RALPH GRACIE
American Legion Post #14, Bemidji, Minnesota

218-760-3750 • post14bemidji@mnralphgraciepost14.org

"They continue to serve in peace who served so nobly in time of war"

Sept/Oct 2017 Newsletter **Vol. 34 No. 4**

LEGION OFFICERS May 2017 TO May 2018

Commander	Claude Sand	820-4839
1st Vice Comm.	Chris Settle	467-9229
2nd Vice Comm.	Bill Pagel	759-7279
Adjutant	Rachel Buttenhoff	759-7279
Finance Officer	Richard Robinson	444-8992
Historian	Jim Haskell	444-7777
Chaplain	Gabe Wakonabo	308-4624
Service Officer	Kathy Ramos	308-3421
Sergeant at Arms	Glen Desizlets	444-8427
Past Commander	Tom Annonson	751-9549
Gambling Manager	Harry Settle	209-1804

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Bob Aitken, Kenny Dunlap, Patrick Winkler

40 & 8 OFFICERS

Chef-de-Gare	Bob Matheny
Chef-de-Train	Bob Matheny
Correspondent	Wayne Johnson
Commis Voyageur	Bob Aitken
Aumonier	John O'Boyle
Conductor	Bill Pagel
Lampiste	Bruce Malterud
Guard-de-Laporte	Wayne Johnson

S.A.L.

Commander ..... Doug Zarling

Committee Members have been appointed. If you have information or questions in any of those areas contact the membes listed. They are:

Americanism: Boys State/BS/CAP/JROTC/Safery Patrol Legionville and Oratorical. Members: Chris Settle, Gabe Wakonabo, Pat Winkler, Kathy Ramos
Honor Guard: Bill Pagel, Bob Aitken
Events/Housekeeping: Rachel Buttenhoff, Tom Anonson, Bob Aitken (Bonspiel), Kathy Ramos, Connie Aguilla
Membership: Rachel Buttenhoff, Kathy Ramos, Joe Vene
Finance: Dick Robinson, Bob Aitken, Roger Heger
Gambling: Harry Settle, Ken Brandt, Steve Modich
Information Technology: Harry Settle, Mike Deer
Resolutions: Jim Haskell, Mike Deer

MISSION STATEMENT

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Commander's Corner

Great news to start out my message. The very next day after our last meeting I recieved notice from the IRS that our Non-Profit status had been reinstated. The effective date was back dated to the day we lost our status 15 Jan 2015. That was intended so as to not interfere with any activities we may have had using the Non-Profit status. This means we can start to get our Gambling operation back in business. Harry has set up classes already. He will be attending a seminar mid Sep. If all goes well we'll start gambling at Lazy Jacks by Dec-Jan.

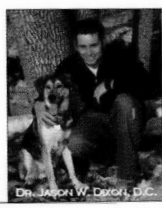
We conducted a memorial on Aug 12 for Post 14 namesake Ralph Gracie. Jim Haskell read about the day he went down. We gave a rifle salute, TAPS and Joe Vene led us in our Nation Anthem. It was Aug 12, 1918 that he was shot down in operations off the English Channel. There were about 20 people in attendance and our intention is to make this an annual event so mark your calendars for next year.

Member FDIC
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BEMIDJI
502 MINNESOTA AVE., P.O. BOX 670, BEMIDJI, MN 56619-0670, PHONE 218-751-2430
www.fnbbemidji.com
(218) 751-2430

Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS
www.paulbunyan.net

Olson-SCHWARTZ FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
www.olsonschwartzfuneralhome.com
(218) 751-3159

RITCHIE CONSTRUCTION License# BC668778
Troy Ritchie - 218-556-0447
Bemidji, Minnesota

DIXON ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC
Where Being Specific Makes the Difference
218-444-8540
PO Box 1786
BEMIDJI, MN 56619


"OIF & OEF VETERAN"

Even though we did not have a great turnout for the family picnic, we had great cooks and plenty of food. Harry Settle and Bill Pagel were gracious enough to do the honors of cooking for us. Email, call or text if you would like us to continue a family picnic in the future.

The 4th of July parade was fun as always. Our Honor Guard marched first in leading the parade right behind the sheriff's car. Gabe Wakonabo was a hit wearing the WWI uniform again. Needless to say he stayed hydrated in that wool garb.

The 40 & 8 had a wonderful breakfast as well on Jul 2. Ken Brandt and his son were the main cooks as well as Rachel and Bruce doing the pancakes. The Aitken's made it a family affair bringing their grandson with them. He bussed many a table and lasted to the end. It was slow at first and he kept asking what else he could. Sound like an Aitken to you?

