



Flathead Legionnaire Newsletter
Kalispell American Legion Post 137
Serving The Greater Flathead Valley



July – August – September 2015

Phone Number- 309-2746 <http://www.americanlegionkalispell.com> Editor – Keith Sibbert – 212-0016

Commander's Corner



Hard to believe a full year has gone by since being installed as Post Commander. Seems like just

yesterday. I'm going to dedicate this column to saying thank you. I'm not going to name names because invariably I'll miss someone. First I'd like to thank all of you who helped with our fund-raising this past year. Many of you spent countless hours at the fair, gun shows, Snappy Sports Senter, Majestic and Murdoch's selling raffle tickets for the rifles and saddle. Without your efforts we would not be in as good a financial position as we are. Next I want to thank our officers and committee chairs. You are the best group of leaders I could ask for. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. Nothing would get accomplished if it weren't for your planning and execution of your various programs and projects. The third thank you goes to all who participated in our work projects whether it's Highway Safety Marker maintenance, Highway Cleanup, or working around the Post home. Each of you help to improve the image of the Post and better our community. Next thanks goes to our Legion Riders chapter. You ladies and gents do a tremendous job showing the colors on behalf of The

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Post Officers

Commander

Keith Sibbert 212-0016

Vice Commander

Bert Blyth 756-9244

Adjutant

Sandi Zarfoss 212-9668

Finance Officer/Trustee

Lee Hesper 752-5075/270-8267

Service Officer

Sandi Zarfoss 212-9668

Sergeant at-Arms

Dave Falcon 257-2258

Chaplain

Sam Birky 249-8273

Parliamentarian

Jim Miller 755-3567

Historian

Ron Bauer 756-6160

Committee Chairmen

Membership/Oratorical

Bert Blyth 756-9244

Americanism

Sandi Zarfoss 212-9668

Finance

Lee Hesper 752-5075/270-8267

Fundraising/Appropriations

Maureen Rickard 253-5219

Boys State Chairman/Trustee

Ron Boespflug 257-4816

Building & Grounds Chairman

Mike O'Neil 756-5725

White Marker

Bob Bigler 756-3130

Highway Cleanup

Ron Bauer 756-6160

Public Relations

Dorothy Goodwin 291-1354

Chaplain's Corner

MVH – Montana Veteran's Home

The fine citizens of Montana

authorized the

state's Legislature

to build a home for Military

Veterans of Civil and Indian wars.

30 May 1896 the first building was

complete and 21 June 1987 the

first resident was admitted. Today

the first building is to become a

museum.



Today there is a 105-bed facility with a wonderful staff and approximately 100 residents. Adjoining the residence is an American Legion ball field, a very large garden and a cemetery. As one of three Veterans Homes in Montana, we are blessed to have this special place in our backyard.

Because it is in our backyard, we have opportunities to make visits. A special thanks to our American Legion Auxiliary Unit for the monthly visits to celebrate birthdays and to wrap and send Christmas presents. The ladies make many residents smile as their birthdays are remembered.

A second thank you is in order for the generous financial gift given to MVH and designated for veterans. Commander Keith had contacted Bonnie Stutsman, Activity Coordinator regarding specific

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American Legion Riders



Had a short tail gate meeting on May 25th, Memorial Day, prior to the Ronan parade. Yes, we made the parade in Ronan on Memorial Day and had 7 American Legion Riders on bikes

and the Mustang convertible support vehicle with two members. We had members from Kalispell, Polson, Ronan and Thompson Falls in the Ronan parade. The members from Plains and Thompson Falls headed home right after the parade as we had a weather change. They were going to do the Polson parade; however, because of threatening rain, they went home and ran into a down pour at Dixon and got soaked. We then went to Polson and had only 4 bikes plus the support vehicle in that parade. Most riders attended the patriotic speeches in both Ronan and Polson. Dr. Albert Olszewski, our newly elected State Representative, gave an excellent presentation in Polson.

We recently got approved confirmation for our 4th of July parade in Kalispell plus we have a patriotic ride and parade at St. Ignatius on July 18th. On August 19th we will open the Northwest Montana Fair and Parade at Kalispell. We have our last scheduled ride on Labor Day at the Plains Fair.

