

Commander's Corner



Russell Stafford
Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

We have had another Department conference, Midwinter, and it was once again highly attended. All our districts have set the dates and locations for district meetings in April. These are listed in this newspaper.

We are gearing up for the annual Washington DC conference. Your department delegates will be

Russell Stafford, Ben Glenn, Ron Wood, Doug Uhrig, Mike Cooke, Tammy Harris and Joe Tallon. The main topics that our delegation from Wyoming will address to our representatives are:

Improving the Quality of VA C&P Exams

Winning the War Within

Improving Access to Community Care

Modernizing the Transition Assistance Program

I'm sure that we will be given additional topics to address, but for Wyoming these are the priority ones. To see what each of these topics specifically are, go to:

legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers

By going to www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home you go to the Grassroots Action Center. This allows all members to see the campaigns that the American Legion has currently listed for addressing to Congress. This should be a site that ALL members are on daily.

Members can also see all the bills that are being addressed concerning veterans and the military, by clicking the view key legislation tab at the bottom of the page. This is a vital part of being a member of the American Legion, and when more of us are contacting our Congress, things get done.

Wyoming had the opportunity to host the VA Secretary, Doug Collins, thanks to Senator John Barasso. I was proud to represent not only the American Legion Department of Wyoming, but also my fellow veterans across the state.

Why do I bring this up? Because each of you has the ability to reach out to a legislature, local, state, or national, and address the same topics. With the new members of the Wyoming State Congress, there is a timid response to issuance of finances. Many of them ran on slimming the budget or cutting government spending. This is all well and good, but they can't forget to take care of the ones that defended them. Make them know

that Wyoming's veterans deserve to be taken care of. Remember to not only address the problem but also to have a solution to it. If you need help with the solution, reach out to the department's legislative team for help.

The American Legion was created to ensure that this country didn't forget it's veterans and to ensure that our government heard what was being said by this organization, our founding members ensured that we were created and recognized by the U.S. Congress. In 1919 this was accomplished, and we are still the largest veteran organization in this nation. We need to ensure that our government remembers this and acts accordingly.

I am proud to represent my fellow veterans and will continue to do so to the best of my ability. I am proud of all the accomplishments being done by my fellow members and look forward to hearing more about these accomplishments with all my visits across the state.

Adjutant's Corner



Vanessa Stuart
Department Adjutant

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. I hope this finds you well. As we look forward to Spring District meetings, I want to remind everyone that updated award forms have been posted to our website or can be requested through email from me. If someone in your post or community is exceptional, please consider submitting them for an award. Last year's Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the year have been submitted to National and if they are selected they could be honored at the National Convention in Louisville, KY. Two

of our outstanding educators from Wyoming, Kate Decker and Morgan Praska were submitted and chosen to receive the National Americanism Commission Certificate of Appreciation for all they do to promote Americanism in their communities. If you'd like to submit someone for one of the department awards but aren't sure how to write up an award please contact your post or district leadership or headquarters and any of us would be happy to assist you.

This year at the Department convention, we are bringing back the Post Scrapbook Competition. All posts have received via email the details. Please contact Department Headquarters for any questions. The winner may even be displayed at National there is no National Post scrapbook competition but Posts can display their work for all to see. Last year's displays were amazing to see! Finally, thank you for all you do for our veterans and your communities. Whether it's buddy checks, volunteering for post functions, Honor Guard, or just attending events when you can, you matter and make a difference. Thank you!

Vanessa Stuart,
Department Adjutant.

1st Vice Commander's Corner



Benjamin Glenn
1st Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

Words from the 1st Vice Commander

The New Year has arrived, and the Mid-Winter Conference in Wheatland has already taken place. District #2 Commander Steve Anderson and his crew did an excellent job hosting the event on 16-17 January 2026. Despite the cold weather numerous Posts from across our department were in attendance. We were able to lock down dates, times, and locations for our District meetings scheduled for this April. We also were able to approve numerous updates to our constitution and bylaws. Rock Springs Post Commander Ray Simms announced that he will run the next Wyoming American

Legion Leadership Training Course (WALLT) scheduled for this September in Laramie. I encourage all posts to support sending future leaders too this course. It is a good course that will prepare you for District Leadership positions. As legionnaires, it is critical that we continue to "Train our Replacements."

The Ways and Means Committee raised more money with the Silent Auctions, 50/50 drawings and our 250th anniversary raffle this year than anything we have done as a department in the last 8 years based on the recent estimate of our Finance Officer. Our Department Finance Officer and Department Adjutant Team support for our ongoing veterans' initiatives has been nothing short of Outstanding! I want to thank everyone for all your fund-raising efforts. We look forward to your future support at the upcoming District meetings and this summer at the State Convention in Powell.

Oratorical Chairman Nicole Laffin informed me that Oratorical Contests are underway, with the final District Contest scheduled in early March 2026. The Department Oratorical Contest will be in Casper on 21 March, 2026.

Our Constitution and bylaws chairman Ken Persson Sr. has been hard at work keeping up with the repairs and updates. This is a hard job that goes under appreciated so support him and his committee as they grind through these important updates.

Please support High School Rodeo, Baseball, Shooting Sports, Boys State, Girls State and Oratorical when you are able. Get out and watch

See 1st Vice Page 2

2nd Vice Commander's Corner 2026 Legion Membership Message

Greetings Wyoming Legion Family,

Wow, as I write this morning I suddenly realized it is February 2, 2026, Ground Hog Day! I know that the Hog will see the shadow today here in beautiful Buffalo. All of this great "winter" weather we have been experiencing has me thinking of Spring/Summer activities that occur around the state. The biggest event that I can think about is the celebration of our nations 250th Birthday! There will be many parades across our state and for the majority of them Veterans will be leading it with the Color Guard, standing tall and looking good! For those that remember the 200th celebration it will be a fun comparison of events. As for me it will be very different. I was in Germany during the 200th birthday. I read about it in the Stars and Stripes and watched highlights on a black and white television in my barracks room. We had one station, I think it was AFRN-TV and two Ger-



Chuck Guilford
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming

man stations that we could receive via rabbit ear antenna. As always, stay safe,
Chuck Guilford

All Members are Important

It is often said, "I don't have time to volunteer, so I'm not going to join/renew with The American Legion". While the Legion does need active members to perform the many vital programs throughout our organization, the inactive members are also very important. While only about 10% to 20% of members physically participate, we need the strength of our total membership to be successful with the overall mission. The Legion is the largest wartime veteran organization. That largeness gives us clout when touting our veteran agenda. Whether it's discussing flag etiquette with a local business or advocating for servicemembers, veterans, and their families with our elected leaders. We are a trusted source and we have approximately 1.4 million members worldwide. That number grows exponentially when you count the SAL, Auxiliare, and other family members.

Annually, around the end of February, The American Legion conducts its Washington conference. This year's 66th conference will be 28 Feb - 04 Mar. At this conference, representatives of each Department and our National leadership, with the assistance of National staff, converge on Washington DC. Departments meet with their state congress members, culminating in the National Commander and Commission members briefing a joint session of Congress to provide them with our expertise on issues of great importance. The Legion has a storied history of success in persuading congress to champion, create and pass legislation benefitting our veterans, active duty and their families as well as protecting our country and the flag. While the Washington Conference is a big push, the legislative advocacy goes on all year long. The Ameri-



Chip Kossow
Wyoming Membership
Coordinator

can Legion's Legislative Division is based in Washington DC and keeps tabs on current events within and without Congress. Keeping a keen eye on veteran centric issues and using the Grassroots Action Center to ensure our members stay informed and know when and how they can assist with support. All this information and many other interesting details can be found at legion.org. Look at the Advocacy pull down menu. All members are important to The American Legion's mission of taking care of our veterans and their families. Even those members that do not have the time (for now). We ask that when you are able, come out to the Post and help us with our programs. We are stronger together! Please contact me if you would like further information or assistance with your membership goals.

God Bless America!
Chip Kossow
Wyoming Membership
Coordinator Burns Post 21
719 332-2793

BE THE ONE
TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

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First Vice continued from Page 1

these kids compete! Our Department Service Officer has an administrative assistant now. We are so lucky to have her onboard! Mrs. Ban started out as a volunteer and quickly became irreplaceable! She hit the ground running and is working hard to keep the office and the almost overwhelming number of daily phone calls and Veteran appointment requirements organized. Although she is only contracted for 12 hours a week you will find her working above and beyond! I think that I can speak for Ted on this that he would be "lost without her" Thank you for your service, Mrs. Ban!

Membership is the backbone of the American Legion. If we do not have a strong membership base, we cannot support the four pillars of the American Legion. Our Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow and all our District and Post membership chairs have done an excellent job this year so keep it going! I am counting on all legionnaires to renew and recruit.

I want to thank every one of my comrades for everything that you do. "Be The One" The Future is bright for the Department of Wyoming. I look forward to visiting with everyone on my travels this spring across Wyoming.

