

January 2007

**American Legion Post 4
P. O. Box 14
Pocatello, ID 83204-0014
<http://www.americanlegionpost4.com>**

Dear Post 4 Legionnaire:

Membership has slowed down to a crawl! We need to get going as there are over 9000 veterans in Bannock County. We have a lot of "I Got One Member" pins in stock. All new memberships cost \$30 until May 1, 2007. After that the dues go to \$35 per year. If you have not remitted your dues yet please send it in as soon as possible. You need the American Legion as much as the American Legion needs you! We cannot let Post Falls Post 143 beat us in membership this year!!

Another alternative is to go PUFL member and all you have to do is look at the chart below.

This dues raise does not include the SAL membership; it will remain at \$10 for now.

If you have any questions please call me at 234-4914 or 241-0284 and if I am not there you can leave a message and I will call you back. If you need funds help, let the post know and we will find away to help you!

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS. AMERICAN LEGION STILL SERVING VETERANS

Our post is the **CAN DO LEGIONAIRES, BELIEVE IT.**

Sincerely, Mike Schow, Commander

PAID UP FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP COST:

Below is the Life Membership cost for the American Legion Post 4. Find the column with your age, then go down to the cost. You'll never have to worry about another dues increase by enrolling in PUFL Membership. Full payment is not required, just 10% down which includes the 2007 dues, and the balance is paid over one year and is interest free. Table 1 is for the \$25 per year membership. Table 2 is for the \$30 per year membership. Your age is on the top 2 lines, PUFL cost on the third. **NOTE:** If you want to go PUFL, we can use the \$25 formula until **January 10, 2007**, and then use the \$30 formula. Yearly dues will remain at \$30 until **May 1st 2007** and then they rise to \$35.

-24	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85+
\$25/yr	- 29	-34	-39	-44	-49	-54	-59	-64	-69	-74	-79	-84	
\$871	829	782	731	676	616	552	485	418	352	290	232	181	147

-24	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85+
\$30/yr	- 29	-34	-39	-44	-49	-54	-59	-64	-69	-74	-79	-84	
\$1045	994	938	878	811	739	662	582	501	422	348	278	217	176

Post 4 Officers

Commander - Mike Schow - 234-4914
1st Vice Commander - Winford Lomon - 232-8919
2nd Vice Commander - Jim Keezer - 232-4821
3rd Vice Commander - John Rogers - 232-4843
Chaplain - Dave DeGarlis - 239-1247
Sergeant At Arms - Al Eveland - 478-4256
Adjutant - Al Gibson - 233-2700
Newsletter - Al Gibson
Service Officer - Zach Rodriguez - 406-1068
Treasurer - Mike Schow
American Legion Riders President - Jim Humble
Sons of the American Legion - Jim Jones

Meetings for Service Organizations

1st Thurs. **Fleet Reserve Assoc.** 7 PM
2nd Mon. **Purple Heart** 1PM / **VVA** 7 PM
2nd Wed. **American Legion** 7 PM
2nd Thurs. **NCOA** 6:30 PM
3rd Mon. **BCVMA** 7 PM
3rd Wed. **VFW & Auxiliary** 7 PM
4th Wed. **MCL Det. 698** 7 PM
4th Thurs. **DAV** 6 PM
Last Mon. **American Legion Auxiliary** 4 PM
DAV Van Schedule: Call 208-221-0362
MAC - Jan 5 (Fri) at City Lights 1130
MAC - Feb 9 2nd Fri at City Lights 1120
melissah@co.bannock.id.us for **MAC** info

VA Contact Numbers:

Bannock County Vet Svcs. Melissa J. Hartman
Courthouse Annex Cnty. Vet. Svcs. Coord
130 N. 6th, Pocatello 83201 Ph. 236-7411
Melissa @co.bannock.id.us

Idaho Div. of Vet. Svcs. Deborah A. Harmon
Office of Veterans Advocacy SE Idaho Veterans
Idaho State Veterans Home Service Officer
1957 Alvin Ricken Dr. 208-236-6358
Pocatello 83201

Poc. VA Outpatient Clinic 208-232-6214

Pocatello Vet Center [Counseling] 208-232-0316

SLC VA Hospital 800-613-4012
Boise VA Regional Office 800-827-1000

Veterans Affairs Phil Clifton
Vocational Rehabilitation 208-478-9866
800-509-8547

EMAIL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS
TO; algibson912@msn.com

Dates Of Interest:

Jan 10; Legion Meeting at Memorial Building - 7 PM

Jan 11 - 13; Legion Midwinter Conference in Boise

Feb 4; 1 PM - Super Bowl Party. Let Post 4 officers know if you'd be interested in attending another gala event at the Memorial Building

Feb 17; VFW Valentines Day dance, Memorial Bldg.

