



BOOK OF REPORTS  
DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING

Aloha, Oregon

October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

Department Commander  
Don Weber

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

Don Weber Commander

Immediately following our State Convention, we hosted the National Commander on a tour of Post activities in Portland, Salem, Sisters, Redmond, Bend, LaPine, Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Cottage Grove, Roseburg, and McMinnville. The tour included Post visits with member engagement, participation in VA volunteer events, media interviews, and a discussion with the ODVA director.

As I travel throughout the State it is an honor to see Posts engaging in Reconnecting Veterans. Legionnaires are coming together to honor and remember those transferring to Post Everlasting. We have lost four great leaders of the Department of Oregon; Jim Willis, Bernie Healey, Mike Jones, and Glenn Bradley Sr., Jim, Bernie, and Mike all served as Past Department Commanders, and we recognized them for their great contribution to The American Legion. Glenn served as District 6 Commander, and the family will announce his service later.

Posts around the State are bringing Veterans together at community events. Warm Springs hosted a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans parade and event on 7 Aug. The event was later than usual because of COVID, but they brought Veterans together and honored them with a special DoD pin presented by the Pacific Northwest Scottish Guard. The Banks community came together, and the John Kalmbach Post carried the Colors at the lead of the parade.

It was an honor to present Ryder Harris the 2021 Boys State award at Newberg Post 57. Post 57 recruited the person who attended the virtual Boys State event. In addition, it was an honor to install the new Commander Fred Broadwater for the Kaiser Post 17.

On 6 Aug, Dept conducted training for District staff and leadership at Canby Post 122. We look forward to hosting Post and member training sessions around the State. Please contact the Training Committee if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions.

## DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

### REPORT

Steve Adams

Have been working with District and Posts to jump-start our youth programs and getting involved in their communities.

I understand the convention delegates did a good job reporting on the committee meetings they attended and all went well.

I had to leave the convention early because of a situation at home and I apologize to the membership for not being able to fulfill my obligations at the convention.

## DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER

### REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

This being my First BOR as First Vice, I will summarize my activities since July 2021.

I had the opportunity to audit the National Membership Workshop and receive our Membership Goals for the Department. Membership Chair Dan Burk promptly forwarded them to each District for further breakdown.

The Family Leadership Team has been meeting on a regular basis.

The Department Convention was a great success. National Convention was also a great success in which I had the opportunity to attend the Oregon and Western Caucus, the National Veterans Education and Employment Committee meeting, and the Convention Membership Subcommittee meeting. Following my committee assignments, I attended general sessions of the convention.

I participated in the Department booth at Portland Grand Prix where we promoted veteran suicide prevention.

I represented the Department at the 9/11 memorial in Albany hosted by Post 1

# SECOND VICE COMMANDER

## Report

Cory Brockmann

**Summary:** Activities of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice commander for the period 1-Jul to 30-Sep-2021.

**Report:** It has been a busy first quarter of the year. The national convention occurs relatively soon after the department convention and, being a delegate at both levels, there are plenty of leadership obligations to fulfill.

July 8-10<sup>th</sup> I was an invitee to the Department of Washington's 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Bellevue, WA. I participated in area caucuses; veteran service officer training; general sessions; and, observed/supported some of their convention vendors. I had the distinct pleasure of being introduced and holding a brief discussion with Washington Department of Veteran Affairs Director Alfie Alvarado; we spoke of mutual interests she, I, and Washington Department Chaplain Larry Haas have on increasing veteran suicide prevention and intervention training, particularly through faith-based organizations. She stated she would give Kelly Fitzpatrick, Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs a call if it would help our departments develop and implement a plan.

August 5<sup>th</sup>, I submitted a grant request to The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) for \$550 to develop 3,000 marketing packs containing simple slipknot bracelets to further support Legion programs across the department. The grant was developed as materials-only with labor to be provided by Legion Family and veteran supporters. As of this report, 400 packs have been created supporting veteran suicide prevention awareness activities; volunteers thus far have included Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion baseball youth. A small number of packs were distributed at District 10 and District 2 meetings and to District 1's Kalmbach #90 in support of their community parade and celebration. Marketing packs contain an information description insert that was reviewed/approved by the Public Relations Committee prior to use. Future packs will be developed with inserts supporting program activities such as buddy checks, membership activities, youth programs, etc. with input from commission and committee chairs. The packs will be made available for posts to use at outreach tables, farmer's markets, bazaars, etc.

August 27-Sept 3 I attended the 102<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Phoenix with an appointment on the National Security Commission as well as I filled in on the National Security Law & Order and Homeland Security subcommittee. Committee reports from both of those committees have been submitted for publication in the Fall Department Executive Committee book of reports.

