

Agenda for the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting

Saturday, 12 October 2019

1200-1400, Center 50+ (Salem Senior Center), 2615 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97301

Vision: To be the leading organization advocating for rights, benefits, and entitlements on behalf of Oregon veterans and their families.

Mission: The United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) are a coalition of military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations whose mission is working in joint pursuit (in tandem) to reach shared goals and unified positions on matters concerning the welfare of Oregon's veterans, their dependents, and survivors. As such, the UVGO is an advocate for veterans' rights, benefits, and entitlements. The UVGO takes no political action on legislative issues without the unanimous consent of the voting member organizations

Regular Members: Air Force Association; American Legion; Association of the United States Army; Disabled American Veterans; Korean War Veterans' Association; Military Officers Association of America; Military Order of the Purple Heart; National Association of Atomic and Nuclear Veterans, Inc.; Non-Commissioned Officers Association; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America; and 40+8.

Associate Member: Disabled American Veterans (Auxiliary)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** (Mary J. Mayer)
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** (All)
3. **Invocation** (Jack LaBox)
4. **Officers, Chaplain, and Standing Committee Chairs for 2019-2021**
 - Chair: Mary J. Mayer, AFA
 - First Vice Chair: Tom Coucino, DAV
 - Second Vice Chair: Robert Haltiner (NCOA)
 - Immediate Past Chair: Wayne Harvey
 - Secretary/Treasurer: **Vacant**
 - Chaplain: Jack LaBox, American Legion
 - Legislative Committee: Jim Willis, 40+8
 - Governance Committee: Mary J. Mayer, AFA
5. **Chair's Comments**
 - Strategic Goals for 2019-2020
 - Increase membership in UVGO
 - Increase visibility of UVGO
 - Invite guest speakers and legislators to the meetings to educate the group on various topics and legislative issues.
 - Identify 2 to 3 pieces of Legislation to adopt and champion for the 2020 Legislative Session
6. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**
 - Review and Approval of July 20, 2019 Minutes and Current Financial Report
 - Collection of Dues for the Upcoming Year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)
 - Voting Members - \$55.00
 - Auxiliary/Affiliate Members - \$27.50
7. **Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Update & Legislative Update:** Laurie Skillman, ODVA Senior Policy Advisor
8. **Partnership Between ODVA and the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS):** Gus

9. **Unfinished Business:**

- **Nomination and Election of Secretary/Treasurer for 2019-2021**
 - Gary Zwicker has been doing the job for 8 years, and he needs to step away due to health issues

10. **New Business:**

- Besides the ODVA Director and ODVA Senior Policy Advisor, which **speakers** would you like to hear from at the UVGO Meetings?
- Should the meeting on 11 January 2020 be a combined **UVGO – ODVA Third Annual Joint Meeting** held at ODVA HQ in Salem, OR?
- **Other:**

11. **Items of Interest:**

- **Invitation from ODVA Director to Veterans' Behavioral Health Forums:**
 - Beginning in the 2017-2019 biennium, the Oregon Legislature partnered with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and Oregon Health Authority to identify behavioral health needs for veterans in Oregon. Using a dedicated portion of Lottery funding, ODVA and OHA commissioned a needs assessment study to identify challenges and opportunities for reforms.
 - The resulting study, [Oregon Veterans' Behavioral Health Services Improvement Study](#), was written by Portland-based consulting firm Rede Group (which also produced the Oregon women veterans report a few years ago) and:
 - Describes the availability of behavioral health services for Oregon veterans.
 - Provides findings regarding barriers veterans face in accessing behavioral health services.
 - Recommends policy and other changes that may improve the accessibility and quality of behavioral health services for Oregon veterans.
 - Now that the study is complete, ODVA and OHA would like to invite you to attend one or more of the upcoming community engagement forums in your area to seek feedback from local veterans, service providers and policymakers on the Rede Group's 16 total recommendations.
 - The full study, community forum schedule and registration links can be found on the [OHA website](#). Input from these sessions will also be used to develop OHA's five-year strategic plan to better meet the behavioral health needs of Oregon veterans, in close collaboration with ODVA and the federal VA. The strategic plan is expected to be published in early 2020.

[Medford Community Forum on Veterans' Behavioral Health](#)

10/16/2019 10:30 AM PDT

Medford Community Forum on Veterans' Behavioral Health sponsored by Oregon Health Authority. Date/Time: 10/16/2019 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Location: Options Southern Oregon, 200 Beatty St., Medford. Veterans, behavioral health care providers, policymakers: Please join us for a forum about behavioral health services for Oregon veterans. All are welcome to attend these discussions, share their perspectives, and offer feedback. You must register to attend: <http://redegroup.co/veteran-bh-forums> or register by phone by calling Rede Group at 503-764-9696. Contact: Rede Group, 503-764-

▪ **Nov 16 Apprenticeship Event in Portland**

- Nov 16 Apprenticeship Event, Portland sponsored by Oregon Apprenticeship and Training Division. Date/Time: 11/16/2019 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Location: Pacific Northwest Carpenters Training Institute, 4222 NE 158th Ave., Portland. Oregon Apprenticeship and Training Division in partnership with Oregon Department of Labor and Oregon National Guard Family Services will conduct a one-day apprenticeship event. Available to Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses RSVP at: https://16_nov_apprenticeship_event.eventbrite.com Apprenticeship Programs at event: Pacific Northwest Carpenters, NEAC-IBEW Electricians, Oregon and SW Washington Mason Trades, Sheet Metal Training Institute, Oregon and Southwest Washington Plasterers, Oregon Laborers, Oregon and Southwest Washington Cement Masons, and Local 701 Heavy Equipment Operators Contact: Jessica Dunn, Oregon Military Dept., jessica.k.dunn.mil@mail.mil.

▪ **Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds Project**

- **Resources:** For additional information and the current proposed design of the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds project, please visit the website for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund at www.vietnamwarmemorialfund.org
- **For additional information, contact: Steve Bates, President - Vietnam War Memorial Fund;** email: vietnamwarmem@aol.com office phone: 503-663-6271

▪ **2020 Oregon Women Veterans Conference**

- Hosted by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)
- Date: 29-31 May 2020
- Location: Riverhouse on the Deschutes, 3075 N Business 97, Bend, OR 97703-7511.
- **Invitees:** All military women are invited. No conference fee, but individual must pay her own lodging and transportation.
- **Veterans' Organizations:** encouraged to set up Membership Information Tables.

▪ **40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games** from July 3-8, 2020

- The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is co-presented between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. 650 to 700 athletes attend these games from every state, Puerto Rico, and England.
- The Games serve Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Amputations, and other central neurological impairments with the goal to increase their independence, healthy activity, and quality of life through wheelchair sports and recreation. Veterans are being exposed to wheelchair sports at their home VAMC or PVA Chapters as part of their rehabilitation to improve function, independence, and getting them active in their home communities in sport and fitness.
- The National Veterans Wheelchair Games has 19 different events in which Veterans can choose to participate. Events such as Wheelchair Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Cycling, Power Lifting, and Trap Shooting are just a few of the events that support this dynamic competition.
- To carry out a successful event, history has shown that it takes upwards of 3,000 volunteers from the community to bring this event together. There will be many opportunities for organizations--such as the MOAA Portland Chapter--to sponsor/donate to the general operation or specific events/needs.

12. **Next UVGO Meeting:** Saturday, 11 January 2020 at Center 50+ in Salem, OR

13.. **“For the Good of the Order”**

14. **Adjourn the Meeting**