

**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 2020**



### Commander's Corner

**Bob Lehman**

email: [robertlehmanjr@montanasky.net](mailto:robertlehmanjr@montanasky.net)



**A decision has not been made yet whether to have a Kick-off luncheon in January, but the raffle drawing will take place as planned in January so buy your tickets now. You might be the lucky winner and you will be supporting your Post!**

**COVID-19 requirements have made us all think and do things differently day-to-day and even hour-by-hour. As the season changes from summer to fall, missions at our post continue to move forward. In September, with the hard work of our members the 2020 Freedom Walk not only showed our community that Kalispell Post #137 and Kalispell Auxiliary Unit #137 care about the commitment to 9/11 message of "Never Forget and Remember", we were able to grow our membership numbers with two (2) new members (1-Post and 1-Auxiliary). Next came the Kalispell Fall Gun Show. Again, with the hard work of our members this event let people know The American Legion has an active post in Kalispell. During the gun show, we raised \$788.00, adding to our ongoing raffle. Until the COVID-19 is in the past, our mission is the stay safe and healthy. Mask-up and keep serving our post and auxiliary. All events are reviewed for how they can safely be completed before, during and after the events. Many of the committees have ways that members can help from remote locations. If it has been a while since you attended a meeting or helped with a committee, check-in with a telephone call/text or email with your thoughts of how to serve and grow the Post and Auxiliary.**

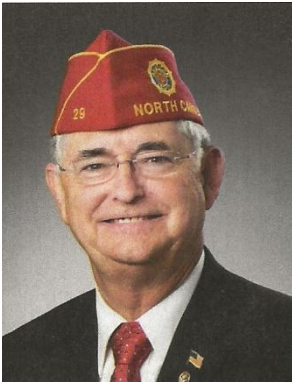
### American Legion Baseball

**Even with the shorten season the local home team Kalispell Lakers was able to take the field of play. Our post has sent in \$250.00 to support the team this year. \$175.00 went for replacement of the American Legion Post 137 Fence Banner and \$85.00 from member donations. A Certificate of Participation was presented to each player on this year's roster. The Team Coaches were presented Certificates of Participation and Official American Legion Baseball Caps. If you are a fan of baseball and want to help grow this program, contact the Post Commander for more details.**

## Building and Grounds Maintenance

Members are needed to fill sign-up sheets for the yard and snow removal. Contact the Post Commander for openings on the schedule. The 5-Year Maintenance Plan is in the review stage so the post can move forward getting much needed repairs completed to our home. The Building and Grounds Committee needs a member to chair the committee. Contact the Post Commander for more details.

Our National Commander      James W. "Bill" Oxford from North Carolina



As has been our practice in the past we borrow a few words from Bill's message in The American Legion Magazine. In the November issue he refers to extremism and the violence and chaos it can lead to. It is certainly what we are witnessing in the streets of America today! He goes on to say it violates the spirit and traditions of real Americanism. It seeks a course of action that is bound to fail. As Legionnaires, we bow to no one in our concern and zeal for the future security and greatness of America. We share a special responsibility to uphold the institutions which alone can be the means of realizing that future. Now, more than ever before, Americans need to keep their values in clear focus. Our resort must be to reason, not to emotion; to persuasion, not to violence; to perseverance, not to panic. There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law!

## Post Connections

In this issue we feature Geo Johnson QM2SS. In his own words!

In 1967 with the draft a possibility because of my poor college grades, I made a trip to the US NAVY RECRUITER. I had wanted to go into the Navy when I was younger after talking to two of my uncles who were sailors. "JOIN THE NAVY SEE THE WORLD INTRIGUED ME". I signed my enlistment papers with the recruiter in May of 1967. On June 15, 1967 I got my draft notice to report on July 9. I was inducted and sent to NAVY boot camp July 7. Just before I went into the Navy a friend who was on leave told me I didn't want to be on a destroyer but If I wanted better food and an easy job and more money to volunteer for Submarines and be a QUARTERMASTER. At NAVY boot camp in San Diego, CA I volunteered for Subs and QM school. I was accepted and went to Sub School and QM school training for about 5 months and graduated near the top of my class.

I was then assigned to the USS SEADRAGON SSN 584, a nuke sub at Pearl Harbor Hawaii. Two months later I was assigned to the USS CARBONERO SS337, a WW II Diesel Sub and went to western Pacific for various classified missions including VIETNAM for 6 months. I was assigned to the SS337 for close to 3 years navigating the sub on various missions as a QM2 SS (E5) , Submarine qualification requires extensive on board training to earn your "DOLPINS" learning all of the systems on board and to be able to fill in anywhere in an emergency.