I have attended district meetings for District 7 at Bateman-Carroll in Gresham (7/24); District 10 at Harney County #63 in Burns (8/14); District 1 at Argonne #56 in Sherwood (9/11); and District 2 at McMinnville #21 in McMinnville (9/12).

Significant effort was made in preparing and gathering suicide prevention materials in support of the IndyCar Grand Prix of Portland. I contacted and coordinated the acquisition of a sizeable volume of Veteran Crisis materials for use at the Department's booth at Portland International Raceway. Acquired were stress balls, koozies, dog tags, Crisis Line cards, bandanas, pillboxes, female veteran care brochures, motorcycle kickstand pucks, veteran crisis brochures, silicone wristbands, cloth bags, and more. Additionally, time was spent supporting veteran suicide prevention in making the Legion marketing packs. Included in this were ordering materials; cutting and making bracelets; organizing volunteers; creating, printing, and cutting inserts; and assembling packs.

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT OBSERVATIONS:

Posts and districts are, genuinely, excited to be back in their posts re-connecting with each other after the long shutdown. Since the lifting of restrictions and reopening of businesses, the last two district meetings I attended had very good turnouts – several posts had multiple members in attendance.

Multiple posts indicated at district meetings that they are still having difficulty resolving myLegion.org issues. Contacts are positive with the department, however, national assistance wanes.

Post and community support were provided to Vernonia #119, John Kalmbach #90, and Aloha #104. These were highly visible endeavors with the public. It is very important, given the current times of social and political unrest we live in, to be visible leaders within your community. I applaud those that are engaging schools and participating in civic events to perform flag-raising, color guards, and other forms of Americanism. America seeks a foundation of leadership in a time when it is highly suspect. We can help provide the visibility and foundation of what America has stood for over the past 200-plus years.

## IMPACTS:

1. Donations collected in support of veteran suicide prevention at the IndyCar Grand Prix of Portland and the IndyCar dinner at Aloha #104 totaled \$640.00 at the last report. An additional \$410 was donated to veteran suicide prevention via my birthday fundraiser on Facebook.

2. Organizational membership often is a fair (and sometimes unfair) reflection of leadership. One look at the detailed financial report of the Department's budget fines, those levied against leadership as prescribed by Department of Oregon Policies, is both telling and disappointing.

3. I will continue to visit posts and districts around my work schedule as best I can. My message to districts and posts will continue to be:

- a) be active in your communities delivering those programs that impact your community;
- b) be visible in your community (as a Legionnaire);
- c) wear the Legion emblem (on your cover and/or apparel) with pride; and,
- d) organize and conduct buddy checks to check on member-wellness, there's a reason why so many are not renewing, and we need to show him/her we care.

**Meetings:** My participation in monthly department leadership meetings will be by video-conferencing due to my work schedule.

## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

### REPORT

S. Flynn Phillips

The National Convention was great; too bad we didn't have the parade, even indoors. One day was 116 degrees F. Our Immediate Past Commander Steve had to leave for home the first day for an emergency. We were short a few delegates and could not plug all the holes for committee assignments. Committee delegates attended their meeting and brought back reports for the team and filed reports. I will put those out to the membership.

I highly encourage posts to recommend delegates to the district to be a delegate for the National Convention, especially new people that want to learn more about how the legion works. Once you start attending, you may not want to stop as you will meet new people and make life-long friends, and sometimes that's the only time you get to meet them is at the National Convention. It was enjoyable to meet my counterparts from Colorado and the state of Massachusetts.

Our two resolutions got sidetracked, but National is working behind the scenes to help us for the fall NEC. We can thank PNC Charlie Schmidt for his intervention to get it back on track. The supporting background document did not get attached for the committee's review.

The delegation team went out for dinner a few times together and had a great time. Our pizza night was the best as the hotel set up a pizza buffet vs. just bringing in some pizza in boxes and dropping them off. Horje our behind the scene catering attendant taking care of us and our meeting space daily. I thanked him for a job well done.

With having to wear masks for covid, social distance on the bus, construction at every corner, I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our next National Convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - from August 26 - September 1, 2022.

Since Department Convention, we had National Commander out for a road trip to the southern posts, with lunches and dinners. Posts that we visited were thrilled that a red hat visited them. When posts get visited, it reaffirms that we care about them. When the National Commander just shows up for a DEC, he doesn't get to see the blue caps that make all the difference in your Post. These visits are to reenergize those posts. It takes a lot of work and planning to bring him out to see you. You can thank PNC Charlie Schmidt, who does all that planning and coordination to visit the National Commander.

When I see the joy on those past members' faces light up, I know it was all worth it. These times are perfect for getting your newer and younger members involved in these events. We have to grow our replacements, and some are passing away way too often, but that's life. We all want a legion to pass down to the younger generation, and we were hoping you could make that happen, recruit and recruit often. We just lost Jim Willis, Mike Jones, and Kevin Sands already this year.