"Service Before Self
Not Self Service"

Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business

Happy Hour Daily 10-12am 4-6pm

Open 7 Days a Week! 10-10 Su-Th 10-Midnight Fri/Sat

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Post Everlasting 2026 AMERICAN LEGION

District 1
Post 24 Rock Springs
 Elmer Burkhart
 Kenneth Jimenez
Post 36 Ft. Bridger
 Donald Lassle
Post 47 Phillips Edwards
 James T. Noble
 James N. Washam
District 2
Post 5 Travis Snow
 Jim L. Stricker

Gerald Eisenbarth
 Gregory Mavis
District 3
Post 2 George W. Vroman
District 4
Post 20 Fred Coe
 David L. Rickell
Post 26 Hughes-Pittner
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Post 32 Greybull
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Post 44 Floyd Minch
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Post 13 Buffalo
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Post 25 Moorcroft
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Post 42 Campbell County
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Post 6 Cheyenne
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Post 14 Laramie
 Walter C. Guenther
Post 54 Angus England
 Loren H. Willford
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District 99
 James Bateham



Chaplain's Corner

Remembering the Four Chaplains

Service to God and Country

On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains – Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that others might live. Of the 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship's crew and civilian passengers on board the Dorchester, only 230 survived. They have told us of the chaplains' efforts to restore calm in a hopeless and chaotic situation, and

how they were last seen at the ship's stern, arms linked in prayer. The survivors' testimony and the chaplains' bravery are enshrined at the Chapel of Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where the Chapel Memorial Foundation honors acts of selfless service nationwide in memory of the Four Chaplains and crew of USAT Dorchester. Four Chaplains Day is a day of public observation. Each year on February 3rd, this day of remembrance is

celebrated across the country. It honors four military chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellow service members during WWII. The men who came to be known as the Four Chaplains were Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (PhD), and Roman Catholic priest Father John P. Washington. The four men had met

while attending Chaplains School at Harvard in preparation for each of their appointments as chaplains. To all who have served as our chaplains, we thank you for service. 1. – Louis A. Cavaliere, retired Navy captain and chairman of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, and Christine Beady, the chapel's executive director 2./militarybenefits.info/four-chaplains-day/#ixzz6CP5LJFkg

Notes from the Department Judge Advocate

At the Convention in New Castle, our Commander discovered that I was a lawyer, and a member of the Wyoming State Bar. He asked if I would be willing to serve as the Department JAG Officer, and I agreed. This note is intended to alert our Posts to several issues that can arise where they need to be careful to avoid problems. 1. The first issue has to do with the Post's relationship with organizations that use the American Legion name and other trademarks. The National Executive Committee of the Legion has adopted Four Rules for an American Legion Program. The intent of those rules is to help insure that programs sponsored by Legion bodies include needed oversight and

protection for the American Legion brand. These rules were distributed at the Mid-Winter Conference in Wheatland, and they have been sent to all Posts. Each Post that sponsors any program, such as a Legion baseball team, needs to review and follow these rules. One good way for a Post to maintain the oversight of an organization is to have one or more Post appointed members on the Board of the sponsored organization. Many of the Legion baseball teams in Wyoming include provisions for such Board members. 2. A second issue that could give rise to a problem for a Post is a failure to hold at least one membership meeting per year in accordance with Wyoming Statute 17-19-701. All Posts need to

meet at least once per year to comply with this law. 3. A third area of concern has to do with the laws regarding Service Animals. The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is meant to ensure that people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life. The Department of Justice website includes detailed guidance on what are considered service animals, and how businesses should deal with individuals having service animals. There are many examples given that can help businesses and others avoid claims of discrimination, or other legal problems. See <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/> for more information. If any Post has problems or questions of a le-



David Hill
 Department Judge Advocate

gal nature, such as those outlined above, please feel free to contact me.

Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training (WALLT)

WYOMING AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP TRAINING PREPARES FOR 2027 SESSION

Planning for the 2027 Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training is well underway, following the successful completion of the previous class. Organizers are committed to delivering the strongest program yet. The original training cadre returns this year, including Danielle Rempher, Kirk Will, Ben Glenn, Deanna Hurless, Chip Kossow, and Russell Stafford. They are joined by two new trainers from the 2026 class, Aubri on Bloodworth and Vanessa Stuart,

whose recent experience will add valuable perspective to the program. The 2027 session will take place September 25-27. This year, organizers are especially pleased to welcome participation from both the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) and the Auxiliary, working collaboratively to strengthen the Department and enhance its impact across Wyoming. Applications have been mailed by the Department Adjutant and were also made available at Midwinter. Legionnaires interested in attending must complete the Basic Training course available at Legion.org prior to submitting their application.

The curriculum will focus on key leadership and organizational topics, including "Better Together," Resolutions (no longer taught at the National American Legion College), Finance, Constitution and By-Laws, Officer Duties, and additional subjects designed to equip participants with practical tools for effective leadership. Legionnaires who aspire to leadership — or who know someone ready to take the next step — are encouraged to apply. The 2027 class will be hosted by Laramie Post, which looks forward to welcoming attendees for a productive and engaging weekend.



Ray Simms
 WALLT Dean

BE THE ONE
 TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.
 TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.
 TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES
 SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE
 April 11 - District 6 - Cheyenne Post 93 10 a.m.
 April 12 - District 2 - Chugwater 10 a.m.
 April 18 - District 5-Sheridan 10 a.m.
 April 19 - District 4 Greybull 10 a.m.
 April 25 - District 1 Jackson 12 Noon
 April 26 - District 3 Riverton 1 p.m.
 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
 June 19-20, 2026 Powell

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 1 National American Legion College Graduates



David W. Hill
District 1 Commander

Greetings to all District 1 Posts and all members of the twelve American Legion Posts and four Sons of the American Legion Squadrons in District 1. I am pleased to report that five of our Posts exceeded the target of 75% by the December 10 deadline for TAL renewals, and six also passed the 80% target date of January 14. Those Posts

deserve credit for stepping up their processing of renewals, recruiting new members, and processing transfers from Post 17 and elsewhere. I encourage all Posts and SAL Squadrons to continue contacting members by phone, text, or email to remind them to renew, and to recruit new members. Congratulations to Cokeville Post 40,

which received an award for reaching 100% before December 31. The next goal as I write this is 85% by February 11, and I thank the five of our Posts that have already passed that target. We extend congratulations to Ray Simms, the Commander of Post 24 in Rock Springs for successfully completing the National American Legion

College Course held in Indianapolis in November. Ray was one of 54 candidates who attended this five-day course on leadership.

Many of our District 1 Posts held ceremonies in observance of Veterans Day on November 11. There were also numerous veterans lunches and dinners throughout the District to celebrate both Veterans Day and the Marine Corps Birthday.

The Department Mid-Winter Convention was held on January 16-18, 2026 in Wheatland. Twenty Wyoming Legion Posts were in attendance, including members from several of our District 1 Posts. Next year's Mid-Winter Conference will be held in River-ton, a lot closer to District 1.



November 2025 News from Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43

Our Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43 has continued to hold our monthly meetings in-person and on Zoom, and we have continued to participate in our support of the veterans and members in Jackson and our surrounding communities. Our Post membership is currently 134 TAL members, and 28 SAL members. We expect to reach or surpass 100% of our state goal for TAL members shortly for the 5th year in a row. We also hope to surpass our goal for SAL members for 2026. Veterans' Day and Other Activities: There were many activities in Jackson in support of Veterans' Day, including a wonderful Jackson High School Recognition lunch, a Coffee and Donuts event at the JES Elementary School, an Elk's Club Veterans Dinner, and a Veterans' Ball and Marine Corps Birthday event. Our annual Veterans Day Ceremony

on the town square attracted a very large crowd, including hundreds of students from Jackson Hole High School and other schools. Our annual food collection on Veterans Day was a big success this year, as well. In December, we held a well-attended viewing party for the Army-Navy Football Game at the Post. Wyoming Veterans Commission: Our Wyoming Veterans Commission Service Officer, Ellen Rejda, has continued meeting with veterans at our Post building each month. Any veteran with questions or needing advice on veterans benefits, healthcare, or other related topics, can make an appointment to see Ellen during one of her monthly visits. Her number is 307-438-2101. Speaker Presentations: At our November Post meeting, Post member Alberto Rojas, who is a member of the Jackson Police, provided a very interesting talk on his recent training as a dog handler. He described the training in detail and also explained the types

of cases he and his dog have handled since he returned to Jackson. At our January meeting, Rick Howe, the President and CEO of the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce briefly described his very interesting background, including his education and his early jobs in Jackson, and discussed the role of the Chamber and its emphasis in supporting the small and large commercial entities in town. Wyoming District 1 Meeting in Jackson: The District 1 meeting will take place in Jackson on April 25. Post 43 is now making plans for that meeting, which will be the first such meeting in Jackson in many years. It is expected that the TAL, Auxiliary and SAL meetings will commence at 12:00 PM with lunch. We may also plan to hold a happy hour on Friday evening April 24th for those who arrive early. Dave Hill, Post 43 Adjutant Dave Hill, Adjutant, Jackson Hole American Legion Post 43

Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING

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Tuesday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all Holidays
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Email: deptaux@wylegionaux.org

Reflections from the 2026 National American Legion College

I am both humbled and honored to have been selected as a representative of the 2026 National American Legion College (NALC) class. Returning from Indianapolis, I bring with me new knowledge, strengthened skills, and valuable tools that will benefit not only my post, but also the Department of Wyoming and the communities we serve.

One notable change to the NALC curriculum is that resolution writing is no longer included. The program has evolved to focus more intentionally on leadership development, emphasizing its role as a dynamic learning environment rather than a procedural training course.

A significant portion of the week centered on the principles of Servant Leadership — a concept that will be familiar to many veterans. At its core, Servant Leadership emphasizes mentoring and developing future leaders, recognizing achievements publicly, addressing challenges privately, and ensuring that credit is given to those who

carry out the work. This philosophy reinforces the importance of building strong, sustainable organizations by investing in people.

The week was intensive and highly informative. Over the course of the program, we worked through 45 presentations, and I returned home with nearly 80 pages of notes. While it would be impossible to summarize every lesson learned, one theme stood out above all others: the power of networking.

I had the opportunity to connect with Legionnaires from West Virginia, Indiana, New Mexico, the Department of France, Puerto Rico, Oregon, Massachusetts, and many other regions. These relationships have already led to ongoing collaboration as we share ideas and work together to address challenges within our respective departments. The diversity of perspectives and experiences enriched the learning experience immeasurably.

For example, the Department of Indiana offers a leadership course specifically designed for Legion

Riders, focused on strengthening their service and impact. While this model may not align directly with Wyoming's current structure, it provided insight into innovative programming that could inspire future initiatives.

I look forward to applying what I have learned to further support the Department of Wyoming and to better serve our fellow veterans. Thank you to everyone who placed their trust in me to represent our Department at NALC. It is a privilege I do not take lightly, and I am truly grateful to be a member of The American Legion, Department of Wyoming.

A special thank you to Mike Cooke for attending the graduation ceremony, recording the event, and capturing a memorable moment not only for me, but also for another graduate whose Post was unable to attend. His thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Ray Simms
NALC graduate

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS District 1 Continued



Post 78 Big Piney took part in the Veterans Day program at Big Piney High School our featured Legionnaire was newest member WW II Veteran Arden Humphrey's Post 78 members that were present from left to right front Clarica Johnson, Commander Mack Rawhouser, Richard Long, Arden Humphreys, Adjutant Ron Davison, SGT at Arms Roman (Rocky) Piernick, Back row Vice Commander Steve Greenwell, Ben Swindlehurst, Raymond Willoughby, John Starcevich, Tim Scott, Melvin Kinikin, (Ray Fritz Post 88 LaBarge) Guest speaker at Ceremony John Starcevich. A luncheon followed for all Veterans at the Southwest Senior Center.

