



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Christmas is for Kids at Post 178

Children and their military families filled Post 178 to overflowing on December 19th for *Ranya Kelly's Annual RCI Christmas Toy Party*. A total of 273 children signed up to sit for pictures in Santa's lap and partake of pizza, sub sandwiches, and Christmas cookies.

The **Legion Riders** worked at RCI all afternoon the day before stuffing Christmas stockings and filling RCI's box truck with backpacks and presents that included many new bicycles and some 500 new winter coats. The morning of the party they



Matt and Grace Mache passed out the gifts to children. Matt is an Army Sergeant at Ft. Carson who was wounded while deployed overseas.

unloaded all the gifts at Post 178 and setup for the Christmas party.

The *Evil Sons Car Club* provided many of the gifts, collected during the year at their club events. The kids—and some of the grownups—had their faces painted compliments of *Face Painting Designs*.

Many active duty families came from Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs to join Veterans from the surrounding area. It was an afternoon that ignited happy faces and brightened Christmas this year for many children and their families.



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT
Wayne McClimans

Farther God, as we move into a new year, let us be bold in our faith. Let us rejoice in

the fact that we can lean on our faith to make a difference. All glory to God. Amen.

“Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable.” —*Harry Emerson Fosdick*

Just think how four men, from four different faiths, stood tall in the face of fear. The troop ship USS Dorchester was torpedoed 3 Feb. 1943 off the coast of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic ocean.

Sunday 31 Jan. at 1000 in Jansen Hall, come and listen to the story of faith, as chaplains display what faith can do in times of trouble. These four men gave their lives that others might live. The **Four Chaplains Service** is relived around the nation, to show others how faith can benefit those who are in tough times.

The Legion's Americanism programs promote patriotism. Many are aimed at youths, but learning never stops and neither should patriotism.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Bill Radunz

2016! Who would have thought? We made it. Now we need to think about why WE are still around. **Veterans helping Veterans**. Never forget Pillar #1; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitations. Another Pillar is the defense of our country. How can we help? By paying dues to support National when they visit Congress and lay out our suggestions.

Good news if you haven't paid your Legion dues the increase will not go into effect until July 1, 2016. If you haven't paid and get a notice from National, pay only \$45 and pay at Post 178.

Our Facebook page is up and running. Anyone who would like to volunteer to do updates contact me.

Reminder, if your continuous years end in 5, 10, 15, etc. you are eligible for a hat pin. See me.

General meeting minutes are now posted in the lounge by the pickle cage. Please do not take them home. They are there for those who cannot attend the meetings. Read and replace.

Members at the December general meeting approved a donation to the **Auxiliary's Angel Tree (\$1,900)** that supports families of Veterans at Christmas. Also approved were donations to **Special Olympics (\$100)** and **Operation Christmas Joy (\$700)** to support National Guard families at Buckley AFB.

Jerry Kajcienski is trying to get a **Pistol Shootoff** going the middle of January. If interested contact him at **303-989-3207**. Novices welcome.

Programs we still need help with: **Boy's State, Oratorical Contest, recruiting phone calls, and cooks.**

Ceiling tiles in the lounge and small hall are being painted by Chuck at 303-233-0142. Cost is \$100 with 50% to Riders and 50% to Legion programs. Rules apply.

And finally I would like to thank a few people who have made the first half of my term fairly successful! We always want more and WE will do it. **Kitchen: Jimmy Gibson, Steve Tomlinson, Linda Quinlan, and Angie Bell. Bingo: Linda Quinlan, Jim Beener, Faye Okefenske, Angie Bell, and Bob Black. Pickle Cage: Bill Groves and Joe Bowers. General: KK, Brian Conway, Wayne McClimans, Ed McKenna, Legion Riders, Nick Romano** and the two that have taken the most off of me **Dave Clinger** and SAL's **Steve Stroud**.

We have a lot too be thankful for and much more to do in the New Year.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Carol Conway

Happy New Year Everyone! I hope your Holidays were safe and warm! We had a busy December! The **AUX Children's Christmas Party** had 30 kids this year! Thank you to all those wonderful people that bought gifts for the children and everyone that helped with the party! It was a tremendous success! And of course it was made even more special with a visit from Santa (**Bob Black**) and his two elves (**Kylie Montoya** and **Lexi Pintor**), who read a story and led us in a rousing dance! Thank you!

The **Angel Tree** has brought in **over \$4,000** in donations, meaning over 20 military families will be having an even brighter Christmas! Thank you so much for your loving donations! **Burger Nights** on Wednesdays are now serving a delicious soup. Please join us. The **Mid-Year Convention** will be in Longmont this year; January 21st through 23rd. Welcome to our new/transferring members—we hope to see you often. And I hope to see everyone at our January meeting January 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. If you have a January birthday we'll have a treat for you!

