

AMERICAN LEGION, POST 60 YEAR-IN-REVIEW FOR 2010

Well, to say that 2010 was a busy and productive year would be an understatement. With the most generous support of private and member donations we began the remodel of our kitchen facilities. This has been a dream of ours for several years and it will enable us to provide a greater, expanded ability to cater community events at the Hall. We hope to finish the final upgrades in the coming month and look forward to our enhanced capabilities. We're also happy to report that your American Legion, Post 60 has been recognized as the top Post in our District, and as the top mid-size Post in the State for our drive to attract new members. We currently have over 150 Legion Members and as folks see what we attempt to accomplish in our community new Veterans step forward to be a part of that effort.

As you know, we are a non-profit volunteer Veterans organization committed to Veterans, our community and serving as the unofficial Southern Valley County community center. Other than a small stipend from Valley County, to assist us in maintaining the Hall as the Valley County Veterans War Memorial, we keep our doors open by raising money through our Friday night socials and dinner, leasing the Legion Hall for fundraisers, weddings, etc. and catering meals for various events. Our cost to keep the Legion Hall open is substantial considering our expenses to pay for things such as utilities, insurance coverage, liquor licenses, cleaning, snow removal and planned or unplanned building maintenance costs. Irregardless of the costs, the members of the Legion and Ladies Auxiliary stand united to keep our doors open to serve our community.

On over 21 occasions during 2010 the Hall was provided at no cost to organizations such as the bi-monthly meetings of our local Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Red Cross Blood Drives, elections, funerals or memorial services for Veterans and the Annual Pioneer pot-luck luncheon. We hosted another 22 events where a fee was charged for leasing the Hall and we provided a catered meal; and our Friday night socials and dinner are where we generate our income to support the operation of the Legion Hall.

In addition to the above we strive to support our community with "good citizen" scholarships to students and sponsor Boys and Girls State and the Oratorical Competition at the High School. We continue to host our annual free community Thanksgiving Day meal and the visit by Santa Claus for our young people. Our Veterans Assistance Fund helps local Veterans and those older Veterans whom we have adopted at the Boise Veterans Home. Our Ladies Auxiliary has generously created 20 blankets, 17 shawls, 30 knit hats and purchased coats, boots and mittens for our Kids Program; and have mailed several care packages to Idaho troops serving in Iraq. We've provided WICAP and the Donnelly Food Bank with nearly 400 frozen left-over meals from various catered events this year. We partnered with the Cascade Chamber of Commerce to string LED Christmas lights on the 71 trees lining Main Street.

And in keeping with tradition, Post 60 performed military honors at Veterans' funerals, Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, provided the Color Guard for our 4th of

July Parade and marched with fellow Legionnaires from Post 119 during the McCall Winter Carnival Parade. We conducted flag etiquette classes, flag raisings and the retirement of unserviceable flags.

None of the above could have been accomplished without the steady support and commitment of the members of Post 60 and our Ladies Auxiliary. More importantly, we send a huge "Thank You" to all the members of our community who have shown such wonderful support to us in all our endeavors. Without your help we could not do what we do! The coming year will be busy and bring many challenges, but we'll "git er done"! The members of Post 60 are proud to be contributing members of the Cascade community and blessed to have such great friends and neighbors. Let's have another stellar year!