



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue #7

July 2023

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Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum - Editor: Jean Bledsoe

Happy Independence Day!!



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 Mission Statement

The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.

Commander's Comments:

Anyone who has been a member of The American Legion for some time, or has recruited someone to join, can quickly list a few good reasons to become part of the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans – and to renew. When someone asks you why you belong to the Legion you can say:

The reasons may be national in scope, such as:

- Strengthens the veteran voice in Washington DC for a more effective VA health-care system.
- Keeps the GI Bill updated and relevant for new generations.
- Provides substantial veteran oversight of congressional committees and agencies.

The reasons may be specific to an American Legion department, such as:

- Adds to the network of like-minded Legion Family members in my state.
- Ensures support, resources and training for American Legion department service officers who assist others who served.
- Builds future leaders through American Legion Boys State and other youth programs.

They may, of course, be local, such as:

- Young people in my community need Legion mentoring through Scouts, fostering good will by supporting the largest Easter Egg hunt in our county, teaching Halloween safety during the Rathdrum Trunk and Treat, and other programs.
- Community memorials to those who served before must never be forgotten.
- Supporting the community's veterans with an annual Veteran's Recognition Day during Veteran's Day

And, they may be individual, such as:

- Camaraderie with fellow veterans and patriotic Americans.
- The Legion helps me understand my VA benefits.
- The discount programs are valuable.

As we finish up the planning for Rathdrum days, please remember that we need you to volunteer for our booth. It's a all hands on deck evolution. See you there!

As we enter the 2023 membership year it is my honor to be serving as your commander. We not only need to retain current members and gain new ones; we need to get more of our members actively involved in our activities. Let's get those renewals in as soon as you can so we can focus on new goals for our post.

Once again thanks for making our Post the best in Idaho! God bless our country, our families and our men and women serving. - Commander Dee Sasse

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Your membership matters! Another membership year is gone, and a new year is starting. Closing membership for 2023 was a large drop from a total of 173. Yesterday we had to drop 30 members who did not pay dues for 2023 and 8 members transferred to Post Everlasting during 2023. This put us at 135 paid for 2023, including 15 PUFL's.

Today our enrollment is at zero, as National BEGINS each year with a blank slate. However, with our Post 154 Early Renewal Incentive (see more information in this newsletter) we could be back at 135 members by tomorrow. (Please renew today!)

I'll let all of you know how we stand in next month's newsletter. Until then enjoy the summer and don't forget the August picnic. - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

Finance Officer:

During the month of May 2023, Post 154 received income of \$8,582.17 and had expenses of \$187.00. Net profit for the month of May was \$8,395.17. The majority of our income this month was from our annual Poppy Distribution for Memorial Day, which with a limited number of volunteers, only three stores and operating for only three days did a magnificent job! Thanks to the efforts of Lonnie Morse who coordinated the stores and our small cadre of volunteers who handed out the Poppies to folks in Rathdrum and Athol, we helped people remember the true meaning of Memorial Day and we had a wonderfully successful fundraiser for our Post.

Folks we are all getting older, and we seem to have only a very small portion of our membership who actually come out to volunteer for our fundraising efforts and our Community involvement. We appreciate ALL of our members, but we need MANY MORE OF YOU to participate in our Community activities and help our Post continue to be active in our Community. Please consider becoming more active and stepping up to help!!

Income, other than Poppy donations was from donations to our VERY ACTIVE Honor Guard (\$1,600), membership renewals (\$45), member donations to our Boys State Program and the North Idaho Veterans Home (\$70) and interest income.(\$1.17).

