





LARRY WITTMAYER DEPT1ST-VICE COMMANDER

article I am submitting after election to this position I would like to say: "Thank you to all that attended the 102nd Annual De-

Since this

is the first

partment Convention. Fun was had

by all. Foremost though this goes to all who showed their support to me and voted me to this high office. I will do all I can in my power to live up to that show of support."

I look forward to working with the Membership Team, I know Dan Burks has put together a "get'er done" group of dedicated Legionnaires.

August will be a very busy month for the Department as well as September. National Convention 8/26 to 9/2.

NASCAR Portland Grand Prix 9/10 to 9/12, Leading Candidate for Nat. Commander 9/16 to 9/19, Fall DEC 9/24 to 9/26, and Tentative National Commander visit in September. All not to mention District Commander training coming up, etc. Sounds like this Department is on a roll. Please don't forget to write articles for the Legionnaire and radio and TV about your post happenings.

Again, thank you for your support.

START PLANNING COMMUNITY VETERANS DAY EVENT

CORY BROCKMANN DEPT2ND-VICE COMMANDER can Legion's

The Ameri-102nd Na-

tional Convention will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 - September 2, 2021. Your department delegation is quickly finalizing preparations and making ready to represent you - our Department of Oregon amongst our national organization. I am proud to say that I will be among that delegation, working to represent and serve you, as well as, on behalf of all veterans in Oregon. Having been cancelled last year, this national convention will, assuredly, be extremely engaging as members renew friendships and re-engage the business of The American Legion.

I commend and extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Legion Family candidates that stepped forward and sought election for office in your respective organizations for 2021-2022, as well as, to everyone who supported those campaigns. Members will always be our greatest treasure and

asset. Thank you for supporting and voting at your post, at your district and at your department conventions, respectively. I am honored, and privileged, to serve as your Department 2nd Vice Commander this year and I look forward to working with all of you to support and strengthen the Department of Oregon.

At our recently concluded 2021 Department Annual Convention, which took place June 24-26th in Canyonville, there were several resolutions put forth to the convention delegation and I will share a few of them with you.

Two critical resolutions were passed that directly impact our Department's ability to conduct business in lieu of the annual convention, should it be necessitated. Those are: Resolution No.: B-01 Amendment to Department Constitution and Bylaws on Elections and Resolution No.: B-02 Procedure to Adopt Budget in the Event of Interruption to the Department Conven-

tion. Simply put, these two amendments provide for elections of officers and passing of a department budget. While we hope to never encounter a pandemic again, we recognize from our recent experiences the detriments to our members, communities and programs, and our ability to legally function as an organization. These resolutions were warranted and adopt amendments that would prevent cancelling elections and offset drastic steps necessary to ensure a budget exists.

Two additional resolutions passed and will move onward to the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee for review and action, those resolutions are: Resolution No.: C-03 Support the Preamble of The American Legion Constitution and Resolution No.: C-04 Violation of Oath. These two resolutions, though generally stated here, seek to reaffirm and strengthen The American Legion's resolve to 1.) uphold and defend Continued on page 3

our Constitution of the United

States of America and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism, supporting and upholding our freedoms and liberties, and American values; and 2.) to be vigilant in holding accountable those auspices of the Department of Defense - be they civilian or military - and all others engaged directly and/or indirectly, with violating their oath by participating in partisan politics, which are illegal and counter to the will of the American people. Our individual freedoms and liberties - far beyond our four pillars of veterans, national security, Americanism and youth - are degrading and at stake, should so-called leaders continue down the path they are taking. We must remain resolute. These two resolutions seek action of and by our national organization to reaffirm and strengthen our nation.

The last resolution I bring to your attention here was passed at the preconvention Department Executive Committee meeting, conducted prior to convening our Department Annual Convention. That resolution honors and recognizes the life, love, passion and efforts put forth by late-PDC Jim Willis, by renaming the Department's Law Enforcement Career Camp, which he was instrumental in building, to "Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp". He is already missed dearly and this resolution, fittingly, recognizes and honors PDC Willis' love of veterans, youth, law enforcement and our country.

More resolutions and business were addressed at convention and I encourage you to contact your post and district delegates to learn more details.

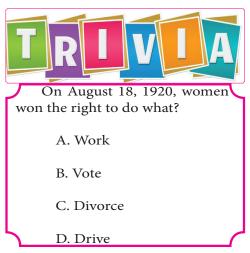
Time doesn't stand still and neither

does the need for support of our veterans, youth, and communities. As our counties, state and nation continue to rebound from the pandemic, it is important to give attention now on how you can best serve and make a positive impact. We have many programs – each one valuable – and there is certainly one that you can assist with and find joy in serving. Where to begin? Check in with any member of your post executive committee and share your strengths, passion and interests.

Membership remains a priority among all committees and programs we work to deliver to our members and our communities. Please inquire at your post on how you – YOU – can help your post and district with membership activities. Often it is as simple as having a coordinated approach to making Buddy Checks and follow-on renewal contacts. Everyone can help make a small, positive difference and, when combined with efforts of others, the impact is significant. It takes a team and we ARE Team Oregon!

Veterans do strengthen America! Thank you for your continued service to our country!

Did you know? The American Legion donated \$1 million to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington D.C., becoming the largest single contributor to the project.



