



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Post's Bingo, Raffles Shut Down

It was no April Fools joke when the new Jefferson County District Attorney announced his intention to enforce a ban on bingo, raffles, and gaming machines. Customers at the Busy Bee restaurant, 5410 West Colfax, got the message quickly when sheriff's officers raided the establishment and escorted many of them to jail.

Barney O'Kane took office in January of 1957 and immediately warned clubs, taverns, and churches that they were to follow the path of righteousness. That meant no more gambling—even for charity. After eleven months of colorful newspaper stories that resulted, O'Kane was named Man of the Year by the *Jefferson Sentinel*.

The young reformer was the son of Irish immigrant parents and a graduate of DU Law School. He was sworn in about the same time Jeffco Sheriff Carl Enlow was being sentenced to three years in Leavenworth Penitentiary for his role in a gambling protection payoff scheme that included former Jeffco DA Clement Hackenthal and infamous mobsters Clyde and Eugene Smaldone.

Many people were angered by O'Kane's outright ban on gambling, claiming it was overkill. Someone called the O'Kane home (which still stands on West First Avenue at Teller Street) and said to his 72-year-old mother, "Tell your kid to layoff or you'll find him in the gutter." Her reply was, "Tell him yourself, I'm busy."

The American Legion was among those feeling the financial pinch of strict enforcement. Together with the VFW, DAV, and chairman of the county's Republican Party they formed organized opposition to O'Kane. The issue was finally settled in 1979 by enactment of a Colorado statute permitting tax-exempt, religious, charitable, educational, and fraternal organizations to conduct gaming under regulations enforced by the Secretary of State.

Sources: *History of the Sheriff's Office* (<http://jeffco.us/sheriff/about/history>).

Casino City (<http://colorado.casinocity.com/charitable-gaming>).

Lakewood-Colorado An Illustrated Biography, 1994, Patricia (Pat) Wilcox, editor (Post 178 member).



Volunteers Dish Up 234 St. Pat's Plates



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT
Mickey West

*Dear God
We thank You for the show-
ers of your love.*

*Help us to use them to spread Your love.
You are the light that beams across the oceans.
You are all the hopes and dreams we share.
You are the Son who shines in the darkest night.
You are the rose that blooms in our gardens.
You are our guiding light.
Help us to always do what is right in Your sight.
We ask this with all our might. Amen.*

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Bill Radunz

I'll keep it short but sweet. April meeting is Tuesday night April 5th. Be here at 7:00 p.m. Sharp. Items to be discussed include **Nominations for 2016/17 Officers** and budget items for General Membership and Bingo Accounts. Also under discussion will be the Hardship Committee Report and what to do with funds appropriated for our members. Present ideas to **Dave Clinger, Brian Conway, or Commander Bill** if you honestly can't attend this important meeting.

We need more volunteers with ideas that are willing to help. Ideas are easier to come up with than finding volunteers to help make them work. The same people have done most of the work for years, and it's time they got some relief. It's not KP, you'll actually have fun and feel great by volunteering. The needs are many.

Yours in Service, Commander, Bill Radunz (PS: I'm willing to run one more year.)



BUSINESS REPORT
Bob Heer

Spring is fast approaching and along with it comes yard cleanup. A big thanks to **Dee Yurko** for helping transplant perennials and **Linda Quinlan** for digging out some of the evasive ground cover that has been taking over one of our flower beds. We're hoping that, with the assistance of **RCI**, we'll be able to replicate last year's awesome flower gardens.

Thanks also to **Brian Conway** for his help relocating the bird bath in the backyard, and to **Jim Gibson** for donating the cement blocks used to mount it.

This year we will again have T-shirts for our **September Car Show**. But to reduce the number of unsold shirts, we're asking everyone who plans to buy one to sign up in advance and let us know shirt size and pocket preference. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge area or you may call me at **303-234-0178**

with your information. Price has yet to be determined and will depend on how many we order. The artwork for this year's T-shirts and trophies features Post 178 member **Dick Suratt's Half Fast Dragster**. We'll announce a cutoff date for ordering later, but you can help by ordering your T-shirts now. They will make great gifts.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Carol Conway

WOW! What a way to bring in Spring! We had a record turnout for **St. Patrick's Day! More than 13 volunteers helped serve 234 dinners! And we made \$248 from our shamrock decorations!**

What a wonderful day! Thank you so much to all our volunteers! Thank you to everyone that enjoyed a delicious meal and bought a shamrock! You help support our Veterans and their families.

All sorts of things will be happening in the coming months. At our April 5th meeting we'll be accepting nominations for officer positions. Please consider serving. Elections will be at our May meeting.