Expenses were for membership renewal (\$37.50), a booth at Rathdrum Days (\$75.00) and Honor Guard expenses (\$74.50). - Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Pew:



Here is some lite summer reading provided by Ruth Aresvik:

How to Write Big Books by Warren Peace
The Lion Attacked by Claude Yarmoff
The Art of Archery by Beau N. Arrow
Songs for the Children by Barbara Blacksheep
Irish Heart Surgery by Angie O'Plasty
Desert Crossing by I. Rhonda Camel
School Truancy by Marcus Absent
I Was a Cloakroom Attendant by Mahatma Coate
I Lost My Balance by Eileen Dover and Phil Down
Positive Reinforcement by Wade Ago
Shhh! by Danielle SoLoud
The Philippine Post Office by Imelda Letter
Stop Arguing by Xavier Breath

Service Officer:

I couldn't say it better...so I won't. Here is worthwhile information from the April 2023 Idaho Veterans Service Bulletin courtesy of Veterans Service Bureau Chief Bill Heyob:

For whatever reason, I keep receiving phone calls from veterans/spouses worried they have to be rated 100% service connected in order to receive Survivor Benefits when the veteran passes. This is completely false. If a veteran passes from a service-connected condition, even if it is only rated 0% service connected (for example, traumatic brain injury or hypertension) and the Death Certificate lists one of those conditions as the cause of death or contributing cause of death, the surviving spouse will receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Currently, the base rate for DIC is \$1,562.74/month. Remember, the spouse had to be married to the veteran for a minimum of one year prior to the veteran passing to receive DIC or a survivor's pension. The surviving spouse would also be eligible to receive the service-connected burial benefit of \$2,000, which is the absolute highest the VA will pay for a burial benefit. Since I am discussing burial benefits, if a veteran is receiving a monetary benefit from the VA (10% or higher, or receiving a nonservice-connected pension) and passes from a nonservice-connected condition (or passes away at a VA Medical Facility), the VA will only pay the nonservice-connected burial benefit of \$300. If a veteran was not receiving a monetary benefit from the VA at the time of passing, did not pass at a VA Medical Facility, and did not pass from a presumptive condition they might have been eligible but never applied for, then the VA will not pay anything towards a burial benefit. If a veteran is interred at a state or national veterans cemetery, there is NO charge for the internment. If a veteran is eligible to receive the nonservice-connected burial benefit of \$300 and is interred at a private cemetery, the family is also eligible to receive the current VA plot allowance rate of \$893. The VA does not pay the plot allowance rate if the veteran was eligible for the \$2,000 service-connected burial allowance or if interred in a state or national veterans cemetery.

Veterans can now access their disability benefit claim decision notice letters electronically on VA.gov, empowering them to quickly and easily see their disability decisions. Before this option was available, veterans had to wait for a paper copy of their decision notice to be mailed to them. While previous iterations of VA.gov allowed veterans to access benefits summary letters, they could not access the full copy of these decision notification letters from their electronic claims folders. This service became available to veterans on VA.gov on January 17th. Since launching, nearly 280,000 decision notice letters have been downloaded. "Veterans now have access to their benefits decisions anytime, anyplace – right at their fingertips," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA disability benefits can also open the door to other federal and state benefits, so quick and easy access to a decision means quicker access to the additional benefits veterans deserve." The new electronic option is also expected to reduce calls to the National Call Centers, freeing up call center respondents to answer other questions and requests from veterans and their families. To access their decision letters, veterans can log in to VA.gov and check the status of their claim.

Look for more details and information at [veterans.idaho.gov](https://www.veterans.idaho.gov) - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Washington State Fallen Heroes Project

Help honor and remember these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Guardsman and Marines by carrying one of their banners in the Post Falls Parade. It's on Saturday July 8th when the group will meet behind Walgreen's on 6th Avenue just east of Idaho. The Parade starts at 10 am so come around 9-9:30 am to pick up a banner to carry in the parade. I did it last year and it was a wonderful experience. Bring your family and friends as there are over 300 banners. If you have questions contact me, Bryan Bledsoe 509-990-6739 or bryandbledsoe@gmail.com



Did you know...?

Veterans Benefits at 40% Disability

Learn about the benefits available to Veterans receiving 40% service-connected VA compensation.

