



# Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

## Rathdrum Idaho

### Newsletter

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Volume 2 Issue #10

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#### Commander:

Welcome to October, fall is here. I was pondering the other day that I am about halfway through my one-year commitment as your commander and I was thinking about where we are and where we are going. It came to mind that maybe I had not set out firm goals for what I would like to see our post accomplish this year, so I thought I would pass them along here.

My goals include; enhancing communication between the Post officers and its members, increasing member volunteer participation, recruiting and retention of new and younger membership, and preparing members to become our future Post leaders. I believe we can ALL offer something, and together as a team, we can continue moving forward as the successful Post we are. But I think these goals are worth thinking about. I also want everyone to feel free to submit written suggestions regarding the Post, to the Post's adjutant, Bryan Bledsoe in person or email at [rathdrum154@gmail.com](mailto:rathdrum154@gmail.com). I will read all comments and suggestions, and do my best to get results. Members, this is YOUR Post, and your active participation is needed.

I am very pleased with the great job the membership committee is doing; please keep up the good work. Membership dues should be paid so we can look forward to other events and the holidays. I also want to say what a great picnic we had on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. If you could not attend, you missed a wonderful event. Thank you to everyone that made it possible. Especially Our First-Vice John Fevold and our Support Group Commando Sue!

As always keep our veterans in your thoughts, particularly those in need – help if you can. Keep our active duty service men and women also in your thoughts and prayers, especially those in harm's way.

Best wishes to all of my fellow Legionnaires and their families as we head into the fall and winters seasons. Please be safe. For God and Country, Commander Dee Sasse

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander:**

Please remember to order your American Legion Post 154 Shirts this month. We will place our order shortly. Sue and John have done a WONDERFUL job getting us great quality shirts and a reasonable price. Don't forget to order your shirt before it is too late.

We are blessed to have the continued support of the Rathdrum Lions who provide us with a great meeting location and storage. When you see a member of this organization, give them a big Thank YOU!

As we get near the holidays, if you know of a Veteran or a Serviceman's or Veteran's family who may have trouble this Christmas, please let our Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe, or one of our other members who is also a member of the Disabled American Veterans (Charlie Till, Lew Allert, Len Crosby, Jeff Broadhead). The DAV has an annual Christmas program that provides gifts and other support for Veteran families to ensure that they are remembered during the holidays. The DAV will need information on the number of kids in the family, their ages, and their address. This is an amazing program that the DAV and the DAV Axillary devote a lot of time and resources to, and they deserve a big salute for all they do. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander Len Crosby

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## **Legislative Chairman:**

The House of Representatives passed HR 5620 the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act on September 14. This is an important piece of Legislation and is supported by numerous Veteran Service Organizations.

Here is a summary of the Bill:

Most importantly, the bill amends the disability benefits appeals process restructuring the appeals process that has existed since World War II. The structure set forth in the Bill provides greater alternatives to Veterans electing to appeal their claims while maintaining their original effective date. The bill also simplifies the appeals process.

This bill also streamlines and changes the process by which VA deals with its employees, authorizing VA to remove or demote a VA employee based on performance or misconduct and provides that specified federal employee performance appraisal provisions shall not apply to such removals or demotions. The VA may remove such individual from the civil service or demote the individual through a reduction in grade or annual pay rate. A demoted individual shall not be placed on administrative leave or any other category of paid leave during the appeals period and can receive pay only if he or she reports for duty.

The VA shall reduce the federal annuity of an individual removed from the VA Senior Executive Service (SES) who is convicted of a felony that influenced his or her performance while employed in such position.

The VA may reduce the federal annuity of an individual who was convicted of such a felony and was subject to removal or transfer from the SES but who left the VA before final action was taken. The VA may recoup an award, a bonus, or relocation expenses paid to a VA employee under specified circumstances.

The bill establishes an additional whistle blower complaint process, which shall include suspension and removal actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions against a whistle blower.

It is important that we contact SENATORS CRAPO and RISCH and ask them to fully support this bill when it goes over to the Senate. – Legislative Chairman Len Crosby

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## Adjutant:

As many of you know Dennis Wheeler was in an automobile accident when returning from the American Legion meeting in Moscow. The cost of his medical expenses have exceeded the available insurance. A benefit is being held for him to help cover these medical expenses and support him until he can return to work. Please show your support for a friend and fellow veteran and come to the benefit. – Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

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### MEDICAL EXPENSES BENEFIT FOR DENNIS WHEELER

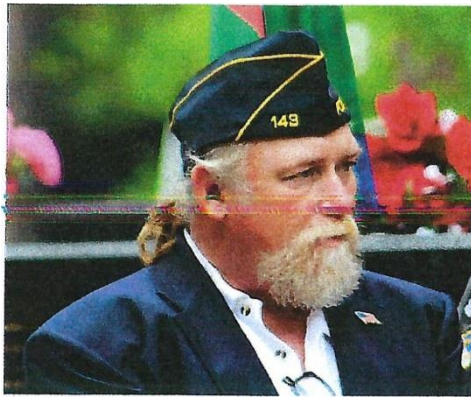
—Live Music by *Blue Country* and *Last Chance* —Live  
Auction, Food, Raffles and Camaraderie!

