



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154

Rathdrum Idaho

Volume 1 Issue #8

Sept 2015

Commander's Message:

Hi all. Wow, where did the summer go. Kids go back to school on September 8th, and I go back to work. Had a great month of August finishing up American Legion Baseball and worked the Kootenai County Fair to raise funds in support of Newby-ginnings.

It's time to renew your membership. It would be great if we could get this accomplished as soon as possible so we can work on new and fun things for the Post. I am looking for someone to chair my "Legion Education Program". If you are interested contact me. Thanks for everything you all do for veterans and the community. – Dee Sasse, Commander

1st Vice-Commander:

Good day, comrades. Our membership drive is in full force we currently stand at 63 members. Our membership renewal is at 37% where we should be at 50 percent. 2016 membership cards are available please send in your dues as soon as possible. In September as school convenes, we will be going into the elementary schools teaching the students flag education. If you would like to be part of this Committee please let me know at the earliest possible date.

For God and country - Michael Warren, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice-Commander:

I am currently working with the Hayden Veterans Commission to choose the Distinguished Veteran of the Year. Now, I'm wondering if this is something that we could do for our Post. We could work with the city to have a tile placed in the veterans' memorial in the cemetery. Let's think about it.

We have begun working to organize an oratorical contest again this year. I have contacted principals of the schools in both Rathdrum and Post Falls and the home schooled children of Post Falls. Later this week I plan to contact the private schools in the area. I have contacted Commanders of the Coeur d'Alene and Athol Posts to determine their interest in working with us. I have left messages with Tyrel Shaw, Commander of the District to solicit his help. I will keep you updated on any progress that we make.

I have been meeting with the committee for Kootenai County Stand Down to begin planning for our next stand down. Our fund raising efforts last year were minimally successful. We need to find events that are more profitable.

I will be circulating sheets for members to record hours they have spent doing charitable work each month. This sheet will be given to the Adjutant for his monthly report to national.

I will be circulating a sheet for members to sign up for making coffee and providing cookies for our monthly membership meetings. I have been doing this, but plan to start playing bridge on that day. Bridge ends too late for me to get there and make coffee. – Margaret Ogram, 2nd Vice-Commander

Legislative Chairman:

Veterans Court: We are working with Sen. Bob Nonini to push for the establishment of a Veterans Court in Kootenai County. Sen. Nonini is meeting with the senior administrative judge Lansing Haynes this week to discuss the cost associated with such an undertaking and potential revenue sources. In other areas which have established a Veterans Court presided over by a judge who is either a veteran or who has been trained in veteran issues, it has proven to be an effective way of taking legal issues and focusing on securing treatment for the Veteran charged with the offense (DUI, violation of drug laws, assault, etc.). This is something that could greatly assist our local Veterans.

Veterans Home: We continue to get good support from our Congressional Delegation. Sen. Crapo's legislative assistant for Veterans Affairs met with a large group of DAV and Legion members earlier this month, and provided an update on this issue. Unfortunately, there is not much that our representatives in Washington D.C. can do until the State actually submits the application, which we understand is still being "put together". We have corresponded with the Idaho Division of Veteran Services and requested a time line for their submission and information to assist us in understanding the delay. Perhaps letters to the Governor?? – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Finance Officer:

The Post continues to manage its money in a realistic and prudent fashion. Our very successful Gun Auction (thanks to Bryan and Charlie) provided us with income in July which greatly exceeded our expenses. Our net proceeds from the raffle were just over \$3,600. Paula is planning a Poppy solicitation for Veterans Day 2016, which could be a key fundraiser, and we continue to build our reserves for future goals.

- Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Pew:

September...winding down the summer...gearing up for school...final harvest of garden produce...slowly changing fall colors...a busy, good, and lovely time of year.

Now, it is also a solemn time...an ending of peacetime in our country and the beginning of new military action. The destruction caused on September 11, 2001 forever will be a time of remembering the fallen. Let us remember, not only those people who died that day, but the military that ended up answering the call to fight for this country....and are still fighting....and those who have come home and need our help.

