

THE AMERICAN LEGION



IDAHO FALLS POST 56

FEBRUARY 2016

Messages from the Commander

We have all been very busy this year with all the programs the American Legion has to offer. Post 56 is so busy we are one of only a few Posts that have two meetings a month. If we only had one it would be a very long meeting. Thanks to all of you we are now the second largest Post in the State and I believe it is the result of all we do in the community. Our Veterans are all over the area conducting gravesides, participating in school programs, conducting flag programs, retiring flags, working baseball, getting oratorical and boy's state participants, and our list goes on and on. People

see what we are doing and want to a part of it – that is why our post has grown. We have an active Sons program that is also growing. I have met with people who will soon be starting a Legion Riders program at our Post so we have something for everyone. Many Veterans are looking for something to do and like what we have to offer. If you know a Veteran who needs something meaningful to do bring him or her to one of our meetings – they might be our next new member. For those of you who have not heard I have decided to run for Department Commander this year – some

question my sanity but I believe it is a task I am up to so have decided to run. Election is at the Summer Convention so wish me luck. You have all inspired me to strive for a higher goal and I thank you for your support and encouragement.

— Commander Bob Skinner

Adjutant

The 2016 Membership Year began on July 1, 2015. Membership renewal has been good to date with 92% renewal for our 2016 goal. THE AMERICAN LEGION speaks for all veterans at the national and state levels. I urge each member to renew your membership and ask your fellow veterans to join us in securing the benefits all veterans have earned by proudly serving our nation. Members are reminded of the recent \$5 increase in National dues. Post 56 annual membership dues are now \$40.

Post 56 members, with 25 years or

greater continuous membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION, will be entered in a drawing for \$250, which will be held at the birthday awards presentation held March 16, 2016. Membership must be current for 2016 to be eligible for the drawing.

Veterans Information: Veterans information and information about local Veterans Service Organizations can be found on-line @ www.idahofallsveterans.org.

Al Arnold
Post 56 Adjutant

War Bonnet Rodeo

The City of Idaho Falls has now taken the reins of the War Bonnet Roundup. Part of our contract states we will have operation of the concessions for the next five years. The City being a government entity has requirements to bid it out after the five years and we will bid it at that time if the membership sees fit. It will be very difficult for anyone to outbid us because we have all volunteer help and it does not cost us anything to rent the concession stand since we donated all the equipment in the stand. We will be transferring a bunch of “stuff” to the City over the next few months. It will be a lot of work off our plate but I will still be on the War Bonnet board of directors for a few years until the City learns all the details of running a big Rodeo.

Bob Skinner, Chairman
Legion Rodeo Committee

Sons of the American Legion

Squadron 56 of the Sons of the American Legion has been busy this membership year. Squadron membership has grown compared to last year. Squadron membership is currently 41, which is 159.39%



of the 2016 membership goal. The squadron has been active in honor and color guard events since July 2015, and has provided over 1000 hours of service to veterans and the community.

The squadron takes great pride in supporting the programs of Post 56 and assisting veterans in our area. We would appreciate everyone's assistance in finding and recruiting new members for our squadron.

John Gentry
Adjutant, Squadron 56

AMERICAN LEGION POST 56 OFFICERS

2016

Commander	Bob Skinner	757-7434
1st Vice Commander	Darrel Homer	403-2163
2nd Vice Commander	Bill Robinson	524-3806
Finance Officer	Richard Kearsley	821-5746
Sgt-at-Arms	Richard Zopff	346-1576
Chaplain	Jim Greenhalgh	346-1963
Historian	Max Harrison	520-9255
Adjutant	Allen Arnold	529-0445
Service Officer	Candi Rash	520-8856
Executive Bd. Member	Ken Lembrich	313-2238
	Bob Woods	522-1883
	Ken Collins	521-7706
Past Commander	Ron Walquist	357-5226

**Only our individual faith in
freedom can keep us free.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Membership

Great strides have been made towards reaching our membership goal, as set by National. Your diligent efforts have not gone unnoticed and are truly appreciated, however, there is still work to be done.

With the end of our current membership year quickly approaching, Idaho Falls Post 56 still needs 35 new members, or renewals, to successfully achieve a 100% membership status. In light of how far we have come, this remaining goal is not only manageable but also easily attainable.

The American Legion Birthday Dinner, which has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th, is a great resource to help us to overcome our final hurdle. If you have not yet done so, invite a prospective member to the dinner, so they can witness first hand our dedication to community service as well as our continued devotion to mutual helpfulness. Additionally, let's take advantage of this prime opportunity and reach out to those members

of our Legion Family, who may be wavering as to whether they will renew their membership. While it may be said that membership is the lifeblood of the Legion Family, we must never forget that the relationships created with all of our family members need to be sustained in order to ensure our continued success.

