Legion Post 21

November 2026 Post News

126 NE Atlantic St

McMinnville, OR 97128

https: vetsclub21.org & vetsclub21@gmail.com & FB: MAC American Legion, OR

Post Commander

Commanders' news

Additions to our goal of communications have come to actuality. Our new post website **https: vetsclub21.org** is up and running now with four administrators to sustain updated information. The website has already produced a great deal of interest and involvement, Thank you! Also, a new face book page **MAC American Legion**, OR for activity sharing. I personally thank Nicholas McCleskey and Lori Paddlock-Read for their involvement in these post updates. We continue to encourage post family and member involvement in our general membership meetings and have created an incentive to be presented during our meetings for members in attendance. As result of the involvement, I personally want to thank those who work very hard to install our new container and repair damaged chairs for relocation within our Hall of Honor meeting room. A number of our members have been nominated to apply for the National Quilts of Valor award. As the applications are submitted there will be a coordinated event for presentation by Mrs. Sharon Brenier and her staff at the Post. Date and time to be determined. See the last page for information concerning the opportunity to be the one for the **Journey of Heroes (JOH) program in spring 2027**.

The Post and Axillary are hosting a Veterans Day Turkey Lunch & dinner Banquet all day. All veterans are welcome to attend, eat well and be with your local fellow veterans!

Gale Sears

1st Vice Commander

Nicholas McCleskey (Nick) nickair@ymail.com

NEW: ABOVE THE BAR SIGN: vetsclub21.org
NEW: WEBSITE vetsclub21.org Much work was done. Check it out and see.
NEW: American Legion Award: To memorialize people's Above and Beyond, contributions and efforts.

1. I Talked September meeting about an American Legion, appreciation award for ABOVE AND BEYOND support of Veterans and/or our post.
2. Past Commander, Leroy and I worked up an award and S.O.P.

3. Cheryl (Finance Officer) & her husband Dan, donated a black walnut plaque, for engraved name plates. This plaque will be for the new Appreciation Award recognition to be memorialized.

Award Recipients:
Rich Pimm (Past Commander 2 x) well known for his decades of Above and Beyond work: he started the rose garden and the memorial; all the post's ceiling military pictures; post license plates; POW Table; to name a few reasons why Rich is appreciated. Rich has supported us at the Post, the state and national levels. He arranged the traveling Vietnam Traveling Wall to come to McMinnville. He Co-chaired the state convention in McMinnville. He is a really great guy that we appreciate.

Sim Sears, Auxiliary and Rider Member: (Secretary & Rider Treasurer) well known for her valuable and appreciated contributions through the Post, Auxiliary and the Riders, which she did and does officer positions for both. Sim has done Above and Beyond involvement at the post, with the Auxiliary, with the Riders and personally for us members. We have appreciated her for decades. Sim is a wonderful person.

Debra Godwin, Auxiliary: (President & our Club Manager.) Well known for her operational efficiency, honesty and caring for Veterans. Debra had done Above and Beyond for years, helping us all out, at our post level, at the state level and at a personal level. She has, with her smile, filled vacant restaurant and bartending positions, without notice, just to keep our club open for us to enjoy. Debra and her smile are very appreciated.
-Please personally congratulate Rich Pimm, Sim Sears and Debra Godwin.

NEXT: Above bar view: American us Legion Family, Auxiliary, Sons & Riders official seals.
NEXT: Continued maintenance and upgrades with website. vetsclub21.org
NEXT: Membership meeting over breakfast: 09:00 Saturday, November 14. We review the agenda items for brainstorming and discussion then execute actions for our post, and its future.
NEXT: I want you to attend our General Membership meeting Wednesday November 18th at 6:00 pm. At the next meeting we will hold a raffle for some surprise items. Thank you for being a member of our family.
Any comments or concerns, please contact me.

