

Department of Oregon Award Winning Newsletter - Earle B Stewart American Legion Post 16



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April 2017

www.am.legion.post.16@gmail.com

**THE POST MEETING
WILL BE MOVED TO
SATURDAY APRIL 15
AT NOON. MEAL TO
FOLLOW. THIS MOVE
IS FOR ONE MONTH
ALONE AND WILL
THEN BE THE 2ND
SATURDAY AFTER
THAT. POST ELEC-
TIONS WILL BE HELD
AT THE MEETING**

Inside this Edition

Page 1: Thoughts on the annual Post Elections to be held April 15th. Membership Report.

Page 2: Department and District Office Seekers

Page 3: Food Drive Information and Post Improvements update. 70 Year Award to Leland Svarverud at the meeting on 15 April.



Douglas County Veterans Forum
Meeting is open to all Veterans
Tuesday April 18th at
5pm @ the Post

HEAR YE HEAR YE

At our upcoming meeting we will be electing a slate of officers to lead the Earle B. Stewart Post 16 for the next year.

A commonly heard complaint during the Legion election cycle from Department officer level to District level to Post level is that "the Legion is being run by a clique" or "run by the same people year after year."

Well, that is true to a certain degree. Members complain but don't step up and run for office. Not that many are interested in being a vital cog in the governance of the Legion.

So, don't complain! Seek a nomination. After your election you will be able to give back, and change the Legion into WHAT YOU WANT.

Let's hear from the plebiscite this year.

WHERE ARE THE REMAINING FEW MEMBERS LEFT TO RENEW FOR 2017?

THERE HAS BEEN A MINIMUM OF 6 NOTICES FOR RENEWAL FROM NATIONAL HQS. THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST 2 PERSONAL LETTERS FROM COMMANDER BERGADINE ASKING FOR YOUR RENEWAL? GET THEM IN ASAP! YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED. THANKS.

THOMAS ADAIR, JACQUELINE ALEN, J. BONEBRIGHT, KAYE CEPEDA, DENNIS CHURCH, RICHARD CONN, VERNON CONSTANTIN, H.A. COOL JR, DONALD DOLS, JAMES FITZPATRICK, JAMES FOSBACK, ANDY GAYLOR, CARL HUBEN-

JAMES HUCKINGS, PHIL HUNKER, PAUL HUNTER, CHRISTOPHER IVERS, LYNN JACOBSON, MAXIELANE KNOTTS, DALE LANG, LYLE LIGHT, DONALD MAXWELL, WILLIAM MCCART, JAMES MERRITT, KYLE O'CONNELL, LOWELL PARKER, BRIAN REED, DONALD ROBERTS, WILLIAM ROYCE, LORY SACKINGER, JAMES THOMASON, EUGENE UNRUH, KEITH VANATTA, DALE WAMBOLT, ROBERT WELKER, RICHARD WHARTON, WESLEY WILHITE, JOSEPH YROGUEN

Get the dues in and get the process brought to a close or let us know you are no longer interested in maintaining your membership.

Dept. and District 9 Office Seekers

At the 54th Annual American Legion Roundup held in Prineville from 17 March to 18 March. The following persons tossed their hats in the ring for National, and Departmental Offices:

NEC	Robert Liebenow
ALT NEC	John Reish
COMMANDER	Gene Hellickson
1ST VICE COMMANDER	Larry Hill
	Tom Harris
	Richard Shores
2nd VICE COMMANDER	Keegan Hodges
	Bob Bingham
FINANCE OFFICER	Robert Huff

District 9 Nominating Committee Selectees

COMMANDER	Steve Bergadine
1ST VICE	Don Adams

Larry Hill Running for Dept. First Vice Commander

Earle B. Stewart Post 16 is pleased to announce that our Adjutant Larry Hill has tossed his hat in the ring for the high office of Department 1st Vice Commander.

Larry has previously served as 1st Vice of the Department. He served 3 terms as District 9 Commander. He has been our long-time Adjutant. Larry was also Department of Oregon's Adjutant of the Year.

Larry lead Oregon members to being a 100% goal Department followed by a 98+% goal Department the following year. After total count he achieved 100% for the second year.



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"Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other is gold."

