



American Legion Post 154

Rathdrum Idaho

Volume 1 Issue 2

March 2015

Commander's Message:

Good day fellow Legionnaires. Leadership is on my mind this week as I have been working on ideas on how to make our Post the best in North Idaho. One of the load bearing walls that support a good Post is Post Leadership. Here are a few examples of what we all should be thinking about when it comes to Post leadership. Next month I will continue more ideas on leadership.

Thank you and have a great month!

(The following information is from Sir Simon Fraser shares his advice on leadership skills)

1. There are different styles of leadership and they can (nearly) all be good. The important thing is to be yourself: know your own personality so that you can be authentic in the way you engage with other people and the way you use your authority.
2. Understand how you as an individual can best have positive impact and influence with others and try to understand how they perceive you. Always be clear in communicating your values, what you care about and what you stand for – through your behavior as well as your words.
3. If you want to be a leader you have to be prepared to lead. It does require self-confidence. You have to be able to judge when to listen, when to think and when to decide
4. When you make decisions you need to stick with them through adversity if you are sure they are right, and to see them through. People like continuity. If at some point you conclude that you were wrong, you need to be big enough to change and to explain why. The best solution is to make the right decisions! It is more important to make good decisions than fast decisions.
5. But you can only lead if other people are prepared to follow. That means you have to win and retain their respect, not just for your position but for you as a person, for your experience, skills and competence.
6. A leader has to have a strong rapport with, and understanding of, the organization and the people he or she is leading: what they want, and what they will accept if they can't have what they want. Emotional intelligence and intuition are important in forming these links.

- Dee Sasse, Commander

1st Vice-Commander:

Great news, and thanks to everyone. Our membership has doubled from the day of our temporary charter. We are currently standing at 32 members. This is because of you, the members. What is exciting is our membership is getting involved in all the activities of the post. Our 1st membership drive was a huge success. We collected \$121 in donations and transferred 1 new member. We had members volunteering and manning the table all day. Wow, what a great day we had at Steins Family Foods. Thank you everyone.

A lot of great events are coming up and again we need volunteers to staff them:

- March 13th is the American Legion's Birthday party. Invitations are in the works as we intend to invite city officials, and VIP's to this Ceremony. We will be serving free cake and Ice Cream for our celebration at the Lions Club. It will be open to the public, so tell all your friends and family to come and enjoy the fun.
- Flag Day is June 20th. We will be having a formal ceremony to retire worn flags. This event will be open to the public with refreshments being served afterwards. Volunteers are still needed for this.
- Rathdrum Days is July 17th – 19th. Please plan ahead, as we will need many volunteers to pull this one off. We will be having a Float in the Parade, Friday night we will be selling flags on Main Street, and helping Rathdrum parks and recreations department cook hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be live music and a beer garden. Saturday and Sunday we will have a vending trailer set up selling an as yet undetermined food item, flags, and water. A membership table will also be manned.

These are our fund raisers and events for the next few months. Please let me know if you can help. I will have sign-up sheets out at each meeting, and please feel free to call or email me. 208-771-0122 or <mailto:mikeorbon@frontier.com>. For god and country. -

- 1st Vice-Commander Mike Warren

Historian:

Below is a link to the Army's hidden treasure room. You will be interested to see what has been housed and archived by the Army over many years. One would think that the Smithsonian and art museums in DC and elsewhere would leap at the opportunity to put this on display. Check it out, you'll be amazed and fascinated. <http://goo.gl/fRuD72> – Historian Al Ogram

2nd Vice Commander:

I am working on a number of projects that will come to fruition over time and will keep you informed of the progress. Below is information about each project/event. Though not all are Post events, they are all veterans' events that members of our post participate in.

