



# Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154

## Rathdrum Idaho

Volume 1 Issue #9

October 2015

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### Commander's Message:

We have a very busy month so buckle up and hang on. Just a couple of things happening this month, first is the Food Convoy and the District meeting in Worley. If you can it would be great to see as many members as possible there. I would really like to see more folks at the membership meetings. I always welcome your input. It takes good leadership and management to make a Post functional. Here are some definitions from around the web. They all have the same basic structure. You must have good leaders for the organization to move forward and/or to get the goals accomplished. Thank you.

Definitions:

1. Leadership development and succession planning: the set of activities an organization uses to develop a strong internal and external pipeline of future leaders.
2. Senior leaders: an organization's senior positions, such as Executive Directors/Members.
3. Leadership capacity: the skills, roles, and number of leadership positions needed.
4. Leadership is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent.
5. Another popular definition of Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal.
6. The U.S. military has studied leadership in depth. One of their definitions is a process by which a soldier influences others to accomplish a mission.
7. Note that all three definitions have one process in common — a person influences others to get something accomplished.

- Dee Sasse, Commander

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**Finance Officer:** We continue to do well financially. We have collected a total of \$212 for the Food Convoy in October, and our expenses continue to be on or just below our budget. We will use the majority of the remaining funds donated for our start-up by the City of Rathdrum for additional capital items which were approved at the last general meeting. I anticipate that we will have a remaining balance (after those expenses) of approximately \$160 and I know that there are other capital expense items that the Honor Guard will need to maintain our recent acquisition of ceremonial rifles.

We continue to benefit greatly from the gracious hospitality of the Rathdrum Lions Club, who provide us with a meeting place.

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**Legislative Chairman:** Several members of the Post recently met with and updated the representatives of our Congressional delegation on the status of our application for a new Veterans Home in N. Idaho. Our most recent meeting was with Rebecca Cotton a Legislative Assistant to Sen. James Risch. Everyone we have met with has promised strong support for our application, once it is submitted by the Idaho Department of Veterans Services. We hope the application will be completed and submitted by April of next year.

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### Chaplain's Pew:

The last of Indian summer is gone as October arrives. And with the beautiful fall colors and final harvests complete, we and all of nature prepare for the coming winter.

Be sure to see the fall beauty, make your winter preparations...and also see if you can help another. Whether it be a veteran, a fellow American Legion member, or someone in your neighborhood/community, try to be that extra hand.

I will leave you with *'The Sioux at Prayer'*:

*As quietly as little rabbit's feet,*

*The morning glory sun arrives to greet*

*The Red Man as he worships in his way.*

*For this he asks the Spirit every day;*

*Before I judge my friend, O let me wear*

*His moccasins for two long weeks, and share*

*The path that he would take in wearing them;*

*Then, I shall understand and not condemn.*

Your chaplain, sitting in the pews

### Sick Call & Taps:

Helen Kinder is still struggling with her health issues and has yet to get a diagnosis after 5 months of medical tests and opinions. Please keep her in your thoughts.

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### Links You'll Want To Click On:

This is a new column that will feature information that can be found on the Post website. The links will get you to that information quickly.

Price list for flags that are available through the Post:

<http://goo.gl/v9qshG>

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### Membership Renewal:

If you renew your membership for 2016 before January 1st, the renewal fee is \$35. If you renew after January 1st, the fee is \$40 to cover the fee increase of \$5 from National. Renew early, save money!

### Veterans' Recognition Day Event:

Post 154, along with the City of Rathdrum, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rathdrum GEM Committee, and Northwest Guardian Riders, is hosting a reception to honor veterans (including active duty and National Guard & Reserves) on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM at the Rathdrum Senior Center, 8037 Montana St. We are looking for the oldest and youngest veteran in the Rathdrum mailing area. If you are a vet and your mailing address is "Rathdrum", you are eligible to enter. The two winning veterans will be driven to the event in a limousine, receive a certificate of recognition, and each will receive a basketful of gifts from grateful citizens and area merchants. All other veterans at the event will be entered in a drawing for additional prizes.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Parks & Recreation Department, 7851 Main St, Rathdrum 83858.

