



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



Happy Labor Day!

Commander's Message:

Where has the summer gone? Soon the leaves will be falling. I think after all the smoke and heat we are ready for fall. I want to thank all of you that have supported the Post during the summer and this year so far. Bravo Zulu! And, just in case you didn't know what BZ meant here is the explanation: The combination of the "Bravo" and "Zulu" nautical signal flags, e.g., Bravo Zulu, also referred to as "BZ," is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done" regarding actions, operations or performance.

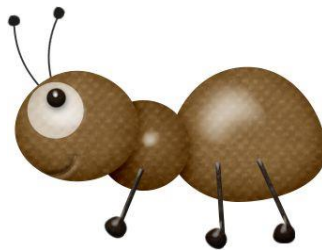
We will be having our Summer Picnic on September 16th from 1 to 4 p.m. Please come out and enjoy the potluck food at the Rathdrum City Park and visit with our Legionnaire family. Thanks again to the planning committee that put the picnic together. More help is still needed at this event for setup and cleanup.

I would also like to put together a work party as soon as it cools down a bit. We need to seal the top of the Conex box before we can put anything in it. Once that is done we can put together the shelves and move items into the storage box. I would like to also paint it gray and put some American Legion emblems on it. Let's get together and figure out a day! I will buy lunch!

I would like to talk about membership. I know, I know! Don't preach to the choir. Please renew early because I want to make sure everyone understands that on January 1st, 2019 your membership dues will increase to \$45. If you pay up between now and that date it is only \$40. Please save yourself some bucks and renew early. Also, please reach out to your fellow veterans and see if they would like to be a part of our American Legion. The more members we have the stronger we are in our community, our state and our nation.

The American Legion Fall District 1 Meeting is on October 20th in Plummer. Sign-in will start at 9 and the meeting will commence promptly at 10. Lunch will be at noon and the meeting should be finished by 2. If you would like to know what is happening in the district and the Department of Idaho you are welcome to attend.

Thank you for all that you do, and God bless you all! - Dee Sasse, Commander



Finance Officer:

At the end of July, a substantial amount of the funds earned in our Poppy fundraiser had been spent or committed. We purchased a Conex container to provide additional storage, and that will need some shelving and repair before it can function as desired. That work should be completed in September. The financial position of the Post continues to be stable. Thanks to the generous contributions from three of our members our Flag Memorial and Flag Education programs will be fully funded for the majority of this coming school year.

If you have any questions regarding the Post's finances, please give me a call or drop me an e-mail. I would be happy to go over them with any member. Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Legislative Chairman:

Historic Defense Bill Signed Into Law: On Monday, President Trump signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. Key aspects of the bill are:

TRICARE: A provision that would have dramatically increased TRICARE fees for current retirees was defeated in the final bill.

The bill includes several provisions to improve the financial viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, such as authorizing the home to accept financial gifts, and expanding eligibility to disabled veterans and spouses who are not currently eligible. The bill will postpone the fee increase that was scheduled to be implemented in October 2018 but applies only to those who were residents as of April 9, 2018, and authorizes gradual fee increases over the next three years.

The bill authorizes a 2.6% pay increase for America's service members, the highest pay raise in nearly a decade;

The bill grants disabled Veterans access to commissaries and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities;

It requires DOD to design, produce and award a certificate for veterans exposed to radiation (Atomic Veterans); to improve reporting, investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases; to expand eligibility for Military OneSource to one year after discharge; and requires DOD to conduct an assessment on ways to enhance and reform Taiwan's military forces.

Army Credentialing Assistance Program: During the week of August 13, the Army announced that it will begin piloting its Credentialing Assistance Program beginning this fall, with full implementation set for FY20.

The program will provide soldiers up to \$4,000 per year to pay for certifications and credentials that will help prepare them for gainful employment after their transition from the military. Upon full implementation, the program will give soldiers the ability to choose from more than 1,600 programs offered through the Army's Credentialing Opportunities Online website, and better prepare them for jobs in industries such as health care, information technology, and aviation repair. This new pilot expands on the current Army Credentialing Program but gives soldiers the ability to gain certifications that are outside their military occupational specialties.

- Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman



Service Officer:

VA updates the disability rating schedule related to skin conditions

WASHINGTON — Effective Aug. 13, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) updated portions of the [VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities](#) (VASRD, or Rating Schedule) that evaluate conditions related to the skin.

The VASRD is the collection of federal regulations used by Veterans Benefits Administration claims processors to evaluate the severity of disabilities and assign disability ratings.

VA is in the process of updating all 15 body systems of the VASRD to reflect modern medicine more accurately and provide clearer rating decisions.

“VA remains committed to providing Veterans the benefits they have earned at the highest quality,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “With modern medicine advancing at a rapid rate, it’s important to ensure VA’s disability rating schedule and rating decisions reflect these advancements.”

No conditions were removed from the new skin rating schedule. However, several diagnostic codes were restructured or revised. The complete list of updates to the rating schedule for skin conditions is now available [online](#). Claims pending prior to August 13 will be considered under both the old and new rating criteria, and whichever criteria are more favorable to the Veteran will be applied. Claims filed on or after August 13 will be rated under the new rating schedule.

By updating the rating schedule for skin conditions, VA claims processors can make more consistent decisions with greater ease and ensure Veterans understand these decisions.

VA has issued several VASRD updates since September 2017, including updates for [dental and oral conditions](#), [conditions related to the endocrine system](#), [gynecological conditions and disorders of the breast and eye conditions](#).



Ah yes. We can all learn from Charlie Brown. And from Snoopy and Lucy and Linus. Every day of life can bring surprises and challenges. But we also have the opportunity to make decisions and take action. I will run with that, by telling you all that for this month, L is for Life Insurance. So, thank you Charlie Brown, for so many wise words of wisdom. And, oh, by the way, I think he was right... Life IS better with a dog! Good Grief!

Do you Qualify for VA Insurance?

Follow this link for [an easy way to find out if you are eligible for all our programs](#), including Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Veterans Group Life Insurance and Family SGLI, TSGLI, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance. You’ll find infographics (timelines and charts) for each program.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is a low-cost group term life insurance program for Servicemembers. Coverage can be extended for up to two years if the Servicemember is totally disabled at separation.

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows Veterans to convert your SGLI to a civilian program of lifetime renewable term coverage after separation from service.

Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) insures spouses and children of Servicemembers with SGLI coverage. Spousal coverage may not exceed the Servicemember's coverage. Dependent children are automatically covered at no charge.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments to Servicemembers who suffer losses, such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries that occur in service.


Service-Disabled Veterans' Life Insurance (S-DVI) provides life insurance coverage to Veterans who have been given a VA rating for a new service-connected disability in the last two years. Totally disabled Veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional life insurance.


Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) provides mortgage life insurance protection to disabled Veterans who have been approved for a VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer


Flag Boxes:


Our first flag box was presented to the family of Adam Vaughn, who served 19 years combined in the Navy and marines then 7 years as a police officer. We were able to set up a display at Center Target Sports on the 11th of August. It was a great day, talking to a lot of vets and transferring two members into our Post. Dee brought 2 dozen great donuts, and fun was had by all. Thanks for everyone's help who showed up. And finally, some Flag Trivia. Who can order the flag to half-staff? "Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act". Is it permissible to display another flag or pennant above the flag of the United States? – Mike Warren, Flag Program Chairman

Bits & Pieces

 Did you know that The American Legion has a Flag Alert e-newsletter? The Flag Alert e-newsletter provides notification when a flag proclamation is issued by the president to display the U.S. flag at half-staff. More than 47,000 people subscribe to the e-newsletter. Sign up now at www.legion.org/newsletters. The American Legion also offers text alerts when the flag is to be displayed at half-staff. To receive these text alerts, simply text the word flag to 35893. You will receive a confirmation email within a few minutes. The service is free, but message and data rates may apply. For further flag information and resources, visit www.legion.org/flag.

 Interested in military stories? Check this out: <http://www.veteranssfab.com>

 Monday enjoy breakfast at the Rathdrum Lions Club's annual Labor Day breakfast fundraiser at the clubhouse from 7 to 11 a.m. at 16114 N. Meyer Road. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice for \$5. The winning ticket for a classic Mustang will be drawn at noon.