100 Miles

For Hope campaign makes history

The 100 Miles For Hope campaign, now in a second year, made history this summer as a generous supporter contributed funds for a \$25,000 Matching Gift Challenge in support of The American Legion.

During the week of our Department's annual convention, June 24-26th, a first-ever matching gift opportunity was announced across the nation and, in similar fashion with 100 Miles For Hope, was made available for 100 hours, where all donations were matched up to \$25,000 during that period.

It didn't take long as the \$25,000 was raised within 100 hours and it was announced the very next week during National Commander James W. 'Bill' Oxford's visit here to the Department of Oregon.

The 100 Miles For Hope campaign has been an extremely positive effort with far-reaching benefits. While the disabled veterans and military families who receive support from the Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF) are the real beneficiaries, there are also benefits gained from exercising and improving our own physical health, increasing awareness for support of our veterans and youth, along with elevating health-awareness with all who participate and with whom we can share that message.

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Continued from Page 3

Cory Brockmann
Dept2nd-Vice Commander 1

Miles For Hope campaign makes history

Thank you to everyone who participated in the campaign! Whether you participated in both campaigns or this was your first – thank you for supporting The American Legion and helping our veterans.

Interesting things to make



you say
Hmmm....

The first commercial passenger flight lasted

only 23 minutes

These fun facts really get you thinking about how far we've come. Taking a 23-minute flight might seem like a waste of money today, but in 1914 Abram Pheil paid \$400, which would be \$8,500 today, for a 23-minute long plane ride. He flew between St. Petersburg, Florida and Tampa, Florida, where only 21 miles of water separate the cities. Pheil, a former mayor of St. Petersburg, and the pilot, Tony Jannus, were the only passengers. This momentous flight paved the way for air travel as we know it.

Our new adopted Department of Oregon 2021-2022 Budget goes into effect on October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. Our current 2020-2021 Department Budget will end on September 30, 2021, and we will be in a positive financial position.

Some questions that have been asked, recurring questions: SAL Squadrons and ALR Chapters are programs of the Post. SAL Squadrons and ALR Chapters do not have their own EIN Numbers and are not Corporations. The American Legion Post is a corporation with its own EIN Number, CEO/ Post Commander, Officers and Executive Board. The Post is responsible to file 990, 990ez or a 990n e-postcard each Tax Year including all SAL and ALR financial information for the Tax Year. The Post Constitution and By-Laws which have a SAL Squadron and/or a ALR Chapter should include instructions for the SAL and ALR in reporting their activity, financials and any special rules required to the Post Executive Board. All Bank Accounts are under the Post EIN Number, the Post is responsible for the activity and oversight of all Programs of the Post. A question that has been asked. What

"if" several Posts within a District or a second District have ALR members (members are The American Legion, Sons of the Amer-



ican Le- PDC, Bob Huff gion and Department Finance Officer American Legion Auxiliary) participating at a ALR Chapter at one Post. The ALR Program is a Program of The American Legion Post, the Post with the ALR Charter will have the responsibility to report all Tax Information and their Post Constitution and By-Laws should include the reporting financial and activity information to the Post Executive Board and any special rules for their operation.

Remember the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3, contributions are tax deductible, funds are used for our programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site. Let's have a great year, face to face, we have plenty of opportunity for a great year.

Department Officers

Commander Don Weber Imed. Past Cmdr Steve Adams 1st Vice Cmdr Larry Wittmayer Cory Brockmann 2nd Vice Cmdr Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips **NECman** Kevin Owens Alt NECman Gene Hellickson Finance Officer **Bob Huff** Chaplain Steve Shollenberg Historian Dick Winders Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson Service Officer Ed Van Dyke Veterans Service Officer Jody Marsh Sgt-At-Arms Phyllis York Mike Morris Asst Sgt-At-Arms Ward Allen Asst Sgt-At-Arms

Need to Know Dates

September

National Disaster preparedness Month

October

Membership Campaign Halloween Safety

November

Veterans Day American Education Week



Lou Neubecker
District 1 Commander

Here it August already our state convention over and now the delegates National to Convention getting are ready to leave at the end of the month. The National Convention is be-

ing held in Phoenix AZ, from Aug 15 to Sept 2. I'll be in attendance.

I have started complying with my duties by visiting 3 Posts already. I will get the rest of the Posts completed by either myself or our Vice-CMDR Susan. We will announce the schedule in a couple of days.

Vernonia Post 119 is taking part in the city Jamboree on August 7th, the Post will host the city from 5 PM till 9 PM. Stop by and support them. Hope to see you there.

Post 99 will host a community fund raiser on Aug 21st, for the family of Astoria Police Officer Sam Whistler, who at the age of 26 died in his sleep on July 7. He leaves 2 small children and a wife. The meal will be an Angus Burger with home made fries and Cole slaw. Plan on attending and take your love one to the coast for the weekend or a day.

As for our Membership for 2021-2022 year, we haven't received our number from National yet. Plan on a small increase.

Semper Fi

Permanent Finance Commission

CORY BROCKMANN As in PERMANENT FINACE COMMISSION a n y business, and much like your family's personal finances, non-profit's have a bottom-line. Our Department of Oregon, along with the entire American Legion's national organization, is no different. We are now into our business-year and finances are in place. A budget was approved by you, our voting body, elected delegates to the 2021 annual convention, and now we move forward in conducting the business that supports our veterans and our four pillars.

