

February 2007

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

Dear Post 4 Legionnaire:

We still have many Legionnaires who have not renewed their membership for 2007. The last newsletter mailing went out to almost 700 veterans in the immediate area and elsewhere in the state. Attendance at the monthly meetings is usually in the 30 to 40 member range. We need more members to attend the meetings - remember, we need members to actively support the various Legion programs that are listed in each newsletter. We are very active in community affairs, and there is always something to do - so come to the meetings and volunteer for the various community services that we perform.

We will hold new member initiations at the February meeting on the 14. Come down and join in this ceremony for all the newest members of the Legion.

Super Bowl Sunday is almost here - on February 4 - with the Indianapolis Colts playing the Chicago Bears ('Da Bears') in Miami. We couldn't arrange for free transportation down to Miami for the game for all Legion members, but we did the second best thing! We are hosting a Super Bowl Party at the Bannock County Memorial Building in Pocatello - Bring Your Own Snacks - drinks provided - cash bar available for beer and other beverages - so bring your spouse, family, friends, neighbors, etc. down for the extravaganza. We are not providing Florida beach sand, so bathing suits are not recommended - but you can dress for the occasion if you wish. **THE DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM** so come early and stay for the pre-game events and then the actual game. We'll have the large screen TV set up in the meeting room, as well as another TV in the bar. You won't miss a second of the action!!

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 (PUFL) 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 for 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*. The table below 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, use the \$30 formula now; 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+
\$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 (h) or 201-0539 (cell)
Newsletter - Al Gibson
Service Officer - Zach Rodriguez - 406-1068
Treasurer - Mike Schow
Legion Riders Director - Frank Smith 523-1061
Sons of the American Legion Rev Jim Jones 251-4708

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** 6:30 PM
Last Mon. **American Legion Auxiliary** 4 PM
DAV Van Schedule: Call 208-221-0362
POW/MIA - Fri - Feb 16 & Mar 16, Red Lion 7 PM
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:

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 9; MAC meeting - see note on book and authors in the newsletter.

Feb 14; Legion meeting, Memorial Bldg, 7 PM

Feb 17; VFW Valentines Day dance, Memorial Bldg.

Feb 19; President's Day breakfast at the Memorial Bldg hosted by the **MAC**, 8 AM until food gone.

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

Apr 3; Veteran's Information Fair at ISU's Pond Student Union. Legion will have table

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 February 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.

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.

MAC meeting in February (at City Lights, 1130, on the 9th) will feature a book by Stewart Portela and Sgt. Sam Walton - "Footsteps In The Sand", and the authors will be there to sell copies and they will also sign the books.

2006 AMERICAN LEGION FOOD CONVOY - NOVEMBER 18TH, 2006

TOTAL \$53,687.69 FOR WHOLE STATE TO ALL THREE VETERANS HOME.

POCATELLO TOTAL IS

FOOD \$27,948.95

CASH \$3,446.15

GROSS TOTAL \$ 31,395.10 FOR THE POCATELLO HOME.

THIS AMOUNT CAME FROM JUST SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO!!

GOOD JOB VETERANS OF SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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; DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM. See note in Commanders message. Come one, come all for the party.

Birthday Party and Dance; The American Legion 89th birthday party and St. Patrick's 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.

President's Day Breakfast; Monday, Feb 19 - Hosted by the MAC at the Memorial Building - 8 AM until all the food is gone.

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

American Legion Riders News; The Legion Riders group has a new slate of officers for 2007;

Director; Frank Smith

Ass't Director; John White

Road Captain; (open)

Secretary and Treasurer; Al Gibson

Historian; Tom Janson

Sgt. At Arms; Bill Head

Membership and POW/MIA Liaison; Dave Huddleston

Purchasing Agent (new post); Jim Humble

The Riders also approved the motion to sponsor 1 boy for Boy's State. Cost will be \$275 this year. The "Bikers For Blood" drive held on 12/21 by the Red Cross and the POW/MIA group - and supported by all the other motorcycle groups and the VSOs - was a huge success. More chairs had to be set up to handle the crowd, and the Red Cross wants to make this an annual event!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR VETERANS

NEW INTEGRATED HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM WILL HELP VETERANS But getting there will take time

(Washington, DC) Providing seamless care for veterans after they leave active duty in the military has long been a goal of U.S. Senator Larry Craig, the immediate past chairman and now the top Republican on the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In a press release issued Wednesday, VA officials said the joint system will eventually make inpatient medical records instantly accessible to clinicians within both VA and DOD. According to VA, the biggest advantage is that VA medical staff will have immediate access to patients' military health records, allowing doctors and others to make faster and better treatment decisions.

