



Frank Spicklemire American Legion

POST 60 NEWS

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
Jack Knoblock

1st Vice Commander
Mike Keithly

2nd Vice Commander
John Pearson

Finance Officer
Wes Hardin

Adjutant
Ken Charles

Service officer
Terry O'Keefe

Sgt at Arms
Ed Bulgin

Chaplin
Jack Creason

Members at Large
John Ernsberger
Mike Waite

AUXILIARY

President
Jan West

Vice President
Donna Rushby

Secretary
Robin Miller

Treasurer
Sheri Conrad

Sgt at Arms
Emily Sullivan

Chaplain
Reina Pearson

We look forward to seeing you at the Legion Dinners held on Fridays at the Legion Hall:

Bar opens: 5pm
Dinner: 6:30pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER:

My fellow legionnaires, auxiliary, and SAL members this will be my last communication as your Commander. It has been an honor to have served as your Commander these past two years. I would like to thank those members who served with me on the Executive Committee for all their work in support of me and this great post. I am confident that our new slate of officers will carry on, providing sound leadership as we continue to move ahead in the coming years.

Recently, as most of you know, I was able to accomplish another goal of mine, to once and for all insure that the Legion had a clear and unencumbered title. This issue has been hanging over the post since it was built in 1992. I again want to thank those that helped make this happen, and all those members that supported me.

As in the past, a lot has gone on since our last newsletter which I have included in a separate outline in this issue. In addition to the activity, many new members have joined our ranks, which is a tribute to what we do in support of our Veterans and Community. Our membership has now moved this post into the largest out of 12 Posts in the Ninth District, and the largest percentage of renewals in the District and the State, for medium/large posts.

By the time this newsletter is published we will have completed the last phase of our kitchen upgrade and will be looking ahead, through several upcoming major event fundraisers, to replace our Main Hall flooring with a material that not only will enhance the look, but will reduce our maintenance cost considerably.

On a sadder note we lost several of our Legion Members over the past several months, including our Adjutant Ken Charles.

The one goal that eluded me was to see us form a viable Sons of American Legion (SAL) Squadron, and my hope is that in the near future someone will step up and take that challenge.

I continue to encourage our membership to submit articles or let us know what you would like the Communication Committee to include in your newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

*"Never underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world.
In fact, it is the only way it ever has." Margaret Mead*

This is one of my favorite quotations. Post 60's American Legion Auxiliary (and the Legion, of course) is an outstanding example of the efficacy of a small group of people making quiet, but determined, changes in our community. Sandi's vision of needing a way to raise money so we could make the Legion Hall more warm and inviting....Mrs. G's generosity in making a pie each week for the Auxiliary to raffle off at Friday night dinners.... Each of you who purchase tickets each week, knowing that by the time you win, the pie has cost more than you want to think about – but you know it's going to a good cause.... Sheri's recognition of the need for warm winter clothes for kids in our community.... The many hours and many hands that have made fleece blankets for Santa to give out ... Barbara and her team who have worked to preserve our Auxiliary's past in order for its future to have a foundation from which to continue... The shawls that provide warmth and comfort to the mothers and wives whose men are serving our great nation ... The feeling of belonging I hope every one of our Members and Junior Members experiences as they effect change on the lives of each other and those who are recipients of our efforts...

I'm proud to be part of such a determined group of people who determinedly work to make our Auxiliary a safe haven for all of our members and our community a great place to live and grow up/old.

Breaking News your Auxiliary exceeded their goal (123%), actually beating the legion for percentage of renewals and new members. **Well done!!!**

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER.....

October – We sponsored two teams to participate in the Annual Cascade Medical Center’s Foundation fund raiser. Never mind how we did!!! - We were closed for most of October in order to complete the kitchen upgrade.

November 11th Veterans Day – Several members talked about their service experience to an Assembly at Cascade School – Conducted our Flag Ceremony at the legion followed by a Flag Retirement. **November 25th** – held our Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

December – The Auxiliary decorated for the Christmas Holidays. **December 19th** – Santa came to the American Legion, and provided gifts, goodies and individual photos with Santa to over 140 kids.

January 29th – Several of our members Marched along side of members from Post 119 in McCall, in their Winter Carnival.

February 12th – Held a fundraiser for the Cascade Senior Center – **February 19th** – Cascade Chamber of Commerce held their Winter Jamboree, we catered. **February 26th** - provided Color Guard for Lincoln Day at Ashley Inn. **February 28th** had meeting with Valley County Commissioners regarding transportation needs for Veterans and others in Valley County.

