



# American Legion Post 154

## Rathdrum Idaho

Volume 1 Issue 1

February 2015

### **WE ARE OFFICIAL!!!**

#### **Commander's Message:**

Good day fellow legionnaires

I just want to start out saying thank you to all of you that have made this new post happen. It was a lot of hard work and you made it easy for me as the commander. I am looking forward to working with you all. In addition, I want to thank all of the folks that came to our first official meeting on January 28th. What a great meeting because of you. I hope that the meetings will get even better in the future.

Again as I said in our meeting, I want to also thank the Rathdrum Lions Club for their generosity in letting us use their building. I hope that this will be only the start in a great partnership and friendship with the Lions and the community of Rathdrum, Twin Lake, Spirit Lake and points north.

Although we are not the largest Post in Idaho, we are going to be among the very active ones and we take pride in the role we are going to play in the Rathdrum community. There are many new things that we are going to be doing at Post 154. First on the agenda is to make the meetings more fun and enjoyable. We hope to accomplish this by having refreshments and coffee/soda available. Also, we hope to do some history lessons on the Legion, such as when and why the Legion started or maybe what the Legion has done for the GI Bill. Please feel free to help us in this endeavor with your ideas. What's more is that we are going to make this entertaining and hopefully it will instill the feeling of comradery that is needed in this day and age. Another idea is to find out how many different service branches are associated with Post 154 then add the number of years of service and the branch with the most will get a prize. I need ideas!

In our near future we hope to sponsor many Legion programs. First on the docket is American Legion Baseball. Does this post want to help with the new Legion baseball team that has been approved by Idaho Dept. of American Legion Baseball for the communities of Rathdrum and Spirit Lake? Secondly, Boys State is coming up and we need someone to be in charge of that program. Who wants to volunteer (LOL), I know, I said that word. Please let me know if you want to help.

Thanks and I hope to see you at our next meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions please email me anytime at this email account: <mailto:dndsass@frontier.com>.

Commander Dee Sasse "Go Hawks!"

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander:

Wow! What a ride it has been. To think we started working to establish this post a few months ago, and to be where we are now, is just unbelievable. Our membership has almost doubled, and our first official membership meeting after the signing of our charter, was full of information, fun, and laughs.

We will have our first membership drive inside Steins Grocery in Rathdrum. It will be on February 21st, starting at 8 am and ending at 6 pm. We still have a few slots open to man the table. If you can help, contact me at <mailto:mikeorbon@frontier.com>. Thanks for your support in signing up for this important first membership push.

Our flag program is on its way. The budget was approved so we can now purchase flags to have on hand for sale. My goal is to have flags for sale wherever we set up our displays. The American people love the flag and we hope they will take advantage of the high quality and fair prices of flags from the American Legion. The proceeds from flag sales help support our program to put free flags in all of Rathdrum community's schools. Bay Shore Systems, Inc. has agreed to make and donate to us a flag box, for the collection of tattered and torn flags which need to be formally retired. We will ask the Lions club if we can place it outside the Lion's Den.

I hope everyone has a great month, and I hope to see you all at the Membership Drive. Thank you all for your support in this great effort. - Mike Warren 1st Vice Commander

---

**Editor's Note:** This column is reserved for the members of Post 154. It is my hope that each month we can include a short story from one of you about an event or memory from your time in service. I've no doubt that we'll all be able to relate and that each article will stimulate memories of our own. This month's story was contributed by Bryan Bledsoe. If you would like to share your story contact me at: <mailto:rathdrum154@gmail.com>

### Christmas in Vietnam 1966

It's interesting how we remember the good things even at the worst of times. I was 19 years old and had been "in country" (Vietnam) for 90 days when Christmas arrived in 1966.

One of the truly amazing experiences was receiving lots of mail from Spokane, the town that I was from. A group of citizens had formed a committee to solicit and send letters and packages to the troops. At first I tried to answer each letter that I received but it was a hopeless task as I was inundated with them, with not much free time to reply. I shared the letters, cards, and packages with the other soldiers in my eight man hooch.

My family put together a Christmas package and one of the first things that came out of the box was a miniature Christmas tree with tinsel. I set it aside on my bunk as I continued to eagerly pull various decorations, presents and other comfort items such as cookies, candy, and the stale popcorn around which they were packed.

Once I had everything out and mounded up I turned around only to see "my" Christmas tree setup across the aisle and decorated in Edwards' space. So that is where it stayed and from time to time others in the hooch would put some small thing around it and it became the communal Christmas tree and was enjoyed by all.