As mentioned in the last Newsletter Lakeland Public TV is still looking for Vietnam Vets who would like to attend the special showing at the Casino in Walker. Please call me direct if you are interested. We were also denied an opportunity to host the Minnesota Humanities program concerning Vietnam Vets and issues they confronted when they returned from RVN.

The Honor Guard has lost another long time member. Kenny Dunlap just can't do it anymore and turned in his uniform. We still want Kenny to attend when he can and we'll be happy to bring a chair for him. Thank you Kenny for your many years of dedicated service to the Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard is doing well but we are in need of more members. It's a fact we are getting older and would like to see some younger blood to carry on the traditions. It is an honor to provide this one last service to our fallen. We will provide you with the proper uniform.
I ask you again to consider volunteering for this mission. Two new members have stepped up and volunteered for the Honor Guard. Pat Winkler and Mike Deer have joined us and will be called as soon as we can get their uniforms completed. Thank you Pat and Mike for answering the call.

Claude Sand, *Commander*
Ralph Gracie Post 14

Gambling Update

The news has improved greatly! As of a couple of weeks ago, we have received news from the IRS that our 501c(19) status has been restored effective back to 2015. The lack of a 501 status was THE major stumbling-block to moving forward with Post 14 gambling operations.

What now?? I have been pouring over paperwork like a mad man, and I have our License application, Gambling Manager License application, site and premisis applications, all complete and ready to turn in, and awaiting signatures from the proper people.

I am signed up for the Gambling Manager seminar being held September 13th – 14th, and will re-take the test for certification. Our Commander will probably be signed up tor training in November. (Both the Commander, and the Gambling Manager have to be trained) Once the training is out of the way, we can then submit all of the apps for startup at Lazy Jack's.

The good news?! I can't see anything at all left in our way once training, and applications are taken care of. So, my guess is for startup probably in December.

Harry Settle
Gambling Manager

The American Legion

For God and Country

★ MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS ★ P.O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055
★ (317) 630-1253 ★ Fax (317) 630-1368

The American Legion 98th Birthday 2017

The American Legion
Media & Communications Division
March 2017

Carry the Legacy Forward. It's the theme chosen by National Commander Charles Schmidt during his year leading the nation's largest and most influential veterans organization.

And as we observe the 98th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, we would be remiss not to reflect on the momentous struggle that redefined the world and ultimately gave birth to the organization that we honor today.

World War I was the war to end all wars. At least that's what many hoped its legacy would be. With technological advances such as machine guns, poison gases and explosives of greater intensity … with nearly 10 million killed worldwide…with almost 30 million wounded and injured, surely nations would be too sensible and too decent to repeat such a horrific tragedy.

Captain Roy Hudson was a dentist from Killeen, Texas. During the war, he commanded a medical detachment in France. In a 1918 letter to his wife Kate he wrote, "the American public will never know, for words cannot possibly express the awfulness this present war means and what our boys as well as the Allies have gone through and put up with…I will have to tell you later."

Fortunately, Captain Hudson was able to tell his wife what he experienced, for he did return home, where he became an early member of American Legion Post 76 in Austin, Texas.

As a Legionnaire, Dr. Hudson recited the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution which included the pledge to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great War." The promise was later pluralized to include World War II and subsequent wars, the only change ever made to that eloquent mission statement.

Like Roy Hudson, Legionnaires everywhere were able to share their memories with Americans in their communities. Post 76 attracted a crowd of 25,000 at a 1937 Fourth of July picnic, according to the Austin American Statesman. By comparison, in an age of modern transportation and greater population, the average attendance at an NBA basketball game last season was just more than 17,000.

Those early Legionnaires, the veterans whose legacy we are entrusted to continue, had a missionary zeal to ensure that no veteran, no widow and no orphan would do without the care and comfort of a grateful nation because of the sacrifice that they had made.

One of the most prominent Legionnaires of that era was Harry Colmery, the primary author of the GI Bill. He had started a law practice in Utah when he enlisted in the Army Air Service in 1917. Immediately commissioned as a lieutenant, he became a combat pursuit pilot and logged more than 500 hours in the air. He didn't deploy because he was instead assigned to training other World War I aviators.

This experience using early "combat flying machines" led to a lifelong advocacy of proper equipment and safety for U.S. military personnel. It also unleashed the leadership potential of the young veteran who would later be elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Numbers, dedication and tenacity are the reasons that Commander Colmery and The American Legion wielded enough influence to pass monumental legislation such as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

The American Legion was born in Paris, France, in March 1919, after which a caucus in St. Louis was held. The organization was chartered in September and held its first convention in Minneapolis in November 1919.