In addition to approving a budget at the 2021 Annual Convention, the post-convention department executive committee meeting ratified members of the 2021-2022 Permanent Finance Commission, those members are Kevin Owens, chair; Jon Marsh; Betty Fish-Ferguson; Gea Clausier; Cory Brockmann; and, Bob Huff, exofficio. These commission members have fiduciary responsibilities en-

trusted to them in serving our department as we work together, as a body, to ensure our department's finances are distributed and wisely utilized. The commission's fiduciary responsibility, however, is really no greater than that belonging to each of us. We all are stakeholders of The American Legion, and that includes the financial health and wellness of our Department of Oregon.

Each of us are stewards that help our department maintain financial stability and viability. We recruit members; we help deliver, as well as, support our programs; we make donations; we participate in our post and department's endeavors, be it attending meetings and voicing your concerns, sharing ideas, or voting on resolutions and in elections. We are all stakeholders.

Thank you for helping us continue to serve our veterans and their families.



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

writing major changes to the Oregon Scouting Covid Restrictions are being implemented. Please check your

As of this

council website for those changes.

This committee, upon approval of the Department Convention Scouting Committee is working on a change to the **DEPARTMENT** Eagle Scout of the year. It appears that a lack of applicants in the last few years has been due to the national requirement for each candidate to have earned a religious award. Our department will change our requirements and drop the religious award requirement. Our Department Selectee will not be eligible for the National Award if not a religious award recipient. But our Department Selectee will be eligible for the Department Scholarship.

Remember if your Post wants to sponsor a Scout unit please call Larry Wittmayer 503-970-4944.

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Editors Notes

Reprinting with Permission Only!

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The Voices of Oregon Veterans
The Oregon Legionnaire

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Business and general offices:
30450 SW Parkway Ave
PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730
Phone (503) 685-5006

adjutant@orlegion.org www.orlegion.org

The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

Editor S. Flynn Phillips
Publisher S. Flynn Phillips
Chairman Lou Neubecker
Members Daniel Burks
David Applegate
Mick Wilson

orlegionnaire@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

September National Disaster
Preparedness Month

6 Labor Day (Closed)

11 Patriot Day

11 District 1 Meeting

16 Congress Charter Anniv.

17 Constitution Day

18-19 C & Y Conference

20 POW/MIA Day

24-26 Americanism Conf.

(Conferences are at Nattional)

October Membership Campaign

Halloween Safety

4-7 Fall Meetings (National)

November Lead Community in Veterans Day awareness American Education Week

> 11 Veterans Day 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday

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LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

Council Events for August

Cascade Pacific Council

8/8-13 NYLT 8/15 SCOUTQUEST

8/19 Hike, Paddle & Bike

8/22-27 Arrowcorp

8/22-29 Powderhorn Training

9/10-12 & 9/25-26 Woodbadge

Oregon Trail Council

8/8-14 & 8/15-21 BSA Summer

Camp

8/17 Fireside Chat 8/22-28 NYLT

Crater Lake Council

7/9-8/1 and 8/6-9 Cub Resident

Camp

8/20 Scout Sport Clay Shoot 9/25-26 Fall OA Induction

Blue Mountain Council

8/13 Three Rivers Cub Day Camp

8/20-22 Fall OA Induction

8/21 Theater M.B. Clinic

8/24-28 Woodbadge

Mountain West Council 8/2 White Water 8/6-7 Cub Day Camp

Deadline

for the **September** issue of the

Oregon Legionnaire

is **August 5th**, 2021





CORY BROCKMANN A big 'thank you'
TOALF COMMISSION to the Oregon
American Legion Family!

TOALF hosted a hospitality 'mix and mingle' event for the Oregon Legion Family and it included a silent auction, a corn-hole tournament, food and beverages, and live Country and Americana music by singer-songwriter Terry LaMont of La Grande, Ore.

The event was planned with two main objectives – first, and foremost, for members to have fun and, secondly, to generate a little revenue for the foundation. The event was a huge success as it provided a fabulous opportunity for members to reconnect in a relaxing environment given the long-running pandemic lock-down of 2020-21.

The silent auction was well-attended and quite popular as it garnered 154 bids on 47 donated items. A sampling of the items at auction included an original personal check signed by Sgt Alvin York; USS Portland memorabilia; TAL/Indy Car mini-helmet and ball cap autographed by drivers Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan; "Quiet Cadence" autographed by author Mark Treanor; BBQ grill; American Legion baseball autographed by MOH-recipient Robert Maxwell and PNC Charles Schmidt; beautiful quilts and military fleece blankets; fresh-picked Oregon cherries; beautiful patriotic cross-stitches; and, more! The silent auctions were both fun and competitive, as nearly a quarter of the items received at least a half-dozen bids each, and multiple items inked

The Oregon American Legion Foundation - Working for You!

double-digit bids. When the auction had closed, over \$2,050 was raised.

