



# THE POST 57 GAZETTE

## FRED E. HAYES POST 57 THE AMERICAN LEGION

PO Box 56, Grandview WA 98930-0056

Phone: 509-882-1984, Fax: 882-0415

Email: [adjutant.walegion57@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.walegion57@gmail.com)

Summer 2020 Edition



**Commander: Robert Gates • Adjutant / Service Officer: James Davidson • Chaplain: John Myers**

### From the Desk of Commander Gates

As we start the 2020-2021 year we see a situation much different than what we have seen in the past. Essentially all Department (State) and National activities and programs were cancelled, including Conventions and youth programs.

I do want to remind you that we want all to be safe while we as a Post continue to pursue those activities to support our members, our veterans and our community. Please renew your membership now.

Please do not think that just because of the shutdowns due to COVID-19 that we cannot continue with our support. I also encourage all to make buddy calls to check on fellow veterans and friends.

We have got our flag disposal box completed and are awaiting permission from the City and a location for placement of the box. It looks great.

We continue with our sponsorship of Red Cross blood drives every 2 months. We encourage all who are able to do so, please donate.

***Our next blood drive will be held Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 6 PM at The Grandview Community Center.***

### 2020 – 2021 Post & Unit Officers

The following persons were elected to serve the Post for the coming year at our specified annual meeting in May. Auxiliary officers have continued in their positions.

- Commander: Robert Gates
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Dudley Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Richard Zook
- Adjutant / Finance Officer: James Davidson
- Chaplain: John Myers
- Sgt-at-Arms: Vicky Gates
- Executive Committeeman: Curt Nealen (2022)
- Executive Committeeman: Leonard McGrath (2021) – Deceased July 2020
- Service Officer: James Davidson
- Judge Advocate: vacant
- Historian: vacant
- Wreaths Across America: Sally and Gary Van Horn
- Auxiliary President: Betty George
- Auxiliary Secretary: Nancy Davidson

**Like us on Facebook and visit our web page at [www.walegion57.org](http://www.walegion57.org)**

### Scheduled Events / Activities

**(Subject to Change)**

*Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, we have not been able to meet face-to-face since March. We have continued meetings through teleconference, which has worked quite well. We are not doing Zoom meetings (video conference) since many members do not have the technology to participate. Join us by phone at published meeting times by calling 518-318-5026.*

**Regular Meetings:** All meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Grandview Community Center Conference Room, 812 Wallace Way, Grandview. Enter through the Senior Center entrance. No meetings in July & August. Members may join by teleconference, as noted above.

- Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>
- Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (Annual Meeting / Elections)
- Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Red Cross Grandview Community Blood Drives:**

*All Blood Drives are from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Dining Room of the Community Center.*

- Wednesday, August 1<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

### Ceremonies:

#### **Wreaths Across America**

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM  
Grandview Cemetery

#### **Memorial Day Activities / Ceremonies**

(All events at Grandview Cemetery)

##### **"Flags-in"**

Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM

##### **Memorial Day Ceremony**

Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 AM

##### **"Flags-out"**

Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM

### Meals:

*All events are at the Grandview Community Center.*

#### **Veterans Day "SOS" Brunch and Public Safety Awards**

Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM

**Reservations Preferred**

#### **Annual Community Crab Feed**

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM

**Reservations Required**

#### **"Bunny Breakfast"**

Associated with Grandview's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd, 9:00 AM

### Fundraisers:

#### **Wreaths Across America**

*Raises funds to place wreaths on Veteran graves and pay for Post programs. Runs July to December (includes direct purchases, donations and wrist band sales).*

#### **Community Penny-a-Day Campaign**

*This activity raises funds to pay for Post programs, including many youth programs and runs during the month of February.*

#### **Wreaths Across America**

Our Post sponsors Wreaths Across America (WAA) for the Grandview Cemetery. As noted above, the ceremony will be December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Donors are asked to donate \$15 to buy a wreath to decorate the grave of a veteran buried in Grandview. Over 500 wreaths are needed for the Grandview Cemetery. For the last several years, we have been able to cover every grave in Grandview and have supplied wreaths for graves in Sunnyside, Prosser, Patterson, Bickleton and Mabton.

WAA Chairman Sally Van Horn will be seeking donations beginning in September. Wreaths may be purchased for other cemeteries (Prosser, Sunnyside,

etc.) but arrangements must be made to pick them up at the Grandview ceremony on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to purchase a wreath, contact Sally at 509-882-0416.



