

March 2007

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

Dear Post 4 Legionnaire:

Boys State interviews will happen on March 20th at 7.00 PM for the boys that are applying to go. We don't know how many boys yet, we need about 8 or ten people to interview the candidates and to ask them questions and to determine who should go to Boise in June. Also the cost is \$275.00 per boy and if you or some one you know would like to assist with the funds let it be know. you don't have to pay all for one boy, you can contribute for 1/2 boy! We can send as many boys as we want - up to 20. **HELP HELP !!**

We have 411 memberships paid for 2007. The post has 150 of members that need to send in their dues for this year 2007. If you have not paid 2007 **you are delinquent now** and we will keep your news letter coming for now, but we need for all of you members that have not paid to continue your membership with Post 4. If you need some help let me know or the 1st vice commander and **WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.!!!!**

AND DON'T FORGET THE LEGION BIRTHDAY PARTY (AND ST. PATRICK'S DAY) ON MARCH 17 AT THE MEMORIAL BUILDING. DINNER AT 7 PM, DANCE WILL FOLLOW. THE LEPRECHAUNS ARE GATHERING THE CORNED BEEF RIGHT NOW

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 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 and the PUFL cost will increase.

-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

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 March meeting and be prepared to volunteer to work for the Post at this important event or contact any of the officers listed in this newsletter to sign up.

American Legion 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
Sons of the American Legion Rev Jim Jones 251-4708

American Legion Riders Officers

Director Frank Smith 317-1424
Ass't Director John White 681-0198
Secretary Al Gibson 233-2700 (h) or 201-0539 (cell)
Treasurer Al Gibson
Historian Tom Janson 226-6653
Sergeant At Arms Bill Head 238-1467
Membership Dave Huddleston 238-1735
POW/MIA Liaison Dave Huddleston
Purchasing Agent Jim Humble 237-0690
Road Captain Bill Head

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 - Mar 16, Red Lion 7 PM
MAC - Friday, Mar 9 at City Lights 1120
melissah@co.bannock.id.us for **MAC** info

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

VA Contact Numbers:

Bannock County Vet Svcs. Melissa J. Hartman
Courthouse Annex Cnty. Vet. Svcs. Coord
130 N. 6th, Pocatello 83201 Ph. 236-7411
melissah @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; algibson@bulldogs.com

Dates Of Interest:

Mar 3; Post 4 will have a table at the Cowboy Expo being held at the Red Lion Inn.

Mar 14; Post 4 meeting, 7 PM, Memorial Bldg. Legion Riders meeting immediately follows.

Mar 15-17; In 1919, founding of the American Legion

Mar 17; American Legion 88th Birthday Ball and St. Patrick's Day party and dance, Memorial Bldg.

Mar 20; Boy's State interviews at Memorial Bldg at 7 PM.

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

May 5; Riders will attend the Annual Motorcycle Awareness ride to Idaho Falls for a parade.

May 25 to 28: Field Of Heroes on display at Century High School.

May 28; Memorial Day Holiday. Field Of Heroes ceremony at 9 PM at Century High School.

July 12 to 15; Legion state convention in Pocatello. Contact officers to volunteer to support this effort. The National Commander will be here for 5 days.

2007 Convention Book Advertising; Advertising donations for the Book are now being accepted. Ad sizes are Business Card - **\$15**, quarter page - **\$25**, half page - **\$50**, full page B&W - **\$100**, full page color - **\$125**. A very low cost for advertisers!!! **Due date for all ads is April 1st**, and you can call 478-4256 or 234-4914 and we can get you a form to fill out. The American Legion is a non-profit #501 C19 organization and donations are tax deductible.

Attendance Drawing; The drawing for the \$20 dinner prize is held at the end of each monthly meeting. You must attend to be eligible, and the entry form has been made a part of the Monthly Minutes distributed at each meeting, so you don't have to bring your newsletter and cut it up now.

Church Symposium on International Affairs February 28- March 2

Examines Rights of Women and Children; Contact: ISU International Studies Department, 282-3043 ISU's 36th Annual Frank Church Symposium February 28, March 1-2 will address the topic, "Women and Children: Second-Class Citizens of the World." Laura J. Lederer, a Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons to Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, will deliver the keynote address, "Trafficking, Democracy, and Women's Rights." She will be delivering her keynote address on February 28 at 7:30 PM in the Wood River Room at the Pond Student Union Building.

