



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
March 2024

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238

Time for Kalispell Post 137 to take stock in why the members joined. Some have started as Charter Members and others found their way to Kalispell Post 137 by looking at why being part of the growing family of American Legion is important. Keeping this thought in mind, you are the only person at the post to chart your course on where you, as Legionaries will provide your skills and knowledge to Kalispell Post 137. Communication Skills and Knowledge are ways to add to the value of Kalispell Post 137 to support future American Legion members find their way to the front doors at Kalispell Post 137.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
See the next page for all 4 of the Pillars.
Courtesy of Glen Sharbono, Cmdr. AL Post # 138 Ronan

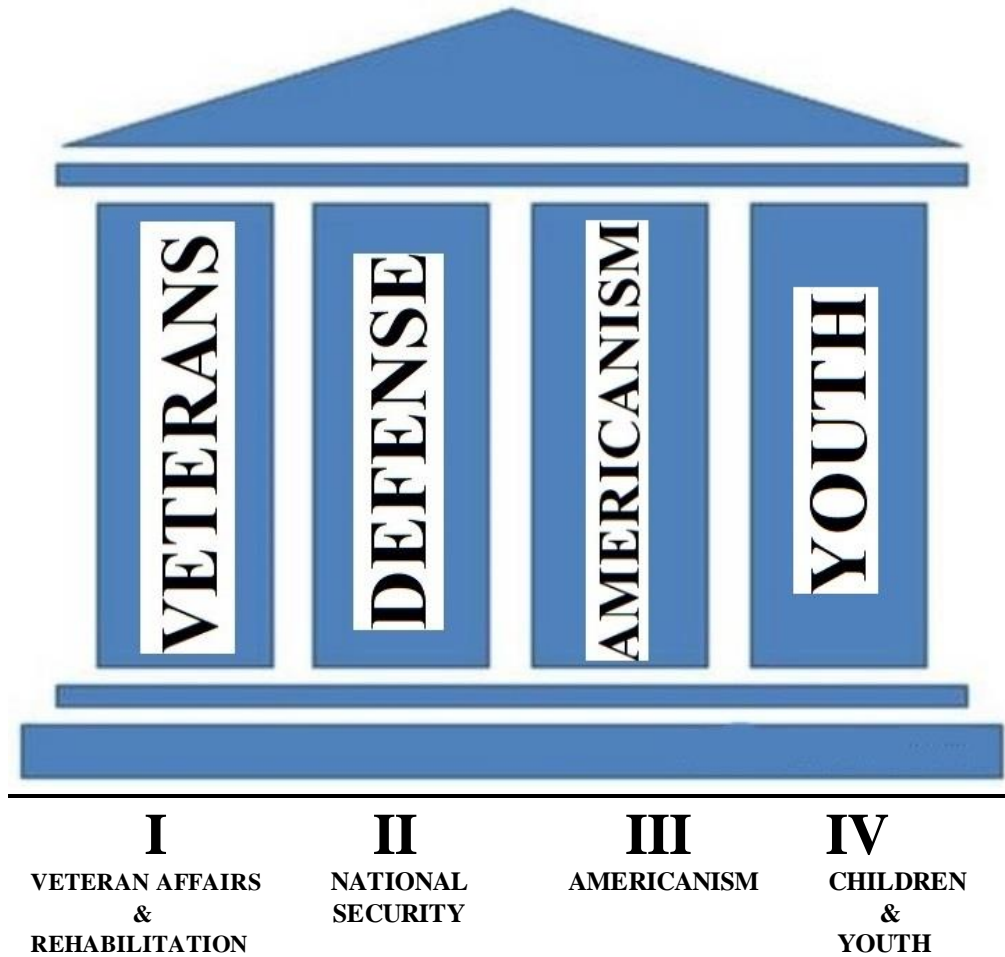
The 1st Pillar of the American Legion – Veterans. Recognizing that for the most part it is very difficult to spot an emotional crisis that may lead to a suicide, just be very alert to the signs. A recent investigation into Veteran suicide estimates that there are such tragedies at the rate of 17 to 22 each day.

BE THE ONE! Use the steps above.

Non-VA Emergency Authorizations----I know that you all know this---but----If you require emergency treatment. Get it, at the nearest facility! Then have someone, family, friend or hospital staff, contact the VA within 72 hours of stabilization. VA must be having some problems with this requirement. Phone numbers are: **1-406-447-7400, 1-800-785-0773, 1-877-881-7618, 1-844-724-7842**



**THE FOUR PILLARS OF
THE
AMERICAN LEGION**



NATIONAL SECURITY -- The 2nd Pillar of the American Legion

With the coming new year new scams will be coming forth. Do your research. Don't fall into the scavengers, they will upset your health and family life. Law enforcement and federal government can only do so much when they are overwhelmed. Remember security should start with you. It will make it easier on you and your neighbors.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Lee Hesel (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,

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.