SUNDAY, OCT. 9, 2016

2 P.M. -8 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 143

1138 E. POLELINE, POST FALLS



Dennis Wheeler, Commander of Steven H. Nipp American Legion Post 143, was injured in a car accident on July 16. Along with two other Legion officers he was returning from the American Legion Department of Idaho State Convention in Moscow when the car rolled on US 95 just south of Coeur d'Alene. Commander Wheeler was air-lifted to Kootenai Health where he spent nine days, including several in the Intensive Care Unit. The medical bills beyond what insurance has covered are monumental.

Members of Post 143 are organizing this fundraiser to ease some of the financial burden Commander Wheeler is facing. Your support is appreciated for this dedicated veteran who gives so much to the American Legion.

Monetary donations are accepted at any branch of Washington Trust Bank c/o the Dennis Wheeler Benevolent Fund. Donations of merchandise/gift certificates for the live auction and raffles can be dropped off Monday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m. at the Legion lounge or mailed to: Wheeler Benefit, Post 143, 1138 E. Poleline Ave., Post Falls, ID 83854. Information: John Davis 208-660-1043

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## **Chaplain's Pew:**

It's harvest time of the year...a time when you see the fruits of your gardening labor in baskets full of produce. It's such a beautiful time of year and as a gardener; a time to see your job completed. There is a true beginning (spring planting) and a real end (fall harvest) to your job. Part of a Chaplain's job is to pray. Yup....it's true enough...that's something we do. We pray because we believe in God. We pray at meals that food would nourish and sustain us. We pray for guidance and wisdom for our government and country at public ceremonies. We pray for the safety for our soldiers on duty. We pray for our fellow Legionnaires in need. We pray for help during our meetings. We pray for grace and healing.

We pray. But what happens when as a Chaplain, we look around and feel that maybe our prayer is falling short...that maybe we're not praying hard enough or in a proper format or that we're missing the mark in some way? That our prayer maybe goes unanswered for too long. What happens then?

We continue to pray...that's what happens. We continue because that is what we are instructed to do; pray without ceasing. Not pray once in a while and hope that it finds its target and we get what we want. Not pray for only good things in good times for good people. We are to pray without ceasing...going in prayer to the Lord for everything.

We may never see the result of our prayers. That cannot be our only goal like planting a vegetable garden. We pray as a part of the hope we hold in our hearts for the well-being of our fellow Legionnaires, our family, our community, our country and yes, our world. As I write this article, I am praying.

If you know of someone who may need a card of cheer or a prayer, give me a call. You can find me by phone (208-446-6303) or email ([snip2sew@gmail.com](mailto:snip2sew@gmail.com)).  
Praying in the pews. - Paula Atwood, Chaplain

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## **Finance Officer:**

Expenses associated with membership renewals was offset by membership income. We make only about \$7.50 of your dues renewals, but it helps. Other expenses were charitable contributions and operating expenses.

Our Chaplin, Paula, continues to monitor the availability of pre-prepared Poppies for our major fundraiser in 2017 just prior to Memorial Day. Plan on helping the Post by marking out several weekend or weekday times you can assist in our annual Poppy distribution and raise funds for the Post.

We continue to operate at about a break-even basis and to support the Community of Rathdrum and our fellow Veterans. Keep up the great work!! – Len Crosby, Finance Officer

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**Service Officer:**

The Veterans Administration Wants to know:

**How can we help?**

In answer the VA has launched this new website which is easier to understand.

<https://www.vets.gov/>

This new portal lists the four areas most of us are concerned with:

Disability Benefits, Education Benefits, Health Care & Careers and Employment

**And from the Disable American Veterans the Following youtube videos answer some important questions we can use to help our comrades:**

**Watch These One to Two Minute Videos**

[Who should file a VA claim?](#)



[How To File A VA Claim](#)



[What To Expect After Filing](#)



[What Are C & P Exams](#)



[After Receiving VA Decision](#)



[7 Ways To Service-Connection](#)



- Charlie Till, Service Officer

## Mark Your Calendar:

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – Burger & Brew Fundraiser – see page 8 for details

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – Newby-ginnings coat give away – see Bits & Pieces for details

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Wheeler Fundraiser – See page 3 for details

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting – 6 pm @ Lions Club

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Lewiston Food Convoy

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – District 1 Meeting @ Rathdrum Masonic Temple 15190 N McCartney St

8 am to 9 am registration – Combined meeting starts at 9 am - \$3 registration & \$10 lunch

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> – Post 154 Membership Meeting – 6 pm @ Lions Club

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween

### November & December Important Dates

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day – Please plan to attend at least one local schools' Veterans Day Program

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Veterans' Recognition Day Event – see page 9 for details

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – Wreaths Across America @ Pinegrove Cemetery – see Bits & Pieces for details.

## Bits & Pieces

1. The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination **at no cost**. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2017.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination.

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a free flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit [va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp](http://va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp).
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS ([800-925-4733](tel:800-925-4733)), or go to [com/findastore](http://com/findastore).
- To learn more about the partnership, call [1-877-771-8537](tel:1-877-771-8537) or visit [ehealth.va.gov/immunization.asp](http://ehealth.va.gov/immunization.asp).

To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit [publichealth.va.gov/flu](http://publichealth.va.gov/flu) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

2. Newby-ginnings will have their annual winter coat and cold weather clothing give away for all veterans, their families and Gold Star Families from 10am to 1pm at their building in River Bend Commerce Center.
3. Wreaths Across America campaign is underway. Wreaths cost \$15 apiece and a third free with the purchase of two. For information or to buy a wreath, call Leroy Kronvall at 208-687-6996.



## Keep the Home Fires Burning:

A new feature for the newsletter; recipes from members. After a number of Post pot lucks with delicious food being served, people are asking for recipes, so here you go – the first recipe. This was brought to the Post picnic by Sue Fevold and it was all gone quickly. If you'd like to send in a favorite, or ask for one you've enjoyed from one of our members, just send me an email at [rathdrum154@gmail.com](mailto:rathdrum154@gmail.com).

### Double Quick Orange Gelatin Ring

- 1 Package (6 oz) Orange flavored gelatin
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 pt. (2 cups) Orange Sherbet
- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained



Dissolve gelatin in water. Immediately add sherbet and stir until melted. Add Oranges. Pour into 1 ½ qt. ring mold or dish and chill until firm. \*\*Note: I usually put the mandarin oranges in the dish I choose to use, then pour the mixed gelatin and sherbet mixture over it. This way it doesn't splash. – Sue Fevold

**Editor's note:** I've also had this made with raspberry gelatin and sherbet, and raspberries instead of oranges.



John and Sue Fevold received certificates of appreciation, presented by Commander Sasse at the last membership meeting, for their hard work and initiative in special projects and events such as the Post 154 shirts, the Post picnic, and the District 1 meeting. Thank you to both of these hard workers!

# Our Third **BURGERS & BREW**

Join us Sunday, October 2nd, 11 am–4 pm  
in the parking lot of Mad Bomber  
Brewery in Hayden, Idaho.



We'll be serving  
burgers, dogs and  
sides for donations to  
support our mission to  
help local vets and charities.



Visit [www.northidahoCVMA.org](http://www.northidahoCVMA.org) or  
call (208) 457-7179 for more information  
on this event and our organization.



The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 100% of all profits from income go right back into our community and to our veterans.

[www.northidahoCVMA.org](http://www.northidahoCVMA.org)



**Please Join the Rathdrum  
Community on  
November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 pm for  
**VETERANS' RECOGNITION  
DAY!****

**The citizens & merchants of Rathdrum wish to recognize & thank all of our Kootenai County veterans at this FREE event!**

- Held at the Lakeland High School Commons in Rathdrum.
- Special Prizes for Youngest & Oldest Veteran in Kootenai County!
  - Special recognition and surprises for WWII Veterans!
- The above honorees will be chauffeured to & from the event by limo!
  - All veterans attending will be entered in prize drawings!
    - Enjoy a delicious free dinner!
  - Entertainment by the women's acapella quartet *Amore`!*

**Everyone is invited to this free celebration  
to meet & honor our veterans.**

**WWII Veterans and veterans wishing to be considered for  
oldest or youngest call Jean at 509-981-3413.**

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to 509-981-3413 or 208-667-4488.

**Sponsored by:**

**American Legion Post 154 – Northwest Guardian Riders - City of Rathdrum**



**Note: No guns, liquor, or tobacco on school grounds.**