In December 1970 I was on the Decommissioning Crew of SS337 and was then transferred to USS SARGO SSN 583, which was going into the yards. I was assigned to be the softball coach since QMs do not have much to do in port. I was discharged in June 1971. I got to see more of the world than I had dreamed of and some of what I was not supposed to see. I went to San Diego, CA, New London, CT, Boston, MA, NYC, New York, Honolulu, HA, Yokosuka and Tokyo Japan, Bangkok Thailand, Saigon Vietnam, Subic Bay and Manila Philippines, Adak AK, Victoria BC. and places the government would disavow our actual existence if we were ever captured. It was all quite an adventure and I would do it again! I only wish I would have stayed for 20 years.

### **Highway Cleanup/Historian**

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

**email:** [nannyb@bresnan.net](mailto:nannyb@bresnan.net)

### **HIGHWAY CLEANUP.**

Our semi-annual highway cleanup was held September 3rd. It was a great day The participants were Bert Blyth, Bob Lehman, Jim Miller, Jim's grandson, Miller Bushnell, Ron Boespflug, Lee Hesser, Ron Bauer, and a new member Brian Carvalho. (See picture in Photo Gallery) Among items found was a counterfeit \$100 bill. Sorry it was not real. A special thanks to everyone for your help.

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

**(406) 756-3130 email:** [2bees@bresnan.net](mailto:2bees@bresnan.net)

Bob has successfully completed his cancer treatment and is feeling better. He thanks the membership for their thoughts and prayers. In fact, he was part of the crew that installed the last white marker. (See Photo Gallery) One family requested their marker be removed so we remain at 130 total markers. The most recent marker was installed on Hwy 2 near MacGregor Lake.

### **Boys State Chairman/Trustee/Adjutant**

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

**email:** [ronboespflug@hotmail.com](mailto:ronboespflug@hotmail.com)

Our post hosted the Dist. #4 Fall meeting on Oct. 10 at Rocky Mt. Baptist Church. About 30 legionnaires attended, and lunch was catered by Vista Linda - parmesan baked chicken, baked potatoes, green beans, and green salad with apple cobbler for dessert. Just a reminder to our membership, the post pays the fee for all members who attend district meetings.

The morning session was busy with numerous state officers presenting information of interest to our members, like NEC reminding us to not wear a legion hat or logo if in an interview or political add - as we, as Legion members are non-political. Our Dept. Cdr. Jeff Nelson from Polson, said we Legionnaires need to be true to our oath to protect against all enemies, foreign and domestic, by letting our communities know that the Legion is not pleased with the state of unrest in our society. Defunding police, kneeling during the national anthem, and increased violence needs to be dealt with by a vocal response of disagreement by our post membership.

The Service Officer and VA rep. both told the meeting of the difficulty during the Covid-19 pandemic of providing health care. Ensure your voicemail is up and working as that is how the VA will communicate with us.

The Dept. Adjutant, Gary White shared that the future holds the increasing importance of the internet, as it will be the only method to renew membership soon. My legion website will require new sign on and passcode, and training for post commanders and adjutants will be on Tuesdays. Also, of the importance the Legion plays in providing American flags to classrooms. Big K memberships are due, and cash calendars are distributed to all posts. The adjutant suggests we all take the basic training course on-line, and explained Legion College. Law enforcement and Firefighter awards are due Dec. 31 all posts should seek recipients. Gary ended the morning session with hopes that Oratory and Boys State will both be held this year.

Our guest speaker at lunch was our former Dist. 4 Cmdr. and Dept. Vice Cmdr. Glen Sharbono. He spoke about our responsibilities of training and service to all veterans.

The afternoon session was the business meeting of Dist. #4 with reports of the officers attending. Post 137 members sold raffle tickets and there was also a silent auction during the meeting.

Editors Notes: Jim Miller (208) 874-3418 email: [jemiller@reagan.com](mailto:jemiller@reagan.com)

Ed Van Scoten (503) 351-8523 email: [edvs@juno.com](mailto:edvs@juno.com)

*Note: We recently lost another of our fellow legionnaires. Richard Williams died October 10. Rich had previously been the Post Chaplain and Service Officer. He will be missed. God rest his soul.*

### **The Ultimate Sacrifice**

As we celebrated the Freedom Walk again this year on September 11, we were reminded of so many that lost their lives when the Twin Towers went down in New York City from a terrorist attack on our country; also in the attack on the Pentagon and plane crash in Pennsylvania. Our men and women in uniform continue the fight worldwide against terrorism.

Although our Thanksgiving tables will probably not be graced with family gatherings as is the custom due to the Covid-19 virus we still have much to be thankful for. Our God is an awesome God, and He continues to bless this great nation we call America, and we give thanks for the men and women who serve to keep the freedoms we enjoy. We also remember those that have served in past wars and conflicts as we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. Cemeteries worldwide are dotted with white crosses of men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

We extend best wishes to the Post members and their families for a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed, Joyful and Peaceful Christmas season.