We have planned a Fun Ride where we will stage at the Elks in Thompson Falls, ride over the pass on Highway 471 to Silverton, Idaho, have lunch at Murray or the Snake Pit and return to Thompson Falls. This ride should be firmed up during our tail gate meeting on July 4th.

Lee Hesper
American Legion Riders Director

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Freedom Walk

The annual Post #137 Freedom Walk will be on Friday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. We will walk from the Post to Depot Park for a short speech and ceremony. Please plan on coming out as a remembrance of those who lost their lives in 2001 and in the wars since.

Color Guard

The Post #137 Color Guard posted the colors at the annual Veterans Stand Down at the Evergreen fire station on May 30. The



Color Guard also has two more events on the schedule for this year both in support of our America Legion Baseball program. On July 29th and 30th. We are in need of additional color guard members. If interested please contact Keith at 212-0016 or ksibbert@hotmail.com. We'd love to be able to carry the Canandian colors and the five service flags in addition to the United States and Post colors. Please help us out!!!



Grounds Maintenance

I would like to thank everyone for stepping up to help take care of the lawns and clean the building. I would especially like to thank Lee Hesper and Bert Blyth for helping put the new window in. I think it will help us a lot to be able to get fresh air in the building.

The following people are scheduled for:

- Lawn maintenance:
- 6/21-7/4 Ray Anderson
- 7/5-7/18 Glenn Benesh
- 7/19-8/1 Bob Bigler
- 8/2-8/15 Jim Miller
- 8/16-8/29 Ron Bauer

- Building cleaning:
- July: Bob Bigler & Mike O'Neil
- Aug: Eddie Klain & Sam Birky

Thanks again, Mike O'Neil
Building and Grounds

Commander

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American Legion. Each time you ride in a parade or other community event you build awareness of this great organization. To our members at large. Many of you may not even know where the Post meets but you faithfully renew year after year. This is a critical part of what we need as a group. While I would love to see each of you at our meetings and other events I understand that many can't come out for health or other reasons. Your membership is still important to not only The American Legion but to our veterans everywhere. Your membership carries with it the ability of our organization to influence legislators on behalf of our comrades to ensure they get what was promised them. Never think you're not important because you're anything but!!!!

Finally I want to thank our Auxiliary Unit for all you do. You are always there to help the Post with our projects and faithfully serve our fellow veterans at the Montana Veterans Home and community events throughout the year. Thanks ladies!!!!

Thanks again everyone for a good year and thank you in advance for your contributions in the upcoming year.

Chaplain

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items needed by residents. After some time and diligent procurement process, Keith was successful in gathering the requested items. Chaplain Sam and Legionnaire Ron Peebles represented Post #137 in presenting the gifts to Bonnie. Big smiles and heartfelt gratitude were shared and received.



From left to right: Steve Fierro, Sam Birky, Bonnie Stutsman, Mike LaVigne and Ron Peebles

Chaplain Sam
sambirky@yahoo.com

Schedule of Events

<u>July</u>			
Thursday	7/16	7:00 p.m.	Post Officers Meeting
Saturday	7/18	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veterans Home Birthday Party
Friday - Sunday	7/24-7/26	All Day	Gun Show Flathead County Fairgrounds
Monday	7/27	7:00 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings
Wednesday	7/29	TBA	Color Guard at Baseball Banquet – Guesthouse Inn
Thursday	7/30	7:00 p.m.	Color Guard American Legion Baseball State Tournament opening ceremony – Griffin Field
<u>August</u>			
Saturday	8/15	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veterans Home Birthday Party
Thursday	8/20	7:00 p.m.	Post Officers Meeting
Friday - Saturday	8/21 – 8/22	All Day	Auxiliary Unit Basement Sale
Monday	8/24	7:00 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings
<u>September</u>			
Friday	9/11	1:30 p.m.	Freedom Walk
Saturday	9/19	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veterans Home Birthday Party
Thursday	9/17	7:00 p.m.	Post Officers Meeting
Monday	9/28	7:00 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings



Exciting Announcement from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust

We are excited to announce two great changes to LegionCare , your No-Cost AD&D Program Starting right now and for enrollments after 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in The American Legion. This new “one and done” approach will save from needing to re-enroll every 5 years. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for \$1,000 of AD&D coverage plus provide the added benefit of up to \$5,000 if the accidental loss occurs when on “official Legion business.” *

We want you to know too, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard to provide valuable benefits to your entire family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans’ insurance needs.

