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The Commanders Corner: As you will read throughout this month's newsletter the Post has been very busy and I thank all of our members and volunteers. Our first tally of logged volunteer hours fell like this: Marines and Navy 211 hrs. Air Force 118 and Army 88. I thank each volunteer for their service and support of our Post. Now Army let's get out there and "getter done!"

Gale Sears

COMING SOON

**VETERANS ONLINE
SHOPPING BENEFIT**

DOD to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Veterans

Beginning November 11, 2017, we will once again be able to serve honorably discharged Veterans online through a lifelong exchange benefit.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members," "Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor." said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

A couple of on line links below should help you take advantage after 11 Nov 2017

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1049558/dod-opens-online-exchange-shopping-to-veterans>

<https://militaryadvantage.military.com/2017/01/millions-more-vets-to-be-able-to-shop-at-exchanges-online/>

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>

**America without her Soldiers would be like
God without his Angels.**



Riders Corner: Riding season is upon us! The itch of riding in sunny, warm weather that has developed over the winter is getting scratched. Our members are hitting the road hard and enjoying the company of each other. Please keep an eye out for us as we come around that blind corner or that dip in the road. Motorcycle safety is a big part of what we're about. We can do everything right but it only takes one mistake by one person on the road to put sadness in our heart. We want to go home to our family just like the next person.

We're winding down another legion year, before you know it we'll have different members in leadership positions within the legion families. I would like to say good luck to everyone that is seeking office and please remember being an officer is more about responsibility than it is a title.

This last year I've noticed more of a "unity" between all families/programs. It has not been just one leader leading the way, it has been a collaboration between all members. We have turned the corner and heading uphill. It has been a glorious journey and I'm happy to have been a part of it to this point and look forward to continue to help in the effort. With that being said I would like to thank the Navy and Coast Guard for the outstanding breakfast they put on. The food was excellent and the atmosphere was spine tingling. When I walked into the Honor Room that morning the first thing I noticed (besides the smell of corned beef hash, a favorite of mine) was not only the Navy and Coast Guard veterans hard at work but all the other branches and volunteers there to help. Those were members and volunteers coming together for one purpose and weren't going to be denied at any cost. Jim Connelly and Bob Berweger (Navy veterans) did an outstanding job choreographing the whole event. We all could learn something from that event.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!!!

Jerry Perry

ADJUTANT NOTES: Thank you to all who have renewed your membership we are 39 members short of 100%. Can we make it? It's up to those who have not renewed their membership. Online renewal is available under the "members" pulldown menu at www.orlegion.org and on the national website www.legion.org under the "members" pulldown menu. Of course, there is always the US. Mail. Unless you had paid your 2017 dues, on 1JAN17 your membership became "not current" and access to the Post could and should be denied. Past due notices are not generated at the Post Level. If your membership card indicates 2017, you are current and can disregard those past due notices. The next past due notice will be mailed from National again in April.

Shirley Brown

Club Manager: Hello All Legion and Family Members! This month we have begun to work on cleaning up our menu. Do not worry, there will be no drastic changes! We just want to streamline the chaotic current menu. However, if there is something that you would like to see on the menu, or removed from it, we would love to hear from you. Please leave us a suggestion in the suggestion box.

We will be initiating new drinks tokens next month. If you currently have any drink tokens, you will have to bring them in to the Legion, no later than April 15th and have Erika swap out your old tokens for new one. Please note that only Erika is able to swap out your old tokens.

New tokens are valued at \$2.75. If a token is given when a round is bought and not used that day. The value of the token will be \$2.75 when redeemed in the future.

We are introducing new rules to the Quarter game. The new rules are that you can drop as many quarters as takes to win, but you may now only win **once** in a day. The free drink for winning the game is now **restricted** to either a domestic tap beer, or a well drink. Thank you all for your wonderful support and friendship!

Gina Eggleton and the Club Crew

Sons The S.A.L. will be meeting on April 5th at 6:30 pm, the time has come for annual elections, so come and put your vote in for the leadership. I would like to thank Virgil Lucht for doing the potluck fundraiser for the S.A.L. by getting people to the club to watch the Daytona 500 race. Virgil raised \$150.10 that was donated to the S.A.L and I heard everyone had a great time.

Terry Naig, Adjutant



MARINE BREAKFAST – April 9th: From the halls of the American Legion across the region come one, come all! It's time once again for the Annual Battle of the Branches.

