

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

Saturday, 9 January 2021  
1200-1400 via Zoom Video Teleconference

**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**
4. **Chair's Comments**
  - **Welcome to the Third Meeting of the 2020-2021 Program Year**
  - **Review of Strategic Goals for 2020-2021**
    - Continue to increase membership in UVGO
    - Continue to 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 2021 Legislative Session
5. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**
  - Review and Approval of 10 October 2020 Minutes
  - Review and Approval of the Current Financial Report
  - Collection of Annual Dues (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)
    - Voting Members - \$55.00
    - Auxiliary/Affiliate Members - \$27.50
6. **Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Update:** ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick
7. **Legislative Update:** Jennifer Donovan, ODVA Senior Policy Advisor
  - 2020 Special Sessions and 2021 Legislative Session
8. **Veteran Treatment Courts**
  - "Legislation and Experiences Working in Veterans Courts:" Shane Hagey and Patrick McGuffin, ODVA Justice-Involved Veterans' Advocates
  - "Grant Programs Provided through the Criminal Justice Commission:" Ian Davidson

## 9. Unfinished Business:

- **Officers, Chaplain, and Standing Committees for 2020-2021**
  - Chair: Mary J. Mayer, AFA
  - First Vice Chair: Jim Willis, 40+8
  - Second Vice Chair: *Vacant*
  - Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Haltiner, NCOA
  - Immediate Past Chair: Wayne Harvey
- Chaplain: *Vacant*
- Governance Committee Chair: Mary J. Mayer, AFA
- Legislative Committee Chair: *Vacant*
  - **MOTION:** That John Lee and Marco Oswald be appointed as Co-Chairs of the UVGO Legislative Committee.
- **Need to Recruit the Following to UVGO:**
  - Department of Oregon – Marine Corps League
  - Women Marines Association (Oregon)
  - Navy League (Oregon)
  - Other
- **Remaining Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021**
  - Saturday, 10 April 2021
  - Saturday, 10 July 2021

## 10. New Business:.

- **Status of UVGO Nomination for Veterans Care Centers of Oregon (VCCO) Board Member**
  - **Purpose:** VCCO is a 501(c)(3) founded in 2003 with the sole purpose of contracting with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to operate the Oregon Veterans' Homes (OVH – The Dalles and OVH – Lebanon) Since its founding, VCCO modified its mission to include the ability to provide a broad-spectrum of services as the opportunity arises.
  - **Board:** The VCCO Board is comprised of 13 veterans from various military branches, representatives from veteran's service organizations, county representatives, healthcare professionals, and former staff of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. All members are volunteers who have dedicated their time to honor those who have served.
  - **VCCO Bylaws** call for 2 individuals from member organizations of UVGO to be Board Members
    - Current UVGO Members on VCCO Board: Robert Haltiner and Gary Zwicker
    - Gary Zwicker's term as VCCO Board Member ends in December 2020
    - UVGO must nominate a replacement for Gary Zwicker who must be approved by the VCCO Board, which is under contract with ODVA
  - UVGO Chair sent Nomination Letter for **William J. (Bill) Tidd** to the ODVA Director on 12 October 2020 to present to the VCCO Board
    - Status
- **Suggestions for Guest Speakers for Future Meetings**
  - Selected Oregon Legislators
    - Senator James Manning, Jr.- New Chair, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
  - ODVA Behavioral Study: Highlight Recommendations from ODVA and OHA
    - [OHA Veterans BH Report Executive Summary \(2\).pdf](#)

