



**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) 755-4942**

*June 2021*



**Commander's Corner**

**Bob Lehman**



**Important Reminder:**

**Upcoming events: Flag retirement ceremony, Saturday June 12 at the Post. BBQ at noon followed by ceremony at 1 PM. All post and auxiliary members and their family and friends are invited.**

As this year is moving at a speed that seems to be faster than past years, it is not surprising that our post is keeping up by shifting gears to make our programs and activities match up to serve our members and veterans in the community. I am seeing members looking for different ways to improve life at the post and bring new ideas forward for the "Good of The American Legion" during our monthly meetings. We are seeing new members that are "First Timers" stepping up to add to the value to "Long Time" members. Keep up the Great Work and take the time to thank one another.

The American Legion Baseball team "Kalispell Lakers" seem to be having a great season. I know firsthand with time/help, that the team players, coaches and parents that go to the games put in long hours and support to make this program "Team First" working for the betterment of the every player on the team. As Legionnaires we also should put in our time and support during the season to show that The American Legion Baseball program has the same "Team First" mindset of Post 137 membership.

**What can we do as Legionnaires?**

- Go to the games wearing your Legion Cap or other items to show that you are a Legionnaire
- Ask if there is a task that the team needs help with during the game
- Take the time to Meet and Greet with players, coaches and parents
- Report you time spent at games or helping out to add to the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) Yes, our time/support goes in yearly to national as part of what Kalispell Post 137 is doing.

**There has been some major milestones met at our Post over the last few months.**

- **Replacement Hand Rail in the side entry into the basement**
- **New hand built Flag Retirement box at the front entry**
- **New hand built Flag Retirement firebox**
- **Replacement of existing ADA ramp with new ADA ramp at back entry**
- **Mail Slot in front door**
- **New Message Board w/case on front door**
- **Privacy curtain for upstairs bathroom area**
- **Bullet board upgrades in main Legion Hall**
- **Rain gutter repair Southeast corner of building**
- **Replacement of basement furnace**
- **Replacement of overhead fans in main Legion Hall**
- **Troubleshooting and fixing overhead lights**

**Who is meeting these major milestones you ask? The answer is your fellow Post 137 Legionnaire (except for the furnace, that was a company that supports hiring veterans and supports veteran's programs) stepping up to answer the call for their time and skills. The pride in the Legionnaires that completed these mission, give proof to all our post membership, big or small project around the post makes a better and safer place for veterans to call Post 137 their home base. If you have time/skill to join in on more improvement's around the post, make yourself know and heard during the next General Membership Meeting.**

**Building and Grounds Maintenance *Vacant Leader Position***

**Contact Post Commander if you are willing to volunteer to fill this position.**

**Summer is right around the corner and the need for volunteers continues to help mow and water the lawn and to maintain our building and grounds. Please contact Commander Bob Lehman if you are willing to volunteer.**

**Post Connections**

**In this issue we feature J. C. McKenzie our new Chaplain. In her own words!**

**I was born June Carolina McKenzie on March 9, 1956 in Deming, New Mexico the oldest of four children. I married Thaldon Bernard Lewis in 1974 and in 1975 our son was born. In 1978 our daughter was born. In 1986 I joined the US Army and began a successful career as a communication specialist. After a few years I became a chaplain's assistant and began biblical studies at Southern California Christian College. Overall I served a total of 14 years and completed my service in 2008. After receiving my bachelor's degree, I went on to study at Bethel seminary. Unfortunately, I did not complete my degree program and ended up one class shy of graduating because of a conflict with one of my professors.**

**I have focused my ministry on helping women and have done this throughout my life. I consider myself an open non-judgmental person with an ear for people to voice their problems, fears, and hardships. I try to be an example of God's love for all people. I currently reside in Kalispell, MT and consider myself loved and respected by many, especially my two children and five grandchildren. I consider myself blessed to become chaplain of Kalispell American Legion Post 137 and I look forward with God's help to serving the spiritual needs of its members.**

**Highway Cleanup/Historian**

**Ron Bauer (406) 756-6160**

The application for permanent charter was filed March 31, 2003 under the leadership of Phil Stertz, Bruce Trimble, Lee Heser, George Haegele, Robert Jeffords, Francisco Andrade, Rocky Williams, Darlis Newlin, Don Bogut and others. The consolidation of Post # 7 and Post #137 was affirmed on April 2, 2006.

