



**Kalispell American Legion Post & Unit 137 (District #4)**  
**351 Fourth Avenue EN, Kalispell, MT 59901**  
**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904**  
**Telephone: Commander Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238**  
**November 2023**

**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

*Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238*

Looking around our community, I see many improvements taking place. One of these improvements is located on the corner of Fourth Ave EN and East Washington. If that location seems to spark a thought, take a drive/walk pass the building or better yet plan an evening to stop in. It is the building with the flagpole, flying the US and POW/MIA flags marking the site of this long-standing building as a place for many years in this community serving the needs to the community and veterans in Kalispell. Today is the time to remind ourselves why American Legion Kalispell Post 137 chose it's building to continue the mission of service to community and veterans. Let's all finish 2023 strong and healthy, to be able to continue our serving the community and veterans. The American Legion Buddy Check program is an everyday way for reconnecting with members of our Post. The Post staff members are working on assignments to grow membership, provide events and serves to make the building on the corner of Fourth Ave EN and East Washington the place to be in Kalispell.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Kick-Off Luncheon, Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
 Set-up is at 11am and lunch is at Noon.  
 Post will provide meat, a side dish and drinks. Post and Auxiliary members are invited to bring a salad, side dish or dessert if they desire.

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**NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER**

## **SAL SQUADRON**

The Kalispell American Legion Post #137 is starting a Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron. If you are a male descendant, stepson or adopted son of a member of the American Legion or male descendent of a veteran who died in service, you are eligible to join. Do you want to assist the American Legion in their efforts to support veterans and your community? Then consider joining a group of like-minded individuals and help us start this new Sons of American Legion Squadron in Kalispell. Please contact Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

*Lee Heser (406) 270-8267*

A copy of the updated 5-year maintenance plan can be found at the Post.

## **SCOUTING PROGRAM**

*Laura Westcott (406) 334-9341*

Hi All!!

American Legion Post 137 charters Cub Scout Pack 4137. The post provides a meeting location, a Charter Organization Representative (COR) and other support to our pack. Having the Cub Scouts around has brought life and livelihood to the post. The yearly popcorn sale is underway. While the door-to-door popcorn orders were fairly successful, Online sales continue through November 20<sup>th</sup>. You can order at

<https://www.prpopcornstore.com/>

**Please search for Pack 4137. Our Active Scouts (and their Seller IDs) this year are:**

<b>Emmet Barwikowski U6W4QH</b>	<b>Lance Bills CPPNVZ</b>	<b>Liam Bills IXWDZO</b>
<b>Jayden Clifton BPUG21</b>	<b>Declan Hall PEGY0Z</b>	<b>John Olson 37U2ER</b>
<b>Noah Olson JD2ISI</b>	<b>Damon Parker UGYIPW</b>	<b>Alex Rockwell 0LBJTO</b>
<b>Hunter Snodgrass RMNEYJ</b>	<b>Rylen Sternad ICH0R5</b>	<b>Hawken Stiffarm 22UHAW</b>
<b>Gavin Thompson CX53ON</b>	<b>Herbie Waldruff CL500F</b>	<b>Christopher Wenz 8UJTUL</b>

These sales are how we fund our Pinewood Derby, campouts and service projects. Please support American Legion Post 137 chartered Cub Scout Pack 4137.



## **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CORNER**

*Dave Falcon (406)-253-1726*

**Please Silence Your Phones During the Meeting**

Dave is healing from surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

## **FUNDRAISING:**

*Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155*

The Gun Show at the Flathead County Fairgrounds will be Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning ticket will be chosen on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Come out and support our Post. This is what we do for fundraising.

Speaking of Fundraising. We are looking for donations for the gun shows. Guns would be good. LOL

As the fundraising Chair, I am open to suggestions for fundraising ideas. Please contact me if you have any ideas, you would like us to try.

### **HIGHWAY CLEANUP/HISTORIAN**

*Ron Bauer (406) 756-6160*

Highway cleanup was held on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **HIGHWAY FATALITY WHITE MARKER SAFETY PROGRAM; CHAIRMAN**

*Bob Bigler (406) 756-3130*

Two markers were replaced on Hwy E and Hwy 35, and 4 new markers were installed on Hwy 2 W during July and August 2023. We have 4 posts, 3 steel crosses and 4 aluminum crosses on hand.

Anyone interested in helping locate sites and install markers please let us know.

### **AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN/TRUSTEE/ADJUTANT**

*Ron Boespflug (541) 999-7790*

If you have not renewed your membership, it is easy to do on [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)  
Please renew your membership so that you may continue to receive the post Newsletter, to keep informed on what we are doing.