### **Post Presents Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Humanitarian Awards**

At the Veterans Day Brunch, the Post presented the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Benton County Sheriff Deputy Dean Perry in recognition of his service and for saving the life of a drowning youth.

Post member Ray Vining was named Humanitarian of the Year for his many years of service to the community, Scouts, the Museum and the Yakima Valley Junior Fair.

### **Programs Supported by Post 57**

What do we do? This year, as we tallied up what we had done in the communities, along with our Auxiliary Unit, we found we far exceed what most Posts do in donations, time and talent. Looking just at our financial contributions we were able to make due to the support of you and our Post friends, this is what you can say we do:

#### **National Programs**

- The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation
- American Legion Charities
- National Emergency Fund
- Operation Comfort Warriors
- Child Welfare Fund
- Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Citizen's Flag Alliance
- USO Northwest
- American Gold Star Mothers of Washington
- American Red Cross – Blood Services
- Wreaths Across America
- Operation Homefront

#### **Local Programs**

- Yakima Valley Veterans Coalition
- Yakima County Veterans Program Food Pantry
- Graves Registration, Grandview Cemetery
- Flag Maintenance at Legion Park
- American Legion School Awards in Grandview Schools
- Grandview High School Vocational & Athlete Scholars Program
- Extra Mile Student Center
- Life Options – Aware Program
- Grandview Community Center
- Scouts BSA Troops 643 & 644; Cub Scout Pack 643

- Public Safety Awards
- Flag Education, Etiquette, Flag Disposal & Flag Lowering Notifications
- Boys State and Girls State
- Walla Walla VA Christmas Party
- "Little Free Library" at Grandview Community Center

**Please Pick a Program Where You Can Help!**

## Chaplain's Corner by Chaplain Myers

**7 Strategies for a Time of Pandemic.** We are living in a time of global Pandemic. COVID-19 has affected nearly everyone on the planet. We are all impacted by the restrictions and changes placed upon us. I have been acutely aware of the stresses these changes have had on me. It has been a challenge and struggle to find ways that can help cope with the physical, mental, and spiritual stresses that have arisen due to the disease and my sometimes-unhealthy responses to it. In searching for resources to help answer these concerns I have found a few helpful tools. I would like to share the following writing. It was written by Marina McCoy. Following Stephen Covey's catchy book title, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, McCoy offers 7 Spiritual Strategies for a Time of Pandemic.:

Isolation is perhaps one of the greatest challenges many of us are facing. It has produced symptoms in many that are like those associated with depression. One positive response to the conditions (quarantine, etc.) that we and others are imposing on us is to engage and be active in the ways we can (act-happy-to-be-happy). We must stay vigilant to guard against the malaise, depression and worry that can set in due to social isolation.

### 7 Spiritual Strategies for a Time of Pandemic

By Marina McCoy

**Pray.** God is listening. I firmly believe that God is with us, as close as we are to ourselves, and even closer. When I pray, I wait for God to reply, not always knowing how God will reply, but trusting that God will. When I pray for others, such as my mother who lives in another state, I know that they are with me in the time of prayer, as much as if they were in the same room. In God's presence, we are all united.

**Stay connected.** I was recently in a self-quarantine for 14 days after my husband fell ill with flu-like symptoms after we returned from Europe. (We are all healthy now.) I found that staying connected through video programs like Zoom, Skype, or Google Meet, or texting or phone calls, were all great ways to stay in relationship with others beyond my quarantine. Human beings are social and need connection.

**Reach out.** Not ill or self-quarantined? See what the neighbors need. We can still practice social distancing by starting a group chat with the people on our block. When I could not go out, a friend of mine dropped some flowers at our house. Social distancing does not mean the end of service. **Be grateful.** There is always something for which to be grateful. Always. As I write this, both of my adult children are home with us, and healthy. I am grateful

for the shared conversation, the shared meals, and for everyone's health. Gratitude gives us perspective.

**Slow down.** I have often wished I had more time for contemplation. Be careful what I wish for! In all seriousness, however, more time to contemplate and watch the sun rise or look at a beautiful tree through my backyard window brings me a sense of peace. Baking bread takes more time than buying it but helps me to stay in the moment while also nurturing others. Perhaps slowing down is a hidden gift.

**Engage** in meaningful work. Monks have always known this: we need a balance of work, prayer, and leisure in life. I am a teacher so have been putting energy into teaching my university students through remote platforms, holding office hours, and finding creative new ways to help my students to grow and learn. Even for those who are retired or otherwise not employed, tasks like baking, minor household projects that have been put off, or organizing photos into albums can be meaningful work.

