

AMERICAN LEGION, POST 60 YEAR-IN-REVIEW FOR 2011

The year 2011 was filled with challenges and rewards. The loss of comrades and friends was saddening, but new acquaintances and collaborations with community organizations to strengthen Cascade were extremely gratifying and successful. We finished the remodel of our kitchen in March. This enables us to expand our abilities to cater larger community events at the Hall. Our next project is to replace our aging floors. We've received generous donations from the public and Post Members, but we still need to raise another \$7,000 to begin the project in late March. We currently have 169 Legion Members, 45 Auxiliary Members and 9 Sons of the Legion Members. We continue to grow our membership largely because people realize we are engaged in trying to help our community and neighbors.

Post 60 is a non-profit volunteer Veterans organization committed to serving fellow Veterans, our young people and our community. Other than a 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 dinners, leasing the Hall for fundraisers, weddings, etc. and catering meals for various events. In today's economy the cost to keep the Legion Hall open is substantial. Our annual fixed costs (operations and maintenance) are \$24,000. Nonetheless, our non-paid men and women volunteer members are committed to support and serve our community.

During 2011 the Hall was provided at no cost to organizations such as our local Boy and Girl Scout Troops whom we sponsor, three Red Cross Blood Drives, two local elections as the area's polling station, five funerals for Veterans and three events centered on health and safety issues for residents. We hosted another twelve events where a fee was charged for leasing the Hall and for most of these events we catered a meal. This year we had thirty-six Friday Night socials and dinners where we generate a large part of our revenue to support the operation of the Hall. We hosted and/or catered major fundraisers such as Casino Night, Cinco de Mayo, Sweetheart Dinner to benefit the Senior Center, Chili Cook-off, and the Chamber of Commerce Winter Jamboree. We also cooked for the Four Summit Bike Challenge and the Cascade Air Show.

We continue to support worthwhile causes by awarding three "good citizen" scholarships and one college scholarship for a total of \$800 to our local students. This year we sponsored two boys and three girls to attend Boys & Girls State. We hosted our annual free community Thanksgiving meal and assisted Santa Claus with free wrapped Christmas gifts, goodies and photos for the children's parents. Post 60 also donated over \$800 to local organizations for worthy causes. Our Veterans Assistance Fund is used to help local Veterans in need. From this fund we donated \$300 to help a local outfitter to take three "Wounded Warrior" Veterans on their hunts of a lifetime here in Valley County. We also donated \$500 to the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise. Our Auxiliary has been supporting and visiting their four "adopted" Veterans at the Veterans Home with care packages and Christmas gifts. These ladies have also donated hand-crafted blankets, knit hats, boots, coats and gloves for their "Kids Program". And they sent seven large care packages to Idaho servicemen serving in Iraq. We provided

WICAP with 702 frozen meals and the Donnelly Food Bank with 58 frozen meals that were left-over from various meals served at the Post. Again, we partnered with the Cascade Chamber of Commerce to repair and replace LED Christmas lights on the trees lining Main Street.

And in keeping with military tradition, Post 60 performed military honors for five Veterans' funerals, Memorial Ceremonies at our three local cemeteries, Veterans' Day Ceremony, 9/11 Ceremony, and the dedication of Specialist John Borbonus' Statue at Kelly's Whitewater Park. We provided four color guard details and proudly marched with our fellow Legionnaires from Post 119 from McCall during Cascade's 4th of July Parade and McCall's Winter Carnival Parade. We conducted three flag etiquette classes, flag raisings and the retirement of unserviceable U.S. Flags.

None of the above could have been accomplished without the stalwart support and voluntary commitment of the members of Post 60 and the American Legion Auxiliary. We send a huge, warm "Thank You" to all the people of our community who have demonstrated such wonderful support to our Post in all our efforts. The members of Post 60 are proud and humble to be contributing supporters of this beautiful mountain community and blessed to have such great friends and neighbors.