Mar 17; American Legion 89th Birthday Ball and St. Patricks Day party and dance, Memorial Bldg.

July; Legion state convention in Pocatello. Contact officers to volunteer to support this effort.

We support the Yellow Ribbon campaign to recognize homecoming veterans. Contact John Rogers 232-4843

LEGION STATE CONVENTION IN JULY: Many volunteers are needed to work for the state convention to be held in July. Help is needed in selling advertising, book layouts, registration planning and checkins, and so forth. Please come to the January meeting and be prepared to volunteer to work for the Post at this important event.

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS - POST 4

1. **The "I GOT ONE" CLUB** is growing stronger by the day. All you need to do is get one new Membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the Legion. It is that simple. You can say you've done your best to keep our Organization growing. You will also receive a pin designed especially for Members of this Club. If you get one person for each you will receive the TRIFECTA pin. WE CAN DO IT!! THERE ARE OVER 9,000 VETERANS IN BANNOCK COUNTY!!! LET'S FIND THEM AND SIGN THEM UP!
IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL ANY OFFICER LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

2. **40/8 CLUB** - This is a group that has fun!!! Contact the Commander for An application.

3. **WESTERN CAVALRY HATS:** Black felt hats with gold trim and insignia. \$35. Worth a salute anywhere! This is very helpful as a conversation point in recruiting. Contact any Officer to order one. Lots of Black Hats Showing at Wed. Meeting. Looking; Good!

CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY AND VETERANS PROGRAMS:

4. **FLAG EDUCATION,**
5. **EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS,**
6. **FOOD CONVOY,**
7. **BOYS STATE,**
8. **BOY SCOUTS,** and
9. **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL.**

If you see a program that you would be interested in, **PLEASE VOLUNTEER** to help. We need your help and community support in these very worthwhile activities.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Football Sunday: Every Sunday at the Memorial Building, beginning at 10:30 AM, we will be watching Football or the Races. A Dish-TV satellite system has been installed, and we have a TV projection set for the Big Screen in the main meeting room, and there is a flat screen TV in the bar. There will be **FREE** coffee and chips or popcorn. Beer available for sale. Come on down and join the fun!!! We will be open for the college Bowl games also.

DAV Van: A new date schedule for 2007 is available for anyone who needs one. Any veteran who has had problems getting a seat on the DAV van, or who would like to use the van because of the high fuel prices for their private vehicle, please contact the Post Officers or call the local DAV Commander, Charley Smith, at 208-425-3891 or 251-2675. This information will help determine the feasibility of requesting a third van for medical transportation services.

Possible Phone Scam: Please be aware of a possible phone scam targeting veterans returning from OIF/OEF. We've received reports from 2 VISNs (15 and 23) regarding suspicious calls to returning veterans. The caller begins by asking about deployment and post-deployment matters. Then a second caller comes on the line and asks for the veterans SSNs. Please spread the word to veterans at your facilities and remind them not to release their SSNs over the phone. Also, please let me know if you have reports of this scam in your area. If it appears to be widespread we will look at developing a more extensive communications campaign.

New Items on EBay: This is a fund-raiser, which should be convenient for everyone. What would you like to see available on EBay? With increased profits on the items we're offering, we're planning on increasing the number of items for sale. The web site is up and going strong. The web address is "<http://stores.ebay.com/americanlegionpost4>" or you can link to it from our web page.

Super Bowl Party: The Post "may" put on a Super Bowl Party at the Memorial Building on February 4th. If you are interested in this, let Commander Mike or Vice-Commander Win know.

Uniforms: Older military uniforms are available at Jones Guns & Antiques, 146 S. Main St., Pocatello. Phone number is 232-3354. They have a large selection of WWII Army uniforms and have some Navy also.

Wanted: Used Marine Corps enlisted dress blue top for PFC Connor, the Marine Corps League Bulldog mascot. You can contact Connor (or his dad) by email at algibson912@msn.com or call him at 233-2700.