**List of previous commanders:**

**Bill Stertz -2002, 2003, 2004**  
**Post 137 Charter – 2003**  
**Bruce Tremble - 2004-2006**  
**Lee Heser – 2006-2009**  
**Ron Boespflug – 2009-2011**

**Keith Sibbert – 2012-2014**  
**Ron Boespflug – 2014-2015**  
**Ray Anderson – 2015-2018**  
**Jim Miller – 2018 - 2019**  
**Lee Heser - 2019**

**Boys State Chairman/Trustee/Adjutant**

**Ron Boespflug (541) 999-7790**



**Eleven (11) boys will be going to Boys State this year. They are as follows from left to right.**

**Evan Sevaly, Robert Corbett, Hayden Sharpe, Aiden Christy, Alan Taylor, Colby Fetterhoff, Marley Miller, Greg Muljadi, Evan Schow, Bradley Yerkes (not in picture) Charley Hinchey and Chairman Ron Boespflug**

**Boys State this year will be June 6-11 at Carroll College in Helena. Two of our delegates are seniors - no encampment last year due to Covid so they allowed seniors to attend.**

## Editors Notes:

**Jim Miller (208) 874-3418**

**Ed Van Scoten (503) 351-8523**

With the advent of our new and updated website a few major changes will be made in the newsletter beginning with this issue. For example, the Photo Gallery will now be posted on the website and not in the newsletter. This will save the post some expense. Expect to see more changes in the November issue as Gary continues his work in updating our post website. Gary Lowrance, a Navy submariner veteran has agreed to be the Post Webmaster. Please contact him with your comments and questions related to the website at cellphone (406) 885-1367.

*NOTE: At the May 24 General Membership Meeting Laura Westcott an Air Force retired veteran was nominated, accepted and approved as Vice Commander of Post 137. We will feature her in the November issue of this newsletter! Welcome aboard Laura and thanks for your willingness to serve in this position! Laura's phone number is (406) 334-9341. She served from 1986 to 2018 with breaks to attend college but continued her service in the Air National Guard.*



## **Chaplain's Column**

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



**Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus, even if you are a non-believer, I pray you will find grace in your heart to love one another and to treat each other as you would want to be treated. Remember the Golden Rule as written in Matthew 7:12.**

**If prayer is needed, or if you are interested in meeting one-on-one, please contact me by calling my phone number or through Post 137 PO Box, or contact Post Commander Bob Lehman.**

## **Highway Fatality White Marker Safety Program; Chairman Bob Bigler**

**(406) 756-3130**

**Post members installed four white markers this Spring and replaced an old white marker that was rusted beyond repair. Members also cleaned rust from all 135 white markers and repainted them prior to Memorial Day. Thanks to all members who participated. The white markers look great! The names of the members who participated are Bob Bigler, Ray Anderson, Bill Brinkmanship, Mike Blasdel, Brian Carvalho, Bob Lehman, Ron Boespflug and Jim Miller.**



# American Legion Auxiliary

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

As I am writing this the Memorial Day weekend is looming. Many of you will be looking forward to having our first holiday weekend out of lockdown. I don't have to preach to the choir to join me in remembering the sacrifice of all our veterans; particularly those who gave their all so we may have the freedoms we enjoy today.

I have sad news to report: Our Auxiliary sister, Linda Benson, passed in April. Our deepest condolences to Roger and their family. We are happy to have four new members join our Auxiliary: Joan Bird, Phyllis Bogdane, Christina Williams, and Gloria Brinkman. Welcome ladies! FYI--now male spouses of veterans can join.

We have struggled on with our meetings since resuming last August. We are now on our evening meetings schedule since Daylight Savings Time; meeting the same time as the Post at 7PM on the 4th Monday of the month. We have sent school supplies to our adopted Marion school, donated Christmas \$\$ for gifts for veterans at the Vet's Home since we could not do the Christmas Store last year, and held a basement sale last Fall. We will be having another basement sale and bazaar in the Fall, so remember us if you have nice usable things you no longer need yourself; and if you have talents you can use to make items to donate for the bazaar, and also jams, etc. Mina's jams went like hotcakes last Fall. If you are a quilter, Department is looking for Quilts of Valor for residents of the newly opened Veteran's Home in Butte. Thanks to Dee Hesel who made and donated two beautiful quilts this Spring in our name. I have specifications for the quilts if anyone is interested in doing this rewarding activity.