Virtually unknown due to its infancy, The American Legion had more than 843,000 dues-paying members by the end of its first year. This was an especially remarkable feat in a world without the Internet, televisions, telephones and other media that we take for granted today. There was no interstate highway system and car ownership was still not widespread.

Yet The American Legion grew to become the largest and most powerful veterans organization because its message resonated. While many veterans groups and other associations prohibited women from joining, The American Legion was open to all eligible wartime veterans regardless of gender, race or religion. Women were able to vote for the National Commander of The American Legion before they could legally vote for the president of the United States.

Founded on the Four Pillars of care for veterans, strong national defense, Americanism, and the wholesome development of youth, The American Legion offered its members the opportunity to continue to serve America long after they hung up their military uniforms for good.

It is service that continues in communities throughout the country today. Last year, American Legionnaires volunteered more than 645,000 hours to the VA Voluntary Service Program. Posts of The American Legion sponsored more than 2,400 Scouting units benefiting approximately 61,000 young people. More than 75,000 pints of blood were donated by Legionnaires, according to the latest consolidated post reports. Post service officers also processed 149,216 benefit claims for veterans, free of charge and regardless of American Legion membership status.

Ninety-eight years is a remarkable stretch of service for an organization whose founders hoped that it would one day have to close due to the end of all war. That idealism was replaced by realism and while veterans love peace, they love their country more.

But even something as destructive as a world war was able to produce a light. That light shined upon four pillars and a large group of veterans who continued to serve their communities. Those veterans were called Legionnaires and For God and Country we associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.
Not a bad legacy. It's up to us to carry it forward.

Thank you, God Bless America and God Bless The American Legion.

VETERAN MEMORIAL WALL TILES

AMERICAN LEGION ROOM

EXAMPLE 1: (DATES SERVED)

MMC HARRY D. SETTLE JR
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED
Served
JANUARY 1968 - OCTOBER 1992

EXAMPLE 2: (BIRTH & DEATH)

BMC HARRY D. SETTLE
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED
B: January 3, 1916
D: August 22, 2012

Make checks payable to: Ralph Gracie Post 14

American Legion Post 14 (Veterans Tiles)

PO Box 1099

Bemidji, MN 56619-1099

Cost:

Ralph Gracie Post 14 Members	$10.00
All Others:	$15.00

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY **(use separate form for each tile desired)**

LINE 1:_____

LINE 2:_____

LINE 3:_____

LINE 4:_____

CONTACT INFO: **EXAMPLE#**_____

NAME:_____ **PHONE:**_____

ADDRESS:_____

EMAIL:_____

Questions?? Email us at: memorials@mnralphgraciepost14.org

Other questions: post14bemidji@mnralphgraciepost14.org

Legion phone number: 218-760-3750

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Ralph Gracie Post 14 The American Legion

YES! I'll help my fellow veterans by becoming a member of The American Legion. I certify by forwarding this application that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked below and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

____ I am sending a check or money order for $45.00 for my first year's membership.

NAME: _____.
First Middle Last

ADDRESS: _____.
Street/PO Box City State ZIP

PHONE: ( )_____( )_____( )_____.
Home Cell Work

E-MAIL: _____ *Date of Birth*:_____.

Please select the appropriate date of service:
_____ Operation Desert Shield/Storm (2 Aug 1990 – Today)
_____ Operation Just Cause (20 Dec 1989 – 31 Jan 1990)
_____ Lebanon/Grenada (24 Aug 1982 – 31 Jul 1984)
_____ Vietnam War (28 Feb 1961 – 7 May 1975)
_____ Korean War (25 Jun 1950 – 31 Jan 1955)
_____ WWII (7 Dec 1941 – 31 Dec 1946)
_____ WWI (6 Apr 1917 – 11 Nov 1918)

Please indicate branch of service:

_____ US Army _____US Navy _____US Air Force _____US Marines

If you would like a Legion cap or shirt, please indicate the size below and submit payment with your membership. We will call you when it arrives for you to pick up.