Birthday Party and Dance: The American Legion 89th birthday party and St. Patricks Day dance will be held at the Memorial Building on March 17th. This gala event is open to the public and will feature live band of some kind. Dinner at 7 pm and dancing at 9pm.

VFW Valentines Day: Dance will be held on February 17th at the Memorial Building. A country and western band will be featured and this is open to the public.

Its official, DD-214's are NOW Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> this may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes.

Memorial Bricks: The Memorial Bricks are shipped in pallet groups - there are 144 bricks needed to fill a pallet. This is given as the main reason that there have been long delays in getting the bricks delivered here.

Business cards: Available for Legion members from Eclipse Printing at \$35 for 500.

American Legion Riders News: The Rider group is growing and will hold elections at the January 10 meeting. If you ride a motorcycle or are interested in the group, come on out to the general Legion meeting and then stick around for the Riders meeting. All makes and models of motorcycles - and people - are welcomed.

Agent Orange: Additional benefits might be available to Viet Nam era Blue Water Navy veterans. For information on this, contact your local Services officer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR VETERANS

From Carey Austin Hebdon Volunteer Services/Activities Coordinator Idaho State Veterans Home-Pocatello

Many "Thanks" to each of you who assisted in any way with the December and Christmas activities for our residents. Christmas Day went very well, as did the other visits, gift deliveries, and holiday events.

Your support is vital in making it all successful; our veterans and spouses – the ones we are here to serve - are those who benefit!

Thanks for your dedication to "Caring for America's Heroes."

VA News...

A new report from the President's Management Council highlights two major Accomplishments that VA has made recently in the areas of performance and Management. In the span of four years, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) was commended for reducing the wait time for new Veterans to obtain appointments. VHA brought the number of veterans Unable to schedule an appointment down from a high of 176,000 to 22,494. VHA also scored an inpatient customer satisfaction rating of 84 out of 100 on the American Customer Satisfaction Index, higher than the private Sector rating of 79. In addition, VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) Were commended for their joint effort in electronic data sharing. By Streamlining veterans' separation and deactivation from DOD, VA's Hospital and benefit processing centers are able to access the data Quickly. This significantly reduced the waiting time for veteran Information from 90 days to three days. Their progress has allowed the VA to make benefit eligibility determinations easier and faster for all Veterans.

Means Test and Geographic-based Means Test Thresholds for Calendar Year 2007

VHA Dir 2006-064, Means Test and Geographic-based Means Test Thresholds for Calendar Year 2007, has been approved for publication; it may be found on the following web sites within 24 hours:
Internet <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>
Intranet <http://vaww1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

VETERANS RESOURCES NETWORK

HomePage at <http://www.valaw.org> and <http://www.veteransresources.net>

This News mail list (raybdavisjr) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/raybdavisjr/>

News concerning Veterans Claims, Veterans Law, and Benefits will be sent as it becomes available.

US Code at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~6929297/indexusc.html>

Code of Federal Regulations: <http://home.earthlink.net/~6929297/indexcfr.html>

And search the M-21 adjudication manual from our main page at: <http://www.valaw.org/>

Download the M-21 in zip file at our downloads page.

**The American Legion
Pocatello Post 4
Meeting Minutes For December 13, 2006**

Officers Present: 5

Members Present: 26

Guests: none

Total Present: 31

Bingo Report: No report

BCVMA Report: No report

American Legion Riders Report: Election time coming up and set up ride schedules. POW/MIA "Bikers For Blood" with Red Cross on 12/21 at the Red Lion.

Funeral Report: 5 in November, YTD is 98.

Sick Call Report: No report

Membership Report: No report

Veterans Home Report: No report

Baseball Report: No report

Finance Report: No report

Service Officer Report: No report

Old/Unfinished Business Report: Jim Keezer reported that the Flag Retirement ceremony was successful and we'll do another one next year (later in 2007). We had about 200 flags for the ceremony.

New Business Report: Wreath Laying ceremony December 14 at the Veteran's Memorial at Ross Park.

Good Of The Order: There are 144 bricks needed for a pallet. No bricks are made unless it's a full pallet. This is the main reason for possible delays. A "Thank You" for the Veteran's Honor Guard from Elmers Restaurant. Debbie Harmon won the dinner dollars.

Meeting Closed At: 1924

Post 4 Business: Meeting adjourned early for a Christmas Party at the Memorial Building. Cake and ice cream for all!