Your United States Marines will be hosting the Marine Breakfast on April 9, 2017 from 8-Noon, \$7:00 per plate, children under 5 eat free. Contact Terry Ward 971-241-5454 or 503-472-9668 for more information and to volunteer.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – APRIL 23RD: AIM HIGH IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE. The Air Force Breakfast is the last one to battle, which means we can improve on what they did. Last year the Air Force did not have a breakfast this year's goal is to win! **Nothing can Stop the U.S. Air Force!**

To volunteer either show up or contact - Dan Brown, 971-241-3895, Commander of Am Vets McMinnville. Please show up, volunteer and show your support for the United States Air Force!



House Committee: The House Committee will be meeting in April on the 3rd and 17th at 4:00 p.m. The men's bathroom has been painted and cleaned so please help us to keep it looking good for our guests.



U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS

The American Legion Post 21 has been selected by The Frank E. Evans Association to place a monument in our rose garden to honor a Sailor, RD2 Gary Bradbury Hodgson (the only Sailor from Oregon) lost at sea June 3, 1969 along with 73 other Sailors who perished that day. There will be a dedication ceremony on July 8, 2017 at 2:00 pm.



On the fateful morning of June 3, 1969, the USS Frank E. Evans (DD754) collided with the Australian Aircraft Carrier HMAS Melbourne (R21) and was cut in half. The Australian Carrier ripped the American destroyer in two. Only the

stern remained floating. Seventy-four men lost their lives when the Frank E. Evans was cut in two or perished when her bow section sank in 1100 fathoms of water within 2 minutes. None of those names are listed on the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. The Frank E. Evans Association has been lobbying to have those names added, in the interim they plan to place a Memorial in each State where a sailor was lost. For a more in-depth History on the Frank E. Evans Association visit the website at <http://www.ussfee.org>.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

AND

LEGION RIDER OF THE YEAR

Jim Connelly is seeking a "written notice – with an explanatory paragraph for the Nomination of American Legion Member of the Year and Legion Rider of the Year.

Simply a name offered for nomination and recognition will not suffice this year. We are looking for the reasons the veteran is being nominated. This should not be confused with a popularity contest. Please give this rating of high priority and great thought.

Nominations are needed ASAP in order to vote on selections. Contact Jim Connelly at 868 Howard Jordan Loop, Dayton, OR 97114 coachconn@hotmail.com or 503-550-7541.

Sea Cadets Liaison: The Sea Cadets had their Annual IG Inspection from their Area Director, their uniforms and all cadet records were also inspected. In the past years, the best score achieved by Cadet Program has been 2 out of 4 possible points. This year they remarkably scored 3.45 final score. I'm extremely proud of the young Sea Cadets for their awesome almost perfect score. Imagine all the hard work as a great team that happened to accomplish a super outstanding result. I would like to thank all AML Families for all the support for the wonderful Sea Cadets.

Angel



A message from Iraq:

I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium that we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-to-22-year-olds back in the States? I imagine that there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, only if they had stood for *The National Anthem* in the first place.

Here in Iraq 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward and the music stops. The music started again, and the soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. Again, though, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 soldiers standing at attention to do?? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start.

No!! . . . You could have heard a pin drop while every soldier continued to stand at attention. Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium. Then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq, and I wanted you to know what kind of U.S. Soldiers are serving you! Remember them as they fight for us!
Chaplain Jim Higgins, LSA Anaconda, Iraq.



Honor Guard: This is an exciting time for us because we have at least three new members. Please remember we have Honor Guard hats and tee-shirts for sale to

help us buy uniforms. Thank you.

Commander Angel Mendoza

NAVY/COAST GUARD BREAKFAST

At the Navy / Coast Gard breakfast I had a great time! Under the leadership of Jim Connelly (USN) the Navy/Coast Guard breakfast was a great success. The Navy/Coast Guard set the bar very high for the rest of the branches.

We served 179 people, which several said was a very good meal. The Gross income was somewhat over \$2,000.00.



Please bear with me as I try to recognize all the people in no particular order who helped make this a success. If I missed anyone I want to apologize in advance. Terry Ward (USMC), Gina Eggleton (club manager), Donna Reed (cook), Terry Naig (Son), Gene Hamilton (Son), Jerry Terry (USN), Randy Dahl (USN), Randy Whitehorn (USN), Mike Morris (USAF), Becky Berweger (Aux), Glenna Smith (Aux), Bill Frosty (USCG), Mike Paull (USN), Jeanne Clayton (USN), Gale Sears (Post Commander, USA).

