

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS.**

the Montana VETERAN



Elk in Yellowstone



Volume 20
No. 3

mtvfw.org
Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar.



Men's VFW Donation to Pool



The community of Medicine Lake has been working for the past 3 years to raise funds to update our swimming pool. The pool was built back in the 70s and has been a major part of summer enjoyment for many Medicine Lake and surrounding area residents and visitors. The swimming pool is located in our town park which also houses playground equipment, horseshoes, a baseball diamond and tennis court.

Every year during the Evening in the Park, which is our community supper

and street dance, we offer free swimming to all! The renovations on the swimming pool's office and bathrooms are set to start this spring. The renovations will consist of replacing the roof and updating the electricity and plumbing.

The donation from the VFW Post #8869 is greatly appreciated and the community will be sure to enjoy the pool for years to come!

THANK YOU!!

Top row is Jay Hancock, Jim BoBo, Gary Smith, Quarter Master- Jerry Jensen, Pat Waters, and Adam Nielsen. Second row is Bill Solderholm, Commander-Wayne Stringer, Kathy McCabe accepting the check for the Medicine Lake Pool, Cliff Torgerson, and Bryce Hancock.

Mary Lou Grandahl - Member for 60 Years



Mary Lou Hendrickson joined the Medicine Lake V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary 8869, in February of 1958. She joined under her late husband, Marlin Grandahl.

In February of 2018, she will have been a member for a total of 60 years. Commander-Wayne Stringer, on the left has been a V.F.W. member for 45 years, and Bill Solderholm, on the right has been a member of the V.F.W. for about 30 years. They are two of the commanders that Mary Lou has served the longest with.

In 1965-1966, Mary Lou Grandahl was District 5 President. While District President, Mary Lou earned District

President of the year. At the time she was District President, Leslie J Eskildsen was the Department Commander from Malta and Gladys Hippe from Froid was the Department President.

Medicine Lake Auxiliary was organized January 5, 1948, with 26 charter members. Of the original 26 members, there are two still living, which are Mae Tronson Reynolds & Ester Stromberg. The first President was Gertrude Stevens from Plentywood.

As of 2017, our VFW Auxiliary disbanded due to passing members, and not enough members available for a quorum, to hold a monthly meeting.

Deadlines

All articles and pictures have to be into Department Headquarters on or before the following dates for the next three issues of **The Montana Veteran**.

February 15, 2018..... Apr-May-June-July
June 15, 2018..... Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov
October 15, 2018..... Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar

Coming Events

JANUARY 27, 2018

MID WINTER

POST 1087 10TH AVE. S., GREAT FALLS, MT



COMMANDER'S REPORT



CHARLES CARROLL

We have completed all of our Fall District Meetings and I have traveled over 5500 miles in just a few short weeks. I am impressed with the level of Veteran Support that all districts are involved in. Our student scholarship programs seems to be up and running state wide. I need to have nomination letters for fire fighter and first responders including all facets of police work (Sheriff, Campus Police and City Police, etc.). We need to tell these folks "Thanks" for all that they do and recognition is a great aspect of this program. We have scouting groups out there that should be submitting applications for recognition for our kids. This is all part of the "popcorn effect: The more that we put in, the more that we get out.

We have Posts all over the state that are actively engaged in supporting Veterans causes and we should be recognizing all of their efforts. Former Commander in Chief Brian Duffy told us the other day that we are our own worst enemy when it comes to recognizing stellar individuals and Posts. I tend to agree because I know that there is a lot of work that goes un-reported. Quite often people just go about doing their jobs and are not seeking acknowledgement for completed work.

Perhaps we have those who do not want to be recognized. Whatever the case, we need to acknowledge and recognize all of those unsung heroes out there supporting our goals and keeping us afloat. **I challenge every District and Post Commander in the state to send at least one nomination of one of your "unsung heroes" to me before Christmas.** Let's plan on having the biggest and most attended award ceremony at our Mid-Winter Convention in late January, giving much needed recognition to those who do the work day in and day out. As stated above we don't recognize our folks as well as we should. I urge each Post and District in the state to assign someone to be their media coordinator. This should be someone who can navigate the various social media venues available such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. There are many new frontiers out there so let's take advantage of them and brag about what we do.

We recently had our State Commander/President Homecoming celebration and it was well attended. Thank you to all who made this such a memorable event. I appreciate all those who traveled significant distances just to be here. Thank you.