The corn-hole tournament brought forth an entirely different competitiveness and was also extremely popular. There were 36 members registered to participate, representing all units comprising our Oregon Legion Family, and many more in attendance to watch the fun and excitement. The tournament was played in 18 two-person teams - teams were randomly determined – with scoring to 15 points. Registered players ranged from experienced to first-time players. Competitive? Completely! Up for grabs were gold, silver and bronze medals to members of the top-three placing teams, and bragging rights for the title of 2021 Department Convention Corn Hole Champions! The top-finishers were third-place: Catherine Brockmann/Andy Millar; second-place: Debra Ashe/Carl Pawlick; and, first-place: Chuck Hopkins/Mick Wilson.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items and helped conduct the event, as well as, to those that participated in the silent auctions, tournament, and present to enjoy the evening. Members will always be our greatest asset.

A special thank you to Terry LaMont for the entertaining music provided, and to Dept Chaplain Steve Shollenburg, who made and donated the beautiful corn-hole boards that were used.

When the night concluded over \$2,425 was raised to further support our Veterans and programs. Well done, Oregon Legion Family!

The Winners Are



1st Place Chuck Hopkins & Mick Wilson



2nd Place Carl Palik & Debra Ashe



3rd Place Andy Millar & Katherine Brockmann Continued on page 7

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CORY BROCKMANN TOALF COMMISSION



Silent Auction



Silent Auction

How can you help make a difference? Donations to TOALF, a 501c3, are tax deductible as permitted by law, and may be made online at https://orlegion.org/foundation, or you can donate by check, make out to TOALF, and mail to department headquarters at The American Legion, Attn TOALF, PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

VA & R

Going from ZOOM, Go To Meeting to limited face-face meetings, some relaxed meetings to partial opening of offices to support our Veterans population; all good. Telephone contact and virtual meetings have proven to allow more access and quicker response to some of our Veterans claims and appeals and has filled in a void with our rural Veterans population. Our Department VA&R Commission has oversight of our Department Veterans Service Office which does a great job supporting our Veterans. The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon and many hours of volunteer service, contributions and has filled in a void at our VA's during COVID 19 in all areas. The Commission and our VAVS Arm participate in the System Worth Sayings Activity at our Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Facilities with our National VA&R Commission. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National Cemeteries. The Commission also represents our department along with the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission at Veterans Stand-Downs, Benefit and Employment



Education PDC, Bob Huff and Woman VA&R CHAIRPERSON Events. Veterans Events, Mobilization and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon. The joint Commission is the First Pillar of The American Legion, Veterans. As more opportunity for gatherings is allowed in our Counties, if you hear of events that VA&R and VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol.com or (541) 601-9283 with your contact information and I will contact you. If your District is holding their meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, please contact me and we will be happy to support.

Thank you

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS





<u>True Compass Designs</u> is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. **Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer**.

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, Bob Huff

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homeless-ness Commission is an arm of The American Legion Pillar I: Veterans, that

is charged with VEE & H CHARRERSON Veterans Employment, Veterans Education, Help for Homeless Veterans and at-risk Veterans. Working with our community partners, VA, NCA, ODVA, Oregon National Guard, Worksource Oregon, our DVOP Team, Easter Seals, Bar Associations, ESGR, County Organizations, HHS, VSO's. Our commission has been ready and willing; has been slowed down from our normal activity, hold-

ing events as we have supported CO-VID rules in holding gatherings. Wehonor each County Health rules for the safety of our Legion Family and Veterans community. We are seeing light in face-to-face meetings again; I have received the green light to start planning events and meeting on venues to hold them. We will plan them and plan dates, once approved and the number we can have safely in a gathering and the rules, we will then communicate those dates and locations to our Districts and Posts through the Department Email list. Our VE&E Events will be partnered with VA&R and our Membership and Post Activities Team. Remember, the most successful events are those when local Posts and the Legion Family participates. As always, veterans and participants safety remain our focus.

START SETTING UP COMMUNITY VETERANS DAY

Are you moving?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org					
Name:					
Name:Name:					
City/State/Zip: Effective Date:					
PhoneNumber:					
Email Address:					
Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org					

Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon Attn: Adjutant P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Raughter, Media Relations jraughter@legion.org or 317-630-1350

The American Legion to Congress: 'Pay the Guard'

(INDIANAPOLIS—July 19, 2021)

-The head of the nation's largest veterans organization warned Congress that the American people will "be furious," if partisan gridlock causes a shutdown of the National Guard and delayed paychecks for its soldiers.

"Congress and the White House need to act immediately to ensure that our National Guard is fully funded and its members compensated for all of their drills, missions and deployments. Have they already forgotten the thousands of National Guard members who protected the Capitol during civil unrest just a few months ago? Or the crucial role of our National Guard members in America's response to COVID-19?" American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford asked. "The American Legion spoke loudly two years ago when partisan bickering led to an in interruption of the Coast Guard being paid. We stepped up and provided more than \$1 million of grants to help hundreds of Coast Guard families, but Congress still has failed to pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. Moreover, it isn't the job of private nonprofit organizations to pay the military. As Americans, we should all demand that Congress never repeats that mistake.

"We are not simply talking about bureaucracies," Oxford continued.

continued on page 11

AUXILLARY NEWS

My motto is:

A Year of Learning, With Positive Communication!!!



Department of Oregon ALA President 2021/2022

DEBRA GODWIN I must say with all DEPT PRESIDENT of the negative challenges our State endured this last year, the Auxiliary has continued to march ahead.