District 2

Niobrara County SkillsUSA Honors Veterans



Courtesy Photos

Above left: Receiving the Declaration of Independence plaques. L-R Mike Alvarez Lusk VFW President, Tyke Coffman, Katie Redman American Legion Post 1 Lusk Adjutant, Ed Tirado American Legion Post 1 Lusk Commander, Steve Anderson American Legion District 2 Wheatland Commander and Will Kruse. Above right: American Spirit team members Will Kruse, Lane Clark and Tyke Coffman.

A team of three Seventh Grade students from the Niobrara County SkillsUSA Chapter spent the fall and winter learning new skills and setting goals in preparation for their entry into the State Leadership and Skills Conference coming up in April, 2026. This team, consisting of Will Kruse, Tyke Coffman and Lane Clark are participating in the American Spirit competition, a three-part project with a heavy emphasis on citizenship, patriotism and community service. The project officially took flight at the January meeting of the American Legion Post 1 in Lusk.

At the centerpiece of this project are large plaques, created from local barnwood, onto which the students have engraved the Declarations of Independence. The SkillsUSA Chapter, under the guidance of advisor Joseph Martinez, designed and created these plaques as fundraising or for gifts back in 2024. The American Spirit team revived that idea and took it to new heights this year with their goal to distribute as many as possible to local veterans. And the timing is perfect, explains team member Will Kruse. "2026 is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, so we wanted to incorporate that into this project."

With the project's heavy emphasis on patriotism, it's hard not to think of veterans so the students originally had a goal to distribute the plaques at the Veteran's Day Celebration hosted at Lusk Elementary School in November. However, delays with the laser engraver set back the team and their goals.

"But that's okay," explains Martinez. "That is one of the things that SkillsUSA teaches kids; to adjust to obstacles and persevere with their goals."

The American Legion Post 1 graciously hosted these young men as they attended the January meeting. A total of 13 plaques were distributed to veterans in attendance, as well as a plaque presented to the Lusk Local VFW President Mike Alvarez who was also in attendance to be shared at his post.

Ed Tirado, American Legion Post 1-Lusk Commander said the veterans were delighted with the presentation from the team. "They absolutely positively loved receiving the plaques and having the students join the meeting." Stating that never before has their post been gifted something like this, but that they all certainly enjoyed meeting the kids.

The meeting was also a hit with the students. "It was really fun to see how excited the veterans were. They were very nice to us, and it made them and us happy to be there" says Tyke Coffman. The students are now back in the shop, creating more plaques for hopefully another round of distribution to the VFW and other organizations. "That has been one of my favorite parts," comments Lane Clark, "working in the shop with my friends and making things to give out."

Niobrara County SkillsUSA wishes to thank the American Legion Post 1 and all in attendance at the January meeting for their hospitality and kindness!

American Legion Department of Wyoming Post History Contest

Maintaining a history, whether through a narrative style or yearbook style, can help tell the story of important events including the purpose, when and where the events took place, and who was involved. A well-developed history can draw readers into events and make them feel like they are part of the experience. Histories also serve as important records for future generations.

With that in mind, the Department of Wyoming is announcing its Post History Contest. This contest is for a yearbook/scrapbook style narrative of your Post one year history. There will be first place, second place and third place winner, with one overall winner. The overall winner will have their yearbook/scrapbook entered into the National Historical display at the National American Legion Conference. All yearbook/scrapbook winners will receive a banner for their Post flag with the overall winner will receive a plaque and Overall, Winner banner for their

Post flag.

- Judging will be done on the following metrics:
- 10 points for Format: Does the file follow formatting guidelines (Margins, presentation of material, readability, spelling errors, clear photos, etc.)
- 5 points for Cover: Is there a cover page and does it contain The American Legion emblem.
- 5 points for Name/Address: Is the complete name of the compiler and address of the post in the lower left corner on the inside cover page
- 5 points for Page Numbering: Page numbering is consistent in style and location on all pages
- 5 points for Title Page: A title page contains all applicable information.
- 10 points for Introduction: An introduction that describes both the national, department and local level organizations.
- 5 points for Table of Contents: A table of content must be accurate and complete information (head-

ings, page numbers, etc.)

- 5 points for Preamble: Is the preamble current and in place.
- 25 points for Chapters: Are all applicable chapters contained within the history and are they logically presented.
- 5 points for Appendices: Appendices must be presented with useful information.
- 10 points for Index: Is there a comprehensive index.
- 10 points for Originality: Elements of the history make it stand out from others.
- 100 points total.
- We hope to see some fantastic post history scrapbooks, and this will help future members to remember who, what, where and when things happen in our posts.
- All entries are due to the Department Adjutant by 15 May 2026. Winners will be announced at the Department Convention.



District 2

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

Mid-Winter in Wheatland 2026 Awards



Above: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for hosting 2026 Mid-Winter is District Commander Steve Anderson with Vice Commander Gary Bjorklund, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford and Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn.

Courtesy Photo

Mid-Winter Held in Wheatland -2026



Above: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 100% membership by deadline is Post 93 Commander Aubrion Bloodworth, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn and Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow.

Courtesy Photo



Above left: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 100% membership by deadline is District 6 Vice Commander Dwight Null for Post 77 Boyce Marlatt, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn and Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow. Above center: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 103.33% membership by deadline is Robert Hogan Post 21 - Commander Walt Schaefer with Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn. Above right: District 3 Commander Nancy Eustice receives a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 100% membership by deadline for Richard Pogue Post 81 and for Arapahoe Warriors Cpl Billy Ferris Post 96, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn and Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow.

Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photos

Valerie Heatherly a member of the Post No.75 Auxillary accepting her pistol she won at the Raffle at Mid-Winter Workshop 2026. Presenting the pistol is McDonald & Voight Post 75 Adjutant Lance Wedemeyer and Ben Glenn 1st Vice Commander - Dept. of Wyoming.



Courtesy Photo

Above left: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 113.33% membership by deadline is District 5 Commander Kirk Will for Moorcroft Post 25, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn and Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow. Above right: Receiving a certificate of Appreciation for reaching 109.6% membership by deadline is District 4 Adjutant Steve Olson for Greybull Post 32, Dept. of Wyoming Commander - Russell Stafford, Dept. of Wyoming First Vice Commander Ben Glenn and Dept. of Wyoming Membership Coordinator Chip Kossow.

DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 2 Continued

Celebrating 40 Years of the Chugwater Chili Cook-off

For 40 years, the Chugwater Chili Cook-off has brought our community together to celebrate great chili, local pride, and giving back. Founded by the Chugwater Chili Corporation, held at the Diamond Guest Ranch, the cook-off quickly became a community tradition. In its second year, the event was transferred to Chugwater Economic Development so it could better support local nonprofit organizations—and it has been doing just that ever since. For the past three years, the Cook-off has been run under the umbrella of Chugwater Events, a non-profit organized for different events around Chugwater.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, volunteers, and attendees, the cook-off has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Chugwater-area nonprofits over the past four decades. These funds

directly support organizations that serve our community, including the Community Center, Fire Department, Chugwater Historical Group, Chugwater Economic Development, and the school's FFA and FBLA programs.

Every dollar raised at the Chugwater Chili Cook-off goes directly to these nonprofit organizations. In fact, this year the Chugwater Chili Corporation is covering most administrative costs, ensuring that event proceeds continue to make the biggest possible impact.

Over the years, each participating nonprofit has received an estimated \$60,000 to \$80,000 in total support. Altogether, the Chugwater Chili Cook-off has generated approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 for local nonprofits—helping provide essential supplies, programs, and resources that strengthen our community.

You can be part of this incredible tradition! We

are always looking for volunteers, cooks, and supporters who want to help make a difference. When you give your time, you are directly supporting Chugwater's nonprofit organizations.

Volunteers who donate a minimum of 2-3 hours receive:

A complimentary dinner provided by Chug Springs Butchery

· A free event t-shirt

· A free ticket to the cook-off

That's a thank-you package valued at over \$50—and our way of showing appreciation for your support. If you can help more, great!

If you're interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact Shelby at 307-421-7513. Join us as we celebrate 40 years of chili, community, and giving back!



DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 3



A Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Join us for a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Veteran's Park in Riverton on July 8th at 4:00 p.m.. Plans are for a choir to sing the "National Anthem, and God Bless America"



District 4 Commander - Bobby Werner

District 4 has been extremely busy since the last newspaper in November. Our district membership has made it to 82% of the 2026 goal. Congratulations to all those posts who have assisted in achieving this. Remember that all members are important and we need you.

Post 11, Post 26, and Post 32 have all come together in assisting a veteran in need. This started in August and has finally come to a successful conclusion in January. All the members of these posts should be proud of their accomplishments. Not only did we have posts stepping up to assist but Post 32 from Greybull and Post 26 of Powell had individuals from their posts step up personally to help. The District Commander, District Vice Commander and District Adjutant send out a heartfelt thank you for the services provided to a fellow veteran. We all need to remember that we are not alone and that it's always better together.

VETERANS DAY, 2025 All School Assembly-Greybull

Good Morning! Thank you, Josie, for the wonderful introduction, and many thanks to Mrs. Decker for all she is doing to promote continued interest in our Veteran community. To my brother and sister veterans who are here today, thank you is not enough to express my gratitude. It doesn't matter if you served in war-time or not, or if you never saw combat, you entered the military, you trained and made yourself ready. You learned your job and performed it faithfully, with love for your country, and I honor you for that. I will also take a moment to honor a young man who is no longer with us. His name was Harold Lee Gibson, affectionately known by his High School friends as "Pee-Wee", as he was small in stature. He graduated from Greybull High School in 1966 and entered the Army shortly after. Harold was serving our country during the Vietnam war as a helicopter door gunner when his helicopter was shot down and he lost his life. He began his tour on May 1st, 1967 and was only 19 years old on June 9th, 1967, when his life was tragically ended. Let us pledge to not forget Harold and all the others who have laid their lives on the altar of freedom for our country.



A brief outline of my talk this morning is to first offer a passage of scripture. Next, I will tell you a story to con-

nect the scripture to what service in the Army means to me now that I am a senior citizen and have had a lot of years to think about it. I would like you to understand that every Veteran has a story and they are all different according to the time and place each person served and the job they were given to do.