Memorial Building repairs are under way, but we need some volunteers to help finish working on the lower floor. Half has been done, so **PLEASE** call Win Lomon at 232-8919 to help.

American Legion Service Awards; Service awards for long time membership were offered at the February meeting for C M Holm at 60 years. Don Hatt, George Lotz, Virgil Sinnett were recognized for 50 years membership in the American Legion.

American Legion Post 4 Initiations; Held during the February meeting for 21 new Legionnaires. Congratulations to all the members who took part in this ceremony led by Commander, Mike Schow.

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.

NEWSLETTER MAILING: We are mailing out almost **700** newsletters each month now and the combined costs for bulk mail, paper, and printer supplies just keeps rising all the time, not to mention the time spent by volunteers in copying, stapling, and mailing it out. At just 3 pages per newsletter, we are using over 4 reams of paper (2100+ pages) each month. We want to email as many of the newsletters as is possible to our members, as well as begin work on having each newsletter put on our web page as an even bigger convenience to all members. An additional benefit to emailing the newsletter and having it put on the web page is that we would not be limited to the small number of pages available now for news and information important to all veterans. An electronic version of the newsletter can contain all necessary information in an up-to-date fashion. To make this work for the benefit of all members of the Post, we need you to contact us and “sign-up” for the electronic mailings. Other possibilities are mailing the newsletter every other month, or even every third month. This will **ONLY** be for American Legion Post 4 business and will not be used for anything else. Sign up for the electronic newsletter by sending an email to “algibson@bulldogs.com”.

Memorial Bricks: There are many small memorial bricks available for pick-up for those of you that have been waiting for them. If you have ordered memorial bricks and have not received your small brick yet, please call to see if yours has been received. The bricks are at the Memorial Building, and to arrange a time for pick-up, please call Lowell Hill at 237-4496, or Mike Schow at 234-4914, or Al Gibson at 233-2700.

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.

American Legion Riders: The Riders group is growing with several new members; age and make of motorcycle (and the riders too) doesn’t matter. Currently planning fund raising events and setting the ride calendar for the year. The Motorcycle Awareness Week ride to Idaho Falls for the annual parade is scheduled for May 5th, in conjunction with all the other local riding groups. The Riders will be helping out at the POW/MIA Awareness Rally & Motorcycle Rodeo again this year. Come join the group and get ready for the warm weather! Contact names and phone numbers are listed in this newsletter. You must be a member of the American Legion to join the Legion Riders, plus you can get a **FREE** email address of “(pick your name)[@idaholegionriders.com](mailto:pickyourname@idaholegionriders.com)”.

Birthday Party and Dance: The American Legion 88th 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 to follow

Local Business Supporters In Pocatello:

Eclipse Printing at 156 S. 3rd Ave. will provide business cards for Legion members at \$35 for 500.

Grandpa’s Coffee Shop at 3304 Poleline Rd. for coffee, food, conversations. Smokers welcome.

Inkjet Express at 3318 Poleline Rd. for supplies and printer cartridge refills.

Jones Guns & Antiques at 546 S. Main St. for military collectibles, uniforms, firearms, and antiques.

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.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM MIKE McLENDON; “Welcome Home”

Thanks to Bob Skinner, Commander, American Legion Post 56 Idaho Falls. This is a very important message being sent. We need to send this message here in South East Idaho so, for those of you that continue to come out when the alert roster is activated, I say thanks to you for coming and letting those Service Men and Women know they are appreciated.

We need to let the local community know that we want to be there when a Service Member returns home. Please let everyone you know that the **Veterans, spouses of Veterans and community** of South East Idaho want to perform this honored service.

Contact any **Veterans Organization** in your area and the **Veteran** that you speak to will make sure the word is passed on to every **Veteran** he or she knows and we will be at the airport to greet the Service member, no matter what day or time of day it is. We will be there.

From Mike McLendon; Director Of Membership; Greater Idaho Falls Chamber Of Commerce

In Pocatello, contact John Rogers “Yellow Ribbon campaign” at 232-4843, or any of the Veterans Service Organizations for community homecoming support for any returning service member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR VETERANS

411 charges

Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial 1 (800) FREE 411, or 1 (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all! This works on your home telephone as well!

Fake Vets Organization-- A Message to Veterans

Notify your members that there is a FAKE so-called Veterans Organization operating out of Beech Grove, Indiana that has a primary goal of soliciting money through telephone calls with the spiel they are giving telephone cards to our military men and women.

