



February 2023

AMERICAN  
LEGION

The Official Newsletter of The American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27 ★ Unit 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Farmington, Utah

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27  
P.O. BOX 427  
FARMINGTON, UT  
84025  
[WWW.POST27.ORG](http://WWW.POST27.ORG)

## COMMANDER'S CALL

**Greetings!** We closed off January with the Post Oratorical Contest. We initially had four contestants enrolled, but due to illness and a conflict, two young ladies participated and once again it was nice to hear from our area youths with their fresh perspective on the Constitution. Our winner, Abbie Christiansen from Davis High will participate at the district level. This will be held at noon on

Saturday, Feb 11 at the Layton City Council Chambers. I encourage you to come out and hear our youth speak on the US Constitution and support our Post winner, Abbie. I would also be remiss if I didn't express my appreciation to Dan Woodward, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, for his efforts in getting the word out to the local high schools, organizing, and running the contest this year.



Jon Rue



**February!** What a great month. Among other events is our national Presidents Day. Originally two separate holidays honoring Washington and Lincoln, as you know it is now a combined holiday honoring all of our nation's presidents. Although, I personally will continue to recognize both of those great men for leading our country during very difficult eras. Remember to fly the flag.

**Valentines Day** is coming up quickly. Don't let it slip by without taking an opportunity to recognize that someone special in your circle. Let them know you love and appreciate them.

Our Post General Meeting for everyone is Thursday, February 9 at the Davis Memorial Courthouse. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date for those that cannot attend in person. During the meeting, we will again open nominations for our Post's three elected positions ~ Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. We welcome nominations and opportunities for others to help our post continue with our community outreach and activities. Please come and join us as we plan for upcoming events.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

How can we get you, our fellow Legionnaires, to get involved in the Post 27 projects and events? I am very open to ideas, suggestions, and comments for the Post leadership to consider. I ask because you served your fellow military veteran during your service and some of those veterans could use personal help now. Give a few minutes of your brainstorming then send it to me at [1stVice@Post27.org](mailto:1stVice@Post27.org).

In addition, I feel YOU are missing out on the experience of the events, accomplishments, and comradeship Post 27 gives to active members. We need you and would love to see you renew, if you haven't yet, and come to your Post's monthly meeting and other events.

Bring a friend! It might make a wonderful change to both your lives!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander



### Post 27 Oratorical Contest winners

L-R: Post Commander Jon Rue, Livia Evans, Abbie Christiansen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Dan Woodward

We have had a successful 2023 Oratorical Contest, with our two winners, Abbie Christiansen from Davis in first place and second place winner Livia Evans from NUAMES High School. Congratulations to these fine young people who took the time to learn about our Constitution and how it applies to their own lives! And a Big Thank You to all our Legion members who attended and helped with this successful event!



Dan Woodward

Next on the calendar is Boys State and Girls State. This is where young people participate in forming a constitutional government, and also learn how and why our representative form of government is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Please consider helping out staffing the events when they occur in June!

## Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR



February 9 – Post 27 General Meeting.  
7:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse  
February 11 – District Oratorical Contest.  
February 14 – Valentine’s Day. *Don’t forget.*  
February 20 – Presidents Day. *Fly the flag.*

March 4 – Department Oratorical Contest 1:00 pm  
Historic Provo City Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
March 8 – Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm  
Davis County Memorial Courthouse  
March 12 – Daylight Saving Time begins

## Adjutant

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF POST 27  
**NEIL J. ANDERSEN & ROLAND BEHUNIN**



Dale Crockett

**Membership is our Lifeblood!**



**American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through Feb. 1, 2023.

2023 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
134	20	51	20	1	6	98	73%

**Sons of the American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through Feb. 1, 2023.

2023 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
34	29	1		30	88%

The American Legion was started to help Veterans. Every member of The American Legion has a voice in this organization and can be an influence in the way the programs and activities are run. All you have to do is give us your concerns, ideas, suggestions, and opinions. This organization is for you. If you are

happy with this organization and don't want to see any changes, then you are good. However, if there are things you would like to see differently, there is a way for you to make changes.

One way is to talk to our post leadership. They will try their best to listen and to discuss the issues you bring up. They want you to be happy with your membership and try to fix anything that might be a problem. If you come to an agreement that something needs to change, there is a system for doing that. It is to write a resolution.

It can start at the post level, and work up through the district, area, department and finally to National. Because resolutions adopted by your membership represent formal expressions of the official opinion or will of the post, extreme care should be devoted to both their preparation and thought content. Many resolutions have made its way to the top and changes have been made. We are always interested in making this organization something you love being with and having it help all veterans. Please let us know if there is something you need changed or updated. However, when considering resolutions, keep in mind that any proposal transmitted beyond the post and within the organization of the legion must be "germane" – that is, closely related to the purpose for which The American Legion exists.

