



BOOK OF REPORTS
DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING

La Pine, Oregon

April 10th – 11th, 2021

Department Commander
Steve Adams

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON
COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORT

Steve Adams



Spring DEC 2021

As we recover from the past year of the shutdowns and forced isolations, we face serious situations that we need to address. As restrictions are relaxed and we can return to in-person meetings and social gatherings, we all have to take care of business.

We need to get back to contacting current and expired members and letting them know we are back and are still there to help our veterans and their families support our communities. We also need to encourage members to step up and help recover from the past year.

It is the time of year that elections occur at the Post, District and Department. One of their many responsibilities is to mentor the person coming up after them as these officers are elected. If you see members with leadership skills, we need to encourage and train them to step up and take responsible positions. This will help continue the goals of the Post and the continuation of their programs.

When the Legion formed over 100 years ago, they were fighting the results of a pandemic called the Spanish Flu. In the Department of Oregon, membership fell by 9000 from 1920 to 1923. What these remaining members did was to regroup and recover and push ahead and turn a tragedy into a success. We all can take a lesson from these past members and do what we as veterans do. **Adapt and Overcome.**

\SA\



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORTS

Spring DEC 2021

American Legion Family,

My first thoughts today are in regard to all of our American Legion Family members, their families, and their wellbeing. I hope you are all doing well through this difficult time in our Nation.

I am extremely proud of every one of our District Officers and Posts for all that you have accomplished in this past year, and for what you will accomplish working together through creative changes within our Department.

Our duties within the American Legion must continue, and our support of Veterans, their families, and our American Legion Programs will be key in surviving through these tough times. So, let's work together comrades and we will come out of this in flying colors...

I have found over time that being a Veterans advocate is sometimes rewarding, and other times not so. That's just the way it is, but we must move forward and adjust to changes within the American Legion if we are going to succeed. So, continue on in the care for Veterans and our American Legion programs and ultimately, we will succeed within the American Legion and our communities.

If we continue to communicate together as American Legion members by phone and or computer, we will continue to make great things happen within our Department of Oregon.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our Veterans, the American Legion Family, and each other. And I will see you soon.



"Believe and Achieve" For the next 100 Years" "For God and Country"

Past Department Commander Tom Harris,

Phone: 9710235-3231 / taharris56@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Don Weber

Spring DEC 2021

It continues to be difficult to plan our Program activities. Congratulations to Posts that found unique ways to conduct the annual activities. Congratulations to Albany Post 10 for coordinating the OSU Naval ROTC American Legion Awards.

I hope everyone received the new National 100 Miles for Hope program. This sounds like a great way to raise funds for the National Children and Youth Programs while creating some competition and challenges amongst our local membership.

This year is a real challenge for membership. I believe that if we continue to connect with Veterans, membership will take care of itself. That means focus on "Buddy Checks," and conduct the programs your Post can focus on. Doing that will make the community aware of The American Legion and want to be involved in such a great organization.

DEPARTMENT SECOND VICE COMMANDER
REPORT
MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
REPORT

Larry E. Wittmayer: Second Vice Commander

Larry E. Wittmayer: Commission Chairman

Commission Members: Tom Fitzgerald, Steve Bergadine, Michael Jones, Greg Marvin, Tom Harris, Terry Brown

Spring DEC 2021

This report contains the activities of both positions since last reported Winter 2020.

The Department, in implementation of its Annual Membership Plan, is presently in the Operation Revisit Phase from 1/28 - 5/15. Emphasizing renewal cleanup and DMS/11r transfers.

The Department is presently at 81.43% as of 3/4/2021.

Our Hall of Fame as 2/26/2021:

District 10 at 91.55%
District 4 at 85.78%
District 5 at 85.00%
Post 50 at 127.27%
Post 106 at 118.00%
Post 76 at 115.22%
Post 137 at 115.00%

At present out Department, DMS/114 Transfer Bounty is
at \$400.00

The Chair is participating in numerous meetings and events to move the campaign forward.

The Chair has attended the following events and meetings:

12/18	Virtual Meeting
1/12	Dept. Officer Meeting
1/12	Virtual DEC
1/23	Virtual Dept Membership Team Meeting
1/29	Virtual West Reg Membership Meeting
2/11	“ “ “ “ “
2/16	Dept. Officer Meeting
2/20	Department Oratorical Contest
2/23	Department Wide Revitalization
2/25	Virtual West Reg. Membership Meeting
2/26	Dept. D7 & D8 Merger Meeting
2/27	Dept. Budget Meeting
3/4	Virtual West Reg. Membership Meeting

Larry E. Wittmayer, Second Vice Commander

Larry E. Wittmayer, Membership & Post Activities Commission Chairman

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

REPORT

S. Flynn Phillips

Spring DEC 2021

Dick Tobiason sent a letter to our representatives on the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. The Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness voted 3 to 1 on 3/18/21 to send it to the full Senate for its vote. Sen. Linthicum voted against SB 790 – the only "Nay" vote on our six veterans highways bills over the last 12 years. Dick submitted the legion letter to the SB 790 testimony file.

A VE Day proclamation request was sent to the Governor's Office. Hopefully, we got it in under the thirty-day requirement window.

The Oratorical State contest held at the Santiam Post 51 was a success. Scholarship prize money total over \$13,000.00 to four winners and their group picture made the cover of the Legionnaire. Also, since National HQ canceled their contest, they awarded the winner an additional \$5000.00. I sincerely hope posts can see just how vital this program is and garner new candidates for next year. Remember, they can start now and practice all year long, so promote this Americanism program.

The Legionnaire Magazine continues to improve with each new issue. Kudos to Geanne Horne from the Auxiliary has done the layout for each issue for the past two years. She is recovering from some surgery at the moment and still cranking it out. I received a call from a legionnaire that got a printed copy sent to the post. He was very appreciative to have and read it in his hands, so much, so he was all choked up trying to tell me how much it meant to him.

So It is essential for adjutants or whoever gets the post email to forward the link to the Oregon Legionnaire on our department website and print out a copy to those older members who don't have a computer. I heard a comment that the Oregon legionnaire is worthless! Only because the ones that need to get it are not receiving it. It still costs way too much money for every member to have a printed copy.

The Parking lot at Department has been resurfaced a very nice job by Oregon Paving. The Sprinkler system is in and the grass has filled in and looks great.

Hats off to our volunteers; they don't get enough credit. Speaking of Volunteers, Our National Vice Commander Rob Liebenow is our membership processing guru and makes calls to get people transferred into posts, reorganizes the files and supply cabinets. Thank you, Rob! And To Linda Liebenow as well as she helps with whatever is needed. So, Thank you, Linda!

Posts are starting to get their elections completed and reports mailed to the Department. If you are one of those posts that wait till September to do your elections, consider doing the in April so the new officers will be ready for Convention.

I attended several District meetings, especially Seaside Post 99, along with the Joint VFW and American Legion POW/MIA Ceremony. George Carroll, the State VFW Commander, attended.

Most everyone has now had their two Covid Vaccine shots, and we are still on for an in-person DEC at La Pine and the State Convention in Canyonville. \SFP\

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN REPORT

Andy Millar

Spring DEC 2021

We have had no live NEC meetings in 2020 or 2021, all have been by Zoom conference.

On January 13, 2021, our national commander Bill Oxford issued a call to action. He doubled down on three key challenges from last year designed to grow and strengthen our organization:

1. Recruit over 100,000 new members into the organization.
2. Attain 90% renewal rate.
3. Achieve 100% CPR reporting.

It is going to be tough to meet the hundred thousand new member goal. However nationwide we have over 615,000 expired members for 2019 and 2020.

The commander has a call to action for all leaders to:

1. Encourage our posts and districts to work their expired rosters,
2. Personally contact and renew those members who have not renewed,
3. Conduct periodic checks to those renewed members to see how they are doing.

We simply need to make working renewals our main priority.

With the #48 Indy Car Team Sponsorship, it is anticipated that we will get additional membership donations and sales from Legion emblem sales, not to mention the television advertising that we can get from the 17 IndyCar races per year. One being at the Portland International Raceway in mid-September where we can set up and take advantage of membership!

We had virtual national executive committee meetings on October 14 and 15th where we passed over 40 resolutions.

Of note resolution number 36 entitled **MISSION BLUE POST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, wherein posts with financial need could apply for thousand dollars grants for current and past-due mortgage payments, real estate rents, insurance premiums, and current which in past utilities as a result of covid. \$5 million was authorized from the American Legion national emergency fund for this program.

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file.
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.
5. A financial need.
6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.
7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program [grant application is available online](#).

American Legion posts applying for a grant will be required to first submit the completed application to their respective department for approval before it can be sent to National Headquarters. This application procedure is the same as the NEF.

American Legion posts have until Dec. 31, 2021, to apply for a Mission Blue CAP grant.

Resolution number 32. Risk management mandates for national youth programs which mandates sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screening for American Legion baseball program staff, American Legion Boys Nation, American Legion national oratorical contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts. This resolution strongly urged and encouraged departments to establish procedures and policies for sexual abuse training and criminal history background

check screening.

Resolution number 35, insurance requirements.

Requiring that any and all insurance policies purchased by an American Legion department, department chartered intermediate body, post, or organization shall specify that the American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance policies and it strongly urges all American legion departments to follow similar courses of protective action requiring departments on intermediate bodies and post that obtain insurance policies hold their respective American Legion departments harmless and also named as an additional insured. There will be more to come out from the national judge advocate on this resolution.