If you know of someone who needs a card or a call or a visit to help them through the day, please contact me. Your post chaplain, waiting in the pews. – Paula Atwood, Chaplain

Adjutant:

Membership:

You are part of a great American Legion Post and your individual membership is very important. Much has been accomplished in the eight months since Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 started out with a temporary charter and just a few months later received its permanent charter. Your current dues are paid up through December 2015. National begins mailing out renewal notices in July for 2016. Those of you that have renewed are now paid up through December 2016. If you haven't renewed yet I encourage you to do so. It saves the mailing costs and helps in the planning for the upcoming year. Thank you for your membership as the lobbying efforts in congress by the American Legion helps all veterans, retired military, guard and reserve members and all of their families. – Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

Service Officer:

OUTREACH IS OUR DUTY TO FELLOW VETERANS

ExploreVA

Learn about VA benefits you may be eligible for.

<http://explore.va.gov/>

We need to always be thinking of our Comrades who served before and after us when it comes VA Benefits. Many of our fellow veterans are unaware or feel undeserving of the benefits they earned with their military service. It is our duty, yes our duty to help them get the services they earned.



Explore VA benefits and find out which ones you and your family may be eligible to receive. It's easy. <http://explore.va.gov/benefits-navigator>

Spread the Word

You can help the Veterans in your life access VA benefits by sharing the content below on your social networks or via email and by encouraging Veterans to visit our site. Spread the word about VA benefits today!

<http://explore.va.gov/outreach-sharing>

Access dozens of photos, graphics, documents, and videos to educate others about VA benefits.



Gold Stars: If you attended the General Meeting on August 26th, you witnessed a "ceremony". Four members received "Gold Stars" – as promised by the newsletter editor who was represented by our adjutant. Paula Atwood, Len Crosby, Charlie Till, and Margaret Ogram (sorry Al, that star Bryan pinned on you goes to your wonderful wife!) worked hard to get their articles in to me quite before the deadline, making my job *sooo* much easier. Thank You!!

Photo at left: Paula Atwood receiving her "Gold Pin" from Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe.

From the Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce (the Post is a member):

The Chamber is hosting the 2015 Rathdrum Adventure Race on Saturday, September 12, 2015. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this event. We need Water station and traffic control volunteers from approx. 7:30 am to 1 pm and help at the finish line from approx. 11 am to 2 pm. Please let me know if you or anyone in your group can help us with this event. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and our everlasting thanks :-)) Shanie Rountree

Sick Call & Taps

Betty Nomanson continues her recovery in the hospital following an unplanned surgery, with Jack at her side. Please remember Betty & Jack in your thought and prayers.

If you know of other members who are sick or grieving, please let our Post Chaplain, Paula Atwood know.

Memories of My Service:

The New Guy

It quickly became apparent that “the new guy” was gullible. But I didn’t know that he might cost me my life.

One day the Crew Chiefs were out on the flight line talking about a submachine gun that one of the pilots carried. He was the only one that had it and it was commonly referred to as a Grease Gun. It had a 30 round magazine, shot .45 bullets, was small, easy to carry and store in the helicopter. As we discussed the attributes and drawbacks of the Grease Gun I saw “the new guy” go over to where the grease and lubricants were stored. He came back with a lubricating grease gun that he had unscrewed and had the two pieces in his hands with this perplexed look on his face and said, much to his regret, “okay show me where the bullets go”.

Not long afterwards he was one of the three of us that went out on a mission. We were in a three person helicopter with the pilot in the middle, “the new guy” was in the left seat and I was in the right seat. I was manning the M-60 machine gun and his job was to drop various kinds of grenades when directed by the pilot. We had spent a lot of time with him discussing how this was to be done and in particular demonstrating in great detail that the grenade was to be held outside the chopper, pull the pin and then pitch the grenade away from the helicopter. Never ever pull the pin to a grenade inside the helicopter.

The pilot gave him instructions to toss out the first grenade. I happened to look over and realized that he didn’t have that grenade out the door ready to pull the pin but rather he had the grenade against his chest as he pulled the pin and moved his hand toward the door hitting the door frame bobbling the grenade and almost dropping it at the pilot’s feet. Both the pilot and I would have strangled him if we could have. We were just grateful to be alive. The mission was immediately aborted and that was the last time I went up with “the new guy”. – Bryan Bledsoe

Ceremonial Rifles

The Post qualified for and received 7 M1 ceremonial rifles from the United States Army. They are provided free of charge and are given as a Conditional Gift. We must inventory the weapons and serial numbers every three years and send that report to the US Army. If our Post would disband or discontinue the Honor Guard then the rifles must be returned. If a weapon is lost or stolen a report must be filed with the local law enforcement authorities and to the donor (US Army) within 24 hours. – Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant



Mike Warren with new Ceremonial M1 Rifles.