- I am exploring the possibility for obtaining, planting and dedicating a Veteran Hero rose in the Veteran Memorial portion of the Rathdrum Cemetery next May
- I am working to conduct an oratorical contest next winter and will encourage Rathdrum High School students to participate.
- The Department of Labor is planning a large veteran hiring event for April in which I plan to participate.
- The Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve – ESGR - recently appointed Bryan Bledsoe, Idaho Area 1 Chair. Area 1 was formerly reinstated in June of last year. Since then there has been four freedom awards and seventeen patriotic employer awards presented to area employers. In addition the Area 1 volunteers have exceeded their goals in obtaining Statement of Support signatures each month. My husband, Al, and I are both ESGR volunteers. More information about ESGR follows in this newsletter.

The White House, Home Depot and Fred Meyers Jewelry Department all offer veteran discounts. Send me stores that you are aware of and I will keep and publish updates. We need to support businesses who support us.

The State of Idaho will now annotate your driver's license to indicate that you are a veteran. The cost is \$15.00, but it is better than carrying around a copy of your DD214.

-2nd Vice-Commander Margaret Ogram

Chaplain's Pew:

As this month draws to a close, have you ever considered how interesting the holidays... Valentine's Day and President's Day are celebrated within a few days of each other? We send greetings to our loved ones and then turn around to remember all of the presidents who lead/have led our beloved country.

Now, with these two thoughts together, take some time to pray for peace and love, God and country, our new Am Legion membership, and the leadership of the United States of America. Prayerfully submitted – Chaplain Paula Atwood

Sick Call & Taps:

Bill Kinder continues to improve from his surgery. Be sure to contact me if you have any news regarding the health and welfare of our membership.

Finance Officer:

We are off to a great start. Most of the Charter members have made a contribution of at least \$50 to the Post, and many have doubled or tripled that. Thank you. We were successful in our presentation to the Mayor and City Council of Rathdrum, and they voted unanimously to support the Post with a one-time contribution of up to \$2,500 based on the actual cost of some one time capital items we need to provide the level of service that we want to provide. This included flags, Honor Guard gear and additional capital items. We are blessed that the citizens of Rathdrum have welcomed us warmly, and supported our effort to secure Legion approval for our new Post. This is definitely a community that supports its Veterans, and we want to repay them by being "Hand in Hand with Veterans the Community and our Country".

We have established a bank account at the Rathdrum branch of Washington Trust, and I will have a financial report for January at our meeting. – Finance Officer Len Crosby

Donors and Sponsors

The Post has received \$5888 in donations to date. These funds are much needed and appreciated and will be used judiciously. Though these contributions were given without thought of recognition, we are grateful to the contributors. Please thank them when you see them at the meetings.

Lew Allert	\$500.00
Jack and Betty Nomanson	\$100.00
Terry Shaffer	\$100.00
David Toning	\$100.00
Dan Hague	\$5.00
Jeffrey Broadhead - Donated his 50/50 winnings	\$58.00
Len Crosby	\$100.00
Jean and Bryan Bledsoe	\$100.00
Al and Margaret Ogram	\$100.00
Mike Warren (Funds donated and goods and services)	\$1,500.00
Dee Sasse (Funds donated and goods and services)	\$600.00
City of Rathdrum	\$2,500.00
Membership Drive donations	\$125.00

Legislative Committee:

We continue to receive support from our local legislators for a Veterans Home in North Idaho. Senator Bob Nonini and Rep. Luke Malek have been leading that effort with the strong support of each of the Legislators from Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and most of the districts in northern Idaho. Once the Legislature, passes the funding bill introduced by Sen. Nonini and Rep. Malek, the Idaho Division of Veteran Services should be in a position to submit a request to the Veterans Administration for grant funding. Being this far along was made possible by the donation of a site (valued at \$1.1 Million) for the facility by the Jacklin family, and by the long efforts of former Rep. Frank Henderson and former Mayor Clay Larkin. Once the application has been made by the State, we will need your assistance in pressuring our Senators and Representatives in Congress for their support and action on our behalf.