You can also get forms online at [http://www.rathdrumpost154.org/files/On\\_Line\\_Entry\\_Form.pdf](http://www.rathdrumpost154.org/files/On_Line_Entry_Form.pdf). It's also included on the last page of this newsletter. All entries must be received by November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you would like to participate by providing a donation for the gift baskets or drawing, please call Jean Bledsoe @ 509-981-3413 or email to [rathdrum154@gmail.com](mailto:rathdrum154@gmail.com) .

### 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](#).

Dale Atwood is our volunteer for August. Though Dale is not eligible for membership, he is still a hard worker for the Post. He is a very talented woodworker and whatever Paula feels we need, he produces it beautifully in wood. He is also there to help Paula with all her legion projects. Thank you, Dale, for your dedication to veterans and for sharing your gifts.

## Service Officer:

It seems more and more VA Care will be provided by outside vendors and doctors through the “Choice” program, which is administered by Tri-West. They seem to be doing a fair job of getting Veterans to the needed services. However keeping it all in order has been a problem for some on both sides. Everything is now tracked with a Reference Number. If you are not given a Reference Number, ask for one, this will allow you to follow up if a problem arises. Remember to write your Reference Number down and keep it in a safe place. Whether you call them or Tri-West calls you **GET A REFERENCE NUMBER.**

Please read the following and remember you could be the one to provide the “One small act that can make a difference in the life of a Veteran in crisis”.

### Veterans Crisis Line

Suicide Prevention Month Partner Outreach

### The Power of 1: Your actions could save a life.

One small act can make a difference in the life of a Veteran in crisis.

Every year, organizations across the country recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month. This year, join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), local and national organizations, and individuals across the country in supporting The Power of 1: Show how one act can encourage Veterans, Service members, and their loved ones to seek confidential crisis support from the [Veterans Crisis Line](#).

Whether it’s something as simple as striking up a conversation with a Veteran, or encouraging those on your social networks to support Veterans in your area, every little bit counts. Your actions could save a life.

### Free, Confidential Crisis Support Anytime by Phone, Chat, or Text.

The [Veterans Crisis Line](#) is a free, confidential crisis resource that Veterans and their families and friends can access any day, anytime. Trained responders — some of them Veterans themselves — are ready to listen, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VA counts on grass-roots networks and community organizations to spread the word that support is just a call, click, or text away — because we’re all in this together, and one small act shows you care.

### Identifying Signs of Crisis

Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. **The following signs require immediate attention:**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

If you notice any of these in a Veteran or service member you know, connect him or her with the Veterans Crisis Line’s 24/7/365 resources: **Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat](#), or **text to 838255**. – Charlie Till, Service Officer

## Mark Your Calendar For October:

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – National Disability/Employment Awareness Month

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association BBQ Fund Raiser @ Mad Bomber 10 AM – 3 PM

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> - 55% Membership renewal target date & Executive Meeting @ 6 PM Rathdrum Lions Club

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Food Convoy to Lewiston

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication @ CDA library 11 AM

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> District Meeting – Rose Creek Long House 160 Mitch Mitchell Drive, Worley Idaho (Note: For more details, see the flyer on page 6)

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting @ 6 PM Rathdrum Lions Club

## Children & Youth Committee:

Autism knows nothing of race or ethnicity. There are no cultural or ethnic groups of people who are more affected than others by autism. However, autism is significantly more prevalent in males with a 4:1 male to female ratio (9:1 if we include [Asperger's Syndrome](#)).

Today, 1 in every 110 children (1 in every 70 male children) worldwide is diagnosed with autism, which makes the disability more prevalent than diabetes, pediatric cancer, and AIDS combined. In Idaho alone, the numbers show that there are approximately 1 out of every 170 individuals (adults and children) are diagnosed with autism.

On October 17th, Panhandle Autism Society is hosting a fall conference with three guest speakers. Come to the Harding Center ([411 N 15th St, Coeur D Alene, ID 83814](#)) for a day of learning, connection, and hope.

Topics covered by guest speakers include:

Healing Diets for Autism and ADHD- presented by Amy Yardley

- What they are

- Why your child might benefit

- How to start.

Autism 101- presented by Jennifer Cork, LMSW

- What is Autism?