The other big event that stands out from that year is [Bob Hope Christmas Show](#) that came to Cu Chi and the 25th Infantry Division. I didn't anticipate being able to go but was given time off for a couple of hours and was able to attend. It was a big morale booster. Bob Hope started entertaining troops in 1943 and assembled volunteers to go with him to put on USO shows around the world through many wars and conflicts. - Bryan Bledsoe (If you'd like to see a video of that show, click here: <http://goo.gl/XEDUF6> )

The following article is taken from The Coeur d'Alene Press regarding the opening of Rathdrum American Legion Post 154:

## American Legion returns to Rathdrum

BRIAN WALKER/bwalker@cdapress.com | Posted: Friday, January 30, 2015 12:00 am American




Dee Sasse is commander of the newly-formed Rathdrum American Legion Post 154.

Rathdrum's new and only veterans group is marching to serve the community. Rathdrum American Legion Post 154 held its first meeting on Wednesday night at the Rathdrum Lions Club hall. "We've got a great group of people who have come together who want to work with the community of Rathdrum," Cmdr. Dee Sasse said. "We want to help veterans and serve the community at the deck plate level." The American Legion had a post in Rathdrum in the 1980s before it dissolved. In more recent years, there was also a Veterans of Foreign Wars post. The new Legion group has been granted a temporary 90 day charter and, if it proves that it's established with regular meetings, it will be granted a permanent charter. Sixteen veterans signed the charter to get the group off the ground. Assisting Sasse in leadership will be: Mike Warren, 1st Vice-Commander; Margaret Ogram, 2nd Vice-Commander; Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant; Al Ogram, Historian; Charlie Till, Service Officer; Len Crosby, Finance Officer; Paula Atwood, Chaplain; Jeffrey Broadhead, Judge Advocate; Bill Kinder, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Lew Allert, Helen Kinder and Rod Engel, Members-at-Large. Sasse said about 15 other veterans have already expressed an interest in becoming members. Sasse said the post is expected to be named after Manuel Schneidmiller, who served in the Marines during World War II and retired as a lieutenant colonel. The Schneidmiller family has deep roots on the Rathdrum Prairie in both agriculture and real estate. "I think that it's wonderful what the Schneidmillers have done for the prairie," said Sasse, who recently served as first vice commander for American Legion Post 143 in Post Falls. Sasse said the Rathdrum Legion will assist the city with Veterans Day and Memorial Day services, work with youth on programs including flag etiquette, support legislation, provide burial services, help veteran families in need, participate in parades and other community events and work alongside other groups in the community.

---

To read another article about Post 154, follow this link to the Rathdrum Weekly News: <http://goo.gl/1bof3c>

A Gun Raffle to support Newby-ginnings was announced at the membership meeting last Wednesday by Newby-ginnings board member Lew Allert. He would like each of us to help in selling tickets. They are selling 5,000 tickets with the drawing taking place at an event held at their facility on April 30th. Below is a sample picture of the front of the ticket detailing the cost and price, along with the mission statement for Newby-ginnings on the back. Contact Lew at (208) 661-0463 if you can help, or <mailto:lew7727@roadrunner.com> or pickup tickets Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday from 8am to 5pm at Newby-ginnings 147 E Aqua Circle Unit 2 Dalton Gardens or call (208) 660-4601.

 <p><b>"HUMBLE SUPPORT AND STEADFAST HONOR TO THOSE WHO SERVED AND SACRIFICED"</b></p> <p><b>NEWBY-GINNINGS OF NORTH IDAHO INC.</b></p> <p><b>OUR MISSION</b></p> <p><b>"With support from and in partnership with the community, Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, Inc., a non-profit organization, will provide, with honor, respect and integrity, essential items, resources and referrals to area active Military, Veterans and Gold Star families in need of such services."</b></p> <p><b>This is a list of items NEWBY-GINNINGS can use.</b></p> <p><b>We greatly appreciate and gladly accept new or gently used items to distribute to our local Veterans, Active Military and Gold Star families.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Furniture: Beds, Tables, Chairs, Couches, Lamps, etc.</li> <li>•Cookware: Pots, Pans, Dishes, Cooking Utensils, etc.</li> <li>•Dishes: Plates, Bowls, Cups, Silverware, Glasses, etc.</li> <li>•Bedding: Blankets, Sheet sets, Pillows and etc.</li> <li>•Shoes: Men, Woman, Kids and all sizes)</li> <li>•Clothes: Men, Woman, Kids and all sizes)</li> <li>•Kitchen Appliances: Microwaves, Toasters, etc.</li> <li>•Electronics: TV's, DVD players, Radios and etc.</li> <li>•Large Appliances: Washer, Dryers, Refrigerators,etc.</li> <li>•Personal Hygiene (Not opened): Body Soaps, Shampoos, Conditioners, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Combs, Wash Cloths, Bath Towels, Cleaning Supplies, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thank you for your support!</b></p> <p><b>00782</b></p> <p><b>Drawing Will Be Held April 30, 2015</b></p>	 <p><b>"HUMBLE SUPPORT AND STEADFAST HONOR TO THOSE WHO SERVED AND SACRIFICED"</b></p> <p><b>NEWBY-GINNINGS OF NORTH IDAHO INC.</b></p> <p><b>GRAND PRIZE</b></p>  <p><b>RUGER</b></p> <p><b>Includes</b></p> <p><b>5000 ROUNDS</b></p> <p><b>22 LONG RIFLE</b></p> <p><b>22/45 &amp; 10/22 Takedown</b></p> <p><b>SECOND PRIZE</b></p> <p><b>DPMS T.E.K. AR-15 Rifle</b></p> <p>DPMS® T.E.K. (Tactical Emergency Kit) Semi-automatic Rifle Package </p> <p><b>THIRD PRIZE</b></p> <p><b>RUGER MK III 22 LR. PISTOL</b></p> <p><b>FOURTH, FIFTH &amp; SIXTH PRIZES</b></p>  <p><b>Three Folding Hunters - 50th Anniversary Edition!</b></p> <p><b>SEVENTH, EIGHTH &amp; NINTH PRIZES</b></p>  <p><b>Three One hundred Dollar Gift Certificates For The TEXAS ROADHOUSE</b></p>
 <p><b>NEWBY-GINNINGS OF NORTH IDAHO INC.</b></p> <p><b>00782</b></p>	<p><b>2015 Raffle To Support Our Local Veterans</b></p> <p><b>\$5 Each or 5 for \$20</b></p> <p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Weapons Supplied and Transferred By</b> </p>

