

American Legion

Lloyd E Hutcheson

Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves



Volume 5, Issue 1, December, 2023



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Corner
Chaplain's Corner
Honor Guard
Scouts
Radio Club
Officer Reports

AND MORE

A Month or so Out

February 7 – Monthly informal Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:30 pm

February 10 – Scouts Pancake Breakfast

February 17 – Department Oratorical

February 20 – Post Dinner & Meeting dinner - chili and cornbread

February 24 - Koffee Klatch & Breakfast @ 9 am

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 2

Commander's Corner – Ralph Cavalieri

We have a lot going on at our Post in February. Please see the listing of events elsewhere in the newsletter. I want to report that our Pot Luck Dinners on the first Wednesday evenings of the month are growing. If you haven't stopped by yet, please do so. We begin at 5:30 and finish about 7. Our most recent Saturday morning Koffee Klatch have an added feature – breakfast, thanks to our Adjutant, Susan. We had a good turnout on January 27 and enjoyed French Toast and eggs to order. Camaraderie seems to flourish with meals. Come, bring your family, bring your friends, and enjoy the conversation with our Post.

The Department Mid-Winter meeting was in the midst of the snow, which held down the attendance. Nevertheless, those that made it helped with the programs of the Department and learned about activities throughout Idaho. Of special note, our post received the \$1000 award for being the only large post to achieve 100% renewal by the end of December 31. Bravo Zulu to all who renewed, and to First Vice Commander Dan Pruett and Adjutant Susan Barnett for their diligent and successful work in communicating with our members about this opportunity.

Accordingly, Dan Pruett was named 2023 Post 113 Legionnaire of the Year, which was presented at the January meeting. Likewise, past Legionnaire of the Year and current Adjutant, Susan Barnett received a Certificate of Appreciation for her many efforts at the Post.

I hope to see you on February 20.

Very Respectfully,
Ralph Cavalieri, Commander

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 3

February: A Month Steeped in Military History

By Ralph Cavalieri

For American Legion Post 113 members, February isn't just the shortest month; it's a time to remember the sacrifices made throughout history. From pivotal battles to acts of courage, significant military events echo through the annals of this month. Here are a few:

- **February 3rd, 1944:** This day marked the beginning of the "Four Chaplains" story. U.S. Army Chaplains Alexander Goode (Methodist), John Washington (Catholic), Clark Poling (Protestant), and Rabbi Robert Katz offered comfort and prayers to soldiers aboard the sinking USAT Dorchester during World War II. When life rafts became available, the chaplains refused to take their places, prioritizing others and sacrificing themselves in the icy waters. Their selfless act embodies the spirit of service and remains a powerful symbol of interfaith unity.
- **February 15th, 1898:** The mysterious explosion of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, Cuba, sent shockwaves through the nation. 260 sailors lost their lives, igniting public outrage and fueling anti-Spanish sentiment. Though the cause remains debated, the "Remember the Maine!" cry became a rallying cry, ultimately leading to the Spanish-American War. This event serves as a reminder of how historical events can be shaped by national grief.
- **February 24th, 1991:** After weeks of air assaults and ground offensives, Operation Desert Storm culminated in a decisive victory for the U.S.-led coalition forces, liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. This 100-hour ground war showcased the advancements in military technology and strategy, but also the human cost of conflict. February 28th marked the official ceasefire, a day etched in the memories of veterans who fought for freedom.
- **February, continuously:** Beyond specific dates, February recognizes Black History Month, honoring the contributions of African Americans in the armed forces. From the Revolutionary War to present day, African American service members have bravely defended our nation, facing unique challenges and discrimination. Their stories deserve recognition and inspire continued efforts for equality and inclusion.

As we reflect on these historical moments, let us also remember the countless others whose sacrifices shaped the course of military history. Their courage, resilience, and commitment to duty serve as enduring lessons for future generations. We, at American Legion Post 113, carry their legacy forward, honoring their service and advocating for those who continue to serve.

Let's use this February to engage in meaningful discussions, share veterans' stories, and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 4

Chaplains Corner - Dan Pruett



February 2024
"The Love Month"



As we reflect on the events of February, I am grateful for the sense of unity and support within our Legion community. The chaplaincy continues to play a vital role in fostering spiritual well-being and offering guidance during challenging times.

- **Some important dates to remember in February.**

February 2nd – Ground Hog Day (Will the famous ground hog see his shadow meaning 6 more weeks of winter)

February 14th – Valentines Day (Guys, you better not forget this date) 🐥

February 19th – Presidents Day (Originally to honor George Washington birthday)

February 20th – Chinese New Year (Somewhere between 1/21 – 2/20 It depends on the lunar calendar)

Leap Day 29th – This year is a leap year, so we have a leap day February 29th.

