



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue #3

March 2018

Email: rathdrum154@gmail.com

Website: Rathdrumpost154.org

Facebook: Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154

Mailing Address: PO Box 1116, Rathdrum ID

Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



Commander's Comments:

Winter is nearly over, and I thought we had gotten through it without too much snow and ice. Well, this last week defiantly showed us! The daylight is coming back fast, but we're not out of it yet. At least we have some more sun and the good prospect of the summer and better weather bringing more outdoor goings-on. It's time to start gearing up the bikes, fishing poles, motorcycles and planting the seeds for the summer flowers, if you haven't already!!!!

Please continue to work on the Commander's Project. (The Basic Training Program). If you have completed it, please send me your certificate. Thank you!

March 15th is the designated birthday of The American Legion. It is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. It was developed by veterans for veterans after the end of WWI. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4th – for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born – March 15th is the date on which the Legion came to life.

The Annual Easter Egg hunt is almost upon us. It is a great program that gets our name out in the community. Sue Fevold in the head Easter Egg lady. Please contact her to let her know that you can help. Please plan on supporting this great event on Easter Egg Hunt day. We need all hands on deck. God bless you and your families, God bless our troops and God bless America.

-Dee Sasse, Commander

Finance Officer:

Our financials continue to be stable, and we presented our 2018 budget at the last membership meeting. The Audit Committee also met, reviewed the financial records for 2017 and did an inventory of the Post's assets. They reported the results of their review at the last membership meeting. Please thank both the Audit Committee (Bryan Bledsoe, Mike Warren and Larry Carstensen) and the Budget Committee (Paula Atwood, John Fevold and Jeff Broadhead) for their time and effort.

Our CD at Community 1st Bank matured, and we opened a new CD at Idaho Central Credit Union. Both of our CD's are earning 1.80%, and both laddered to mature within six months of each other in the event we need additional funds for Capital items. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

FILING YOUR FEDERAL TAX RETURN:

The [Internal Revenue Service](#) announced recently that the nation's 2018 tax season is underway and reminds taxpayers claiming certain tax credits that refunds won't be available before late February. The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on Jan. 29, with nearly 155 million individual tax returns expected to be filed in 2018. The nation's tax deadline will be April 17 this year – so taxpayers will have two additional days to file beyond April 15.

Although the IRS will begin accepting both electronic and paper tax returns Jan. 29, paper returns will begin processing later in mid-February as system updates continue. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically for faster refunds. Choosing [e-file](#) and [direct deposit](#) for refunds remains the fastest and safest way to file an accurate income tax return and receive a refund. The IRS anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days from the time returns are received.

A dozen brand-name [Free File partners](#), acting through the Free File Alliance, offer their software free to eligible taxpayers. Each partner sets its own criteria, but any taxpayer earning \$66,000 or less will find one or more software products available. Some providers offer both free federal and free state tax preparation, a seamless way to file taxes. Active duty military personnel with incomes of \$66,000 or less may use any Free File software product of their choice without regard to the criteria.

For taxpayers who earned more than \$66,000, there are [Free File Fillable Forms](#), which will be available Jan. 29. Free File Fillable Forms, provided by the Free File Alliance, is best for those taxpayers experienced in preparing returns by hand and with limited assistance.

[Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#) (VITA) and [Tax Counseling for the Elderly](#) (TCE) offer free tax help to people who qualify. VITA and TCE sites can be found using the [VITA/TCE Locator](#) and entering your ZIP Code or download the [IRS2Go smartphone app](#) to find a free tax prep provider.

[Military OneSource](#) is a Department of Defense-funded program that provides a range of free resources for Veterans and their immediate family up to 180 days after separation or retirement from the military. [MilTax](#), Military OneSource's tax services, provides online software for eligible individuals to electronically file a federal and up to three state returns for free through the Military OneSource website.

(Cont. below)

The service also includes tax consultants available by phone to answer tax questions related to deployment, multi-state filing, combat pay, plus share information on military-specific and civilian tax deductions and credits.

Veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on:

An increase in the Veteran's percentage of disability from VA (which may include a retroactive determination) or The combat-disabled Veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat-Related Special Compensation, after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

Special tax considerations for disabled Veterans occasionally result in a [need for amended returns](#).

