



Legion Post 21
September 2026 Post News

126 NE Atlantic St

McMinnville, OR 97128

www.vetsclub21.org and email vetsclub21@gmail.com



Post Commander

Welcome to October 2026. As the second Vice commander remains vacant. As Post 21 represents the leadership of our veterans, the Auxiliary, Sons' and Riders their leadership attendance at these meetings is vital. During the past months attendance and involvement has been discouraging. The goal is to ensure the collective involvement and the success of their activities.

As we move forward through the remaining six months of Post leadership it is vital that we revitalize our E Board member commitments. We understand the replacement of our Finance officer, and others to be announced. As Veterans, please consider your future involvement within our post leadership as we continue our support to our committees, veterans and youth activities. We are reminded every day as a legionnaire you take the commitment learned in uniform to put it to work in our community. You don't do it for recognition. You do it because service has always been part of who you are. Supporting local schools, provide funeral honors, assist veterans in crisis, respond after disasters or teach young people about the American flag. Together, those individual acts of service create something extraordinary representing Post 21. We encourage post family involvement in our general membership meetings considering the creation of a pot luck meal for attendees.

1st Vice Commander

Nicholas McCleskey (Nick) nickair@ymail.com

Membership meeting over breakfast. The first membership meeting I held, was this month. It was interactive, brainstorming and fun for all. We had two younger people that opened our eyes to ways that they want to be involved. There will be more younger people invited. Everyone had valuable input. We are already using the ideas. -Next breakfast membership meeting: 09:00 Sat, October 10. Please attend to review and join the membership agenda, brainstorming and discussion. - We now have a dedicated membership operations table. A metal tag with the Commander's words is being made to mark the donated membership table, as follows: "The Sears family donated this table for the future of the American Legion Family Members, membership, assistance, service, support and restaurant overflow uses." - Secondary Mission: Restaurant overflow table which adds two seats of revenue to our post. - The window adjacent to the table will have supporting media, brochures and information for all the American us Legion family, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. - Next: We have been given a booth at the upcoming Scottish Festival, October 3&4, at the MAC Fairgrounds. We can all thank member Tony for this opportunity. Sgt at Arms, Lori has made a volunteer signup sheet mounted on a clipboard near the coffee cups on the wall. Contact Lori, Leroy or myself with questions. - Next: ABOVE THE BAR VIEW from the front entrance:



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SIGNAGE, (our website): www.vetsclub21.org American Legion Family, Auxiliary, Sons & Riders official seals. Any comments or concerns, feel free to contact me. Nick McCleskey 971.901.1450

Juan M. Palacios, Post Adjutant

Hello Comrades,

First, thank you for your service and still serving America.

Great news! Our Post membership is almost halfway to our goal of 406. Currently we have 197 members to be at 48.52%. We missed the National Membership target date (9-10-26) to be 50% by 9 members. The next target date is October 14 to be at 55%. Please, if you can renew your dues ahead of time, it will have a great impact on our membership goals. Be faithful and PROUD of our Post.

Our membership: 12 New members, 138 Renewals, 2 HQ transfer, 45 Paid Up for Life (PUFL) for the grand total of 197. Our National Membership goal is 406 to be a 100% Post. Thank you for your continued support in membership.

McMinnville's two Burger Kings have a dedicated table in the lobby called "Missing Man Table" also known as the POW/MIA Table. It's their way of saying, "You are not Forgotten". I have not seen any other restaurant with this type of dedication for our American Veterans in town. Thank You, Burger King for not forgetting our American POW/MIA Veterans.

September has three occasions for displaying the American and POW/MIA flags on the Three-Mile Lane Bridge in McMinnville. The first is Labor Day (the first Monday), the second is September 11 for 911 Remembrance Day and the third Friday is POW/MIA Remembrance Day.

It is nice to be acknowledged as the American Legion, by vehicles honking their horns or giving the "Thumbs Up" while putting up and taking down the flags. It's a great feeling you will not forget!! It would be great to have two teams to call on for these days. One team puts them up and another to take them down. If you want help, call me phone 503-437-5225 or e-mail: onesgtusmc@hotmail.com

Service Officer: Paul Krutch

Once again, you have helped veterans in need of assistance. Thank you for being a member of Post 21.

We recently helped a vet who needed fuel for his vehicle to get to his appointments and job interviews. Also, a veteran couple who needed mortgage assistance were provided assistance that will allow them to maintain their low interest mortgage. We brought them current and they have the means to stay current in their payments. Please plan on attending our October meeting. We will have a guest speaker from Mid-Willamette Valley Community Outreach. She will explain how her organization can assist us in our efforts to help veterans in need.

Thanks. And keep helping those who served. Paul Krutch @ p.krutch@comcast.net

Chaplain's Corner:

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



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Members mentioned during our general meeting as needing prayer please keep them in prayers. Steve Kindel, Ivan and Cheryl Witlow and Randy David. I for one would like to list one prayer that I believe is very much needed at this time. Please pray for the members of the SAL = Sons of The American Legion. Let it be stated that the Sons have served are very important to our post, 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

Happy October!