To enroll, please visit www.TheLIT.com now.

Member Discount Programs

Discount programs change periodically but are currently available in the following areas.

Automobile Rental
Home Services
Electronics & Technology
Financial & Insurance
Medical
Moving & Relocation
Travel & Lodging
Miscellaneous

American Legion membership can save you money. Discount programs for products and services such as travel, health care, personal finance and computers are offered exclusively to members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion.

If you have any questions regarding any of the Member Discount Providers, please contact us at National Headquarters at mbrben@legion.org or 317-630-1396.

If you have specific questions about the services and discounts provided by a particular provider or to make reservations (hotel, car rental, air fare, vacation, etc), please contact the individual provider using their toll-free number and/or email address. This contact information can be found with each provider’s listing on the website.

To see the complete list of current discounts and providers go to <http://www.legion.org/benefits>



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEWS

Our Picnic was not as well attended as we had hoped. However there was plenty of delicious food and opportunity to visit with members and enjoy their company. If you missed this opportunity to meet members you only know by name, try to make it to our next potluck. They are a lot of fun and you are missed. For those of you who would like to help our annual audit and budget meeting will be at Jeanna Sibbert's home. This will be at 9AM July 1st. Any member is welcome to attend.

Our American Legion Riders will be participating in the Kalispell 4th of July parade. Come out and support them.

July 25th is the Heritage Day parade in Columbia Falls. Unit #72 has invited us to ride their float again this year. If you are interested meet at the Railroad Park at the North end of Nucelus Ave. in Columbia Falls at 10:30AM That will give us time to help decorate the float if we are needed. It is a nice ride and you will enjoy it. If you don't ride on the float, please come to watch the parade and support our Legion Family.

At this last meeting we set our Fall Basement Sale for Thursday August 20th through Saturday August 22nd. Thursday is set up day. We are there from 9am until done which is usually before noon. Friday is a full day from 8am till 4pm. Saturday is a half day from 8am till noon. However we do clean up after we close. Think about donating items to the sale and definitely consider coming for any period of time to help with it. Even an hour of your time is greatly appreciated. We will have a sign up sheet at our next meeting.

I hope that our unit members come out for the 9/11 Freedom March. It is an event we have every year and one we should all try to attend.

This is an early heads up for our Annual Christmas Store at The Veterans Home. This year it will be on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Consider donating gift items or cash. The Unit will start having a box and donation jar at the meetings. This is a very rewarding event to volunteer for and your help is not only needed but appreciated.

We recently lost two of the lady residents at the Veterans Home. Both of them were Auxiliary members. Columbia Falls Unit #72 lost Gail Luepkes and Whitefish Unit #108 lost Barbara Scholz. They will be greatly missed.



Ann MacCary, President

Vice-President:	Nadine Roach	755-2253
Secretary:	Judy Collins	752-0198
Treasurer:	Jeanna Sibbert	890-2097
Chaplain:	Darlene Johnson	755-3447
Historian:	JoJo Brown	837-6674
Sgts-at-Arms:	Linda Benson	857-3192
and	Ardith Lingle	752-0159



The Flathead Legionnaire

Veterans Serving Veterans



The American Legion
Post and Unit 137
P.O. Box 10164
Kalispell, MT 59904



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DID YOU KNOW: This most famous and most important Civil War Battle occurred over three hot summer days, July 1 to July 3, 1863, around the small market town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It began as a skirmish but by its end involved 160,000 Americans.

Confederate casualties in dead, wounded and missing were 28,000 out of 75,000. Union casualties were 23,000 out of 88,000. It was the deadliest battle of the Civil War, more than 66,000 died and many died later as a result of serious wounds.

From Chaplain Sam Birky

