The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 March 2019



National Commander, Bret Reistat (Left) visits Oregon. Pictured in the Spruce Goose cockpit with Department Commander, Tom Harris (Right) at the Evergreen Avation Museum in McMinnville.

The National Commander, Brett Reistad has urged Posts, Districts, Counties and Departments to coordinate a team and call

Legionnaires and former members simply to see how they are doing, as "Buddy Checks."

The Legion's Media and Communications Division wants to share those plans. If you have a Buddy Check scheduled, please email details to magazine@legion.org.



Reistad has noted that the week leading up to the Legion's 100th birth-day, March 11-16, is a perfect time to make the calls, but posts that have made other plans to celebrate the centennial at that time can choose another week in the centennial month if necessary. "This is not a membership campaign," he said in a letter to post leaders. "It's a comradeship campaign."

"Remember, this organization was formed a century ago around personal contact and engagement," he added. "This 'Buddy Check' is about seeing how veterans are doing.

"To discover that, it takes personal engagement."

A Buddy Check toolkit, including scripts for Legionnaires to use when making personal contact, is available online at www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

#TEAM 100

WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP





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Legionnaire Insurance Trust Legionnaires and the American Legion Family,

I know that some of us are dealing with more severe weather than most. All I can say to that is hang in there! And try inviting your Post members and community over for a membership drive and Pot Luck until things thaw out. Spring is on the way!

It has been only a few weeks since our McMinnville DEC with National Commander Brett Reistad. What a special time that was, and what a great National Commander he is. I want to reach out to our American Legion Post 21 Family members and say thank you for all of your hard work promoting and managing meals and entertainment during that great event.

The Post was clean, and the grounds were groomed and well maintained. The hospitality was spot on, and even when they were tasked with serving more members than scheduled they stayed poised and took care of us all.

Thank you again Post 21 for a "Job Well Done" We could all learn a little from your attention to detail in your presentation.

I also want to thank our Post membership teams for reaching out to local Veterans each month to support membership, and for making Veterans feel at home.

Many Posts are sharing American Legion

Post activiwhile ties, others are simply bringing in new members. Congratulations to all, and may you all have a great vear.

Remember... it is our DEPARTMENT COMMANDER right and our

obligation



Tom Harris

carry the legacy forward and assure that Veterans from all conflicts will come home to a safe and free country that will support them and help to care for their families.

"If you are a Veteran" and you are interested in serving in your community, or if you just need assistance, we are here to serve, and we welcome you to join the American Legion Family, and the largest Veterans organization in the world.

Let's keep the faith, and continue to celebrate The American Legion 100 Year Centennial celebration together this year! Thank you, and God bless America,

"Believe and Achieve"

"For God and Country"



Department Commander Tom Harris seated, is with Alternate NECman Andy Millar, in Oregon State Representative Greg Walden's Office, and Past National and Department Commander Charlie Schmidt.

Getting and update on what is getting accomplished and on the burner in the Washington DC.



Department Commander, Tom Harris with Skyhawk Airplane

The Year

This Year

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Department Reports

has ment busy in working Diswith trict Commanders on membership and assisting them to hold revitalizations. Posts and





DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE COMMANDER STEVE ADAMS

thou we have not reached our goal by only one half of one percent their efforts are to be commended. Over one third of the Posts have made or exceeded goals and just under half of the Districts have made or exceeded goals. I encourage District Commanders and Post Membership Chairman to continue the good work and continue pushing membership to reach 100%.

It was a pleasure to have the National Commander Brett Reistad and the National Vice Commander Pisa Visit Oregon and share their expertise with us. I am also looking forward to having National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler in Oregon for our Centennial Banquet at Albany Post 10 and helping to escort him to different Posts and the Veterans Home in Lebanon before the Banquet.

I am encouraged by the dedication of some of our members to promote the Legion and the benefits of membership in their communities. Thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work you are a role model for all of us.



DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER DON WEBER

It's an exciting time as we enter planthe ning and execution time for many our Chiland dren Youth programs. The Oratorical

program is well under way, and I can tell you we have some ex-

cellent candidates coming up this year for the Department contest. To listen to the best-of-the-best high school students talk about the US Constitution, plan on attending this event on March 2, 10 AM, at the Oregon Dept. of Veteran Affairs in Salem.

This year's Boys State, Baseball, and Law Enforcement Career Camp (LECC) are all on-track to have another great year for our Oregon youth. Boys State will be at Western Oregon University from Jun 16 to Jun 22. American Legion Baseball will start shortly after the High School year ends. And the LECC will occur in August. The LECC program is gaining recognition, and last year they had more applications than space for students, so make sure you get your student applications in early.

The Law Officer and Firefighter of the year program is also underway. I look forward to meeting the Department winners at convention this year.

I know Tigard Post 158 has some great candidates, and I expect many other Posts will also.

In 1918 the "Spanish 'flu" becomes pandemic and how many people die in the following 6 months?

- A) Under 30 thousand
- B) Over 30 Thousand
- C) Under 30 Million
- D) Over 30 Million

Greetings, it's been 8 months since I was selected to become our Department Adjutant. For those that don't know me my name is Lou Neubecker, I'm a 27 year PUFL member from Seaside Post 99. I've been in every seat on the Post E-Board, and at the District level. I gained my eligibility to join the American Legion by serving in the US Marine Corps for June 67 to December 86. I was medically retired from the Marines.