Our negotiation strength of this organization lies with our number of members: The more members that we have the greater our strength is when negotiating with government officials. It takes a lot of folks and all of the talent that we can muster just to take care of our Veterans. With more members we can be even more effective.

COMMANDER, continued on page 8

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JOE FLETCHER

Just a word about membership, it is indeed the life blood of our organization.

I know we talk about it a lot. But membership is absolutely critical to any organization whether it is Eagles, Elks, Moose, Amer-

ican Legion, DAV or the VFW. Without membership that grows, we die. We are good with recruiting new members. However, keeping them is the problem. Do we treat them like they are too new to become involved as we old folks know what we are doing and do not need nor want their input? Or, when one young veteran comes into out canteens, do we make them feel welcome or do we sit on our bar stools, continue to drink and act as if we are the only ones there? It only takes a moment to get up and greet them, let them know we appreciate their coming in. Talk to them. You will be glad you did.

For those of us who have canteens in our local communities that are open to the public, remember how we treat them is extremely important to our image. Recently I was in an establishment, no

one there knew that I was a member of the VFW, and I overheard a young combat veteran and his spouse talking about how they were treated in a VFW Canteen on Memorial Day 2017. They saw the lights were on, an OPEN Sign was on indicating the place was open for business and they stopped in for a beverage. Immediately the bartender on duty very rudely told them to get out because we are closed. The young combat veteran made a comment that your sign states you are open, light are on, and doors are open, and was told to GET OUT – WE ARE CLOSED. This young veteran stated he walked over to the trash can, took out his wallet and his VFW membership card, tore it up, threw it in the trash and told the Bartender that he would not be back. QUESTION: How many young veterans like him has he told that story to? ANSWER – You can put your money in the bank on this one, more than 10. Comrades, my point is this: If we expend a lot of energy and effort to recruit eligible veterans to join our ranks, and them treat them rudely and without respect, WHAT HAVE WE GAINED?

One other comment, recently it was brought to my attention that there was some comments made at the School of Instruction noting that I was absent – and

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 9

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Trustees:
Ed Viig, Dave Johnson and John Harris
By-Laws Committee: Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Joe Murnion

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



BOB SCHWEGEL

Commander-in-Chief's (William J. "Doc" Schimtz) luncheon.

Also attended several workshops and committee meetings. August was our Department School of Instruction in Great Falls. In September it was off to Kansas City for the Jr. Vice Commanders training. It was all interesting, but I think

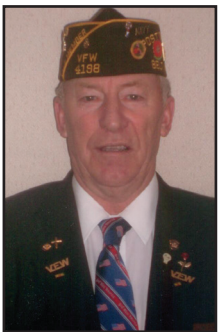
It has been a busy schedule the past four months since State Convention. Attended the VFW National Convention in New Orleans in July and met with all the Department/State Jr. Vice Commanders in attendance at The National Jr. Vice

the best session was with a motivational speaker who actually had us breaking one by six boards with our bare hands at the end of our session. And that statement is not a figure of speech. Our Department Adjutant/Quartermaster witnessed me doing it! Due to an inside joke, our Jr. Vice Commanders group is now called "Doc's Wranglers". "Doc" points out what he wants and us wranglers round them up for him. September and early October were busy with attendance at four of our six fall District meetings.

Next comes Western Conference starting 2 November in San Diego. I hope this finds all our members and families doing well and that our posts are continuing their membership drives and programs.

In Comradeship,
Robert Schwegel
Jr. Vice State Commander

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



JIM PORTER

in me as your Chaplain. I promise I will do the kind of job that you would expect the Dept. Chaplain to do. Second a big "Thank You" to the two Billings Posts for a job "WELL DONE" for putting on a fine & informative dept. convention. I thought it was terrific, as did everyone else I spoke with. Third, "CONGRATULATIONS" to all of the newly installed department officers. We have a fine team this year, and I am confident that with hard work, and God willing, we can reach all of the goals that Commander Carroll has set out for his team. "Commander, I am at your service."

It seems that summer has given way to fall, and cooler weather seems to be on the way. As you all know, school is back and underway, so please look out for kids

Commander, Fellow Officers, Comrades, and Auxiliary.

First, I want to thank any of you that attended the Dept. Convention and voted for my re-election. I thank you so very much for putting your confidence

walking to school or to the bus stop. They don't look out for you, and as you know, it can happen in the blink of an eye.