Nick McCleskey
Nickair@ymail.com

Juan M. Palacios, Post Adjutant

Hello Comrades,

Greetings,
Am sure that the Good Lord has kept you and your family safe.
The Post Flag was placed at half-staff in honor of Davis Taylor who die in aiding with the evacuation of the Railroad South fire in Oklahoma. He was a Federal Agent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, in remembrance of those who lost their lives at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend Oregon. Three children and a teacher, who was protecting them. May they all rest in peace.
As of 10-24-26 the Post membership: **25 new members**, 45 Paid up for life (PUFL) members, **174 members renewed**. With the grand total of 246 members. We are at 60.5% of our goal. Our goal is 406 members.
Am sure that you know the Marine Corps motto is "Semper Fidelis" which is Latin for "Always Faithful". If we, the members of the American Legion would be faithful to our Post membership, we could be a **very large and strong Post**. Just imagine! I do not understand why people join and then leave. Why did you join? If we know why, it would be very hopeful in keeping us strong. If we do not help our Veterans, then who will? We will disappear. It's like "we do not care".
Send me your reason why you joined and in next month's newsletter I will publish them. Send it to the Post address:126 NE Atlantic St. McMinnville, Or 97128 or e-mail to vetsclub21 @gmail.com Attn Juan Palacios or drop it off at my office. It would be nice to hear from you, so please send me your reasons. Thank you.
All you Marines, remember the Marine Corps birthday on November 10th. The Post will have a lot of Marines celebrating. Oh yea!!
I will end here with may the Good Lord keep you and your family safe. God Bless you.

Your Post Adjutant Juan Palacios

Service Officer: Paul Krutsch @ p.krutsch@comcast.net

Post 21 continues to serve our veterans in need. This past month we had a vet with special diet needs who needed help with groceries. We were able to provide a Winco Family Food card to meet those requirements. Thank you for actively supporting our Post and the veterans in our community.
This month starts our Christmas Tree Sale so we will need volunteers to help in this effort. Sales are slated to start on November 27th and continue through December until all trees are sold. If you can help, please text Paul Krutsch at 503-857-2474. We are looking for volunteers to help sell and to load and unload trees. Any time that you can spare is appreciated.
Paul Krutsch Service Officer

Chaplain's Corner:

Chaplain Thomas Clayton 503-550-8044 armynavy6782@gmail.com

Members mentioned during our general meeting as needing prayer please keep them in prayers. Steve Kindel, Bob Wilson and Paul Krutch. I for one would like to list one prayer that I believe is very much needed at this time. Please pray for our members. It remains stated that the Sons have served our post very well and remain very important to us. Reach out and let them know.

In the event I can be service to you our yours please feel free to contact me.

Chaplain Thomas Clayton MAY GOD KEEP YOU SAFE Psalms 117

Sgt at Arms Lori Paddock Read

Finance Officer Report:

Cheryl Saville-Miller
We are making slow and steady progress in our finances. In September, we brought in $72,641 for all income. This includes the restaurant, RV park, membership and other types of income. Our expenses totaled $70,726.70 which gave us a net increase of $1914.30 for the month. Previously at our general members meeting, I would report what assets we have based on our bank accounts. That is just a moment in time and doesn't portray an accurate depiction of what we have. In the month of October, you will likely see a loss due to some unexpected maintenance items that we were required to take care of, most of which were plumbing issues. Our safe also died and we had to bring in someone who could break into it so we could prepare our deposits and track the money coming in. We now have a new safe that has backups to get into it rather than just a combination. Live and learn. Our old safe held up well over the years but it was time to retire it.

I am still hopeful that someone out there is interested in becoming the finance officer in the next election. It is a time consuming job but can be very fulfilling as well. I have enjoyed my tenure (mostly) and am ready for a new challenge. We are still waiting for the results of our forensic audit and hope to have it by the end of the year. Again, we sent a lot of information so it is taking time to sift through it all.

On another note, a couple of months ago, a group of individuals donated money to fund the SAL discount by pre-purchasing tokens for alcohol. Money for that cannot come from the Post without getting on the wrong side of the IRS. We started out with $575 donated by 6 people. As of this month, we have $150 left to give them the discount. If anyone is interested in helping that fund along, please let me know. If we gather no more donations, we will have to end the discount when that money is gone. However, there is some good news in that Sons can now join Auxiliary if they meet the requirements. If they do that, they will automatically be counted as members and be able to receive the discount on their own.

I am in the process of creating a page for finance on our web page. I will be uploading lots of information that is important for us as a non-profit and general information that everyone should have access to.
Anyone interested in seeing what we do in the finance office, please reach out to me and I am happy to walk you through the day in the life of the finance officer. Until next month, Happy Halloween!