Legislative Committee Chairman Len Crosby

Service Officer:

I will try to provide information that is helpful and relevant to veterans and their families each month to put in this column. This month's article was recently received explaining the new VA dental program. – Service Officer Charlie Till

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides comprehensive dental care to Veterans who meet eligibility standards; however, the benefit is not available to many Veterans. VA would like all Veterans and beneficiaries to have access to good oral health. Good oral health is more than just a nice smile or ability to chew favorite foods it impacts a person's overall health throughout his or her life.

VA's Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) offers enrolled Veterans and beneficiaries of VA's Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) the opportunity to purchase dental insurance at a reduced cost. VA is offering this service through Delta Dental and MetLife.

VADIP is a three-year, national pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing a premium-based dental insurance plan to eligible individuals. The program is mandated by Public Law 111-163, Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010.

Eligibility for VADIP Veterans enrolled in the VA health care program and CHAMPVA program beneficiaries are eligible to participate in VADIP.

Participation in VADIP will not affect Veterans' eligibility for VA dental services and treatment.

Dependents of Veterans, except those eligible under CHAMPVA, are not eligible for VADIP; however, separate coverage options may be offered dependents by the insurance carrier.

Dental Plan Information VA has contracted with Delta Dental and MetLife, private insurers, to administer the dental insurance program.

More Information: <http://www.va.gov/healthBenefits/vadip/>

Volunteer of the Month

Each month the Executive Committee will select a member as Volunteer of the Month. The VOM will be someone who has shown themselves to be dedicated to the principals of the American Legion and Post 154, veterans and their families, and the community. They will have gone beyond their "job description" as a member and will be recognized at the membership meeting, in the newsletter (here) and on the website [here](#).



Our first Volunteer of the Month is
1st Vice-Commander Mike Warren

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve), a Department of Defense Office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,700 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (cont' below)

Our Nation has relied heavily on Guard and Reserve service members since entering continuous operations more than a decade ago.

Employer support enhances retention rates in the Armed Forces and in the end, strengthens our national security. To recognize employers who support their Guard and Reserve employees, ESGR grants a series of Department of Defense (DOD) awards. The first of ESGR's series of awards is the Patriot Award. An employee serving in the National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse of a Guard or Reserve member, may nominate individual supervisors and bosses for support provided directly to the nominating service member and his or her family. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed. Idaho's ESGR Committee actively promotes awards as a key element in furthering employer support, while strengthening relationships between service members and employers. DOD awards honor the sacrifices made by so many employers year after year.

Bryan Bledsoe of Post Falls, was recently appointed Idaho Area 1 Chair of ESGR. Our newsletter will keep you updated on the work of this volunteer organization serving the military and veterans. The local ESGR committee is very active and if you or someone you know would be interested in learning about volunteering, have them contact Bryan at bryan.bledsoe@esgr.org. He is looking for someone who would enjoy taking pictures and writing up articles to submit to newspapers and social media. -2nd Vice-Commander Margaret Ogram

Memories of My Service:

It was late spring of 1954, I was an Airman Third Class stationed at Lowry AFB in Denver, Colorado for an Operations Intelligence Specialist school. School and life were progressing well until we were advised that President Dwight Eisenhower would be moving the White House to a summer white house in Denver. Sleeping arrangements would be at Fitsimmons Army Base adjacent to Lowry; his staff would utilize the entire Administration Building at Lowry. The Admin Building was vacated and schools were suspended for the duration. Students were assigned housekeeping duties. One of my comrades and I were assigned to sweep the streets – No kidding! We had a trash can and broom each. We swept, raked up and moved on to another stretch all day – each day – griping as we went. Each morning a convoy of about 20 black limos arrived on Lowry from Fitsimmons. Each afternoon about four, the convoy returned to Fitsimmons. We dropped the brooms and stood at attention as they passed.

Finally, President Eisenhower decided that it was time to return to Washington. We were glad! Fitsimmons Army Base and Lowry Air Force Base planned a formal farewell. We marched to the air strip and stood at parade rest until the convoy arrived. We were called to attention as President Eisenhower marched smartly up the steps to the door of the plane. I was certain that he would thank us for the good housekeeping job. He didn't. He did an about face, faced us, moved his right hand to his right shoulder and then moved it across to his left shoulder, turned and walked into the plane.