Membership is still coming in, with 21 Units reaching goal.

My President's project this year is the Central Oregon's Veteran's Village, and General Account. I will have more information on the Veterans Village at our Fall D.E.C., September 24th through the 26th.

I had the opportunity to tour the Bend Hero's Memorial, and the COVV, with our National Commander Bill Oxford on June 30th and lunch with the Unit members from Bend Unit #4. Thank you, Unit #4, for making me feel welcome, and taking time out of your day!!!

National Convention is fast approaching, and we are all busy getting ready to go. I am excited to meet new

people, and learn as much as possible. Then It's back to our great state of Oregon, and hitting the ground running.

We have a lot to do this year, and some ground to make up. I have some fun stuff planned for the year.

Stay focused, devoted, determined, and most of all healthy my American Legion Family!!

Debra Godwin

While attending a meeting in La Pine, Community Service Chair, Gea Clausier discovered that La Pine Post #45 Family and President, Denise Mitchell had been cooking and serving all the Firefighters for the entire day.

Thank you for your service to those who serve us!











LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Raughter, Media Relations jraughter@legion.org or 317-630-1350

The American Legion to Congress: 'Pay the Guard'

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"We are talking about families. The men and women of the National Guard have living expenses, bills due and other financial obligations that cannot be put on hold while politicians argue. The volunteers who defend America deserve better."



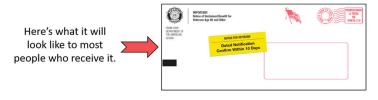
We are mailing Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) on August 18th.

Quick reminder about EA+:

If you're traveling away from home and experience a medical emergency, EA+ steps in to provide essential support services that can help you during your emergency. Services include:

- Medical Evacuation to get you to a more appropriate hospital.
- Transportation Home after hospitalization.
- Nurse Escort to help you travel if deemed medically necessary.
- Return of Vehicle if it is stranded due to your emergency.
- And More!

Product may not be available in all states and may not mail all your members. If you want a more detailed description of this product, visit www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus.





- ▶ The next mailing is Accidental Death (AD) in September.
- ▶ We will be in attendance at the National Convention in August.
- ► LIT Fall Trust Directors meeting is scheduled for September 14th in Williamsburg, VA.





Brought to you by:
The Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Facebook

Questions? Contact Howard Bender 800-445-3269 hbender@agia.com

Vice President, Account Management

AGIA Affinity Services

4835 E. Cactus Road, Suite 410

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

602 889-4196

FAX: 602-944-9335

AGIA Values: Relationship, Integrity, Excellence, Innovation, Contribution

The American Legion Calls Biden's Plan to Evacuate Afghan Allies a 'Deep Disappointment'

WASHINGTON (July 8, 2021)

Calling the Taliban "the enemy of all human rights," American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford expressed his organization's "deep disappointment" that the White House isn't offering a better plan to evacuate interpreters, family members and other Afghan allies who closely assisted U.S. military troops during the war.

"We welcome an end to 'forever wars,' but withdrawal must be conducted in an orderly and honorable manner. This falls short on both counts. Abandonment of those who assisted us is literally an issue of life or death," Oxford said. "Any veteran who has worked with Afghan interpreters will tell you how valuable these brave heroes were to our mission there. It is precisely because of their dedication to our cause that they are primary targets for barbaric retribution by Taliban terrorists. Their families are also targets. They have already undergone extensive security screening and further processing can occur in Guam or other region safely out of harm's way. It is a moral imperative that we offer them immediate and safe passage away from the enemy and to the United States. If we abandon such friends, how could we expect any assistance by potential allies in future missions?

"The president said today that his administration approved 2,500 Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for Afghan nationals since January 20," Oxford said. "Yet estimates of the backlog run

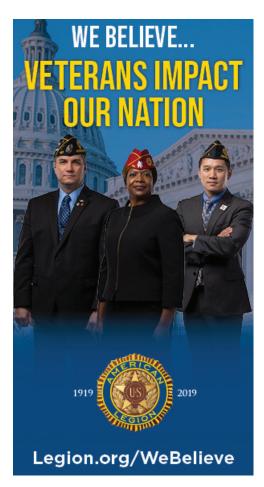
as high as 18,000. If you include close family members, the administration should be prepared to quickly evacuate as many as 70,000. We saved many more lives when we left Vietnam, and even that wasn't enough when you consider how many were left behind and slaughtered after our departure. A great nation such as the United States does not abandon its friends."

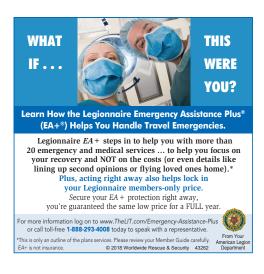
Oxford also lamented that time is running out, in spite of the letters that he sent to President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken in April which raised alarms about the dangers faced.

"The American Legion passed a national resolution in 2018 asking the president and Congress to prioritize SIVs for our Afghan and Iraqi allies," Oxford said. "This is not a new or recent issue. The American Legion is calling on the White House to immediately institute a better plan and evacuate our friends now. Delay means death for many of these brave people."

About The American Legion

The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to service-members and veterans.