- **February Sick Call**

There have been a rash of shoulder replacement surgeries in the post.

Dan Pruett – Oct 19th, 2023 – Doing great.

Ernest Cook – Dec 9th, 2023 – Doing great.

Rich Dees – Jan 8th, 2024 – Had some problems but is doing well now.

Janet Cook – (Ladies Auxiliary) – Has to get MRI & Schedule it.

Sending healing thoughts and strength as you recover from shoulder replacement surgery. May you find comfort, resilience, and a swift return to health.

(It must be something in the water at the post. Be careful and don't drink it)

In times of crisis, the chaplaincy is available to provide support and comfort to affected individuals and families. Whether it be illness, loss, or other challenges, I am committed to being a source of strength and compassion.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 5

Chaplains Corner (Continued)

Prayers & Blessings:

- I extend my prayers and blessings to each Legionnaire and their families. May we continue to find strength in our shared commitment to service and may the spirit of camaraderie prevail in all that we do.

Staff Duty Officer:

- Volunteers at the post play a vital role in supporting veterans, their families, and the community. We contribute our time, effort and skills to various programs and initiatives aimed at honoring veterans, advocating for their needs, and fostering a strong sense of community. We give freely of our time to do an important task here at the post.
- The dedication and commitment of these volunteers contribute immensely to the American Legion's overarching goals of serving veterans, advocating for their rights, and making a positive impact on society.
- We need more volunteers to staff the Duty Office. You make coffee and set out our big sign in Welcome sign outside. Then we make calls in the duty office to our veterans to check on them to see how they are doing. It is easy, we even provide a suggested paragraph to read.
- Won't you please consider volunteering to be Staff Duty Officer! Just 1 day a month for 4 hours could make a real change!

If you know of someone who is recovering from a illness, has any health related issue or a death in the family



please contact me at :

208-890-3384 Cell

dan@anywhereusa.org

208-202-5737 X103

American Legion Post 113



ThisDays
Thought



Instead of asking why something is happening to you, consider asking what it is trying to teach you. Adversity often holds profound lessons, and in embracing them, we find the path to growth.

**American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette**

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 6

Chaplains Corner (Continued)

Morning Prayer For Your Confessions!



And one last thing:



**That is all for this month but
remember to always:**

**Be Grateful, Give Thanks, Be
Honest, Stay Humble, Be Kind,
Laugh, Dream Big, Be You and
always Love One Another.**

Blessings from Chaplain

Dan Pruett

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 7

It's Not About Me – Dan Pruett

Embracing "It's Not About Me" Together

My name is Dan Pruett, and I proudly stand as a member of the American Legion. Allow me to share something profound that has reshaped my life: the simple yet profound statement, "It's not about me."

I would like to announce a program on "It's not about me"? I would like to explain the program.

This phrase holds a depth of meaning—it signifies that we, personally, are not the focal point of existence. It signifies a mission larger than self, a purpose beyond personal desires. It means prioritizing others, especially those who've dedicated themselves to serving our nation.

Let me recount a moment that encapsulates this notion. While serving as an E-6 in the navy, attached to a VAW squadron, an incident during preparations for an "ALPHA STRIKE" on Tiger Island altered everything. It was 0830 hours January 21, 1969, aboard the USS Enterprise in Hawaiian waters. The magnitude of that moment shifted my world in a fraction of time.

Amidst the launch preparations, an explosion cascaded chaos—planes laden with rockets, napalm bombs, and "Agent Orange" were set ablaze. My instinct and Navy training kicked in. Amidst the fiery chaos, I witnessed the selflessness of individuals, regardless of their rank or rate, striving to douse the flames. I recall aiding a fellow, engulfed in napalm, to the makeshift Triage area on the ship's front. Seeing the tragedy unfold had a mind-numbing effect on me. That day, over 125 valiant souls sacrificed themselves for the safety of others.

The aftermath haunted me with nightmares, depression, and PTSD upon returning home. However, fate led me to the American Legion, where I found solace among fellow veterans. They reminded me that life still held meaning – "It's Not About Me"; it's about supporting our veterans, advocating for their rights, and being their voice.

This story is just one of many shaping my values – a commitment to serving, loving, and honoring others, prioritizing service above self. It echoes the core values of the American Legion—freedom, democracy,

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 8

It's Not About Me (Continued)

justice, loyalty, courage, and honor, and aiming to leave a legacy for future generations.

I wear a silicone wristband inscribed with "It's not about me." When I start to falter, I snap it against my wrist, and it realigns my focus.

Here at the Post 113, we have countless opportunities to show our support for our veterans. Everything we do here requires volunteers to help support those endeavors. Participation is the key to being a legionnaire. We must volunteer our time towards the goals of the American Legion. It's like the old saying 20% of the people do 80% of the work. That, my friends, leads to burn out and withdrawal from the meetings and activities of those few who volunteer here the most at the post.