Disability benefits received from the VA should not be included in your gross income. Some of the payments which are considered disability benefits include:

Disability compensation and pension payments for disabilities paid either to Veterans or their families, Grants for homes designed for wheelchair living, Grants for motor vehicles for Veterans who lost their sight or the use of their limbs, or Benefits under a dependent-care assistance program.

If you are a military retiree and receive your disability benefits from the VA, see [IRS Publication 525](#) for more information.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Office of Servicemember Affairs has a Financial Coaching Initiative, focusing on Veterans to help them with their financial goals. This program places certified financial coaches in organizations around the country to provide individualized financial support services. The program is managed through the Armed Forces Services Corporation (AFSC) at various locations for Veterans in the United States.

The phone number to talk to a financial coach is 1-844-90-GOALS. More information about this free program for Veterans can be found at the [Financial Coaching for Veterans](#) website.

For more information about Veterans, please go to the ["Information for Veterans"](#) website on IRS.gov.

- Len Crosby, Legislative Officer



From the Veterans Administration:

Dear VA Beneficiary,

We want to provide you with some important information about your VA benefit payments.

VA education, compensation, pension, and survivor's benefits are paid on a monthly basis.

Normally, benefits for a particular month are paid the first business day of the following month.

When the first business day of the month falls on a non-business day or a holiday, VA benefits will be paid on the last business day prior to the first of the month.

Provided below is the payment schedule for upcoming VA benefit payment disbursements:

Benefit Period	Benefit Payment Date
February 2018	March 1, 2018
March 2018	March 30, 2018

You can check your latest VA benefit payments online at www.eBenefits.va.gov . If you are not receiving benefit payments from VA, but know someone who is, please share this information with them. Additionally, we want you to have the resources to help you make wise financial decisions. We encourage you to visit www.mymoney.gov and www.consumer.gov for helpful financial information. We hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Veterans Benefits Administration

Chaplain's Pew:

March....so memorable for all American Legion members. It is the month we celebrate the birthday for National American Legion. And it is also the month we honor and remember all Medal of Honor recipients...the month in which the very first Medal of Honor was awarded.

We, at Post 154, are privileged to have a Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient near us that I wish to honor this month. His name is John Wesley Conaway, Sept 1842-Nov 1913, a Union Army soldier during the American Civil War. He received his MOH during the Siege of Vicksburg, 1863 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Post Falls, ID. And, now to share the rest of his story.

~~~~~  
We've all heard the sports term 'hail Mary'...it's signals a last-ditch effort to win a game. War is not a sport. But John Conaway was part of something similar; it was called 'a forlorn hope'...an old nineteenth century term for a military charge where most members could expect to be killed or wounded...aka a suicide mission.

The battle setting: Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg was surrounded, trapped by the Union Army, but so far could not be routed. General Sherman was chosen to lead another Union attack, this time following a volunteer storming party...150 men carrying logs, planks and ladders. The plan...some of the men would throw their logs across the deep but dry moat, the men following with planks would place them across the logs (creating bridges over the trench) and thus allow the third group of volunteers to cross the moat with scaling ladders and place them against the Rebel embankment. The main body of armed troops would wait for the bridge to be built and could then advance and attack the fort directly.

It was truly 'a forlorn hope' and General Sherman specified that only single men would be accepted for this perilous mission.

On the morning of the attack, May 22, 1863, the naval bombardment commenced, and the Union artillery opened fire on land. At 10am, the big navy guns fell silent and now it was time for the army to begin their assault. The storming party moved out in front to be followed by the entire 15th Army Corps (nearly 16,000 Federal soldiers). The volunteers faced nearly 400 yards of open ground to reach the fortifications. Most of the two-man teams of log bearers were immediately shot down and the following plank and ladder carriers were forced into the ditch to take cover....and without the logs, it was impossible to build a bridge...impossible to breach the rebel fortifications. The surviving volunteers could only wait until darkness. After nearly 10 hours of non-stop musket fire and bombs (primitive hand grenades), the remaining storming party retreated to the Union lines carrying or dragging their wounded comrades.

Of the original 150 volunteers, 72 were killed, and most of the remainder were wounded.

This was not only one of the most tragic Union charges of the Civil War, but it proved to be a foolhardy one, too. General Sherman lost 3,200 soldiers in repeated attacks on that single day while Confederate losses were less than 500 men.

It was decades after the end of the Civil War, when historians began to closely examine the battles of the war and the brave men who fought them. The battles at Vicksburg resulted in the award of 120 MOH and the events of the May 22, 1863 battle alone accounted for 96 of those medals, the highest one day total in the Medal's entire history. Their citation reads simply "Gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party."