## Combined Legion Post, National, & Department Calendar February 2015

Feb 1

Americanism Month (February)

The Americanism Division represents one of the four pillars of The American Legion. The division oversees a wide variety of programs built on community service, citizenship, patriotic values and mentoring young people.

Four Chaplains Sunday

Department submissions due for National Law Enforcement Officer and National Firefighter of the Year

Feb 2 - Groundhogs Day

Feb 9

**Honor Guard Practice @ Post 143 @ 6 pm**

Feb 11

National membership target date (85%). Idaho is ahead of their membership goal and stand at 86% as of 1/13/2015

**Rathdrum Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting @ 4:30 PM**

Rathdrum City Council Meeting @ 6 PM – Please turnout in support of funding request

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb 16 - President's Day

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday

Feb 21 - **Rathdrum Membership Recruiting at Stein's – 2 Hour Shifts Sign Up With Mike**

Feb 24 - Start of Operation Desert Storm (1991)

Feb 25 - **Rathdrum Post 154 Membership Meeting – 6 Pm**

Feb 28 - End of Operation Desert Storm (1991)

Mar 1 - Eagle Scout of the Year applications due to Department headquarters

Below is a contact list for Post 154 officers. These officers comprise the Executive Committee. This committee meets at least monthly to conduct the administrative work of the Post. Decisions made by the committee are then brought to the General Membership Meeting to inform or obtain a vote of the members. These meetings are open to any who wish to attend. Only members of the Executive Committee have voice or vote in those meetings, however the Commander can call on a guest to speak.

**Executive Committee:**

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Dee Sasse</b>	<b>dndsass@frontier.com</b>
<b>1st Vice-Commander</b>	<b>Mike Warren</b>	<b>mikeorbon@frontier.com</b>
<b>2nd Vice-Commander</b>	<b>Margaret Ogram</b>	<b>mfogram@gmail.com</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Bryan Bledsoe</b>	<b>bryandbledsoe@gmail.com</b>
<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Charlie Till</b>	<b>ctill@telis.org</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Len Crosby</b>	<b>crosbylenmary@frontier.com</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Al Ogram</b>	<b>waogram@gmail.com</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Paula Atwood</b>	<b>snip2sew@gmail.com</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Jeff Broadhead</b>	<b>jeffrey.broadhead@gmail.com</b>
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>	<b>Bill Kinder</b>	<b>wakinder@roadrunner.com</b>
<b>3-Year Board Member</b>	<b>Lew Allert</b>	<b>lew7727@twc.com</b>
<b>2-Year Board Member</b>	<b>Helen Kinder</b>	<b>wakinder@roadrunner.com</b>
<b>1-Year Board Member</b>	<b>Rod Engel</b>	<b>jrodengel@msn.com</b>

---

**Post 154 Photo Gallery from the First General Membership Meeting**



Photo from: Post member Tim Williams  
1<sup>st</sup> American Legion Post 154 membership meeting at the Lions Club in Rathdrum ID.  
Left: Cmdr. Dee Sasse, Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe, Judge Advocate Jeff Broadhead



Photo from: Post Historian Al Ogram

Toasting the new post with sparkling cider. Left: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Margaret Ogram, Chaplain Paula Atwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Mike Warren, Cmdr. Dee Sasse, Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe, Judge Advocate Jeff Broadhead, Service Officer Charlie Till.



Photo from: Post Historian Al Ogram.

Some of the almost 30 charter members of Rathdrum Post 154.

---

If you have news, comments, or suggestions for the newsletter, or would like to help, please contact Jean Bledsoe at <mailto:rathdrum154@gmail.com>. Thank you.