So, the next time we do something that requires a small amount of your time please volunteer and think about why we are doing what we do. It is for the greater good. Just an hour or two a month would help tremendously.

Thank you for listening and for your unwavering support. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Dan Pruett
1st Vice Commander
Chaplain
American Legion Post 113
Meridian, Idaho
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American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 9

Membership - Dan Pruett



February 2024

Membership Report

Membership Status as of 02/01/2023

Legion	(As of This Date)	SAL
Dept = 88.50%		Dept = 74.36%
Area B = 93.32%		Area B = 79.38%
Post 113 = 109.09%		Post 113 = 52.78%
Goal 374 Actual 408+		Goal 36 Actual 19

Staff Duty Officer: I believe in the power of unity and the strength that comes from a growing Legion family.

- Please volunteer to be a **Duty Officer** by going to this site and pick a date that you can be the Duty Officer of the Day. Copy and paste this address in a web browser.
- <https://calendly.com/meridianamericanlegionpost113>
- Then click on the Post 113 Duty Officer and pick a date that is available.
- Even 1 day a month will be tremendously helpful.

American Legion multiyear membership is here.

Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join. It's a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate.

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website.
- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew.
- Join now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/join.
- Legionnaires already renewed for 2024 will soon be able to renew under the multi-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.

Please note: the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is the what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. Once the member renews after the three-year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 10

Membership (Continued)

Membership Dues Raised:

It has been voted on and passed by all at the October meeting to raise **our** dues by \$10.00 to **\$55.00 per year starting 7/1/24.**

- The dues increase comes at a time when the need for American Legion advocacy, expertise, influence, services, and programs are needed in every corner of our nation and because of the current membership standings and economy. This is a time to continue supporting The American Legion's ability to serve veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and young people. A national \$5 per-capita dues increase can prevent National Headquarters from having to cut programs and services.
- The American Legion's ability to succeed over the next decade depends on positive cash flow and the ability to invest in the future.
- Our post survives on that money. Money is very tight now and we will suffer tremendously if we don't raise our dues.
- We are aware of what this does to our veterans. But the post simply cannot survive on the money we would be getting if we hadn't voted to raise the dues.
- **This is why it is so important to attend the meetings and be able to cast your vote. We always have a delicious dinner before the meeting starting at 6pm. Please come!**

Buddy Check Week :

- We are featured by National at Legion.org. Here is the link to that <https://www.legion.org/buddycheck/260287/idaho-post-every-week-buddy-check-week>. (Copy & paste in your browser).
- You can find the on-line interview for our Post Buddy Checks here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PuBOl3GIwI> (Copy & paste in your browser).

As Duty Officers rotate each day, they will continue to do Buddy Checks. We will start the calling over and try to get those that we left messages.

Members who have renewed (As Of The Dates): Thank you!

- **12/30/23**
 - Alexandra Blamireg-Garcia, Lee D Rubel, David Gibson

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 11

Membership (Continued)

- **01/23/24**
 - Harry Hall, Charles Benninger, Robert Pinneo, Katherine Spangenberg, Dale Ruch, Gay Emily Massie
- **01/26/24**
 - Robert Maes, Lee Unterseher
- **01/28/24**
 - David Carpenter (2023) (2024), Harvey Nishimura (2023) (2024), Richard Verduzco (2023) (2024), Harold Jackson (2023) (2024)
- **01/29/24**
 - Dylan Holtzclaw

Members who are deceased as of 2/01/24:

May God hold them in His hands forever and may they rest in eternal peace.

- Edwin Lloyd – US Air Force – Korea (61 continuous years of membership)

Members who have been repatriated:

Thank you Lord for bringing these members home to their rightful place so loved ones can have closure.

- Richard Schuon – WWII / US Navy / USS West Vergina / Hawaii
- Ronald Forrester – Vietnam War / US Marine Corp / VMA-533 / Vietnam
- David Walker – WWII / US Navy / USS California / Hawaii
- Merle Hillman – WWII / US Navy / USS California / Hawaii
- Crayton Thomas – Korean War / US Army / 503rd Field Artillery / North Korea
- Duncan Thomas – WWII / US Navy / Nueva Ecija Phillipenes

World American Legion Final Membership Standings:

The American Legion Department of Idaho

- Finished 9th in the world
- 1st in the Western Region

Here is a link that you can see the full report on Membership

- https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/2024%20TAL%20Membership%20Report_0.pdf

That is all for this month but remember to always:

Be Grateful, Give Thanks, Be Honest, Stay Humble, Be Kind, Laugh, Dream Big, Be You and always Love One Another.

