



American Legion, Post 21
126 NE Atlantic St.
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-435-2218

May 2026

From your Post Commander:

Gale Sears here; the 2026-2027 Post 21 Commander. It is with pride and gratitude that I am honored to hold this position for a 3rd time.

Most of all a Big thank you to Leroy Brown for his leadership and large involvement during a very difficult period.

There are many things that depend on our entire elected leaders' and their responsibilities for our overall success. The Post depends on the involvement of the Legion, Auxiliary, Son's and Riders collectively in support of our veterans and community.

To achieve more, we are working on the development of our monthly Post newsletter and

website: (www.vetsclub21.org)

email (vetsclub21@gmail.com)

As we move forward, I have directed each family and E-Board members to provide activities and involvement throughout the existing and future year to ensure everyone's awareness and involvement.

We all welcome any support or volunteerism you can provide.

Elections were held on April 15, 2026 in accordance with Post 21 bylaws. Your 2026-2027 leadership is as follows:

Commander – Gale Sears

1st Vice Commander: Randy David

2nd Vice Commander: John Mohammed III

Adjutant: Juan Palacios

Finance Officer: Cheryl Saville-Miller

Judge Advocate: Robert “Doc” Wilson

Chaplain: Thomas Clayton

Service Officer: Paul Krutsch

Historian: Nick McCleskey

Sgt-at-Arms: Lori Paddock Read

At-Large: Lenny Pardue

At-Large: Ralond Troncin

Past Post Commander: Leroy Brown



Armed Forces Day May 16, 2026

Finance Officer: Cheryl Saville-Miller

As the Finance Officer, I would like to provide the following update to all our members as well as anyone else interested in the state of our financial standing.

As many of you know, the membership approved having an accountant firm specializing in forensic audits conduct an audit for years 2022, 2023, 2024 and through October of 2025. In January, our general membership voted to remove years 2022 and 2023 from the scope of the audit given the time it takes to scan all the documents. We started scanning documents in late October 2025. We hired temps and went through 4 before Debra Godwin and I decided to get it done we would take over scanning. We have 2024 documents scanned and are now working on 2025. We hope to have everything uploaded to our accountants performing the audit by the end of May. It is a long laborious process. More to come soon.

In January we also passed the budget for calendar year 2026. Copies were shared at the general, I membership meeting and monthly updates will continue to be shared each month.

I have a request for our membership. Our bylaws require us to have a finance committee to which I am the chairperson. It is critical that we have members participate in not just this committee but others as they help drive how we as a post is held accountable in managing our finances and the business of the post. If you would like to be a member of the finance committee, please contact me through the vetsclub21@gmail.com email address. To date, I have 1 volunteer and would love to have other members step up to help us keep track of our financial

Finance Officer continued:

activities so everyone can be assured that what is reported is accurate.

Our challenge this year will be to track our unrelated business income tax which is new for us, but we have a plan.



May 10th – Breakfast 8-11. Mom's eat free!



**Post 21 American Legion Riders
Director:**

Greetings,
May is a shaping up to be a very busy month for the Riders. Many of our Riders are prepping for another summer of riding and spreading the word about all the things we do for the American Legion and Post 21. Some of our upcoming events and rides include

- Patriot Marker Celebration April 25th
- Run For the Wall May 13-24
- Rhody Days/ Run 3rd weekend in May in Florence
- B-17 Alliance May 16th
- Memorial Day Honor Ride May 25th KSU 9:00am
- McMinnville Youth Baseball Opening May 30th KSU 8:45am
- Flag Day June 6th
- ALR Poker Run/ Sheridan Hometown Days June 20th
- Awards Banquet Chinook Winds Friday June 26th
- OALR Teddy Bear Run for Jack Bailey Convention Lincoln City June 27th
- Veteran Pow-Wow July 10, 11, 12
- Grand Ronde Pow Wow August 14, 15, 16
- Post 21 Scholarship Poker Run August 22nd

We will be holding our annual Scholarship Poker Run on Aug 22 and have tickets available for our grand prize a 2008 Victory Kingpin motorcycle that was donated by our beloved "Coach" Connelly. Hope to see a lot of folks participate this year to help raise funds for scholarships to local schools.

AL Rider Director continued:

Here's to fair weather, clear skies, and safe riding.

Steve Sagmiller
ALR Post 21 Director

A note from Auxiliary:

I hope this note finds everyone healthy and happy.

The Auxiliary held elections and here are your existing and new officers:

Unit President – Debra Godwin,
Vice President– Gregoria Hernandez,
Secretary – Florian Raqueno,
Treasurer – Becky Berweger and
Membership- Sim Sears.

We continue to serve our Veterans lunch on the second Thursday of every month. The lunch continues to grow. We have a yard sale planned for June 5 th and 6 th . We will provide donation dates and more info as the date gets closer. We have put the first annual Unit 21 Veterans Stand Down on hold. We have not been able to obtain any grants to help with the cost. We are asking that donations stop at this time until we can secure the grants and we have a firm date. The estimated cost to put on a stand down is up to \$10,000.

