

AMERICAN LEGION, POST 60 YEAR-IN-REVIEW FOR 2012

The year 2012 came to a close with many memories and another great year for our members to reflect on our many accomplishments. I never cease to be amazed when I prepare this report and look back at all the events and fun times that were had in the blue-roofed building housing our Legion Hall. Our members can be very proud of all the positive impacts that we have had on the community of Cascade. Our membership has held steady at around 165 Legionnaires (several of our members are currently on active-duty), nearly 50 members in our Auxiliary and 9 Sons of the Legion members.

As you know we are a non-profit volunteer Veterans organization dedicated to serving fellow Veterans, children and youths, and our community. We receive a stipend from Valley County to assist us in maintaining the Hall as the Valley County Veterans War Memorial. This stipend helps, but the bulk of our funding comes by raising money through our Friday night dinners, leasing the Hall for fundraisers, weddings, etc. and catering meals for various events. Our annual fixed costs (operations and maintenance) averages between \$24,000 and \$26,000. The majority of those costs are spent for utilities, water/sewer, liquor licenses (state, county and city) food service license, state sales tax, insurance, cleaning fees, snow removal, propane and normal maintenance/equipment servicing requirements. All of our profits are used to buy food for catered events or our Friday night dinners, restocking the bar or used to purchase items that enhance our facilities, like our new flooring that we installed this year and the new three-door freezer that we purchased. We keep a significant cash balance in our emergency fund to offset any serious problems that might occur. And as you will see in the narrative below we provide our Hall at no charge for various events/organizations and try to be good neighbors by contributing funds and donations to numerous local causes.

Listed below, in no particular order, are those events and functions that Post 60 conducted during 2012. We had over 35 Friday night dinners, the Hall was leased on 19 occasions, Cinco de Mayo fundraiser for the Post, St. Patrick's Day dinner, the Thanksgiving Day free community dinner, Legion members' picnic and steak fry, appreciation dinner for the ladies' of the Legion, and the Post collaborated with community organizations during Casino Night, Four Summit Bike Challenge and the Cascade Jamboree Fun Run. On the military side the Post performed 5 Color Guards, 5 ceremonies on Memorial Day in the Cascade area, placement of flags on all Veteran's gravesites, participated in Cascade's 4th of July Parade, conducted the 9/11 Ceremony at the Post, conducted the Veterans Day ceremony at the Post and several Legionnaires addressed the Cascade School Assembly on Veterans Day. We continue to support a local outfitter with funds to take Wounded Warriors on hunting trips. Sadly, we had four funerals or memorials for local members of our community, and we conducted four ceremonial funerals/memorials for fellow Veterans.

On the civic side we worked with the Chamber of Commerce to repair the Christmas lights on the trees lining Main Street in town. We continue to sponsor the local Boy and Girl Scout Troops. There were three Red Cross Blood Drives and two elections held at the Post. We awarded \$800 to four local students, three for "good citizenship" and one

college scholarship. We sponsored one boy and two girls to Boys and Girls State. The Legion donated \$150 to the Boise Veterans Home, and the Legion and Auxiliary donated \$300 to the Veterans Food Convoy. The Auxiliary also donated gifts to their “adopted Vets at the Veterans Home and sent four large “care” packages to our troops overseas. Over 900 frozen meals were donated to WICAP and the Donnelly Food Bank. And last, but not least, we had our annual visit from Santa. Over 130 children came to sit in Santa’s lap, have their picture taken, get a new wrapped gift and a bunch of candy. Generous folks helped us with toy or cash donations, so that after Santa’s visit we were able to distribute nearly 200 new toys to WICAP, the Pediatrics Ward at St. Lukes Hospital (downtown) and the Pediatrics Ward at MSTI and to the Marine Corps’ Toys For Tots Program.

None of the above would have happened if it were not for all the efforts and sacrifice made by the wonderful volunteers and members of this Post. You all deserve a great big round of applause! To start the new year off right your Post is in the process of renewing our Web Page. Paul Meyer and John Ernsberger are working to get the kinks out, stay tuned there will be a lot of useful information coming out on this project.