



**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**  
**September 2024**

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**BE THE ONE**

TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING  
 TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK  
 TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING

LEARN MORE [BETHEONE.ORG](http://BETHEONE.ORG)

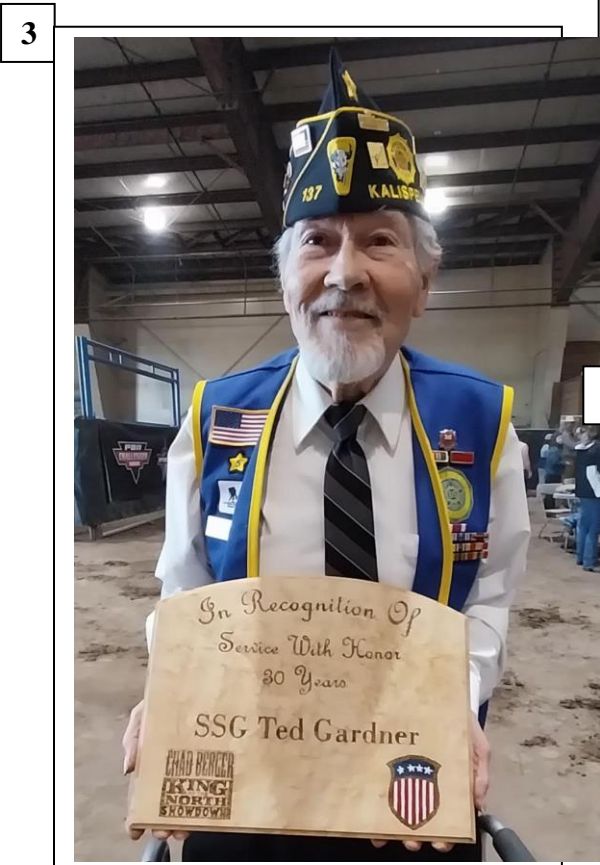
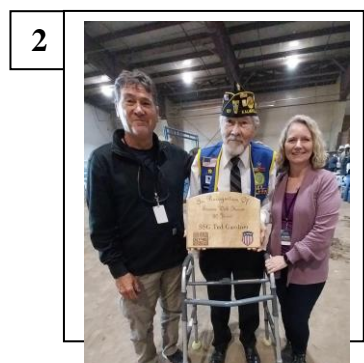
**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

*Bob Lehman (406) 253-4238*

Information comes in many forms and sometimes is overwhelming. Your voices and thoughts on the running of Kalispell Post 137 are important to the Post Leadership and Post Committee members. In the upcoming months you will hear and read about ideas that will improve contacting members by using a Phone Tree. This plan is for a group of members to be "Lead Contact Callers" to make regular phone calls to the same members assigned to them. In this way, each Lead Contact Caller on the Phone Tree will be able to develop better understand of the needs of members on their lists. Contact Post Leaders and Post Committee Chairs to learn more how you can help.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FREEDOM WALK**  
 See Editors Corner for details.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FEED THE FLATHEAD**  
 See Editors Corner for details.



## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

*Lee Heser (406 )270-8267*

American Legion Post 137

What has happened maintenance-wise the last five months? Let's see what has happened!!! In March a contract was let to have all of the carpet in the Legion Hall shampooed to include the steps. This really brightened up the hall. Prior to this, we painted the basement floors to include the kitchen and two bathrooms. Thanks again to all who helped. Lee let a contract for shampooing the carpet and stairs. We had 9 bidders. The successful bidder did an outstanding job. Commander Lehman got a member who is an electrical contractor to replace our hall with LED lights, saving our Post more money. Thanks, Commander. In May we had 13 contractors who looked at painting the fascia, soffit and concrete foundation around the Legion Hall. We had bids from \$12,265 to \$32,800. The bid was awarded to the most responsible bidder, White Knight contractor. This contractor went above our specified requirements, did a super job and saved us a lot of money plus he scraped and painted all the outside doors and window frames at no extra costs to the Post. Lee let another small contract for \$250 to seal, paint and drill holes in the steps to drain the steps on the west side of the building. This was to prevent water from pooling and then freezing, causing a slipping accident. We also blacktopped part of the parking area on the east side of the lot so we could get our members in wheelchairs up the ramp. This was scheduled to be done in 2025/2026. Laura Westcott and Dick Lauer, our budget people, found some extra money and said we could do the blacktopping this year. Lee wrote a bid contract with the specifications and contacted 16 paving contractors who gave us bids from \$12,765 to \$32,000. Lee let the bid to the most responsible bidder, Pinnacle Paving, who completed this job in late July. It was decided that we need a new tool and equipment shed so Lee and Dick are in the process of searching for a shed. Lee is presently in the process of writing the specifications for a 10 x 12 woodshed with a 5-foot sliding door, plus two small windows 7 feet above the floor so anything stored won't be visible. We have not done any maintenance on the Legion Hall for the past 10 years, so we had considerable deferred maintenance which has now been corrected; and with that, put our 5-year maintenance program back on track. Our thanks goes out to Lee Heser for his efforts in writing bid requirements and specifications and for finding contractors who were qualified. After the bids were let, he also spent many hours inspecting and verifying their work. He also made many trips to the Legion Hall to meet with potential contractors for the jobs to be done. Lee would like input from the General Membership for things that might need to be added to the future 5-year Maintenance Plan.