Debra Godwin
Unit 21 President

Hello from the club,

A lot has been happening. Sales continue to climb, long conversations are taking place, customers are excited that we are all back and events are being planned. Cinco De Mayo Dinner, May 5 th , 4pm until 6pm. Memorial Day Annual BBQ, May 25th with BBQ served 12pm until 4pm. We are asking our members to provide side dishes and desserts. Side dishes and desserts should be at the post no later than 11am. 4th of July combined with America's 250th birthday bash, BBQ served 11am until 6pm. We are planning several outdoor games with prizes awarded. Dunk Tank will run all day. Bring your favorite side dish and or dessert for the best dish competition. Bring the whole family for a fun-filled day. More information will be coming out when date is closer. I need to appreciate and thank my amazing team of cooks and servers. I can not do it without each and everyone of you. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. I had a customer tell me a couple weeks ago that our post reminds him of Cheer's, where everyone knows your name, and there is always a family feeling. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support. Together we can do anything!!!

Debra Godwin
Post #21
Club Manager

From Lori Paddock Read

Hello,
I am the newly elected/appointed Sgt at Arms. I served in the Air Force for 3 years at the 2SPS as a Law Enforcement and K9 Handler at Barksdale AFB, LA.
I have been a member of the American Legion since 2015 starting in Redmond, OR. I transferred to Mac in 2016 when I moved home and visited from time to time as college allowed, supporting when I could.
I am proud of my 2 children and 7 grands ranging from 1 to 14 years. I recently lost my husband in March, my soul mate and friend since Jr High here in Mac. We reacquainted in 2018, but his numerous medical needs finally overtook him.
I am happy to be able to give more to the Legion and be a part of this community.
Stop me and say hello if you see me. I don't know very many of you, and it will take me sometime to remember names, but I will get there. Please don't be offended if I have to ask your name multiple times before it sticks.

Thank you all,
Lori Paddock Read

From your 1st Vice Commander:

Dear Members of American Legion Post 21 in McMinnville, Oregon,

My name is Randy David, and I am honored to introduce myself as your new First Vice. In this role, I will be focusing on membership growth, advancing our goals, and building pathways to expand our ranks. To kick things off, I would like to form a membership committee, with at least three representatives, though I welcome more involvement. This committee will meet monthly to discuss strategies and initiatives to improve membership and keep our Post thriving. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity—I truly look forward to working with each and every one of you.

From your Service Officer:

Thank you for selecting me to be your Service Officer for the next year. It is an honor to help those who have served and I hope that I can make you proud to be a member of Post 21. Please let me know if you are aware of any veteran or member of a veteran's family that needs our assistance.

I have been in contact with Claudia Castro, Yamhill County Veteran's Service Officer, to let her know that we are here to help. Recently we helped a veteran in need by paying his electric bill while he continues to look for work. It's nice to be there for those who have served and now need a little help.

Paul Krutsch
Post 21 Service Officer

Adjutant's Letter:

Comrades,

Our newsletter is BACK! Now, all we need is YOU to precipitate with your articles. So, let's start sending those articles and anybody can submit an article. Submit your article to me at: onesgtusmc@hotmail.com or Cheryl Miller at: cdmiller57@gmail.com.

As our newly elected Post Commander Gale Sears said "Communicate—Communicate--- Communicate". Well, Communication is Success. WE need to help each other without NEGATIVITY or BIAS. Believe it or not, negativity does hurt people and can destroy a Post. THINK about it. If you can't say anything kind don't say it.

Currently, I am reviewing all our DD-214 on file. A lot date back to 2015. They are expired and NOT members of our Post. What a shame. To be a member of our Post you have to be "a member in Good Standing". A member in Good Standing is defined as "a dues-paid member". If they are not members, we do not have to retain their DD-214.

I am reaching out to those Veterans to ascertain if they want their DD-214. Also to see if they are still interested in being a member of our Post.

Our membership goal is 84.65% as of 04-25-2026. We have 37 new members; 49 PUFL (Paid Up For Life); 280 renewals; 9 Transfers from Dept; A total of 375 members. To reach 100% ,we need 68 renewals or new members. Post GOAL is 443 members to be 100%. Being 100% shows we are PROUD and LOYAL TO OUR VETERANS. So, lets RECRUIT.

It's our responsibility to keep our Post alive.

Adjutant continued:

If each members recruits one member, that would be PHENOMENAL. We also need to retain them in the American Legion Post 21.

In closing, LETS BE PROUD OF OUR POST AND OURSELF. May God Bless you and your family.

Semper Fi,
Juan M. Palacios
Post 21 Adjutant



Join us for dinner from 4-6 pm.
Fundraiser for the 4th of July celebration!
\$13 per person.

From your Judge Advocate:

Hello, everyone. I am known as "Doc" (Bob Wilson). I am currently the Judge Advocate for the Legion, and was past Adjutant. I am also a member of the Legion Riders and past Sgt-at-Arms, and past secretary.

I am a proud veteran of the US Navy as a corpsman and was fortunate to have worked in surgery on the emergency trach team and ENT team. As a Navy Corpsman, I shared a close bond with the Marine Corps. These bonds are filled with life long memories and friendships.

Judge Advocate continued:

I had the great opportunity to work with Coach Jim Conelly on the scholarship committee. Coach has big shoes to follow. I am and will do the best I possibly can to continue his legacy.

Sincerely,

Doc Wilson

From Son's of American Legion,
Squadron 21.

It is an exciting time right now because we are accepting nominations for new SAL Officers. We are honored to support American Legion Post 21.

We are currently working on a new Patriotic Project, SAL will start supporting Fallen Soldiers that are American Legion Members and their families by offering to help financially to put the Veteran's name on the Honor Memorial Stones in the American Legion Rose Garden. We are also gathering information on how to best support our Community Youth.

We look forward to help American Legion on the third Friday of the month by volunteering in the kitchen with Prime Rib service.

God bless
SAL Commander
Angel Mendoza