



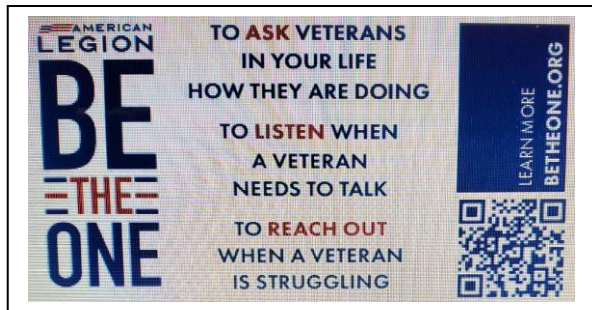
Kalispell American Legion Post & Unit 137 (District #4)
351 Fourth Avenue EN, Kalispell, MT 59901
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904
Telephone: Commander Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238
June 2024

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238

Since last Commander's Corner the post has been undergoing facelifts, inside and outside. Cleaner carpets inside and new paint for the outside. Having these along with many other smaller items being completed, as part the 5-year Maintenance Plan that Lee Hesper has developed, gives everyone a detailed understanding where investing in the upkeep of our Post Home will return in the form of veterans wanting to see how and what American Legion Kalispell Post 137 does.

This year's District #4 Commanders message is: "No one person can do everything, it takes the total sum of everyone to complete the task at hand".



SAVE THE DATE
BBQ – FLAG RETIREMENT
June 15, 2024
See Editors Corner for details.

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BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Lee Heser (406)270-8267

A copy of the updated 5-year maintenance plan can be found in the Post. The cleaning of the carpet and the painting of the outside of the Post has been completed.

SCOUTING PROGRAM

Laura Westcott (406) 334-9341

Hi All,

After 3 years of service with Cub Scout Pack 4137, this will be my last year as the Charter Organization Rep (COR) and American Legion Post 137 is looking for a replacement. The sooner someone comes on board, the more they can shadow me throughout the course of the year to learn the ins and outs of being an effective COR. My year ends at the end of calendar year 2024. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Laura Westcott at LauraWestcott7@gmail.com or 406-334-9341 or Post 137/District 4 Commander Bob Lehman at robertlehmanjr@montanasky.net 406-253-4238.



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CORNER

Dave Falcon (406)-253-1726

Please Silence Your Phones During the Meeting

Uniform cap Etiquette:

The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, and Commander of the same while marching or standing guard. When returning to and seated in the pews, the cap should be removed.

FUNDRAISING:

Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155

We will not be doing Gun Shows the first part of the year. I am preparing for a hip replacement and will be out of commission. I am looking at other options for fundraising. 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

The redecorating of the front foyer is in progress. It is looking more and more like the entrance to an American Legion Post. Thanks to all who contributed. Post members picked up litter on the Post section of HWY 93 on April 27, 2024.

HIGHWAY FATALITY WHITE MARKER SAFETY PROGRAM; CHAIRMAN

Bob Bigler (406) 756-3130

No new white markers to put up at this time.

Anyone interested in helping locate sites and install markers please let us know. Post members painted and installed White Markers prior to Memorial Day.

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL: Vacant Chairman Position

Our Homeschooler, Jaci Pheifer, won First Place at our Post Level. She went on to win First Place at District Level, then went on to win First Place at Department Level. She then went on to the Nationals and got through the quarter finals and made it to the semifinals but did not win at Nationals. We are so proud of her!!!

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN/TRUSTEE/ADJUTANT

Ron Boespflug (541) 999-7790

We have two boys from Flathead High School that will be attending American Legion Boys State. They are Aiden Downing and Lane Chivers.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Dick Lauer 406-890-5343

Nothing to Report

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

J.C. McKenzie (406) 270-8697

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit created the Heavens and the Earth.

EDITOR'S CORNER:

Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155

Stories For Photos On First Page.