Blessings,

Dan Pruitt

**1st Vice President
American Legion
Post 113 Meridian ID**

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 12

HONOR GUARD – Doug Hanks



POST 113 HONOR GUARD
JANUARY 2024 HONORS
By DOUG HANKS



Honors January 2024 “6”
Total for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 “60”
Hours January 2024 “70” Fiscal Year Total “786”
DONATIONS JANUARY 2024 “\$250.00” TOTAL YEAR “\$2860.00 “

A LOT OF HARD WORK, TIME, AND EFFORT MAKES YOUR HONOR GUARD THE BEST

GRENADA INVASION 1983, A SHORT WAR NOT MANY ARE AWARE OF

The **United States invasion of Grenada** began at dawn on 25 October 1983. The [United States](#) and a [coalition](#) of six Caribbean nations invaded the island nation of [Grenada](#), 100 miles (160 km) north of [Venezuela](#). Codenamed **Operation Urgent Fury** by the U.S. military, it resulted in military occupation within a few days.^[9] It was triggered by the strife within the [People's Revolutionary Government](#), which resulted in the house arrest and execution of the previous leader and second [Prime Minister](#) of Grenada, [Maurice Bishop](#), and the establishment of the Revolutionary Military Council, with [Hudson Austin](#) as chairman. The invasion resulted in the appointment of an interim government, followed by [elections in 1984](#).

Grenada had gained independence from the [United Kingdom](#) in 1974. The [Communist New Jewel Movement](#) seized power in a nearly bloodless [coup](#) in 1979 under [Maurice Bishop](#) suspending the constitution and detaining several political prisoners. In September 1983, an internal power struggle began over Bishop's leadership performance.^[10] Bishop was pressured at a party meeting to share power with Deputy Prime Minister [Bernard Coard](#). Bishop initially agreed, but later balked. He was put under house arrest by his own party's Central Committee until he relented. When his secret detention became widely known, Bishop was freed by an aroused crowd of his supporters. Bishop made his way to the army headquarters at Fort Rupert (known today as Fort George). After he arrived, a military force was dispatched from Fort Frederick to Fort Rupert. Bishop and seven others, including cabinet ministers, were captured. Then a four-man People's Revolutionary Army firing squad executed Bishop, three members of his Cabinet and four others by machine-gunning them.

The [Reagan administration](#) mounted a US [military intervention](#) following receipt of a formal appeal for help from the [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States](#), which had received a covert appeal for assistance from the [Governor-General of Grenada](#), [Paul Scoon](#) (though he put off signing the formal letter of invitation until 26 October).^[11] President Reagan stated that he felt compelled to act due to "concerns over the 600 U.S. medical students on the island" and fears of a repeat of the [Iran hostage crisis](#), which ended less than three years earlier. According to the future [United States Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger](#), who was serving as Reagan's [Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs](#) at the time of the invasion, the prime motivation for the US intervention was to "get rid" of the coup leader Hudson Austin, and the students were the pretext.^[12] While the invasion followed the execution of Maurice Bishop, his party members intending to gain power still maintained his communist ideologies. President Reagan expressed that he viewed this, alongside the party's growing connection to Fidel Castro, as a threat to democracy.^[13]

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 13

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

The invading force consisted of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the [US Army's 75th Ranger Regiment](#), the [82nd Airborne Division](#), and elements of the former [Rapid Deployment Force](#), [U.S. Marines](#), [US Army Delta Force](#), [Navy SEALs](#), and ancillary forces, totaling 7,600 troops, together with [Jamaican](#) forces and troops of the [Regional Security System](#) (RSS).^[14] The force defeated Grenadian resistance after a low-altitude airborne assault by the Rangers and 82nd Airborne on [Point Salines Airport](#), at the south end of the island, and a Marine helicopter and amphibious landing on the north end, at [Pearls Airport](#). Austin's military government was deposed and replaced, with Scoon as Governor-General, by an interim advisory council until the 1984 elections.

The invasion was criticized by many countries. British Prime Minister [Margaret Thatcher](#) privately disapproved of the mission, in part because she was not consulted in advance and was given very short notice of the military operation, but she supported it in the press.^[15] The [United Nations General Assembly](#) condemned it as "a flagrant violation of international law" on 2 November 1983, by a vote of 108 to 9.^[16]

The date of the invasion is now a national holiday in Grenada, called [Thanksgiving Day](#), commemorating the freeing of several political prisoners who were subsequently elected to office. A [truth and reconciliation commission](#) was launched in 2000 to re-examine some of the controversies of the era; in particular, the Commission made an unsuccessful attempt to find Bishop's body, which had been disposed of at Austin's order and never found.