We finished the Portland International Raceway event this weekend with our Jimmie Johnson Car #48 that the National is sponsoring. Great turn out, and we recruited eight new members. That race was covered on ESPN with national exposure. That car is also representing the National Commander's Project of Ending Veteran Suicide.

There was a local Legion College for District Commanders and their staff in Canby that Betty Fish-Ferguson presented. There will be more Legion Colleges put on throughout the state for Post Commanders and Adjutants coming soon.

Post 104 SAL members / Auxiliary Dept President brought out a whole pig for donation to the Vancouver Veterans Transplant Care Center, just in time as they said they were running low on meat. The Auxiliary has supported this unit for many years, and Covid took a real toll on them.

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# NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

## REPORT

Kevin Owens

As I write my first article as the new National Executive Committeeman, I would like to say how humbled I am to serve in this honored position. The legacy of such great men who have served our Department is something that can be overwhelming and also so exciting at the same time. Returning from the National Convention once again reminded me why we belong and the creditability our organization has on the world stage. We heard from the different committee reports and were able to see the good work Departments are doing with the awards. Oregon was able to be on stage twice with a Consolidated Reporting Award for 2019-2020 and the second was the donation of \$5000 for the new Veterans & Children's Fund. My hope this year is that we can receive more awards in Membership, Children & Youth, and National Security. My role is to bring back the information on items passed at the National Executive Committee Meetings and what is on the horizon for the American Legion. Please feel free to e-mail or call anytime to talk about items about our organization you may need answers about. We have had two years of the COVID-19 virus and we all have accomplished good things through it but now is the time to look forward to making our Department proud, the good things Oregon does, and the things we may need to work on to better ourselves. It will take all of us to make this happen and I hope we can count on you. Let us work on our "WHY" we belong to the American Legion?

Kevin Owens, PDC  
National Executive Committeeman

## DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

### REPORT

Bob Huff

Our new adopted Department of Oregon 2021-2022 Budget went into effect on October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. Our current 2020-2021 Department Budget ended on September 30, 2021. I am now going over our financials and preparing for our 2020 Tax Reporting Year. I will report our financial outcomes in our next Legionnaire.

We took a lower membership quota for income for our 2021-2022 Budget year. We cannot continue to reduce our membership quota without reducing expenses in our other operations, our programs. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We have other income, but membership supports our programs, supports our ability to support legislature on Veterans issues, supporting Veterans and their families and caregivers. This has been a difficult time with COVID and variants, we are approaching two years, some relief, very little, and returning to social distancing, face masks, and restrictions on large gatherings.

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 when safe, we have plenty of opportunities for a great year.

PDC Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

### REPORT

Steve Shollenburg

Greeting everyone, at the time of this writing, we do have several Legionnaires that are suffering, sick, hospice uncertain, and just wondering what is going on in this world today. We have also had numerous passing's this year, so please keep all in your prayers and thoughts as we move into the Fall season.

Well, this has proven to be one of the most unusual summers I have ever experienced. I am discovering that I am not alone nor is this “un-usualness” surrounding only my neighborhood. It is not limited to just one small portion of my world but the entire globe has been invaded. It is likened to a thief or enemy of the night. What has impacted and invaded the globe is an unseen enemy visible only to those with the most accurate of microscopes and laboratory equipment.

This “enemy of occupation” has become a challenge to both the medical communities and leaders of the entire world. Not only is this invasion unseen but the “rules of engagement” keep changing.

Nearly every thirty days I am told to change my approach to being safe and secure. In fact, many times I feel my security is fleeting and only temporary until the next major rule is announced.

When I place this invasion by “This Alien Virus From Outer Space” alongside numerous other threats and occurrences, I am realizing the need around me is so great, I cannot rest well until I rest in and with God.

The words of Psalm 91 ring in my ears and to my soul as the sound of a trumpet of victory. They are so relevant I can return to them again and again. They are as promises from the Living God sounding directly in my face and springing life into my soul.

When I place, in that same cauldron, the moving values and relative truths and the surrounding world making every attempt possible to “press me into its mold,” I can find solace only in and with God Almighty.

If I attempt to survive only by my own efforts, I could grow weary and beaten down—yes even defeated. Now, this is where the tide of this “unusual time” changes. Not only do the words found in the above verses come to life, but God becomes more real as I look to Him with His promises ringing in my soul and crying out from my lips.

Society will offer hundreds of crutches for me to lean on but they do not compare to the Divine Words of the Old and New Testaments. In times like these, the subject of prayer surfaces as it often does in crises.

A lot of people be like, “I pray when there are emergencies” to which I would reply, would you consider what we are facing now an extreme emergency?” I think it is, and we need to

pray together and may even need to have in-depth conversations about what is going on in the world today. We never lived through this type of confrontation.