As a final thought, Legionnaires with 25 years, or more, of continuous membership are eligible for the \$250 drawing, which will be held during the birthday dinner, however it is required that your membership remain current to collect the proceeds should your number be drawn. Memberships can easily be renewed online, by visiting www.legion.org, or by contacting Al Arnold at your earliest convenience.

Darrel Homer
1st Vice Commander



Message from the Auxiliary

Enjoying our Veterans Christmas Dinner in December and meeting so many new ladies gave us the opportunity to sign up 5 new members that evening; we now have 68 members giving us 80.95% of our membership goal.

Our meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month starting at 7 PM, we meet at the Veterans Building, hope you'll join us.

At our January 18th meeting we held a joint opening with our Legion and started with a Pot Luck Dinner. New member Holly Rice's Corn Chowder was voted #1 in our "SOUPER BOWL" that evening. Our new Junior members reached out

during our dinner and sold us Girls Scout cookies.

We've been busy with Girls State preparation and several Unit members will again be part of the staff at Syringa Girls State in June.

Again we will be honoring our veterans when Auxiliary members participate in the annual Poppy distribution in May. All donations are used for veterans and the youth in our community.

If you want to join with us as we continue with the Auxiliary mission of service please call Darci at (208) 360-3529 or Toni at (208) 529-5710

National Executive Committeeman

As the Alternate NEC for the Department of Idaho, I wish to thank all of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion members who assisted in the pickup, sorting and inspection of the food items donated by the participating elementary schools for the annual Food Convoy in November. The total donations from eastern Idaho to the Pocatello Veterans Home was \$12,000 in food items and \$5,000 in money.

Over \$400 in toys were donated at Christmas time for the Mountains States Tumor Institute (MSTI) from our Post Legion Family members; and at Mid-Winter Conference in Boise the Department of Idaho donated \$8,000 in toys and \$2,000 in checks to MSTI.

Ken Lembrich and Toni Gimpel have been visiting the local high schools seeking students for the Boys and Girls State in June.

March 12th will be the 7th District Meeting in Idaho Falls starting with lunch and continuing until about 3 PM. We encourage your attendance as we learn about The American Legion. Don't forget the dues increase that took effect in January, they are now \$40/year.

Please visit the Post website at www.idahoveterans.org

- Art Gimpel



"Honoring Their Service"
*"In the spirit of God and Country,
WE SERVE our nation's veterans
and their families."*

Bonneville County Veterans Ceremonial Team

The Bonneville County Veterans Memorial had a busy year. The team has provided Military Honors for 119 Veterans in 2015. The Team, along with the Military Honor Guard, is privileged to provide a final tribute to a deceased veteran. The request for Military Honors is usually requested and coordinated through

the Funeral Service Provider.

The Team is getting smaller due to passing and illness of our members. If you would like to join our team, please give me a call.

Jim Greenhalgh – 346-1963

THE AMERICAN LEGION
IDAHO FALLS POST 56
P.O. BOX 50275
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83405-0275

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12, 2016

7th District Spring Meeting
Veterans Memorial Building
Idaho Falls, ID

March 12, 2016

Department Commander Home-coming Dinner
Steak Dinner, Cost \$25, RSVP by
March 7, 2016
c/o Art Gimpel: 2190 Calico Dr
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

POST MEETINGS

Post 56 meets the 1st and
3rd Monday each month at
7:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial
Building
485 Constitution Way,
Idaho Falls, Idaho.

March 16, 2016

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Birthday Dinner
Veterans Memorial Building
5:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 p.m. Dinner
Awards presentations following
dinner

May 30, 2016 -Memorial Day Activities

0800
Flag Colors Ceremony at Veterans
Memorial
0830
Ceremony at Fielding Memorial
Cemetery
0900
Ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery
1000
Ceremony at Ammon Cemetery
1100
Ceremony at Lincoln Cemetery

June 5-11, 2016

Boys State
Nazarene Northwest University in
Nampa, ID

June 14, 2016

Flag Day Activities

July 4, 2013

Independence Day Parade and
Celebration Activities

July 21, 2016

Veterans Picnic at Tautphaus Park
Shelter 1, beginning at 5:00 P.M.
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, chips,
etc. will be provided. Bring a salad
or desert to share.

August 4, 5, 6, 2016

War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo
Concessions operated by Post 56