**Love.** Love is contagious. Love is shown in deeds, not only in words. But it also helps to tell the people whom we love, that we love them. How do you want to share love today?

## A Prayer for the Overwhelmed

Lord God,  
It's one of those days.  
The kind where everything surges, leaving me  
overwhelmed  
The kind I try to avoid, try to suppress, try to muster  
my energy to fight back  
But somehow, today it's not working.

When others ask how I am, I answer, "Fine"  
When they question my aloofness, I smile  
When they push for honesty, I hesitate  
When they express concern, I thank them.

Why is it, Lord, that there are days like this?  
Do I dare ask? Do I really want to know?

In my mind's eye,  
I rehearse other overwhelmed strugglers  
Like Moses, fed up with exasperating fellow  
wonderers,  
Like Hannah, praying so earnestly she was deemed  
drunk  
Like Jeremiah, lamenting the cruel fate of his people  
Like Mary, stung by unclear words of her 12-year-  
old.

Such stories, in a powerful way, confront and  
comfort me  
They remind me again that my view is, at best,  
partial  
That my story, like everyone's story is ongoing and  
unfolding  
That paradoxically, being overwhelmed and insecure  
can be a statement of faith  
That such days serve as a corrective balance to  
overlooked schedules that fail to reflect on Your  
handiwork.

Lord, it is good to be alive, sustained by Your Spirit,  
recognizant of Your mercy, justice and love.  
For the times You restore my soul, with or without  
my prayer to do so  
I stand truly grateful and amazed.

May Your creation forever proclaim Your caring  
ways.

Amen

~Virgil Fry



The following members have transferred to Post Everlasting in the past year:

- Ralph Leonard, USAF, WWII
- David Van Dyke, USA, WWII
- David French, USA, Vietnam
- Leonard McGrath, USMC / USA, Korea

### Post Receives Honors from City and Chamber of Commerce

The City of Grandview issued a Proclamation last fall recognizing the Post's 100 years of service and the Chamber of Commerce presented us with a plaque in recognition of our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We are the oldest community service organization in Grandview. This spring, the Post received the Chamber's Community Development Award. Honestly, we are not sure why, but it is nice to be recognized. We have a great reputation in the community.

### Post Presents The American Legion School Award to Two Grandview Students

The American Legion School Award is a prestigious National Award that may be presented by local Posts to graduating students in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Sadly, Grandview is one of very few Posts in Eastern Washington that makes the effort to present the Awards in each of our five Grandview schools.

Because of the interruption of normal classes by COVID, we were only able to recognize two graduating Seniors, Alexander Hultberg and Alexandria Bruinekool.

The Award seeks to identify students who exhibit the following six traits: Courage, Honor, Patriotism, Service, Scholarship and Leadership.

Hopefully this next spring, we'll be able to recognize students from all five Grandview Schools as we have done in the past. We hope to add Prosser High School as well.

### What is an "Early Bird?"

**My membership card has an "Early Bird" on it. What does that mean?**

The Early Bird stamp on your membership card means you paid your 2021 dues **BEFORE** our Veterans Day Brunch on November 7<sup>th</sup> and makes you eligible for a drawing for a \$25 gift card from Walmart. You can pay the day of the Brunch before we draw the winner, but we would like to have you renew now. **Be an EARLY BIRD!** Our 2019 winner was Larry Mays.

### Legion Membership Eligibility Expanded

Congress approved the LEGION Act last year redefining periods of war-time service. The American Legion has amended our Constitution and Bylaws defining periods of wartime service and eligibility to join the Legion. We can now invite those veterans to join.

In simple terms, Congress has recognized the US has been at war since December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, so anyone who has served honorably for at least 24 hours since that date is now eligible to become a Legionnaire.

We must recognize there has been no true period of peace since the start of WWII. Additionally, the founders of the Legion believed that it mattered not where a person served, only that they served. They need not have earned a campaign ribbon to be a member.

For more information on the history of The American Legion, we urge you to complete the online Basic Training course. It is free and takes about two hours. You may access the training at:

<https://www.legion.org/training>

### 2019 Post Finance Report

**Income** (includes dues, fundraisers, cash donations, material donations, poppies, dividends, and meals):

**\$27,047.11**

**Expenses** (includes *per capita* dues to Department and National, web site, insurance, awards, youth programs, veteran programs, administration costs and donations):

**\$24,014.54**

**Donations** (included in expenses, above):

**\$10,634.00**

### Help us update our records!

Please help us update your records. We need current email addresses and phone numbers. If you no longer use a land line, please send us your mobile number so we can stay in touch. Call Adjutant Jim Davidson at 509-882-1984 or send an email to [adjutant.walegion57@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.walegion57@gmail.com).