The Bible verse I want you to consider is from John 15:13, which reads: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his or her friends". This statement was made by Jesus shortly before His death on the cross and is part of a larger passage where He teaches His disciples about love and friendship. This verse highlights the ultimate act of selfless love as sacrificing one's own life for the sake of others. We could never compare anything we do with what Jesus did for us, but He placed a model before us that I saw enacted on a daily basis during my tour in Vietnam. I have a story to illustrate this, a memory that has been with me for over 56 years.

On this particular day, we had responded to a request from a unit that had wounded soldiers that needed extraction, but their unit was still under fire. When we arrived on station, the ground commander told us to wait before we attempted to land, as they were moving across an open rice field, hoping to reach and cross a tree line where our landing zone would be more protected from enemy fire

District 4

org. Post Commander Ley had the 4 chaplains represented. Steve Wake represented Chaplain George Fox, Frank Romero represented Rabbi Alexander Goode, Terry Bankert represented Chaplain John Washington, and Jerry Ewen represented Chaplain Clark Poling. Not only did each of these individuals represent the 4 Chaplains, but Bert Bresach provided the reading of the 4 Chaplains story. Post 32-member, Tom Bercher, provided bagpipes for the ceremony and to ensure that it was a district wide event, Steve Olsen of Post 26 in Powell provided the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Post 44, for conducting this ceremony, and we hope it continues.

District 4 annual Spring Conference will be 19 April 2026 in Greybull. Please make sure you are putting your award packets together as well as any resolutions.

when we were on the ground loading our patients. As we circled overhead, we saw enemy rockets hit the group of soldiers, causing more of them to be wounded. The ground commander said on the radio, "We can't move anymore because of our wounded. I can't ask you to land, but we need you." We could hear automatic weapons in the background and the stress and fear in his voice was apparent. I asked my crew for a vote, the only time I ever did this during my year of flying missions. I told them, "One 'no' vote means we don't go in until they get the situation stabilized. Every one of them, the co-pilot, the crew chief and the medic, all well-seasoned, were quick to say, "let's go". I wanted desperately to say "no" myself but I couldn't do it, either. I started the approach knowing it was impossible and we would not survive this mission. I just wanted to get it over with as quickly as possible. I also said a short prayer as we started downward, the only time I remember doing that, even though my parents had faithfully taken me to church as I grew up. God was with us, there is no other explanation for what happened. We went in, loaded our patients and left for the hospital, all the time under fire. Not once was the helicopter hit. Not once. If you are wondering if I was scared, the answer is, "Yes." I was terrified. However, this mission took place

See Veterans Day Page 8

Samuel Mares American Legion Post 8
600 Oak Street Douglas, WY 82633
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wyopost08@gmail.com



In Support of Our Veterans

TRAVIS SNOW POST #5 COUNTY FAIR STAND



Join us at the Goshen County Fair!

District 4 Continued

Veterans Day continued from Page 7

However, this mission took place during the last part of my tour and I had already learned that I could do my job in spite of the fear. Our motto in the med-evac, or "Dust-off" units was, "So others may live." It was always about the patients we served and getting each other back alive. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends".

I have been asked a number of times over the years if my Vietnam service was worth it. The answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

Every year, my Vietnam brothers gather in Branson, Missouri to enjoy being together and to share our stories, though our stories these days have less to do with war and helicopters and more to do with our medical issues. It gives us great comfort to know that there are men and women in America today who do not know us, but they are our spiritual children and grandchildren because we saved the lives of their fathers and grandfathers. Knowing the truth of that is more than enough. It more than justifies the spiritual, emotional and physical cost of going to war. It's more than worth the cost of grieving our friends who did not return and those who went home with physical and mental injuries from which they would nev-

er completely recover. I have also been asked if I would do it again? Here, too, my answer is "Yes". If I could, I would go, without hesitation. My friends all feel the same way. "Greater love has no man than this."

Veterans Day was meant to build connections. It's why we are here - to bridge the gap between those who served and those who were served. Every year, veterans hear the words: "Thank you for your service." It's kind. It's respectful. It's heartfelt, and we love to hear it. This year, I want to ask you for something more, because you are the future of America, and have so much to offer. Too often, people picture a veteran as an old man in a ball cap, trading stories about memories long past. That image is worthy of respect, but it isn't the whole story.

Today's veteran could be the teacher in your classroom, the young man or woman coaching Little League, the nurse at your clinic, the police who patrol our town or the neighbor next door who never mentions his service. Many are millennials who carried our nation's two longest conflicts - Iraq and Afghanistan - through twenty years of deployments and sacrifice. They're still young, still raising families and building lives. If we would truly honor them, we have to start seeing them clearly - not as victims or talking points for political agendas, but as lead-

District 4

ers and community builders whose experience belongs at the center of our national story. We must learn to connect with them and with each other.

Connection is the bridge that leads to healing and growth. Connection is why we wear these strange looking hats. It's not to draw attention to ourselves, it's so we can connect with each other. And when we connect, communication and healing takes place. As spouses, friends and families, you can be the spearhead of mental health for Veterans. That means leading with empathy, not silence. It means talking about the hard things, even when it's uncomfortable. It means reminding our loved ones, and ourselves, that positive and loving human connection is critical to emotional survival. If you have a veteran in your life, he or she probably has some things they need to talk about. Most Veterans are reluctant to talk about themselves, but you can start the conversation by asking them about the people they served with, then they will talk all day.

So this Veterans Day and every day, together, let's learn to connect, to listen and to heal.

May God bless you, may He bless this school and this community, and may God bless America!

Thank you for listening with respect.



DISTRICT AND POST NEWS

District 5

News and Activities

Greetings from Post 13,

We attended and participated in Johnson County High School's Veterans Day Program. The VFW and American Legion had our Veterans Day program also. They both were well attended. The American Legion and VFW put out flags around town for Veterans Day. We provided a Color Guard for the Christmas Parade. We served Christmas dinner to the public and provided Meals on Wheels meals. We provided an Honor Guard for 16 Veteran funerals last year. We continue to

serve Breakfast to the public twice a month.

John Zorbis, one of our service officers has taken suicide prevention training We watch a video before our monthly meetings to learn how to help people in need of help. John has been having weekly group meetings with Veterans.

Last, but not least, Post 13 would like to endorse Chuck Guilford for Department 1st Vice Commander. He will do an excellent job.

Cecil Benner
Post 13 Commander

Courtesy Photo



Right: Clarence Bishop, Don Sillivan, Chuck Gilford and Jessica Korhut.

District 6

Canady-Filkins Post 60, Pine Bluffs, WY

We now have a new Honor Guard Commander and he has set up training for certifications of our Honor Guard so we can be the best we can with the help of Post 21, our Honor guard has come a long way (not perfect yet, but close). They have done numerous parades, funerals, and ceremonies in WY as well as the NE Panhandle.

We had our Christmas Social at the post. It was a big het as always, great food, great items and great conversations.

We have been doing Sunday lunches and with some of the best chili. Every meal we do is different. We've had burgers, BBQ pork and beef, and brisket. Our last lunch was "Hot Soup Sunday" where we had 4 different home made soups.

As of the end of January, have completed the VTTV (Veterans talking to Veterans) training through Mentor Agility and Wyoming Veterans Commission. Sometimes all we need is someone to listen.

Just think if every veteran stops and talks to another veteran for 5 minutes it could change someone's life just by listening. That is all that most people need to know is that somebody is listening. I challenge you to try it. You may not be saving the world but you might have saved their world.

Commander Buzz Canady
Canady Filkins American Legion Post 60
Pine Bluffs



Buzz Canady
Commander Post 60



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District 6 Continued

Garcia-Castaceda American Legion Post #93 Cheyenne, WY

**Garcia-Castaceda American Legion Post 93 Announces
Exciting Revamp to Better Serve Veterans and the Community**

Greetings,

Here are some recent activities of Post 93 since the last newspaper.

During Christmas Eve, Garcia-Castaneda Post 93 hosted a joyful community Christmas party, bringing together families, veterans, and neighbors for an evening of celebration, generosity, and holiday spirit. The event featured festive decorations, music, food, and gifts for children, creating a warm and welcoming space for the community to connect and celebrate the season.

Post 93 has been recognized by the Department of Wyoming for reaching 130 % of its membership goal, the highest percentage in the state.

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the dedication and hard work of our leadership and membership volunteers who have gone above and beyond in outreach and service to veterans in our community.

Garcia-Castaneda Post 93 recently had the honor of hosting the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 3, 2026. A meaningful event dedicated to remember-



**Aubrion Bloodworth
Post 93 Commander**

ing the courage, unity, and selfless sacrifice demonstrated by the Four Chaplains during World War II. Led by Post 93 Chaplain Vanessa Stuart. The program included remarks on the historic actions of the chaplains, ceremonial presentations, and moments of reflection that reminded attendees of the importance of compassion and unity in times of crisis.

Thankfully
**Aubrion Bloodworth;
Garcia-Castaneda
Post Commander 93 -**



Courtesy Photo

**Above: Bottom L-R Vanessa Stuart, Aubrion Bloodworth, Mark Stuart
Top L-R Teddy Olivas Scott Mayo Christmas eve. Below: Maddie and
Teddy preparing for Four Chaplains.**



Endorsements For Commander



**Benjamin Glenn
1st Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming**

With the endorsement of McDonald and Voight Post #75 in Chugwater, I am announcing my candidacy for the Department of Wyoming Commander for the 2026-2027 Legion year. The American Legion has given me the opportunity to give back, and I want to continue to serve Wyoming Veterans as well as being a voice for our current Wyoming sons and daughters who are protecting us around the world. I served in the United States Navy from December 1988 to February 2015. I served as a US Navy Special Warfare Combat Crewman (SWCC) operating High Speed Boats on rivers and oceans around the globe while finally retiring after 27 years as a Chief Warrant Officer in Guam.

My American Legion journey began while on R&R at "Allen Pop Reeves" Post # 123 in Angeles City Philippines. After I retired from the Navy my wife, and I moved back to Chugwater to help my uncle with his place. I attended a Veterans Day Observance at the Chugwater Veterans Park and subsequently became a member of Post #75. After I missed a meeting, the Post appointed me as the new Adjutant of Post #75 one year later. A few years afterward, the district #2 Commander named me Chaplain. I was subsequently appointed to the Internal Affairs Committee by the Department Commander to represent Wyoming at the National Convention, a role I filled for two years. During my tenure as Commander of Post #75, I was elected at the State Convention in Worland in June 2024 to serve as Wyoming's 2nd Vice Commander for the 2024-2025 Legion year. October of 2024 the National Commander appointed me to serve on his Employment and Veterans Preference Committee in Indianapolis. I graduated from the National American Legion College in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 22, 2024. For the 2025-2026 Legion year, I was elected as the Vice Commander of the Department of Wyoming.

