American Legion Chief Joseph Post 135
Serving Lolo Montana

Smoke Signals

From the Trail of Chief Joseph

Volume 2, Issue 6 *December 2008*

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Remembrance Day

Department Commander Elmer Palmer of Lolo traveled with six other members of The Department of Montana to assist in the Remembrance Day (November 11) Celebration with the Royal Canadian Legion Branches of Crow's Nest Pass Municipality, Alberta, Canada. Above Adjutant Gary White and Past Department Commander Merv Gunderson prepare to move the Ensign and Department Colors from the parade to the Remembrance Ceremony at Coleman Branch (Post).

A joint service was held at the local high school including a presentation of colors and a speech by Commander Palmer and one by Mayor John Irwin. Music and pomp were part of the celebration.

Remembrance Ceremonies were held at the Bellevue Branch, Blairmore Branch and finally the Coleman Branch.

Also attending were NEC Bob Beals, Alternate NEC Sylvia Beals, Past Service Officer Ruddy Reilly, and Past Post 2 Commander Wayne Hintz of Helena.

Chief Joseph Post Officers

Commander

Jim Hollandsworth 273-6715

First Vice Commander

Wes Tanner 543-6622

Second Vice Commander

Deborah Hancock 493-6187

Adjutant

Ryan McMillon 273-0485

Service Officers

Frank Rackley 273-2259

Larry Hanson 493-1189

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Michaelson 546-1658

Chaplains

Don Oberg 273-0772
Bill Center 273-0091

Finance Officer

Wes Tanner 543-6622

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee Meeting	*Dec 9*
Chief Joseph Post Regular Meeting Community Center	*Dec 16*
Executive Committee Meeting	*Jan TBA*
Chief Joseph Post Brunch Meeting Montana Club	*Jan 10*
Chief Joseph Post Regular Meeting Community Center	*Feb 17*
National Commander's Visit Post 27	*Mar 27*
Dist 5 Spring Meeting Host Post	*Mar 28*

Blue Star Banner Program:

The Blue Star Banner is a program to recognize those families that are supporting the war effort by having a family member serving in the Armed Forces. If you know of a family that has a member serving on Active Duty, please contact me at 493-1189 so that we can get their family a blue star banner.

I would like to find someone to help me with this program, so if you are interested please contact me by phone 493-1189 or E-mail loh_cih@yahoo.com.

Larry Hanson

Commander's Corner

Veteran's Day has passed and we are once again reminded of the price paid by our Veterans to preserve our freedom. It is a reminder that freedom has never been free and never will be.

I had the privilege of helping The American Legion Auxiliary do a flag folding ceremony at the Lolo School. We demonstrated how it would be done at a memorial service while Ron Hansell played taps at the end.

There were some questions asked of some of the Veterans and a lot of interest shown by the students. At one point the Veterans asked , " How many of you have Veterans or Active Duty Military in your family?" Almost all the hands went up. This made me think of how many Veterans are in this community who have not been given the opportunity to join our local American Legion Post and know about their benefits.

It brings up the question of whether we are doing a good enough job as members of our post to recruit new members into the American Legion. Whether it be our Post or another, it seems that there are a lot of veterans in our local area. This will be an agenda item at our next meeting. Bring your ideas.

Benefits:

American Legion members travel well with Avis.

Avis, one of the leading national car rental companies and is a preferred rental company with The American Legion and SAL. Avis provides quality car rental service and special discounted rates to those affiliated with The American Legion. They are proud to support those men and women who served or are serving their country during wartime.

Avis offers a special Avis Worldwide Discount number (**AWD # G343600**) that can be used on every rental for up to 25% off. If you are affiliated with The American Legion, save this number and use it often. By mentioning the AWD number when you rent, a portion of your rental will benefit The American Legion. PLUS, additional offers like free upgrades or free weekend days will also work in conjunction with The American Legion discount, so be sure to watch for other coupon discounts, as well.

There is a wide array of Avis products and services that could be useful to American Legion members. When you're getting ready to plan your next trip—whether it's a quick weekend trip, a long seasonal getaway or your next American Legion conference—consider all that Avis has to offer.

