

THE AMERICAN LEGION



IDAHO FALLS POST 56

FEBRUARY 2017

Message from the Commander

As I write this message, I am left wondering where the year has gone. It seems like it was just last week that the members of Idaho Falls Post 56 afforded me the honor of fulfilling the responsibilities of Post Commander.

Our Legion Family has been very busy this year, actively participating in community service projects as well as our Legion Programs. During this past year, we welcomed the American Legion Riders of Idaho Falls Post 56 to our Legion Family and had the opportunity to watch their chapter grow. We performed several flag education classes, conducted multiple dignified flag disposals,

plus dedicated two new flagpoles. We took advantage of every opportunity afforded to us in getting our veterans into the classrooms, participated in Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremonies, plus conducted numerous Color Guard Details.

Idaho Falls Post 56 continues to provide an invaluable service to our community through our Memorial Team, as well as our Children and Youth and Americanism Projects. It is only through your unwavering support and commitment, that we are known as a pillar of our community. Simple words cannot begin to adequately express my profound appreciation and

respect for every member of our Legion Family.

Dates to remember include: the All 5th Graders Patriotic Program, which will be held at Skyline High School on Wednesday, March 15, 2016; and The American Legion Birthday Dinner and Awards Program, which will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2016. Lastly, we will be conducting our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony on February 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building in Idaho Falls. Please visit www.idahofallsveterans.org for information on Post 56 activities.

— Commander Darrel Homer

Message from the Adjutant

The 2017 Membership Year began on July 1, 2016. Membership renewal has been good to date with 98% renewal for our 2017 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. Post 56 annual membership dues are \$40.

Members are requested to disregard any PAST DUE notices, if

you have paid your 2017 membership. National Headquarters sends dues notices about every 3 months after the July 1st start of the current membership year. Processing of membership payment can take as long as 4 weeks, during which time a past due notice may be processed and sent to members.

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,

Thursday, March 16, 2017. Membership must be current for 2017 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

This was the first year that the City of Idaho Falls ran the War Bonnet Roundup and it was a huge success. We still have the concession stands and did well operating those facilities. Many of you worked hard to make our efforts a success and you are all to be congratulated on your hard work. We will continue to assist the City with the Rodeo but its operation is under their purview. I will remain on the committee until they get all the information they need out of my head then they will probably put me out to pasture with all the other old nags. It is still fun and very worthwhile for the American Legion and we get all our operating dollars from this single function each year. Again, thanks to all of you it was a resounding success.



Bob Skinner, Chairman
War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo Chairman

Sons of the American Legion



Acting Cmdr: Randy Neal
Acting 1st Vice Cmdr:
Greg Stultz
Adjutant: John Gentry
Chaplain: Darrel Homer
Sgt-at-Arms: Ken Lembrich
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:
Robert Ostler

The Squadron has taken part in most of the funeral honors for veterans; two red cross blood drives. Provided breakfast for the Department Officers meeting and the fall District 7 meeting. 30 squadron members have currently paid their 2017 membership dues. All squadron members who haven't paid their dues for 2017 can send their dues to Squadron Adjutant John Gentry at 525 Lapoloma, Idaho Falls, ID 83404-5201. Please be sure to make checks payable to S.A.L. Squadron 56, or you can pay your dues at any Squadron Post meeting.

John Gentry
Sq. Adjutant

AMERICAN LEGION POST 56 OFFICERS

2017

Commander	Darrel Homer	403-2163
1st Vice Commander	John Gentry	757-7909
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
	Bill Isle	535-1244
	Ken Collins	521-7706
Past Commander	Robert Skinner	757-7434

