



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



April – May – June 2015

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

**Commander's
Corner**

Spring has sprung and so have the opportunities to serve. As you will see when you look at the calendar we have a number of projects this spring that will require as many workers as we can get. If you're able we'd love to have you join us in serving our community. We have a number of members new to our post and I would like to welcome you to our Legion family. Your membership is important to us and our fellow veterans. Please let us know of anything we can do for you or any suggestions you have to improve our post. This goes for our not new members too!!!! Every one brings a different perspective and your thoughts and ideas are important to our post going forward. Even though we'd like to think so, no one of us has all the answers so it's important to let your ideas be known. It's also important that each of us listen to those ideas openly and objectively. While we may not agree with the exact implementation of an idea it may start the creative thought process to lead to one that is a better fit for the post. As with anything not everything can be put into effect right now, some won't be a good fit for the existing budget or personnel makeup but may be beneficial to



future planning so if you have ideas let me know. Writing is always best as I might forget.

On April 16 we have a job fair at FVCC and could use some help staffing the table. Basically this is a sign-in table where we also identify those who are veterans for demographic purposes. The job fair runs from 2:30 – 7:00 p.m. so we need people in place from around 2:00 until closing. If you can be there for a couple of hours please let Post Service Officer, Sandi Zarfoss know at 212-9668.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Kalispell Legion Family picnic. In order to avoid the overly hot weather we moved it to June this year – see Schedule of Events for exact date/location. We would like to see everyone out for this. The post will provide burgers, hot dogs and buns. The remainder is pot luck. Every year we have a good time getting to know each other while sharing some WONDERFUL dishes.

April 18 is the spring District 4 meeting in Whitefish. It will be at the Moose Lodge on 10th. This is a very important meeting. Our district will be electing the Zone Commander for our Zone. This person will serve in this role for 2 years as a member of the Department Executive Committee – The decision makers so it's important we select the right Legionnaire for this vital role. Please come if you can

Commander pg. 3

Post Officers

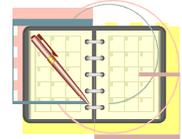
- Commander /Public Relations**
Keith Sibbert 890-2097/212-0016
- Vice Commander**
Bert Blyth 756-9244
- Adjutant/ Service Officer**
Sandi Zarfoss 212-9668
- Finance Officer/Trustee**
Lee Hesar 752-5075/270-8267
- Sergeant at-Arms**
Dave Falcon 257-2258
- Chaplain**
Sam Birky 249-8273
- Parliamentarian**
Jim Miller 755-3567
- Historian**
Ron Bauer 756-6160
- Committee Chairmen**
- Membership/Oratorical**
Bert Blyth 756-9244
- Americanism**
Sandi Zarfoss 212-9668
- Finance**
Lee Hesar 752-5075/270-8267
- Fundraising/Appropriations**
Maureen Rickard 253-5219
- Boys State Chairman/Trustee**
Ron Boespflug 257-4816
- Building & Grounds Chairman**
Mike O'Neil 253-1464
- White Marker/Trustee**
Bob Bigler 756-3130
- Highway Cleanup**
Ron Bauer 756-6160
- American Legion Centennial/
Public Relations**
Keith Sibbert

Building and Grounds Maintenance

Brother and Sister Legionnaires, we have two major projects we need to get done this year. We need to replace or repair the sidewalk on the south side of the hall, and we need to paint the trim on the hall. If any of you know of a professional VETERAN that could do either of these jobs, please have them contact me at 406-253-1464. We are looking for

estimates on these projects and I would like to talk to them. I would like to once again thank the members who have stepped forward and helped with the grounds maintenance. Without your help our hall would not be in as good of shape as it is. For those who signed up I'll be calling to let you know when your turn comes around
Thank you, Mike

Schedule of Events



April

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---|
| Saturday | 4/11 | 8:00 a.m. | Highway cleanup |
| Thursday | 4/16 | 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Job Fair FVCC |
| | | 7:00 p.m. | Post Officers Meeting |
| Saturday | 4/18 | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | District 4 Meeting Whitefish Moose Lodge |
| | | 1:30 p.m. | Columbia Falls Veteran's Home Birthday Party |
| Thursday – Saturday | 4/23 – 4/25 | All Day | Auxiliary Unit Basement Sale (Setup Thursday 9-12 Sale Friday 9-4 and Saturday 9-12) |
| Monday | 4/27 | 7:00 p.m. | Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings |

May

| | | | |
|----------|------|-----------|---|
| Saturday | 5/9 | All Day | Poppy Day – Various locations |
| Thursday | 5/14 | 7:00 p.m. | Post Officers Meeting |
| Saturday | 5/16 | 8:00 a.m. | Highway Safety Marker maintenance |
| | | 1:30 p.m. | Columbia Falls Veteran's Home Birthday Party |
| Monday | 5/18 | 7:00 p.m. | Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings |
| Monday | 5/25 | All Day | Observed Memorial Day |
| Saturday | 5/30 | All Day | Traditional Memorial Day |

June

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| Sunday | 6/14 | 2:00 p.m. | Flag Retirement Ceremony – Flag Day |
| Thursday | 6/18 | 7:00 p.m. | Post Officers Meeting |
| Saturday | 6/20 | 1:30 p.m. | Columbia Falls Veteran's Home Birthday Party |
| | | 3:00 p.m. | Kalispell American Legion Family Picnic |
| | | | Lions Park |
| Monday | 6/22 | 7:00 p.m. | Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings |
| Thursday | 6/25 | All Day | L.E.A.D Training, Havre |
| Friday – Sunday | 6/26 – 6/28 | All Day | Department Convention, Havre |

POST EVERLASTING



| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| William E. Harbarger | 8 continuous years | February 2015 |
| Peter C. Reichenbach | 8 continuous years | March 2015 |
| James H. Kuechmann | 9 continuous years | March 2015 |

Commander (from pg. 1)

As a heads-up, in July you'll start receiving renewal reminders even if you just renewed or joined in recent months. These renewal reminders are sent automatically from National Headquarters and are not from the Post itself so please don't take it out on the Adjutant!!!