Since becoming the Adjutant, we at Department have made some changes (we hope for the better), The District CMDR's don't have to search for their Post records at Department the records are all in one drawer per District and marked District #. We have also implemented the policy that on Fridays if you come into the office you wear must wear a RED shirt or blouse. Remember Everyone Deployed is for RED Friday's, we also fine you if you do not wear RED. It will cost you \$5.00, in which that money goes to the Foundation.

Our Office personnel is very solid at the present time. We have Mary our Administrative Assistant, Lynn our Bookkeeper, Flynn is our "go to" guy when we need something fixed at Department and Gea our Data input member for membership. All personnel are cross-trained for membership and we are moving into the training mode for bookkeeping. In speaking of Gea, we are currently looking for someone to help with her task at working membership, as Gea is also the Auxiliary Vice President this year and the possibly the next President, so she will be out of the office during the 2019-2020 year. If you can give a couple of hours a couple of days a week, we will train you.

In speaking about membership National has made it real easy for us to record our membership as the National office has moved into the 21st century by letting the Departments use scanners to electrically transmit

Department membership. (That was after they started to let the Post's process their membership on the computer). There are some Posts



that still send in LOU NEUBECKER

the membership

cards to us at Department, once we get the cards we just scan them in, SWEET. This cuts our input time down to a couple of hours instead of a day worth of work.

We have had a very busy 3 months of 2019. We have had the National CMDR Brett Reistad here for his visit at the Mid-Winter DEC, our area National-Vice CMDR Jim Pisa for a state wide revitalization, and we will have the National Adjutant here on the 15th of March to be our guest speaker at our 100th birthday celebration at Post 10.

We are still having a minor problem with our Post Officers Confidential listing as we are not being notified when a Post changes officers. Department needs to notify National so National can verity the new changes and them give access to the new members. Please remember to notify Department when you have a change of officers at any level. All forms that you need to submit to Department are on our web page at www.orlegion. org, click on MEDIA, and then click on Resources and then Publications and Forms. All the forms you will need are there under Post. Also the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) (FILLABLE) is there and you can get a jump on that report and start filling it out now. If you do it on line, you don't need to send it in via mail.





DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER RENEE OHLER

Let me start with a huge thank you to Mc-Minnville Post 21 for hosting our winter DEC. The wonderful comments from our National Command-

er Brett Reistad during his visit

were a testament to all the hard work that went into making this DEC a success on so many levels. I would like to congratulate you for a job well done.

The leadership that the Posts in District 2 exhibit is evident time and time again to The American Legion, our veterans, their families, and their communities. All Posts stepped up in a big way ensuring that food, clothing and gifts were provided to the veterans and their families in the community during the Holiday Season.

You care about our veterans and the impact on those lives will be remembered for years to come. So very proud of all you do and the professionalism you show as dedicated American Legion members. This is how we make a positive impact in the community and our Posts.

Our District membership has grown as a result of all the hard work from all post members and their leadership. Our numbers continue to grow for the Legion Families because of you. Keep forging ahead and we will all be at 100% by the June 1st target date.

Our last District 2 meeting in Canby was attended by the Department Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and other honored guests. They were impressed with your post reports and the dedication you showed. Standing room only for the first time this year and that didn't go unnoticed by the Department staff. This shows that there is support at all levels in the American Legion and we should all be proud and blessed that they are willing to help all of us with anything we need to be success-

District Reports

ful.

With only four months left in our legion year, and elections right around the corner, we need to be thinking about the new leadership for Department, District, and Posts. There are so many veterans that are ready and willing to serve and we look forward to giving our support to those we elect. Convention will be here before we know it and our delegate strength will decide who will take us forward for the next year.

I look forward to our District 2 meeting on the 24th of this month and hearing again all the wonderful work you the post leaders have accomplished. As your leader I have been very impressed by the post's leadership and activities. I encourage posts to work together on activities and show the unity we all work so hard to achieve.

Don't forget to use the legion websites to educate and promote our legion programs. Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Law Enforcement Career Camp are right around the corner. Let's have a great showing of support for these youth life changing events.

Thank You again for all you do in support of our Veterans and Legion Families.

For God and Country, God Bless

CENTENIAL COMMITTEE

DON WEBER

I hope you are following all of the activities that

are occurring around the nation to honor the 100 years of service by The American Legion. Here in Oregon we are planning a grand dinner to honor this historic birthday. The dinner will be March 15, at Albany Post 10. Our honored key-note speaker will be The National Adjutant, Dan Wheeler, of The American Legion. In addition to dinner, all guests will receive a hand-made 100 year poppy lapel pin.

Don't forget to send a note to The Centennial Committee to notify us of the activities you are celebrating throughout the state. In ad-

District 3 has been very busy trying to keep on top of membership. We have 2 Posts over 100% and several very close. Each **Post** has been doing the programs



DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

that DALE JENKINS

keep their Posts in the eye of their Communities. The Holiday programs are over with now and we had a few new members join. Community involvement is very important to us all. In November Tri-Counties (Junction City) Post # 61 added a new Veterans Legacy out of Alma. This used to be a Forest Service Camp and was converted to help displaced vets as well as alcohol and drug problemed persons. PTSD has taken its toll on more of our young military veterans so we need get them to our Service Officers. Lebanon is building a new 48 unit living facility. It will consist of three, three story buildings with a nurse and doctors as well as counselors on staff.

District 3 finished over 85% by the target date and now are aiming for 90% by March 13.

We should all be working on a Birthday Party for The American Legion. Albany Post 10 is having a dinner with the National Adjutant for \$25.00 a plate on the 15 of March.

Also Area 2 Oratorical Contest is at Post 136 in Salem. Third District has a contestant in this program.

dition to birthday dinners,



I have heard of several Posts working on memorial site updates.