The God of Psalm 91 is the same God today. He reminds us of our need and His ever-seeing eye and overwhelming power to step into where we live and breathe. Both the Testaments proclaim His desire for His disciples to live trusting Him in striking contrasts to the pressures of this world and the surrounding culture.

We place our security first in Him, then share His promises to us with those around us. I can have confidence that He accepts my dread and becomes my security. He is the same God who inspired the writer of this Psalm, for, in His own words, He does not change through time. He is the ever-present "I Am."

***Can we still see the footprints of God in the sand on our journey in this unusual time of Century 21?***

"Dear God, I pray for all of us in this unsteady world today. I am not asking for You to change circumstances but I am asking that You make us worthy men and women in these difficult times. Help us to be Your shining light in a world of darkness, anxiety, misery, and uncertainty, I pray Your leadership will, strength and protect us, both physical and spiritual, be granted to all for You are our 'refuge and fortress and in You we place our trust.' Amen."

Chaplain

Steven D. Shollenburg

The American Legion

Department of Oregon

ssholly1@yahoo.com

# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

## REPORT

Dick Winders

**Key Activities:** Following my appointment to the American Legion Department of Oregon Historians position the Department activities captured are listed below.

- **Warm Springs, Oregon Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration.**

Don Weber and I attended this celebration welcoming home the Vietnam Veterans who missed the deserved welcome for their service to our Nation. Additionally, the Scottish Honor Guard attended to show their appreciation to those who served. Susan Guerin from the American Legion Auxiliary organized this celebration and luncheon.

- **Jim Willis Lebanon, Oregon Post 51 Memorial Dinner**

Don Weber, Tom Harris, and I attended this Lebanon, Oregon Post 51 Memorial and Celebration for Jim on August 14th. A number of Legion members shared their memories of the humor and experiences they share with Jim over the years. The local Auxiliary members provided the dinner at the end of this celebration.

- **Jim Willis Celebration of Life and Memorial**

Don Weber, Stephen Philips, and I attended this Celebration of Life in Lebanon, Oregon on August 19th. Jim's friends from life, work, and the American Legion shared their experiences in celebration of his life.

- **Banks, Oregon Bar-B-Q, and Tractor Pull supported by the American Legion Post 104.**

Don Weber, Cory Brockmann, and I attended this event in Banks, Oregon on August 21st. The parade started at the American Legion Post and concluded at the Banks Fair Grounds. Legion members participated in the Honor Guard Raising of our National Colors. The Banks community had a great turnout!

- **Bernard Healey Memorial Celebration, Willamette National Cemetery, and Tigard American Legion Post 158**

Don Weber, Stephen Shollenburg, and I attended the Memorial Services for Bernie at the Willamette National Cemetery on August 25th. The Memorial Services were followed by an evening supper at the Tigard American Legion Post 158. We captured photos of Bernie's family that can be shared.

- **Portland Grand Prix INDYCAR Races**

A good number of the American Legion Dept of Oregon membership were guests of the Chip Ganassi INDYCAR Racing Team and Jimmy Johnson, their car 48 driver. The car 48 is in part sponsored by the American Legion. This was a three-day event and was educational and entertaining for all attending.

- **Mike Jones Memorial Celebration, Ontario, Oregon**

Don Weber, Stephen Shollenburg, Stephen Phillips, and I traveled to Ontario, Oregon on September 18th to attend this event. The Ontario American Legion Post 67 hosted this celebration. Friends and Legion members recounted their memories of time spent with Mike. He will be missed by family and friends.

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

### REPORT

Edward Van Dyke Dept. Service Officer

Jody Marsh Veterans Service Officer

This past year has been challenging to say the least. We have seen an uptick in veterans that contact The American Legion because their County Service Officer or other fraternal organization is not working or is understaffed.

COVID-19 restrictions on employers and defining “essential” workers has created a longer wait period on initial claims. Many of the initial/ new claims this office has filed since winter of 2019 are just starting to be adjudicated. There is a lengthy delay for the VA to gain access to veterans service records. Other claims from veterans with service records on file have been delayed due to the inability to scheduled exams because of COVID-19 precautions or C&P exams requiring opinions or stuck in QA (quality assurance).

In August, the VA expanded the *Gulf War* presumptive conditions for service connection based on exposure to fine, particulate matter and manifestation of *chronic asthma*, *rhinitis*, and *sinusitis*, to include rhinosinusitis. The new rules extend deployment qualification beyond Southwest Asia to include Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, and Uzbekistan; it includes eligible conditions that manifest to 0% non-compensable; applies 10-year manifestation period after separation from service, which is maximum time frame of manifestation supported by scientific research; eliminates minimum time frame requirement for length of deployment; and does not require a specific level or dose of exposure to particulate matter.