## **SCOUTING PROGRAM**

*Laura Westcott (406) 334-9341*

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](mailto:LauraWestcott7@gmail.com) or 406-334-9341 or Post 137/District 4 Commander Bob Lehman at [robertlehmanjr@montanasky.net](mailto:robertlehmanjr@montanasky.net) 406-253-4238.



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

*Dave Falcon (406)-253-1726* **Please Silence Your Phones During the Meeting**

### **More Uniform Cap Etiquette:**

When you uncover and need to set your hat down make sure the American Legion symbol is face up. Never eat a meal with your cap on.

## **FUNDRAISING:**

*Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155*

While my hip replacement went well, we still will not be doing Gun Shows this year. I am looking at an option for doing Craft Fairs/Shows. I am looking for anyone that does wood crafts, metal crafts or any other type of craft that would like to donate your crafts for these Fairs/Shows. We will have a brochure holder with brochures and some magazines. We are still going to give out information about the Kalispell American Legion Post. A portion of the profits will go to Fundraising account for the Post, I am looking at other options for fundraising. As the fundraising Chair, I am open to suggestions for fundraising ideas. I did have a suggestion to contact the Patriotic American Brewery on Hwy 2. I understand they will sponsor Bingo. Now that I am mobile, I will check with them. 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*

One new white marker was put up on Aug. 29, 2024, on Hwy 93 S., near the welcome to the Reservation sign. Anyone interested in helping locate sites and install markers please let us know.

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

Nothing to Report at this time.

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

*Ron Boespflug (541) 999-7790*

Nothing to Report at this time.

## **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

*Dick Lauer 406-890-5343*

Nothing to Report

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

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

St. John 17:21

That they all may be one; Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

## **EDITOR'S CORNER:**

*Rhonda McDowell (206) 771-8155*

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

- 1) Ted Gardner being honored at the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Event. They were playing a video of his time in service.
- 2) Ted, his son and daughter-in-law at PBR Event.
- 3) Ted with plaque "In Recognition of Service with Honor, 30 years"
- 4) Commander Lehman and Rhonda McDowell, Escorts for Ted at the PBR Event.
- 5) Mindy Lane with Joint Services Office, presenting Ted with money from Sr. Vice Commander VFW Post 2252, Bill Meyers, who doubled the amount. Ted had left the event early or it would have been presented at the event.
- 6) Montana American Legion Boy Scout Award. Received at the 105th Department Convention.



- 7) Laura Westcott, our current COR for the Scouting program, receiving the Montana American Legion Boy Scout Award

**9/11 FREEDOM WALK: 11:30 Meet at Post, Noon walk to Depot Park,  
12:30 Ceremony at Depot Park**

**FEED THE FLATHEAD: Oct. 22, 2024, Episcopal Church 215 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. E.  
(corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave E.), Setup 5pm, Dinner 6pm**

**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

Hello everyone!

Fall is in the air and as all good things come to an end, so it is for Summer 2024. I hope everyone had a great Summer. I know I did. The highlight was a trip to Minnesota to visit my family in the Twin Cities and Geo's son and wife in Duluth. We went to a Twins game and fished every day while in Duluth.

Now it is time to begin our work as an Auxiliary. We will resume our noon brown bag meetings on Monday, September 23. Looking forward to seeing you all! This is the meeting we are asking you to bring donations of school supplies (anything for grades K-8) for our adopted Marion School.

Our biannual basement sale is Friday, September 27 (8-4:30) and Saturday, September 28 (8-12), with a setup planned for Thursday the 26. If you have clean, gently used items to donate you may call me to arrange a meeting at the post to secure them in our room. Our sales are our major fundraiser to help with our programs. Please consider helping with the sale by working or donating.

We join with the Post in remembering 9/11 by joining in the Freedom Walk. We are also joining the Post in Feeding The Flathead on October 22nd. See notices about these elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our District 4 meeting is Saturday, September 14 at the chapel at the Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls. Registration is from 8-9 and lunch is \$15. Please try and attend as it is so close and we learn a lot about our programs, etc.

Our 2024-2025 dues are due now. We had to raise our dues to \$35 per year as National raised theirs. I have noticed other organizations are also raising dues; as well as all things seem to cost more. We appreciate your membership! We would love to see you at meetings, but if you can't attend, know that your dues are helping veterans in the Flathead Valley!

I am enthused about our coming year of activities, and I hope you are anxious to share in them in support of our troops and our veterans!

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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #137  
P. O. Box 10164 Kalispell MT 59904  
National website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)

American Legion Post No. 137  
P.O. Box 10164  
Kalispell, MT 59904

**Address Service Requested**