[WATCH](#)

Post 154 Honor Guard:

Our Honor Guard is very active. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com or by phone at 509-953-0885.

Since our May meeting, there have been 2 ceremonies: Memorial Day, and a presentation to a 101 year old WWII and Korean War veteran. There were also 9 funerals: 6 Navy veterans, 2 Air Force veterans, and 1 Army veteran. These events required 245 veteran hours and 1,260 miles traveled.

Bits & Pieces

- **Know Your Options: How to Appeal Health Care Decisions at VA**

You may not always agree with decisions VA makes about your medical care or whether you are eligible for some types of care. Know your options and how to appeal medical determinations and health benefits decisions. [LEARN MORE](#)

- **Veterans To See 8.7 Percent Cost-of-living Boost To Benefits**

As reported June 14 by Corey Dickstein for Stars and Stripes, veterans will get a cost-of-living boost on their benefit payments next year equal to the annual Social Security cost-of-living adjustment now that President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan bill into law Wednesday requiring the raise. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023 directs the VA to boost compensation for service-disabled veterans and the families of fallen servicemembers by providing a cost-of-living adjustment equal to the Social Security increase. Biden signed the bill at the White House after it was passed unanimously in the House on May 23 and the Senate on March 30. The law comes after veterans and Social Security recipients saw the largest COLA boost in decades last year, when the Social Security Administration and VA approved an 8.7 percent raise for this year due to high inflation rates last year.

[Read More...](#)

- **Watch an All-star Cast Perform at the National Independence Day Celebration**

Broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the national Independence Day celebration will air and stream on PBS at www.pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth and YouTube on Tuesday, July 4 at 8 p.m. ET. The top-rated, award-winning program puts viewers front and center for America's biggest birthday party with the greatest display of fireworks in the country. [READ MORE](#)

A Healthier You: With the hot weather hitting, here is some timely information.

Sunburn (Sun Poisoning)

Like most people, you may have been sunburned at least once. If so, you know the symptoms—red, hot, painful skin. Most sunburns are minor and go away in a few days. But sunburns can be serious. It's important to know when to get medical care.

Risk factors

- You are more likely to burn in the sun if you:
- Have very fair skin.
- Are exposed to sunlight reflected from snow, sand, or water.
- Live near the equator or at high altitudes.
- Are taking certain antibiotics, birth control pills, or the herb St. John's wort. Check with your healthcare provider or your pharmacist about other medicines that can increase your sun sensitivity.

How to treat a sunburn

Sunburn symptoms may not appear until 6 to 12 hours after exposure. Mild redness and swelling can often be treated at home. Cool baths or cool, wet cloths (compresses) can help. Using aloe vera lotion can help soothe the skin. Ibuprofen can help relieve pain, swelling, and inflammation.

When to call your healthcare provider ([Read more HERE](#))

\$\$\$ EARLY RENEWAL INCENTIVE \$\$\$

JULY 1, 2023

Beginning today, The American Legion Post 154 is offering an early renewal incentive to all Post members. Two (2), Post 154 members will have the opportunity to each win \$50.00, which covers your dues for 2024.

It would be great if everyone would renew early. Let's give it a try. Good luck!

Contest rules:

- 1. Each Post 154 member that renews their membership during the below period will receive one ticket for a chance to win a \$50.00 membership for 2024. We will offer two (2) \$50.00 prizes this year.**
- 2. For this contest, renewals must be made starting July 1st and ending at 5pm, July 15th**
- 3. Dues can be paid online at <https://www.legion.org/renew> (This is the preferred method) or received in hand by the membership committee no later than Friday July 15th, at 5:00 pm**
- 4. Any renewals that are mailed and not received in our Post PO Box, by July 15th will be ineligible for the prize. (IT TAKES 2-3 DAYS FOR MAIL TO REACH OUR MAILBOX)**
- 5. PUFL's are automatically renewed on July 1st and will not be eligible, but they do receive our gratitude for their commitment.**