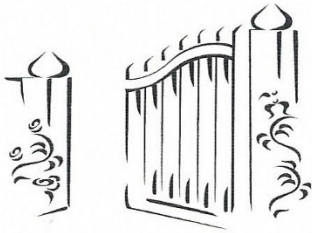
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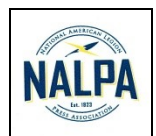
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Business Card size Ads in the Newsletter—12 Months for \$100.00 Contact the Post today & help support the Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter is published monthly by Earle B Stewart American Legion
Post 16 Roseburg, Department of Oregon
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SEMI ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO BE HELD AT SHERM'S THUNDERBIRD ON SATURDAY APRIL 1ST

The Four Pillars of the American Legion are the main reason we hold food drives so that we can stock our food bank to benefit veterans in need of sustenance for themselves and family members. They are eligible for assistance every 90 days.

In fact, the response to our assistance has necessitated our holding 2 drives per year vice only the one held in October.

The drive to be held this Saturday will be followed by our big holiday push on the first Saturday in October—the 74th at Sherm's.

A total of 50 veterans and their families were helped by Post 16 for food, gas, etc. We are making a positive impact on the most deserving of our veteran population in the Roseburg area. Looking forward to seeing you volunteer for the October drive.

Member To Be Honored for 70 Years of Continuous Membership.

It is an infrequent important occasion that a post has an opportunity to honor one of their for a long tenure as a Legionnaire.

It will be our honor and privilege to honor Leland Svarverud for 70 years of membership.

Think of it he joined the American Legion in 1946 just after the Big One. He is part of the "Greatest Generation".

This event alone should be enough to encourage your attendance at the April meeting on the 15th.

Come together and honor him for his long devotion to the American Legion.



Introducing you to the new chairs for the North and South rooms. They made by Myty Lite and are being procured through Wayfair. The cost will be \$44.89 each. We will order 50 black

chairs for the North Room and 50 brown chairs for the South Room. We will have to split the order in half in order to procure what we want. So the chairs should be making an appearance within the next month and 1/2.

Estimates on coating and striping the parking lot should be in next week and after the weather dries out, the work can commence.

The Finance Office now has a new Dell desktop, 24 inch flat panel monitor, Quick Books 2017, the entire Windows Suite, Kaspersky security. All set-up by Staples.

On March 31 we will be visited by Spectrum to install the high speed internet connection and phone system.

Another project that is under consideration is painting the brown paneling in the Post white or another light neutral color. Input please.

Any other ideas for post beautification would be most appreciated. Come to a meeting and stand up and put your idea(s) out there.

Pittsburgh Tribune: [VA care billed as priority in Legion leader's visit to Jeannette](#)

Charles E. Schmidt, National Commander of the American Legion attended a dinner at Jeanette American Legion Post 344 on March 22, **2017**. Members of the Jeannette American Legion Post 344 got a chance Wednesday night to meet their national president, the third time in recent history that the post has hosted the organization's top officer.

"Tonight is the final stop," National Commander Charles Schmidt said of the roughly 180 posts he has visited in the first half of his yearlong term. The tour included about eight posts throughout Pennsylvania.

Schmidt said his primary focus has been on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which Legion members helped bring into existence in 1921 as the U.S. Veterans Bureau.

"Now that the election is over and we have a new (VA) secretary, we want to make sure veterans get the care they've earned and have ready access to that care," Schmidt said.

Toward that end, Legion administrators conduct about a dozen visits to VA facilities each year, generating a report that is submitted to Congress.

"What health care system knows vets better than the VA?" Schmidt said. "It's been serving them since the 1920s. We believe it's a system worth saving." Schmidt said he has confidence that President Trump will make good on his campaign-season promises to veterans.

"I'm optimistic," he said. "He sounded very supportive as a candidate, and as a president, he seems like someone who, if he says something, he'll go to work and get it done."

On the campaign trail, Trump pledged to not only increase health care options for veterans but to establish a 24-hour White House hotline where complaints about the VA can be addressed quickly and effectively.

Schmidt, a 33-year Legion member and Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, is looking at the organization's membership rolls. Since taking office, 39,000 new members have been recruited into the organization, about 90 percent of the target goal Schmidt hopes to reach by the end of May.

"We're always looking to get Iraq and Afghanistan vets the opportunity to find out what the American Legion does and what it can do for them," he said.

Leonard Dulik, first vice commander at Post 344, said he was looking forward to hearing Schmidt's message to members at Wednesday's dinner.

"Anytime the national commander is coming to your post, it's a great event for the post and the community," Dulik said.

Patrick Varine is a staff writer for the Tribune-Review. He can be reached at 724-850-2862 or pvarine@tribweb.com.