In late September, a new Facebook page was created for the Legion. To follow this page, please look up “**MAC American Legion, OR**”. Please use this page for any events happening at the Legion or any events the Legion is participating in. The admins of the page will be working to post reminders for regular events and meetings based on the monthly calendar. Admins are myself, 1st Commander Nick McCleskey, Historian Leroy Brown, and Auxiliary/Rider member Jen Peterson. For any flyers created for social media, we would love to share them here too. So, tag the page if you can or email it to one of the 4 of us. Feel free to contact us for any concerns or ideas to improve our page. Additionally, the Legion will be working to expand to other social media platforms as we become more familiar with them. Our goal is to increase communication and participation around all of the offerings of the Legion and to grow the membership of every family. **Thank you. Lori Paddock Read**

Finance Officer Report:

Another month gone in 2026. This year is going quickly and before you know it, it will be time for nominations and elections for new officers to lead the post. It isn't my intention to run for the finance officer position again, I would like to think about a different position, perhaps 2nd Vice. So, we need people to start thinking about how they can serve the post and what position they may be interested in and qualified to do. Finance is such a crucial position in ensuring that our funds are protected and managed wisely. I would like to ask that any member who has finance experience doesn't have to be non-profit experience, but you do need to be able to learn our accounting system, read a profit/loss statement, reconcile our accounts monthly, do taxes and manage the office staff along with a myriad of other things. I would certainly be willing to work with whomever shows an interest to ensure an easy handoff. Please consider joining the leadership team.

The only old business update I have is that I recently spoke with our auditors who are conducting the forensic audit at our request. Their best guess for completion is about another 3 months based on the availability of their staff and going through the mountains of documents we sent them. Remember, it took us 11 months to scan all of the documents for them to review and now they have to go day by day looking at every receipt and vendor invoices we sent them as well as bank statements for 4 accounts. My hope, by the new year we will have the written report.



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New business coming our way is that since we re piped the RV Park, Mac W&L has sent us a letter indicating that we need to add some required backflow equipment at the meter. Our current backflow tester has also let us know that our current system that supplies backflow prevention to the Post is likely to fail in the coming year. We have gone out to get 3 bids and will be reviewing those as they come in. Mac W&L wants the work completed by November 1, 2026 so time is of the essence. It likely will mean that we will have to close the Post for 1 day while the work is being done. This is likely a large expenditure, but work that will have to be done. As we move to the end of the year and federal taxes, consider your willingness to make a tax-deductible contribution in support of our facilities. Again, please members consider serving on our executive committee. We need members who care about what happens at our post and are willing to step up in a leadership role. If any of you are willing to consider being the next finance officer, please feel free to reach out to me either at the Post or contact me via email:

Cheryl Saville-Miller
cdmiller57@gmail.com.

Club Manager

Hello everyone!

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through the price increases. It was a smooth transition and everyone understood. The holidays are fast approaching. It won't be long until we are all knee deep in Christmas Tree's, Christmas parties, family and friends. I would like to do a shout out to all the kitchen staff. They work tirelessly to keep our kitchen flowing smoothly. All of our soups and salads are homemade here at our post. They work hard to control food costs in the kitchen and come up with some pretty yummy specials. They are all darn good cooks, and I couldn't be prouder of them. Appreciate them when you see them. Your servers are all volunteers here in our post and do not get an hourly rate. They work the floor alone a lot of the time so please be patient, kind and understanding. We are all family here at post 21. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support. They say it takes a village.

Debra Godwin
Post 21Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary

The auxiliary will be hosting an open house/potluck on October 20th, 2026. Everyone is invited. Come meet your unit officers, see what we are about, and learn what we do for our veteran's, community, and youth. We continue to hold our monthly veteran's free lunch on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Our next lunch will be held on Thursday, October 8th, 2026, from 11am until 12:30pm. We are looking for a veteran and their family to adopt for Christmas. If any of you know of a veteran and their family that might need a little extra help for the holidays, please let us know. The revisions to the ALA's eligibility **allow individual legion and sons members the potential to become American Legion Auxiliary**



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members. The Legion's national judge advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with The American Legion. Basically, the gender of the descendants, siblings and spouses has been removed.

If you'd like to see what the Auxiliary is all about, please come to our Open House-Potluck meeting Oct. 20th at 6pm

Debra Godwin

ALA Unit 21 President

Dates,

October 2, legion kp

October 9, auxiliary kp

October 16 sons kp

October 23 riders kp

October 30, legion kp.

October 20, auxiliary potluck & open house

October 17, Son's spaghetti feed

October 3 & 4, Scottish Festival

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
MEMBERSHIP
Potluck & Open House
6 PM • October 20



**BRING A
POTENTIAL
MEMBER!**

Drawings will be held for two paid year memberships, Dinner, Wine, Dutch Bros gift card, and more! (Must be present to win)

Meet your Officers and get to know your fellow Auxiliary members! It's a fun bunch!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SIM SEARS 503-435-8544 OR THE POST (503) 472-2252



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Post 21 American Legion Members and Leaders



The American Legion is not a BAR

The American Legion is much more than you think. **A Veterans service Organization.**

Many see the American Legion as just a place for veterans to grab a drink. The reality? The American Legion its self is one of Americas most powerful **Veterans Service Organizations!**

Our mission is not social-it is **Service!**

- ✓ Advocating for veterans' healthcare and benefits
- ✓ Supporting military families in need
- ✓ Providing college youth scholarships
- ✓ Honoring fallen heroes with dignity and respect
- ✓ Fighting for legislation that protects those who served

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.