

3/21/2015

To: District Commander

From: Adjutant of Rathdrum Post 154

RE: Rathdrum Post 154 Report

On January 13<sup>th</sup> the Department of Idaho issued a Temporary Charter to Rathdrum Post 154.

This came about after a number of meetings with Rathdrum City officials and potential Post members to determine the need for a Post in Rathdrum. The Constitution and Bylaws were drafted and submitted.

### **Membership**

1. 16 members were submitted for the temporary charter
2. Current membership stands at 35 with 11 Post 85 members submitted today taking it to 46 and we are awaiting DD-214's for a number of membership applicants

### **Letters of Support**

The Rathdrum City Council and Police chief wrote letters of support for establishing an American Legion Post to Commander Thurlow. In December officers were elected, standing committee chairpersons were appointed and the proposed constitution and bylaws were passed so that an application could be made to the Department.

### **Donations**

1. The City of Rathrum was requested to make a donation during the initial ramp up phase which the City Council approved for \$2,500. This is to help with the onetime costs primarily associated with ceremonial items needed for the Color/Honor Guard and other capital expenditures.
2. \$1,000 donation was received from a local business, Shawn Montee Timber Company
3. Many Post members have given generously of their cash, and other goods and services to help with the startup of the Post
4. Flag disposal box is being built and donated by Bayshore Systems.

### **Naming of Post 154**

When the application for the Permanent Charter is made the Post will be named Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Marines in the South Pacific and then settled on the Rathdrum Prairie and became a highly successful grass farmer in the area. The Schneidmiller family has provided a letter authorizing that the Post be named after him.

### **Mission Statement and Motto for Post 154**

A mission statement and motto for the post were worked on and established.

1. Post 154 Mission Statement - *The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veteran's organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating*

*patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.*

2. Post 154 Motto - *Hand in Hand with Veterans, the Community and our Country*

### **Created a Website, Facebook Page and Newsletter**

1. [www.rathdrumpost154.org](http://www.rathdrumpost154.org)
2. [www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion](https://www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion)
3. Newsletters were sent out in February and March.

### **Honor Guard**

1. Appointed Todd Halvorson Honor Guard Captain
2. Coordinating Honor Guards with the police chief and the City of Rathdrum
3. Our Honor Guard is working jointly with Post 143 Honor Guard to properly cover funerals and other patriotic ceremonies

### **Ceremonies**

1. Memorial Day – Post 154 has been asked to participate in the planning for the ceremony at Pine Grove Cemetery in Rathdrum
2. Flag Day – planning is underway to perform a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> the day before Flag Day

### **Community Service & Presentations**

1. Participated in Wreaths Across America in December while forming the Post
2. Joined the Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce and are involved with the planning for the Rathdrum Days Parade and Festival in July
3. Met with the Superintendent of Lakeland School District and all of the principals and told them about the American Legion and gave an overview of the various programs that Post 154 will be working on
4. Sponsored two youth soccer team through Rathdrum Parks & Rec
5. City of Rathdrum requested the Post to take over the annual Easter Egg Hunt which draws about 700 children
6. Made a presentation to the Rathdrum Rotary about the American Legion and Post 154
7. Made a presentation to the Lakeland School District School Principals about the American Legion and Post 154

### **Volunteer of the Month**

1. Recognizing the efforts of our volunteer members
2. Nominated and presented Volunteer of the Months awards for the past two months to Mike Warren and Margaret Ogram

### **Homeless and Disadvantaged Veterans**

1. North Idaho Stand Down - many Post 154 members chair various committees and volunteer for this important veteran's event aimed to provide services to all veterans but especially those that are classified as homeless.

2. Newby-ginnings is a non-profit that provides essential household items to veterans at no cost to them. Many of our members volunteer to help with their mission. Currently they are conducting a gun raffle that we are promoting to help them financially.

### **Recruiting and Fund Raising**

1. Recruiting pin to be awarded to those recruiting new members and is in the design stage
2. The first all day recruiting and fund raising event took place at Stein's grocery store. It resulted in one transfer and \$123 in donations was collected as well as giving great visibility for the American Legion and Post 154
3. Baseball hats are available with American Legion Rathdrum Post 154 @ \$15 each
4. A raffle for a Glock 19 will take place during May and June

### **Economic Development**

1. Active involvement in ESGR – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves
2. Margaret and Al Ogram are working with many businesses obtaining Statements of Support and making Patriot Awards to supervisors and managers
3. Margaret is scheduled to make presentations to community groups on the benefits of supporting our Guard and Reserve members

### **American Legion 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

An Ice Cream Social with Birthday Cake was hosted for the community on March 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Concession Trailer**

Donated by VFW Post 889 in Coeur d'Alene and Post members have done work on it and it will be used at various community events and membership drives.

### **Food Convoy Donations**

The Post plans to participate in the Food Convoy in October and is suggesting a \$1 per member donation at each membership meeting to buy food. \$58 has been collected to date.

There is lots more in the works.