PNC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT approved **PR CHAIR**

It was September 11, 2001, that foreign terrorists' unprovoked attacks came to our nation's soil. By a joint resolution

December

2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress designated September 11 of each year as "Patriots Day." Patriots Day gives America a time to reflect on the deadly attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives, the amount of destruction caused, and the courage, efforts and sacrifices by our First Responders. The National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed Resolution 30 on May 8-9, 2002, that "... affirms its support and encourage the members, Posts, and Departments of The American Legion to honor the victims of 9-11 by planning and executing an appropriate annual patriotic or memorializing event in the community on that September date so

their memories do not fade." To assist Posts in organizing a community THE AMERICAN LEGION commemoration, American Legion National Public Relations Division offers the publication A Day to Remember - A Community Commemorative Remembrance of September 11, **2001**, at <u>www.le-</u> gion.org/media/ publications. The Events and Planning Guide gives Posts helpful guidance with a step-bystep, detailed outline of how to plan









Indianapolis, IN 46206 317.630.1253

none too early to start planning. September 11, 2021, marks 20 years since the attacks.

Let us never forget!

and conduct a 9/11

program in their

communities. It is



WE BELIEVE... VETERANS IMPACT **OUR NATION**







BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
TRAINING & DEVELOPEMNT

Hello Legionnaires,

I am pleased to announce that the Department Legion College will be on August 6th at Canby Post #122. As I stated in the

July edition of the Legionnaire, this training program is geared at District Commanders and District staff. It is a one-day event that I hope will be jammed packed with information that District Commanders can take back to their districts. Of particular note, there will be a presentation from the Lines for Life Suicide prevention organization to carry out further the National Commanders mandate for Buddy Checks and Suicide reduction. If any District members would like to attend, please let me know. This training will be the first. Following the objectives of the new Department Commander Don Weber, the Training and Development committee plans to take Post Level training to 4 locations around the State this year. If you would like to sponsor a training in your District, please let me know. Please call me for any questions, at 503-781-3215





MIKE SOWLES
BASEBALL CHAIR

go with it.

You'll buy him the best bat you can find, and

If you give

a boy a base-

ball, he will

want a bat to

then he will probably want a bucket of balls and a glove

and some cleats too.

Then, he will probably spend hours begging you to go out in the yard to play with him, even though you may want to sit on the couch and watch tv. He will insist. And his insistence will win.

And when a boy gets a jersey, he will need pants and socks and a belt to go with it. And a TEAM.....

And then Life as you know it will end.

There will be no more lazy weekends watching tv. You will see more sunrises than you ever thought possible. Every spare minute of your time will be spent hauling buckets and bags and stinky cleats and crazy boys all over tarnation for hours to practice for a game. *THE GAME*.

And your house will be a mess. And your car will be dirty. All because you gave a boy a baseball.

Your weekends will be spent freezing or burning to death on a fold-up chair. And his weekends will be spent gaining confidence and friends, and learning new skills and having fun, and getting dirty. So dirty, in fact, that you will have to learn how to do laundry in a whole new way, like maybe at a carwash using the pressure washer.

And you will be there the day he hits his first home run, first strikeout, and his first double play. And he will make you *SO* proud. The other parents will congratulate you. But you feel weird saying thank you because it's not you at bat or on the mound. It's all him. You're merely the facilitator.

And right before your eyes, your little boy will be transformed from the baby who spun around with his head on the bat (because he loves attention) into a pitcher because he loves attention... still.

When you give a boy a baseball, you give him more than just a ball. You give him a sport and talent, hope, dreams, friends, a new family, a place to learn about Life, room to grow as a person where he can push his limits, bravery, courage, and *LIFE* and memories. And he will have *ALL* of these things, simply because you gave a boy a baseball.

Because you gave a boy a baseball, you too will develop new/lifelong friendships, developed solely from the same passion for the game and love of your team. You will root together. Also, you can count on spewing PG-13 things out of your mouths together because you gave a boy a baseball.

Then one day, many years from today...he will be in his room, and a baseball will roll out from an old dusty bat bag underneath his bed. He will pick it up and instantly realize that you also gave him a childhood that he would never forget when you gave that boy a baseball. And then he will hug you, and your eyes may leak – because you realize that everything **YOU** gave up along the way.....was worth it!

All because you gave a boy a base-ball.....



Harris S. FLYNN PHILLIPS Boys DEPARTEMENT ADJUTANT could not be done Virtual. His essay was on Gun Control.

I traveled to Post 57 in Newburg to attend there meeting and to take pictures of the Boys State **Essay Contest** winner Ryder

since State



Pictured left is new Department Commander, Don Weber, Ryder Harris and Boys State Chairman, Ian Gerstel

New Keizer Post 17 Commander Kenneth "Fred" Broadwater traveled to the meeting to get installed by The Department Commander. These two spent several years together in the National Guard. Fred is famous for his Salmon bake, using the Native American way of smoking and BBQ near an open flame.

Fred has additionally volunteered to be on the Boys State Committee.



Pictured left is New Post 17 Commander, Fred Broadwater getting sworn in by our new Department Commander, Don Weber

American Legion hails start of Operation Allies Refuge, Calls for Evacuations to Pick Up Pace

Contact: John Raughter, Media Relations jraughter@legion.org or 317-630-1350

WASHINGTON (July 30, 2021)

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford called the safe evacuation of Afghan allies from danger "a truly welcome sight," but added that his organization would like to see the pace pick-up dramatically as American forces leave that country.