Now, on to the District meetings. I am asking all of you, no, I am making a challenge to each of you, Please, please, try to attend your district meetings. Whether you realize it or not, there is a lot of work that goes in to setting up a district meeting from setting up a meeting place, for both post and auxiliary, to getting a meal together that will be acceptable by most of the attendees. Then when you have only a handful of people there, it just seems as though it is kind of a waste of time. District meetings are important as well. I challenge each of you to make your fall and spring meeting.

As I have mentioned before, if you have any sicknesses, or deaths in your post or auxiliary, please let me know so I can get an appropriate card on the way. Annie and I wish all of you a very "hoity" Halloween, and a very happy & "thankful" Thanksgiving. I will pray for each of you and your families to have a very safe and joyous Christmas season. Take care & God bless you all.

Jim Porter
State Chaplain

Post 3596 POW/MIA Ceremony



Becky Powley presented POW/MIA ceremony at Plains VFW Post 3596 on September 1, 2017. Becky did an outstanding job of presenting the POW/MIA ceremony and truly honored those held as prisoners of war and those missing in action from all wars.

National Home for Children Report

Since becoming the Chairman for the National Home for Children, I have been wanting to visit the Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. I think it is good to know what we are trying to promote. September 19, 2017 Paulette and I arrived at the Home to do just that.

They gave us a very complete tour of the Campus and Montana Farmstead. Cami did the campus and Rob did the farmstead. It was very complete and very thorough. It really pumped me up and made me want to do what we can to help.

Since there were some concerns about the pig barn I thought I should look at that. I found that it is quite sound and needs some maintenance but is solid. There are about 30 kids that had pigs last year in 4H. They also have a rabbit barn that is very nice but last year there were no rabbits for projects. They did not know why.

There are about 90 kids that live at the Home with their families. Of those 90 kids there are about 30 that participate in 4H. 4H is big there. This makes the barn and farmstead very important.

I asked what they need at the farmstead on their wish list. Last year they lost

power during an ice storm and they could not water the pigs or provide them with heat. The farmstead was also without water. They are trying to get generators throughout the campus to provide power during these times. A generator for the farmstead was their top priority.

I asked Todd, the facilities director, to give me information on the generator that could be placed at the farmstead. He informed me that it would cost somewhere between \$6,000 and \$8,000 to have a generator installed at the farmstead. They have had a contractor already install some on the campus.

Given this information, I hope that all of you will get some excitement and help donate enough this year to get a generator for the farmstead. It will be exciting to see this come about.

We are not selling anything for a fund raiser other than the fact it is a terrific cause. Please send your donations though Tim Peters at the Department so he can keep a record of the funds. If you have any questions, let me know. My phone and address are in the yearly roster.

Ed Viig

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What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in you name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member. You will always be a member of your Post even after you're gone. Now Legacy Life memberships can be purchased for deceased life members, this is a great way to honor our past life members and keep them on the rolls of your post. If you are a life member and are interested in this program simply contact your Department Headquarters at (406)324-3992 for an application.

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Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18



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LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

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James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Donald R. Kendall	Bronze Post 6774
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Clifford E. Schleusner*	Bronze Post 6774
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Robert J. Sutton	Bronze Post 6774
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Howard J. Aemisegger	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786
Richard L. Osborn	Gold Post 5748	James H. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
John T. Freetly	Gold Post 6774	James H. Follensbee	Bronze Post 6786
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Leo A. Howe	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Russell H. Mobraaten	Gold Post 6774	Patrick L. McKeever	Bronze Post 6786
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	John C. Mueller	Bronze Post 6786
Robert T. Schwegel	Gold Post 6786	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Francis L. Utter	Bronze Post 6786
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 7311
Charles M. Handley	Gold Post 7311	Paul E. Coble*	Bronze Post 8292
Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311	Carl J. Graham	Bronze Post 8292
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	Charles R. Thompson	Bronze Post 9040
Thomas H. Armstrong	Gold Post 8292	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292	John R. Buckley*	Bronze Post 10010
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	David F. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
George F. Fryett, Jr	Gold Post 9040	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Elmer D. Bernard	Gold Post 10010	Dale A. Person*	Bronze Post 10010
William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010	George C. Stump Jr.	Bronze Post 10010
Lyle F. Pedersen	Gold Post 10010	Roy E. Jordan	Bronze Post 15027
Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010	* Deceased	Total 194
Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027		

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Arnie Armstrong Memorial VFW Fishing Derby

On August 4th, during Roman Pioneer Days, the VFW Auxiliary 5652 helped with the annual kids Fishing Derby. We signed in 136 kids and bought 12 dozen donuts on hand for kids and folks. We handed out gift bags to the kids and hot chocolate and cold drinks.