From The Department Commander

I am very proud to be called your Department Commander and have been working hard to make our American Legion progressive and vital. We have implemented several new ideas to help with membership statewide including new billboards, a door hanger that can be used to notify someone that we have been to their house or see their Veterans license plate, a new website that people can see what we do and join our Department on line bypassing the two year wait after they join nationally, using new ways to get in contact with those who have not renewed and the list goes on and on. Through each of you we are succeeding in meeting our membership goals and I thank each of you for your efforts. I have had the pleasant task of visiting all the Districts and hearing what each American Legion Post is doing and all the good things they are accomplishing on a daily basis. Post 56 is the second largest Post in the State and I believe we will soon be the largest because we do the important and right things for our Veterans and our community. Seeing all the food that was taken to the Pocatello Veterans Home warmed my heart because I knew it was going to be eaten by our nation's heroes. Never underestimate the value of what you are doing for our community, our Veterans and ourselves. Together we can accomplish anything! I wish each of you a very joyous holiday season and a happy and warm new year.

Bob Skinner, Commander
Department of Idaho

Message from the Auxiliary

Thanks to everyone who came and helped us sort and pack the food that was collected for the Pocatello Veterans Home Food Convoy.

We'll hold the Girls State Tryouts in February on President's Day. We will be going into the schools with the information about the program with both the Auxiliary and Legion Girls & Boys State Chairmen.



2016-2017 Auxiliary Officers

President	Darci Phelps	360-3529	darci2573@msn.com
Vice President	Mary Wilding	589-4005	mary@crazy4cloth.com
Secretary	Holly Rice	589-5493	ricefamily@cableone.net
Treasurer	Paula Golicova	346-0044	golicovafamily@gmail.com
Chaplain	Joyce Stultz	529-2468	stultzjl@cableone.net
Sgt/Arms	Charlotte Means	710-208-0781	cmeans777@gmail.com

Bonneville County Veterans Ceremonial Team

The Bonneville County Veterans Memorial had a busy year. The team provided Military Honors for 98 Veterans in 2016. 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 – (208) 346-1963

Boys State

American Legion Boys State is an educational program of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

At Boys State participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen.

High School Juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. Most of the expenses for the participants are paid by the local post. Students interested in attending Boys State should contact their high school counselor or post 56 for information about the program. Applications must be submitted to the American Legion, Department of Idaho, by April 15, 2017.

Department of Idaho Veterans Food Convoy

Let's go back thirty-five years ago, in 1982, when The American Legion Commander Frank Dalton had his special project to support our veterans in the Boise Veterans Home. Frank had an idea to collect food and money to assist and enhance the food options of the home. It has now evolved to help all the Idaho Veterans Homes and this program became known as the Department of Idaho American Legion Food Convoy. Idaho Falls Post #56 became involved twenty-three years ago when the Pocatello Veterans Home became operational and we've continued annually in our support.

This past year approximately \$17,000.00 in food items and \$5,000.00 in cash was donated by area legion posts, local schools, business and banks just to the Pocatello Veterans Home. Idaho is the only Legion Department that does this and in recent years we have invited the second leading candidate for the office of National Commander to attend and participate. Yes, we expect the candidate to throw a few sacks of those famous Idaho spuds into the storerooms of the homes. Thank you and please keep up your support.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13, 2017

Post Everlasting Ceremony at 6 PM
Veterans Memorial Building,
Idaho Falls, ID

Remembering Post 56 members
who passed in 2016

March 11, 2017

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

March 11, 2017

Department Commander Home-
coming Dinner
Steak Dinner, Cost \$25, RSVP by
March 6, 2017

C/o Art Gimpel: 2190 Calico Dr
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

March 16, 2017

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Birthday Dinner
Veterans Memorial Building

5:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Awards
presentations following dinner

May 29, 2017

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 4 to 10, 2017

Boys State
Northwest Nazarene University
Nampa, ID

June 14, 2017

Flag Day Activities

July 4, 2017

Independence Day Parade and Cel-
ebration Activities

July 27, 2017

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 3, 4 and 5, 2017

War Bonnet Roundup Rodeo
Concessions operated by Post 56

POST MEETINGS

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