***If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient in the future, or answer any questions you may have regarding membership, please let me know. I can be reached at Home (801) 451-9493/Cell (801) 560-2186 or email [dalescrockett@yahoo.com](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com). You can also VENMO me to renew @Dale-Crockett-7 if you have the app. It does not cost you anything and you can get it from the APP Store.***

## **Chaplain**



### **Scouts BSA**

In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell founded the Scouting movement in England. In 1909, Chicago publisher W. D. Boyce was visiting London, where he encountered a boy who came to be known as the Unknown Scout. Boyce was lost on a foggy street when an unknown Scout came to his aid, guiding him to his destination. The boy then refused Boyce's tip, explaining that he was a Boy Scout and was merely doing his daily good turn. Interested in the Boy Scouts, Boyce met with staff at the Boy Scouts Headquarters. Upon his return to the US, Boyce was inspired by his experience and incorporated the *Boy Scouts of America* on February 8, 1910, and since then, about 110 million Americans have participated in BSA programs.



**Steve Steed**

The stated mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Youth are trained in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to instill typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America renamed its flagship program, Boy Scouts, to Scouts BSA to reflect its policy change allowing girls to join separate, gender-specific troops. When The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stepped away from sponsorship of the Scouting program, Post 27 was the first post in Utah to sponsor a Scout troop – two in fact, one for boys and one for girls. The Post later added a Cub Scout pack.

The American Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919. As one of the programs of Pillar 3: Americanism, the American Legion vigorously opposes attempts to strip the Scouts of public support, sponsorship and facility space, due to the organization's membership or leadership criteria. The Scouts teach important skills, build character, and provide a healthy and wholesome outlet for young Americans. The organization should not be punished or persecuted for using the term "God" in its oath, or for setting leadership restrictions based on a moral code that the majority of Americans endorse.



Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. This is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive traits in our country's youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community.

The American Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

## Historian



**Kent Hansen**

### FUTURE PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATES HEROIC LEADERSHIP IN WWII

*Though this month's Presidents Day celebrates George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, we also have great presidents from other eras. Here's a story about an American Legionnaire who showed heroism long before he occupied the Oval Office.*

On August 1, 1943, a Japanese destroyer rams an American PT (patrol torpedo) boat, No. 109, slicing it in two. The destruction is so massive other American PT boats in the area assume the crew is dead. Two crewmen were, in fact, killed, but 11 survived, including Lt. John F. Kennedy.

Japanese aircraft had been on a PT boat hunt in the Solomon Islands, bombing the PT base at Rendova Island. It was essential to the Japanese that several of their destroyers make it to the southern tip of Kolombangara Island to get war supplies to forces there.

But the torpedo capacity of the American PTs was a potential threat. Despite the base bombing at Rendova, PTs set out to intercept those Japanese destroyers. In the midst of battle, Japan's *Amaqiri* hit PT-109, leaving 11 crewmen floundering in the Pacific.

After five hours of clinging to debris from the decimated PT boat, the crew made it to a coral island. Kennedy decided to swim out to sea again, hoping to flag down a passing American boat. None came. Kennedy began to swim back to shore, but strong currents, and his chronic back condition, made his return difficult.

Upon reaching the island again, he fell ill. After he recovered, the PT-109 crew swam to a larger island, what they believed was Nauru Island, but was in fact Cross Island. They met up with two natives from the island, who agreed to take a message south. Kennedy carved the distress message into a coconut shell: "Nauru Is. Native knows posit. He can pilot. 11 alive need small boat."



The message reached Lieutenant Arthur Evans, who was watching the coast of Gomu Island, located next to an island occupied by the Japanese. Kennedy and his crew were paddled to Gomu. A PT boat then took them back to Rendova. Kennedy was ultimately awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, for gallantry in action.



**SGT.  
SAGE  
SEZ**

The best armor is staying  
out of the way of the bullets.

## **POW/MIA News**

### **POWs RELEASED: VIETNAM 50 YEARS AGO – KOREA 70 YEARS AGO**

VIETNAM - On Feb 12, 1973, North Vietnam released 142 of 591 U.S. prisoners at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport. They flew from there to Clark AB in the Philippines in C-141s. As part of what was called Operation Homecoming, the first 20 POWs arrived to a hero's welcome at Travis AFB, California on February 14, 1973.



**Jay Hess**

KOREA - In August 1953, one month after North Korea, China and the United Nations agreed to a ceasefire, most American POWs were released by North Korea. Thirty eight percent of U.S. prisoners died in captivity in that war compared to 10% in Vietnam.



Then-Capt Jon A. Reynolds, flying an F-105, was shot down over North Vietnam and became a POW Nov. 28, 1965. He was among those released Feb 12, 1973. After release he completed his Master's and PhD in History at Duke University, Col Reynolds was Director of Military Studies at the Air Force Academy and instructor at the National War College for two years each. General Reynolds was Air Attaché to China and later Director of the Defense Attaché System. He died of cancer 4/16/2022.