~~~~~



I have thoroughly enjoyed researching the history for this man of valor....one of our heroes whose story may be fading with the passage of time. You can read more about John Wesley Conway online, also many other Medal of Honor recipients. The wreath in the photo was created especially for this Medal of Honor recipient and I will be visiting Evergreen Cemetery in March....to make sure this Medal of Honor recipient is remembered. If you wish to accompany the laying of the wreath, please give me a call. Respectfully, Paula Atwood, Chaplain for Post 154

Service Officer:

Greetings my fellow veterans, as we march into March. The Olympics are over, winter isn't. That means the flu is still a threat. And you would think that, for this month, F is for flu. Nope. I'm sure we can agree that we've all had enough of that. This month, F is for FAQ. Don't you just love acronyms? We all have our favorites from our military years.

Recently, my grand-daughter located a long lost item that had been buried on the floor in her bedroom closet. I suggested she begin using the PDAM procedure...Predetermined Debris Avoidance Maneuver. In other words, keep your room clean and you wouldn't have this problem!

ANYWAY, we all know what FAQ means....and the VA website has a wealth of information. Go to www.va.gov and take your mouse to the far left under "health". Select "A-Z Health Topic Finder", click on "F". At the very bottom, you will find "Frequently Asked Questions OEF/OIF". At this time, there is a list of 31 assorted random questions that could be helpful.

- Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Happy Birthday to The American Legion!



Mark Your Calendar:

March 5th	Seabees Birthday, formed March 5, 1942
March 7th	Spokane Mobile Vet Center at NIC – see page 9 for details
March 8th	Open House National Guard Armory in Post Falls 10am to 2pm (lunch 11-1)
March 11th	Daylight Savings Time
March 14th	Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting – 6pm at Lions Club
March 15th	American Legion 99th Birthday
March 17th	District 1 Meeting in Athol & St Patrick's Day
March 19th	First Post 154 Free Trivia Night - see page 8
March 22nd	Lions Nutritional Packing volunteers needed 9 am to 10:30 am at Lions Club
March 25th	Palm Sunday
March 28th	Post 154 Potluck Membership Meeting – 5:30 pm at Lions Club
March 30 th	Good Friday
March 31st	Rathdrum Easter Egg Hunt – volunteers needed at 9am – see page 11
March 31 st	Passover
April 1 st	Easter

Bits & Pieces

- The Rathdrum Chamber Board of Directors announces that they have selected our new **Executive Director**; please help us welcome Kandi Johnson. Kandi Johnson is a native resident of North Idaho, owns the historic Rathdrum Train Depot, and is excited to bring her vibrant enthusiasm to the Rathdrum community and Chamber of Commerce. Kandi has great visions for the success of the Rathdrum Chamber and is excited to meet all of our members.

A Healthier You:



Do Glucosamine and Chondroitin Increase Your Cholesterol?

What happens if you take something for a presumed benefit only to discover that it has a downside? This happens pretty frequently with pharmaceuticals; everyone is familiar with the idea of side effects. We may be less aware of this problem as it relates to supplements, especially when the reaction is uncommon. Could taking glucosamine [...]

[> Read Article](#)

A RECIPE FOR YOU IN HONOR OF SPRING!



Lemon Meringue Cake



12-14 Servings
cooling

Prep: 40 min. Bake: 25 min. +

Ingredients

1 package (18-1/4 ounces) lemon or yellow cake mix

1 cup water

3 eggs

1/3 cup canola oil

FILLING:

1 cup sugar

3 tablespoons cornstarch

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup water

1/4 cup lemon juice

4 egg yolks, lightly beaten

4 teaspoons butter

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

MERINGUE:

4 egg whites

1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

3/4 cup sugar

Directions

In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, eggs, water and oil. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium for 2 minutes.

Pour into two greased and floured 9-in. round baking pans. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks.

For filling, in a large saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in water and juice until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat to low; cook and stir for 2 minutes longer. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot filling into egg yolks; return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; gently stir in butter and lemon peel. Cool completely.