The real point is, I was very proud to be part of The American Legion Post 21 yesterday, not only was the success due to the efforts of members of the Navy/ Coast Guard but from members from our Post, USN, Coast Guard, Air force, Marines, Army, Sons of the American Legion and The Ladies Auxiliary.

Now that I am done trying to thank all who worked, a special thank you to all that came to the Post to have breakfast.

AUXILIARY: Spring is near and flowers are blooming already, what a delight! McMinville Unit 21 is at 104.706 % of memberships! Thank you, Darla, "Mike" Gregory for the great job. Darla is our new Membership chair for this 2017 year. Welcome new members, excited to work with our new Auxiliary members. Please join us at the next Auxiliary meeting – April 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

Let's not forget BINGO, every Sunday 1:00-4:00 pm. With a fundraiser 1st Saturday of every month – all proceeds go to Cancer Center.

Thank you to the crew that helped in the March 17th Saint Patrick Dinner! Many blessings to you and your families.

For God and Country *Elva Salinas, Auxiliary President*

Meet your Bartender, Debra Godwin, has worked at Post 21 as a Volunteer for over two years now as both a cook and a bar



tender. After working for a year at Post 21 Debra took her grandchildren snowboarding and severely fractured her leg and ankle and was away for six months. We welcome her back and want her to know how much we appreciate her service.

Volunteers are seldom paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.



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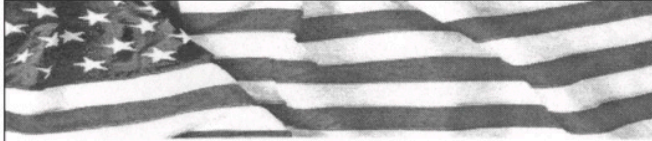
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PARTICIPANTS, START YOUR ENGINES!

Let the Race begin. The First Annual Post 21 Derby Car Race will be June 17th. You can purchase your car from the post then carve it, mold it shape it to be the best. We need to know how many derby cars to order so contact Jeanne Clayton [503-550-2095](tel:503-550-2095) if you would like to be in the race. (We ask that you Please **do not** buy your own kit, we want to make sure

everyone is using the same car kit for our first Derby Race.)

All the Legion Families from post 21 are invited, we have also extended the invitation to the Sea Cadets and Honor Guard members. It's going to be a full day of fun laughs victories. Look for the sign-up sheet in the coming weeks. May the fastest car win!

See ya all at the races!

Jeanne Clayton.



Remember years ago when you received your membership card and there was an application for the insurance shown above. Now all you have to do is go online one time and complete the form and you are covered for the duration of your active membership.

This is a **FREE** benefit provided by the American Legion. Not only is good for you but Department receives a participation rebate depending on the number of Legionnaires in the Department of Oregon that participate. The monies received are used to support the administration of the Department of Oregon.

Please visit the [Lit.COM/LegionCare 1](http://Lit.COM/LegionCare1) website and complete the form.

Thanks for supporting another American Legion benefit. Both for you and yours and the Department of Oregon.

POST DUES RENEWALS ★ WHEN ARE THEY DUE?

The Legion's fiscal year ends on June 30th which means that the **NEW Legion year began on July 1st**. Dues renewal notices are sent out shortly after the new Legion year begins. As an example, the last day of the 2016 Legion year was 30 June 2016. The Legion year does not coincide with the calendar year and this can cause some confusion. Was your 2016 membership card

still valid after you received your renewal notice? Yes, you were in a 5 month "grace period" and could use your card for Post entry until 31 DEC 2016. Unless you had paid your 2017 dues, on 1 JAN 2017 your membership became "non-current". The best policy regarding Post dues is to pay your dues when the renewal notice is received. This policy should help prevent confusion and delays in processing renewal cards.

POST 21 dues are currently \$45 annually due on 1 July each year.

The Officers of the Post thought it would be fitting to incorporate a monthly section honoring those members who have been called from our midst and have transferred to Post Everlasting.



We would like to offer our condolences to the families and friends of the following members. Don Stanek, Robert Abrahamson, Herbert King, and Alan Meins.

For all veterans –Our sincere condolences to all the families and friends of those who were called from our midst.