The invasion highlighted issues with communication and coordination between the different branches of the American military when operating together as a joint force, triggering post action investigations resulting in sweeping operational changes in the form of the [Goldwater-Nichols Act](#) and other reorganizations.^[17]

**To request flag folding, taps or rifle salute, please contact a Post 113 officer or Doug Hanks,
208-809-7519**

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

[illegible]

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 15

Scouts – Mark Grothe

Your Scouts are having their annual Pancake Breakfast, which will be held on Feb 10th at the Meridian United Methodist Church from 9-11:30 am.



American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 16

Post Meeting Minutes - Susan Barnett



AMERICAN LEGION POST 113
MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024

Officers Present:	Commander	Ralph Cavalieri
	1 st Vice	Dan Pruett
	2 nd Vice	Rich Dees- excused
	Adjutant	Susan Barnett
	Chaplain	Dan Pruett
	Finance Officer	Ernest Cook
	Service Officer	John Brekke
	Sergeant at Arms	Harold Carlson

1900: Opening ceremonies: Invocation, Pow/Mia, Pledge of Allegiance, and preamble.

Meeting called to order at 1904 hours by Commander Cavalieri.

Roll call of Officers conducted: quorum met.

Guests: Paul Vader, Todd Carlson-new member, Lee Rubel-new member, and Alexandra Blamris-Garcia- new member.

Sick Call: Dan Pruett, Ernest Cook and Rich Dees-all had shoulder replacements. Chuck Hawkins had a stroke in December, Steve North in hospital gall bladder infection.

Scouts: made post dinner- soups and desserts. In January winter survival. Annual fundraiser- Pancake Breakfast- Saturday February 10th for \$5 from 8:45-11:00 am at Methodist Church on Pine.

Adjutant: Susan Barnett- minutes printed on table. Motion and 2nd to approve as written. Passed.

1st Vice: Dan Pruett- membership- Post received \$1000 from Department for reaching membership goal of 100% by December 31st. Check was received by Susan Barnett at Mid-Winter. Membership Report included. S.A.L. membership- see report included. Repatriation: Richard Shown, Ronald Forrester, David Walker, and Merrill Hillman. Buddy Checks: October 178 calls made. November 9 calls were made; December 178 calls were made.

2nd Vice: Rich Dees- out for shoulder surgery. Oratorical- District 3- no competitors.

Finance report in newsletter and on table. S.A.L. Major expenditure- purchase of Medals for officers. Facilities at 36% of projected budget. Motion and 2nd to approve as presented. Passed.

Building Manager: Mark Grothe-for 2023 Post received \$7100 in building usage donations. 3 reservations in the next quarter. The plumber is coming tomorrow for kitchen plumbing. Post is not required to bury grease trap but must install one under new 3 compartment sink. At this time, the Canteen kitchen does NOT have to be upgraded for commercial use provided we stick to brewing coffee and selling pre-packaged items.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 17

Post Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Service Officer-John Brekke. Disabled Vets Elk Hunt applications due by Jan 31st. For members enrolled in VA Health Care system- emergency room visits outside VA Facilities may be reimbursed but must be completed by Feb 22nd, 2024. Medicare Advantage participants have until March to switch plans.

Honor Guard- Doug Hanks- Report handed in. 8 honors in December. Report in newsletter.

Boys State: Doug Hanks- gearing up for June 2024 at Gowan Field. The cost is \$400 per student. Boys put in \$100 Post picks up rest up to \$3000 for 10 Boys. For anyone working with students under 18 years of age background checks and Sexual harassment training are required annually. One set is good for a full year and works for all Legion programs working with youth.

Radio Club: Rich Dees- not present.

Riders: None present.

Koffee Klatch January 27th; breakfast being served: French Toast, Sausage patties, and eggs to order. Donations happily accepted.

District Commander- Doug Foote: Not able to attend Mid-Winter- District 3 received check for membership dues from Dept.

Auxiliary- None present.

S.A.L.: Thom Juul Squadron needs 3 officers. Brandon Owens new Squadron Commander, Thom Juul is squadron Adjutant. Looking for 1st Vice. \$15 dues per year. Presentation: Thom Juul and Brandon Owens were awarded 5 medals and 10 ideals award.

Unfinished business-Canteen concept. Filling out paperwork for plan. Post needs to get a sales tax and resellers permit account prior to any sales. Motion and 2nd to get permits. Discussion- still offering free coffee. Proposed menu and price list for ready-made foods. No changes are required on the canteen side if limited to brewing coffee and the sale of prepackaged items. Approved motion.

New Business: Commander Cavalieri presented Dan Pruett Post Legionnaire of the Year award and Susan Barnett Post Adjutant of the year award.

Good of Legion: Wreaths Across America: pick up scheduled for Jan 20th. Will make final decision by Thursday as wreaths currently frozen to ground and buried under snow. Koffee Klatch Jan 27th. Post potluck will be the first Wednesday in February. Next Post Meeting February 20th.