"We certainly welcome the evacuation of approximately 2,500 Afghan allies and family members that comprise the first priority group of Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants," Oxford said. "But we have also made clear to the Biden administration that far more still needs to be done. The American Legion believes that approximately 70,000 Afghan nationals face severe retribution by the Taliban because of assistance that they provided to U.S. troops. Many U.S. veterans tell us that their interpreters fought shoulder-to-shoulder with them and in many cases actually saved American lives. They have already been screened and have proven that they can be trusted. We must remember their loyalty and not abandon them to a ruthless and merciless enemy. We believe in Operation Allies Refuge and hope the pace can be picked up to match the levels we saw at the end of the Vietnam War."

The American Legion passed a national resolution in 2018 asking for the president and Congress to prioritize the processing of SIVs for Afghan and Iraq interpreters and other allies.

Carl Douglas, Estecada Post #74 Cruise In

GOT A VEHICLE YOU WANT TO SHOW OFF

The American Legion Carl Douglas Post 74 is hosting their 7th Annual Cruise-In on Saturday, August 14th from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Viewpoint Restaurant (20189 South Springwater Road in Estacada, OR). Judging will be from Noon to 2 PM. Vehicle registration is \$20 per vehicle and space is limited to the first 200 vehicles.

Good food, raffle prizes, music, and \$1,000 in cash prizes. 18 different vehicle classes. "Veterans helping Veterans" For more information contact Pete at 503-701-9093 or magdom@rocketmail.com

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1350 • F: (317) 630-1223

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Student Elected President of the 2021 American Legion Boys Nation; Alabama Student Elected Vice President

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 28, 2021) – Two prominent leaders emerged from The American Legion Boys Nation program Tuesday night.

Ryan Jung, of Irvine, Calif., was elected President of The American Legion Boys Nation at Marymount University for the 2021 program. During the election, which was run as a mock presidential campaign, Jung won against the delegate from Virginia, Dimitrios Owen.

Boys Nation, a signature program of the nation's largest veterans' service organization, provides an intensive week-long, hands-on education in American politics and the legislative system for a select group of high school students each year.

An incoming senior at Portola High School, Jung plans on attending Harvard University to pursue a career in law or teaching.

"I thought that I wouldn't be able to go to sleep at night at the end of the week if I just didn't go for high office and I didn't really put 110 percent effort. And I think that (being elected) president, it's a testament to all that," Jung said.

Also elected Tuesday night was Boys Nation Vice President Cameron Cummings of Madison, Ala. He defeated Aiden Sanders, also of Alabama. Both vice presidential candidates represented Michigan at Boys Nation. The COVID-19 pandemic forced some departments to cancel or delay their Boys State programs this year, resulting in some delegates randomly selected to represent other departments. Normally, two representatives from each of the 50 Boys States represent their home state or, in the case of the District of Columbia, their district as a senator.

The senators caucus at the beginning of the session, organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills, allowing delegates to learn the proper legislative procedures according to the U.S. Senate. Activities include mock party conventions, legislative elections, debates, speeches and visits to Capitol Hill and other historical sites. Delegates will also visit the offices of their state's respective members of Congress and present bills of their own creation.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators.

Photos of Jung and Cummings at Boys Nation are available at http://woodwing.legion.org:8080/?w=6nbIa0mxTY.

-30-

Media contact: Andy Proffet, wproffet@legion.org, (812) 350-9526.



Q: Why is Ameri-The Legion can poised to help solve this problem?

A:

• The Amer-

PNC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT ican Legion is PR CHAIR

known for solving the most

complex issues facing veterans and today that issue is veteran suicide.

- The American Legion was founded upon the principles of peer support over 100 years ago.
- What originally started as a group for war-weary veterans is now a tribe-like community of nearly 2 million veterans of all eras in more than 12,000 posts in local communities.
- The American Legion values and respects all veterans and provides a safe space where they can interact with each other while continuing their service to America.
- It is our goal, through this initiative, to put an end to veterans dying by suicide each day and provide a space in which veterans may find a community of support and assistance through The American Legion.

Q: What are some key facts about veteran suicide?

A:

- Suicide continues to increase in the overall U.S. adult population.
- Upwards of 20 veterans die by suicide each day in the United States.
- In addition, research shows that today's veteran is at a 50% greater risk of suicide than their non-serving peers.
- The American Legion is concerned that these figures do not include data from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and that mental health experts have warned that COVID-19 may be

EAMERICAN LEGION

Veteran Suicide **Questions and Answers**

causing even larger increases in the rates of mental distress and self-harm among veterans.

Q: What are the steps The American Legion plans to take to reduce the numbers of veterans dying by suicide?

A: We will focus on three things:

- 1. Legislation that establishes grants to place peer-support specialists in local posts.
- 2. Programs and training for Legionaries to help them recognize the signs of veteran suicide and equip them with the tools and resources to help those in crisis.
- 3. Conduct peer support research independently and/or through strategic alliances to develop models that produce verified positive outcomes and share findings with government, nonprofit and corporate organizations working to find solutions.

In addition to these steps, The American Legion will raise awareness and important funds.

Q: What legislation is out there right now to help with veteran suicide?

- Veteran suicide prevention is one of The American Legion's top legislative priorities.
- Right now, The American Legion Legislative Division is busy working the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C. to advocate for improved serv-

ices and care for mental health and well-being, and those efforts are paying off.

- Several bills have passed that deal with this situation:
- 1. The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019
- 2. The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020
- 3. The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS).

In addition, The American Legion is seeking support for:

- 1. The IMPROVE (Incorporate Measurements and Providing Resources for Outreach to Veterans Everywhere) for Veterans Act which would award grants for a period of three years to eligible entities for suicide prevention services to veterans and their families.
- 2. The Buddy Check Bill which requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a national week of calling veterans to check on their well-being. In addition, the bill calls for VA to provide education, training and materials to veteran service organizations, like The American Legion, to engage them in the process.

Q: What can people do to help prevent veteran suicide?

- Check in on a veteran you know to help them feel less alone.
- Know the warning signs and direct veterans to resources.

Continued on page 18

==AMERICAN LEGION

Veteran Suicide

Questions and Answers

Continued from page 17

PNC, PDC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT PR CHAIR

• When you see a veteran in

crisis, direct them to the Veterans Crisis Line for help at 1-800-273-8255, press 1. You can also text 838255 to get help immediately.

• Donate to The American Legion. Go to <u>Legion.org/48</u> to give.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS Helps you handle almost any crisis when you're away from home. From Your American Legion Department

Travel confidently with EA+



Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan

Money to help pay YOUR portion of hospital bills or you can use your cash benefits however you see fit!







THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Oregon



PDC, ROB LIEBENOW A&A CHAIR

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Please conduct business during these times. Adjutant Philips has a personal life; please respect that, and do not call him after 5 pm on weekdays and do not call him on weekends. I know that he is always there to help, but he needs his downtime. If you need to sit down with the adjutant and it is going to take more than a few minutes, please call ahead to see if he has time available, or you might

not get to see him.

Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

Now We Can Help

The LIT Plans can help with

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service







- Hospital HELP Plan Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.
- Cancer Care Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- Accidental Death Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- On-The-Move Travel Accident Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
- Emergency Assistance Plus Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home
- Medicare Supplement Insurance Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- Health & Dental Insurance Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- Long-Term Care Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit

www.TheLIT.com

For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to review plan details.

You are subscribed to Oversight Reports for Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (OIG). This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

<u>Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection of the Roseburg VA Health Care System in Oregon</u> 08/02/2021 12:00 PM EDT

This Office of Inspector General (OIG) Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection Program (CHIP) report provides a focused evaluation of the quality of care delivered in the inpatient and outpatient settings of the Roseburg VA Health Care System, which includes the Roseburg VA Medical Center and three outpatient clinics in Oregon. The inspection covers key clinical and administrative processes that are associated with promoting quality care. This inspection focused on Leadership and Organizational Risks; COVID-19 Pandemic Readiness and Response; Quality, Safety, and Value; Medical Staff Privileging; Medication Management: Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain; Mental Health: Suicide Prevention Program: Care Coordination: Life-Sustaining Treatment Decisions; Women's Health: Comprehensive Care; and

High-Risk Processes: Reusable Medical Equipment. When the team conducted this inspection, the healthcare system's leaders had worked together for 16 months, with the most tenured leader permanently assigned in 2016. Survey results revealed opportunities to improve staff feelings of "moral distress" in the workplace. Patients appeared generally satisfied, but there were opportunities to improve the experiences of women veterans. The OIG identified concerns with root cause analysis action implementation and outcomes measurement. Leaders were knowledgeable about employee satisfaction and patient experiences. However, they had opportunities to improve their knowledge of VHA data and/or system-level factors contributing to specific poorly performing Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning measures.

The OIG issued 13 recommendations for improvement in six areas:

- (1) Quality, Safety, and Value
 - Root cause analyses
- (2) Medical Staff Privileging
- Ongoing professional practice evaluations
 - Provider exit reviews
- (3) Mental Health
 - Staff training
- (4) Care Coordination
 - Goals of care conversations
- (5) Women's Health
- Designated women's health providers
- Women veterans health committee
- (6) High-Risk Processes
- Standard operating procedures
 - Staff training
- Monthly staff continuing education.





PDC, ROB LIEBENOW A&A CHAIR

New Procedures

With the new procedures at National, there are some things that the department staff cannot control. The team will do all they can to solve your issues, it might take some time, but they are doing the best they can under the circumstances. National is working hard to fix the problems. If your post needs to access the system for membership processing and you need help logging on, Adjutant Philips can assist you. You can call him and make

an appointment; he might not have time to help you

right then and there but will set up a convenient time for both of you. I know that it is not easy to set and wait when you have things that you need to get done. You have to have some patients.



B. Vote

So Ladies, get out there and do your thing.
You have earned it!!!



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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	(Please Print)				
	(Phone)	(Email)		(Post #) (Dues)	 :
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☐ Korea	Merchant Marines				Recruiter's Name
☐ WWII ☐ Other Conflicts					
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Signature of Applicant		Date	Name of Recruiter		
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OR (b) Above is a decease	Received From				
(c) Relationship of Applican	nt to Veteran				\$
Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? Where?					•
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and					
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Signed By Applicant (or Par			Eligibility certified by		Department of
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