- Signs and Symptoms

- Treatment and Strategies

40 Years with Autism and Developmental Disabilities: An Evolution of Principals- Presented by Gene Christian, MS, LMHC, CRC

- A first-hand account on how Autism services have changed between 1975-2015

- Identifying "individual differences" as both strengths and weaknesses.

- Looking to a future of self-direction

The Panhandle Autism Society is offering the whole day FREE for families (\$30 for professionals). The Panhandle Autism Society (PAS) is a chapter of the [Autism Society of America](#).

-Jeff Broadhead, Children & Youth Chairman

And here are Jeff's dogs. If you were at the last general membership meeting you'll know why they're here.



## Memories of My Service



### 2 A.M. Wake Up Call

When I was a wee pup in the U.S. Coast Guard a life changing event took place. It was something I will never forget because it changed who I was and who I would become. This is my sea story as I remember it and what happened one cold November night in and around the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean.

First, I need to do a little history of my first ship. I had just graduated from Machinery Technician School (only the second woman to do so), and our rate was called "MK", Motor Killer, in October of 1984 and my first duty station after school was the USCG Cutter Morgenthau WMEC-722. "The Morg" as we called her was commissioned on March 10, 1969, it was the eighth of twelve 378-foot Hamilton class High-Endurance cutters. She was 378 feet long with a compliment of 160 crew members, 20 officers and 140 enlisted. In the engine room there were two Fairbanks Morse diesel propulsion engines that were used extensively in US [diesel electric submarines](#) of the 1940s and 1950s, as backup power on most US [nuclear submarines](#) and were used in locomotives. Also, there were two Pratt and Whitney FT4A gas turbines developed in the 60's. This turbine is used to drive propellers for marine applications. The turbine was the same size as what would have been used on a 707 airliner. In the 1960s-1970s the "jet-powered" Hamilton-class cutters were state-of-the-art, technologically innovative, and the pride of the Coast Guard cutter fleet. "The Morg" was the pride of the Pacific and homeported in Alameda California across the harbor from the city of San Francisco. This was my new home for the next three years. I was very proud to be stationed on this beautiful ship. She is currently still commissioned and homeported in Honolulu Hawaii. She is 46 years old.

On this stormy night I had gone to bed as usual and fell asleep fast because of the rocking of the ship due to the wind and rain. At 2 a.m. I was awoken by yelling and the lights being turned on in my berthing area. Someone was yelling for me to get up and help start the engines. We needed to get underway as soon as possible. They yelled that two large yachts had sunk and 10 people were in the water. I was scared and excited at the same time. Could this mean that we might get the chance to rescue someone? This was the reason I had joined the Coast Guard. I wanted adventure, I wanted to see other places, and I wanted to serve and protect my country. This was the first time I had gotten the opportunity to experience those happenings.

I got dressed as fast as I could and ran down to the engine room. It was called "Main Prop" for the Main Propulsion Plant and I had just gotten qualified for the security-watch which is the lowest step on the qualification ladder in Main Prop. When I got to the control booth there were only two other watch standers there and they instructed me to quickly start doing engine check-offs for engine start-up. We needed to get underway NOW. I did what I was told and only hoped that we would get there in time to save someone.

We got the plant lit-off and away we went, out the bay and into one hell of a Pacific storm. What I didn't know at time was that they had been trying to rescue these folks for hours and we were the last resort. They had sent out a 44 foot lifesaving boat and helicopter, the boat almost capsized and the helicopter had to return to base due to the heavy winds. They then sent out an 82 foot patrol boat. Once again it had to turn back due to the seas. That is when the Mighty Morg got the call. What also made this night memorable was that due to the urgent distress call we could only wait a short time before getting underway. On that night we left with only half a crew, the very minimum that was needed to sail the ship.

It took us a couple of hours to arrive on scene. The seas outside were raging and I had just gotten off watch when I heard over the IMC (load-speaker system) that we had found survivors and that anyone not actually on watch lay to the boat deck to assist in the rescue. Our lookouts had spotted what they thought was a small raft. Our small boat, with a very brave crew, left the security of its mother-ship, braved the seas and rescued nine survivors. The tenth person had perished and was never found. The small boat made its way back to the ship and with some miraculous boat handling got it out of the sea and back to the boat deck. It was there that I got my chance to see how precious life was and is. (cont)

## Memories of My Service (cont)

As the storm raged on, we were getting ourselves ready for the task at hand. I heard a deep voice giving orders. He was the Bos'n, the senior crewman of the deck department, a Chief Warrant Officer. At the time he looked bigger than life itself. He directed each of us to help a survivor and take them below decks to safety and that those folks were now our charge, it was now mine and the others job to keep them alive and help evaluate their injuries. I was assigned the oldest survivor; he was 65 years old and very scared. They had been in the water eight hours. It was a miracle that we ever found them.

As we made our way below deck to the survivor staging area I explained to him that he would have to take off his lifejacket and clothes to stop the hypothermia. He quickly informed me that he was not going to do that and he was still afraid of drowning. He was so frightened. I had never seen that look before. It made me realize what he had just gone through and that I needed to do my best to assure him that he was safe now.

At the staging area he still would not remove his lifejacket. During his time lost at sea he did not want his lifejacket to come off so he had tied the ties in knots over and over and over. How cold his hands must have been and the things that were going on in his mind! I took out my knife and cut off his life jacket so he could put on dry clothes. I thought for a moment that I had cut into his heart. I could see panic on his face. He looked as if he wanted to scream. I hugged him and with the best reassuring voice of a 22 year old told him that everything would be alright and that I would not let anything happen to him. It truly had an effect on this young sailor. I felt invincible, unshakable and brave like most young sailors until I saw the look of fear on his face. It resonated through my body and mind; I knew I was there at that exact moment to help this man. He and the other survivors' would never forget their ordeal and I know that from that day forward the Coast Guard was my calling. Every time I re-enlisted I thought of that man and the events of that night. I was no longer a pup but a full-fledged Coastie doing what Coast Guardsmen have done since 1790. Their Job. Semper Paratus "Always Ready" – Dee Sasse

### AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT ONE Department Of Idaho

What: District One Fall Meeting – Sunday, October 18, 2015

Hosted by Coeur d'Alene Tribal Post 5

Where: To Be Held At Worley ID, Rose Creek Long House 160 Mitch Michael Drive

Worley, ID 83876

9:30 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments (\$2.00 Registration Fee, \$10.00 Lunch Fee)

10:00 a.m. – Area A Commander Training Meeting

11:00 a.m. – Joint Session Opening

12:00 a.m. – Lunch

Lunch Menu

Assorted Soups

Assorted Sandwiches

Assorted Deserts

Drinks

Pastries and refreshments will also be provided for the meeting.

1:00 p.m. – Legion & Auxiliary Individual Group Meetings – Post & Unit Reports

3:00 p.m. – Break for Refreshments and Raffle Drawings

3:30 p.m. – Resume Joint Session Meeting

4:00 p.m. (or sooner) – Closing

Hope to see lots of you there. Please bring your written Post & Unit Reports. Please let Steve Moffitt, Post 5 Adjutant, know how many are coming by October 9th at 208-686-5602 or [smoffitt@cdatribe-nsn.gov](mailto:smoffitt@cdatribe-nsn.gov). Looking forward to seeing all of you! (Note: All Times Shown Are Estimates)

John Abraham, Commander Post 5  
208-686-5602

David Cooper, District 1 Commander  
208-448-4183

Veteran’s Recognition Day Entry Form

Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 of the American Legion in Rathdrum, the City of Rathdrum, its Chamber of Commerce and GEM Committee, and the Northwest Guardian Riders, are hosting an event to honor the veterans - including active duty, Guard & Reserve – in the Rathdrum area. The event will take place on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:30 PM at the Rathdrum Senior Center, 8037 Montana St. We are looking for the oldest and the youngest veteran in our community. The 2 winning veterans will be driven by limousine to and from the event, where they will be introduced and receive a Certificate of Recognition and a gift basket full of gift cards and other “goodies” provided by grateful citizen and area merchants. All other entrants will be introduced and their entries will go in a drawing for additional prizes. If you or someone you know, is a veteran and has a mailing address of “Rathdrum”, and would like to be considered for this special recognition, please fill in the information below and return it to the Rathdrum Parks & Recreation office at 7158 Main Street by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend to honor our local heroes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

When & Where did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a few biographical sentences about yourself that we can share at the event (optional):

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