 Missed a meeting? Here is the link to all the meetings' minutes: <https://goo.gl/CM6HhQ>



Post 154 members manning an information table at the Center Target Sports Customer Appreciation Day. From left: Len Crosby, Bob Flowers, Mike Warren, and Bob Kernan. Thank you to these members for their dedication!

A Healthier You: From The People's Pharmacy



What Are the Advantages of Voltaren Gel?

People concerned about potential problems with NSAIDs such as celecoxib, ibuprofen, meloxicam or naproxen may want to consider topical medication for their sore joints. Find out about the advantages.

[Read Article →](#)



Mark Your Calendar:

September 1st National Disaster Preparedness Month- Meridian Post 113 has a day of seminars

September 3rd Labor Day

September 10th Hashanah

September 11th 911/Patriot Day

September 13th Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting @ 6pm Lions Club

September 16th Post 154 Picnic from 1 pm to 4 pm – City Park at Hwy 53 & Latah Street

September 16th The American Legion Day and Employ the Older Worker Week 16-22

September 17th Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

September 18th Air Force Birthday

September 19th Yom Kippur

September 21st POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 21st National Children and Youth Concert 21-23

September 27th Post 154 Membership Meeting @ 6 pm Lions Club

September 28th Newsletter articles due

September 28th Nat. Americanism Conf 28-30 Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical & Chaplains

September 30th Gold Star Mother's Day

**Happy Birthday
Air Force!**



Please report your Volunteer Hours:

The Commander has asked me to start tracking the monthly hours that the members of our Post devote to Veterans and to our Community.

This is a fairly simple thing, but it allows our Post to provide data on the positive impact that we are having on our Community and the time we devote to assisting our members and other Veterans. Additionally, our Post, along with all other Legion Posts provide this information to the State and National office of the American Legion and they, in turn, keep our State Legislators and our Congress informed on the positive impact that the American Legion has on our Nation and our State.

The process takes only a few minutes a month. Simply put down how many hours you devote to Veterans activities, and how many you devote to Community support activities. If you attend a meeting of the City Council that counts, if you serve on a non-profit Board or commission, that counts, coming to a Legion meeting counts, participating in a Legion activity counts, even having a coffee with the Mayor or a member of City Council counts. These are hours that you are devoting to support the Community, Veterans and the Legion.

I personally serve on about ten non-profit Boards, so I use a simple excel spreadsheet that I can send in, but you may just want to put your hours in an e-mail and send it in each month. It will be very helpful if you can break their hours into Veterans Service, Youth Service and Community Service.

Please provide me with your hours to date for 2018, and going forward, your monthly hours devoted to Veterans support or to the Community. You can easily e-mail those to me (please by the end of the month each and every month, even if you are out of town).

My e-mail address is crosbylenmary@frontier.com My phone is 208-651-0697. You can e-mail, call or just catch me at a meeting and give me your hours.

Thanks for helping us track our commitment to Veterans and to our Community.

– Len Crosby, Hard Working Volunteer (Note: Editor's comment)



Dear Post 154 Member,

You and your family are cordially invited to the Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154 Summer Potluck Picnic to be held Sunday, September 16, 2018 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at Rathdrum's beautiful City Park, 15456 N. Latah Street (corner of Highway 53 and Latah Street).

Please join us to socialize and celebrate our accomplishments of the past year.

The Post is providing: Water, Cups, Plates, Napkins and Plasticware.

Please bring your favorite specialty dish to share, be it a main dish, salad or dessert.

**** PLEASE NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES****

**** IF YOU PREFER SODA, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN****

**** DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THIS PARK****

Please RSVP by September 7th, and direct questions to John or Sue Fevold at (208)916-5148, (208)916-5149, or email: schoolmarm66@hotmail.com

If you know a veteran who is not already a member of the American Legion, please invite to attend also.

NOTE: We will have access to the kitchen, refrigerator, sheltered area, picnic tables, and indoor restrooms. Feel free to bring your favorite picnic chair.

Sincerely,

John Fevold

John Fevold

1st Vice Commander

American Legion Post 154



2018



Beyond the Uniform

THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL | BOISE, ID

OCTOBER 20, 2018

FREE ADMISSION, PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomenVeteransConference

veterans.idaho.gov/WomenVeterans

(208) 780-1396