School resumed where it had left off. I finished the course, got another stripe and a new assignment to Kirtland Air force Base, New Mexico. My resumes have never ever mentioned my street sweeping skills. – Margaret Ogram

Mark Your Calendar:

March 11 th	Rathdrum City Council Meeting 6 PM @ City Hall
March 11 th	Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting 6 PM @ Lions Club – open meeting
March 13 th	Legion Birthday Party & Ice Cream Social 4 – 6 PM Lions Club
March 16 th	Stand Down Fund Raising Dinner 5 – 9 PM Bardenay Restaurant
March 21 st	District 1 meeting in Kellogg
March 25 th	Post Membership Meeting 6 PM @ Lions Club in Rathdrum – open meeting
March 28 th	Cutoff date for newsletter submissions

HELP OUR VETERANS



North Idaho Veterans Stand Down Fundraiser

Charity Night at the Bardenay Restaurant
1710 West Riverstone, Coeur d Alene ID

March 16, 1700-2100 (5-9 PM)

HOW: Come to dinner at the Bardenay, 20% of pre-tax sales of food and beverages will be donated to North Idaho Veterans Stand Down

ABOUT: Stand Down provides homeless and disadvantaged veterans and their families with a broad range of necessities and services, some of which include food, clothing, medical, dental, housing, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral

AND: All donations are tax deductible and 100% of funds raised help us provide services with the annual one day event on May 9, 2015 and continued assistance to North Idaho homeless and disadvantaged veterans throughout the year



Happy 96th Birthday

American Legion!

**ICE CREAM
Social & More
SOCIAL!**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Day: March 13th

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: Rathdrum Lions Club

ALL ARE WELCOME!



2015 VETERANS STAND DOWN SERVICES PROVIDERS UPDATE

Currently there are 57 service providers signed up to participate in the 2015 Veterans Stand Down on May 9th.

1. Nine veteran groups will be on hand to recruit members and discuss their organizations.
2. There will be three tables providing massages and one Reiki practitioner providing Reiki energy healing.
3. Five ladies will be cutting hair.
4. There will be a photo booth to take photos of attendees.
5. An employment agency will give you tips on preparing better resumes, better interview techniques and help you go find a job.
6. Two insurance agencies will explain all of their services. One especially, USAA, is available only to the military and military veterans.
7. NIC will provide information on the GI Bill and veteran education programs.
8. There will be a legal expert on hand and a mortgage company specializing in helping veterans obtain financing to buy homes. Additionally, they provide counselling for fixing bad credit ratings.
9. One provider will repair bikes; another will demonstrate recumbent cycles for all kinds of disabilities.
10. Heritage Dental Office will do some dental work.
11. Benewah Medical Center will test for diabetes and cut diabetic toe nails.
12. AVISTA will have an educational van parked for viewing and question answering.
13. St Vincent de Paul will have used clothing for the needy. Juanita Jasquart donates pretty handmade carry all bags for wheel chairs. THREAD alterations will provide brochures and consultation on the value or repairing clothing.
14. Newby-Ginings will hand out some items and brochures about the services they are providing the military and retired military especially the disadvantaged.
15. Christ the King church will hand out emergency sanitation packages containing soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, etc. and a brochure about the ongoing veteran program at their church.
16. The following companies will also have tables:
 - a. On Site for Seniors
 - b. North Idaho Violence Prevention
 - c. Suicide Prevention
 - d. ICARE
 - e. Elder Help of North Idaho
 - f. SSUF Goodwill Industries
 - g. American Red Cross
 - h. CDA Caring Hands

So, you see...Stand Down really is for all veterans. As smart as we all are, there are services available that we don't even know about. Come out, listen, ask questions, and show gratitude to these people who want to help veterans. – 2nd Vice-Commander Margaret Ogram