Poppy Day was May 15. We had two stores staffed for distribution. All proceeds stay in Montana; with most in the Flathead Valley. The funds are earmarked specifically for veterans needs. We use this money for the Christmas Store and birthday parties at the Vet's Home in Columbia Falls and other things that are specifically for the needs of veterans. Many thanks to Mina Henke, Joan Bird, and Phyllis Bogdane for volunteering at Albertson's, and Judy Collins for relieving me at Rosauers!

Girls State is resuming this year and our Auxiliary is sending 8 delegates; 7 from Flathead High School and 1 from Stillwater Christian School. The delegates learn government by forming mock towns, legislature, etc. and a large scholarship is awarded to 1 attendee; with two delegates to Girls Nation in Washington D.C.

We are enjoying the new furnace in our building. Mina Henke has donated a full mountain lion mount to the Post to help defray the cost. Thank you Mina! We still desperately need a Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you Joan Bird for volunteering to be Historian! I hope to see you all and any of your friends at the Post BBQ followed by a flag retirement ceremony on June 12 as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter!

Your Auxiliary President,

Darlene Johnson  
(406) 755-3447

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit #137**  
**P. O. Box 7961 Kalispell MT 59904 (406-314-1933)**  
**National website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)**

**Oratorical Chairman - Position is now vacant. Contact Commander Bob Lehman for details if interested in filling this position. As per Bert's comments upon his departure this has been a very rewarding experience in serving the post as well as all participants, family members and especially the student applicants.**



**The Post #137 2021 Oratorical Contest was held on Feb. 21st and was won by Eva Bruce, a senior at Flathead High School, the title of her speech was " The Constitution In Crisis". Eva went on to win the District #4 contest in Polson the following Saturday which advanced her to the Department Contest held in Helena on Mar. 6th. Eva placed 2nd out of 6 Statewide contestants! Overall, Eva earned \$1500 in scholarship money! Miss Eva Bruce is a full International Baccalaureate candidate, participates in Model United Nations, a member of the School Band, and, naturally, a varsity Member of the Speech and Debate Team specializing in Lincoln/Douglas Debate, all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA! Eva has been accepted by and will be attending Smith College in Massachusetts this Fall, we wish her continued success!**

**Bert Blyth (406) 756-9244**

**American Legion Post 137 Handicap Ramp  
Another project in the Five Year Plan completed**

**A new handicap ramp has been built to meet state and county codes. The ramp itself on the inside measures 38" wide and 19 feet long. The landing going into the back door is now 60" by 60". The ramp is now covered with TREX as is the landing. The side rails are also of TREX. This new ramp will require minimal annual maintenance such as painting. The posts are concreted in the ground. Ron Bauer and Lee Hesper engineered and built this ramp spending 104 hours. These two members saved the Post \$2,733. The last construction bid was \$3,500 whereas the actual cost was only \$766.54 for material. Some of the old posts that were concreted in were dug up and again concreted in along with salvaging some of the dimension lumber. Thanks to both Ron and Lee!**



Raffle Ticket Prices 1 for \$ 5.00 - 3 for \$ 10. - 5 for \$ 15.- 10 for \$ 20.

<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p><b><u>Kalispell American Legion Post 137</u></b> 1st Prize: 20g Springfield Shotgun 2nd Prize: Moose Antler Mount 3rd Prize Antelope Antler Mount</p> <p>Raffle drawing January 8, 2022 at Kalispell American Legion Post 137 PO Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904 - 406-270-8267 59904 59904 Winner need not be present to win!</p>	<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p><b><u>Kalispell American Legion Post 137</u></b> 1st Prize: 20g Springfield Shotgun 2nd Prize: Moose Antler Mount 3rd Prize Antelope Antler Mount</p> <p>Raffle drawing January 8, 2022 at Kalispell American Legion Post 137 PO Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904 - 406-270-8267 59904 59904 Winner need not be present to win!</p>	<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p><b><u>Kalispell American Legion Post 137</u></b> 1st Prize: 20g Springfield Shotgun 2nd Prize: Moose Antler Mount 3rd Prize Antelope Antler Mount</p> <p>Raffle drawing January 8, 2022 at Kalispell American Legion Post 137 PO Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904 - 406-270-8267 59904 59904 Winner need not be present to win!</p>	<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p><b><u>Kalispell American Legion Post 137</u></b> 1st Prize: 20g Springfield Shotgun 2nd Prize: Moose Antler Mount 3rd Prize Antelope Antler Mount</p> <p>Raffle drawing January 8, 2022 at Kalispell American Legion Post 137 PO Box 10164, Kalispell, MT 59904 - 406-270-8267 59904 59904 Winner need not be present to win!</p>
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