\$100 membership drawing: #332 Kevin Newman- not present. #268 Garrett Longstreet- not present- no award this month.

Meeting Adjourned: 2020

Next Meeting: Feb 20th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Barnett
Adjutant

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 18

HAM Radio Club -

N7LGN—Post 113 Amateur Radio Club

By: Yers Trooly

There are some new innovations this year for N7LGN. They include a monthly newsletter and a thing called "Elmer in the House" program.

The newsletter will be published near the first of the month by Jonathan Hoffmeier (KE0JRH). He volunteered to publish the newsletter and he's off to a great start. Pictures are most appreciated and he has some features that hopefully will garner interest. One of features is that each month, he will showcase a member "shack." With pictures from members, we will be able to see what people are using to get on the air and enjoy the hobby. To put it in the words of another member: "You don't need high dollar and high volumes of equipment, just the heart and desire to get on the air and share. A 12-year-old with a license and a hand held can have as much fun as a good many of us who just listen".

Based on a suggestion made by Dean Bunnell (W7DBX) at our last meeting, we are starting "Elmer in the House" program. The idea is that once a month, on the Sunday after test day, which is typically the third Sunday of the month, we will host a session at the Post called "Elmer in the House." That will be an opportunity for any and all to come in, ask questions, perhaps get your radio programmed, and if nothing else to chew the rag with other hams about radio. If you want to know how to get on the air, have any hints or kinks, we will be there. If you want to get on the air for the first time, talk about modes, discuss antennas, or anything else, this will be a great opportunity. The session is meant for oldsters as well as new people in the hobby to connect, find out more about the hobby, get on the air and meet some other local operators. The first session will be February 17, 2024 at 2:30 PM at the Post.

Our next meeting will feature Chris Cox owner of the Star Repeater. He will be discussing the operations and availability of his new machine.

Also, during our next meeting, we will be giving away a brand new, untouched by human hands, 2024 ARRL Handbook. The thing weighs a lot and is loaded with the latest info related to our hobby. Must attend for a chance at winning the book.

One last reminder, we will not be hosting a test session this month because the Post will be used for the American Legion National Oratorical Contest. The Department of Idaho (State) will be selecting the State winner to represent Idaho at the national competition in Hillsdale, MI.



American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 19

Post Adjutant - Susan Barnett

Upcoming events include:

- Monthly informal potlucks. Next will be held on February at Post at 5:30pm.
- Dept Oratorical Feb 17th.
- Post meeting dinner- 20 February- chili and cornbread.

Membership: Post membership dues will be increased to \$55 per year starting 1 July, 2024. National has a program where members may pay dues for 3 years at current Post cost of \$45 per year but you must go through the MyLegion website to take advantage of this before 1 July. If you are a current 2024 paid member it will take care of your membership through December 31, 2027.

Birthdays in February (Legion): Mark Allen, Daniel Andrus, Floyd Bea, Johnny Beal, Edward Beisly, William Berg Sr, Louis Berns, Peter Blake, John Blevins, William Bochat, Eugene Carroll, Tom Carroll, David Chambless, Charles Crooks, Jeffrey ehler, James Flecker, Toy Flores, Michael Forsberg, Richard Gardner, Ralph Gentry, Steven Guy, Don Harrington, John Hibdon, John Hill, Robert Jenkins, James Kerby, Douglass Killam, Richard Lally, David Latzke, Stephen Mahoney, Samuel McAnulty, Ronald Moses, Ronald Mroski, William Orton Jr, George Pearman, William Perkins, James Pishl, Deborah Powell, Victor Ray, Floyd Roark, Alvin Robinson, Lee Rubel, Brett Sager, Keith Smith, Chad Thomas, Allan West, Clinton Wethered, Guy Whitcomb. SPOUSES: Harriett West.

Birthdays in January (Spouses): Bonnie Gilbertson,

Anniversaries in January: Dan and Jo Ann Pruett, Ira and Frances Smith,

Anniversaries in February: John and Marsha Brekke,

Please forgive any errors or omissions. Birthdays and anniversaries for all Legion Family members is a work in progress.