Let's make this a great year to remember.



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER
DON ADAMS

Bay Area post 34 hosted Area 3 Oratorical contest. The representative from District 9 (Below Left) Mathew Frichman (Below Right) with Past

with Past
Department
C o m m a n d e r

Jackie Collison who presented him with Scholarship as 1st place participant in Area 3 contest.



(Below) Earl B Stewart Post 16 Commander Larry Hill Presented 30 year certificate to Air Force Korean War era member Martha Frey at monthly meeting.

(Below) Fallin Post 123 held 4 Chaplin's ceremony on Feb 1, honoring men who perished on SS Dorchester. Commander Roy Brogden was able to have 4 local veterans who were ministers participate at Myrtle Creek post. Hedi Wood, bagpipes, Post 123 Chaplin George Thallheimer (Army), Pastor Berma Mallard (Navy), Pastor Ryan Banducci (Air Force), Pastor Rick Smith Navy), Pastor Carl Slaughter (Air Force), Commander Post 123 Roy Brogden (Army).



(Below) Earl B Stewart Post 16 also held 4 Chaplin's ceremony. It was held on Feb 9, honoring those who perished on SS Dorchester on February 3, 1941 during World War II. The Chaplains helped others board lifeboats and gave up their own lifejackets when the supply ran out. CWO4 Loomis (Mrs.), CWO4 Dan Loomis, Kirk Connor, VARHS Chief Chaplin Doreen Brown.







DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER CORY BROCKMANN

Currently underway is the National High School Oratorical Contest and we congratulate Banks #90 oratoricandical date Anwe-Mukherjee,

sha who won Post and District level

competitions, then won the Area 1 competition. We wish her the very best at the department-level competition slated for March 2nd at the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) auditorium in Salem - I hope to see you there supporting our district winner! And, we also congratulate the other Posts - Aloha #104, Beaverton #124 and Tigard #158 which supported oratorical candidates at the Post and District level competitions - well done!

Now is also the time posts should be active in working with schools and youth leaders to promote programs slated for later this summer. Programs such as Boys State/Girls State, Boy Scouts/Scouting, Law Enforcement Career Camp, and Legion Baseball each provide outstanding growth and leadership opportunities for our youth. Every post should have youth participating in any number of these programs.

While our membership efforts are evident, more work is still needed. As of President's Day, 2/18, the district was at 85.07%. There is work yet to be accomplished to reach the March 13th 90% target date, but we can make it. I appreciate your efforts and I congratulate those Posts achieving our target goals. Posts that have been proactive in 'closing the back door' and renewing expired members from 2017 and earlier are reaping the financial rewards provided by National Commander Brett Reistad's membership incentive program. Every veteran matters and the financial incentives you earn help to support your programs.

We have available fantastic opportuni-

ties which Posts can leverage to help in celebrating our 100th anniversary! Raffle tickets for the district's 'Legacy & Vision' lithographic print, as well as, Americanism Commission's antique charred wooden flag are now available for purchase, as well as to sell, to all Legion Family members! All funds raised from both raffle's sales will be designated through The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TO-ALF) to support Americanism programs. And, all sales for the district's lithograph are designated specifically for our district's Americanism programs - that is a win-win for everyone! Please contact a District 1 officer or your local Post for information on how you can purchase and sell raffle tickets.

Lastly, each one of you make a difference to your Post and community. My sincerest gratitude for your efforts in continuing our legacy into the next century. You are, and remain, a positive reflection of what veterans - Legionnaires - do to make a difference!

Americanism

Fund Raiser

See Page 7 for details

There is a lot going on this year. We have had visits from both our National Commander and National Vice Commander. The national coins are in the



process of being minted. ROB LIEBENOW

The first part of May myself, Charlie, Cory Brockmann, Bob Huff and Jim Willis will be attending the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. We have our Department Convention the last part of June and National Convention the last part of August. In between all of this, we continue to celebrate our 100th anniver-

As we go forward, it is time for the members of The Department of Oregon to step up and make our department one of the leaders of The American Legion and not just a distant follower. We consistently lag in membership every year. We seem to do a good job in getting new members but are not good at retaining our current members. Some posts are doing an outstanding job, while others have not turned in membership in months. This does not help Oregon or the National Organization in maintaining our programs. We are here to serve our veterans and their families and the youth of our communities, without membership we cannot do what our founding fathers set forth in our preamble.



Commissions and Committee Reports



AMERICANISM REPORT
CORY BROCKMANN

strengthen families and, ulti-

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mately, strengthen communities and our country. Are you aware of the various scholarship programs that are available to our youth through our national office and programs? They include National High School Oratorical Contest Scholarship; Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship; Samsung American Legion Scholarship; The American Legion Legacy Scholarship; The American Legion Baseball Scholarship; and, Junior Shooting Sports Scholarship. Read on as we take a closer look at one of these scholarship programs – the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$5.5 million to approximately 2,069 applicants.

Award Amounts

Samsung scholarships may be used for

undergraduate studies and applied toward tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school and community service.

- Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten National Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining Department Finalists receive \$1,250 each guaranteed.

Eligibility

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Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and who are a direct descendant (i.e., child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc.) or a legally adopted child of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.

Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War Era Veterans will receive three bonus points.

Applicants with membership in The American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion will receive one bonus point. Or, they can receive a bonus point by uploading a membership card of a parent. No more than one bonus point is awarded for an application.

Deadline

Scholarships are due no later than the first day of a participant's American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. All applications must be submitted using the online application system by 11:59PM on this day. Applications will not be modified after the due date or given a deadline extension under any circumstance.