It would be both an honor and a privilege to earn your support and serve as the 2026-2027 Commander for the American Legion Department of Wyoming.

**"Service Before Self
Not Self Service"**

For First Vice Commander



**Chuck Guilford
2nd Vice Commander
Dept. of Wyoming**

With the endorsement of Powder River Post #13, Buffalo, Wyoming I am announcing my candidacy for Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander. Since being appointed to 2nd Vice in December of 2024 and then elected to 2nd Vice at our last annual convention in Newcastle, Wyoming it has been a pleasure to serve the Veterans of Wyoming. I served in the U.S. Army beginning in June of 1975 thru January of 1981. I was stationed in Miesau and Pirmasens Germany.

The last seven months of my enlistment were at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

I joined the American Legion, Powder River Post 13, in 2015. I sat on the side-lines for a few months and then quickly became involved with Post activities. I was asked if I would help out in the kitchen with the twice monthly breakfasts and other opportunities to serve the Post as they came up, IE. color guard, Boy's and Girl's State recruitment and Memorial and Veterans Day observances to name a few.

In 2019 I was elected Commander of Powder River Post 13 and in June of 2019, I attended my first State Convention in Laramie. A few years later I was elected to District 5 Commander, the following year District 5 Vice Commander and then once again District 5 Commander in 2024. I really enjoyed my time in those roles as I learned more about the Legion and continue to learn more about the organization.

As 2nd Vice Commander I was appointed to the National Security Counsel and the Wyoming Security Committee.

It would be my honor and privilege to have your support to serve as your Department of Wyoming 1st Vice Commander for 2026-2027.



Endorsements For Second Vice Commander

For Department Finance Officer



James A. Lish
Candidate for 2nd Vice
Commander

in 4 departments. He has served as Post Commander 3 times, District Commander 2 times, District Adjutant, Kentucky Area Vice Commander, Membership Director for Montana, Department Adjutant for Colorado and Wyoming, and Internal Affairs National Employee. He has helped Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming achieve 100% membership while serving in these respective departments. He is a member of Ye Steivos, ANAVICUS, DGS, and a 2012 graduate of National American Legion College. Jim has served on several National level committees such as Americanism and M&PA as the Western Region Liaison and is currently the Emblem Sales consultant for Wyoming.

Jim is eligible for membership in the American Legion through his honorable service as an Airborne 88M and later a 12B Combat Engineer where he deployed to the Iraq theater twice. He retired in 2006. Jim and his wife, April, have lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming since 2019.

Francis E. Self proudly endorses James A. (Jim) Lish for the office of Department Second Vice Commander. Jim has been a member of The American Legion for 19 years

2026 Wyoming Boys State Session

The American Legion Department of Wyoming is pleased to announce the Wyoming Boys' State 2026 session, which will be held June 7 to June 13, 2026, at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The delegation consists of up to 100 of Wyoming's top high school juniors who live in simulated cities, participate in legislative and court systems, and experience the election process. Attendance at Boys' State weighs favorably on applications to many colleges, universities, and the military academies. It offers scholarship opportunities, and three college credits are available to graduates.

Wyoming Boys' State is held annually in June. It is a chance for high school juniors from across the state to participate in a week-long event gaining knowledge of their state and its governmental structure. Delegates learn first-hand how governmental structure. Delegates learn how government works, experiencing what it takes to create and enact laws. The week emphasizes leadership, civic engagement, and patriotism. Speakers at

Boys' State include Wyoming's Governor and members of Wyoming's congressional delegation. In the process of working together, the delegates develop life-long friendships. The week culminates with a visit to the State Capitol in Cheyenne, where delegates occupy the House and Senate Chambers, as well as the various offices and agencies of Wyoming's government. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet the governor and many of his staff members in this full day of activities.

Although most delegates at Boys' State are academically rated in the top 10% of their class, any boy who shows exceptional character and an interest in government may be considered a candidate, regardless of academic standing. Any Junior boy who is in good standing at high school may apply.

Applications are initiated online through our website. www.wyoboyssstate.org

Send any potential delegates to this website and follow the prominent

links to apply. After they've entered their information, we will send them an email confirmation of your application. After entering their information, a Boys' State of American Legion representative will be in contact with them. Application period is January 15 to May 15. APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN NOW!



Deanna Hurless
Department Finance Officer

Husted-Pendleton Post 14

Endorses Deanna Hurless for the Department of Wyoming Finance Officer

Deanna became a member of the American Legion in 2009. She was eligible for membership in the American Legion through her service in the U.S. Air Force. She has spent 30 years working for a credit union, holding various positions, and is currently the Loan Processing Manager.

Her leadership within the Ameri-

can Legion is exemplary. She served as Post 14's 2nd Vice-Commander (appointed, Dec 2010-2011; elected, 2011-2012), and Post 14 Commander (2012-2014). During her tenure as Commander, she was honored with the Department Post Commander Award. Deanna's commitment continued as Post 14 Finance Officer (2014-2016), District 6 Vice-Commander (2015-2016), and she has served as the Department Finance Officer since 2016.

Deanna's dedication to veterans is further reflected in her role as Post 14's Adjutant since 2017, a position in which she has earned the Department Post Adjutant of the Year Award twice. She is also a proud graduate of The American Legion National College, Class of 2018, representing the Department of Wyoming.

At the national level, Deanna has served on several different committees and is currently a member of the Veterans Benefit Committee.

In 2020, she was appointed by the governor to the Wyoming Veterans Commission as the Albany & Carbon County Commissioner, where she continues to advocate for veterans in the region.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



Danielle Rempfer for
Department Finance Officer

The Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 proudly endorses Danielle Rempfer for the position of Department Finance Officer for The American Legion Department of Wyoming.

Danielle is eligible for membership in The American Legion through honorable service in the United States Navy as a Machinist Mate from 2000 to 2004. Since joining The American Legion in May 2022, Danielle has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership. Danielle was elected 2nd Vice Commander of Post 26 later

that year and advanced to 1st Vice Commander in 2025. Danielle also serves as Director of the Big Horn Basin Riders, District 4 Vice Commander, and Vice Director of WALRUS. In May 2025, Danielle became an instructor for Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM), a suicide-prevention program, and is deeply committed to educating the community on suicide-prevention practices. Prior to joining The American Legion, Danielle held multiple leadership roles in the Boy Scouts, including serving as treasurer. Danielle is also a graduate of the Wyoming American Legion Leadership Training Program and intends to apply for National Legion College.

In the role of Assistant Finance Officer, Danielle has developed a strong command of the responsibilities essential to maintaining the financial health of the Department. Danielle's active involvement at both the Post and Riders levels has provided valuable experience in budgeting, fundraising, and supporting vital programs statewide.

Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 is confident that Danielle Rempfer possesses the integrity, dedication, and professionalism required to excel as Department Finance Officer and is honored to offer full endorsement for this position.



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Wyoming Veterans Assistant Program

The following is an example of the work that the veteran organizations of northern Wyoming do on a routine basis. This is a combined effort between the Wyoming Veterans Commission, The American Legion Department of Wyoming, Wyoming Workforce Services, Congresswoman Hageman's office, Veterans Navigation Network, the city of Powell, and numerous other individuals.

At the end of July 2025, Wyoming Veterans' Commissioner, Nicole Laffin, received a call from Tim Sheppard, the Wyoming Veterans Commission Director, concerning a veteran in need. This is not unusual and happens many times a month throughout the state of Wyoming. The veteran in need had a drastic change in life over the past 2 years. From having steady employment, a comfortable home, and a vehicle, they were suddenly in dire need of support with keeping their home, getting reliable transportation, and finding employment. Commissioner Laffin began immediately to make several phone calls to find funding and stop the eviction. Blake Furhiman and the Veterans Navigation Network were able to provide emergency funding to stop the eviction. Thank you Blake Furhiman from the Veterans Navigation Network, for the fantastic assistance provided.

The next step for Commissioner Laffin was to secure employment and a vehicle for the veteran. Contacting Rob Gardner with Wyoming Workforce Services began the process of employment. Rob was "all in" to help the veteran and assisted in dusting off the veterans' resume. Rob was instrumental in searching high and low for the right job. This meant finding employment that the veteran was qualified for and could do physically. While searching for employment, Rob contacted employers to ensure that they understood the situation and why there was a gap in employment. Although the veteran still had no vehicle, they made it to every interview because Rob was willing to go the extra mile and drove them to the interviews. With Rob's help, a great match was found. Thank you, Rob Gardner, with Wyoming Workforce Services for being relentless in your assistance. And thank you Rob for ensuring that this veteran was not alone and picking weeds, delivering groceries and all the other assistance you provided.

The Wyoming Veterans Commission also wanted to ensure that the veteran was provided mentally and that they were interacting with others. The American Legion Department of Wyoming was contacted and Post 26 in Powell was asked to step up and assist with this. Post 26 Commander Steve Olsen provided initial contact with the veteran. Post 26 was able to provide another mortgage payment for the veteran, ensuring that there would not be another homeless veteran, and started the veterans' interaction with others. This included taking them to post meetings, taco Tuesday dinners, and numerous other events happening at the post. Post 26 also provided transportation to the bank and grocery store and ensured that food

commodities were distributed accordingly. Thank you to Steve Olsen and Edward Morrow for the needed assistance that you provided from Post 26.

Although the veteran had applied for Social Security assistance, a little extra help was needed to navigate the process. Rachel Hedges with Representative Hageman's office secured a timelier Social Security appointment/evaluation. Thank you, Rachel Hedges, for assisting in this otherwise long process.

While all of this was being done, Tim Sheppard of the Wyoming Veterans Commission, took on the task of securing a vehicle for the veteran. Between Tim and Powell's Mayor John Wetzel, persistence paid off. In December, a family in Powell donated one of their vehicles to the veteran. Thank you to Mayor Wetzel and Tim Sheppard for being persistent and sending out requests repeatedly until it paid off.