Since the last newsletter in November, the Pack has been keeping busy: First, Popcorn Sales: Our top 3 sellers of Popcorn were (Tiger) Herbie, (Webelos) Christopher, and (Bear) Noah Olson. In total, our Cubs sold \$5, 268 with 30% of those sales going back to the Pack. This is our only fundraiser and is how we fund our adventures. Huge thank you to all Legionnaires and others who helped support our Pack.

Just in February, the Scouts went bowling at Glacier Lanes, had our Pack Pinewood Derby, went ice skating at Woodland Park and had a combined Blue & Gold and Crossover potluck. Blue & Gold is the birthday of Scouts celebration and this year we graduated our one Arrow of Light (AOL) from Cubs into Scout Troop 1901.

Coming up: the District Pinewood Derby will be on March 23 at the Sheriff's Posse – which for us old timers is the old Shady Lane Skating Rink (or maybe you knew it as the Boys and Girls Club). In April and beyond: Tentative BALOO Training, District Spring Cleanup – Scout Campout, Cub Scout Wilderness Day at Griz Base on June 22, and of course Popcorn sales kick off again in the fall. We are also planning several Pack campouts for this summer.

~Laura Westcott



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CORNER

Dave Falcon (406)-253-1726

Please Silence Your Phones During the Meeting

THE WEARING THE AMERICAN LEGION CAP, UNIFORM AND REGALIA: A Legionnaire is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official American Legion cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear an American Legion cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner. In Legion meetings the cap should be worn except during moments of the "Pledge of Allegiance," prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, POW/MIA Ceremony the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart. A Legionnaire wearing the cap should behave in proper accordance as to salutes, etc., the same as if the member was wearing the military uniform. If not wearing the Legion cap, the ordinary rules of etiquette for civilian dress should be observed. The left side (emblem side) of any American Legion cap cannot contain other than the official American Legion emblem and lettering as set forth previously in this resolution for post, county, district, department, or national caps. When Placing your Legion cap down on a flat surface like a table, it shall be placed with the Legion emblem facing up as a sign of respect as the left side (emblem side) is considered "Hallowed Grounds" and should be given proper respect.

Courtesy of Glen Sharbono, Cmdr. AL Post # 138 Ronan

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

Nothing to Report

HIGHWAY FATALITY WHITE MARKER SAFETY PROGRAM; CHAIRMAN

Bob Bigler (406) 756-3130

Nothing to Report

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

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL: Vacant Chairman Position

The 3rd Pillar of the American Legion -- Americanism

What is Americanism?

To promote an understanding and appreciation of American government, the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, and activity in the American way of life through youth activities, community service, instruction of prospective citizens and legal immigrants, education and educational facilities, and protection of the U.S. flag from physical desecration.

The Post Oratory contest will be March 16 , 2024, at 1 pm at the Kalispell Am. Legion Post.

The District level will be Saturday, March 23, 2024, upstairs at the VFW Hall in Polson at 1 pm.

Department level will be Saturday, March 30 , 2024, in Helena, MT

National level will be held May 17-19 , 2024 in Hillsdale, MI

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN/TRUSTEE/ADJUTANT

Ron Boespflug (541) 999-7790

The 4th Pillar of the American Legion – Youth.

Purpose: To formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to: Assure care and protection for the children of veterans; Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home; Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth; Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee The American Legion continues to do all it can to ensure “a square deal for every child.”

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Dick Lauer 406-890-5343

Nothing to Report

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

J.C. McKenzie (406) 270-8697

Luke 18: 16 & 17

16 Jesus called them unto Him and said, suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of GOD.

17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of GOD as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. KJV

EDITOR'S CORNER:

Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155

Stories For Photos On First Page.

- 1) Cub Scout Pack 4137 3rd Annual Pinewood Derby.
- 2) Blue and Gold Crossover Potluck

BUSINESS BINDER PROJECT

I am working on a Binder for Members Businesses, so that we may use our member's 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

Hello Everyone!

I hope you all have weathered our winter well and are ready for Spring and activities with our families as well as our Legion family.

Our Auxiliary meetings are brown bag lunch meetings on the 4th Monday of the month (unless noted otherwise) at noon. We are meeting upstairs now as it is handicapped accessible. We would love to have you join us!

I hope you all have paid your dues. Your dues help our programs even if you are unable to attend all our meetings. They are up to \$35 a year for auxiliary now as National has increased theirs. Incidentally we have more Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members in our Unit than any other Unit in Montana!

We have been getting questions regarding the Spring basement sale. It is scheduled for 8-4 April 12 and 8-12 April 13. Set up is the morning of April 11. We welcome donations. You can contact me or any auxiliary member if you have gently used items to donate. This is our biggest fund raiser to help carry out our programs.

The District 4 meeting is April 20 in Polson.

We will be distributing poppies in May; date to be determined.

Hope to see you at the Post!

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

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Address Service Requested