This outfit calls itself INDIANA VETERANS RELIEF FUND. They are using a storefront address at 157 Bethel-Suite B, Beech Grove, IN 46107. Telephone (317) 783-1974. Indiana Veterans Relief Fund is operating under a blanket organization called Common Ground Charities, Inc. A Michael Q. Risley, Jr. is listed as Director of Fund Raising and a Tanya Risley is shown to be Office Manager.

President seeks landmark budget for VA

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson announced Feb. 5 that President Bush is seeking a landmark budget of nearly \$87 billion in fiscal 2008 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, with health care and disability compensation for veterans receiving the majority of the spending. The fiscal 2008 proposal represents an increase of \$37.8 billion, or 77 percent, from the budget in effect when President Bush took office.

COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS ON RECORD SETTING PACE

(Washington, DC) U.S. Senator Larry Craig said today that he is very pleased that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is continuing on a record setting pace of decision making, according to information provided by Chief Judge William Greene, Jr. "The court is on track to issue at least 3,800 decisions this year, and perhaps even more. Since its creation in 1988, the most decisions the court had ever issued in one year was 3,336. So exceeding 4,000 would be a phenomenal achievement," said Craig, the Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Although the court has taken a huge step in the right direction, the court is continuing to experience record levels of incoming cases.

**The American Legion
Pocatello Post 4
Meeting Minutes For February 14, 2007**

Officers Present: 6
Members Present: 28
Guests: 0
Total Present: 34

Bingo Report: Need new faces. Bingo doing very well. Every Tuesday night at Memorial Building.

BCVMA Report: Doing floors in Memorial Building. Still need volunteers to do the second half of the floor. There will be NO access to the lockers for at least 14 days once the refinishing begins. The new roof will be done in the Spring.

American Legion Riders Report: Elections were held last month. Frank Smith is Director, Bill Head is the Road Captain.

Funeral Report: Six in January and several this coming week. The Honor Guard needs new members.

Sick Call Report: Ralph Lillig and Randy Gomes are back. Al Eveland is still sick.

Membership Report: Post is at 81% of dues paid up. Awards for service given to C. M. Holm for 60 years. and Don Hatt, George Lotz, and Virgil Singett for 50 years. The award plaques will be delivered to each of the long time members. Membership awards given to Debbie Harmon, Frank Doppke, and Bob Holden. There are 9,000 veterans in Bannock County that are most likely eligible for Legion membership. Enroll a veteran and help them - and the Post.

Veterans Home Report: Lost 2 veterans yesterday (2/13). The Veteran's Home still has 8 beds open. The USO Show was excellent.

Baseball Report: Had Eastern Region meeting here on Super Bowl Sunday. Free admission to all American Legion baseball games with membership card.

Finance Report: Mike Schow summarized finances.

Service Officer Report: No new reports

Old/Unfinished Business Report: State Convention in July. Need lots of ads sold and volunteers to work at all jobs. Meeting tomorrow (2/15) at 10 AM for volunteers to help.

2/17; VFW Dinner and Dance - admission by donations only, Dinner at 7, dance at 9.

2/19; MAC Presidents Day breakfast - donations accepted - from 8 AM until the food is all gone.

3/17; Legion 88th birthday and St. Patrick's Day party - dinner at 7 followed by dance. Donations at the door.

New Business Report: Newsletter mailings are getting very expensive. The Post would like to send as many as possible out to members by email. All members were asked to notify Al Gibson at algibson@bulldogs.com. Post needs help at our booth at the Cowboy Expo to be held at the Red Lion Inn. Starts 3/3. Call Mike or other officers to sign up to man the booth. The Field Of Heroes will be set up again at Century High School from 5/25 through 5/28. There will be a 9 PM ceremony at Century on Memorial Day - 5/28. Many volunteers are needed for the preparation, set-up, security, and take-down. Call John Rogers to volunteer for this effort. The Post will again have a table at the ISU Fair in April.

Good Of The Order: 21 new members were initiated into membership in the American Legion by Commander Mike Schow. Senator Crapo is coming to Hawthorne Junior High School on Friday 2/23 to present Spirit Of Idaho awards. Colors will be presented and we need 4 people for this American Legion Honor Guard event. Bruce Corbridge (Lucky Bruce) was the drawing winner.

Meeting Closed At: 2005