



## Boys and Girls State Enters 10th Decade

The American Legion began its Boys State program in 1935, and Girls State soon followed. Both programs have become the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students in the nation.

Boys and Girls State is open to students just completing their junior year of high school. Attendees are exposed to the rights and privileges, duties and responsibilities of citizenship. During the week-long programs students create cities, counties, and fictitious political parties. They adopt party platforms, conduct conventions, campaign for office, and nominate and elect officials to run their own city, county, and state governments as they form their 51st state. Two students from each program will be elected to attend Boys and Girls Nation in Washington, DC later in the summer.

This year's assemblies will take place at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. All costs for the



programs are paid by The American Legion. Boys will attend from May 31st through June 6th, and Girls will gather from June 7th through the 13th. Deadline for applications for both programs is May 1st.

As in past years, Post 178 seeks applications from local high school students. Candidates must be keenly interested in government and current events, have high moral character, show leadership abilities, and have achieved above average academic achievement.

The Auxiliary will sponsor and pay expenses for girls while the Legion and Sons will do the same for boys. Post members are highly encouraged to nominate student candidates by contacting **Kay Scott** or **Wayne McClimans**.

Colorado Boys and Girls State provides youths with a strong foundation for personal and professional success and guides them to become patriotic, knowledgeable stewards of freedom and democracy.



### Dee Yurko is 90



## LEGION CHAPLAIN

Mary Johnson

We welcome the month of April and pray for April showers. I have heard many people concerned about the warm and dry weather. We should all continue to pray for measurable precipitation to nurture plants that are already in bloom and to support farmers and ranchers who rely on snow, rain, and water.

This month has two religious holidays: April 5th is **Easter** and the 15th through the 22nd commemorates **Passover**. I hope that all who celebrate these holidays find peace, hope, and joy and I will leave you with a well-known bible verse:

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* —John 3:16



## COMMANDER'S REPORT

Russ Scott

I'm going to address the issue that has come up lately. If you choose to play on the gaming machines you do so at your own risk. If you have a problem with one of the machines you can talk to **Randy Baria** or **Bob Heer**. But we don't reimburse for machine malfunctions. You play at your risk. The bartender only pays for payouts from the machine and not for a machine malfunction. If you don't like our payout policy, or that we don't pay for money lost in a machine, then don't play.

### Latest installment on the meaning of The American Legion Preamble:

*To Make Right the Master of Might.*

All wars, from which the Veterans of The American Legion draws its membership, were started by dictators who wanted *their* might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them—just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enthroning right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak, and preserve the liberties of the individual.

This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation—that right will always be backed by adequate might.

## SAL REPORT

Brad Hall

Another month down. Nothing seems to slow them down these days.

Please make certain all of your contact information is up to date and correct. We continue to see a lot of membership cards returned from the Postal Service marked "not able to deliver to this address." This creates quite a bit of work for everyone involved trying to reach people when we don't have a phone number or email address to try and use.

The **SAL Golf Tournament** is Friday, June 19th. We are starting to get some sign-ups already. If you plan on playing this year, please get your entries in. We had to shut out a few teams last year as we only have a certain number of golfers that can sign up.

I would like to give a shout out to **Dave McBrien and his staff of volunteers** for **Sunday Breakfasts**. This can be quite a hectic day for them as most are here from about 6:30 in the morning until 11:00 a.m.

Stick your head in the kitchen and give them a thank you. It carries a lot of weight.

Thank a Veteran when you see one.

## RIDERS REPORT

Steve Peterson

April is a good time to reflect on our life and dwell on the good and reject the negative. Whether you are a Christian, agnostic, atheist or other, one cannot deny the great things that Jesus taught. The golden rule is one of the big ones. Do you know how impactful just a smile is? We are all brothers and sisters. When we have a beef against someone, don't let it destroy your day for love WILL conquer all.

As Riders we are always around others of our kind. We have a common cause fulfilled through working with our brothers and sisters to support each one's cause. We love each other and love what we do. We are together as one. Have a great month!

**BUSINESS REPORT***Bob Heer*

Since there will be no breakfast on **Easter Sunday**, the lounge will not open until 1:00 p.m.

As the weather warms up we will begin operating the evaporative coolers on hot days. Please do not ask the bartenders to turn them down or off as they do not have the key to do so. Dress appropriately when visiting the Post as certain parts of the building do get colder than others.

Just a reminder that we do not rent either the back hall or back yard for high school graduation parties. We have had issues with underage drinking and cannot afford to place our liquor license in jeopardy. Your understanding is appreciated

**AUXILIARY REPORT***Kay Scott*

At our March meeting, we decided to provide donations for the **District 5-Wide 250 Year Challenge**. On April 11th at 9:30 a.m. we will deliver donations to **Mountain Vista Care Facility**. All Unit 178 members are asked to donate items to help the residents with improved quality of life. These items include personal care (toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand soap, men's and women's socks, etc.). Also, art supplies and throw-type blankets for when the resident is in a wheelchair or bed. In addition, pantry items for the Mountain Vista employees that are having trouble making ends meet personally. A tub for these donations is located in the lounge close to the east entrance. Thank you so much for your help with this Challenge.