_____ Cap Un-Lined, (size 5 ¾ - 8 1/2)
_____ Shirt Short Sleeve (S/S) (size)
_____Shirt Long Sleeve (L/S) (size)

Membersip: 45.00 _____.____
Cap: 47.95 _____.____(has Bemidji, MN on the side)
S/S Shirt: 48.95 _____.____(has flag on left/legion emblem on the right)
L/S Shirt: 54.95 _____.____(has flag on left/legion emblem on the rigtht)

TOTAL Submitted: _____.____(check please)

Adjutant Corner

Ralph Gracie Post 14 has been busy with membership renewals. Currently we have 175 membership renewals which puts us at 51.64% so far this year. Please mail in your dues of $45.00 to: Ralph Gracie Post 14, PO Box 1099, Bemidji MN 56619-1099. Dues may also be paid online at www.legion.org/membership with a credit card. The Minnesota American Legion has a lot of information about discounts for American Legion Members online.

Your American Legion Benefits

Good Reasons To Join

Membership in The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion brings with it special benefits that not only provide protection for your family, but substantial money-saving discounts. As a member, you are eligible to participate in The American Legion Life Insurance Program, low cost life insurance, unique life insurance plans designed to meet the needs of Veterans of all ages and their spouses. You'll also get special discounts from moving companies, car rental companies, and thousands of hotels and motels. You will also enjoy healthcare discounts on eyewear and prescription drugs. Using any one of these discounts regularly can easily offset your entire year's dues. It's a benefit package your entire family can enjoy! An important thing to remember about the benefits is to call ahead for reservations, if applicable, such as hotel and rental car reservations. Also, call or write for current rates on investments - money market, CD's and The American Legion Annuity.

The most important reason to join is the amazing ability of the American Legion to influence Congress in dealing with veterans issues. Your membership dollars are helping to stop the erosion of our benefits and making them more solid than ever before. Thank you in advance for continuing your membership and making us an even stronger voice for Veterans. If we don't than who will??

Ralph Gracie Post 14 Auxiliary News

President's Message Fall is upon us and the Auxiliary is starting a new year in helping our heroes, our veterans. You can help them by renewing your membership. Did you know how valuable your membership is? Each member we have counts as a vote in Congress. Each year our National Legionnaires go to Washington to rally for veterans rights and they bring the membership count with them. This is our way of letting congress know what we want for our veterans. Your membership will be coming to you mid September. When you receive your renewal notice make sure we have your correct address and phone number. Make your corrections on the renewal notice and send it to me along with your check. If you know of a family member or friend that would like to become a member to the Auxiliary let me know or have them come to our meeting which will be held on September 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles.

At our September meeting we will be planning out our years events and having the installation of new officers. Come and bring your input in making our Auxiliary great.

Continue to pray for all our military and their families. God bless them and keep them safe from evil. Have a great enjoyable fall until we meet again.

For God and Country,
Stella Wakonabo *President*

AUXILIARY OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN 2016-2017

President	Stella Wakonabo	218-556-3971
First Vice President	Martha Schmidt	218-444-4455
Second Vice President	Cheryl Fredenburg	218-760-2219
Secretary		
Treasurer	Sharon Thiemecke	218-209-1124
Chaplain	Karen Jacobson	218-444-5789
Historian	Darlene Lind	218-444-5424
Sergeant-at-Arms	Darlene Peterson	218-751-3415

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Edythe Christianson, Darlene Lind, Sharon Thiemecke

CHAIRMEN

Americanism	Darlene Lind
Children & Youth	Donna Wilson
Community Service	Darlene Peterson
Education	open
Girls State	Kay Mack
Leadership	open
Legislation	Stella Wakonabo
Membership	Stella Wakonabo
Memorial	Karen Jacobson
National Security	open
Parliamentarian	Darlene Lind
Past Presidents Parley	Stella Wakonabo
Poppy	open
Public Relations	Cheryl Fredenburg
Service to Veterans	Martha Schmidt
Sunshine	June Roxstrom
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Martha Schmidt

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families

To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion

To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship

To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy

To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government

To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities

To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty

Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families

Tradition of patriotism and citizenship

Personal integrity and family values

Respect for the uniqueness of individual members

Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members

Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

THE RALPH GRACIE POST 14
AMERICAN LEGION
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Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-1099
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Upcoming Legion Events 2017

September Executive Meeting Lazy Jacks TBA

Sept 28 Legion meeting Lazy Jacks @ 7:00 Social hour/dinner 6:00PM

Oct 12 Executive Meeting Lazy Jacks 6:00PM

Oct 26 Legion meeting Lazy Jacks @ 7:00 Social hour/dinner 6:00PM

Nov 11 Executive Committee meeting at 5PM. Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner 6 PM.

Nov 16 Regular meeting at Lazy Jacks

Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day (VFW Event)

Dec 14 Executive Committee meeting at 6PM.

Dec 21 Regular meeting, social/meal at 5:30PM and meeting at 7PM. We're thinking about a dinner with spouses.