Pictured from left to right: Judy Stevenson, Helen Sorenson, Rocki Davis and Margaret Fay.



Pictured from left: Judy Stevenson, Helen Sorenson and Rocki Davis. In all 11 members participated.

National Convention

State Commander Chuck Carroll and State President Cathy Evans get into the Mardi Gras atmosphere at the National Convention in New Orleans, LA.



Tim Peters and Chuck Carroll



Cathy Evans and Chuck Carroll

Montana VFW Henry Rifle Raffle



Monthly Gun Raffle

October to June 2018

2 Henry VFW Tribute Rifles

11 – Rifles and Shotguns

1 Gun Safe

1 Per Month, 2 in Jan and 2 in June

And 1 Gun Safe in June

Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$20

See Your Local VFW for Tickets

Pioneer Days Parade

On August 6th, the Ronan VFW Auxiliary participated in the Pioneer Days Parade. We threw out small beach balls and a lot of Mardi Gras necklaces. After the parade, we gave out 350 4"x6" flags among the spectators. In all, fifteen members participated. Thanks to Jack Fay who drove the VFW Truck.



1st Annual VFW Car Show Post 4198, Belt Park

Even though it was not a sunny day, we have ten cars and trucks show up for the show. We had burgers, brats, beer and live music. A few folks showed up from Great Falls and Belt anyway.

Jim and Amy Olson took all three trophies. We had the judges and people's choice and the best in show, for their 1941 Desoto and 1956 Chevy. All in all, it was a nice, cool day. Next year's show will hopefully be better weather. Thanks to all who showed up and for all the volunteer help we had.



Top 10 Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary

10. Offers valuable assistance for meal and event preparation.
9. Assists with "Buddy"® Poppy drives.
8. Opens the door to potential members.
7. Assists in recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
6. Provides events and volunteer opportunities for veterans' family members.
5. Boosts the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.
4. Increases Program participation and helps spread the word on scholarship and youth programs.
3. Presents an opportunity to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.
2. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.
1. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Frequently Asked Questions

• Does it cost the Post anything?

The VFW Auxiliary Charter Kit fee is \$40.00, but its new members will pay for that. **It should not cost the Post anything to start an Auxiliary.**

• How long does it take to start?

From the time your Post votes to have an Auxiliary, it could take anywhere from six (6) weeks to four (4) months to get an Auxiliary up and running.

Hint: It takes less time for an Auxiliary to start helping your Post if there are already interested potential members before you vote!

Ready to Add an Auxiliary to your Post?

- Announce to Post members that you will be voting on having an Auxiliary and that the vote will take place at a specific meeting.
- If Post members vote YES by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, let the Department President know.
- The Department President will then assign an Auxiliary Organizer who will work on obtaining the required number of charter members (15) and filling out necessary paperwork.

Still have questions?

Contact VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.

VFW Auxiliary 5652

The Ronan VFW Auxiliary 5652 chose the Ronan volunteer fire department for "Make a Difference Day" for 2017.

Fire Chief Mark Clary accepted the "Certificate of Appreciation" along with a check of \$100 from the Auxiliary.



Pictured from left: Peggy Cote-Smith, Fire Chief Mark Clary, Helen Sorenson and Jessie Merwin.

**Troops - our thoughts are with you.
Stay safe.**

Post 7886 Wildfire Relief

VFW Post 7886, Jordan, MT opened up their doors for wildfire relief. Post 7886 Commander, Joe Murion and Quartermaster Steve Downs ramrod relief efforts at their Post for firefighters and those that were evacuated due to wildfires in the area.



Gold Star Mother's Ceremony

On September 24, 2017, the VFW Auxiliary 5652 along with the VFW, participated in the Gold Star Mother's Ceremony. Margaret Fay read a poem, "I Raised a Hero" by Linda Laime, mother of Sgt. Gene L. Laime; Jessie Merwin read a poem, "Hold my Hand" by Carol Lane, surviving mother of Sgt. Bryon Lane. It was a touching moment when the Gold balloons were released by the Gold Star families. The Auxiliary served a luncheon following the ceremony.



If each VFW member recruited just one new member each year our membership goals will be easily achieved.

We have a great state here. From end to end all across the state we have some inviting attractions. We are undertaking a very ambitious challenge to document our National Parks along with all of our other state attractions and encompass that whole thing into a travelogue to showcase our great state with all of our wonderful Veterans Memorials. Come to Montana and see America at its best. If you have a Veteran memorial in or near your city or town, please take pictures and write up a description and send them to me bubblehd@usadig.com or mail to our Headquarters office. We are going to try and get our Great state featured in our National VFW magazine.