For more information on scholarship programs make contact with your nearest American Legion post or navigate to https://www.legion.org/scholarships/ceb



JOIN US in celebrating our 100th anniversary! Purchase your raffle tickets for a chance to win a 36" x 60" antique charred, high gloss, U.S. flag made by The Rustic Flag Company.

RAFFLE TICKETS: May be purchased by Legion Family members by contacting Americanism committee chairs or committee members, district commanders or the Department of Oregon headquarters.

The Rustic Flag Company was founded by Justin Scott, an Army combat veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF III). The very first flag was created in his garage while attempting to replicate a wooden version of his DCU Combat patch, a stained design with the touch of hand chiseled stars. Since that time the company has become the nation's largest consumer of 1X American Spruce and has sold over 65,000 flags, all handcrafted in America.

Your purchase of raffle tickets will provide additional support in the delivery of our Americanism programs – Children & Youth, Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts/Scouting, and Law Enforcement Career Camp!

DRAWING: The drawing will take place at the 2019 Department Convention banquet slated for Thursday evening, June 27, 2019. You need not be present to win.

Point of contact:

Cory Brockmann, Chairman

Email: cory.brockmann@comcast.net
Lou Neubecker, Department Adjutant

Email: adjutant@orlegion.org

Picture of flag shown on page 6



LEGION BASEBALL MIKE SOWELS ACCEPTS CHAIRMENSHIP

The youth baseball program is in need of umpires. The lack of qualified umpires forcing the program cancel games.

To address this problem an emergency umpire training certification

session has been scheduled (Saturday 26 May at Kraxberger middle school in Gladstone from 1-5).

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving this training, please contact Tim (tim.nystrom@fairwaymc. com) Cell (503) 267-4232 and plan on attending this certification training.

Please pass this request on to anyone that you think can assist in this effort.

Thank you for any assistance you might be able to render. Michael Wilson

LEGION BOY SCOUTS LARRY WITTMAYER

ary 1, 2019. This makes the girls eligible

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earn the Eagle rank by the same requirements for boys.

Our Department continues to engage Posts and Scouting units to encourage Legion chartering of Scouting units. Additionally, there will be LDS Scout units wishing to continue in the Scouting programs will be looking for chartering partners.

NEWS FLASH: Stanwood Gandy a member of the Department Scouting Committee has just become one of Cascade Pacific Council Silver Beaver Recipient. This award is a National Award and the highest award bestowed by any Council.

We are ex- Convention Commission cited to cel- PDC, Jon Marsh ebrate the culmination of our Centennial Celebration with you this year in Astoria, 26-29 June 2019!

Clatsop 12, as a Centennial Post, is looking forward to showcasing their Post home and their beautiful community located at the mouth of the Columbia River. For many of you, this will be your first opportunity to experience a Department Convention hosted by a Legion Family, in their home. Come and enjoy the catered banquet; daily breakfast and lunch at the Post and of course the causal BBQ.

Astoria is the oldest city west of the Rocky Mountains and the oldest city in Oregon. It is rich in history with many sites to see; the Astor Column, the Maritime Museum; visit the quaint local shops downtown or experience the local microbrews. There is also a beautiful river walk and a trolley that will take you from one end of town to the other.

More detailed information will be coming soon. Don't forget to make plans to highlight your own Post home with an ad in the Centennial Convention program!

See you in Astoria!

COMMEMORATIVE COIN The American Legion Com-CORY BROCKMANN memorative

Coins will soon be for sale March 14, 2019. The commemorative coins offer Legion Family members, posts and veteransupporters another avenue with which to celebrate our 100th anniversary as well as support The American Legion's programs and continuing legacy of support to veterans.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 115-65), which received strong congressional support in both the House and Senate, authorized the United States Mint to strike and issue up to 50,000 of the \$5 gold coins, 400,000 of the silver dollars and 750,000 of the clad half-dollrs.

Actual pricing of the coins will not be set until the purchase date and will be based upon current gold and silver prices at that time.

Each coin's price will include sur-



charges of \$35 for each \$5 gold coin, \$10 for each silver dollar coin and \$5 for each half-dollar coin. The Public Law authorizes the U.S. Mint to pay the generated surcharges to The American Legion to support the Legion's programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and

other purposes specified by the autho rizing legislation. With sales of a \$5 gold piece, a silver dollar and a clad half-dollar honoring The American Legion's legacy, it is possible to raise up to \$9.5 million for the organization's programs and services. /ceb

LEGION FOUNDATION PDC, KEVIN OWENS

At the last Department Executive

Committee meeting, the Foundation passed out Military bracelets to each District Commander to raise money for the Foundation. I would encourage everyone to purchase one. Money raised helps support all Legion programs. The Foundation also approved two fundraisers', one for Department and the other for District One. Again, money is to help our Americanism programs at the Department level and the other to help the District 1 program. I would encourage other Districts to do the same as our programs can only become better with the actions of the members. The last thing is the quilt program that Cory Brockman is working on. It's a great idea that's needs all our Family members to embrace to be successful. Please pass the word and get involved. Together we can make a difference because its up to all of us to stop talking about change and act on it. I know we can do it. We are Veterans and nothing can make a difference more than the heart of a Veteran.

Happy 100th
Birthday
to The

Hmerican Legion



CHILDREN & YOUTH PDC, JON MARSH

The Department of Oregon was able to provide assistance to 27 USCG families during the government shutdown in the amount of \$16,0000.

These numbers include all submitted, not necessarily processed through our Children & Youth committee. As you may know, the USCG was able to fax applications directly to National.