March Interviews for Boys and Girls State were conducted by the Legion/Auxiliary. **March 12th** – held our Annual Chili Cook-off Contest for the purpose to raise monies for Girls/Boys State. **March 14th** – members crowded Cascade City Hall to present their case for the lifting of Deed restrictions from our title.

In addition, during this same time we conducted three Legion Funerals for members of Post 60. Again we continued to provide support to the Boys/Girl Scouts, blood drives, and over 400 frozen meals to WICAP. The Auxiliary created 20 blankets, 17 shawls, 30 knitted hats and purchased coats, boots and mittens for our Kids Program, as well mailed care packages to our troops serving in Iraq. We partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to string LED Christmas lights on the trees lining Main Street in Cascade.



CASCADE GIRL’S PATRIOTIC POEM INSPIRED A MARINE HELICOPTER MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Marines

You whine about how hot it is, You complain about your room, He’s wearing pounds of clothes on his back – And fighting for you. You think the mud is gross, You worry about your hair. He’s crawling on his hands and knees, And doesn’t even care. You want your world to be perfect In each and every way. He has to live with smoke and screams – And work hard every day.

Please think about the Marines. It shouldn’t be that hard. All they want is a hug or a simple little card.
Written by Heather Ahlstedt (taken from the Statesman, January 2011, provided by her proud parents)

Heather was inspired in part by her brother who is in the Marines.

OUT GOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS –THEIR THOUGHTS

John Ernsberger purchased property in the Cascade area 20 years ago and over a cold, cold winter (2000/2001) built a home. In 2004 he joined the American Legion and began serving as Finance Officer a year later. Then he served as Post Commander and most recently has been a member of the Executive Committee.

He remembers Thanksgiving Dinners and Chili Cook-offs as the mainstay traditions back when he joined. And he has seen many new events sponsored by the Post over the following years including the Community Kids Santa Party, Party, Light Up the Town, Cinco de Mayo, and Friday Night Socials. But the main focus of the Post...to support Veterans and their families...has not changed. It's just gotten better!

John feels that the Post has really grown (in numbers, capability, and quality) over the past ten years - all due to the great men and women who have stepped in to shoulder the load with enthusiasm and focus. In fact, John feels that the best thing a leader can do is help members see a reason to join in and then provide them with whatever is needed so they can get the job done and feel that sense of accomplishment that comes from the wonderful volunteer work we do.

As John steps down from the Executive Committee he believes it is good to have new people serving...they bring new energy and insight to the work. He also believes there is a place for past Commanders and will still be around to offer advice and mentoring to the newbie's.

His outgoing advice is: Get people interested; Give them a reason to participate; Stay connected and focused on the work; Continue to support Veterans and their families. You can tell where his heart is!

Mike Waite joined the post in 2000 shortly after he and Doris moved to the Valley. By 2001 he was fully involved and over the past 10 years has served as 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, and on the Executive Committee. During that time the post has grown from about 75 members with 10 active to over 160 members with about 75 actively participating. He attributes that to wonderful community involvement and the Friday evening socials.

Mike has contributed to the post in many behind-the-scene ways including computerization of post materials, developing a database of members, managing the sound and video system including training and documentation, and web development. Most recently Mike has teamed with Bill Leaf to initiate a guitar class for Veterans. With about 20 in the class this looks like a real success.

Some of the outstanding events contributing 'big time' to the community that Mike recalls include Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas lights for the town and the Santa Party, Chili Cook-off, and the 3-Summit Bike Ride which was launched last year and had such a wonderful collaboration among the community and the Legion.

Even with these big events Mike says, "Our primary charter is that we are a veteran's support organization, and, thanks to Mike Keithly and his tireless efforts on behalf of local veterans, our focus on this important aspect has never been stronger. The word is out and is the main thing to which I attribute our success at drawing new younger members to the Post."

Looking back he thanks Hugh Somerton, John Ernsberger and Jack Knoblock among others who provided great leadership and made a difference. Looking forward Mike offers this advice: "We need to share the load. We can't afford to dump all the work on just a few leaders. It is critical to continuing development and growth and link into the community. And this takes a balanced approach!"

Thanks,

Stories by George Greenfield, Sons of American Legion Member

NEW LEGION MEMBERS: Tim Gridley, Billy Harper, Rick Ridenour, Tony Garner, Rodney Rushby, Brent Hurst, Bill Shawver (Active Duty), Warren Gunderson, Ralph Raymond, Randall Redeem, George Dempsey, Pat Cowles

NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS: Betty Young, Karen Cowper, Carole Fullerton, Lynn Garner, Sandie LaLone, Alexandria Wright