Quite often I get information that requires timely distribution to our members' state wide. Occasionally we have been asked to weigh in on local and National Veterans causes. The best way to do this is through email. It is quick and sure saves a ton of money on postage and office supplies. The easiest way to get on my mailing list is to just send me an email with your name and post information on it. As long as you are sending me your email why don't you include a nomination for someone you know that could use some recognition? It's a win – win situation here. bubblehd@usadig.com

As I close out this newsletter, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that we had a significant wild fire season in our great state. I know that there are many folks out

there who jumped in and helped in any way that they could. Post 7886 in Jordan is just one example of what our folks do on a daily basis and rarely get the much needed recognition that they deserve. Commander Joe Murnion and Service Officer Michael Downs along with a battalion of volunteers turned the Post home into a shelter. When the need for shelter was over they transformed the Post home into a food and resource distribution center. They stockpiled various food and necessary supplies to fight the fires and provided a distribution network to get everything to the right folks. Along with their 12 to 18 hour work days for weeks on end, they also made about 1200 sandwiches a day for displaced residents and first responders. They didn't seek recognition because they were just "being neighborly Montanans, and doing what everyone else would do; being neighborly". Let me know if there are other stories that need to be told and Thank you to all who made a difference and continue to do so on a daily basis.

Again, please send me an email at bubblehd@usadig.com and include your name and Post number. Don't forget to send in a nomination letter for anyone who has been doing great works in your community. God Bless You, God Bless America and God Bless our deployed troops.

Chuck Carroll
State Commander

National President Visit



Left to right: Tom, Shirley Pouliot and Debbie Burdick.



National President Dee Guillory arriving at Billings VFW Post 6774.



Left to right: Mary Beth Arnold, State President Cathy Evans and National President Dee Guillory.



Left to right: State President Cathy Evans, National President Dee Guillory and State Commander Chuck Carroll.



VFW and Auxiliary members waiting at the airport for National President to arrive.



Welcoming committee at the VFW Post 6774.



Mary Beth Arnold waiting for National President Dee Guillory to arrive in Billings, MT.

TAPS

Montana VFW comrades
who have transferred
to Post Everlasting

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
209	Lewis	R	Clark	4042	Charly	O	Clark
209	George	F	Jobe	4047	Ronald	J	Saville
209	Walter	E	Spencer	4067	Carl	D	Kaasa
209	Charles	R	Zottnick	4067	Winston	H	Mitchell
497	David	J	Abbott	4099	Jack	L	Garcia
497	Rubin		Buchholz	4099	Donald	K	Johnson
497	Teddy	N	Pappas	4099	Laurence	R	Ziler
497	William	A	Thompson	4620	John	J	Taylor
903	Claude	N	Stasney	4669	Floyd	A	Palagi
1087	Roy	E	Baggett	4925	Paul	R	Meged
1087	Ray	J	Bergeron	5159	Russell	J	Carey
1087	Carl	B	Boutwell	5159	Roy	M	De Long
1087	Jerrold	V	Evans	5514	Robert	E	Brown
1087	Harold	D	Floyd	5514	Homer	T	Davis
1087	James	C	Hansen	5514	Bud	R	Hanson
1087	Donald		Horan	5514	Kenneth	C	Hays
1087	Harold	E	Juedeman	5652	Arnold		Armstrong
1087	Eugene	R	Kinkaid	5652	Dennis	E	Ingraham
1087	William	A	Lane	5652	Worth	A	Nelson
1087	John	C	Latham	5652	Lester	M	Paro
1087	Noel	E	Myers	5652	Steven		Rongyocsik
1087	Stephen		Pedro	5652	Michael	D	Trahan
1087	Dominic		Piccono	6238	Charlie		Harrold
1087	Thomas	W	Plunkett	6774	Ivan	J	Bailey
1087	Eugene	B	Stefani	6774	Michael	H	Balich
1087	Frederick	J	Toupin	6774	Robert	E	Hanson
1087	Howard	L	Whitish	6774	Orrin	M	Hart
1116	Joseph	F	Certalic	6774	Joseph		Hartman
1116	Henry	J	Filson	6774	Francis	J	Pelletier
1125	Arnold	L	Ames	6774	Lincoln		Waarvik
1125	Robert	C	Brenner	6774	Wally		Zentner
1125	Dennis	E	Hjorth	6786	Michael	B	Nelson
1507	Billy	J	Groves	6786	Maynard		Waldner
1507	Gregory	J	Maggs	7407	Conley	E	Compton
1543	Wilma	J	Aye	7407	Joshua	T	Darity
1551	James	A	Reed	7407	Frank		Zimmerer
1579	Henry	W	Hopkins	7655	Glen	L	Peterman
1579	Floyd	A	Meade	7655	Clair		Rodman
1579	Robert	H	Rask	7886	John	R	Gibson
1634	Jon	C	Grenier	8292	David	J	Beaudoin
1723	Melvin	A	Wood	8952	Harry		Spry
1876	John	J	Jurcich	9040	John		Burwell
2154	John	C	Hochhalter	10010	Mieczyslaw	W	Mielczarek
2252	Charles	D	Bean	10010	Dale	A	Person
2252	Kenneth	E	Fuller	10010	Joseph	S	Prebil
2252	Sidney		Goodrich	15027	Vinton	F	Collins
2252	Erwin	R	Jensen	15027	Bill	J	Dugan
2252	Marvin	A	Johnson	15027	Michael	O	Faughn
2252	William	G	Koll	15027	Richard	O	Gosman
2484	Leo	B	Alexander	15027	Robert	D	Hebard
2986	Harold		Applas Jr	15027	Robert		Heinen
2986	George		Snyder	15027	John	A	Henen
3107	Donald	W	Johnson	15027	Stanley	H	Jenkins
3177	James	A	Burrows	15027	Lloyd	R	Jensen
3596	George	F	Siegel	15027	James	C	Larsen
3831	Richard		Green	15027	Henry	J	Shaw
3831	Harry	V	Johnson	15027	Arnold	A	Sundberg
4018	Curtis	B	Halseide				