Our Department submitted 72 TFA's; to expedite the process, under five were from neighboring states (CA, WA). Of



DEPT FINANCE OFFICER PDC, BOB HUFF

our 2018-2019 budnumget bers projected a lower membership number of 16,500 m e m b e r s to base the budget on, be-

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get on, being conservative, which the

membership number was achievable and was presented and accepted at our Department Convention in June 2018 at Florence, OR. Our National Membership Comparison Report Oregon is 478 members behind this same time last year and we are in 50th place for our Department standing. We are declining again and we have achievable membership numbers. We just met and worked on our proposed



those, 14 were funded in the amount of \$7,900.00.

We continue to work this beneficial program open to all veterans (membership required) and Active Duty Service Members. The coffers were hit hard during this time. Donations to the The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation are always appreciated! Formerly known as the Endowment Fund, it provides vital support for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families.

Department Budget for the 2019-2020 membership year, we reduced our membership number again, to 16,000 members to base our 2019-2020 budget on. The proposed budget will be presented to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) at our next DEC in LaPine for review and comment and then to the full delegate strength at our Department Convention in Astoria in June for review, comment and we will present the budget for acceptance at our Department Convention

We are a grass root organization; retention and recruiting new members is a key factor at the Post level. If we have members of our Posts who have not renewed, we need to call them, make sure they are OK, see if there is an issue. Your Post renewals help support your Post and your Post programs and activities. Some Districts have held Revitalizations, all should be holding Revitalizations and part of the Revitalizations is making phone calls, personal visits for retention. It is interesting that those Districts working Membership aggressively, holding Revitalizations, working events in their areas are doing good on membership. We need everyone, the Legion family to work events and membership together, there are so many opportunities for new members in our Department, we just need to ask. We can still make 100%, it is achievable, we just need to continue to work it. Our budget supports our programs and the good things we do. We need to work as a team to work our renewals and increase our membership, we are there to help, it is achievable.

Yes, I will continue to remind all Posts that it is that time of the year again. All our Posts with Tax Year January 1 to December 31, 2018 it is time if they have not filed their Tax's to be putting their paperwork together as the new tax reporting season has started. Remember, all Posts must file a 990, 990ez or 990-N electronic e-postcard. There are no exceptions, we are a 501(c)19 organization. We are always here to help and walk you through it. We have provided training at our last DEC and at Department. We will continue to provide training.



LEGIONNAIRE DON WEBER

This is our first attempt at providing a monthly newsletter. I think it will be great to have monthly updates on things that are happening around the State

in a more timely fashion. As we convert to this new

format we want to provide information that is more relevant to everyone in the State. Please feel free to send us a note on what you would like to see more of, and how we can provide better information.

In the past, we attempted to provide a hard-copy issue to every member in Oregon. The cost of that was extremely high and we could only print four copies per year. We will now make an electronic distribution that will significantly reduce the cost.

We recognize that some people will not have ready access to a digital copy of the newsletter. With that, we will attempt to format in a printer friendly version, and hope that the Post's will print a copy for those members that do not have access to the digital version. Department will also print a few copies for the Veteran support facilities around the State. Again, please share your thoughts on how to make this the best communication tool possible.

Post Operations

What are the basic requirements for a Post and its operations?

The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws state that to maintain a post's charter, a post must meet at least every six months, participate in at least one program, process memberships in a timely manner, and complete required reports. Those are the basics.

However, to be truly effective, a post's leadership and members should look beyond the basics and seek to promote The American Legion's Four Pillars. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth are the pillars under which The American Legion has developed its programs and initiatives to strengthen our support for veterans, their families, and our communities.

If we promote and work to support those programs we will not only improve our communities, but also the community will join with us to help make things better.

So, what can we do to strengthen our post and its programs? First, each post can look back on their history and note the events and programs it has supported in the past. Make a list. Does your post celebrate patriotic holidays, like Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day? Does your post host Oratorical contests, sponsor participants to Boys State, support a local Scout organization, give school achievement awards, put out flags in the community, orsponsor a boy to Boys State?

Does your post visit veterans in vour community, send gifts to the Veterans Affairs Hospital gift shop, or provide rides for veterans to medical ap-



Internal Affairs
Richard Ramey

pointments? All of these activities are ex-

amples of working programs.

Make a list of these and carry it with you so that when you see a veteran you can tell them about what your post is doing, invite them to join your post and participate in its activities.

And when you are making arrangements for these events, invite the local newspaper, cable channel, etc. to the event so you can raise awareness of what your post is doing in the community.

We can all do a better job of helping to get the word out and make small choices to improve how well we make these activities better for the future.

So meet regularly, be prepared with information about what your post is doing, plan your activities well, and invite others to join in volunteering to make your community better. The healthiest posts are those that are active in their programs and raise community awareness of what they are doing.

Area 2 Oratorical Richard Ramey Hear ye!

The Department of Oregon, Area 2, High School Oratorical Contest was conducted on February 23, 2019 at Salem Post 136 at 10 a.m. with the following results:

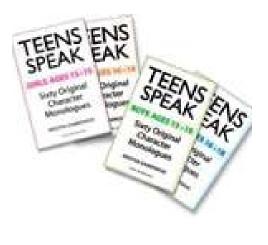
First Place: Kalyn Lafayette, Sponsored by Brownsville Post 184

Second Place: Amylisha Mykyta, Sponsored by Independence Post 33

It was a well-attended contest and everyone appreciated the speakers' presentations.

Neither of the Districts had the original paperwork so I will bring a copy of the scanned documents with my endorsement as to their placement to the Department Contest next weekend; and I will give a copy to Department at my next visit, this week.