For meringue, in a large bowl, beat egg whites and cream of tartar on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, on high until stiff peaks form.

Cut each cake horizontally into two layers. Place bottom layer on an ovenproof serving plate; spread with a third of the filling. Repeat layers twice. Top with remaining cake layer.

Spread meringue over top and sides. Bake at 350° for 10-15 minutes or until meringue is lightly browned. Cool. Store in the refrigerator.



AMERICAN LEGION TRIVIA NIGHT!

Westwood Brewing Co.
8162 Main St, Rathdrum

March 19th

6-8 PM

No Entry Fee!!

So...

lube up your brain, gather your friends,
and form a team of 5 or less!

Come out for an evening of fun,
enjoy Westwood's great food
and beverages,

and maybe win a prize!

Sponsored by Rathdrum's Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154

Check out our website at rathdrumpost154.org,

our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion,

contact us at rathdrum154@gmail.com,

or join us for our monthly potluck membership meeting on the 4th Wednesday, 5:30 PM
at the Lions Club, corner of Highway 53 and Meyer Road in Rathdrum.



Public Announcement

The Spokane Mobile Vet Center is coming to your area!

We are the people in VA who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.

We are committed to serving veterans of all eras.

Our goal of coming to your area is to connect you (the veteran) with resources, VA Benefits (disability compensation, burial, and medical) counseling, readjustment counseling, and answering any question you may have concerning your benefits that you have earned.

When: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:00am - 1:00pm

Where: North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

495 COLLEGE DRIVE, EDMINSTER STUDENT UNION BUILDING (4)

No appointment is necessary.

If you have questions, please call: Stu Sturtevant @ 509-444-8387



COME SEE US WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

Information & referral to community resources

Assistance in applying for VA Benefits

Using your post 911 benefits for school

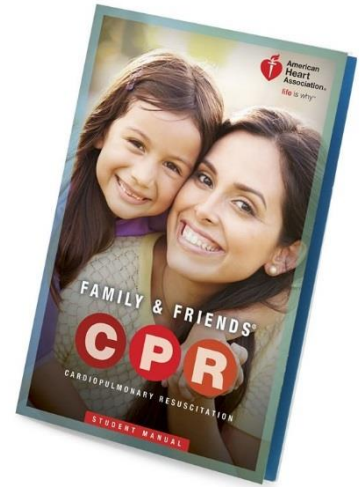
Navigating the VA system

Come in and relax with a cup of coffee lets talk.

Family & Friends'® CPR

Family and Friends' CPR will teach you:

- ⇒ Adult Hands-Only CPR with AED
- ⇒ Adult CPR with breaths
- ⇒ Child CPR and AED
- ⇒ Infant CPR
- ⇒ Adult and infant choking relief



When: Monday March 12th at 9:30am-11:00am-Openings

Available, OR ***Monday April 16th at 2:00pm to 3:30pm-Openings

Available, OR

Monday May 14th at 9:30am-11:00am-Openings Available

Where: Mann-Grandstaff VA, 2nd Floor, Room C223

*****April's** class is located at the Spokane Veterans Center
13109 E Mirabeau Parkway, Spokane WA 99216

Intended Audience:

Family & Friends CPR is intended for the general public, specifically anyone who wants to learn basic CPR skills, choking relief and AED operation, and **does not need a course completion card** to meet a job requirement.

This class is open to any Veteran, their family members, caregivers, or friends. Children over 12 years old please.

Class is Free!

How to Register: Call Kari at 509.434.7657 Space is limited!

*****No CPR Card issued**

Wear comfortable clothes as we will be practicing CPR skills.

Kari Tabino
509.434.7657

Leave a Message with Full Name and Phone Number

FREE COMMUNITY
EAST EGG

EGG

SATURDAY

MARCH 31, 2018

START TIME: 11 AM

HUNT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST:

THE EASTER BUNNY

@MAJESTIC PARK

**5400 W. Majestic Ave.
Rathdrum, ID 83858**

PRIZES & EGGS PROVIDED BY



PARKING IS LIMITED, SHOW UP EARLY

AGE GROUPS:

3 & Under, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

QUESTIONS?

CALL 208-687-2399

VISIT RATHDRUM.ORG/REG