The family delivered the vehicle to a service station to get maintenance done. This included getting an oil change, a service inspection, repairing the lights, and general cleaning before providing it to the veteran. Thank you to the generous family from Powell for this donation.

A vehicle is never "free"; taxes and licensing can be very expensive. This is where an officer of the Wyoming Department of Transportation Investigation and Compliance division stepped in to assist. The officer explained how to transfer a "gift" vehicle title and took time to contact the Park County Treasurer to ensure that no sales tax would be assessed. Thank you to the WYDOT officer who assisted with all of this.

Although the veteran had received mortgage assistance for August, September, October and November, and has secured employment, one last payment was needed to ensure that housing stayed secure. Fellow Wyoming Veteran Commissioner Bobby Werner, of Greybull, was contacted to assist with this. Commissioner Werner, who is also Post 32 Commander of the Greybull American Legion, contacted his post for this assistance. The post provided the January mortgage payment, and seven Post 32 Legionnaires also stepped up to provide a generous donation towards new tires for the vehicle. Thank you to Commissioner/Post 32 Commander Werner, and Post 32 members for stepping up to assist with this endeavor.

A local dealership in Powell stepped in to supply the tires, at cost, for the veteran. They also provided time and labor for putting on the new tires. Thank you to the generous dealership of Powell for this assistance.

There are so many others that are not mentioned but did assist with this endeavor. Thank you to all those silent volunteers.

This is just one extreme example of the great assistance and care that is given throughout the state of Wyoming, and especially in the Bighorn Basin.

Thank you to Wyoming Veterans Commissioner and Lovell Post 11 Commander Nicole Laffin for spearheading this mission and for ensuring that the goal of no veteran left behind was successfully accomplished.



In Memoriam Sons of the American Legion

Wyoming Squadron 6 - Erik R Woolley
Wyoming Squadron 42
Bruce Ramsay
Terry D. Rassbach

Gary M. Sharkey
Charles E. Edwards
Justin R. West
Gary L. Preston

Michael S. Pearce
Wyoming Squadron 54
Lary W. Speed



WYOMING AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

The WALRUS group is pleased to share updates on our activities and upcoming events. Our current leadership team for 2026-2027 includes Donna Williams as Director, Danielle Rempfer as Vice Director, and Kirk Will as Sergeant of Arms. Key members also include Ray Simms, who serves as Post 24 Commander, along with Joel Jessen and Katie Simms.

Reflecting on the past year, we organized a successful ride to Mt. Rushmore on June 22nd, 2025, in conjunction with the Department Convention. Sixteen members enjoyed the scenic journey from New Castle.

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in the upcoming Department Convention, which will be held in Powell from June 18th to 21st. We invite all WALRUS members to join us for a meeting on the 21st. Following this brief session, Steve Olsen is planning an engaging 4-5 hour ride over the picturesque Beartooth Pass. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for these events.

A reminder to our chapters that annual dues are \$30. Please make checks payable to WALRUS and mail them to 551 Broadway, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

We hope this information meets your requirements for the newspa-



per article. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further details are needed.

Sincerely, Donna Williams



RANGE

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range.net

COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION CVMA® WY 36 AND THE WYOMING VETERANS COMMISSION PRESENT:

VETERAN RESOURCE EXPO

Drawings and Door Prizes, Give-A-Ways, Scan QR codes for more info, free registration for veterans.

Free food Raffles

03.19.26
2:30-6:30PM

Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
800 N Poplar St, Casper, WY 82601

Limited Agency Tables Available

Registration with QR Code or call Sandy @ 307-331-4657 for tables available.

Don't Forget Our Buddies in Business

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WE BUY AND SELL OLD AND UNIQUE ITEMS

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205 MAIN STREET PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082

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1-307-640-1828

Veteran Owned



**Are you looking for something to do from
May 14th-17th?
District 1 has you covered!**

May 2026 Checklist:

- Be a part of an amazing organization that supports the veterans and active-duty service members in our communities, state, and nation. **You've already done that!**



Want to meet **National President Pam Ray?** She'll be at all the events we're hosting. The only thing missing now is you!



- Ready for a road trip? Join us in **Ft. Washakie** on Friday, May 15th as we show off how Wyoming gets things done.

- Ready to honor those that served our great nation? Meet us in Rock Springs for the **13th Annual Veterans Awareness Walk** on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 am.



- Time to relax with friends while making a difference? Get dressed up and help us unmask hunger at our **Masquerade of Honor Ball** in Green River on Saturday, May 16th from 5:30-9:30 pm.



District 1 can't wait to see you!

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DEPARTMENT OF WYOMING
ANNUAL CONVENTION
June 18-21, 2026
Hosted by:
Hughes-Pittinger Post 26
143 S Clark Street Powell WY 82435

Registration & ALL Meetings held at Park County Fairgrounds in Heart Mountain Hall unless otherwise noted

EVENT	HOW MANY	TOTAL
PRE-REGISTRATION (includes chip and t-shirt) * Deadline April 15, 2026 T-Shirt (size S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL) (only available during preregistration)	\$20.00	Size:
REGISTRATION at the DOOR	\$20.00	
CHIP	\$ 5.00	
FRIDAY – JUNE 19, 2026		
07:00 – 8:30 AM REGISTRATION at Heart Mountain Hall		
07:00 AM COMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS BREAKFAST		
09:00 AM CALL TO ORDER		
12:00 PM LUNCH (on your own)		
06:00 PM SEMI-FORMAL BANQUET \$36.00 Chicken or \$40.00 Beef		
SATURDAY – JUNE 20, 2026		
07:00 AM PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS BREAKFAST		
09:00 AM CALL TO ORDER		
12:00 PM LUNCH (on your own)		
RAFFLE DRAWING / SILENT AUCTION at Closing of Convention		
SUNDAY – JUNE 21, 2026		
09:00 AM WALRUS MEETING at Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 – WALRUS Ride immediately after the meeting.		
TAKE TIME TO ENJOY		

****MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO Hughes-Pittinger Post 26**** TOTAL ENCLOSED _____
Check One

NAME _____ POST/UNIT _____ prime rib ___ or chicken ___ for Banquet;
NAME _____ POST/UNIT _____ prime rib ___ or chicken ___ for Banquet;
NAME _____ POST/UNIT _____ prime rib ___ or chicken ___ for Banquet;

MAIL REGISTRATION & CHECK TO: Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 143 S Clark St Powell WY 82435

HOTEL/MOTEL INFORMATION

Travel Lodge 777 E 2 nd St Powell WY 307-754-5117 Starting at \$80	Lamplighter 234 E 1 st ST Powell WY 307-754-2226 Starting \$109
Travel Lodge 595 E Main ST Lovell WY 307-548-2725 Starting \$80	Fairground RV Park 655 E 5 th ST Powell WY 307-754-8855 First come first serve-- \$35

Our Legion Family

DD214 RETENTION FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Effective immediately, the Adjutant or Secretary at each Unit shall verify a member's eligibility by reviewing documentation such as a DD214, then promptly return the document to the individual. No copies or electronic records containing Personally Identifiable Information shall be retained.

Some Units currently maintain decades of archived DD214s, including those of deceased members. These records should be securely destroyed to reduce exposure to identity theft and mitigate potential legal liability.

This policy should be communicated to all membership staff and incorporated into Unit and Department procedures effective February 4, 2026.

Regards, Mark /c. Seavey, J.D -National Judge Advocate

Community Service

American Legion Family Day is April 25th. What are your Unit and Post doing? By the time this comes out, hopefully the February 10th webinar for it will be uploaded to the ALA Academy.

I look forward to seeing what everyone has been doing for their communities this year per your year end reports.

Jessica York, Community Service

Visit our Department Webpage! www.wylegionaux.org
Where you will find the latest news, up coming events, contact information, forms and publications

ALA DEPARTMENT OF WY
GRAND OLD FLAG

PHOTO CONTEST
SHOWCASE STUNNING IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN FLAGS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2026-2027!

OPEN TO ALL ALA MEMBERS, JRS. AND YOUNG SONS
All entries must include: name, unit and where it was taken

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MAY 16, 2026
2 PHOTOS PER PARTICIPANT

TEXT OR EMAIL PHOTOS TO : CATHEY RAYMER
307-677-0496
catheyraymer55@gmail.com



American Legion Auxiliary News

Department President's Report

Robin Ruff, Department President



Robin Ruff
President

Whoooooe! The wind couldn't keep us from meeting for an awesome MidWinter in Wheatland! It was great to see so many smiling faces...some familiar and some new! There was a lot of information shared, laughter, moans, even heard from our back corner service dog. (love it when he talks!) One of the best parts of being President is getting to be in front where I can see everyone! I may not remember the name, but always the smiling face! The one face and name I can't forget is my vice president, Cathey Raymer. As membership chair, she took us on a trek through Wyoming and led us in a dog race as we raced for membership! As Americanism chairman, she has taken us on a journey through flag etiquette, history, photos and then this year! No one can dispute the fun of painting our American flag on a rock! She puts her heart, soul and

energy into everything she does for our Auxiliary! She will be an awesome Department President! (So please vote for her at Convention!) But before you do that, PLEASE add your volunteer hours, turn them in, write your reports, nominate a Member of the Year for your Unit, and attend your Spring Conference! It's time to let your light and love for our Auxiliary shine in ourselves, Units, towns, districts and state! You all deserve my tipping of my cute little hat to each and everyone. I better end by saying a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who called, sent cards, messages and prayers for the loss of my mother. No wonder I love you! Robin

Hope to see you all soon
2025-2026 Department President Robin Ruff

Department Vice President/Americanism Report



Cathey Raymer
*Vice President/
Americanism
Chairman*

It's that time of year to get excited about collecting and judging the Americanism Essays. I know that I'm looking forward to receiving and reading the top 2 essays in each class. Please submit them on or before March 31st.

Friendly reminder to everyone: each essay needs to be accompanied by a fully complete and legible cover sheet. If the cover sheet is incomplete or unclear it may result in disqualification-yikes! I want their outstanding work to make it to National, so please double-check every detail.

A quick tip: students should use their personal or parents email address on the cover sheet. School emails take a vacation, and they don't

work during the summer months.

No AI-generated essays allowed. Every submission will be checked for AI assistance, and if it is determined that the essay is 30% or more AI-written, it is disqualified. There are free tools online you can use to double check them before you send them in.