Speaking of Adjutant, I would like to thank Robert Marquez for the excellent job he did during his time as Adjutant. Robert needed to step down for personal reasons and will be missed on the leadership team. I would like to thank Sandi Zarfoss

for volunteering to be Robert's replacement. I am confident she will do a great job too.

I would also like to encourage the motorcycle enthusiasts among us to join our Legion Riders chapter. They are a great group of folks and seem to enjoy their time together. Membership requirements are simple. You must be licensed and insured to ride a motorcycle as well as owning one. The bike has to be 350 cc or bigger. Trikes are also allowed. That's it. Please contact Lee Hesser at 752-5075 for more information or a membership application.

Finally a word about fund-raising. The financial and fund-raising committees are currently considering additional and new ways to raise funds for the post and would like your input. Please contact Maureen Rickard at 253-5219 if you have suggestions. Also if you know of an individual or business who might be willing to donate tax deductible items to sell or raffle let Maureen know that as well.

See you around the Post!!!

Keith



Legion Birthday Celebration

The American Legion officially turned 96 on March 15, 2015. At the March meeting we were graced with a birthday cake made by one of our Auxiliary Unit's junior members, Shannon Simpson. In addition, Unit member Linda Benson brought chocolate chip cookies. We were able to indulge our sweet tooth before the meeting and sing "Happy Birthday" to The American Legion. Thank you Shannon and Linda!!!!



Did you know?

...the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered. Flag Day pg. 6



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEWS

First I would like to thank everyone who have been helping me do my job. I would not be able to keep all the balls in the air without you. A special thank you to our Junior Shannon Simpson who decorated our Legion birthday cake for our last meeting. She did an awesome job!

As usual check the list of upcoming events. However we have several things coming up that we need your help with. Our Spring basement sale is scheduled for Thursday April 23rd as the set-up day. We will start at 9 am. Friday April 24th will be a full day from 8am to 4 pm and Saturday will be from 8am till noon. After noon, we will be packing up and boxing those items we can use in the fall. At our last meeting we had a sign-up sheet, however everyone is welcome to bring items and/or stop by to help out even if it is only an hour.



Our District meeting on April 18th is in Whitefish at the Moose Lodge. This is close enough that we hope all our members can come to it. I think you will enjoy it.

May 9th which is the Saturday before Mother’s Day is our annual Poppy distribution. We really need some people to help out. You can do the 9am to 12:30 or the 12:30 to 4pm shift. Right now we only have 2 of our 4 locations covered. Call 314-1933 if you can help out.

The Convention will be held in Havre this year. If you haven't attended one or can attend this one try to make it. You learn lots of interesting things and have a good time while you do it.

If any of you have hours you have volunteered or done anything for the ALA, please let me know so I can give you credit as well as give it to our unit. Anything you have done from April 1st 2014 until March 30th 2015 counts.

Ann MacCary, President
314-1933

- 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

Kalispell American Legion Family Picnic

The annual family picnic will be on Saturday, June 20 starting at 3:00 p.m. We will be in the pavilion at Lions Park this year. The post will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and accompaniments as well as soft drinks. The remainder will be pot luck. We will eat around 4:00



Last names beginning with A – M - salads or hot dish

Last names beginning with N - Z - desserts, chips or relish tray

We will be conducting the raffle drawing for both rifles at this event.

JUNE 4TH-7TH 2015

THIRD ANNUAL

OVERGAARD, ARIZONA

MUSIC
FUN
GAMES
PRIZES

OPEN TO ALL
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES



WESTERN ROMP



Welcome to Arizona as Post 86 Hosts the Third Annual American Legion Riders Western ROMP.

Just a few of the activities that are planned so far:

Rides through some of the most diverse landscapes in the country. Day long, or just a couple hours, we are preparing plans for both guided and self guided rides of various lengths.

Need to take a rest from the bike?? Maybe a horseshoe or cornhole tournament is in your future.

Registration: \$40 if received by May 20th \$45 thereafter and includes: Dinner at the Post Saturday evening, an event shirt (for the early registrants), A western Romp Patch and Annual Rocker, Guided Rides (not inc. entry fee into the National Parks) and an Entry for door prizes.

Limited Schedule of Happenings: (So Far)

Thursday June 4: 4-8pm Grip and Grin- Come meet our Arizona riders and all the other folk that decided to join us.

Friday June 5: all day Guided/self guided rides, Games at the Post, music in the evening.

Saturday June 6: All Day Guided/self guided rides, Games at the Post, ALR86 Providing dinner and music in the evening. A quick meeting will be held during dinner to vote on the 2016 host.

Sunday June 7: ALR Western Region Annual Meeting.

More details and specific times will be posted as plans are finalized.

Lodging: We are working on special rates for the event around the mountain. For this and other information please watch Post86.org/Riders. As plans are finalized and registration forms come out, we will post them as well as get them out by email.

Don't forget to watch Post86.org/riders for the latest news and Info.



The Flathead Legionnaire

Veterans Serving Veterans



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



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Flag Day pg. 4

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916.

While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Article from <http://usflag.org/history/flagday.html>