Higher TRICARE Fees Sought

Last year's TRICARE fee plan is expected to be endorsed again in the president's 2008 budget request to Congress. It would raise enrollment fees and deductibles for under-65 retirees using a triple-tiered fee schedule tied to rank.

Cost-Of-Living Increases for VA Benefits

A recent law signed by President Bush provides a 3.3 percent increase in disability compensation and survivors' benefits. Eligible veterans and family members will see this increase starting in their January 2007 checks.

GI Bill Benefit Expiration Date

Although separating from service "starts the clock" on your 10-year time limit, you should know that if you rejoin active-duty service for more than 90 days, during the 10- year period, your 10-year clock is reset.

Many Veterans Missing Out on Compensation

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for combat-related special (or CRSC) compensation.

VA Health Care Outscores Private Sector

For the seventh straight year, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has received significantly higher marks than the private health care industry on a leading independent survey of customer satisfaction.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Website Launched

Barbara Romberg, a psychologist with a private practice in Washington, D.C., has created a single website to link licensed counselors with U.S. troops affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from serving Afghanistan and Iraq.

Program Serves Wounded Warriors

The Army's Wounded Warrior Program, dubbed AW2, is designed for soldiers severely wounded in the war on terror. AW2 provides information and assistance to aid soldiers and their families through the recovery process and beyond.

**The American Legion
Pocatello Post 4
Meeting Minutes For January 10, 2007**

Officers Present: 6

Members Present: 29 - one new member, Steve Marsberg

Guests: 1

Total Present: 36

Bingo Report: Lots of people coming to bingo. Skip several weeks due to floor refinishing. Every Tuesday at 7 PM

BCVMA Report: Win Lomon working Mondays and Thursday at Memorial Building. Floor being refinished, roof repairs waiting for good weather. Win needs all the help he can get. Please volunteer to help him.

American Legion Riders Report: The POW/MIA "Bikers For Blood" drive on 12/21 with the Red Cross was a fantastic success with a huge turnout. This will be an annual event now with the Red Cross. All the VSO and local motorcycle groups pitched in to help support this effort. Will finalize officers for the Riders group tonight and begin to set up a ride schedule. Donated \$469 to the Family Support Network from runs and donations. The Riders will sponsor 1 boy for Boy's State at \$275. Officer nominations are; Director - Frank Smith, Ass't Director - John White, Secretary & Treasurer - Al Gibson, Historian - Tom Janson, Sgt. At Arms - Bill Head, Membership & POW/MIA Liaison - Dave Huddleston, Purchasing Agent - Jim Humble, Road Captain - open

Funeral Report: Two members, Mural Lewis and Charles Hronek. Total of 103 for 2006 with 7 in December.

Sick Call Report: Al Eveland, Ralph Lillig, Randy Gomes

Membership Report: Membership paid dues is at 79% for the Post. 7 members received the "I Got One" pin for 2007.

Veterans Home Report: PT room finished on 1/15. 8 beds are available. Donations are needed, as always.

Baseball Report: Still growing, and we have 4 teams in Pocatello. Free entrance to all games with Legion membership card. Best game in town!

Finance Report: Total assets of \$25,681.85 in all accounts. The Boy's State program is coming up, and we're looking at a \$3,000 budget to send 10 boys to this major American Legion program. Legion members can volunteer to help out for a week in Boise. Contact officers on how you can help.

Service Officer Report: Zach Rodriguez attending state mid-winter conference.

Old/Unfinished Business Report: None from December. Post has contributed \$100 for each person attending the Mid-Winter conference to help defray expenses.

New Business Report: Super Bowl party on 2/4. Pot luck, BYO food.

2/14 - Initiation for new Legion members at the next monthly meeting.

2/17 - VFW Valentines Day event - dinner at 7, dance at 9.

2/19 - MAC sponsored Presidents Day breakfast - 8 AM until gone.

3/17 - Legion 89th Birthday & St. Patrick's Day party. Time is 6 PM. Party gang is Randy, Tom, Frank, Robert. Will be Pot Luck dinner.

State Convention in July - will need **LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS** to help with all the tasks necessary. At the Red Lion. National Commander will be here.

Good Of The Order: Ron Tapia gave a tremendous presentation on the trip back to the USMC museum grand opening for Idaho Marines. Ron and Will Pretzer made the trip and both are Post 4 members.

Jim Humble won the dinner door prize.

Meeting Closed At: 2032