Both contestants were instructed that they will be contacted by Department as to their scholarships; and I instructed Kayln that the Department Oratorical Contest Chairman will contact her as to the time and instructions for the Department Contest.



Temporary Financial Assistance

The Department of Oregon was able to provide assistance to 27 USCG families during the government shutdown in the amount of \$16,000



CHILDREN & YOUTH These numbers PDC, Jon Marsh include all submitted, not necessarily processed through our Children & Youth committee. As you may know, the USCG was able to fax applications directly to National. Our Department submitted 72 TFA's; to expedite the process, under five were from neighboring states (CA, WA). Of those, 14 were funded in the amount of \$7,900.00.

We continue to work this beneficial program open to all veterans (Legion

membership required) and Active Duty Service Members. The coffers were hit hard during this time. Donations to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation are always appreciated!

Formerly known as the Endowment Fund, it provides vital support for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families.

For most Post's, the time is here to file your taxes. Does matter to anyone even though your Post made under \$50K? Well it does matter



the IRS and our organizations. If

PERMANENT FINANCE
PDC, KEVIN OWENS

a Post does not file for three years their non-profit status is revoked which puts you at risk of paying taxes. The process to get it back is long and can't be prevented if you don't stay on top of things. I would recommend that the Post check with the IRS to know what your IRS year is as in most cases it is not what we think it is, most think it runs from Jan 1- Dec 31. Another good rule of thumb is money earned from non-members could be taxable, please check to make sure taxes are not owed by the Post with un-related income. It is important to know the rules; not think we know the rules. It's the responsibility of all the members to ensure things are done correctly, not just the Officers. The Post belongs to everyone who is a member.







Pictured Left to right: Bryan Guiney, Secretary, Cameron Smith, Board member, Mary Mayer, Treasurer and Director, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Ex-Official Board Member, and Jim Willis, President



Oregon Veterans Community Foundation

The Oregon veterans Community foundation had their meeting at headquarters on January 30th. It was a lively discussion and Jim talked about costing; saying \$50 dollars is Fifty Dollars!

From the inception of our state, Oregonians' spirit of service inspired communities to give back in all ways great and small. The Oregon Veterans Community Foundation seeks to connect those whose mission is to serve those who served. Operation Salute. ...

Oregon Veteran Community Foundation is a non-profit established to work with the Oregon community to support veterans throughout the state

You can find them on the web at: https://www.oregonveteranscommuni-tyfoundation.org/

Make a difference Donate today!

11



VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PDC, Bob Huff

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is tasked with Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness. this is

monthly publication, we will

provide upcoming events that we are currently supporting. As events are coming to your area we will notify the District Commanders and Posts of the events asking for the widest distribution. We support all the events as a Legion Family.

On Friday March 15, we will support the Veterans Stand Down/Up, Employment and Benefits Event at the Josephine County Fair Grounds.

On Wednesday July 24 we will be supporting the Veterans Stand Down, Employment and Benefits Event at the VA SORCC in White City.

On Tuesday August 6 NW Natural Street of Dreams 2019 will have a "Celebrate Veterans Day" Produced by the Home Builders Assn of Metro Portland.

On Wednesday, September 11, the Portland Veterans Stand Down at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The ODVA Expo 19 which was scheduled for July in Pendleton has been taken off the radar, we are in contact with the ODVA now for followup. The VA supports all our activities and remains a strong supporter providing staff and services for all of our events. As new events are identified we will contact the event coordinators for information and tables; remember, we support Veterans and Veteran family specific events where Veterans are not paying a fee and where employment, Veterans/Family are paid a living wage.

As we support new events an Email notice will be sent out as their location and dates are locked in. And remember our most successful events are those with local Post par-

ticipation.

New VA Appeal Process

On Tuesday, Febru-19th, ary VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the change to the VA's appeal process represented, "the greattransformation

event in the history of

the department."



PDC, JIM WILLIS

That is a strong statement and only time will tell if the new appeal process will work as advertised. Veterans can choose one of three options for their appeals.

- 1. A supplemental claim (introducing evidence left out of the initial decision)
- 2. A review by a senior official ("calling the manager to complain" as one advocate called it)
- 3. Or a direct line to the Board of Veterans Appeals, where a panel of judges will rule on the case.

The first two options carry with them a goal of 125 days from start to finish. The appeal to the judges has a target of a year. But officials are promising that all three will be significantly speedier than the legacy system, where veterans face a typical wait of somewhere between three and seven years.

If you have an appeal on file or would like to file one, contact our Department Service Officer to see if you could do one of the three options to speed up your appeal. Good luck, your VA&R Commission wishes you a speedy and successful outcome on your appeal.



Mildred "Mickey" Maude Kalinauskas

Legion and Auxiliary Member

Feb 22, 1924 — Jan 29, 2019 Mickey was 94 years old was born on February 22, 1924 to **6**Arvel and Nellie Griffin in Oakesdale, Washington. She was the fourth of five children, her siblings being Josephine, Lloyd, Thomas "Harold", and Janet. They eventually moved to Aberdeen, Washington, and then to Mulino, Oregon, where Mickey graduated from Molalla High School in 1942.

During the onset of World War II, she worked as a secretary at the shipyards in Portland before enlisting into the Navy WAVES. She was stationed in Washington, D.C. through the war. Some of Mickey's fondest memories were of the friends she made and the time spent in Washington D.C., where she could experience big city life during a pivotal moment in world history. She was always proud of her service during the war, as is her family and friends.

