



YELLOWSTONE POST 4
1540 BROADWATER AVENUE • BILLINGS, MT



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1-24

January – March 2024

Dates to Remember

- 1/1 – New Year’s Day
- 1/6 – Epiphany
- 1/15 – MLK Jr Day
- 1/22 – Lunar (Chinese) New Year
- 2/1 – National Freedom Day
- 2/2 – Groundhog Day
- 2/2 – National Wear Red Day
- 2/3 – Four Chaplains Day
- 2/4 – USO Day
- 2/13 – Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday
- 2/14 – Ash Wednesday
- 2/14 – St. Valentine’s Day
- 2/19 – Coast Guard Birthday
- 2/19 – President’s Day
- 3/2 – Read Across America Day
- 3/3 – Navy Reserve Birthday
- 3/3 – Employee Appreciation Day
- 3/4 – Hug a GI Day
- 3/5 – Seabee Birthday
- 3/10 – Daylight Saving’s Time Begins
- 3/11 – Ramadan Begins
- 3/13 – K-9 Veterans’ Day
- 3/15 – American Legion Birthday
- 3/17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- 3/21 – Rosie the Riveter Day
- 3/24 – Palm Sunday / Purim
- 3/25 – Medal of Honor Day
- 3/29 – National Vietnam War Veterans’ Day
- 3/29 – Good Friday

THE DEFINITION OF AMERICANISM

American Legion National Commander James E. Powers wrote in the May 1963 *American Legion Magazine* that he had been challenged to define the term “Americanism” for a new era. He wrote that of the 10 lines in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, seven refer to principles of Americanism.

“My real definition of Legion Americanism in 1963,” Powers explained, “would be the living record of what Legionnaires do this year to improve community, state and nation in thousands of projects ... what they do to give backbone to law and order ... what they do to oppose militantly the endless drive to supplant our American way with dictatorship ... what they do to transmit American principles through our Boys States and Girls States... through teaching thousands of youngsters the rules of fair play on the baseball diamond ... what they do to make the Constitution of the United States a familiar text to hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in our oratorical contest ... A full account of these deeds would be a definition of Americanism so huge it would fill an unabridged dictionary all by itself. It is a definition that is modern, progressive and alive.”

Rich Anderson, the current American Legion Americanism Commission chairman, echoes that time-tested definition.

“True Americanism is an ideology that is continually nurtured within one’s soul through individual daily actions, thoughts and beliefs in what their responsibilities are to be, blessed to live in one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.”

By Jeff Stoffer, January 22, 2019

Source: <https://www.legion.org/magazine/244581/definition-americanism>

COMMANDER’S CORNER

Hi All,

Just a quick note this time. We have had several new members join us and I would like to welcome them to the Post Family. We have lots of long-time members that we haven't seen for some time and here's hoping that you are doing well and will come visit soon.

We have a committee that needs some member participation. It is the Americanism committee, please consider helping us out. We have established an Auditing committee, a Judiciary committee, and a Nomination committee. Elections are approaching and if you have any suggestions, please let them know.

As this year comes to a close, I would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

– Jay Adams

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MONTANANS STRUGGLE & NEED HELP LONG AFTER VETERANS' DAY IS OVER

BOZEMAN — Veterans Day is a day filled with celebrations as we honored our nation's veterans. but as the events come to an end it's important that we don't forget the daily hardships some veterans face.

"I feel like there's a lot of veterans out there that just kind of feel very isolated and lost in the shuffle," says Air Force Veteran, Brianna Hope.

After nearly a decade of service transitioning back to civilian life is where Hope struggled. Hope says things became so tough she eventually ended up homeless a couple of times.

She isn't alone - according to the VA, **the population of homeless in Montana veterans has gone up 56 percent between 2021 and 2023** and they expect that number to grow as housing costs continue to rise.

"I've been homeless repeatedly since I moved to Bozeman," says Hope. "It just happens, and you end up there through no fault of your own necessarily."

It's not just homelessness but addiction and suicide. According to the VA, suicide among veterans in the Treasure State is twice the national average.

Hope says her advice is to celebrate and help veterans every day.

"I've always just been proud that I served my country. And so I just focus on that aspect too. But it does seem like on Veterans Day, it could be a good time for people to recognize that there's a lot of veterans out there that could use help," says Hope.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide you can call the **National Suicide Hotline at 988**.