### **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

*Dick Lauer 406-890-5343*

Post #137 attended the annual meeting of the Kalispell Lakers Association Program. The Lakers had a successful 2023 program. Looking forward to 2024. Discussion hinged on the role High School baseball programs would fit with the Legion Program, the role of tournaments involving both Legion Teams and non-program teams, and the search for a full-time administrator for the program. Post #137 continues to support the programs, and would like to get more involved as volunteers, sponsorship programs, and possibly including the Post name on the Players and Coaches jerseys. We offered to assist with their Spring Cleanup in April. Standby for further details.

### **AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL: Vacant Chairman Position**

The gears are turning to prepare for American Legion Oratorical the beginning of 2024.

### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

*J.C. McKenzie (406) 270-8697*

1 Corinthians 12:13, and 14: 1, 3

12:13 And now abideth faith, hope, love: these three; but the greatest of these is love.

14:1 Follow after love and desire spiritual gifts; but rather that ye may prophesy.

3 But he that prophesieth speaks unto men to edification, and comfort.

## **EDITOR'S CORNER:**

*Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155*

### **Stories For Photos On First Page.**

- 1) Freedom Walk on September 11, 2023. We walked from the Post to Depot Park and the Memorial. A short talk was given and then we dispersed.
- 2) A handmade chunky red, white, and blue Afghan that is going to be part of the 50/50 drawing at our meeting at the end of this month (Nov). **Must be present to win.**
- 3) Feed The Flathead servers. (first picture) Laura Westcott, Ron Boespflug, Ron Bauer, Darlene Johnson, and Jim Miller. (second picture) Chaplain McKenzie, Paul Lavergne (background), Darlene Johnson, Ron Boespflug, Ted Gardner, and Ron Bauer.

We challenge you to **BE THE ONE!**

The American Legion is working to destigmatize asking for mental health support, so we want to see Posts around our Department getting out trying the following or creating your own event the idea is to connect and let your Legion Family know that you are there.

#### **Veterans**

- Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling.
- Ask for help when you think you need it.
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- Remember your family and friends care.

#### **Non-veterans**

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

#### **American Legion posts**

- Educate members, other veterans and civilians on the campaign.
- Display resources at your post or in your community.

*For more information check out [betheone.org](http://betheone.org) or [legion.org](http://legion.org)*



## American Legion Auxiliary

*In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country*

Hello All,

We are busy again this fall doing our Auxiliary activities and preparing for the activities coming up!

The Fall season started with a collection of school supplies brought to our August meeting to be donated to our 'adopted' Marion school. We donated over \$300 worth and the teachers and students were very appreciative.

We participated in the Freedom Walk with the Post walking from the Post to Depot Park for a short remembrance ceremony. It's SO important to NEVER FORGET.

We held our semiannual basement sale in September. These sales are our biggest fundraiser and benefit all our programs. Thanks to all who donated and helped!

Once again, this year Dee Hesper made a couple of quilts for the mental health section of the VA hospital in Helena in our name. We provide her with some of the money for material and she spends the time making beautiful quilts. The veteran/patient is presented with one upon admission to keep and take home with them.

Several of us attended the District 4 Fall meeting in Libby on October 1st. We elected a new District President: Jill Rosenberry from Columbia Falls.

On October 24 we joined the Post in volunteering for a Feed the Flathead supper. We provided approximately 60 meals that night.

Our meetings continue to be brown bag lunch meetings at noon, usually the 4th Monday of the month, the same as the Legion meetings. We are now meeting upstairs as it is more accessible.

If you have not renewed your membership for '23-'24, please do so now. We need you! We would love to have you join us at our meetings and/or our activities. We understand some can't attend all, but your membership helps us function in helping our veterans and community. Our dues are \$35 per year now as National has raised our dues so we needed to raise ours to compensate.

Coming up is one of our biggest endeavors of the year: Our participation in the annual Christmas Store at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. We purchase gifts for the residents and families and the residents 'shop' for a gift for themselves and their immediate family members and we gift wrap their choices for them, all at absolutely NO COST to the resident. The store is December 1 and 2. This is one of the most rewarding things we do. If you would like to help with this, please call me.

After Christmas we will look forward to our annual "Kick Off" potluck dinner at the Post on January 13. I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Service,  
Darlene Johnson  
Auxiliary 137 President  
(406) 755-3447

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #137  
P. O. Box 7961 Kalispell MT 59904  
National website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)



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**Address Service Requested**