His wife, Emilee, made available the video of his funeral at Arlington on the anniversary of his shoot down. If you have never attended an Arlington National Cemetery Interment Event, this video is exceptional. You can skip any parts that don't interest you. It is 55 minutes long. View at this link: <https://vimeo.com/770304752/cc492e2d5e>

## **American Legion Auxiliary**



**Deb Hansen**

Now is the time when we get really busy with our Girls State program! So far, we have been given 11 Girls State slots for our 3 high schools. We will be doing interviews at Davis High, NUAMES, and hopefully Farmington High Schools. Cary Fisher of the Auxiliary has said that we can ask for more slots, which we surely will need to because of the great interest at Davis and NUAMES! NUAMES would like us to interview their girls on March 10 and typically they start about 3:00 pm.

Please let Deb know if you would be available to meet with these outstanding young ladies during that time. We will have a date for Davis shortly and I will email that out to you! We will also see if there is any interest at Farmington and we will schedule interviews there.

Be sure to talk up Boys State in your circles of influence! I am hoping for two of my neighbor boys to attend as they are outstanding young men!

We express our sincere condolences to Roleane Crockett on the passing of her dear mom. Roleane tenderly took care of her mom for a long time and she is greatly missed by the Crockett family.

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on February 9 at the Davis Memorial Courthouse!

## **Scouting**

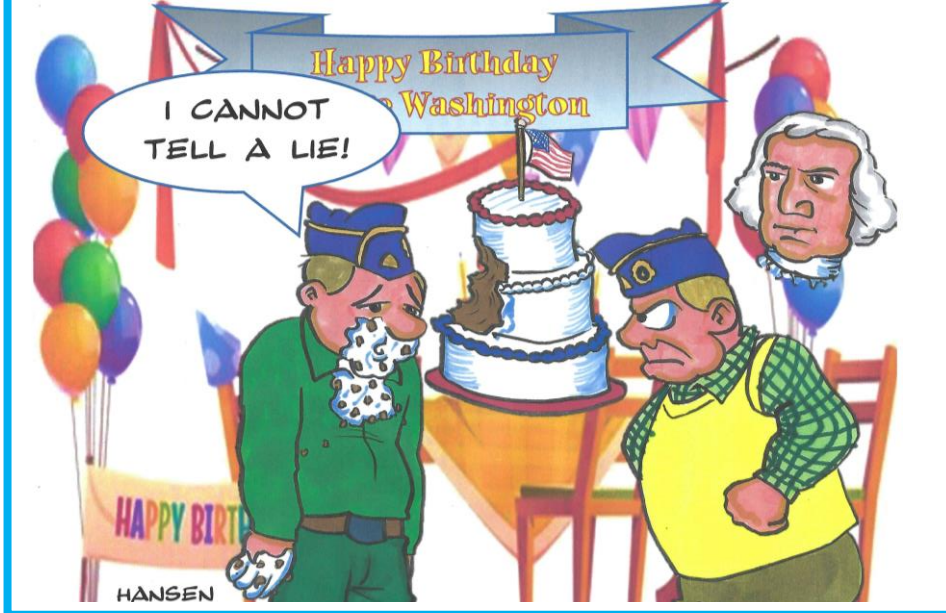
Scout Troop 27G started January off right! We had a camp the first weekend that focused on planning for the year with the Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders while other Scouts worked on the Trail to First Class. It was a very productive camp!

We are looking forward to the annual Klondike camp that will be held at Camp Kiesel the first weekend of February. Temperatures look like they will be in the teens! It will be an excellent chance to hone our winter camping skills as well as interact with other troops.



One of the items discussed at our January planning camp was the topic of recruitment! We would love to bring other girls into our troop, and share the love of scouting with them! If you have any family members age 11 - 17 that might be interested, please reach out to the Scout Committee Chair Todd Argyle (801-834-5637, [t\\_argyle@hotmail.com](mailto:t_argyle@hotmail.com)) or the Charter Organization Representative Dale Crockett ([dalescrockett@yahoo.com](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com)).

# Legion Laffs BY KENT HANSEN



Check us out on Facebook  
at

“American Legion Post  
27 Farmington Utah”



or the link from our Post  
website at

[www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org)



## Take Advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program

A representative from the Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs can assist veterans with benefit questions, disability and benefit applications, and families of veterans. Call for an appointment with a Service Officer: **801-662-8256**.

***Be sure to bring a DD-214 or Discharge Certificate with you.***



Department of Veterans & Military Affairs  
STATE OF UTAH

**MINDY HONEYCUTT**  
Outreach Program Specialist / VSO

mihoneycutt@utah.gov  
801.662.8256 (Cell)  
801.326.2369 (Fax)  
1102 N 1200 W, Ogden, UT 84404