- ODVA State-Wide Volunteer Services (POC: Mark Newell)
- Other

## 11. Items of Interest:

- **Recipients of the 2020 Veteran Services Grant Program – December 2020**
  - **The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs** is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Veteran Services Grant Program to fund key projects that will improve veterans' access to transportation, housing, health care, and other vital services across the state.
  - The purpose of the Veteran Services Grant Program is to provide services to Oregon veterans by expanding critical services for veterans within a community, region, or statewide; promoting access to health care or housing, employment, education, and training opportunities; or increasing transportation accessibility and availability.
  - The program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 2017 with funding from Measure 96, which voters approved overwhelmingly to dedicate a portion of Lottery revenues to serve veterans. This is the second round of funding that has been awarded through this grant.
  - ODVA received 27 proposals from across Oregon, requesting a total of \$1.7 million — demonstrating that the need was several times greater than the amount of funding available. A total of 20 organizations received one-time grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$102,179.
  - The projects were selected by an evaluation committee composed of members of the Oregon Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee, representatives of Oregon's National Service Organizations, state agencies, and other members of the veteran community from across the state.
  - Highlights of some of the projects that received grant funding include:
    - Services that promote behavioral health and wellness in Washington, Morrow and Wallowa counties
    - A program that will serve women veterans and provide peer support to veterans, as well as lowering barriers to entry
    - Providing housing security to veterans in rural areas
    - Providing counseling for women veterans with military sexual trauma (MST)
    - Two of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to support work within their communities
    - Focused work to serve low-income, homeless, underprivileged and minorities with life skills and educational services
    - Legal services
    - Food banks, housing stability needs and more.
  - The complete list of grant awardees and their projects is available on ODVA's website here: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Documents/Veteran%20Services%20Grant/Veteran%20Services%20Grant%20Awardees.pdf>.
- **2021 Oregon Women Veterans Conference**
  - **Hosted by** the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)
  - **Date:** 22-23 May 2021
  - **Location:** Riverhouse on the Deschutes, 3075 N Business 97, Bend, OR 97703-7511.
  - **Invitees:** All women who are serving or have served in the military are invited. No conference fee, but individual must pay her own lodging and transportation.
  - **Veterans' Organizations:**
    - should set up Membership Information Tables (no charge for table).
    - become sponsors and provide monetary contribution
  - **Sponsorship Levels:**
    - Contributing Sponsor: \$250 - \$999
    - Bronze Sponsor: \$1,000 - \$1,999

- Silver Sponsor: \$2,000 - \$3,999
  - Gold Sponsor: \$4,000 - \$5,999
  - Platinum Sponsor: \$6,000 - \$9,999
  - Elite Sponsor: Main Conference Sponsors - \$10,000 and above
- **UVGO Contribution:** \$1,000.00
- Any questions should be addressed to [Martha.Garcia@state.or.us](mailto:Martha.Garcia@state.or.us)
- **42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games for July 2023 in Portland, OR**
  - 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.
  - Games were cancelled for July 2020
    - Hosts: August 2021 – New York City; July 2022 – Tempe, AZ
    - Games will be held 4-9 July 2023 in Portland, OR
- Local contacts:
  - **Shaun D. Benson, CAVS**  
Local Organizing Committee Chair  
Chief, Voluntary Service  
VA Portland Health Care System  
(503) 273-5042  
[shaun.benson@va.gov](mailto:shaun.benson@va.gov)
  - Tom Hurt**  
Executive Director  
Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America  
(503) 362-7998  
[exec.dir@oregonpva.org](mailto:exec.dir@oregonpva.org)
- **Update on the Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds Project (as of 15 December 2020):**
  - **Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Memorial Design Review Process Update**
    - Over the past several weeks, with the assistance of OPRD Associate Director Chris Havel, Steve Bates and our architect Mike Abbate of Abbate Designs have made presentations to the Capitol Planning Commission, the Central Neighborhood Development Organization, the City of Salem Historic Landmarks Commission and the City of Salem Historic and the Cultural Resource Compliance Coordination Roundtable Meeting with the Tribes.
    - The Capitol Planning Commission approved the design as presented.
    - The City of Salem Historic Landmarks Commission approved the design with one condition. The vote was a 6 to 2 majority.

- We also met with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Major Memorial Review Committee on December 10th. At this time, Steve Bates and Mile Abbate are preparing one last report to the committee.
- The committee will be seeking public comment in the near future. The committee will then deliberate and develop its final report to the OPRD Director in the next few months. The OPRD Director will assess the committee report and may or may not refer the committee findings to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration in February.
- **Oregon State Senate to introduce a Senate Bill to establish a Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds**

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  - The Oregon Senate Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness met on December 10th and adopted LC1078 as a Legislative Concept to be introduced as a Senate Bill for the 2021 Legislative Session. As stated above, this bill will establish a Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds.
  - When the Legislative Concept becomes a bill, we will advise the Senate Bill number.
- **Resources:** For additional information, please visit the website for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund at [www.vietnamwarmemorialfund.org](http://www.vietnamwarmemorialfund.org)
- **For additional information, contact: Steve Bates, President - Vietnam War Memorial Fund; email: [vietnamwarmem@aol.com](mailto:vietnamwarmem@aol.com) office phone: 503-663-6271**

12. **“For the Good of the Order”**

13. **Next UVGO Meeting:** Saturday, 10 April 2021 at Center 50+ in Salem, OR **or** via Zoom Video Teleconference

14. **Adjourn the Meeting**