The VA has implemented a new survey, VSignals, that gathers feedback from Veterans, eligible dependents, caregivers, and survivors in real time. VSignals provides Veterans with the opportunity to send VA feedback on what works well or needs to be improved, categorized by claim type. It also provides VA quantitative data to initiate service recovery and process improvements. VA is asking all partners to encourage veterans to respond to these surveys. Top categories of survey responses have centered on Notification and Communication.

On that note, the VA has also identified a significant delay in the printing and mailing of letters since July 13, 2021. To ensure Veterans, claimant’s and beneficiaries are not negatively affected, the VA will take no adverse actions on any claims or appeals related to letters that should have been mailed from July onwards until further notice.

The addition of three presumptive conditions due to herbicide exposure (Agent Orange): bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism’s, triggered a Nehmer review of all

previously denied claims for these issues. *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* was a class action lawsuit that resulted in requiring the VA, whenever it recognizes that the emerging scientific evidence shows that a positive relationship exists between Agent Orange exposure and a new disease, to (a) identify all claims based on the newly recognized disease that were previously denied and then (b) pay disability and death benefits to these claimants, retroactive to the initial date of claim. We encourage you to reach out to the Service Office if you have been denied for one of these conditions and we can check on the status of your review. In addition, please spread the word to surviving spouses you know that may be able to qualify for Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and have them contact us.

The *Nehmer* decision is also what triggered the Blue Water Navy (BWN) claim reviews. Unfortunately, the VA has routed these claims through a new division and that is creating a whole new backlog of claims.

We reported at convention that virtual Board of Veteran Appeals hearings are now up and running. We have completed two since convention and have 12 scheduled through the middle of November. This is about the same number completed in the 2020-2021 membership year.

Between May 15 and September 15, the Department Service Office has assisted numerous veterans and their family with VA Benefits and other services. Due to COVID-19, this has been done primarily by phone. All toll we have brought on 70 new clients, represented veterans at virtual VBA hearings, filed nearly 46 new claims (for veterans and surviving spouses) and 11 lower supplemental claims or higher-level reviews.

The sense of fulfilling our obligation and ability to serve veterans and their families is immensely humbling. Here are some highlights.

Veteran A: A veteran that has been fighting off and on (has not been a continuous appeal) since their ETS (expired term of service) for a condition that started in 1987 has been granted service connection on their appealed condition. Although not yet formally resolved, the award will be dated at approximately 2014. ***Update since convention: this veteran was granted an 80 percent evaluation and received \$130,000 in back pay. They are currently in the process of being evaluated for individual unemployability and additional evaluations on the progression of the disease from 2014 forward.***

Veteran B: We represented this veteran on an appeal in late April. Much like Veteran A, the veteran has been fighting for service connection on and off for years. In working with them on the appeal, we discovered a mental health condition that the VA was treating. After much soul searching the veteran decided to move forward with a PTSD claim due to military sexual trauma and was awarded a 70 percent evaluation. This represented an increase of 60 percent for the mental health condition.



Veteran C: This veteran went through a Nehmer review for bladder cancer and was awarded over \$50,000 for the condition.

Veteran D: The surviving spouse of a BWN veteran that we assisted in 2019 reached for assistance as she was moving to California to be near her daughter. She had remained in place due to COVID and was looking forward to the move, being in a Navy town. As we spoke, it was suggested that she join the Auxiliary in her new town as it would give her an opportunity to meet people with shared experiences. She thought that was a great idea and will be looking for a Unit to join.

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

District 1 has had a very productive 2020-2021 membership year, we had 7 posts make Goal. We plan on continuing that drive on gaining membership with the 2021-2022 year.

The District holds 2 of the high office within the Department as our Commander and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander are from District 1.

Most Posts are getting back to normal after the closures due to the pandemic. There is a lot of activity at all posts. Most Post a starting their meals back up, both evening and breakfast.

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> district meeting for the year in Sherwood at Post 56. It was very well attended. If I can remember we had 11 posts in attendance with 30 members present. Our December meeting has been moved to Aloha Post 104 on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Lunch starts at 1130 until 1230 and the meeting begins at 1 PM. The March meeting is in Clatskanie Post 68, with the same agenda. May's meeting in Seaside, same agenda along with the election of District officers.

Our Vice-Commander is working with all posts on membership and the 114 lists.

Respectfully Submitted

Lou Neubecker

## DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

### REPORT

Juan Palacios

## DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER REPORT

Juan M. Palacios

I am glad that Oregon has opened up, now we can move forward with our programs and membership. We can make the American Legion great again with hard work and dedication. As the saying goes “if there is a will, there is a way”.