For those who missed last month's General Membership meeting we had a visit from Tom & Nick from Tools4Troops. Tools4Troops provides free hand and power tools to

veterans and serving members of the 5 branches of the U.S. Armed Forces at Veteran Stand Down events and also through Work Source Oregon and the Goodwill, they also provide tools needed for employment and to students needing tools for educational purposes. The belief is that tools enable veterans to improve their world and access wider employment opportunities. T4T accepts donations of money and tools and also volunteer hours. For more information visit their website www.tools4troops.org.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Chili Cook-off 9:30 start Cancer Bingo 1:00
2 BINGO 1-4	3 House Comitt 4:00 p.m. Honor Guard 6:00 p.m.	4 Bylaws 5:00	5 Sons 6:30 pm	6 Equestrians 6:00	7 Prime Rib Dinner Specials 6:30 pm	8
9 Marine Breakfast BINGO 1-4	10	11 Rambling Rejects 6:00	12 Legal 5:00 DAV 6:30-8:30	13 Hunters 6:00	14 Prime Rib Dinner Specials 6:30 pm	15 Movie Night
16 8:00-Noon BINGO 1-4	17 House 4:00 Finance 5:00 Executive 6:30 Honor Guard 6:30 p.m.	18 Auxiliary Mtg. 6:00 p.m.	19 Activities 5:30 General Membership Mtg. – 6:30	20 Cruisers 6:00	21 Prime Rib Dinner Specials 6:30 pm	22
23 Air Force Breakfast 8:00-Noon BINGO 1-4	24 House 4:00 Honor Guard 6:30	25 AMVETS 6:30	26 Riders 7:00 pm	27	28 Prime Rib Dinner Specials 6:30 pm	29
30 BINGO 1-4						

Happy Birthday to all I have left out for the past three months. Hope your special day was fantastic!

January Birthdays: Marty Coulter, Betty Dutton, Gail Engleking, Mike Gregory, Mary Morris, Ursula Niedzialek, Sonnty Bassham, Don Hedstrom, John Hamilton, Jim Niehuse, Dianne Beaudry, Dee Henderson, Steve Schollenburg, Carol Herring, Bill Boomer, Jeannie Clayton, Jincy Farley.

February Birthdays: Sandy Brown, Mary Clay, Alice Hamilton, Don Watts, Donna Reed, Cody Pankey, Annie Skinner, Beverly Wagner, Emil Evans, Darrell Evans, C. Sue Davis, Emma Smith, Sharon Faunce, Dianne Heaton, Christina Holman.

March Birthdays: Carol Dodge, Garry Eggers, Aedee Jackson, Trudy Shelburne, Connie Whitehorn, John Breeze, Mike Niehus, Bill Skophammer, Bruce Tanner, Linda Ward, Gretchen Jones, Snady George, Leroy Brown, Tessa Anderson, Andrea Burt.

April Birthdays: Peggy Barnes, Barbara Bostwick, Kim Brown, Alana Christensen, Lillian Farley, Ellen Hamel, Kelli Telling, Brooke Zimmerman, Karen Walker, Cheryl Basham, Lonnie Sizer, Mike Whelan, Steve Sinclair, Jim Ellis, Stevie Landeverde, Dave Smith, Odessa Lemke.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 - Chili Cook-off
- 9 – Marine Breakfast
- 15 – Movie Night
- 23 – Air Force Breakfast

MAY

- 5 – Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- 4 – Army Birthday
- 14 – Mother’s Day
- 20 – Movie Night
- 28 – Indy 500 Potluck
- 29 – All Family BBQ

JUNE

- 4 – Army BBQ
- 17 – Pinewood Derby Race
- 18 – Father’s Day

JULY

- 8 – USS Frank E. Evans Memorial Dedication

Post Newsletter Mailing List Update Underway: We are trying to update or Newsletter Mailing list. If you want to get the Post Newsletter sooner and save postage costs for the Post, please sign up for electronic delivery via e-mail!! The Post is on a mission to gather e-mail addresses for those wishing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Please send an e-mail and put Electronic Newsletter in the subject line, include in the body of the e-mail the e-mail address you want to receive your electronic copy, your name and your address and if you want only the electronic version or both.



Newsletter Articles: Remember to submit your Newsletter Articles before the 20th day of the month to be included in the next month’s issue. Please send your articles via e-mail to vetsclub21@gmail.com

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- 2nd Vice – Terry Ward
- Adjutant – Shirley Brown
- Finance Officer – Mark Rathburn
- JAG – Steve Randles
- Service Officer – Jeanie Clayton
- Historian – Leroy Brown
- Chaplain – Thomas Clayton
- Sgt. At Arms – Fred Martin
Joe Lillibridge