Covid restrictions will certainly put some limitations on our youth activities, but we will participate in all youth programs.

Probably, we will have a virtual Spring NEC, but the greatest news: The American Legion's 102nd National Convention will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021. I am so ready!

Andy Millar, NECman

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

REPORT

Bob Huff

Spring DEC 2021

Saturday, February 27 I was at Department with the Permanent Finance Commission putting together the Proposed 2021-2022 Department Budget. The Proposed 2021-2022 Budget will be presented and discussed with the Department Executive Committee (DEC) at our Spring DEC Meeting which will be held at LaPine Post 45 on Sunday, April 11. After those discussions, the Proposed Budget will be published in the Oregon Legionnaire per our Constitution and By-Laws and presented to the Delegates at our Department Convention in June 2021 at Seven Feathers for discussion and adoption.

Yes, it is tax season, I know that I am repeating this, as I will continue too as we are seeing some of the negative outcomes in the filing of Post Taxes, a lot brought on by COVID 19, not being able to hold meetings face to face, not visiting our Posts, Post Visitations. And remember, please ask your Post if they have filed their Taxes. District Commanders ask your Posts, meetings, or phone if they have filed their Taxes. Every Post is a separate corporation and is required to file a 990, 990EZ, or 990-n each year, there are no exceptions.

Post elections for new officers and Post delegates to District Caucus and Department Convention is taking place “now”. Department By-Laws, Article V – Convention, Section 1. Reads “The several Posts of the Department shall, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the annual Department Convention elect their delegates and alternates and certify them to the Department Adjutant. The registration fee for all authorized delegates, alternates, and delegates-at-large, as it shall be determined by the Department Executive Committee, shall be sent in accordance with the Convention Committee Code of Procedure. No delegate shall be seated at the Convention unless certification of such election is received by the Department Adjutant at least thirty (30) days prior, except as hereinafter provided.”

Sixty (60) days before Department Convention the Department Adjutant will send out Convention Delegate Forms with the authorized Post Delegate strength. The delegate fee is \$15.00 for each delegate. The Post is responsible to send the Delegate Form with certification from the Post Adjutant and \$15.00 for each delegate strength. If a Post is authorized three (3) delegates and only has two (2) attending, the Post is still responsible to send in the delegate fees for three (3) delegates. Those Posts not returning their Certified Delegate Forms and delegate fees will not be in good standing and will have no delegate vote.

PDC Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

REPORT

Steve Shollenburg

Spring DEC 2021

Psalm 91: 2-5

"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings shall you trust: His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day:"

This past winter has seen numerous Legionnaires leaving our ranks for the Post Everlasting, not only here in Oregon but nationwide, the Covid pandemic has taken its toll on many, and our hearts, prayers, and sympathy go out to all the families and their close friends.

In the above verse, we see that God has told us, not only in Psalms, but throughout His word, to take refuge, cover, do not be afraid, put on the Whole Armor of God, and trust in Him, and we really have to put that trust in Him in today's world.

It has been a very busy couple of months, and I hope and pray all are doing well. As we get ready for the State Convention, let's hope things continue to calm down with the Pandemic and we will be able to meet once again in June. It will be good to see everyone, especially since we missed last year. Make sure the decline of the Covid pandemic is in your daily prayers.

Several posts have been very active around their community, delivering firewood, taking needed groceries and needed supplies to people in need, a big thanks to those posts for your continued efforts and love for our brothers and sisters in need.

Hope to see you all at Convention.

Chaplain

Steven D. Shollenburg

The American Legion

Department of Oregon

ssholly1@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN REPORT

Judy Johnston

Spring DEC 2021

Historian Report

Please remember to remind the Historian or anyone who will be doing the history book for your Post to start putting it together for the Department Convention. The rules for the book are found in four places. On the questionnaire, in the Officer Guide and anyone can get them by going online at the Department Web site or National Web site. If you need assistance you can call me at 503-481-0425.

I would like Posts to also send me some interesting history stories about your Post that we can put in the Oregon Legionnaire for others to know what the Post has been doing in the past that helps make the Legion so special for Veterans, members of the community, the children, and families.

Judith Johnston, Department Historian

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE REPORT

Eugene G. Hellickson

To: The Department of Oregon

Fm: Department Judge Advocate

Sub: Report for Spring D.E.C. 2021

By: Eugene G Hellickson P.D.C.

The following is the Judge Advocates report for the period following the Mid-Winter DEC to the Spring DEC. There are several issues that need to be resolved and action taken as listed below.

1. Request for copies of Department Resolutions has shown that there does not seem to be a logical or controlled method in use to control, track or store resolutions at Department Headquarters.
2. At the Department Commanders request, I forwarded to him a suggested draft of what I thought needed to be done to change the Department's By-laws concerning putting on or taking a post off of probation. Commander has forwarded this suggested draft to the Resolution Assignment Committee and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
3. The Resolution Assignment Committee has been given the role of editor and approval authority for submitted resolutions. This procedure is out of the realm of "Resolution Assignment," and should be a function of the Constitution and By-laws committee for items that affect the Constitution and By-laws. The Resolution Assignment Committee was formed to ensure that resolutions submitted at the annual convention were routed to the appropriate commission/committee for action at the convention. However, this has morphed into a requirement in the Resolution Assignment Committee Code of Procedures that "ALL" resolutions will go through that committee. These issues need to be addressed, and authority and actions for the Resolution and Assignment Committee and the Constitution Committee and By-Laws need to be resolved as to what their roles are concerning resolutions.

4. Very few Constitution and By-Laws or “no-change” reviews have been received since the last DEC. A standard form has been developed to show review by the Department Judge Advocate on submitted Constitution/By-laws and/or “no-change.” The form will be kept on file at Department Headquarters with the other required post documents.
5. A report was given at the last DEC concerning the use of “electronic” means of meetings and annual budget changes for the Constitution and By-laws. At this time there has not been any resolutions to change the vtDepartment Constitution or By-laws to reflect any changes. All changes to the Constitution and By-laws can only be approved at the annual convention, with other requirements concerning submittal dates etc. At the last DEC, the “assistance” team which was tasked to provide any required training, guidance and leadership support for the matter concerning Albany Post 10, gave their recommendation for the ending of probation
6. It is the recommendation of the Judge Advocate, that the Internal Affairs Committee be tasked in writing as to what their specific duties entail. Items such as a yearly review of required post documents on file, resolution, accountability and storage procedure, and reviewing of the Department Adjutant’s responsibility for review and action on Headquarters’ policies that are under their requirement to review. Examples: Policy 20-04-020 Book of Reports; Policy 20-04-021 The Legionnaire Newsletter; 16-09-001 Conference Calls (Go to Meeting); Policy 16-09-004 Document Retention; Policy 16-09-005 Equipment Inventory Checkout and Usage; Policy 16-09-007 Official Department of Oregon Vehicles(s); Policy 16-09-011 Rental of American Legion Facilities.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Department Service Officer Edward Van Dyke

Veterans Service Officer Jody Marsh

Spring DEC 2021

Even though the Regional Office is closed, we continue to work with veterans; advocating for their benefits and aiding as needed.

Some important information for Vietnam Veterans:

The VA has opened the ***Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers*** to veterans that served on or before May 7, 1975 (in addition to on or after September 11, 2001.) The Veteran must have a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of **70% or higher**. The Veteran's service-connected disabilities must have been caused or made worse by their active-duty service during one of the above-mentioned periods of time. The Veteran must also have been discharged from the U.S. military or have a date of medical discharge, **and** need at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services. Please contact us for additional details or to apply.

The list of presumptive conditions due to herbicide exposure has grown by ***three!*** Bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism are the conditions added to the list of those connected to Agent Orange exposure as part of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). A presumptive condition means that if a claimant's exposure to Agent Orange is validated, then the disease is presumed to be service-connected. The VA has not yet released any specific information on the process of extending these benefits to veterans.

Since our last report here are some basic statistics: The Department Service Office has assisted numerous veterans and their families with VA benefits and other services. This has been accomplished primarily by phone due to COVID-19. January 1 through March 25, the Service has represented **two** clients at virtual hearings with the Board of Veterans Appeals (VBA), brought on **42** new clients, filed **46** claims, and submitted **14** statements in support of claims. Assorted other paperwork was submitted for a total of over **130** forms.

The VA is experiencing a major delay in claims due to all the COVID-19 shutdowns. We have several veterans that have compensation claims well over a year old. We are seeing delays in the processing of pension claims as well. This is very frustrating and disheartening for the veterans as well as the service office.

We continue to see veterans and families frustrated at not being able to communicate with their previous advocates. Many are grateful that The American Legion continues to answer the phone and return calls. It has been a busy time.

A few highlights of the work performed these past few months:

Veteran A: This widow waited over seven years for resolution to her DIC (Death Indemnity Compensation) claim. Her Vietnam veteran died in 2013 and the VA denied service connection for his death. Through a tragedy of errors, the waiting continued as well as the fight. There was a DRO hearing that confirmed the denial of a service-connected death. An appeal was filed, and the wait was on for a VBA hearing, that was held in January 2018. After a year of following up, we learned that the VBA had a technical malfunction, and the recording of the hearing was lost. Amid the COVID-19 shutdowns and slowdowns, we waited for a rescheduled VBA hearing.

The primary cause of death was complicated and involved. It was not a slam dunk, but it was well worth the research and efforts on behalf of the widow! In late February, we represented the widow at a virtual hearing in front of a VBA judge. In a very rare instance, the judge was clear in that the wait was over and stated that God works in mysterious ways. The widow was awarded nearly \$114,000.