- 1) Pictured left to right, Jaci Pheifer (Post Oratory winner), Commander Bob Lehman, and Dick Lauer.
- 2) Pictured left to right, District 4 Moderator ANEC, PDC Glen Sharbono, Jaci Pheifer (District 4 Oratory winner), and District 4 Commander Bob Lehman.
- 3) Pictured left to right, Department Commander Lowell Long and Jaci Pheifer (Department Oratory winner).
- 4) Jaci Pheifer (fourth from the left) with semifinalists 2024 American Legion National Contest
- 5) Pictured left to right, Ella Pheifer (Jaci's sister and last year's winner up to National from our post) and Jaci Pheifer.

The **Annual BBQ-Flag Retirement Ceremony** will be held Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Post. Setup is at 11am, BBQ at Noon and Ceremony at 1pm. Post and Auxiliary members are encouraged to bring family members and friends. The Post will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, a side dish, and drinks. Members may bring a salad, side dish or dessert if they wish.

If you no longer wish to receive the Kalispell American Legion Post #137 Newsletter, please contact me, so that I may take you off the email or mailing list.

BUSINESS BINDER PROJECT

I am working on a Binder for Members Businesses, so that we may use our members' services to support them in their businesses. If you have a business and would like to be added to the binder, please provide the following information.

Your Name

Your Business Name

The category you would fit in (i.e. Barber, Construction, Tax Preparation, etc.)

Your Business Address

Your Business Phone Number

Your Business Operating Hours

Any other information you would like us to know about your business.

I look forward to compiling this information.



American Legion Auxiliary

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

Greetings!

Our long-awaited summer is finally upon us. Yay!

Our Auxiliary had an election of officers for the next two-year term as follows:

President	Darlene Johnson
Vice-President	Burt Blyth
Chaplain	J.C. MacKenzie
Secretary	Lisa Blyth
Treasurer	Lisa Lavergne
Sgt.-At-Arms	Nora Holmquist
Historian	Rhonda McDowell

Thank you to these members for stepping up to help keep our Auxiliary running smoothly.

We had our usual basement sale April 12 and 13. It is a lot of work setting up, running the sale itself, and taking down, but is our main fundraiser. Thank you to all who helped make this a success. We will be having another sale in the Fall. Keep us in mind if you are downsizing or replacing anything still in good condition.

Two of us attended the District 4 meeting April 20 in Polson. It was one of the best attended District meetings we have had for the Auxiliary. Our Department President was there, and she spoke about the importance of notifying the VA right away if your veteran is emergency hospitalized and if they are in the VA system. She also talked to us about the upcoming Department convention June 27-29 in

Glasgow and next year in Calgary! We need to start planning if we intend to attend the convention in Calgary as we need a passport, and it takes months to get one. If you are wondering why we have an American Legion convention in Calgary, many of our Canadian neighbors joined our Armed Forces, WWII in particular.

May 4th, we held Poppy Day at Albertsons and will have one June 8 at Rosauer's. All Poppy money is earmarked for veterans, and a sizable portion helps to fund the Christmas store at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

May 5 the Post did the Color Guard for the Kalispell Lakers Legion Baseball opening day. I encourage you to support them by attending these games. (Discounted for Legion members)

The American Legion Auxiliary supports Girls State and this year it will be held at Fort Harrison in conjunction with Boys State June 16-20. We are sending one girl this year: a junior from Stillwater Christian School.

After Memorial Day, remembering loved ones and those who fought for our freedom and currently serve in our own way, we are looking forward to getting together with our local Legion family at the Post on June 15th for a barbeque and flag retirement ceremony.

If you haven't paid your dues for '23-'24, please catch up now, as your dues for '24-'25 will be due soon, and you don't want to have your membership years start all over again! Also, we would LOVE to have you attend our meetings: 4th Monday of the month at noon which are a brown bag lunch meetings. If you can't attend meetings, your membership still helps our organization helping veterans and advocating for veteran benefits with the largest veteran's organization in the United States for over a century!

The Department newsletter, the *Legionnaire*, has a section called the *Service Star*, about Auxiliary news. This paper came to our house a year before I noticed the Auxiliary part! Maybe some of you did not know about it also.

I hope you have a great Summer!

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

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National website: alaforveterans.org

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