—*SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from Pg. 2*

wondered if I did not have my allegiance to the VFW as it should be especially being that I am a state officer. I can tell you that my loyalty, dedication and allegiance to our organization is solid and not questionable. Here is the reason I was not in attendance. Several months prior to the date being set for the School of Instruction, I was asked and accepted an invitation to provide some needed training and education to a group of our Military reserves and guardsmen in Billings. I kept that commitment as I had promised. I felt then that it was what I should do, and I truly believe I had my priorities correct. If anyone was offended that I was not at the School of Instruction, I apologize.

Hope to see all of you at our Mid-Winter Conference in January 2018.

Joe Fletcher
Senior Vice State Commander

Senators and Representatives
Contact Information

The Honorable Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington Phone (202)224-2644

The Honorable Representative Greg Gianforte
1419 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Washington Phone: (202)225-3211

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington Phone: (202)224-2651

Department Service Officer

Here in Montana, we work diligently to keep up with the new processes of doing business with the VA. Our investment into a paperless claims management system has paid off! Our agency has been invited to participate as a pilot site utilizing a new paperless claims submission program called Digit to Digit (D2D).

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) currently receives a large number of Veteran and Survivor claims and evidence is submitted and managed by our agency as the Veteran Service Organization acting on behalf of Veterans by way of a Power of Attorney (POA) relationship. Currently, all of the claims and evidence we manage is sent as paper submissions to VA via fax. To better manage the claims, last year we partnered with a software vendor to implement Vetraspec, a claims management system.

D2D is a data delivery service built to enable accredited service organizations to electronically submit data and related attachments from its claim management system to VA systems using a standardized and centralized method. It will reduce the time to submit VA claims and eliminate costs associated with filing paper claims by establishing secure and direct data transfers between the VA and accredited organizations.

The time savings will be tremendous! What use to take weeks, from submission by our organization to receipt by VA, will soon be immediate. We anticipate beginning this process in early January 2016. If you have never filed for VA benefits in the past, I encourage you to contact one of our Service Officers about beginning the process.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

Listed below are the MVAD/VFW offices throughout the state:

Belgrade.....	(406) 388-4601
Billings.....	(406) 248-8579
Butte.....	(406) 533-0910
Great Falls	(406) 452-2265
Havre.....	(406) 265-4225
Helena	(406) 495-2080/2081/2082/2083
Kalispell	(406) 755-3795
Lewistown	(406) 538-3174
Miles City.....	(406) 232-1203
Missoula.....	(406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great country!