Veteran B: This veteran contacted the service office on the recommendation of the family. He encountered delays and denials surrounding his claim for an increase, due to restrictions imposed by the response to COVID-19. In the end, the veteran's compensation increased from ten to forty percent and his family was able to escape homelessness.

Veteran C: This veteran contacted the service office in frustration. The previous VSO was not supporting the desire to file a claim for a knee problem. The veteran reported the VSO told them that "there wasn't a leg to stand on." The American Legion was successful in assisting the veteran with service connection for bilateral knees. Your service office promotes supporting veterans and not adjudicating claims in lieu of submitting them.

We continue to work with veterans; advocating for their benefits from the VA and aiding as needed. Please contact either one of us to assist you in filing an initial claim and/or keeping your appeal/review current!

Edward Van Dyke
Department Service Officer
(503) 412-8408

Jody Marsh
Veterans Service Officer
(541) 777-1867

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

REPORT

Lou Neubecker

Spring DEC 2021

WOW, where has this year gone, with all of us being confined to our houses It seems like yesterday that we were conducting elections for the District and your Post.

We held the 1st District face-to-face meeting for this year in Seaside on March 13th, we had a GREAT turnout, we had 11 of our 15 Posts in attendance.

We also held a mini-round up with all candidates running for Department Office giving a mini-campaign speech. Running for Commander is our own Don Weber from Aloha Post 104, 1st Vice-Commander is Larry Wittmayer, from Wilsonville Post 065, 2nd Vice-Commander is our own Cory Brockmann from Aloha Post 104. We will be holding a Convention at SEVEN FEATHERS Casino in Canyonville off of Interstate 5 exit 99, June 22nd through 26th.

Our next District Meeting will be on May 8th at Aloha Post 104, lunch starting at 11:15 until 12:15, our Caucus meeting will start at 1 P.M. We will be electing our District Commander and Vice-Commander for the 2021-2022 membership year. Susan and I would like to announce our candidacy at this time. I've talked to our appointed position and they said that they would remain in place.

Update on Post 119, they are up and running with assistance from PDC Tom Harris. Getting the building fixed and cleaned up. Holding monthly meetings.

Semper Fi

Lou

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

REPORT

Renee Ohler

Spring DEC 2021

Our District 2 Meeting is set to be in person on May 2nd at Carlton Memorial Post 173, 158 N Main St., Carlton, OR 97111. We will have our meal at noon and our meeting will run from 1:00 to 3:00 to allow for Department Candidates to either appear in person to campaign or to provide their bio to be read during our meeting. We will also be electing our new District officers for the coming year.

It is great to see the posts getting back to meetings and holding their elections. We hope that our state will open up and all activities will allow all posts to get on track for a successful year. District 2 covers four Counties to include Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and our Canby post in Clackamas. It has been understandable with our veterans to exercise caution during the multi-levels of restrictions county by county.

We have been working hard with those posts that struggle with membership and participation from their membership. Our Mill City Gates post struggles to find new officers as the ones in place have served for many years and would like to step down to allow for others to take the post forward. It has been discussed to have their current membership combine our Stayton post which is very active and has an opportunity for growth and membership participation. I know they could use the extra help to accomplish all the programs they are involved in.

Our Aurora post is slowly gaining renewals but it has been a struggle. Hopefully with the great support of their Auxillary new membership is on the horizon. Our 1st Vice Commander Juan Palacios has talked with Lisa Hand the Commander and both have high hopes for getting Aurora back to the active post it demonstrated in the past years.

Keizer post is also reorganizing and growing with their new officers coming on board. Mark Smith was solely in charge of this post for many years before he was no longer able to carry the torch for the post. Mark has been in rehabilitation for the past few years and was unable to carry on with Keizer's post. We pray that he will make a full recovery and will return home when able.

We encourage all posts to be ever watchful of their perception of the communities they serve. We are the American Legion, comprised of Veterans from all branches and all walks of life. We are here to support all Veterans and their families in all cities within the counties we serve. The public deserves nothing less than to see our organization as a great asset of mutual helpfulness.

For God and Country.

God Bless

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

REPORT

Jerry Patton

Spring DEC 2021

Since the last meeting, I have been busy. I visited two of my Posts in my District. One at Junction City Post 61 and Post 32 Cottage Grove. I am actively working on the DMS list in which I was able to get two transfers. I attended two funerals at the Santiam Post 51. I was able to have a District 3 meeting which we did not a forum but was able to give reports and had nominations for new officers. We will have our elections in May when we have our caucus Anyone who is running for a Department office is invited to attend.

Jerry Patton
District 3 commander

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dave Applegate

Report will be given at the Spring D.E.C.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

REPORT

District 5, Greg Marvin, Vice Commander (North)

Spring DEC 2021

Membership: Currently Membership in District 5 is doing well. We are currently in 3rd place in the Department at 89.93% of goal. While this is not great at this time in the membership year, we have two Posts that have reached goal and one Post with 2 members short of 100%. Congratulations to Mosier Post 55 and Sisters Post 86 for reaching 100% of their quota. The Dalles Post 19 is within 2 members of their goal. Several other Posts are well within reach of goal. A Thank You to District 10 Commander Dan Burks for helping by transferring members from the 114AD/DMS 99 lists to local Posts.

Post activities: All three of our Posts with Post Homes, Crook County 29, Prineville, Ray Johnson 44, Redmond, and LaPine 45 are all open and operating within the COVID-19 rules set forth with occupancy limits. Other Posts within the District are reporting they are now having Post meetings.

Officer activities: LaPine Post 45 notified me that all their Post Officers and a couple of their E-board members had resigned from their offices. The Post has selected new Officers and will elect them at their April meeting. Sunday, March 21st PDC/Department Finance Officer Bob Huff and I met with the new Officers and essential workers on the necessary activities of their Offices and Post positions. They seem to be blending in with the Post membership and have some good ideas about making the Post successful. The Post membership is at 93% and continuing to grow.

District 5 has scheduled has the District Caucus/District meeting for Saturday, April 24th at Crook County Post 29 (Prineville). The District 5 Auxilliary will also have its Caucus that day. A luncheon will be served by the Auxilliary at 11:30 and the meetings will start at 1300(1: 00 PM). Members seeking Department Offices are welcome to attend the meeting. COVID-19 requirements will be observed.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

Glenn Bradley

No Report Submitted

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

REPORT

Terry Brown

Spring DEC 2021

The District is still in virtual lockdown due to COVID-19, however, we are slowly moving towards opening up. Of the seven posts in District 7, only 3 (Gresham 30, F&J Raving 134, and Carl Douglas 74 continue to hold post meetings (virtual and in-person).

On February 17 members of District 7, Carl Douglas Post 74, met at Department and conducted a revitalization for District 7. They were successful in transferring members from the 114 and D99 lists into Posts 30, 74, and 98, including transferring members into Post 77 and 180. In addition, Post 134 was supplied with a list of members to transfer into their posts. All in all, it was a successful day. Thank you to James Moriarty, Doug Jamieson, and District 7 Commander Terry Brown for their work towards 2021 District membership goals.

Post 30 continues to work towards the completion of remodeling their post. Hopefully, they will be able to open for the public by summer. They have recently acquired sponsorship of a baseball team and are looking to sponsor a Scout troop.

The attached photo is of volunteers including Legion Veterans of Carl Douglas Post 74 at the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Food Pantry. Through the 2020 Pandemic, wildfires, and recently the ice storm they have been volunteering to supply needed food and personal care products to those in need. Last year St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry distributed over 78,790 lbs. of food to 1,696 families (4,783

individuals). The volunteers donated 1,316 hours and traveled 2,029 miles in support of SVDP.

Thank you to F&J Ravin post 134 members who assisted with the Department Oratorical contest. It was a great success.

At the end of January, a letter was sent to all members of Corbett 108 from District 7 recommending the post fill the Commander's position as soon as possible and if the post was not able to fill the vacancy, what alternatives were available to the post, including merging with an adjacent District or turning in the post charter to

Department. As of this date, Corbett Post 108 is still in the process of soliciting nominations to fill the Post Commander's position. An update will be presented at DEC.

Terry Brown, District 7 Commander

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

REPORT

Ed Mathews

Spring DEC 2021

We now have better control of our pandemic flu and we can concentrate on our programs for our veterans. Now is the perfect time for the Legion and Auxiliary to help each other! It's time to go knock on doors and/or call those who need to join or renew. Let's find a way to bring members back to our Posts. Districts 7 & 8 will start the progress to merge the 2 Districts together by the 2022 Convention. This will help us to gain members and search for ideas to energize membership.

Flag sales have soared again and it is a terrific way to make the Legion visible to the public eye. In light of this, our next program is to exchange flags (donations are accepted) that look bad and bring potential new members to the post for new flags. And maybe even for a dinner!

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

REPORT

Kevin Owens

Spring DEC 2021

District 9 held with first virtual District Meeting on March 6th, 2021 at 10 am.

Attendance was good, but not all Posts attended. The main focus was what can we do as a District to achieve our numerical goal in membership. The expired lists were sent from the years 2018-2020 and 114/99 as well. Posts in our District are still struggling with COVID-19 with both two counties at extreme risk. We welcome the challenge to continue doing the great works of the American Legion. As the District Commander, I am proud of the members in the District for what they do each and every day. Having strong Posts, with active members good programs is the key to our success now and into the future. My belief is we can reach goals with the effort of all, and I will be the first person to answer the call of any Post in the need of help. Communication is always the key and that is something we all do on a regular basis. To be the best you have to have the best and in District 9, and we have the best. I leave you with this quote.