Susan Barnett

Post 113 Adjutant

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 20

Post Adjutant (Continued)

Money handled by Post 113 Adjutant					
1/1/2024-1/29/2024					
Post Account	Amount			invoice #	
30-Dec	\$8.00	cash	coffee klatch		deposited 1/6/2024
30-Dec	\$ 405.00	checks	dues (9) members	2312300246	deposited 1/6/2024
31-Dec	\$ 135.00	checks	dues (3) members	2312310355	deposited 1/6/2024
5-Jan	\$14.00	cash	coffee klatch \$8 from Ralph for Dec 23		deposited 1/6/2024
5-Jan	\$45.00	Cash	Robert Pinneo dues	2401230578	deposited 1/24/2024
5-Jan	\$45.00	Cash	Lee Rubel dues- paid Dale Ruch as Dan paid Lee Rubel and Alexandra Blamris-Garcia dues in December	2401230578	deposited 1/24/2024
13-Jan	\$1,000.00	checks	Membership award from Department		deposited 1/23/2024
16-Jan	\$ 45.00	checks	dues for Gay Emily Massie paid by Doug Hanks	2401230578	deposited 1/24/2024
19-Jan	\$ 90.00	checks	dues (2) members	2401230578	deposited 1/24/2024
23-Jan	\$ 5.00	cash	Koffee Klatch		deposited 1/23/2024
23-Jan	\$ 12.00	cash	Donations Christmas Party- from Ralph		deposited 1/23/2024
26-Jan	\$ 90.00	check	dues (2) members 2023	2401260039	wtg deposit
27-Jan	\$ 180.00	cash & Checks	\$20 cash- dues (4) members	2401280051	wtg deposit
27-Jan	\$164	cash	Koffee Klatch/Breakfast Dues Dylan Holtzclaw	2401290046	wtg deposit
S.A.L. account	Amount			invoice #	
26-Jan	\$ 15.00	check	dues 1 member	2401290043	wtg deposit
Radio Club account	Amount				

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 21

Finance Report –

This month's finance report will be distributed later this month from Ralph when he emails the February American Legion Post 113 Monthly Meeting and Dinner announcement.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 22

Service Officer's Report – John Brekke

Get Reimbursed for Post-2010 Emergency Medical Expenses, Apply by February. 22, 2024

In 2023 the Veterans Administration (VA) announced that it had created a unique, one-year open period during which veterans enrolled in VA Health Care can apply for VA reimbursement of their emergency medical expenses at non-VA facilities for emergencies that occurred at any time after February 1, 2010 – that is, during the last 14 years. This right to a VA reimbursement decision applies even if the veteran was denied reimbursement or did not apply for reimbursement in the past. But VA has made clear that it will not decide whether the veteran is entitled to reimbursement unless the veteran files a reimbursement claim on or before February 22, 2024. To file a reimbursement claim, a veteran must complete and sign VA Form 10-583 and mail or deliver it to the nearest VA medical facility to where you live.

<https://www.nvlsp.org/news-and-events/press-releases/alert-to-get-reimbursed-for-post-2010-emergency-medical-expenses-vets-must>

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/file-a-claim.asp>

Disabled Veteran Elk Hunt

The application deadline for the ID Division of Veteran Services (IDVS) all-expense-paid elk hunt for two 40% (or higher) disabled Idaho Veterans is due by January 31, 2024. Complete an application located on the IDVS site or call 208/780-1300

<https://veterans.idaho.gov/pressrelease/disabled-veterans-elk-hunt/>

VA Backlog

Because of the VA's record increase in new claims, there has also been an anticipated increase in the number of claims applications that take longer than 125 days to process (otherwise known as the backlog). This was about 378,000 claims at the end of 2023. While the total claims inventory has been decreasing over the last several weeks, the backlog is expected to grow in 2024 before returning to normal levels. Although the backlog has increased, you may receive a benefits decision more quickly than during some of their previous surges: At the end of 2023, the average claim was processed by VA in 149 days, which was 198 days faster than in 2013.

<https://news.va.gov/127378/2023-end-of-year-veteran-benefits-update/>

Medicare Benefits

Medicare is health insurance for people who are 65 years old or older. Every year Medicare changes its health benefit plan so it may be worthwhile to spend a little time finding out what new benefits may be available for you. For example, if you are in the Medicare Advantage plan you have until March 31 to switch plans or return to Original Medicare and join a separate Medicare drug plan. Generally speaking, if you are under Medicare and unsure about what to do find yourself an independent insurance agent that deals with Medicare.

<https://www.medicare.gov/>

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 23

Service Officer's Report (Continued)

PACT Act – Those Left Out

The VA has always had something of a two-tiered system for handling help for those facing health consequences from their lives in and around the military. Some conditions are automatically accepted as tied to service allowing for a streamlined course for receiving benefits. But those who suspect their illnesses were caused by contamination from U.S. military installations aren't covered by the law. It's understandable that affected veterans are angry. At nearly every opportunity he gets, VA Secretary Denis McDonough tells former service members they should file claims for any injury or illness they believe is service-connected even if it is not an established presumptive condition. Unfortunately, without the presumptive connection to service for a medical condition, however, the pathway to receiving VA disability is an enormous challenge. The good news is the military services, Defense Department and VA are conducting or planning to launch studies on potential exposures at various locations where veterans have already reported problems. For example, Fort Ord was designated a Superfund site in 1991 by the Environmental Protection Agency for extensive contamination of its soil and groundwater. Even today, parts of the former installation are so polluted, they can't be redeveloped.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/19/millions-of-vets-got-health-care-and-benefits-under-pact-act-thousands-left-out-want-same-chance.html>

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 24

American Legion Auxiliary – Janet Cook

Just wanted to let you know - if you would like to nominate and vote for new officers, your membership application and dues (\$45) need to be in asap.