It was during her time in D.C. where she met her future husband, Guy Stamp, who was also in the Navy during World War II. They were married in Winnemucca, NV on October 29, 1948, and moved to Boise, ID. On

January 17, 1956, they adopted their daughter, Kathie Sue.

> In 1963, the family moved to Corvallis, where Mickey became a rare career woman, wife, and mother, working at OSU and then as a legal secretary for Robert Mix and other attorneys in On May 17th, 1980, Kathie



Mildred "Mickey" Maude Kalinauskas

In Memoriam

married Mark Hopkins, and Mickey and Guy moved from just outside of Corvallis into town. A few years later, she and Guy were divorced, and on May 25, 1985, Mickey remarried William "Bill"

Kalinauskas.



She continued to work, but they traveled as well, taking long road trips across the country for Moose events and more. On October 13, 1986 and June 7, 1989, Mickey's granddaughters, Lisa and Karen, were born.

She was an active member of the American Legion for 20 years, American Legion Auxiliary for 40 years, and Women of the Moose as Deputy Grand Regent from 1982-83, and participated with other organizations such as Cascade Seafarers, and volunteered at The Cat's Meow (Heartland Humane Society Thrift Store) for at least 15 years.

Her favorite thing of all was her family, and she was excited when Karen was married to Decker Cleveland on December 16, 2016. She also loved her extended family, and loved visits from her nieces and their children. She loved to shop, to go out to eat, to do arts and crafts such as embroidery, knitting and sewing, and creating and collecting bears and dolls. She adored doing things with her daughter and granddaughters, and especially loved her special pets over the years, Clara, Sgt Tibbs, Nikki, Snookie, and Peanuts (and her great-grand dogs, Captain and Addie). She also really loved to have her nails painted bright red,

and never forgot a compliment!

Reprinted from her Obituary provided by Jackie Poppleton

Jeffrey Blakeston Knowles



Jeffrey Blakeston Knowles. age 67, passed away Dec. 23, he was a member of The American Legion Ellis Tracey Post 77 in John Day

Oct 24, 1951 ~

Dec 23, 2018

Oregon.

Jeff graduated from Redmond High School in 1969 and later earned an associate's degree from Walla Walla Community College in 1973. Instead of waiting to be drafted, Jeff enlisted in the Army; he was stationed in Vietnam in 1970-71. During this time, Jeff was exposed to Agent Orange, which was later determinate to be the cause of his long history of medical issues that he battled for most of 48 years.

Jeff finished service as a decorated soldier. He was honored and always proud of his service to his country. The Community just loved him, he was active in the American legion and the Elks Lodge.

The family ask that in lieu of flowers, make a donation to The American Legion's "Operation Comfort Warriors". Those donations were forwarded to the Department of Oregon and The Department of Oregon will be forwarding \$1945.00 to National for the "Operation Comfort Warriors" program. Many thanks to all those that donated in his

To read the complete obituary see this link;

https://www.driskillmemorial chapel.com/notices/ Jeffrey-Knowles

About Operation Comfort Warriors:

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans

who served in Iraq. Many of these service members have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI

Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recover but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

More at:

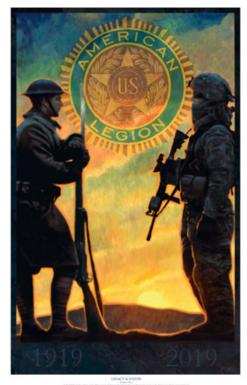
https://www.legion.org /troops/operationcomfort



The American

Legion Auxiliary

will be selling raffle tickets for this **Śigned** Lithograph at the Centennial Dinner in Legion to produce original artwork Albany. Raffle tickets will cost: \$5.00 ea. for the Legion's 100th anniversary, or 6 for \$20.00



- Signed by the artist.
- Official American Legion Centen-🚠 nial artwork to display in your Post

- 22" x 33"
- Suitable for framing
- Commissioned by The American acclaimed artist Matt Hall painted this piece entitled "Legacy & Vision". The original painting will hang in the National Executive Committee room at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis
- Matt Hall's dramatic military history artwork has hung in The White House, illustrated heroism for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, directed imagery in popular video games and guided Steven Spielberg's "Flags of Our Fathers." The artist from Dripping Springs, Texas, has also often been commissioned to illustrate articles for The American Legion Magazine.
- Hall's "Legacy & Vision" painting for The American Legion centennial depicts the common bond of military service, from the World War I doughboy to the post-9/11 fighter, connected under the emblem of the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans.

American Legion Auxiliary

will be selling raffle tickets for this Centennial Decanter at the Centennial Dinner in Albany. Raffle tickets will cost: \$5.00 ea. or 6 for \$20.00 it's 10" tall and holds 27 oz. of your premium beverage.





Department Officers

Commander Imed. Past Cmdr 1st Vice Cmdr 2nd Vice Cmdr Adjutant **NECman** Alt NECman Finance Officer Chaplain Historian Judge Advocate Service Officer **Asst Service Office** Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Aide to Cmdr

Tom Harris Gene Hellickson Steve Adams Don Weber Lou Neubecker Rob Liebenow Andy Millar **Bob Huff** Steve Shollenberg S. Flynn Phillips **Gerald Shorey** Ed Van Dyke Jody Marsh Phyllis York Mike Morris Ward Allen S. Flynn Phillips

Calendar of Events

March 13 Membership Target 90%

15-17 Legion Birthday 100 Years

17 St Patrick's Day

23 Round Up Prineville #29

05-07 Spring DEC LaPine #45 05-07 National Oratorical

10 Membership Target 95% 14-16 LIT Board in FL

19 Good Friday (Closed)

21 Easter

April

May

06-07 Membership Mtg IN

08-09 Spring NEC IN

08 Membership Target 100%

17-19 Vet Fest Milwaukie

27 Memorial Day (Closed)





Editors Notes

Reprinting with Permission Only!