Mark Your Calendar:

Membership meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month @ 6pm at the Rathdrum Lions Club on the NE Corner of Highway 53 and Meyer Road

Executive Committee meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 6pm at the Rathdrum Lions Club

September 2nd – NW Guardians’ Steak & Bake at 5pm. See flyer on page 8 for details.

September 11th – National Day of Remembrance – Post Falls City Hall – 7:15am to 8:15am – Honor Guard to Participate

September 18th – POW MIA Remembrance Ceremony at Christ The King Lutheran Church – tickets are \$12 and doors open at 5:30 pm. See flyer on page 6 for details.

October 3rd - Inland NW Honor Flight fundraiser at 6 pm. See flyer on page 7 for details.

Thank You...

To Len Crosby for his donation of Vietnam era combat boots and helmet for a future display of military memorabilia at our Post. Memorabilia such as this can prove educational to our younger generations, and a source of memories to our veterans.

If you have some military memorabilia that you don’t know what to do with, consider saving it for your Post so that all may someday see it and remember.

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](#).

Jeff Broadhead, Judge Advocate and Children and Youth Chairman, was selected as the Volunteer of the Month for August. Jeff is being recognized for his passion and dedication to the children and youth of our community. He works hard to push forward the programs that benefit our children. Thank you Jeff, for all you time and effort in this endeavor.

Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy: In researching liability insurance for the Post your officers were “strongly advised” to develop a discrimination & harassment policy. This was done and the policy can be viewed [here](#), on our website.

POW★MIA

National Day of Remembrance

Spaghetti Meatball Dinner

September 18, 2015

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Arrive promptly, doors close during ceremony

Christ The King Lutheran Church

1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID



* Remembrance Ceremony
* Speaker: Vietnam POW
Fred McMurray

Benefitting:

- ★ **Inland Northwest Honor Flight**
- ★ **Newby-Ginnings**

Tickets go on sale August 15 @ \$12.00 per person

Additional donations accepted

Tickets available at: Army Surplus, 1620 N. Gov't Way, CDA, 667-6829

Newby-Ginnings, 147 E. Aqua Circle, Dalton Gardens, 660-4601

Or call 208-777-9684, 208-773-8982

GODBLESSTHEUSA.GODBLESSTHEMENANDWOMENWHOSERVE.GODBLESSOURVETERANS.GODBLESSYOU.



Saturday, October 3, 2015

6:00 PM



INLAND NORTHWEST HONOR FLIGHT

FUNDRAISER EXTRAVAGANZA

DINNER, DANCE & AUCTION

SPOKANE VALLEY EVENT CENTER

10514 E. SPRAGUE AVE., SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206

*Please help send our Veterans to Washington, D.C.
to be honored for their service
and to visit the memorials erected in their honor.*

For tickets, donations, or to volunteer,
Please contact Barb Nelson, 208-262-8055.

\$50 Single Ticket \$400 Table for 8
Sponsorship Tables (for 8) receive special seating and perks:
\$2,500, \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000

Our event needs: Cash donations, silent auction items, oral auction items,
and volunteers to sell tickets, volunteers to help at our October 3 event.

Inland Northwest Honor Flight is a 501c (3) non-profit organization.
Receipts will be provided for all contributions.

VETERANS FUNDRAISER

**Sponsored by your:
Northwest Guardian
Riders**

Steak & Bake Dinner

5:00-7:30 p.m.

AUGUST 5th, 2015

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2015

OCTOBER 7th, 2015

Menu includes:

- ✓ 9 oz. top sirloin steak
- ✓ Salad
- ✓ Baked potato
- ✓ Dessert

Please call ahead
on the day of the
fundraiser for:

- ✓ To-go orders
- ✓ To reserve a steak.
- ✓ Contact:
Alma
Cardoza at:
208-667-
4488/wc1mom
@aol.com

- **CJ'S Lounge: 14853 W. Hwy. 53, Rathdrum**
- ***Proceeds benefit: Veterans in need, Toys for Tots, Disabled Veterans, Diabetes Ride, local food banks/veterans groups, and many more local worthy causes! Visa/MC accepted.**

***Dinner donation:**

\$10.50 per person



Thank you for your support!