Please Note: Everyone's membership runs from January 1st to December 31st no matter what date they join. Early renewal is for 2024. - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

Mark Your Calendar

July 4th Independence Day also Coeur d'Alene Parade

July 13th Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting 6 pm @ Lions Club

July 21st Boys Nation (2 Boys from Idaho Department will attend)

July 22nd Rathdrum Days Parade and Booth

July 27th Korean War ends (1953)

July 27th Post 154 Membership Meeting – 5:30 pm Potluck & 6 pm Meeting



So, what about the 4th of July??

[On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to approve a Virginia](#) motion calling for separation from Britain. The dramatic words of this resolution were added to the closing of the Declaration of Independence. Two days later, on [July 4](#), the declaration was formally adopted by 12 colonies after minor revision. [New York](#) approved it on July 19. On August 2, the declaration was signed.

The [Revolutionary War](#) would last for five more years. Yet to come were the Patriot triumphs at Saratoga, the bitter winter at Valley Forge, the intervention of the French, and the final victory at Yorktown in 1781. In 1783, with the signing of the [Treaty of Paris](#) with Britain, the United States formally became a free and independent nation.

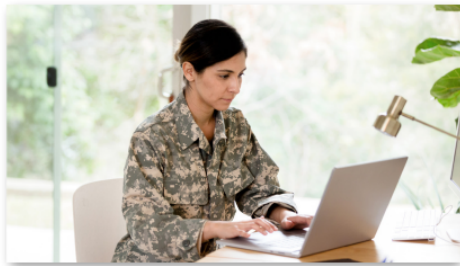
Here is the final paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. Spelling and punctuation reflects the original document which is on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum in Washington D. C.

[We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.](#) - Submitted by Ruth Aresvik



Join Us – Help Connect Idaho Veterans With Needed Services

Idaho Veterans Guide (IVG) has partnered with FindHelp to quickly and easily connect Idaho veterans with the services and resources they need. IVG provides a free website that allows veterans and their families to find free and reduced-cost services from a vast array of support organizations listed in FindHelp's powerful database.



Through the extraordinary efforts of local community organizations, IVG makes it easy for Idaho veterans to find programs that help them stay in their homes, feed their families, and receive assistance with other needs like employment, benefits, housing, and more. Every month, IVG serves as a vital resource for hundreds of veterans in need of support services.

How Can My Organization Get Involved?

If your organization helps Idaho veterans and their families, we welcome you to join us in making a difference and supporting our communities. There are three main ways your organization can participate:

1. Connect veterans to resources via idahoveteransguide.org.
2. Add your programs that serve veterans to the site and help us keep your information up-to-date and accurate by claiming them.
3. Add an idahoveteransguide.org Simple Search Box to your website to create an additional access point for veterans to connect to critical services.

Manage Your Programs on Idaho Veterans Guide

IVG empowers and supports community organizations to more easily and effectively help veterans in need of your services. One of the main ways organizations can access this support is by creating a free account and claiming their program(s).

What is Claiming?

Claiming your program allows you to access and update your program's information. You also have the option to accept referrals, create intake screeners and eligibility assessments, review reporting and analytics tools, and more – all for free!



How Can I Claim My Programs?

Claiming is simple! Just follow these steps:

1. Go to idahoveteransguide.org/claims.
2. Search for your program or organization within your organization's main ZIP Code.
3. A list of possible matches will appear; select the claim button to the right of your program(s).
4. Create a free account and verify your claim via email (keep an eye out for that email!).
5. After your claim is confirmed, a check mark will appear in the corner of your program's listing.
6. Don't see your veteran programs listed? [Suggest your program\(s\) here](#).

Veteran Community Resources
by Idaho Veterans Network (IVN)
Reviewed on: 01/08/2023

IVN connects veterans in need of services with the people who provide them. IVN can help evaluate your available service options to find the resources that best meet your needs. This program...