April 25th is American Legion Family Day. This is the day to open the doors of the Posts to the community to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments for the American Legion Family. What are you and your post doing to celebrate this day? Remember to take pictures and report it.

This year is America's 250 Birthday! What are your units and posts doing to celebrate this birthday?

You know that my favorite saying is "Pictures, pictures, pictures!" It is true again this year! The Grand Old Flag photo contest is running again this year. Look around your communities and take photos of American flags and send them in. It is open to all ALA members, Jrs., and young Sons and 2 entries per participant. The photos are due to me on or before May 16th by email or text message. Judging will be done by members that attend the Department Convention. Prize is a 2027 membership renewal.

Cathey Raymer - Americanism Chairman

Cathey Raymer
Americanism Chair

News from your Department Office

member each Quarter. What are upcoming Unit

Activities? Department Officers/District Presidents might be able to attend.

SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE - 2026

April 11 - DISTRICT 6
Cheyenne 10 am

April 12 - DISTRICT 2
Chugwater Noon

April 18 - DISTRICT 5
Sheridan 10 am

April 19 - DISTRICT 4
Greybull TBA

April 25 - DISTRICT 1 Jackson 10 am

April 26 - DISTRICT 3
Ft. Washakie Noon

District President will be providing information for your meeting.

DEADLINES

MARCH 31 AMERICANISM ESSAYS

Cathey Raymer
APRIL 15 UNIT IMPACT REPORTS

APRIL 30 DISTRICT IMPACT REPORTS due to

HISTORIAN

DISTRICT POPPY POSTERS - 1st & 2nd due to Poppy Chairman

MAY 1 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES DUE

THANK YOU ALL for helping our VETERANS throughout Wyoming.

Legion Auxiliary.
Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary
Treasurer



Vicki Paddock
Membership Chairman

Membership

Membership Article

Congratulations to the 2 units that reached 100% by January 31, 2026. They are Jesse Martin Unit 9 (Glenrock) and Angus England Unit 54 (Saratoga). We had 10 units that reached 65% November 1, 2025 and were entered into a drawing for \$10. Phillip Edwards Unit 47 (Pinedale) was the lucky winner.

Our next goal is 85% by March 15, 2026. This is The American Legion Birthday. The Department of Wyoming also needs to meet this goal to be considered for the Merit Medallion Award.

I have one last reminder. All officers in your unit must have their dues paid in full by January 1 to be a member in good standing and able to hold an office. If you are holding dues, your members will not be in good standing and will not be eligible for any benefits offered.

Vicki Paddock
Membership Chairman



Peg Sullivan
Department Secretary
Treasurer

Secretary Tidbits

I don't know about the rest of Wyoming, but I am TIRED of wind. Our temperatures have been on the mild side; BUT we need snow.

Our newspaper tends to be old news and repetitious. Our hope that your District Articles will be improved BECAUSE your UNIT news will be BETTER.

Units are encouraged to highlight a



"In the Clouds"

In Memoriam
 Virginia Rockett Unit 13
 Inez Todd Unit 15
 Zola Werle Unit 13
 Helen Berger Unit 10
 Lydia Moore Unit 26
 Miriam Junge honorary Past
 National President Department of
 Ohio
 Margaret Smith Unit 26
 Lynn Alexander Unit 47
 Katherine Murphy
 Unit 26

Mamie Denson Unit 8
Annette Werbelow Unit 47
Alice Main Unit 95

Sympathy
 Arlene Goodchild Unit 26-Loss of
 Sister
 Margaret Noble Unit 47-Loss of
 daughter
 Family of Maggie Smith
 Arlene Goodchild Unit 26-Loss of
 Sister-in law
 Cynthia Purcella Unit 7-Loss of

both parents
Robin Ruff Unit 7-Loss of mother
Get Well
 Margie Sanborn Unit 15
 Helen Wilson Unit 7
 Pat Busch Unit 19

Thinking of You
 Nancy Dysart Unit 15



From the Chaplain's Desk



Susan Dansereau
 Chaplain

to brag about what we have done, so put on your thinking caps, gather a group from your unit, and share what you have done. Oftentimes this is the only time you give yourselves that "pat on the back".

I am already receiving regular reports from some units, thanks to those of you that do this. It is always heartwarming to see how caring we as embers can be to our fellow members. Among these reports, mentions of get-well cards sent, cards of congratulations, birthdays, and thinking of you to those that can use a little "pick me up". One report spoke of not always sending cards but making a point to stop and visit the members when she sees them in the community. Please keep sharing these with me. A simple note, or an e-mail is as welcome as the report turned in on the chaplain form. For year-end reports, please include any deceased members so we can be sure to have them included in the memorial ceremonies at Spring Conferences, as well as Department convention.

As always, please let me know when you would also like for a card to be sent on behalf of the Department.

"You are a reminder to those around you that we shouldn't just live in the world, but build it up to be a better place to exist and grow."

"Service, Not Self",
 Susan Dansereau

As I write this article, we in the southwest corner of the state have experienced perhaps the strangest winter yet. Not much shoveling, but it sure has been windy!

With spring on its way, I just want to take a moment to look towards the dreaded year-end reports. Yep, I said the "R" word. Please do not think of this as an arduous task to be dreaded, but a chance to celebrate what we as individual units have accomplished. Our organization is made up of selfless people choosing to honor our country, and the women and men who have defended it. This is our time



Peg Sullivan
 Department Secretary
 Treasurer

**For Department
 Secretary/Treasurer**

Particular "a deadline is a deadline"

Efficient balances work and grands

Gopher Go for this and Go for that!

Powder River Unit 13 is endorsing Peggy Sullivan for the Office of Department Secretary Treasurer.

Peg started her journey in Poplar, MT Unit 55 helping with poppies. She didn't listen to her mom when she said, "Don't join the Auxiliary, they'll work you to death". This coming from a 52 year Auxiliary member. Her 38 year consecutive membership started with Unit 44 Worland and continued to Unit 13 Buffalo. Peg's military history started with her Dad, two uncles and a cousin who served in WWII, her husband, two brothers and two cousins in Vietnam, her daughter and a cousin in the Gulf War and a nephew serving today.

Peg is proud of her membership from her dad. She wears a sweatshirt saying, "I'm the PROUD Daughter of a Veteran".

Endorsements



Cathey Raymer
 Vice President/
 Americanism
 Chairman

For Department President

Tom Whitmore Unit of Green River is thrilled to endorse Cathey Raymer for Department President for the 2026-2027 term!

Cathey is eligible through her husband, Joe Don Raymer, who is a Vietnam Veteran.

Cathey is a proud Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member who has worn many hats, including Unit President, Vice President and Secretary. She also served three years as District 1 President and several Department Chairmanships.

One of Cathey's true passions is Girls State. She has been a member of the staff for seven years, three of which included serving on the Girls State Board.

We ask that you join us and support Cathey Raymer for Department President.



Jessica York
 Historian

For Department Vice President

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 8 - Douglas, Wyoming Letter of Endorsement for Jessica York Candidate for Department Vice President

To the Department of Wyoming American Legion Auxiliary,

Unit 8 of Douglas is proud to offer our full and enthusiastic endorsement of Jessica York for the office of Department Vice President. Jessica has been a dedicated and influential member of the American Legion Auxiliary since September 2010, becoming fully active in 2015. She is eligible for membership through her father, Donald York, a proud United States Navy veteran.

Throughout her years of service, Jessica has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, and a deep passion for advancing the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her record of service speaks of her amazing

involvement in our organization- Unit Secretary & Membership Chairman (2016-2026): Jessica strengthened Unit 8's administrative foundation, maintained accurate and timely records. She has a knack for keeping the unit organized and moving forward!

Acting Unit President (2023-2024): During a period of transition, Jessica stepped into leadership with confidence and steadiness.

District 2 President (2019-2025): Jessica provided strong district-level leadership, encouraging participation in Auxiliary programs, and representing District 2 with integrity.

Department Historian (2022-2026): Her attention to detail and respect for our organization's legacy have ensured that our story is recorded with pride.

Department Community Service Chairman (2025-2026): Jessica's dedication to hands-on service and her ability to mobilize volunteers reflect her passion for helping others.

Across every position she has held, Jessica has shown leadership, dependability, teamwork, and a strong commitment to service. Her experience at the Unit, District, and Department levels has prepared her well for the responsibilities of Department Vice President.

We are confident that Jessica will continue to serve with honor, compassion, and excellence. We are proud to endorse her candidacy and believe she will be an outstanding asset to the Department leadership team.

Respectfully submitted, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 8 Douglas, Wyoming

District 1 Report



Cheryl Craig
District 1 President

Mary Lankford is Unit 47's Girls State Chair and has incredible or-

ganizational skills. Mary attends and sometimes provides testimony at legislative sessions in Cheyenne each year. Legislative sessions often start in January and continue through March. The Unit's Girls State team stays flexible on dates for Girls State applicant interviews based on Mary's schedule to return from Cheyenne. Without Mary, our Unit would not have the strong Girls State representation that it does each year. The Unit believes Girls State is a very important program of the Auxiliare and we are grateful that Mary is willing to continue to Chair this activity.

DISTRICT 1
Cheryl Craig, President
WyoD1President@outlook.com

District 2 Report



B-Jo Laing
District 1 President

time.

As I have pondered over this actual metaphor of decay, I realized there is some good as well. There are individuals who are doing various things to shore up the country. We in the American Legion Auxiliare are some of those individuals. We use our time and choices to support Veterans and active military and families. We promote patriotism and Americanism, lending our voices to the positivity that dams the erosion that is being perpetuated. Our actions, time and monies, are being spent to be sure that our country and our Constitution are buoyed up against the winds and tides that wear them.

I would like every member in our Department, especially District 2, to think about what their reasons are for wanting to keep America, our United States, free and continuing. Why do you support Veterans? Why do you promote patriotism? Why do you do what you do? I will feature some of the answers in future issues. But, I would also like you to think about how you are upholding our Constitution, or if you are continuing the unravelling of the weaves of the Nation. Hopefully, you are on the side that is keeping our country and Constitution together, rather than tearing it asunder.

See you at our Spring Conference in Chugwater; Sunday, April 12, 2026.