You do what you can for as long as you can, and when you finally can't, you do the next best thing. You back up but you don't give up.

Chuck Yeager

Kevin Owens, PDC

District 9 Commander

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

REPORT

Daniel Burks

Spring DEC 2021

District 10 continues to work membership and currently, over 90% of the goal attained we continue to be front runners in the Department of Oregon. While a great deal of the District has been held up due to Covid, posts have figured out a way to continue on and be positive within their communities. Post 63 has been able to continue holding their monthly yard sales bringing not just revenue to the Post but exposure to the public and a central location to meet potential new members. The Post escorted ballots to the courthouse and served as the Color Guard for the Christmas Parade there in Burns. Harney County was so impressed by a couple of individuals in Burns that PNC Charlie Schmidt and Past District Commander Dave Allen were honored as Harney County Person of the Year. Prairie Post 106 held a very successful raffle for a gun as well as a \$300 and a \$200 gift card. In addition to that, they were able to provide graveside honors for a member that passed. Ontario 67 had to hold off on in-person meetings due to restrictions and a vote of the Post, however, the Post did renew the 2 scout troops dues, recently began hosting in-person meetings again, started their annual Gun raffle which this year is a Mossberg 6.5 Creedmoor rifle with a \$200 and a \$100 2nd and 3rd place prize. For the Legion Birthday Post, 67 handed out hot dogs, cupcakes, stick flags, and lapel pins to the public. Post 67 is planning on a joint meeting with the Auxiliary in April and serving dinner in potluck fashion while planning for our May Caucus details. All in all District 10 is beginning to pick up momentum now that restrictions have been eased allowing us to function a little easier. With 2 Posts already at 100% or more, and several over 90% we are not far from being at 100% for the District.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

REPORT

Sid Carter: Commission Chairman

Committees: Baseball Committee, Boy Scout Committee, Boys State Committee, Children & Youth Committee, Junior Shooting Air Rifle Committee, Law Enforcement Career Committee, Oratorical Committee

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Mike Sowles: Chairman

Committee Members: Art Cummins Jr., Randy Shaw, Rod Trask, Bud Grant

Spring DEC 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Parker McKinley(Area 1 Chair)	parker.mckinley@lagrandesd.org	541-975-3009
Eric Bennett (area 2, A Chair)	coachbennett9@gmail.com	503-473-5989
Joe Duran (area 2, AAA Chair)	jojod9@hotmail.com	503-803-1501
Art Cummins (area 3, Chair)	abcpc_2000@yahoo.com	503-510-7467
Les Duman (State AAA Chair)	lduman@comcast.net	541-285-3151
*Kevin Schafer (area 4, AAA & A Chair)	shaferk16@gmail.com	541-913-8141
Rod Trask (State Vice Chair)	rodct60@hotmail.com	541-679-6731
Mike Sowles (State Chair)	msowles@wvi.com	503-509-9948
Ron Long (fund raising, recruit.)	ronlong44@gmail.com	541-294-1452
Greg Admire(2021 AAA Tourney)	grega@umpquadairy.com	541-580-1689
Tucker Brack (2021 Single A Tourney)	Tucker_brack@gervais.k12.or.us	503-957-3129*
Tom Fitzgerald (area 4, at large)	tom@tffitzgerald.us	818-324-4420*
Vance Croney (area 3, at large)	cronvb@comcast.net *	541-740-7166*

Those listed above are members of The Oregon Baseball Committee, each one has involvement with Oregon American Legion Baseball and are involved with the teams in their area as well as having expertise in our organization and the American Legion. Above all, these individuals volunteered.

American Legion Baseball has two levels of play in the State of Oregon Triple AAA and Single A, Single A teams can either register as Senior or Junior teams. Senior teams ages 13-19 and Junior teams 13-17 years of age. Triple AAA teams are all senior teams aged 13-19. The Triple AAA teams are usually our most advanced skilled teams.

We hope to have as many as 45 to 50 teams this year, seeing some growth in our Single A teams in the Portland Metro area and the Willamette Valley area, Areas 2 and 3. We hope to have new teams from Sisters, Woodburn, Eugene, Mountainside, Oregon City, Gladstone, Sherwood, and more.

We have 22 teams in the registration draft system at this time and will see those increase as our season is formed. We anticipate starting on June 1, 2021, and ending in the last week of July for Triple AAA and August 8th for the Single A.

New issues for teams, managers, coaches, and staff is the requirement to pass not only the background checks but to pass adult abuse training, all of this along with the covid protocol issues ruled by the Oregon health Administration, School policy, county and city policies.

The teams and their administration have a lot to overcome.

Communication for the Committee has been by email and phone. Games have been scheduled. Tryout dates are being set and hopefully, we can play Baseball.

It has been a complicated two years for this Committee Chairperson.

Sincerely,
Mike Sowles

BOY SCOUTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Larry W. Wittmayer: Chairman

Committee Members: Norm Hoffman, Stan Gandy, Dave Bone, Robert Huntington

Spring DEC April 2021

As always, this committee strives to encourage Posts to charter (sponsor) Scouting units. The latest report shows that the Department has increased that commitment from 19 three years ago to 40 at present.

The Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship deadline has passed with no applications. In my opinion, until our National organization changes the requirement of earning a religious award, applications will be few.

Many virtual Scouting events have been held throughout the five Councils within Oregon. At this time Councils are slowly returning to in-person Scouting.

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ian Gerstel: Chairman

Committee Members: Jim Craig, Don Weber, John W. Lee, Steve Shollenburg, Kevin Sands

Spring DEC 2021

Dear Boys and Girls State Post and Unit Chairmen,

Thank you for volunteering for this important job within your Post and Unit! Boys and Girls State American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary's premier programs for our American youth; a well-prepared, informed, and supported Chairman is essential for its success. This packet contains a variety of things designed to assist you in fulfilling the responsibilities of your position and make your chairman experience rewarding and successful.

We are going virtual for the first time in over 80 years of these programs. We will touch on the required items that will make this virtual program successful. You will be supported by the Oregon Boys and Girls State Committees if you have any issues.

The 2021 program will be virtual and conducted in the Zoom format1 June 14-15th. The packets

the boys and girls will receive will have all essential information to attend this program including access to breakout *sessions and joint sessions with Oregon Girls State. Yes, we are partnering with the Oregon Girls State Committee* to share guest speakers that we feel will have an impact on both boys and girls. We will also have guest speakers for the boys and girls only. This is a huge endeavor and we are very excited to bring this to you.

PLEASE DISPOSE OF ALL PREVIOUS YEARS' MATERIALS!
(EXCEPT BROCHURES AND POSTERS)

Below are guidelines and suggestions for delegate recruitment, interview, and selection procedures. The documents and information referenced in this letter are available on either www.orlegion.org or www.alaoregon.org website.

Delegate Recruitment and Selection

1. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Posts, and Units are having trouble communicating with schools and it is suggested, if you are having trouble, contact the School District Office directly and jointly. This will ensure that the information, "*if they cooperate*" will be sent through email from the office and/or announce the cooperation so when you drop off the packets to the schools, they will know you are coming with a date and time. Be diligent and contact the school often to ensure they are aware you are dedicated to the program and to those who will attend the session.
2. Once the information is at the schools, again be diligent and consistent with communication. Because we are having a virtual session, interviews can be conducted through Zoom. Contact either the Department Headquarters or the Department Girls State Chairman for help to get a Zoom account set up. It's easy and free if doing small groups. You'll have to allow the boys and girls access and it will make this process much easier. Zoom is also the system we will use for the virtual sessions also, so using it will help you understand how we will conduct the session and if the boys or girls have questions, you will have the knowledge to assist them. Don't be afraid of the change to virtual. We are here to support you in any way we can.
3. Do not forget the alternative high schools and Home School students when promoting the program. They are valuable participants for the programs and should not be left out. They too have to use the virtual world to attend portions of their schooling so this should be an easy program to attend.
4. The TAL and ALA Oregon Boys and Girls State application is a fillable PDF

form available on the TAL and ALA websites. Potential delegates should fill out the online form, print it, and have the school and parents sign it. Please make sure you fill out the post and Unit contact information on the forms so that the boys and girls know who is sponsoring them. Post and Units will need to mail or email the TAL and ALA brochures and School Information Letter to high schools in your area. Department Headquarters has brochures from National. You may stop by the office, print your own from the website, or have Department mail them to you. (You may be charged for the cost of mailing.)

5. Materials and resources for Posts and Units to use in contacting schools and recruiting Boys and Girls State Delegates are at www.orlegion.org and www.alaoregon.org websites. Please include your Post or Unit name, number, and chairman contact information on materials you submit to schools and potential delegates because delegates must include their sponsor information on the online application.

6. A comprehensive interview must be conducted by the sponsoring Post or Unit. **NOT BY THE SCHOOL.** This can be done virtually and or with social distancing in place. The interview process is a valuable tool in selecting appropriate and interested delegates. For the ALA there is a short version of the interview questionnaire on the www.alaoregon.org website. Having a committee of Post or Unit members or a combination of both should be created to ease the interview process. Joint committees are very successful in the selection process. If the Post and Unit are small, a District wide interviewing session could be highly successful and maximize manpower. Contact Department for questions or assistance in conducting a virtual interview.