I am proud to state that several posts from District 2 have reached and surpassed the 50% membership goals. A few posts are still struggling with membership renewals due to a lack of communication or a place to meet. This is being addressed with help from my District Officers. The plan is to meet with the posts and ascertain what might be the problem.

At this time, I am working with Post 159 Mill City-Gates, and Post 58 Stayton to merge into Post 58. Both posts have sent required letters to their members about the merger and how they want to vote, they received several letters back approving the move. We are working on the resolution regarding post-consolidation.

We are also working with Post 9 Capital in getting a place to meet. It looks promising on this adventure. The Post Adjutant attended the district meeting and he was motivated about getting the Post active. We will not let him down and we will help him complete his mission.

Post 75 Sheridan is off and running with membership. The Post has started an American Legion Riders unit with new members. The Auxiliary unit is coming to life. The Post is exceeding in members, programs, and helping Veterans.

Post 17 Keizer has a new commander who has the enthusiasm to get the Post going. The Post has gone from non-existent to a very productive Post. The Post will be one of the BEST posts in the district if not in the state. Good job Post Commander Broadwater.

Other posts are also doing great with membership and programs. They are getting new members all the time.

We have visited several posts and we are still planning to visit the rest.

We held our first district meeting at Post 21 McMinnville. There were only about five posts that did not attend. They did send in their post commander report. Our Honor Room was almost filled with members from different posts.

We had the great honor to have Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Cory Brockman attend the meeting. Thank you for visiting our meeting. When he was talking, all the members were paying attention and liked his demeanor. A lot of people asked if he was going to be our next State Commander and I replied "yes, in two years". They said "good", and that they liked him.

The district has suspended the district membership fee this year so posts can get some financial relief.

I am so proud to say that I am the American Legion 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander.

May God keep you safe and in good health. God Bless everyone.

Semper Fi,

Juan M. Palacios

# DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

## REPORT

John Morford

District 3 Started off with the Commander elect resigning for health reasons 2 Days before The Convention. Dale Jinkins was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, so he was sworn in at the Convention. On July 21 Dale Jinkins Resigned for Health Reasons. That Put John Morford in as District 3 Commander. With the District 3 Meetings, half planned I had to get confirmation on the last half of the schedule. Next, I had to work with the Membership Chairman for the department not only on membership but also the Portland International Raceway where the Car the American Legion sponsors will be racing on Sept. 10-12. Next Post 32 informed me the repair on their Building would probably not be completed until mid-January Then the Commander of Post 40 came down with the covid 19. Virus. This caused Location Changes for the first two District 3 meetings. Post 10 Puts on a 9-11 program at Linn County Courthouse in remembrance of the attack on the US Sept 11, 2001. Attended Jim Willis Memorial Service at Post 51. Their Flag line was set up wrong They were reluctant to put the American flag in its proper place.

I am still trying to establish with some of my posts. Emails, Phone Numbers, etc. District 3 bylaws are under Rewrite so I will have more control over the district. Post 184 gave out 6 Quilts of Valor.

Submitted By

John Morford

District 3 Commander

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dave Applegate

No Report submitted at this time

# DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

## REPORT

Lance Trowbridge

District's Commander is Lance Trowbridge and the Adjutant is Kathie Downey. The Vice Commanders are Gregg Marvin and Kathie Downey. The District Commander tries to visit three posts each month and calls each Post every week for information on Post activities and membership. Commander Trowbridge's goals are to assist each Post to make membership goals and assist each Post to include more Legion Programs in their activities.

District 5 meetings are the Saturday after the Department Executive Committee meetings. Fall DEC: October 8,9, 10 in Aloha, Oregon. District 5 meeting on October 16, in LaPine, Oregon at 1 pm.

Winter DEC: January 6,7,8 in McMinnville, Oregon. District 5 meeting on January 15, in Redmond, Oregon at 1 pm.

The schedule for the Roundup in Prineville will be decided at the January 15 meeting. Spring DEC; April 7,8,9 location and District 5 meeting location to be determined.

### Post Reports

Bend Post 4 is Commanded by Dennis Drury and the Adjutant is Vivian Shannon. Post 4 has an Auxiliary that is active with the buddy poppy program. Post 4 also supports the Tiny Home Village for homeless veterans, which is run by Dick Tobiason with the Bend Hero Foundation.

The Dalles, Post 19 has Commander Ruben and Adjutant Eva Summers. They are doing well with their membership effort.

Hood River, Post 22 is Commanded by Carl Casey who is also the Adjutant. They hold regular meetings at the Chaplin's home. Post 22 has a good membership record and they give two scholarships each year.

Condon, Post 25, is Commanded by Ed Cooney and the Adjutant is Gene Anderson. They hold regular meetings at the County Court House in the basement. They have fundraisers and give scholarships each year.