Daniel Arnold
Department Service Officer

VFW Store

1-Stop Shopping

☆ VFW Items

☆ Military medals,
apparel and gifts

☆ U.S. Flags

☆ Patriotic Items

☆ Custom Orders

☆ And Much
More!

www.vfwstore.org

1-800-821-2606

**YOUR PURCHASE SUPPORTS VETERANS,
MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

Veteran Service Offices

Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center
1956 Mt. Majo • PO Box 5715 • Helena, Montana 59604
Phone (406) 324-3740 • Fax (406) 226-7459

Administration Offices

FOSTER, Joe -Administer	Phone (406) 324-3741	jofoster@mt.gov
HALL, Lee Ann -Budget Analyst	Fax (406) 226-7459	lehall@mt.gov
RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Beneft Tech	Phone (406) 324-3743	jrychalski@mt.gov

Cemetery Offices

HALL, Tom -Cemetery Program Manager	Phone (406) 324-3742	Cell (406) 202-0530	thall@mt.gov
WIGERT, Shawn -Groundskeeper		Cell (406) 202-1297	
HOLMLUND, Kurt -Cemetery Sexton	Fax (406) 232-2019	Cell (406) 951-1325	kholmlund@mt.gov
AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton	Fax (406) 543-2360	Cell (406) 396-8009	caasved@mt.gov
PAUL, Brady -Groundskeeper	Phone (406) 543-2360		

Veteran Service Offices (Locations and Counties)

BELGRADE Mahn, Janine -Service Officer II jmahn@mt.gov Edmonds, Earl -Service Officer I eedmonds@mt.gov 350 Airport Road Belgrade, MT 59714 Phone (406) 388-4601 Fax (406) 388-4602 COUNTIES: GALLATIN, PARK, S. MADISON, SWEET GRASS	HELENA Ackerman, Kelly -Senior VSO kelly.ackerman@va.gov Ingraham, Tim -VSO II timothy.ingraham@va.gov Baranyai, Krystelle -VSO I krystelle.baranyai@va.gov Veterans Service Center Bldg. 3633 Veterans Drive, Rm. 110E PO Box 1007 Ft. Harrison, MT 59636 Phone (406) 495-2080 Phone (406) 495-2081 Phone (406) 495-2082 Phone (406) 495-2083 Fax (406) 495-2003 COUNTIES: LEWIS & CLARK, BROADWATER, N. JEFFERSON
BILLINGS Heald, Cheryl -Regional VSO cheald@mt.gov Berge, Lindsay -Service Officer I lberge@mt.gov Love, Amanda -Service Officer I alove@mt.gov Keehn, Shane -Service Officer I skeehn@mt.gov Vacant -Service Officer I 2795 Enterprise Ave. Billings, MT 59102 Phone (406) 656-0584 Phone (406) 248-8579 Phone (406) 259-5419 Fax (406) 656-0617 COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON, STILLWATER, TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL, GARFIELD	KALISPELL Keeler, Ryan -Regional VSO rkeeler@mt.gov Collins, Carolyn -Service Officer I carolcollins@mt.gov Zipp, Bryan -Service Officer I bzipp@mt.gov 2989 Highway 93 North Kalispell, MT 59901-9801 Phone (406) 755-3795 Fax (406) 755-1039 COUNTIES: FLATHEAD, LINCOLN, LAKE
BUTTE Muhammad, Saajid -Service Officer II smuhammad@mt.gov 600 Gilman Ave. Butte, MT 59701 Phone (406) 533-0910 Fax (406) 494-1273 COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE, GRANITE, S. JEFFERSON, N. MADISON, POWELL, SILVERBOW	LEWISTOWN Foster, Sue -Service Officer II suefoster@mt.gov 505 W. Main, Ste. 217 Lewistown, MT 59457 Phone (406) 538-3174 Fax (406) 538-3186 COUNTIES: GOLDEN VALLEY, MEAGHER, WHEATLAND, FERGUS, JUDITH BASIN, PETROLEUM
GREAT FALLS Arnold, Dan -Service Officer II danarnold@mt.gov Brunken, Kari -Service Officer I kbrunken@mt.gov Hering, Candice -Service Officer I chering@mt.gov 600 Central Plaza #300 Great Falls, MT 59401 Phone (406) 452-2265 Fax (406) 453-5871 COUNTIES: CASCADE, CHOUTEAU, PONDERA, TETON	MILES CITY Olson, Keith -Service Officer II keitholson@mt.gov VA Primary Care Clinic 210 S. Winchester Miles City, MT 59301 Phone (406) 232-1203 Fax (406) 233-1217 COUNTIES: CARTER, CUSTER, DAWSON, FALLON, POWDER RIVER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, McCONE, RICHLAND, SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD
HAVRE Loendorf, Judy -Regional VSO jloendorf@mt.gov Mulonet, Steve -Service Officer I smulonet@mt.gov 232 1st St. W. Havre, MT 59501 Toll Free 1-877-265-VETS (8387) Phone (406) 265-4225 Fax (406) 265-2666 COUNTIES: LIBERTY, BLAINE, GLACIER, HILL, PHILLIPS, TOOLE, VALLEY	MISSOULA Hahn, Kate -Service Officer II khahn@mt.gov Cornelius, Peter -Service Officer I pcornelius@mt.gov Hale, Steve -Service Officer I shale@mt.gov 1911 Tower Street Missoula, MT 59804 Phone (406) 542-2501 Fax (406) 543-2360 COUNTIES: MINERAL, MISSOULA, RAVALLI, SANDERS
	SEASONAL EMPLOYEES Lantz, Jesse -Groundskeeper Missoula Veterans Cemetery Helena Veterans Cemetery