7. Delegates should be selected on the basis of leadership, character, and interest in community and government.

8. Once the selection of delegates is complete, you may either call, email or send a letter to the delegates. Customize any of your communications for either your Post or Unit, so the delegate is excited to be selected.

Fees

1. Delegate fees are \$100.00 for either a boy or girl. This fee will cover the mailings and items given to the boys and girls including shirts, pins, certificates, and the printing of the Girls State Handbook. Boys will

- receive their handbook through email, and they will print it themselves.
2. The \$100 fee may be paid by the delegate, a family member, a sponsor, or the Post or Unit.
 3. Potential sponsors include other service organizations such as the Elks, Eagles, Moose, Soroptimist International, Lions, Kiwanis, school booster clubs such as PTA, and local businesses.
 4. The community organizations have money that must be spent yearly so they are a great resource. Also, the local Native American Tribes have community-based grants that are given yearly. The Casinos also give grants.
 5. A scholarship to attend is available for those who do not have a sponsor or cannot afford to pay the fee. We don't want to lose a boy or girl because they cannot afford the fee. Find either a sponsor or apply for a scholarship through Department.
 6. Post Boys State Chairman will send the \$100 fee to TAL Department of Oregon and the Unit Girls State Chairman will send the \$100 fee to ALA Department of Oregon.
 7. Refunds are at the discretion of the TAL or ALA Department of Oregon. There is a cut-off date of June 1st as we will be sending the Oregon Boys and Girls State packets after the 1st of June and we want the delegates committed to the program.
 8. All checks from Delegates/Alternates and outside sponsors should be made payable to:

Oregon Boys State:
TAL Department of Oregon
PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Oregon Girls State:
ALA Department of
Oregon PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070

9. Girls State Chairmen please include your Delegate/Alternate form with the fees collected and send it to Department. To make it easier for the Unit, have the sponsors make checks out directly to the "ALA Department of Oregon".
10. Boys State Chairmen please make sure your delegates pay the sponsoring Post the delegate fee and the Post send in the fees once collected. The sponsoring Post may pay the entire delegate fee prior to collecting from the delegates. It is the choice of the Post how the fees are paid.
11. PLEASE make sure your delegates and alternates know that they need to tell you immediately if they cannot attend so an alternate if we have any can attend. In the last several years, we have not had any alternates, but we must include them in the information just in case.

Obtaining and Submitting Forms:

1. Documents, Resources, and materials can be accessed by Posts, Units, Students, and Schools on The American Legion website at www.orlegion.org and the American Legion Auxiliary website at www.alaoregon.org.
2. The 2021 Applications are an online fillable form, accessed on either website.
3. **Make sure the applications are completed in full.** All signatures must be collected.

Questions or Concerns

Oregon BoysState:

S. Flynn Phillips, Adjutant, TAL Dept.
of Oregon 503-685-5006
adjutant@orlegion.org
Ian Gerstel, Oregon Boys State
Director 503-538-9151
iangerstel@outlook.com

Oregon Girls State:

Cindy Hillyard, Admin. Assistant, ALA

Dept. of Oregon 503-682-3162

alamembership@alaoregon.org

Krisann Owens, Oregon Girls State

Director 541-297-1898

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Jon Marsh: Chairman

Committee Members: Daniel Burks, William Rosansky, Judy Johnston, Yvette Morse-Warrington

Spring DEC 2021

Report will be given at the Spring DEC

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Dan Evers: Chairman

Committee Members: David Allen, Raoul Salem, Keegan Hodges
Spring DEC 2021

Well, the First Round is completed, and this is what we use for our Department Tournament. With everything going on we had a very low turnout. But I would like to thank them for their perseverance during these trying times.

The ranking for the Department of Oregon Junior Shooting Competition for 2020-2012 is as follows:

- 1st Place, Dante Leonard, Redmond
- 2nd Place, Robert Bailey, Redmond
- 3rd Place, Henry Giomi-Brown, Eagle Point
- 4th Place, Nolan Gorman, Redmond
- 5th Place, Franklin Giomi-Brown, Eagle Point

The top 3 will receive nicely engraved medals and all will receive a certificate of participation.

I would like to thank all that participated in this year's program and all the people that helped especially Raoul Salem for his diligence and hard work every year.

We did not have Salem, Oregon City or Lebanon participate this year but hopefully, we will get that rectified next year.

Thank You

Dan Evers, Junior Shooting Sports Committee Chairman

legionpost46@q.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

John W. Lee: Chairman

Committee Members: Randy Shaw, Denise Armstrong, Phillips York, Greg Marvin

Spring DEC 2021

The LECC committee meets on the phone conference on February 8th. Lt. Rector stated that the Oregon Department of Safety and Standards Training would most likely be unable to host the LECC this summer. The Camp would be low on their priority list.

We discussed the possibilities of an alternate venue, but it appeared it would be too expensive. The cost of housing, meals, transportation, and faculty was out of the budget for the LECC. We made the decision to have a Camp online. We realize that this is not the ideal method but to cancel a second year may be a worst choice.

After the meeting, I had a phone conversation with Jim Willis. He said he may have a contact that could provide quarters in the Monmouth area. We may be able to make arrangements through the Western to have food service. Jim also may have a contact for busses, or we might be able to get enough funds to hire a bus service for transportation.

The LECC committee will be meeting again on February 22nd. We will be discussing this option as well as the online methods to put on the camp. We are working hard to ensure that a camp will happen in late July or early August. We have not given up.

John W. Lee, LECC Chairman
541-401-2563

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Cory Brockmann: Chairman

Committee Members: Steve Bergadine, Debra Jacobson, Richard Ramey, Charles E. Schmidt

Spring DEC 2021

Summary: Oratorical Program successfully overcomes challenges of the pandemic in conducting post, district, and department level contests. Department oratorical champion named. National Finals Contest canceled for the second consecutive year.

Report: The 2021 Department Oratorical Contest was conducted on Saturday, Feb 20, at Santiam Post 51 in Lebanon. Given the challenges presented by the pandemic over the past year, including locating a host venue four weeks prior to the event, the contest was successful. We created opportunities, safely, for youth to grow and develop – how could it not be a success.

The success of the program is built upon a strong foundation of teamwork among our veterans. Our committee recognizes that and offers its gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved that worked safely to support the oratorical program. From those posts that actively sought to conduct their program, to the districts supporting posts and conducting district contests, to the volunteers who unselfishly stepped forward to help conduct the contests at the department level down to the posts – well done!

Many of our districts were active in engaging schools, but not always with success. And from what appeared would be six district contests, ended up being three. Those three district contestants vied for scholarships at the department contest with the results being:

1st Place: Kalyn Lafayette, a senior at Central Linn High School, Halsey.
Sponsoring Post - Travis Moothart Post 184, Brownsville, in District 3. Oration: 'Founding Fathers and the 1st Amendment'. Scholarship award: \$5,000.

2nd Place: Viti Eachambadi, a junior at Westview High School, Portland.
Sponsoring Post - John Kalmbach Post 90, Banks, in District 1. Oration: 'The Beating Heart of the Constitution - An Eternal Flame'. Scholarship award: \$3,500.

3rd Place: Tanner Stenkamp, a sophomore at Redmond High School, Redmond.
Sponsoring Post - Ray Johnson Post 44, Redmond, in District 5. Oration: 'Playing Through the Centuries'. Scholarship award: \$2,500.

Travis Moothart Post 184 receives a \$100 award for sponsoring the department winner, Kalyn Lafayette, and we congratulate them on their efforts and support of the oratorical program.

Articles for the Oregon Legionnaire were submitted monthly and a proposed budget for the oratorical committee was provided to the permanent finance committee as requested.

We now move into the off-season of the oratorical program with plenty to be done. The chairman and contestant packets and forms need to be reviewed for updating, and a more aggressive outreach plan needs development and implementation prior to the oratorical season beginning again later this fall.

As chairman, I look to engage committee members in fundraising opportunities for the program as well as growth opportunities for committee members.

Meetings: Committee business was conducted by email and teleconferences throughout the period following the MW-DEC.

I will be participating in a national oratorical teleconference on February 16th. With the national contest being

canceled two years in a row, I will be sharing our program's perspective of successes we've had as well as potential hurdles facing our program next school year.

Cory Brockmann, Oratorical Committee Chairman

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jon Marsh: Chairman

Commission Members: Kevin Owens, Phillis York, Eva Summers, Angel Mendoza, Ward Allen

Report will be given at the Spring DEC Meeting

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REPORT

Lou Neubecker: Chairman

Commission Members: Ward Allen, Gale Sears, Terry Brown, Jon Marsh, Betty Fish-Ferguson, Judy Johnson

Committees: Constitution & By-Laws Committee, American Legion Rider Committee, Resolution Assignment Committee, Sons of the American Legion Committee, Training & Development Committee, Trophy & Awards Committee

Spring DEC 2021

Report -January 2021 to March 2021 – It's been quiet. No major items have come up for this committee.

Meetings – No virtual or in-person meetings were held. We tried to hold a virtual meeting and the meeting had to cancel, due to the Finance Committee meeting on the same day and time. We will hold a meeting at the DEC in La Pine on Saturday.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
REPORT

Ward Allen: Chairman

Committee Members: Bob Huff, Phyllis York, Steve Woodford, Judy Johnston, S. Flynn Phillips

No Report Submitted

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS COMMITTEE
REPORT

Gales Sears: Chairman

Committee Members: Michael Speer, Kevin Sands, Mike Lueck, John Blum, Treber Gordon

No Report Submitted

RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Resolution Assignment Committee

Chairman – Terry A. Brown

Committee Members – Judy Johnston, Don Adams, Larry Hill, Vacant

Spring DEC 2021

Report – From January 1, 2021, and March 5, 2021, there were no resolutions submitted to the Committee for review.