Comfort is key. Make your next road trip as comfortable as possible. Avis has a variety of vehicles to choose from. You'll enjoy the ride even more with comfortable seating and extra legroom. Call Avis to see what is available for your trip.

VIP treatment. Skip the lines with Avis® Preferred® service. It's a simple solution that will get you straight to your rental car. The service is free—just ask a rental agent to sign you up when you make a reservation.

Use the fast lane. Keep your trip moving with other great products, like Avis e-Toll™. With this product, you can pay tolls electronically. You'll be able to zip through toll lanes and get on your way fast.

Charting a course. The *where2*® GPS from Avis provides much more than turn-by-turn directions. It can suggest restaurants and recommend local attractions or upcoming events. You can also check the latest headlines, get the weather report, traffic updates* and even airport information.

Hello, neighbor. No matter where your final destination, Avis can help get you there. With over 900 locations, they're always right there when you need a car—at the airport or just around the corner.

For reservations, visit **avis.com** or call **1-800-225-7094**.

*Real-time traffic feature available in select cities. These services are optional and may be subject to availability at select locations for an additional fee.

One of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) main programs is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R). As a SAL member, rehabilitation means to be aware of what the Veteran has done for us as free Americans and to make our Veterans aware that we appreciate what they've done for us. Rehabilitation means to restore to a condition of health or useful and constructive activity. We can support Veterans in many ways. You can get involved in State Legislation supporting Veteran causes. You can collect daily personal care items for patients at the Ft Harrison Hospital, volunteer a day to drive the Valor House van to help homeless Veterans, or assist your neighborhood Veteran with lawn care or any other manual labor. There you have it. The SAL goes to great lengths to support VA&R and our Squadron needs to do the same. Let's think Community, State and Nation.

Membership Corner

Chief Joseph Post is still trying to connect with members who haven't paid their 2009 dues. Yes, I know it's not 2009 yet, but remember what I've written in past Smoke Signals on the importance of getting dues in before January.

I still want to hear from folks on what branch of service they served in. The application asks the question, but once it's processed the info is no longer available. Starting this year, we're recording it on a spreadsheet for all new members.

This month I want to share some American Legion partnerships. Hope you find something that interests you. The American Legion has been supporting military veterans and their families since 1919. Through our Heroes to Hometowns, Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance programs, Legionnaires are there for today's military men and women. An extensive network of service officers across the nation provides free veterans benefit counseling and assistance in filing service-related disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship provides college funds for children of military personnel who died since September 11, 2001

Feel free to contact Debbie Hancock with questions or suggestions at 406-493-6187 evenings or 406-329-2684 at work.

Service Officer's Notes

Family Assistance Center

This is sponsored by The Montana National Guard Family Programs. It is located at the National Guard Armory in Missoula. It's another great outlet for our Veterans, current military and families. Some of the assistance that they can provide:

Assistance with emergency financial issues
Legal information
Crisis intervention
Unit Updates
Social and emotional support for families during deployment and many more.

It is very important that we are aware of as many places as possible so we can refer the Veteran, soldier and their families in order to meet their needs. You never know when you may be confronted by someone who may need assistance.

The more places that we know, the better we can serve our community.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR AUXILIARY!

On Nov. 8, Lolo had its Christmas Bazaar at the Lolo Community Center. We joined the rest of our American Legion 135 Family (Legion, Riders, SAL and Jr. Auxiliary) with a table of baked goods, crafts, and membership information. The Jr. Auxiliary walked around handing out poppies and accepting donations. We wanted to let the community know WE ARE HERE in Lolo. We introduced interested folks to the Legion Family and will be connecting with them for possible membership. Some gave us names of loved ones serving OUT-CONUS. One of our projects this year is to provide packages to those serving in harms way. Those present had a great time meeting the community and explaining the Legion Family on what we do and stand for. We wish to add a big THANK YOU to those who gave up their week-end to assist in this endeavor.