Auxiliary member **Judy Meyers** will be offering a **jewelry class** on Sunday, April 3rd from Noon to 2:00 p.m. There's a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Sunday, April 10th is our **clothing drive** for our sister Post in Rockaway Beach, Missouri. Please bring gently used or new clothing (infant through high

Please pray for members and families.

Sick Bay

Darcy Halderman—rehabbing—hip, pacemaker

Final Roll Call

George Duetman—WWII—Air Force 3/14/16
Randall L. Armstrong—Korea—Army 3/24/16
Mike Beck—SAL (3/14/16)

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

John R. Danielson—Vietnam—Army
Richard S. Turja—Vietnam—Army
John C. Darst—Gulf—Navy
Rufus Baldivia—Vietnam—Army
Ryan N. Schuler—Gulf—Army
Charles F. Brown—Vietnam—Army
Elva Brown—Current Conflict—Army
Gerry M. Hamberger—Vietnam—Air Force

FYI

Happy 93rd Birthday Dewey Fries



WWII Time Life Books

Thanks to **Ken Stark** our library now has an almost complete set of the **Time Life WWII** series, 33 of the original 36 books. The series is acclaimed for its many photos and being easy to read. Books are kept in the cabinet next to the book shelf. The bartender has the key. You must fill in the sign-out sheet to borrow any of the books.

— Ed McKenna, Post Historian

Please Observe Parking Rules



No Parking on Stripes

Purple Heart Plated Only

A new sign designates a space reserved for vehicles with Purple Heart Recipient license plates.

Do not park in the area next to it marked by white stripes. Vehicles parked there hinder visibility for members turning left onto Simms from the south lot. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Color Guard/Honor Guard Organizational Meeting April 26

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m. RSVP by April 24 to Wayne McClimans

Post 178's long history of Color Guard/Honor Guard participation has dwindled since the loss of several members. The Guards' impact at funerals, parades, schools, and Veteran's ceremonies cannot be overstated. Members from the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons are invited to attend April 26 and begin the effort to fill this very important need. Thank you.

school age) to the Auxiliary room from 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. the day of the sale.

We'll be hosting complimentary dinner for the **Jr. Shooters Club** during Burger Night Wednesday, April 20th. And speaking of **Burger Nights**, we can always use your help! Please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen or speak with an Auxiliary officer!

We are sponsoring two students at **Colorado Girl's State** this year who are looking forward to a wonderful experience.

Two new members have been added. Please welcome **Jeanne Gold** and **Maxine O'Connell**. If you have an April birthday please join us at the meeting for a treat! More details will be coming about the DEC meeting April 23rd at a location to be announced, the District 5 meeting May 7th at Post 161, and the convention in Longmont June 16th through 19th.

Have a wonderful month and hope to see you soon!

RIDERS REPORT Nick Trujillo

Turnout for our **60s & 70s Dance Party** not good. The music was fantastic and the company of those who came was great.

Maybe we fell short on advertising.

Next month is our **Lasagna Dinner** and again the famous **Bill Torrez** is our chef. There's always attendance at this dinner so come early and enjoy.

The **Riders Annual Poker Run** is May 21st, with drawings for winners and losers plus good food for everyone. If you have a hot rod or just want to participate and go for a ride in your car join us a good time that can be had by all. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and Post activities begin at 1:00 p.m.

SAL REPORT Steve Stroud

How fast the time flies. Easter is over and everyone's garden will soon be ready for planting. This month, the first full month of Spring, is a metaphor for life in many ways. How well are we tending to our garden of social relationships? Spring is a great time to add new friends to your circle. Introduce yourself to a Legion member. Bring a current friend to a Post function and invite them to become a member. The friendlier you are, the more friends you'll have.

SAL's **Hawaiian Night Luau** dinner and dance is scheduled for Saturday May 7th from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., featuring "Luau" style buffet and Hawaiian style entertainment. Tickets are on sale now and you are encouraged to buy in advance so we can order food accordingly. Ticket sheets are available at the Post.

Thank You 60s & 70s Dance Party Volunteers



THE AMERICAN LEGION

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Lounge and Dining 303-232-4041

Lounge Hours*

Mon.—Thurs. 11:00 AM to 12:00 Midnight

Fri. 11:00 AM to 2:00 AM

Sat.—Sun. 9:00 AM to 12:00 Midnight

*Bartenders may close earlier on slow nights.

NEWSLETTER BANNER PHOTO BY BETH HALL

BULLETIN BOARD

Membership Report

	2016 Goal	Actual	%
Legion.....	738	712	96
SAL.....	221	164	74

Riders Lasagna Dinner

Saturday—April 16th
4—7 PM

Don't be late,
the lasagna goes fast!

Hawaiian Luau



Saturday May 7th
5 PM Social
6 PM Dinner
RSVP at Post 178



Hawaiian Dinner—Music—Hula Dancing—Raffle

Thank You 2016 St. Patrick's Day Volunteers