Meetings Held: No virtual or in-person meetings were held. All resolutions submitted to the committee for review are via email and findings from the Committee to the Committee Chair are via email.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE

REPORT

Jon Marsh: Chairman

Committee Members: Michael Jones, Daniel Burks, Steve Woodford

Spring DEC 2021

Report will be given at the Spring DEC

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson: Chairman

Committee Members: Dave Applegate, John W. Lee, Bob Huff, Charles E. Schmidt, Gea Clausier

Spring DEC 2021

Hello Legionnaires,

It's that time of year again. La Pine for the Spring DEC. It's a long-held tradition.

The Training that would have taken place on Saturday is being interrupted by Commander Steve for an executive brainstorming session with the leadership on the state of affairs for The American Legion, Department of Oregon. That will take place during the entire morning and in the afternoon, those running for office will present their speeches with information and goals for the upcoming year.

In an effort to continue a training mindset, I would like to remind everyone that the new Mylegion website will be rolling out the new and improved site in April. All logins on the training site will need to be replaced. There is a tutorial that I can assist you with finding if you have questions. Don't hesitate to ask me.

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There have been inquiries about Department Legion College. Everyone wants to have one, but the format is very much up in the air. There is the traditional 2 and a half-day and also one-day event that moves to four different locations around the State. Still very much up in the air. I will have to keep you posted.

Hope to see you all in La Pine.

Betty Fish- Ferguson, Training & Development

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Judy Johnston: Chairman

Committee Members: Steve Shollenburg, John Bolner, Lance Trowbridge, Daniel Burks

Spring DEC 2021

Trophy & Awards

The packets for the awards are sent out to the Posts on March 15. Please follow the deadlines to send them back to Department by the due dates listed. Every Post should have something to let everyone know what they have done to help the community and vets in their area. If you did not do all the things the awards are for, but I know that the members of the Posts have done at least something they can brag about and submitting it for the Post to be honored during the pandemic.

Please remind the officers of your Post to also fill out the Consolidated Post report. Ask your members what they have done to assist Vets in their area. Did the Post donate money, food, clothing to help people in their community, or was there a special teacher, Fireman, Policeman that the Post would like to honor. DID SOMEONE IN YOUR POST DO SOMETHING SPECIAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE. You can nominate them as Legionnaire of year, Chaplin of year, Service officer of the year.

If you do not have access to the different awards, they will also be available at the www.orlegion website.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

REPORT

John W. Lee: Chairman

Commission Members: Ann Everetts, Jim Willis, Hubert Hemenway Jr., Daniel Burks

Spring DEC 2021

The Oregon state legislative session got underway on Jan 19th. This is an odd year so the session will be no more than 160 days. So far there are more than 60 veteran bills have been submitted. However, there are more in the works and it is changing daily.

I have been in contact with Jennifer Donovan, the Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). I am also working with the other veterans' groups though out the state of Oregon. ODVA publishes updates on the bills and what the status of them is. I will be Emailing these updates out through the department adjutant as they become available, which is usually weekly.

Anyone can submit testimony for a bill but remember to give a clear indication of which organization you represent. It is important to remind everyone that if the state that they represent The American Legion must have contacted National to get their support. Likewise, if you state you represent The American Legion, Department of Oregon, you will need to contact Headquarter in Wilsonville to insure all of Oregon is in line with your testimony.

There has been a number of bills that have started to be heard in committee. One of the top bills is the ODVA budget. Public hearings have been heard in the Ways and Means subcommittee Transportation and Economic Development from the Director of ODVA. She has requested about \$8 million from the general funds and about \$20 million from the lottery funds. There was a lot of concern from Representative Paul Evens on the amount of the lottery funds. This amount was an estimate of 1.5% of lottery funds for the biennium. With the COCID-19 restrictions were put in place, the lottery sales are down as the sale in bars and

restaurants have been low. He was told that there is a reserve fund to back the low sale estimates up.

SB 319 for the Vietnam memorial at capital grounds had a public hearing and a work session scheduled on Mar 2. The response for the Senate Veteran and Emergency Management committee was positive. Parks and Recreation were also present and were also positive although he had to remain neutral.

HB 2201 requires veterans in pretrial detention to receive their VA medical treatment. There was mixed feeling about this bill. Two sheriff departments testified that it would be too difficult for rural detention centers to provide this care and it may not be available. They also stated that it was too expensive to provide. Representative Wilde argued that when a veteran is taken into custody that the detainee was required to get his medical care. Others on the committee echo our concerns.

SB 184 changes the way preference points are given for veterans in public employment. Currently, there is 5 point given for a veteran and 10 for a disabled veteran. As the number of points may vary this bill will tie to a percentage of the total points. This bill was passed by the committee by 3 to 1 and will now move on.

There were three bills submitted by ODVA that came before the Veteran and Emergency committee. The ODVA director, Kelly Fitzpatrick, and the Senior Policy Advisor, Jenifer Donovan, testified on HB 2139, HB 2140, and HB 2141. HB 2139 establishes the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant Program within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Directs department to provide grants to entities to provide transportation to veterans in rural areas to access services for physical, mental, or behavioral healthcare. HB 2140 put back the Department's explicit statutory authority for certain lending activities which were inadvertently removed by SB 36 of the 2019 Legislative session. Additionally, HB 2141 will extend the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant.

A Legion member questioned SB 306 which Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to study and make recommendations for policy proposals for the tax treatment of military pensions. Requires the department to submit a report on findings by January 1, 2023. A public hearing held where a retired Army Reserve veteran questioned why there was an arbitrary line drawn in the sand in 1991. He believes all veterans should not have their pensions taxed. There were few comments from the committee and another public hearing is scheduled. Any retiree that was in Oregon around the late 90s knows where the "line in the sand" for 1991 comes from. It will be interesting to watch this bill proceed.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REPORT

Lou Neubecker: Chairman

Commission Member: Michael Jones

Committee Members: Legionnaire Committee, Information & Technology Committee, Public Relation Committee

Spring DEC 2021

Report -January 2021 to March 2021 – It's been quiet. No major has come up for this committee.

Meetings – No virtual or in-person meetings were held. We tried to hold a virtual meeting and the meeting had to be canceled, due to the Finance Committee meeting on the same day and time. We will hold a meeting at the DEC in La Pine on Saturday.

Lou Neubecker, Media & Communication Commission

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Eugene G. Hellickson: Chairman

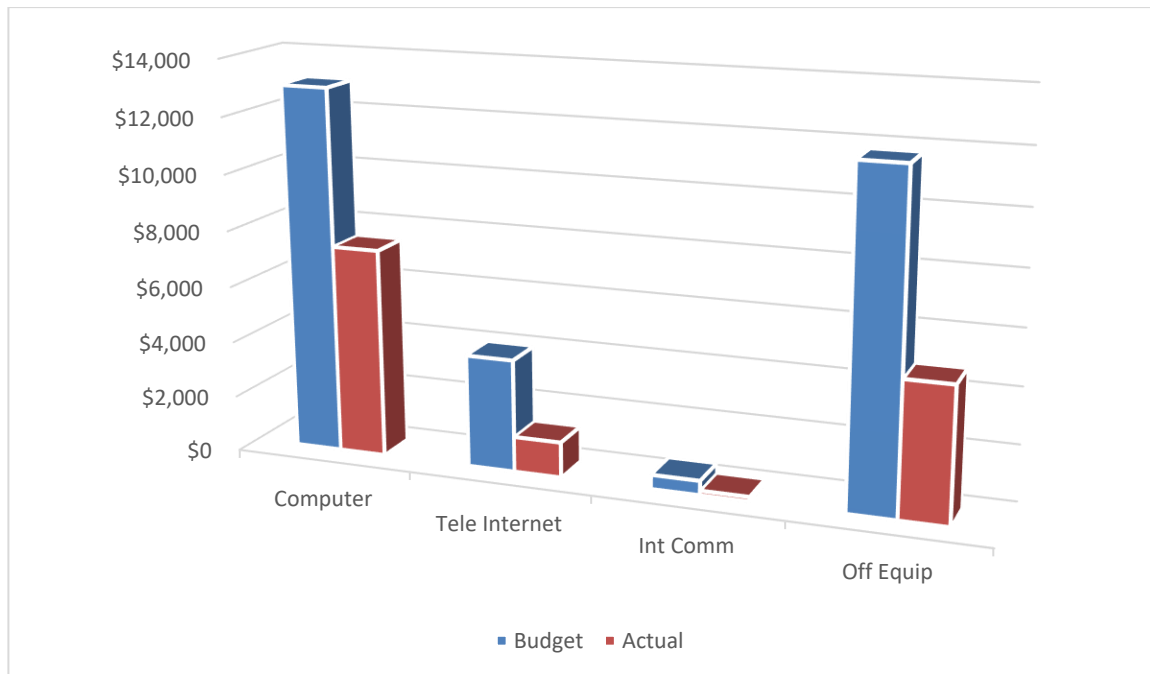
Committee Members: Juan Palacios, Dan Evers, Kirk Conner

Staff Liaison: S. Flynn Phillips

Spring DEC. 2021

Strategic Metrics

Supports the monitor and observe strategy and measures of success for each strategic goal.



Equipment Replacement/Updates

Server

Goal: Provide reliable service for at least 7 years.