The Officers of the Post thought it would be fitting to incorporate a monthly section honoring those members who have been called from our midst and have gone to report to Post Everlasting.

This month we are grateful that we do not have to report any of our members who have gone on.

For all veterans -Our sincere condolences to all the families and friends of those who were called from our midst.

Post officer Nominations for 2017-2018

COMMANDER—LARRY HILL

1ST VICE—DALE NELSON

2ND VICE—DOUG PAGE

ADJUTANT— STEVE BERGADINE

FINANCE OFCR—MIKE HARPER

SVC OFFICER—BUD BESSEY

HISTORIAN —KIRK CONNOR

CHAPLAIN—TED BLANN

SGT. AT ARMS-ROBERT SMITH

JAG—MIKE HAMPTON

Like those in Chicago say—"Vote Early and Vote Often"

I say—Just Vote



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Post 16 Officers

Commander



1st Vice



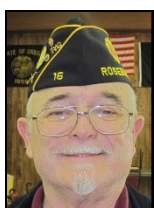
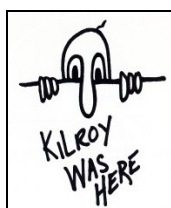
2nd Vice

Adjutant



Finance Officer

Chaplain



Sgt. At Arms Service Officer



of Smith Bud Bessey

Historian

JAG



Kirk Conner



Doug Page

The Arctic Dew Line By Dale Nelson

It was late spring of 1955, and the cold war was going wide open. Russia had the "bomb," and the obvious direction of any attack on the US would be over the north pole. I was just out of boot camp, assigned as a deck ape on the USS Merrick, AKA 97. I reported aboard the Merrick at Long Beach, California, in May, and soon after that the ship was under way to Seattle, Washington to take on cargo, to be delivered to the arctic shores of Alaska and Canada. It was called Operation DEW Line, the Dew meaning Distant Early Warning, a string of radar stations across the top of Canada, to pick up on Russian bombers or missiles heading toward north America. I've been told it was a bigger deal than the Panama Canal, but nothing much was said about it, because it was the cold war after all, and even though the Russians probably knew everything they needed to know about DEW line, it wasn't reported on at the time. I know there were 60 ships in the convoy that left Seattle for the arctic, and an equal number heading west across the top of Canada, probably the last convoy of ships that large to be assembled in the history of the world.

The USS Merrick was an "Attack Cargo" ship. Even though she was armed with anti aircraft guns, her main battery was the 24 landing craft she carried, 8 of which were LCM's, or Landing Craft Mechanized, a boat 56 feet long, weighing 55 tons, with twin grey marine diesel engines, and twin screws and rudders. The LCM's were the boat that went with us to the Arctic, the smaller LCVP's were left in Seattle. The AKA was a ship design born during WWII, to take Marines and their cargo, trucks, jeeps, artillery etc. through the surf to the beach, and because there are no docks for ships to go alongside in the arctic, the LCM's were necessary to bring the cargo to the beach, at the site chosen for the radar station.

The entire operation took 66 days from Seattle and the return to Seattle. At the time, we were the largest ship to go around Alaska, and on into the Coronation Gulf of Canada, which, if you look at a map, the farthest east we made it was directly north of Great Slave Lake. We were towed through ice by the Coast Guard icebreaker Northwind going in, and coming out the ice was actually a little worse, and for a time there was talk like we were going to be stuck there for the winter. The Northwind would back off, make a run on the ice, and actually ride up on the flow, and the weight of the ship would break the ice and open a channel. Once back in the states, the ship had to go into dry dock at Hunters Point in San Francisco, and have the bronze screw replaced because it had been damaged very badly by the ice.

Northwind Icebreaker



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Post Meeting Saturday March 11, 2017



April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Food Drive Sherm's 0900
2	3 Post Open 1200—1500	4	5 <i>VetNet 1000</i> <i>Lang Center</i> <i>UCC</i>	6	7 Post Open 1200-1500 DCVF Ex. Bd. 1200	8
9	10 Post Open 1200-1500 VSO VA 1300	11	12	13	14 Post Open 1200-1500 Ash Wednesday	15 Post Meeting And elections. 1200. Lunch
16 <i>Easter</i>	17 Post Open 1200-1500	18 DCVF 1700	19	20 VA Chapel Service 1200 Death Benefit Seminar 1700	21 Post Open 1200-1500	22
23/20	24 Post Open 1200-1500	25	26	27	28 Post Open 1200-1500	29