Monday, Nov. 10 found us at Lolo School presenting a Flag Etiquette Program to approximately 200 middle school students, teachers and supportive staff. The program started on flag history; ways of display, raising and lowering the flag; why a flag would be hung upside down. Also included was what the flag means to us and to the rest of the world. We had 8 Veterans join us. They did a flag folding ceremony which one would see at a memorial service. The Veterans were Sean Herman, Larry Hanson, Gary Tripp, Jim Hollandsworth, Ron Hansell (bugler), Michael Herman, Jim Michaelson and Jacob Wilhelm (currently Active Duty Air Force). Jennifer Herman led a question and answer session between the Veterans and students. When it was mentioned that those Veterans present served in Vietnam, some students asked if the Veterans knew their grandparents or uncles. One question; "Why are the ladies wearing ribbons and the men are wearing hats?" brought a smile to those participating. At the end of the program, Dave Hansen accepted on behalf of the school 10 books titled The Presidents of the United States. Each student received a Flag Etiquette book and Flag Code pamphlet. We wish to thank all those who helped presenting their knowledge and respect to the flag. It is encouraging to see our joint efforts coming together with these events. We look forward to future evolutions together.

When you have given so much of yourself to the company you have nothing left that we can use.

American Legion Chief Joseph Post 135

Post Office Box 1365
Lolo MT 59847

Editor 273-0077

Still Serving America

Serving Veterans in the Lolo and surrounding area.
Regular Meeting the Third Tuesday of each month at the Lolo Community Center at 7:00 P.M.

Did you know....

The American Legion was born at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) in Paris, France. This caucus was the result of a proposal by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. to a group of representatives of A.E.F. divisions and service units. Roosevelt's vision resulted in the founding Paris caucus of March 15-17, 1919, and subsequent organizational caucus held May 8-10, 1919, in St. Louis, MO. His unwavering service during these vital times won him the affectionate title, "Father of The American Legion."

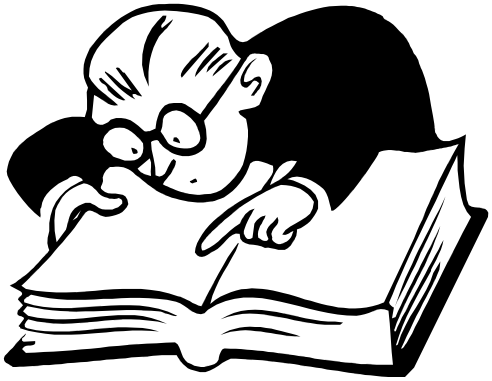
As the weary, homesick delegates assembled for that first Paris caucus, they brought with them the raw materials with which to build an association of veterans whose primary devotion was to God and Country. In the minds of those veterans of the A.E.F. were a number of lofty ideals, uppermost among them.

1 Creation of a fraternity based upon the firm comradeship born of wartime service and dedicated to fair and equitable treatment for all veterans, particularly the disabled, and the widows and orphans whose loved ones paid the ultimate price for freedom; **2**. Maintaining national security for America, including a universal military training program for the prevention of future world conflicts; and **3**. Promotion of patriotism and the combating of materialistic and totalitarian ideologies that recognize neither the honor nor the dignity of the individual.

It was at this Paris caucus that The American Legion received its name. The honor of naming the new organization went to Maurice K. Gordon, then a Major in the 36th Division and later a judge in Kentucky. A controversy had developed concerning the name, and it was Gordon who made the successful motion to label the fledgling group The American Legion.

While lofty principles were expounded at the Paris caucus, it was decided to leave the definition of permanent policies for a later and more representative meeting to be held in the United States. An executive committee of 100 members was named to complete the organization in the A.E.F., while a sub-committee of 17 returned to the United States to promote interest among those who had already returned to the States.

Even though The American Legion was formed overseas, organizers realized members of the armed services had no choice whether they served in the United States or overseas. Accordingly, it was decided that membership in The American Legion should be open to all who served honorably in the armed forces in World War I.



Did you know...

American Legion Extension Institute