History: A new Department server was purchased in July 2017 and has performed up to expectations. Server software upgrades have been accomplished by the computer support company that is under contract with the Department.

Maintenance: Provided by Axiom beginning April 2019

Computers

Goal: Provide reliable service for at least 5 years. Replace Guest/Conference Room Computer and purchase 2 additional Office 365 licenses.

History: New computer was purchased for:
Administrative Assistant – December 2018
Bookkeeper on – February 2018
Membership – December 2018
Department Laptop – June 2019
Guest/Conference Room – Purchase Date unknown

Telephones/Cell phones

Goal: Provide reliable service for at least 5 years

History: 5 cell phones were purchased in 2018.

1. A.L. Auxiliary
2. VSO
3. VSO
4. Adjutant
5. Commander

Due to Budget reduction, ALA, wanted to cancel it but owed several hundred dollars on the phone itself, TAL Adjutant asked them if he could buy out the remaining purchase cost on phone (for personal use) so we could start canceling phones that are not being used. ALA agreed, so Adjutant purchased the phone for personal use.

All cell phones are paid off and service on the two remainings is \$70.00 per month.

VSO Ed turned his in (he uses his personal), it is in the Safe
VSO Jody uses hers

Adjutant phone not used and is in the Safe
Commander uses his

Software updates

Goal: Provide adequate needs for users until required updates are available by the software company. Purchase two (2) additional Office 365 licenses, one for the Conference room computer and one for the Guest computer.

History: Bookkeeper Quicken software purchased in 2018.

Copy Machine

Goal: Provide reliable service for at least 5 years.

History: Current copier lease was obtained in October 2019
Legion users and Auxiliary users have separate user codes that provide a means for reimbursement of use from the Auxiliary.

Internet/Website

Goal: Provide reliable service for at least 5 years.

History: A new router/firewall was purchased in 2020, which enabled security updates to be installed.

Maintenance/Upkeep: Ture compass Design started in September 2019.

Notes: Upgraded capability for speed is not currently required.

Modernization Forecast

Description/Goal: It is the goal that all equipment can be utilized until it has become unreliable or outdated as to prevent reliable operation of the equipment.
Axiom quote: \$449.55 equipment, \$105 setup and configuration for total of \$554.55.

One new Computer for Conference Room/Guest: \$729.00

Office 365 - \$99.99 per year { 6 users }

Digital Signage board: for use at DEC's, Department Conventions, membership event's and Headquarters' use will not use for previously mentioned uses.

Cost Total: \$549.90

\$299.99 Samsung 43" TV

\$129.90 Minix NEO Media Hub

\$100.00 Mobile stand for TV

\$ 20.00 Monthly fee

Funding: Total required to date: \$1,933.44

Issues:

Nothing out of the ordinary.

Eugene G. Hellickson, IT Committee Chairman

OREGON LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE
REPORT

Lou Neubecker: Chairman

Committee Members: Daniel Burks, Juan Palacios, Mik Wilson, Dave Applegate

Editor: S. Flynn Phillips

Spring DEC 2021

No Report Submitted

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Charles E. Schmidt: Chairman

Committee Members: John W. Lee, Dale Jenkins, Jim Willis, Rick Dominguez

Spring DEC 2021

The Public Relations (PR) Committee has been fine tuning the 2021 Public Relations Award form for inclusion onto the Department webpage and into the convention awards packet. The form is designed for PR committee members to gain a broader picture of PR programs at that our Posts.

Post submissions covering the current American Legion year (2020-2021) will compete for recognition. The PR Committee judges submissions for the Department award. Look for the deadline for submission to Department on the form.

The Public Relations Committee encourages chairpersons of Department youth programs to share publicly, information regarding their respective programs. Program details are important, so Posts can share the information with students in their communities.

The ***Oregon Legionnaire*** accepts articles one month prior to each monthly publication. On a monthly rotation among Public Relations Committee members, an article is submitted for the **Oregon Legionnaire** relative to public relations and American Legion programs. Great job PR Team! As a reminder, that holding an elected or appointed position in the Department of Oregon is mandated by resolution of providing a monthly article. The **Oregon Legionnaire** is a vital media resource for staying connected to our members of what is happening in the Department of Oregon.

The Public Relations Committee makes daily American Legion postings on the Department's Facebook (FB) page...a good place to stay informed about our American Legion and Department. There is always room for information to be

Added to the Department FB page. Districts and Post are encouraged to use FB media tools, especially in this time of shutdowns and social distancing.

The FB program is another media resource for staying connected with our membership. Some Posts/District do have their own FB page.

Post newsletters are also a great source of staying connected with members as the pandemic continues to linger. Several Posts have shared their newsletters with the Department Adjutant, who in turn, e-mails them throughout Department. In fact, we are seeing more Post newsletters being distributed by the Department Adjutant. It is a great way for all of us to stay connected. If you have a Post newsletter, please share it.

On March 8th, National Commander Oxford kicked off the second year of **100 Miles for Hope** that began on April 1st and runs through September 6th, 2021. The **100 Miles for Hope** program is a virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride challenge to invigorate donations for the Veterans & Children Foundation, as well as encouraging American Legion Family members to be active in this time of social distancing. The foundation serves two primary functions. It provides critical grants for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises, and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care, benefits, and opportunities for disabled veterans and families. The American Legion's 3,000 accredited service officers provide free assistance for any veteran in need. The registration fee is \$20 and rewards every participant with a medal.

The program will be using the Kilter app that allows participants to take full advantage of pushing donations toward the foundation. It does not matter whether you walk, run, swim, cycle, use an elliptical trainer, or some other form of movement. The app has more than 40 different activities to choose from - even rucking, dancing, and playing pickleball. And American Legion Riders can log their activities by choosing "advocacy" or "volunteering," or manually entering a ride. Participants may go to www.legion.org/100miles for information and registration about **100 Miles for Hope**.

The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) have created a multi-year sponsorship agreement for the No. 48 Honda in the NTT IndyCar Series. Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson will drive the street and road courses while Indianapolis 500 winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan will handle the ovals. The American Legion will be featured

prominently on Johnson's No. 48 Honda during every race in the 2021 and 2022 NTT IndyCar Series. The American Legion will be the primary sponsor for multiple oval races during the season, including the Indianapolis 500 - known as " the greatest spectacle in racing " and won by Kanaan in 2013. Car 48 will run in the Portland Grand Prix September 10 -12, 2021 at the Portland International Speedway. Let's go racing Oregon Legion Family . . . we have a car in the race.

The Public Relations Committee has not held any in-person meetings; rather, communicates via e-mail on a regular, or as necessary basis.

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT

Larry Wittmayer: Chairman

Commission Members: Tom Fitzgerald, Steve Bergadine, Michael Jones, Greg Marvin, Tom Harris, Terry Brown

Spring DEC 2021

Please see Second Vice Commanders Report

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

REPORT

Spring DEC 2021

National Security Commission, Chair, Greg Marvin

National Security Commission Chair Greg Marvin, National Security Council attended the 2021 Washington Conference National Security Commission Meeting Monday, March 01, 2021, via virtual Zoom online meeting platform. Speakers for the morning session of the meeting were:

MG William J. Walker, Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard on the posture of the National Guard.

BG Aaron Dean, The Adjutant General Washington D.C. National Guard on the State Partnership Program.

Mr. Kelly K. McKeague, Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Washington

D.C. on the Posture of the DPAA. Mrs. Fem Sumpter Winbush, Principal Director was scheduled to speak but was unable to attend.

The afternoon session consisted of Commission Business led by Steven A. Brennan (**MD**)

National Security Chair.

The final afternoon session was a Joint Panelist Discussion with National Security and National Veterans Employment & Education Commission (VE&E) Guest Speaker Panelists. The session Moderator was John Berry, President, The American & Australia Association: Former U.S. Ambassador to Australia.

Panel Speakers were:

Brad Markell, Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO Working for America Institute

Thomas Pickering, Vice Chairman, Hills, and Company, Former U.S. Ambassador and Representative to the United Nations.

Joshua Walker, Ph.D., President & CEO, Japan Society.

Richard Passarelli, Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA),
National Director of Veterans Affairs

Finally closing remarks by:

Daniel Seehafer, Chairman, National Veterans Employment &
Education Commission Steven Brennan, Chairman, National Security
Commission

The Regional Law Enforcement of the Year winners is selected during the National Security Commission meeting the selections had not been made by the end of the Commission virtual meeting. I will announce the results as soon as I receive them. LaPine Post #45 sponsored the Department Law Officer winner and will be presented at the Department 2021 Convention.

Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee,

Chairperson, Jim Jerome Quality of Life

Congress still has (not) straightened pay for Coast Guard during Government shutdowns for lack of a budget agreement. Millions budgeted for housing updates thru out the military. Part of the money will be recovery costs associated with past natural disasters.

Foreign Relation Committee/ ROTC, Chairperson

Don Weber, Please see Book of Reports

Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee, Chairperson,

Eva Summers No Report received

National Guard & Reserve Committee, Chairperson

Eva Summers No Report received

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Weber: Chairman

Committee Members: Tom Fitzgerald, James K. Walsh, Don Adams, John W. Lee

Spring DEC 2021

This year the Universities could not conduct their annual awards ceremonies, however, they did hand out the awards to the Cadets. Each University made the Department aware of the award recipients, and we sent the awards to the University for personal presentation to the Cadets.

Oregon State University and the University of Portland did present American Legion Awards to their students. Hopefully, next year we can get back on track with in-person presentation to the graduating new officers.