Cheryl Saville-Miller
cdmiller57@gmail.com.

Club Manager
Hello everyone!

The holidays are upon us! The honor room is almost completely booked for family gatherings through January. We will be joining the Yamhill County Melt Down, which sponsors YCAP food bank. Our cooks on competing on coming up with a great sandwich to serve. We will be closing at 4pm November 25th and closed Thursday November 26th for Thanksgiving. It is important that we allow our staff and servers to enjoy the holiday with their family. I would like to highlight our new employee, Brian. He is working 20 hours a week. He is keeping our building clean and repairing anything that needs fixed. He has been a great asset to our post. Appreciate him when you see him!

Debra Godwin
Post 21 Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary

Hello from your Auxiliary. Lots of changes happening with our membership. You can now join if you are a grandparent, spouse, sibling, parent, or grandchild. Female veterans are also eligible under their own service also. Our open house was a success. Thank you to all of those that came and supported our meeting. We are still looking for a veteran and their family to adopt for Christmas. If any of you know of a family, please reach out to us. There will not be a veteran's lunch hosted by the auxiliary this month as veterans' day is November 11th.

Debra Godwin ALA Unit 21 President

American Legion Riders:

Yes, our post has social gatherings and open to our community also a place where veterans find camaraderie, but that is just a small part of long commitment to our veterans., families, and community. Next time you consider your involvement with our post, remember we are veterans continuing our mission to serve America.

American Legion Riders News

Last year Debbie Connelly donated Coach Jim Connelly's Victory motorcycle to raise money for the ALR scholarship fund (now called the Jim "Coach" Connelly Scholarship) that Jim cared so deeply about. The Riders had great success in selling 312 tickets at $20 each for a grand total of $6,240. Director Sagmiller mentioned us doing this again and Jim's great friend Bob "Doc" Wilson stepped forward donating half of his motorcycles value towards the scholarship fund. The group passed the motion to pay Doc $4,500 for the 2011 HD Softail Heritage motorcycle KBB valued at $9,000. We will sell a limited number of tickets of 200 at $50 each for the motorcycle. Look for us at future events where the American Legion has a booth. Todd and Nova at American Garage have offered to give the bike a complete check.

In other news Bob "Doc" Wilson has volunteered to cover the recently vacated position of Road Captain. Doc already does so much for our Post 21 so Mike Paull and Tony Amodeo have stepped forward to co-captain with him. The other position recently vacated, Sgt-at-Arms, has been filled by John Gallick. Our genuine thanks to Richard Bert and Keith Weldon for their time in these positions and to those that have stepped forward to carry on.

There will be no November ALR meeting. The December meeting will be held on Thursday 12/17/26 at 6:00pm. Note the day and time change for this meeting. Regular meeting day and time will resume in January.

Reminder; track all volunteer hours and don't forget to pay your dues. Membership Coordinator Steve Randles reported 20 of our 60 members have paid so far. We would love to see all our members at the December meeting!

Jeri Lynn Paull

ALR Secretary

Sons of the American Legion (SAL):

Chaplin Robert J. Bonebrake Spaghetti feed on Oct 17 went well: $345 revenue after Legion meal items were deduction.

The Vital Life foundation is excited to announce the Journey of Heros (JOH) program Spring of 2027 in partnership with Wish of a Lifetime. For many veterans, the opportunity to travel to Washington DC never came following their service. This is an opportunity for ~15 veterans to travel to Washinton DC and see the memorials erected in their honor of service.

We are working hard on gathering applicants to take on the "Journey of Heroes" trip!

I would like to ask you to share this information with any senior veterans at your community that may be a good candidate for this program.

Applicant Criteria:

- Able to show proof of service with the United States Armed Forces
- Be 65 years of age or older

If selected to participate, Journey of Heroes provides:

- Roundtrip airfare for Veteran
- Ground transportation in Washington DC
- Accommodations: One hotel room for each veteran and their companion for three nights
- Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the trip
- Wheelchairs: For all veterans who request them

IMPORTANT DATES: Application Deadline 13 November 2026

JOH Trip to DC April 26-29, 2027