*Thank you St. Patrick's Day Volunteers.*

collected by Post 178 and donated to local Police and Fire Departments. This program is sponsored by radio station KYGO Christmas Crusade for Children in Jefferson County and we will continue to have this drive twice a year. Thanks to retired **Jeffco Sheriff's Detective Mike Harris** for making this connection for us.

**Judy Myers** is having another art class on Sunday April 19th from 1-3p.m. The class is called **"Poppy Bottle Decoupage."** There is room for 14 people and the cost is \$30. There will be a sign-up sheet soon to claim your spot!

Please take a look at the April Calendar for all the delicious offerings for **Wednesday Night Dinners**. In May, we will have **Derby Day** on May 2nd to celebrate the **Kentucky Derby**. Our **2nd Annual Derby Hat Contest** will take place that day so start planning what to wear!

Also in May is **Poppy Day** (always the Friday before **Memorial Day**) and we will be handing out crepe-paper poppies again this year at the 32nd & Youngfield King Soopers. A sign-up sheet will be posted for those wanting to help with this project from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Our next membership meeting is Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m.

The **2026 St. Patrick's Day Dinner** was a great and delicious success!! **Shari Davis** was the best project manager of the entire operation. 130 meals were served and enjoyed by all. Thank you so much Shari and all those preparing, cooking, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. Please forgive me if I miss anyone and thank you to: **Carol Jansons, Kate Braniff, Jennifer Braniff, Judy Myers, Shelley Donahue, Diana McCarl, Rhonda Guenther, Wayne McClimans, Annette Venhuda, Kathleen O'Riley, Bonnie Stocker, Brian Conway, Randy Baria, Mark Ward, Dee Yurko, and Ranya Kelly.**

Great thanks to Bartender and Auxiliary member **Dita Alexander** for initiating a donation drive to help comfort children after some type of trauma. Approximately 175 new stuffed animals were



*Dita with a few of the stuffed animals donated by Post 178 members destined for the Christmas Crusade for Children program.*

## Championship Performance Reported by Kelsey Dardas

The 2025 American Legion 3PAR National Championships was an unforgettable experience filled with competition, camaraderie, and opportunities to learn. I represented American Legion Post 178 through the Arvada Rifle and Pistol Club.

Day 1 began with introductions and reception. I had the pleasure of meeting fellow competitors Zoë Enslin and Jakobe Changasie from Mariner High School JROTC (FL, Post 90), along with their coaches, SGM Bryan Williams and Marybeth Williams. Connecting with them was a highlight of the opening day. Later, we moved into practice and equipment control at the Biermann Athletic Center. The facility was spacious and comfortable, and while equipment control moved slowly, the process was well-managed given the number of athletes involved.

Day 2 featured a demanding but rewarding schedule with two matches in a single day. Athletes had about an hour between relays, which added to the challenge and excitement of the competition. That evening, participants toured the Halter Shooting Sports Education Center, enjoyed dinner, then visited the new air rifle and smallbore range currently under construction—an impressive facility that will host even more matches in the future.

Day 3 mirrored the format of Day 2 with two more matches. In the evening, athletes gathered for a pizza party. The event offered a chance to relax, play games, and share time together outside the range.

Day 4 marked the finals, which began early in the morning, a format I personally enjoyed. The Sporter division competed first, followed by Precision. Afterward, I spent some time at a nearby lake with friends Zoë and Jakobe before attending the closing banquet. The evening concluded with dinner and the awards ceremony, where I was honored to earn 3rd Place Overall, 2nd Place in Standing, and 3rd Place in Prone.

The championship was not only an opportunity to compete at a high level but also a chance to build friendships, experience new facilities, and celebrate the sport of marksmanship. It is an event I will always remember with pride and gratitude.

—Kelsey Dardas



Kelsey Dardas with Legion officials.

*Editor's Note: Kelsey aspires to win an Olympic medal in shooting, just like her dad.*



Volunteer "Junior Shooters" assembled at the recent SAL Pancake Breakfast fundraiser benefiting their Arvada Rifle and Pistol Club. 50/50 Raffle winner Ed Polzin was drawn by Ayla Cohen from the bowl held by Tracy Larimer.



# SAL

**18th Annual**



## **Tournament**

**Friday, June 19, 2026**

*Applewood Golf Course*

**\$400 per Foursome**  
Proceeds go to SAL Charities

**\$100 per Single Player**  
(we will do our best to place single players)

**Entry Deadline June 12 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

- 18 Holes of Golf, Cart, Range Balls
- Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- Awards for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Putt
- 1st Drink, Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms St., Lakewood

**Tournament  
Sponsorship  
Opportunities**

Contact Brad Hall  
720-471-9383  
(leave a message)

**Sponsors' Deadline June 5**

**3 Ways to Register**

Scan QR Code

Online at  
[tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra](https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra)

Complete the Form  
on the Reverse Side