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
REPORT

Eva Summers: Chairman

Committee Members: Ward Allen, Jim Willis, Chuck Zeitler

Spring DEC 2021

No Report Submitted

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

James Jerome: Chairman

Committee Members: Norman Simms, Daniel Burks

Spring DEC 2021

Quality of Life Report

Congress still has straightened out pay for Coast Guard during Government shutdowns for lack of a budget agreement. Millions budgeted for housing updates thru out the military. Part of the money will be recovery costs associated with past natural disasters.

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Eva Summers: Chairman

Committee Members: Tom Fitzgerald, Don Adams, Randy Butler, Ward Allen

Spring DEC 2021

No Report Submitted

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

REPORT

Kevin Owens: Chairman

Commission Members: Eugene G. Hellickson, Jon Marsh, Eva Summers, Betty Fish-Ferguson

Bob Huff: Department Finance Officer

Spring DEC 2021

The Permanent Finance Commission held the annual budget meeting at 9:00 am on February 27th, 2021. All of the commission members were in attendance along with the Department Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Department Adjutant, and Lynn Newton were also present. This like every other year we continue to see a decline in membership which greater affects our annual budget. The first goal was not to reduce the amounts that fund the programs of our Department. They are the cornerstone of the Four Pillars for what we do as an organization. The sections of the budget were divided up between the members of the Commission to help everyone understand the budget, but also to fact find for ways to save money and not cut line items. The Administrative section was looked over with a microscope to help reduce costs that will prevent us from having to lay off employees in our Headquarters. Working with the Department Adjutant we were able to trim 5% reduction in the amount of over ten thousand dollars that could be used to balance the budget. The next important section was the Department Officers and District Commanders' travel budgets. Across the board, everyone took some form of reduction, minus the Department Judge Advocate.

The rationale is simple, we seem to be seeing more and more issues appearing at our Posts with the potential for more travel, that being said, it does not mean that all the funds will be used, but rather available. The budget included the Department Commander not attending the Washington Conference, one the Membership Chairman attend the National membership Meeting, no funds for the Alternate National Executive Meetings in the fall and the spring. When the final numbers were put in, we had a shortfall of over \$74,000. We were able to balance the budget by funding the VAVS section of the budget with 100% funding from the Oregon American Legion Foundation with a grant. This money can only be used for VAVS which supports our Service Officers. As you can see this year was no easy task. The hope is membership will pick up, sales from our Revenue Enhancement Program will pick up, LIT Insurance will provide extra needed dollars along with USAA Insurance. I know some will be unhappy with the outcome, but we all need to remember why we belong, and we all are volunteers. Money everyone receives for the various Offices and Commissions to help defray some of the costs is not to pay the entire way. I want to thank the Commission for their dedication to help prepare next year's budget and want to remind everyone this is a budget and increase revenue with the items mentioned above, can restore items that may have taken a cut.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jim Willis: Chairman

Commission Members: Jon Marsh, Ann Everetts, Larry Williams, Bob Huff

Spring DEC 2021

pA Toxic Legacy-Vietnam to the GWOT

Millions of veterans have been deployed in the Global War on Terror, and a disturbingly high percentage of them have been exposed to airborne toxic hazards during their service as a result of burn pits. The Department of Defense (DoD) is beginning to track locations where it utilized burn pits, but this data is far from exhaustive and many years late. Regrettably, the conversation on toxic exposures is not a new concept to the American Legion and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The American Legion has for decades fought for service-connected disability benefits for adverse health conditions linked to toxic exposures from a variety of toxic substances.

As the VA Public Health Department tells us, "Veterans may have been exposed to a range of chemical, physical and environmental hazards during military service." These exposures result in health concerns such as; burn pit-related illnesses, Agent Orange-related diseases, Gulf War Veterans' illnesses, radiation-related diseases, vaccinations, and medications, etc. Exposure to toxic chemicals may have happened across various wars and operations, including Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, the Gulf War, and Vietnam.

Most recently and as a result of the NOAA 2021 bill, three new illnesses have been added to the presumptive illnesses associated with Agency Orange exposure. They are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism. To determine if you are service-connected for these illnesses, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Oregon's American Legion Service officers.

The American Legion continues to push for the inclusion of Hypertension as a service-connected illness associated with exposure to Agent Orange. While this illness is not yet approved, the American Legion will notify our members if this illness is added by the action of the US Congress.

Your VA&R Commission expresses great appreciation to the Washington DC Legislative staff for their continuing efforts to add these illnesses to those that now qualify for service-connected compensation for our members.

Respectfully submitted, Jim

Willis, ANEC

Chair, VA&R Commission

Department of Oregon

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & HOMELESSNESS
COMMISSION REPORT
BOB HUFF**

Bob Huff: Chairman

Commission Members for Veterans Employment & Education:

Robert Huntington, Mike Morris, Cory Brockmann, Pete Pringle, Cory Brockmann

Committee Members for Veterans Education & Homeless:

Chuck Zeitler, Mike Morris, Robert Huntington

Spring DEC 2021

I know that I am repeating that we remain in a holding pattern with social distancing and holding events, the same rules that many businesses and our other programs are dealing with. With some relaxed rules to business, I was hoping for this new year that we would see an end to some of our restrictions and we could start holding events safely. We are seeing some lifting of some restrictions, not for holding events. There is light at the end of the tunnel, with vaccines being administered, schools opening over the next few months, we are seeing some small steps being taken, we are hoping. When we can hold Veterans Stand Downs, Benefit, and Educations Events, we are ready. We are continually working with some of our Schools virtually currently and working with their new rules for the safety of all. As always, veteran's and participant's safety remain our focus.

As restrictions are lifted our commission/committee will start active planning meetings for areas in our Department that we can hold events. We have the tools and the partners, all waiting. We have no shortage of employers or jobs. As we continue to meet with our partners on ZOOM virtual meetings. We have continued supporting our National Guard in our Vet-Net meetings. Currently, Yellow Ribbons are virtual, with more restrictions, a lot of challenges. A whole new world

out there and the way our team will support our Veterans population with employment and education and our Homeless Veterans and continue to support our Veterans and our community's safety.

PDC Bob Huff, Chair Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission.

THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION
(TOALF)
REPORT

Kevin Owens: President

Foundation Members: Charles E. Schmidt, Robert Liebenow, Michael Jones, Andy Millar, Cory Brockmann, Richard Ramey

Bob Huff: Department Finance Officer

Eugene G. Hellickson: Department Judge Advocate

Spring DEC 2021

The Oregon American Legion Foundation has had a couple of meetings since the last DEC, most recent was March 25th, 2021. Items that we discussed was the PayPal account on the Department Website was not working, this was discussed from our last meeting and has been fixed. We discussed Department Convention and plans to hold a silent auction and Corn Hole Tournament on Thursday from 4:00-6:00 pm, more info will be coming out in the near future. The goal is to bring more people together at a social event and raise money for the Foundation. We plan on having hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar available for the Legion Family to purchase beverages. I have talked with the Convention Chairman Jon Marsh about this event and still need to finalize the plans. I encourage all of you to talk up this event as it will be fun and exciting for all. The Foundation continues to find ways to raise money and also encourage Posts to apply for grants when needed.

SAL

Report

SAL Commanders Note

I look back at the last 12 months, how was I affected? Our State, communities, and Post have been shuttered. Meetings canceled, held over the internet, or on cell phones. We lost contact with members, canceled events, and just tried to survive. We lost control of much of our daily lives. A year has passed, and it looks like we may soon return to the new normal, whatever that will be. But I am the Silver Lining type of person and this is how I see the past year.

Last March we shut down. I had our usual Fish Fry planned for Friday night, in-house, no biggie, 70 to 90 dinners. Stole an idea from a church in WI... We promoted a Drive-Thru and then linked with Meals on Wheels. We promoted the event on the internet and signboards. The community responded, fairy tale numbers showed up, they were served following Covid guidelines and a new event was created. We then held events every 2 weeks, dedicated some for specific groups and others for the Post needs. Every event for a named group was larger than events not dedicated. We expanded our Chicken B-B-Q and held 2 instead of the usual 1, both early sellouts. Every event grew.

Feb. 26, 2021. 401 drive-thru sales in 2 ½ hours. Proceeds, \$2,800.00, donated to the Eugene Special Olympics. 2 weeks later a drive-thru chicken dinner with the local Boy Scout troop. They did very well. The lockdown created a new windfall for my Post. We worked with numerous non-profits, built community support, enticed some new members, and now have groups seeking us out for assistance. I was lucky with the property and membership I had to work with. It is a great setup for a drive-thru. Everyone is not so lucky.

It has been hard. My Post lounge was closed for gosh sakes. But working with a few insane members like myself the Family pulled together, members had something to do, interact, and found out just what we can do with even more ideas about upcoming events being expressed.

I write this because it sounds better than “Hurry up and pay your dues, your delinquent”. Ok, you may be, so get them in. Your Squadron needs them, the State

needs them. I paid dues to my Squadron. My Post has been closed for most of the year. Few meetings. No value for my money spent. My membership dues and the virus allowed me and my Post Family to create a greater bond with ourselves and the community. To create a larger income stream and donate more funds than ever before. Without our membership, we die. Without your renewals, some Squadrons will be in trouble. Remember, If our Squadrons reach a certain goal and the State also reaches the goal, some lucky Squadron will get to remove my mustache. Make it happen.

Carl Pawlik

Detachment Commander