District 2
B-Jo Laing President

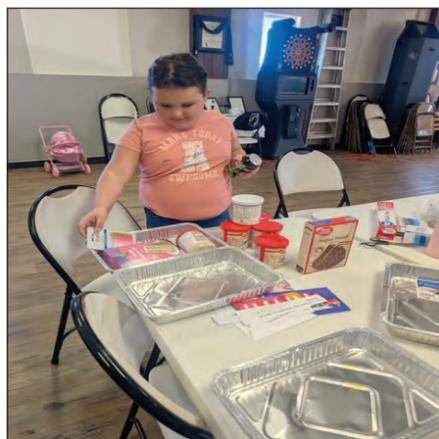
District 4 Report



Susan Sironen
District 4

We were asked to highlight a member for each unit.

Worland Unit 44 - Worland would like to highlight Debra Bankert for this issue. Debra, a Junior Member since 2017 has enriched all of us as mentors for her this year. She currently serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the unit. Debra attends meetings alongside her mother and remains an active contributor at post 44, frequently assisting with meal service and supporting various post events. Debra has assembled cake-pan birthday kits which have been delivered to the local food bank for distribution.



Above: Debra Bankert

Powell Unit 26 - Powell would like to highlight our member, Constance Martinez. Connie has been an Auxiliare member since 2002. She has been our Unit's Sergeant at Arms since 2006 (for 20 consecutive years). As one of our senior members, she provides guidance and mentorship for our younger members. Connie regularly volunteers to work at our Annual Cherry Pie luncheon, bake sales, Poppy Day, and in the Legion kitchen for weekly meals and special events. She is a true example of "Service Not Self" and we are honored to have her as a valued member of our Auxiliare family.



Above: Connie Martinez

Basin Unit 29 - we would like to highlight our member, Janet Gamill. Jan has been an Auxiliare member since 2014. Jan is always willing to help with our Auxiliare activities such as Poppy Day and Veterans Day as well as attending all our meetings when in town. She also assists one of our members who struggles to get out and about by picking up her mail and groceries and visiting with her daily. Jan spends time in Casper and volunteers at the local library when there. She was crowned Lilac Queen in Basin last summer in recognition of her volunteer time. She is a great asset to both the town of Basin and our Auxiliare.

DISTRICT 4
Susan Sironen, President

I often drive north on US 85 to Torrington from LaGrange. Just north of Hawk Springs, on the west side of the highway, there is a ranch with a US flag posted. I often look to that flag to determine where the wind is blowing and how hard. When the wind was at some of it's worst one day, as I drove in to Torrington, I noticed how torn and frayed the flag was. I realized the wind was going to tear further and unravel it in the harsh wind.

At that moment I also realized how, just like the physical wind was eroding the flag's weaves, hateful rhetoric throughout our country is eroding the tapestry of our country and our Constitution, thread by thread. It made me sad. I said a prayer for our country at that moment, and I have nightly for some

District 5 Report

Hello from District 5!

Newcastle's unit member Cindy Sandoval is being put up for "Member of the Year"! Cindy helps out whenever and wherever asked or needed. Cindy plays Mrs. Claus at the Legion Christmas party and many other events every year. She is remarkably busy right now working with the Legion and town of Newcastle preparing for the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Here is to a great lady who loves helping her local Veterans and families!

Moorcroft, has been busy this winter with the POW/MIA ceremony along with the Childs Military table being given at their Veterans Day program. Doing deliveries to the Sheridan VA with donations totaling over \$900 from the Auxiliare, Legion, and community. Now they are getting the school kids doing Poppy Posters and Americanism Essays (they always seem to have the most winners).

Kaycee gave out ALA "Geography Coloring & Activities" books to grades 3-5 on Veterans Day. For Christmas, the Unit delivered boxes of fruit, candy and drink mixes to the Buffalo Veterans Home as well as took 133 dozen cookies to the Sheridan VA.

Sheridan is looking forward to hosting Spring Conference! The

date is April 18th, where is to be determined. It will start at 10 am. We still are not sure what we are planning for the 250th Anniversary, but it should be good!

Buffalo's member highlight is Sharon Soule. Sharon has been an asset to our Unit since she joined in 2010. She sends out a monthly Meeting Reminder to Auxiliare and Legion members. Sharon continues to be our membership chairman collecting and recording dues. Sharon communicates with all members by sending out the yearly calendar with their 2026 Membership Card. We find Sharon in the kitchen baking cookies, doing dishes, planning and preparing meals for fundraisers or funerals. Sharon pitches in helping at the Wyoming Veterans Home, with Poppy Day, Memorial Day. She is our grocery "gopher" and can be counted on to help whenever needed. You might come to a meeting our function on the grumpy side but when you see Sharon's smile, you smile back and think to yourself, "attitude adjustment". Thank you, Sharon!

Campbell County, Unit 42 and Hullett, Unit 80 where's your news?

DISTRICT 5
Gloria Taylor, President





District 6 Report



Donna Younger has been a member of Unit 54 since 2008. She is the elected treasurer and volunteer membership chairman. Donna is a very active member participating in almost every event and fundraising activity the Unit is involved with. She organizes and cooks the Veteran's Dinner, baking cookies, assembling breakfast burritos and selling concessions.

Ms. Younger works with the Girl State applicants and the paperwork for all scholarships. She assisted in implementing a "point system" for local scholarships, making them more equally judged.

To Donna and all our members, I shout out a huge THANK YOU and it's a privilege to work with you.

iary thru her father, George Wood, when she was in the eighth grade. She is now a 57 continuous year member. She served her unit as sergeant of arms thru high school. After graduating from high school, Diana went to college and had a career. She moved back to Saratoga and Unit 54 thirty-three years later.



Above: Diana Galbraith

She has worked fishing derby and chariot race concessions continuously, bakes cookies annually for the Cheyenne VA, makes cakes, salads and main dishes for lunches, buffets and funerals. Diana is currently the elected secretary and has been for over ten years and a definite right hand for the President and Unit.

It seems like all the fund-raisers Unit 54, Saratoga, usually gets involved with is weather dependent. Since Mother Nature is not

cooperating this year, we decided to try a silent auction in March. This single event will hopefully support the Girl State Program and infuse the scholarship fund. The auction items will be on display at the Post Home from March 14 - 19th.

We are also looking forward to hosting Department President Robin Ruff at our March meeting. Although it will be St. Patrick's Day, we will be having beef stew, biscuits and fancy desserts.

Elizabeth Miletich Verno Beach or Wasbassi FL

Unit 60

Canady Filkins Unit 60 Pine Bluffs

It's been a struggle. From April 9 through September 2025, the fate of Pine Bluffs Unit 60 was unsure. In September at their meeting, which I was unable to attend due to being on vacation, the acting president decided to disband the Unit as all members had quit the Unit and the Legion Family as a whole. I am the original president of Unit 60 and was the one to get the original Charter so I was not going to let my unit die. In October we had elections and I was elected President; Rachael Krei Vice President; Kathryn McCoy Secretary/Treasurer; Kristine Snyder Chaplain; and Juanita Benson Historian. We are slow-

ly getting new members but it's a struggle.

Kathy Canady, President

Unit 64

Medicine Bow

Unit 64 would like to recognize member Verna Cook. Verna has been a great asset in getting our Post Home cleaned up and organized for our Wreaths Across America



Unit 64 Oaklee presenting B-day Kit to Food Pantry in Medicine Bow Vicki Kelly

She helped clean the storage room so we had a place to put our flags that needed burned and other things. She helped put up a Christmas tree decorated in red, white and blue for our program. She made hot chocolate and set out cookies for those who participated. I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication for our Post Home.



Above: Donna Younger

Diana Galbraith became a member of the American Legion Auxil-

Wyoming Veterans Home

Hello- from Buffalo, WY, Home of the Veterans Home of Wyoming and the beautiful new Skilled Nursing Facility!

Members are asking us to do something different this time for the paper so I would like to feature the Activities Directors for the Veterans Home.

Mary Sue Williams has been our "go-to" gal for any ideas, help and encouragement for several years! Mary Sue was Activity Director at Agape Assisted Living home in Buffalo for 3 years and then moved up to the Veterans Home in 2016. While she worked there Zec Owens was her assistant director. Mary Sue joined our Unit during a visit from our National President, Lisa Williams. In 2025 she retired and now in her retirement she has become a very active member of our Unit. Mary Sue goes to the Veterans Home on the fourth Wed. for "Ice Cream Wednesday" and has taken the chairmanship of our catering fundraisers! We are truly enjoying her and with her background she is such an asset to our Unit!

Zec Owens dived right in where Mary Sue left off and soon had an Assistant, Beau Gardiepy. Those two have such a rapport with all of the residents, they are teasing and



*Eddie Taffner
Veterans Home
of Wyoming Rep.*

laughing with them all of the time! Zec also started a support group for anyone dealing with PTSD and is always willing and able to help wherever he is needed. It is truly a pleasure to see the interaction with these two Activity Directors. They are our Unit's biggest fans, there to help us serve or to get whatever is needed! What a pleasure it has been to work with Mary Sue, Zec and Beau!

*Respectively submitted
Eddie Taffner, Dep. Veterans
Home Rep.*

Department Poppy Report



*B-Jo Laing
Poppy Chairman*

Important information for Poppy Poster contest:
Please get your poppy posters to

your District Presidents prior to your District Meetings. Usually, they like to have them judged prior to the meetings. Communicate with your district president for their preference. District Presidents, please have posters to Poppy Chair, B-Jo Laing, by May 1. Those that have a late Spring Conference meeting will have to get them out ASAP after their meetings. Questions or concerns can be directed to B-Jo at 801-717-6783 or bjovalfwaux@gmail.com

Thanks for participating in the Poppy program. Also, if you were not able to attend Mid-Winter Conference or did not get your hat to decorate from Mid-Winter, please contact B-Jo ASAP. She will wither get you your hat or instruct you for what you need to do for Convention in June. **POPPIES**

B-Jo Laing Chairman

Historian Report

I NEED YOU to help me record our Department's History. Please CC me on all year end reports so that that I can better record a complete history of our Department. I will be judging the Unit History reports I receive, so make sure your Unit is in the running. I look forward to reading what everyone has been doing this year.

Help us see how large of an impact we make! Please make sure you are turning in your volunteer hours to your Unit. Units, please make

sure you turn in your Unit Impact Report to your District President. District Presidents, please make sure I get your District Impact Report. I will be giving a report on our Department Impact at Department Convention. Let's see how large of an impact we make, serving veterans, active duty, their families, our youth, and our communities.

*Jessica York
Historian*