Below is a phone number and link to the Veterans Affairs Homeless Programs and the Number for the Montana program:
(406) 447-6144

<https://www.va.gov/homeless>

By Edgar Cedillo, November 13, 2023
Source: <https://www.kbzk.com/news/local-news/montana-veterans-struggle-and-still-ask-for-help-even-long-after-veterans-day>

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Membership renewals was brought up in the December meeting; this will clear this up why you get so many renewal notices.

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine.

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, January, March and May. When a member renews, they are removed from future renewal notices for that year. There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please check with your local post to ensure they have received your dues.

Thanks, David Walters

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY – FEBRUARY 1ST

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." ~ 13th Amendment

National Freedom Day is a day that commemorates President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the joint resolution that established the Constitution's 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States. It is a day when, thanks to the decades-long push of Richard R. Wright and his fellow civil rights advocates, we commemorate our dedication to the ideal of freedom for all.

National Freedom Day also marks the culmination of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. More than 150 years after President Lincoln's promise of freedom, an estimated 24.9 million individuals around the world are exploited by human traffickers. Our nation struggles to overcome the consequences of both the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the ensuing campaigns of oppression against newly freed people and their descendants.

As we reflect on the work ahead of us to combat human trafficking and the entrenched disparities in laws and public policies, the Department of State will do everything in its power to revitalize its commitments and strengthen efforts to address these issues globally.

Source: <https://www.state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-human-trafficking/>

POST 4 MONTHLY EVENTS

- American Legion Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Executive Board Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- Legion Riders Meeting – Every 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Auxiliary Meeting – Every 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Dart League – Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday
- Pool League – Every Monday & Thursday

Find us Online!

Like us on Facebook & keep up to date with our Post events ... Search for:
American Legion Post 4

LEGION HALL RENTAL

Post 4 has TWO Banquet Halls (with bar) available to rent for special functions.
Please contact Maria Rivera at 406-671-4598 for more info.

MONTANA TALKS: BIG NEWS FOR MT VETERANS

Great news for our fellow veterans here in Montana, and especially our military retiree friends- you will now see 50% of your military pension EXEMPT from Montana state income taxes.

This isn't just great news for our military retirees, it's also great news for those of us who want to bring home our Montana men and women who are looking at where to retire after they leave the service. And, it is great news for our local economy as that money will now be invested back here in Montana instead of another state.

Senator Fuller is a Vietnam Veteran and remembers a time when veterans didn't get the thanks that they deserve:

Sen. Fuller: *"When I returned from Vietnam in 1969, I returned to an ungrateful nation. And I have done everything I could, as small as it might be, over the years to help change...we want retired military people to come to Montana and enjoy something else besides the scenery. We want them to come here and contribute to our workforce. I believe that it is a win-win for Montana. It's a win for our veterans and it's a win for our communities."*

Navy SEAL veteran and entrepreneur Tim Sheehy said several other states already exempted military pension income from taxes, and it was time for Montana to do the same.

Tim Sheehy: *"10% of our state are veterans. We're tied with Alaska basically as the highest percentage of veteran population in the nation, and yet 43 other states had an exemption for military retirement income, and we did not. That didn't make sense."*

Governor Gianforte, who is serving his first term as governor of Montana, says he was proud to sign the bill into law.

Gov. Gianforte: *"Here we have this reservoir of incredibly talented people, and we've been discouraging them from settling and bringing their military pension to Montana because we taxed it. No more. Thanks to the leadership of John Fuller 50% of military pensions for retired military will not be taxed in the state of Montana. That means our doors are open. We want veterans to come here and prosper here."*

Source: <https://montanatalks.com/big-news-for-montana-veterans-especially-military-retirees/> (listen to complete audio)

POST 4's

MESS HALL



KITCHEN HOURS

(new kitchen hours begin in May)

Monday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Saturday: 1:00 – 9:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

BAR HOURS

Monday – Friday: 5:00 PM 'til closing

Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 AM 'til closing

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

The Riders have been very busy this Fall. We presented the colors for Fusion Fight League three times. The Roaddogs Toy Run saw the Riders showing their support. We attended both the Young Marines dinner and the Dog Tag Buddies dinner. Our numbers continue to grow as we have added 8 new members! Elections were held in Decembers meeting, Trevor- Director, April- Assistant Director, Matt- SGT At Arms, Dave- Ride Captain.