WHITEFISH POST 276 Meeting 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Post and Auxiliary Club Room open 9:00 a.m. to ? 7 days a week	BLACK EAGLE POST 4669 Post Meetings – 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 p.m. Mon-Sat Lounge – Banquet Hall – Meeting Room Bowling Center, 2332 Smelter Ave. 453-4736	DAN ARNOLD DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday 406-452-2265 600 Central Plaza, Suite 300 • Great Falls, MT 59401
GREAT FALLS POST 1087 Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 6:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 3rd Sunday Breakfast Every Sunday – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.	POLSON POST 2986 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. Club open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. 5th and Main in Polson	PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24 Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome
LIBBY POST 1548 Meetings 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 Noon to 2:00 a.m. 7 days a week	KALISPELL POST 2252 Post Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast available for purchase. 3rd Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Lounge open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Daily Come in and enjoy Flathead Camaraderie	BOZEMAN POST 903 121 W. Main (406) 577-2155 Meeting 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Club House Open 12 Noon - 11 p.m. daily Members and Guests Welcome
BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY VFW Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month/same time Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month	EUREKA POST 6786 Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 1st Tuesday – 1:30 p.m. Club open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.	MISSOULA POST 209 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.
Visit the Montana Military Museum At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Telling Montana's Military History and Recognizing Montanans For Their Service! For more information write to: Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum ATTN: Museum Director/Curator P.O. Box 125, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-0125 E-mail: myfun51@msn.com – 406-324-3550	EAST HELENA POST 10010 Post Meeting, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meetings, 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. (April-Sept.) 2:00 p.m. (Oct.-March) Club Open from 11:00 a.m. to ? Stop By and Enjoy Our Smoke Free Club	TROY VFW POST 5514 Post Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Jr. Girls Meeting, 4th Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
GLASGOW POST 3107 AND AUXILIARY 1222 Highway 2 West Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Canteen open 2:00 p.m. to ?, Mon-Sat	PLENTYWOOD POST 4018 AND VETERAN'S CLUB Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. American Legion Post 58 Meeting 2nd Monday – 8:00 p.m. Club Hours 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.	<div> e-Edition Same format as our printed edition. You can view current editions as well as back issues of the Montana Veteran on our website at mtvfw.org </div> <div> The Montana Veteran Department of Montana VFW c/o Tim Peters P.O. Box 4789 Fort Harrison, MT 59636 </div> <div> The Montana Veteran is produced at American Publishing LLC Jenny DeBack, Owner americanpublishing8482@gmail.com </div>
PLAINS POST 3596 Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome	BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily	
SIDNEY POST 4099 Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Club open daily 10:00 a.m. to Midnight Closed Sunday Phone: 433-9982	BILLINGS POST 1634 4242 State Ave. Post Meeting 1st Monday at 7 p.m. Kitchen Open Tuesday-Sunday Canteen Open 10:00 a.m. - Close	
	LEWISTOWN POST 1703 Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club	

VA Montana Health Care System
TOLL-FREE NUMBER
1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)

Option #1 Pharmacy (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Refill 2. Renewal 3. Anticoag 4. Staff **Refill Option is available 24 hours.	Option #2 Central Scheduling (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)	Option #3 Mental Health (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Appointments 2. Crisis Nurse 3. Staff **If crisis nurse is needed after 4:30 p.m., call 406-442-6410	Option #4 VA Clinics (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Missoula, KalisPELL, Cut Bank 2. Great Falls, Lewistown, Havre 3. Fort Harrison, Anaconda, Bozeman 4. Billings, Miles City, Glendive
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