Articles submitted to The Oregon Legionnaire that are copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original author or publication before they can be included here. No exceptions. Violation of copy right law is a serious matter that we cannot afford to engage ourselves in. Verbal permission is not acceptable.

Editors Notes

Frank Walsh WWII Veteran and Legion Member



DEPT HISTORIAN
S. FLYNN PHILLIPS

Frank Walsh Chaplain of Post 65, sitting next to the love of

his life Rose Marie, Post 65 Commander Larry Edwards with his hand on his shoulder, District 8 Commander Larry Wittmayer behind him and Department Adjutant Lou Neubecker in the back.

District 8 Commander Larry Wittmayer mentioned that they were going to one of their Post member's birthday celebration at an assisted living center and the birthday boy was Frank Walsh, a WWII Army Tank Commander and Post 65's Chaplain, with quite a story. Frank was celebrating his 95th birthday with his friends, family and Legion family.

The Department gave him a letter of appreciation for his service in WWII which reads "In recognition of outstanding loyal support and service to your country from December 7, 1941 to December 31th, 1946 during World War II where you served as a Tank Commander in numerous battles in France, Germany and Belgium, especially at the Siege of Bastogne Belgium, as part of the larger Battle of the Bulge. You crossed the Lu dendorff Bridge at Remagen twice. At some point in your endeavors you hitched a ride on a gasoline truck, which was struck by a German Tiger Tank round and exploded



killing the person you were with and burning you, of which you received the Purple Heart award. Your loyal dedication and commitment during your service during World War II directly impacted the areas you served. This brought great credit upon yourself, your family, European countries, The Army, State and Nation."

It was nice celebrating another one of our "Greatest Generation's" Hero.

Since 1919 The Voices of Oregon Veterans

The Oregon Legionnaire March 2018

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Publisher S. Flynn Phillips
Chairman Don Weber
Members Mick Wilson
Cory Brockmann

Oregon Territory Museum, Oregon City

Past Department Commander 1993-94, Richard Schenfeld, put S. FLYNN PHILLIPS together a 100th Year Centennial display of The American Legion artifacts at the Oregon Territory Museum in Oregon City. When Rich called me to ask if I had anything to contribute to the display from department I didn't realize who he was until I went out to take some pictures of the display. Rich has done an excellent job and given the small place he was allowed to display I think he did quite well. I hope more displays will be done across the state as we are closing in on the birthday. Bravo-Zulu Richard. (*Pictures Below*)

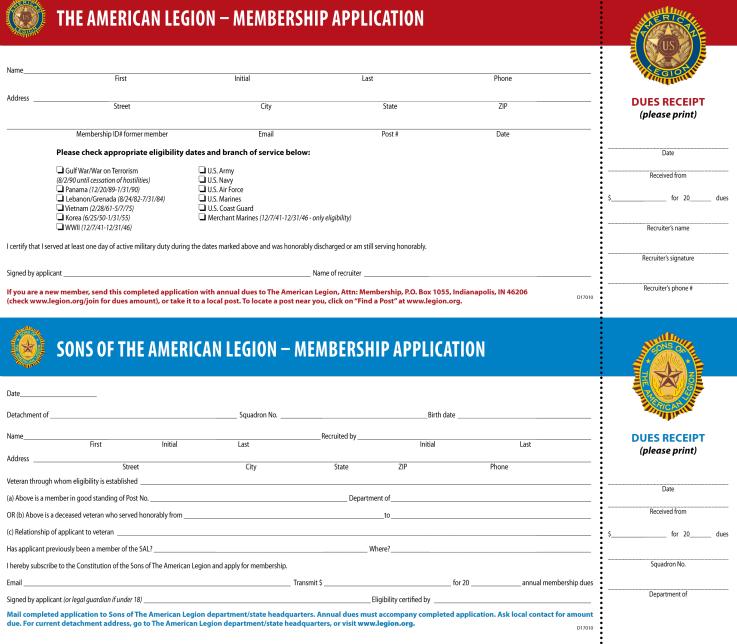














AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For current department address go to: www.ALAforVeterans.org/contact/state_headquarters. Dues include a yearly non-refundable allocation of \$3.40 for American Legion Auxiliary magazine

Membership pending approval of application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION				ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION				
Name	First	Initial	Last		Eligible Through-Name of Veteran (if living	n, must be American Leg	ion member)	Deceased
Address					American Legion Member ID Number			
City		State	ZIP		Veteran's American Legion Post Name	Post #	City	State
Home phone		Cell phone			Veteran served: (check all that apply) ☐ WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18) ☐ WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46)			
Email			Jnit # and Location		☐ Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46) ☐ Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)	☐ Korea (6/25/50		
Date	/ / of Birth (Required)	☐ Birth - 17	☐ 18 and older		☐ Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)	☐ Gulf War/War		
Have you been a	member previously?	Yes 🖵 No	/	/	Applicant's relationship to the v	eteran:	☐ Sister	☐ Self
Signa	ture of Applicant (or lega	l guardian if under 18)	Date	,	Direct Descendant (daughter, grandda	ughter, great granddai	ughter, etc.)	
			ry department/state heado		I certify that the above named individual above and was honorably discharged or is			e dates marked



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date

Received from
for 20 dues
Recruiter's name
Recruiter's signature

Recruiter's phone

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification