Utah Convention

Dates of Convention:
21-22-23 June 2019

Location:
Desert Garden Inn
1450 So. Hilton Drive, St. George, UT. 84770

POT LUCK / MEETING

Italian Cook Off!

February 27, 2019 at 6:00 PM The Legion Hall.

Guest Speaker for the evening will be Ron Lewis USN

A-G Vegetables H-M Desserts
N-S Salads T-Z bread/butter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 6** - Veterans Benefits Open House
- Feb 9** - Dixie/Pine View JROTC Military Ball
- Mar 2** - Department Oratorical Contest
- Mar 16** - American Legion 100th Birthday



Commanders Message

Marti Bigbie

Post 90 St George did reach the goal for paid memberships for 2018-2019 BUT please continue to seek out those Veterans that are not members and Invite them to join the American Legion. Also let them know that we have an active Auxiliary.



Currently looking for Nominations for Officers for 2019-2020 for Post 90. If you are interested please let me know and I will add your name to the list. Positions are Post Commander, Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Service Officer, Chaplain, Sgt-at-Arms, Historian & PR, Judge Advocate, and Membership. YES I do have names already but if you are interested in any of the above please let me know and if you need additional information about these positions give me a call. I want everyone to have to opportunity to serve if you desire in your American Legion. In some cases there is going to be a ballot that will be sent out for you to choose who you want to serve as your Executive Committee. Most of these positions are appointed but I want the membership to have the opportunity to step forward and volunteer to serve the Post and your American Legion.

District 7 Report

Marti Bigbie

District 7 Spring Conference will be held on April 20th, 2019 at St George Chamber of Commerce, 136 North 100 East, St George. The meeting will start at 11:00 - 12:30 pm with Lunch served at 12:30 pm. At this Conference a NEW District 7 Commander will be chosen. There are 2 applications that have been forward to the Posts within District 7 for their review with the members of their Posts and if unable to attend send a proxy vote to be read at the Spring Conference on April 20th. This meeting is open to any American Legion member from Posts within District 7. You will also hear from the candidate who is running for Department of Utah Vice Commander - Ken Hansen and Department Commander - Marti Bigbie. For those Posts that have reached 100% paid membership by 4-20-19 you will receive a certificate and pin for a job well done so plan on attending or sending a representative. At this meeting we also have reports from the Department officers that will be attending.

Vice Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

What can I say but THANK YOU for all the time the Commanders, Adjutants, Membership Chairs are putting into obtaining the 100% paid membership by the time of their District meetings. Utah has made every % of goal for paid membership by the due dates. You are doing great, but we still have a little way to go for ALL Posts to have 100%. Sure would like to present to the Posts the 100% certificate and pin to show as a reward for a job well done.

Veteran Spotlight

'We had to do something'

The American Legion Jan 30, 2019

On Jan. 25, the longest government shutdown came to an end, stopping what had been more than a three-week gap since 800,000 federal workers had been paid.

Among those were more than 41,000 active-duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard. The American Legion was able to provide more than \$1 million in non-repayable grants to approximately 1,713 Coast Guard families with 3,170 children.



But across the nation, American Legion Family members also did their part to assist local Coast Guardsmen, raising funds, providing free meals and delivery much-needed household items and gift cards to those servicemembers.

Edward C. Headman Post 217 in Wyandotte, Mich., was one of those posts stepping up, purchasing 33 \$100 Visa gift cards to distribute to all the personnel at Coast Guard Sector Detroit. The post also teamed up with Downriver for Veterans to collect enough food and toiletries from the community to fill up a box truck that also was presented to the Coast Guardsmen.

For Post 217 Commander Mike Huber, the cause was very personal. His son-in-law, Boatswain's Mate 1 Gerry Rohrer, is an instructor at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Va.

"It really gets emotional. It's our oldest daughter, and they're struggling," Huber said prior to the end of the government shutdown. "He said his biggest battle every day is he goes in there with a couple hundred kids, young recruits, with no money, no income. They've got car payments. They've got mortgages. This stuff is real. It is difficult as a parent to see one of your kids go through that."

In addition to the gift cards, Post 217's American Legion Family also helped provide food, laundry detergent, personal hygiene items, diapers, paper products, juices and other items.

Huber said the fundraising and collection efforts included educating those in the community that Coast Guard members weren't getting paid because they were under the Department of Homeland Security, not the Department of Defense. "No one had a clue. They just presumed they were getting paid," he said. "That's what got the ball going. And it just kept growing."

The following are other examples of American Legion Family members coming to the aid of their Coast Guard brothers and sisters, as well as federal workers, during the shutdown.

California. In Vallejo, American Legion Post 550 moved quickly to help area Coast Guardsmen. The post presented \$2,000 in \$50 gift cards to members of U.S. Coast Guard Station Vallejo. "We needed to do a little bit to help. We had to do something for these guys," Post 550 member Gary Blackburn told the Times-Herald.

Vallejo City Councilmember Hakeem Brown attended the presentation, which was made to a Coast Guard captain representing the Coast Guard station. "He was very thankful," Brown told the Times-Herald. "He appreciated the fact that (the Vallejo veterans) were trying to make sure they (the Coast Guard members) were being taken care of."

Post 550 also helped facilitate 50 Coast Guardsmen applying for American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants and plans on collecting items from a wish list provided by the Coast Guard that included items such as diapers and toiletries.

Delaware. In Millsboro, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 purchased approximately \$1,500 in Walmart gift cards for area Coast Guard members. The intention for the gift cards was “so people can get their food there and whatever, and gift cards from Wawa so they will be able to put gas in their cars to go where they need to go,” Linda Shelly, president of Unit 28 Auxiliary, told the Delaware State News.

Georgia. American Legion Post 184’s Legion Family in Savannah collected funds and food for Coast Guardsmen, forming collection spots along the street using buckets and boots.

Maine. A breakfast fundraiser hosted by Charles E. Sherman Jr. Post 36 in Boothbay Harbor raised \$2,000 for members of the Coast Guard. “The community has come together so well to fill the gap,” Post 36 Commander David Patch told the Boothbay Register. “We recognized that we all had to step up within a couple of weeks after Washington demonstrated their inability to get their act together.”

Adam Smart, Officer-in-Charge of Coast Guard Station Boothbay Harbor, told the Boothbay Register that “We always knew this was a special community. But we’ve been taken aback by the outpouring of support. It’s overwhelming. A simple ‘thank you’ is not going to cut it.”

Members of Stewart Morrill American Legion Post 35 in South Portland collected more than \$800 for members of the Coast Guard’s Sector Northern New England, which serves Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

And in Camden, Post 30 donated the proceeds from its pancake breakfast to the Coast Guard despite the shutdown having ended two days earlier.

Post 30 member Jeff Sukeforth told the Penobscot Bay Pilot that the effort was “one veteran to another. We want to do what we can for them.”

Michigan. In Hancock, Alfred Erickson Post 186 collected household items for the more than a dozen Coast Guard families in the area impacted by the shutdown. “They’re continuing to serve, they’re serving our country and they keep going on, and we should at least be able to help them out as much as we possibly can, take a little bit of a strain off of them,” Post 186 Commander Ronald Olson told WLUC-6.

In Grand Haven, American Legion Post 28 provided free meals on Wednesdays and Fridays to personnel from Grand Haven Coast Guard Station.

“This community is Coast Guard,” Post 28 Adjutant Larry Lambert told WZZM-13. “That’s who we are.”

In Marysville, J. Edward Mallorej Post 449 collected non-perishable foods and toiletries, and gift cards from Kroger, Meijer and gas stations to distribute to members of the Coast Guard.

“We’re veterans. To us, that’s our main reason for doing this,” Post 449 Adjutant Andie Semrow told the Times Herald. “Veterans (are) in need, and we want to help veterans. Whatever we can spare to get them what they need, to get them through the hard times that they have right now.”

And in Bay City, American Legion Post 18 teamed with Bay Veterans Foundation and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 103 to collect food items, toiletries and gift cards for Coast Guardsmen. Post 18 also offered Coast Guard members and their families a free meal during the post’s Friday fish fries.

New York. Post 1757 in Sackets Harbor collected food and toiletries for those hurt by the shutdown.

“I know if I wasn’t getting a paycheck ... you get strapped for cash and you’ve got to keep a roof over your head,” Sons of The American Legion Past National Vice Commander Ray Jarvis, a member of Squadron 1757, told WWNY-7. “Sometimes food seems to come last in the order of processes of keeping a roof over your head, paying your heat, especially this time of the year.”

Pennsylvania. Post 903 in Tannersville collected clothing, toiletries, baby diapers and more for members of the Coast Guard in Philadelphia. The post spent approximately \$1,000 to buy the items.

"For people who have kids and everything and with money not coming in, I've got to assume that they need this badly," Post 903 member Bill Hamilton told WNEP-16.

South Carolina. American Legion Post 114 in Georgetown teamed with other veterans service organizations to collect food, gift cards and monetary donations.

Texas. American Legion Post 176 in Presidio worked with the West Texas Food Bank and Big Bend Family Crisis Center to deliver food to federal workers impacted by the shutdown. District 16 Legionnaires, including those from Post 79 in Alpine, also teamed up to help deliver food to nearly 200 workers in Alpine and at Big Bend National Park.

And in Houston, American Legion Post 490 hosted a fundraiser put on by USO Houston and the Tejano Veterans Association to help support Coast Guard families impacted by the shutdown. More than 200 families were helped by the event.

Virginia. More than 60 federal workers and their families attended a free meal hosted by American Legion Post 290 in Stafford County that included smoked turkey with mashed potatoes and green beans, beef tips over rice, homemade macaroni and cheese, and dozens of desserts.

"This was a lovely gesture," federal worker Kristina Hudgins told The Free Lance-Star. "It kind of restores your faith in humanity when you're in the midst of something like this, and you know your community is there for you."

And though the shutdown was over, American Legion Post 52's Legion Family in Newport News still hosted a free homemade meal on Jan. 27 for Coast Guard members and their families. The public also was invited to attend the meal; money raised from their attendance will be used to help the Coast Guardsmen in the future.

"There's still a need to help them. Their hardships are not going to be solved overnight," American Legion Auxiliary Unit 25 President Terry Devlin told WTKR-3. "We're all one big family and that's what you do - you help your family."

Washington. In Port Townsend, Marvin G. Shields Post 26 hosted a meal for the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Osprey, which is based at Port Townsend's Boat Haven. And they have collected more than \$2,000 to support the Coast Guard.

Items of Interest

February 2019 Sentinel Article

The American Legion Post 142 started off the New Year with our first meeting on January 3, 2019. At the Meeting we touched upon getting more members involved by establishing service committees to help us better serve our Community and Veterans.

Last Year the Post Sponsored a young man to Boys State, Donated to The Southern Utah Veterans Home by providing Christmas Gifts to Veterans at the Veterans Home and donated to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust for Military Families and Veterans in Need. Along with the SunRiver Quilting Club and the National Quilts of Valor Foundation presented Beautiful Quilts of Valor to many veterans in our community.

The Posts Color Guard was instrumental with our Community Flag Program by Presenting the Colors on resident's homes who have signed up for the service and on the Parkway on all major holidays. They also took care of the flags at the Veterans Honor Park and at the SunRiver Community Center by replacing and lowering and raising the flags on Half Staff Days. The Color Guard along with other Service Organizations participated in Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Veterans Honor Park and various other activities in the community.

The Post Honor Guard joined the American Legion Ritual Team and The Utah National Guard in providing Military Honors at 117 Military Funerals this past year and was involved in at least 25 Flag Raisings, Presentation of Colors at events and Flag disposals.

If you are a veteran and are either a member or would like to join the American Legion and be a part of the many activities check out our web site at SunRiver or contact one of our officers. We are looking forward to another busy and service filled year.

On a Side note!

THE JANUARY 23 POST 90 GENERAL MEETING AND POT LUCK

There were 18 members signed in (and with my poor memory) I believe there were 5 or 6 that brought their spouses with them.

Harvey Hefly (santa clause) showed up with his dislocated fingers (hope they get better real soon Harvey and remember they will feel much better when they quit hurting). Harvey's fingers are battle related, he took a fall at the funeral on Friday the 18th and landed on his hand. He did say that he was not planning on doing it again soon. For the rest of Post 90 that missed the meeting, you missed a great meeting and great food.

Please come to the next meeting (*Italian Cook-Off*) as our weight won't stand much more of the seconds and thirds at the table.

Here is hoping to see a lot more of you at the Feb. meeting Feb. 27 @ 18:00 hrs. (That is 6 o'clock for you guys that have forgotten) at the Legion hall.

Bob" Bodie" Bodenhamer
Post 90 Sgt. at Arms

Dixie/Pine View JROTC Military Ball

Saturday, 9 February 2019 – 1830 hours

The Dixie Center
1835 Convention Center Dr.

Tickets: \$30 per person

Military Uniform or Sunday Dress

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Swiss Steak or Vegetarian

Tickets can be purchased at the Dixie High School Finance Office or online at myschoolfees.com

Please RSVP by 1 Feb 2019 to kenneth.field@washk12.org or (435) 634-4337