Please pray for members and families.

Sick Bay

None Reported

Final Roll Call

Earl Wimer—WWII—Navy—12/17/15

SAL REPORT

Steve Stroud

A new year has arrived and we can all take a deep breath having gotten through 2015 with many things to be grateful for. We've had many successful fund raising events, joyful gatherings, and added several new members. We hope to increase meeting attendance and participation in the new year.

At our December meeting SAL approved the following contributions: **AUX Angel Tree (\$600)**, **Special Olympics (\$300)**, **Buckley AFB Operation Christmas Joy ((\$500)**, **Riders Heather Grove Christmas Gifts (\$100)**, **RCI (\$400)**, **Denver Fisher House (\$1,000)**, **Child Welfare Foundation (\$1,000)**, and **Colorado State Veteran's Center in Homelake (\$1,500)**.

Take time to thank a Vet for doing what many of us wish we were able to do. See you at our SAL meeting Wednesday, January 6th at 6:30 p.m. Bring your suggestions for 2016.



The Rider's Thanksgiving Dinner at Heather Grove, 2015.

RIDERS REPORT

Nick Trujillo

December has been an active month for the Riders. Our dinner nights have been more profitable but I don't know if it is because we changed the cut of meat from strip steaks to sirloin. Or the band drawing in more attendance. But it is a good thing.

We went all out for the **Heather Grove** Christmas gifts and made the Vets there happy. On December 19th we hosted **Ranya's RCI Toy Giveaway** at the Post. We assembled at 0900 for breakfast and to prepare for the arrival of the toys, coats, candy, and food. When Ranya arrived with her truck we unloaded and sorted out the gifts for distribution to the 273 children that signed up.

It was a lot of hard work that resulted in a huge success. After everything was over Ranya expressed her profound gratitude to all the Riders for their support and participation. Job Well Done. This was by far the biggest Christmas Giveaway we have ever hosted, and next year it will be even bigger. By hosting this charity event we exposed The American Legion and our Post to many Veterans and active duty alike. Hopefully some will join up.

Please visit our website: alrp178.org. **Frank Benton** is doing a great job posting pictures of our activities and documents pertaining to all Riders, plus other information.

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

Last month **Jackie Boyer**, one of our long time bartenders, gave notice that she has accepted a position with the **Dacono Police Department**. Jackie will be missed by all of us at Post 178. We offer our congratulations on this opportunity. Jackie assured me she will continue to be seen around the Post, just not behind the bar.

A big thank you to **Dee Yurko, Dawn and Randy Rehein, Steve Tomlinson**, and **Dick Moore** for helping put up our Christmas decorations. Many compliments were received on their efforts.

In the North parking lot there will soon be a reserved parking sign installed for our members who were awarded the **Purple Heart**. Please respect this reserved parking spot and do not park in it unless you have a Purple Heart license plate on your vehicle.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

Walter L. Kenshalo—Navy
Abe Jones—Vietnam—Navy
J.C. Reesman—Gulf—Navy
Phil L. Tinnin—Gulf—Marine
John R. Greaney—Gulf—Navy
Harold J. Bates—WWII—Navy
Floyd A. Hoard—Korea—Army
Richard S. Brown—Gulf—Army
Robert K. Shiflet—Vietnam—Navy
George G. Risley—Vietnam—Army
Michael D. Watson—Grenada—Navy
Dennis G. Robinson—Vietnam—Navy
Richard L. Bonney—Vietnam—Marine
Robert J. Stewart—Vietnam—Air Force
Tanya Keiger—AUX
Fosalie Fouts—AUX
John G. Jenkins—SAL
Susan Caldwell—AUX
Christopher Stroud—SAL
Craig G. Robertson—SAL
Maurice M. Rivard—SAL
Marc Clinger Brewster—SAL

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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



Four Chaplains Service

Sunday
January 31
10 AM
Jansen Hall



Membership Report

	2016 Goal	Actual	%
Legion	738	616	83
SAL	221	138	62

Thank You, Jackie

Jackie Boyer ended her 11-year career as a popular bartender at Post 178 on December 18th with a grand going away party. The Dacona Police Department will be her next employer. Thanks and Good Luck, Jackie.



AUX Hosts Kids

The *Women's Auxiliary* hosted their annual *Children's Christmas Party* on December 12th. Thirty eager youngsters received gifts and met Santa (**Bob Black**). Everyone was entertained by his elf-helpers (**Kylie Montoya** and **Lexi Pintor**). Auxiliary volunteers purchased gifts and organized the very successful event at Post 178.



Two or three volunteers are needed to operate the Post's new audio-visual equipment on occasion. It's easy plug and play equipment. Please contact Brian Conway or Dave Clinger at the Post.

RCI Christmas Toy Party 2015