### **Chaplain's Column**

My thought as being Chaplain of the post, is for me to provide some comfort and peace in these trying times. With the election and the pandemic what else is new? Well here are some of my thoughts as I try to prepare for it all.

President FDR said during WWII, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". So, do not be afraid. There is not a thing that happens by accident. Our heavenly Father can and will make things OK if we pray and let him take charge of our lives.

As for the pandemic, practice social distancing, wear masks and thoroughly wash your hands, but do not panic! Live your life the best you can. Here is my thought! I will do my best to be as careful as I can, but if my Heavenly Father sees that I have done my job here on earth, then He will call me home to be with Him. On the other hand if I still have a job to do even COVID-19 will not take me.

As for the election Just Pray hard that His will for our Country be Done  
God bless you all, and, God Bless the United States of America

Leo Schaefer, Tel. (406) 756-3106  
Email: [brother@brenan.net](mailto:brother@brenan.net)

**(Nov. 10) We have just received word that Leo died November 6. He had been dealing with lung conditions from exposure to asbestos during his time in the Navy and recently contracted the Covid-19 virus. Please keep the family in your prayers. He will be missed. God rest his soul!**





# American Legion Auxiliary

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

Hello Auxiliary sisters and others of our Legion family,

What a trying year this has been. The most useless item purchased this year was a 2020 planner! I think by now we all know several individuals that have or have had COVID-19 and I sadly know of one that the disease proved fatal. The auxiliary did not meet from February 24 until August 24. By then we had quite a bit of business to do and things to plan. We elected new officers:

President- Darlene Johnson

Vice-President-Mina Henke

Chaplain-Lynn Shaw

Sgt-at-Arms-Nora Holmquist

Secretary/Treasurer and Historian positions remain vacant. Please consider taking on those offices if you can. We welcome three new members to the auxiliary: Lynn Shaw, Marion McCleary, and Mellissa Sandvick.

We brought a lot of school supplies to our September meeting to donate to the Marion school. Our auxiliary has adopted the school as part of our Children and Youth program. We held our Fall basement sale the first weekend in October and it was very successful. Mina's jams went like hotcakes! Thanks to all who contributed and helped with the sale. As far as I know no one contracted COVID-19 from that weekend. Our District 4 meeting was a success as well and everyone raved about the luncheon.

We were planning (that P word again) to have our poppy distribution day November 7, the Saturday before Veteran's Day. After consulting our officers, we have made the hard decision to cancel that under the circumstances. We hope to have a little publicity about it in the paper and ask those that would like to make donations to send a check to ALA Unit 137, PO Box 7961, Kalispell 59901. Poppies would be sent to those that enclosed SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) if they would like to proudly wear one. The poppy distribution is our major fundraiser for all the things we do for veterans. Usually we spend at least \$400 for the Christmas Store at the Vet's home alone, and there is monthly birthday parties and other things that we help veterans with as well.

Regarding the Christmas Store; we were not allowed to hold it this year and were asked to send what we usually do to the Department secretary, and she will send the donation to the Veterans Home and the staff will do the shopping on our behalf. Our auxiliary recently sent over \$400 from our Poppy Fund to do just that!

Our meetings have changed to the noon schedule for the Winter months. For our November meeting we will collect donations for Toys for Tots. We will decide at that meeting if we will meet in December or not. Our '20-'21 dues are due NOW. Thank you those who have already paid. Stay well!

Yours in service,  
Darlene Johnson, President  
(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**  
**Bert Blyth (406) 756-9244**  
**email: [bbert@centurytel.net](mailto:bbert@centurytel.net)**

**2021 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS, WE HAVE SCHEDULED OUR POST CONTEST FOR 2 P.M. ON FEB.21<sup>ST</sup>.**

**FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, OUR CANDIDATES HAVE WON AT THE STATE LEVEL AND ADVANCED TO THE NATIONALS, BUT THIS YEAR (2020) NATIONALS WAS CANCELED DUE TO COVID SO OUR CANDIDATE DID NOT GET A CHANCE TO COMPETE. THE NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR 2021 HAS BEEN SCHEDULED SO WE HOPE THEY CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO HOLD THE CONTEST IF WE ARE STILL BATTLING THE COVID VIRUS. I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAMS HAVE DRASTICLY CUT BACK ON THEIR COMPETITION SEASON DUE TO THE VIRUS, SO IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MANY CANDIDATES WOULD LIKE TO COMPETE FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP.**

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO MIGHT LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONTEST PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THIS YEARS TOP PRIZE IS A \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO A SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE.**

**BERT BLYTH**

**(406) 756-9244**

## **Fund Raising Chairman**

**Lee Hesel (406) 270-8267**  
**email: Deeheser@gmail.com**

Our Fundraising Raffle continues and at the time of this writing we have raised \$ 1,265.00. Drawing to be held in January 2021. Funds are needed to support post activities! Raffle tickets appear at the end of this newsletter.