Trevor Barnhart, Director
Yellowstone American Legion Riders
406-598-5055



STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

***** Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255 *****

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We would really like to be more inclusive of and see more activity from our Post 4 Legion members. If you have any ideas about how we can achieve this, please let us know by sending us an email:

Adjutant David Walters: alyellowstonepost4@gmail.com or
Past-Commander Gil Floyd: gils2002hd@yahoo.com

UPCOMING BAR FUNCTIONS

- Jan. 7 @ 10:00 am – Griz Nat'l Championship Tailgate & Party
- Feb. 11 – Superbowl Party
- Feb. 22 – 22 a Day event
- Feb. 24 – American Legion Scarlets BINGO
- Mar. 2 – Billings Senior High Rad Grad Fundraiser Adult Prom
- Mar. 12 or 19 – American Legion Taco Tuesday TBD
- Mar. 16 – St. Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage Special
- Mar. 22 – 22 a Day event
- Mar. 31 – Easter – CLOSED

As we move into Spring, our kitchen hours and Post events will change, so be on the lookout.

We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have comments or ideas to submit to the newsletter?

Email Gil Floyd at gils2002hd@yahoo.com.

The deadline for the next newsletter is December 10th.

AUXILIARY

Very promising progress is being made by the Post 4 Auxiliary Unit. While we are still waiting for approval of the application for the Unit 4 charter from National, we are moving forward. On the Friday before Veteran’s Day, we had a very successful Poppy Drive. Auxiliary members were at three separate locations. Plus, two Legion members did a fill-the-boot kind of drive during rush hour at the intersection of 24th and Central Ave. Donations of \$1,680 were collected in just a few hours. While some of the money is sent to the Department Auxiliary, the rest is available to our local unit to support veterans and their families.

Our unit is now working toward recruiting girls for Girls State. Several members are reaching out to community contacts to spread the word about this great program. The Unit already has a good sum available to reimburse the costs so a substantial group of girls may attend. The 2024 session of Girls State is to be held in June or July in Helena at Fort Harrison. As a reminder, girls who will have just completed their Junior year of high school this coming spring are eligible, with applications available at the school counselor’s office.

Also, we are currently reviewing proposed bylaws for the new unit with a draft having been presented at the November meeting. Further, all but a few members of Unit 117 have officially asked to transfer to Unit 4. New member applications continue to be received along with renewals for the membership year that ends December 31st. As a reminder, spouses, daughters, granddaughters, and mothers of Legion members are eligible for membership. Female veterans, of which we are proud to have quite a few, are eligible in their own right. We also hope to attract more junior members. Annual dues are just \$35 for adults, \$10 for junior members. Participating members are what make any organization successful. So we are pleased that attendance at the monthly meetings has at least doubled. We hope that more family members of Post 4 will choose to get involved.

Joy Mariska, Unit Secretary
Phone: 406-252-3680
jamariska2@gmailcom

POST 4 DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS

Commander Jay Adams
Vice Commander Pat Weber
Adjutant David Walters
Chaplain Daniel Stetler
Finance Officer Rick Friez
Sergeant-at-Arms John Miron
Post Historian Gil Floyd
Lifetime Honorary SAA ... Matt Grandpre

CONTACT INFORMATION

Post 4 Adjutant: David Walters
Email: alyellowstonepost4@gmail.com
Phone: 406-656-1510

Post Operations Director:
Maria Rivera
Email: mluzrivera11@gmail.com
Phone: 406-656-1510

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Gil Floyd, Past Commander
Jim Salsbury
Ryan Parsons



**Legion Meetings
are EVERY 3rd
Monday at
7:00 p.m.
Please join us!**



Lord, pour out your Spirit upon our nation on National Freedom Day and throughout the year.

Free us, liberate us, and unshackle us from our slavery and bondage to sin. Cleanse and purify us, beginning with the household of God. Raise up your army to pray for YOUR love, YOUR life, and YOUR liberty to be poured out upon this nation that so desperately needs YOU. Lord, let YOUR FREEDOM RING!
In Jesus name, Amen.