Voting takes place in April. All info will be sent as soon as I get it.

I'm so excited to get new members! Thank you for your interest!

Please send your info to:

American Legion Auxiliary Dept.

C/O Kristal Tighe

87666 Rim Road

Nampa, ID 83687

I haven't heard about any upcoming AL Auxiliary unit 113 meetings.

I'll let you know if I hear anything.

Thank you for your patience!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Janet Cook

714-414-5453

<https://www.legion-aux.org/>

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 25



NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

NVLSP ALERT:

TO GET REIMBURSED FOR POST-2010 EMERGENCY MEDICAL EXPENSES, VETS MUST APPLY TO VA BY FEB. 22, 2024

Last year, VA announced that it had created a unique, one-year open period during which veterans enrolled in VA Health Care can apply for VA reimbursement of their emergency medical expenses at non-VA facilities for emergencies that occurred at any time during the last 14 years (that is, after Feb. 1, 2010). This right to a new reimbursement decision applies even if the veteran was previously denied reimbursement or never applied for reimbursement in the past.

But to be eligible for this new reimbursement decision, the veteran must apply to VHA for reimbursement on or before FEBRUARY 22, 2024.

To file a reimbursement claim, a veteran must complete and sign VA Form 10-583 and mail or deliver it to the nearest VA medical facility to where you live. You can get a copy of VA Form 10-583 at

www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/file-a-claim.asp. or
<https://www.va.gov/resources/reimbursement-of-non-va-prescriptions-or-medical-expenses/>

You can find the nearest VA medical facility to you at www.va.gov/find-locations/. The VA form must be **received** by the VA medical facility by the **February 22, 2024 deadline**. If you decide to hand-deliver the form, get a VA employee to sign his or her name and date of receipt to the copy of your signed VA Form 10-583 that you keep for your records. If you decide to mail the completed VA form, it should be sent in a way that allows you to prove the date on which the medical facility received the form – for example, by Priority Mail, or Federal Express. To the extent possible, you should also include the following along with the completed form:

- a statement identifying the dates of the medical emergency care, and the name of the non-VA facility at which emergency medical care was provided;

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 26

NVLSP ALERT (Continued):

- a copy of any invoices provided by the non-VA facility for the medical services;
- a copy of receipts of any payments you made for the non-VA medical services; and
- if Medicare, Medicaid or other private health care insurance covered part of the emergency expenses, a copy of any Explanation of Benefits or Medical Care Summary Notice prepared by these insurers.

You should keep a copy for your records of all the papers you provide to the VA medical facility.

The one-year open period for applying for reimbursement is an outgrowth of NVLSP's victory in the lawsuit *Kimmel v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs*. In that case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit invalidated the part of VA's reimbursement regulation that prohibited VA from reimbursing a veteran with private health insurance for the veteran's coinsurance liability not covered by insurance. In February 2023, VA announced the one-year open period to apply for reimbursement so that veterans who had emergencies in the past can take advantage of the favorable changes in the VA reimbursement system that have taken place over the last 14 years. **GET ADVICE:** During the last two years, did VA deny you reimbursement for emergency medical expenses you incurred at non-VA facilities? If so, NVLSP may be able to advise you on what to do about it. Contact us at reimbursement.help@nvlsp.org with the date of the VA denial letter, and, if possible, a copy of the denial letter.

Post 113 Officers for 2023 – 2024

Commander	Ralph Cavalieri	208/336-0012	rpcavalieri@gmail.com
Adjutant	Susan Barnett	208/550-7395	suekbarnett764@gmail.com
1 st Vice Commander	Dan Pruett	208/890-3384	dan@anywhereusa.org
2 nd Vice Commander	Richard Dees (aka Yers Trooly)	208/888-1343	rjdees@aol.com
Finance Officer	Ernest Cook	408/858-1995	post113.finance@gmail.com
Service Officer	John Brekke	801/989-6764	John.Brekke25@gmail.com
Chaplain	Dan Pruett	208/890-3384	dan@anywhereusa.org
Past Commander	Richard Dees	208/888-1343	rjdees@aol.com
Sgt-At-Arms	Al Carlson	208/320-7264	alcarlson72@gmail.com