## Important DD-214 Update

The DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, is a document of the United States Department of Defense (DoD), issued upon a military service member's retirement, separation, or discharge from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The DD Form 214 is the most critical initial document needed whenever a service member applies for any veteran benefit. It is the capstone military document as it represents the complete, verified record of a service member's time in the military (active or reserve).

Some of the pertinent information on the DD-Form 214 includes:

- Full name used while in the military
- Date and place of birth
- Military service number or social security number
- Date and place of induction
- Date and place of discharge
- Total military combat service or overseas service
- Awards and medals received
- Highest rank/rate and pay grade held on active duty
- Type of discharge (e.g. honorable, general)

The DD Form 214 may be requested by employers should a person indicate he or she served in the military. It is also generally required by funeral directors in order to immediately prove eligibility for interment in a VA cemetery, to obtain a grave marker, or to provide military honors to a deceased veteran.

On September 1, 2000, the National Defense Authorization Act enabled, upon the family's request, every eligible veteran to receive a military funeral honors ceremony to include the folding and presentation of the United States burial flag and the sounding of Taps, at no cost to the family.

Because of the importance of the DD Form 214, it is very important a veteran retain his official copy of the form. Many veterans have a copy recorded at their local county courthouse. This can be done at no cost to the veteran. Thousands of veterans have chosen to make card copies of their DD Form 214 to make it more secure, private, and durable.

According to many Veteran Service Officers, all veterans should have in their possession their DD Form 214, or know where it is recorded. It is also important to inform family members of the location of this document. Knowledge and access to its location will help ensure a more

timely process when applying for any type of veteran benefit.

**If you have not done so already, please send a copy of your discharge papers or DD-214 to us for review. We are required by the IRS to verify the military service of all members. Your papers will be returned once they are reviewed.**

**Mail to Adjutant, Legion Post 57, PO Box 56,  
Grandview, WA 98930.**

## UNIT 57 GAZETTE

### THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



As Commander Bob has noted, the COVID situation has changed everything we do or planned to do this year, but we will forge ahead to the best of our ability to support the goals of The American Legion Family.

We are the only Auxiliary Unit left in the Lower Valley.

This year, we were able to recruit six wonderful young women from Grandview High School to attend Girls State and we hadn't even identified those from Sunnyside, Granger and Mabton. It would have been an exciting time, but as stated elsewhere, all Legion and Auxiliary programs were cancelled or postponed until 2021. However, as with Boys State, all youth who planned to attend this year are approved to attend in 2021. This means we will need to raise large amounts of money to send all of these students to the programs.

We continue to support all of the pillars and programs of our local Legion Post, including youth programs, Wreaths Across America, patriotic holidays and the Christmas Party at the Walla Walla VA Medical Center and Nursing Home. Because many of our members live somewhere else, we need to recruit new members locally to help with these tasks.

Spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters of Legion members or deceased veterans who would have been eligible for Legion membership, female military members and veterans AND male spouses of Legionnaires are eligible to join the Auxiliary. Dues are \$45. Daughters under the age of 18 are "junior" members and pay reduced dues of \$15.

A membership application is on the reverse side of this page. Please complete it and mail with dues to:

**Fred E. Hayes Auxiliary Unit 57  
PO Box 56, Grandview WA 98930**



# American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Required) \_\_\_\_\_  Birth - 17  18 and over \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been a member previously?  Yes  No (If yes, fill in below.)

Previous Unit City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ALA ID # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
/ /

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through— Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) \_\_\_\_\_

If Living: \_\_\_\_\_  
American Legion Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.  
For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)

**Veteran Served:**

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

Global War on Terror  Panama  Vietnam  WWII  
 Gulf War  Lebanon/Grenada  Korea  Other Conflicts

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**

Male Spouse  Female Spouse  Mother  Grandmother  Sister  Self  
 Daughter  Granddaughter

**To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer**  
I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!

I am interested in learning more about:

Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families  
 Youth Activities, including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships  
 Member Discounts and Services  
 Other

Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. **Membership pending approval of application.**

### Eligibility Requirements

**Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:**

**Male spouses are now eligible to join the Auxiliary! Please review the eligibility requirements below to see if you qualify!**

(1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods

and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.\*

\* A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives (sister, mother, direct descendants) and/or spouse depends upon her membership in [The American Legion](http://TheAmericanLegion.com).