Main Services: navigating the system

Serving: adults 18+, veterans, spouses

Next Steps:
Call 208-440-3939 or email support@idahonet.org to get more info.
3.95 miles (serves your state)
2333 Naclerio Lane, Boise, ID 83709
Closed Now: See open hours

How you know if a program is claimed

3 ways to claim your program

1 www.idahoveteransguide.org/claims

2

Claim Programs

Join the Network

Join America's largest network of community-serving organizations. Get free tools to collaborate, report on impact, and serve your clients.

What program or agency do you work for? Program ZIP (optional)

Get Started

Claim or suggest your program

Free Tools for Organizations on Idaho Veterans Guide

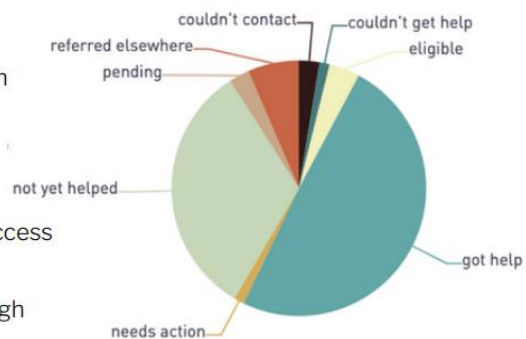


The social care network we have built in partnership with FindHelp is a go-to resource for veterans who need support or assistance. Every support organization that claims its programs on the site not only actively joins this network, but also gains access to a [free toolkit](#) to manage their programs' information and impact.

This Toolkit Includes:

- The ability to edit and update your program(s) information
- The ability to enable and respond to referrals from individuals
- Additional intake options such as an eligibility screening form and appointment scheduling
- Team management tools that allow you to give access to additional staff or volunteers
- The power to track your community impact through free reports that can be downloaded and shared

Example of Referral Statuses Report



Need a Little Help?

If you need assistance listing or claiming your program(s), accessing the toolkit, want to add a Simple Search Box to your organization's website or have questions about our network, we want to hear from you. Email support@idahoveteransguide.org or call 208-780-1376.



How to reach us

Phone **208-780-1376**

Email **support@idahoveteransguide.org**

Website **www.idahoveteransguide.org**



**7th Annual
NEWBY - BEYERS**



Memorial Ride



Saturday, July 8th, 2023

7th Annual
NEWBY-BEYERS
MEMORIAL RIDE

**REGISTER
HERE**



or visit:
<https://newby-ginnings-of-north-idaho-inc.square.site/>



Registration: 9am

570 S Clearwater Loop,
Post Falls, ID 83854

KSU: 10am

For More Information

Call Taz: 208.775.6864

Registration Fee:

\$25 per Motorcycle/Vehicle

Memorial T-Shirts:

\$25 each

Ride ends at CVR Clubhouse

2405 N Dick Rd

Spokane Valley, WA 99212



WHO: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #149

WHEN: 6pm, SATURDAY, JULY 29TH

WHERE: American Legion Hall located at 5525 E Highway 54 in Athol

DESCRIPTION: BAKED POTATO BAR, VARIOUS TOPPINGS, SALADS and DESSERT. Price (per person) is a \$10 donation.

Please note that you do not need to be a member of the American Legion to attend. Our building is now a non-smoking environment but offers an enclosed area for our patrons who do smoke. COVID-19 protocols are in place.



Sergeant First Class Dustin Ard Commemorative Steel Competition



Presented by : Special Forces Association Chapter XLIII, Post Falls

EIN/TIN 88-2412485

August 27 1000-1500

Fernan Range CDA Idaho, \$50 Entry fee (limited to 200 shooters)

BIG PRIZE TABLE !!!!

All proceeds will go to benefit North Idaho veterans in need and their families.

EMAIL: 99mikes@proton.me