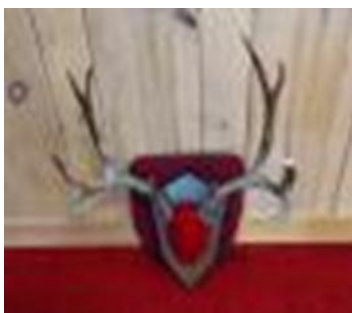
### **First Place Prize** **Ruger 7mm mag.**



### **Second Prize** **Bull Caribou Mount**



### **Third Prize** **Buck Deer Mount**



We will also be selling service branch magnetic ribbons, "Support our Troops" (\$ 3.50 ea. or three for \$ 10.00.). Contact the post for more information.

**Lee also presented an updated "Five Year Maintenance Plan" at the September 28 Post Membership Meeting. (Re: Plan in this newsletter) Our post building is old and in much need of repair!**

### Five Year Maintenance Plan with Estimated Costs (9/28/20)

First, our estimated building/grounds normal maintenance budget will remain at \$500 per year. This takes care of lawn and snow removal. This budget will also address immediate needed repairs on our water, heat, and cooling systems that we now have in place. It will also be used for fixing or repairing deferred maintenance on the building. Part of this budget may be used for cosmetic purposes, such as painting kitchen, basement floor and other small items. Should be we not use our entire budget, the remaining balance will go into a fund to be used on our 5-year maintenance plan; however, the present year budget will not be used just for the sake of exhausting this year's operating budget. Presently, the deferred maintenance on this building would cost much more than we can afford or budget for. So, we will take this one bite at a time to one step at a time.

2020-2021 – Put up ceiling fans we have had for 6 years. Estimated costs should not exceed \$75.00 for electrical wiring. Need work detail – date and time.

2020-2021 – Repair and replace rain gutter and down spouts. – Estimated cost - \$300.

2020-2021 – Scrape and paint windows, front door frame, basement door and frame. Need 2 more gallons of paint. Estimated cost - \$200.

2020/2021 – Replace, repair, and repaint fascia and door frame on front of building. Get contractor bid for final cost. Our estimated cost was \$650 in 2017.

2020-2021 – Rebuild handicap ramp and repaint. Estimated cost - \$1,800

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR 2021 - \$2,925.00**

2021-2022 - Repaint interior and exterior of building, both upstairs and down (to include basement floor.) Estimated costs - \$800.

2021-2022 – Frame in toilet upstairs and install door - \$550.

2021-2022 – Clean upstairs carpet professionally and stairs. Estimated cost - \$250.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR 2022 - \$1,600.00**

2022/2023 - Lengthen steps into basement on southside of Legion Hall. Put in a minimum of 7 steps. Modify outdoor entrance cover and move existing door to the new entrance, covering new steps. Remove existing concrete steps. Dig out to the south of building, probably 3 to 5 feet to afford more reasonable slant of steps. Estimated costs - \$4,500. Need fund raiser.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR 2023 - \$4,500.00**

2023/2024 – Replace basement heating system with energy efficient system. Estimated cost - \$3,500. Need fund raiser.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR 2024 - \$3,500.00**

2024-2025 - Repaint lower level to include kitchen and basement floor. Need a paint detail. Material cost - \$400.

Repair and replace rain gutter on building. Estimated cost - \$500.00

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR 2025 - \$900.00**

Prepared by Lee Heser, Finance Officer



## Photo Gallery



### **Flag Retirement Ceremony Monday June 22, 2020**



### **Commander Bob Lehman leading the flag bearers from the Post to Depot Park in Kalispell, MT**

### **9/11 Freedom Walk on September 11, 2020**



### **Gun Show at Majestic Arena September 11, 12, 13**



**Jim's grandson (left)**



**Rear L-R Jim Miller, Ron Bauer, Cmdr. Bob Lehman,  
Bert Blyth – Front L-R Brian Carvalho, Ron Boespflug**

### **Highway Cleanup Crew Saturday October 3, 2020**



**White marker installation October 15, 2020  
Hwy 2 close to MacGregor Lake  
(L-R) Jim Miller, Brian Carvalho, Bob Bigler  
WELCOME BACK BOB**

## **Fundraiser for American Legion Post # 137**

**First Prize Ruger Model 77 - 7 MM Remington Magnum**

**Second Prize Bull Caribou Mount**

**Third Prize Buck Deer Mount**

**(Drawing in January 2021 – Need not be present to win)**

### **Kalispell American Legion Post #137**

Raffle Tickets \$5.00 ea. or 3 for \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: You can copy this page if you are buying more than (6) tickets. Just include the total funds in your check.**