Prineville, Post 29 has one officer, John Reish. He is the adjutant and runs the Post. He does well with the membership report each week and on Saturday, September 11, sponsored a steak night for members of the Post. All had a good time. Post 29 has an active Auxiliary.

Redmond Post 44 is Commanded by Larry Roshak and Adjutant Rich Vasconni. Post 44 has an excellent honor guard who participates in regular ceremonies through Central Oregon. Bingo is a fundraiser every Sunday and they have a bar open six days per week. Post 44 is involved with the Oratorical Program, Law Enforcement Career Camp, and Boy's State and Girl's State. There is an active Auxiliary that supports the Post.

LaPine, Post 45 is Commanded by Steven Mays who is doing a good job running the Post. He has a good membership record that includes 78 Paid up for Life members. The Post has an excellent meeting hall and has a bar and kitchen. Post 45 also has an active Auxiliary with President Ginny Williams at her home Post.

Warm Springs Post 48 holds no meetings and has no officers. They participate in parades and participate in Central Oregon doing volunteer work.

Sherman County Post 49 is Commanded by Douglas Rhineharth and Adjutant Gregg Marvin. They hold regular meetings and have a good membership record.

Mosier Post 55 is Commanded by Kim Owens who is also the Adjutant. The Post has a good membership record of 100 % each year. They hold regular meetings at Kim's home and many of the members participate in an honor guard. They also participate in Legion Programs and have an active scholarship program for High School students.

Maupin, Post 73 is Commander by Bill Phillips, who holds that post together. Meetings are informal, normally over a cup of coffee. They nearly make their membership goal each year.

Sisters Post 86 is Commander by Lance Trowbridge and Adjutant Kathie Downey. They hold regular meetings with the Sisters VFW Post 8138 at a Quonset hut called the Hangar. The Post regularly meets the 100% goal of membership and participation in the School Award Program, giving out two scholarships each year. Post 86 is working with School Counselors to promote the Oratorical Program, Law Enforcement Career Camp, and Boy's State and Girl's State. Post 86 has no Auxiliary.



Madras, Post 125 is Commanded by Raleigh Swearingen and Adjutant Mike Williams. They hold regular meetings at the Madras Senior Center which has a kitchen. Post 125 has an active Auxilliary which supports the Post with cookies and coffee. They participate in the Madras Air Show each year.

Deer Ridge Post 131 is a Correctional Facility and the Post Commander is Christopher Risario and the Adjutant is Brett Dumbrow. They hold meetings when allowed under the guidance of Corrections Officer Marissa Wilson. The Post membership record is good.

Wamic Post 135 and Spray Post 164 are inactive Posts. Wamic has six members and Spray has four members. The District Commander is making an effort to revisit and bring life to membership in these Posts.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

Chase Ence

No Report required at this moment

# DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

## REPORT

James Moriarity

2021 has been a challenging year due to local and past/current COVID guidelines here in District 7. We have made some progress during the first six months but it has been very slow.

Out of the 7 posts within District 7, three posts are currently meeting (Post 74 quarterly, Post 134 monthly, and Post 30 monthly). The remaining four posts (St. John's Post #98, Corbett Post #108, Dana King Post #137, and Musicians Post #185) have not conducted meetings in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. We do have one post in distress due to Corbett Post #108 with no current commander. Post 30 was in distress but George Sims stepped up to be the Post Commander again.

Post 134 has secured a permit for their remodel and their construction plans for their post are moving forward. They have been actively recruiting at their post and have had some success. Post 134 members also manned the booth at the PIR recently and were able to sign up new members on both days, Friday and Saturday.

Post 30 has been meeting monthly at the Bateman Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham.

Post 74 had a hot dog stand at Estacada's Fourth of July celebration/parade. We had a recruiting table, sold t-shirts, bullet pens, and handed out American flags and American Legion comic books for the kids. Adjutant Phillips and I participated in the Fourth of July parade with the American Legion van along with my granddaughter.

Post 74 had its 7th Annual Cruise-In on August 14, 2021, at the Viewpoint Restaurant in Estacada. They did not have one last year due to COVID. We handed out 22 different category trophies along with several raffle prizes. Post members also sold t-shirts, bullet pens and engaged with many community members from Estacada and surrounding towns. Post 74 recently supported a Korean War veteran in the rebuilding of his ranch in Estacada. His house and ranch were burned due to a fire in July 2021. We also have been working on our 114 lists.

District 7 held its quarterly meeting on July 24, 2021, and Department Commander Don Weber, 1st Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann and Adjutant Flynn Phillips were in attendance. It was a great honor for me to swear in 2nd Vice Commander Barry Larrain for District 7. My message for District 7 was about membership and keeping in touch with fellow veterans.

End of report.

## DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

### REPORT

Ed Mathews

In 2017, after my wife's death, I opened the door at the lower level of the Oregon City Community Center and I started my life in the American Legion. Tim said I was now the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander for the Willamette Falls #5 Post in Oregon City, Oregon. That was my exposure and swearing-in for the Post.

In early 2020, I was asked to take on the District 8 First Vice Commander position. By April 2020, I was asked to assume the District 8 Commander position. And then we went through the Pandemic. We started wearing face coverings throughout the area as ordered by our Governor. Now we can start the recovery of our Posts with a push for new members and cooperation with our partners to recover our memberships. Now is the time to make distribution of 99 and 114 lists to each District in Oregon to increase the member count by October 1<sup>st</sup> if possible. Be active in your flag sales and dinner events in each District. Use Posts that have food and bar facilities plus 50 people group, count. Target one or two dates in a District. Also, we must have a plan in place before November 1st for Veterans Day events on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

We must have a meeting in each District to contact new and old members. A zoom talk would gather all Commanders together for each planning session. Call me back ASAP if you think we can

# DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

## REPORT

Larry Hill

Provided below is a short synopsis of the happenings by Post in District 9.

Post 16 - Has renewed 52 members. They are over the 50% mark before the cutoff date. Visited the Post and the general health of it is above average. A new commander, Terry Macrae, has taken the helm and he is in the learning stage. As a new commander, he is experiencing the usual bumps and bruises. Activities are going to be built up. He wants to establish a SAL squadron. So, as stated he has a rather steep learning curve, and I am sure that with proper guidance he will excel.

Post 26 - Reports that renewal and retention are almost nil. They have renewed 2. The post is located within the VFW building in Bandon and even though they have an amicable relationship it is somewhat hit and miss when it comes to Legion activities.

Post 34 - NEC Man Owens reported that 92 or 93 renewals have come in. The Post will host the next District 9 meeting on 2 October at the Elks Lodge.

Post 36 - Unable to contact.

Post 62 - 12 is their count.

Post 121 - 100% all 51 The post meets every quarter at the Episcopal Church in Sutherlin. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Friday, 15 October at 6:00 p.m.

Post 123 - Has had 44 renewals.

Post 152 - Has had 10 renewals to date.

As noted above, the renewal and retention business is slow with a couple of exceptions. The malaise hangs heavy in our neck of the woods. More visits and contacts are for this next quarter.

# DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

## REPORT

Daniel Burks

District 10 continues to be a front runner for the Department. While membership is off to a slower start than we had hoped for, with Charlie Schmidt as our membership chair, it is hard to anticipate anything but success for our future. District 10 continues to show its strength in unity as Posts require assistance, many from all over District 10 without hesitation will suit up and drive long distances to help each other out, showing why the Legion Family is so important. Many of our membership reports may be vastly inaccurate due to a mass of misinformation provided by mylegion at this point.

Unfortunately, many issues have been reported to the Department M&PA commission chairman however he has restricted access allowing him no information for answers or solutions.

Post 63 continues to remain active, holding ceremony after ceremony, and yard sale after yard sale, Harney County Post 63 pushes onward to be a front runner for the District. Membership shows 55 paid members putting them just 1 member shy of hitting or exceeding the 50% target on time.

Post 67 has remained somewhat quiet and almost dormant in comparison to our more active Posts, with the Commander focusing on Department duties the members of the Post have been reluctant to push on without him with 2 exceptions. Dave Looper stepped up to manage our 9/11 ceremony held at 4 rivers cultural center this year, and Ralph Wood stepped up in our fundraiser raffle and has raised over \$10,000.00 for the Post. Membership is at 57 placing them 8 members shy of the 50% target.

Post 77 has begun to come out of its shell. Involving themselves in community activities such as the Fair where they served burgers. We look forward to seeing more from Post 77 as the year continues. Membership shows 24 leaving them 1 shy of the 50% target. This however may not be 100% accurate due to mylegion providing a mass of misinformation including many members not transferred in and many that were, are were not intended for this Post.

Post 79 has been pretty quiet. The Commander and his wife tested positive for Covid and she was pretty ill so they have remained home mostly in order to nurse their health. Membership shows 11 placing them 3 members shy of hitting the 50% mark.

Vale Post 96 has stayed active within its community. While quiet with reporting details to the District they continually work within the community. They have found a promising gal that may relieve John Recla from the duties of Adjutant that he has held for 43 years. Membership shows 36 paid members putting them well over the 50% target on time.

Post 115 continues to be a front runner in District 10. The activities are countless and range from within their community, advocating for Veterans at City Council, and assisting other Posts with their endeavors. Post 115 has been transmitting membership by mail and shows no membership which conflicts with the reports given to me. Further investigation into this situation is required.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Burks

# Administrative & Advisory Commission

## Report

Rob Liebenow

It is the purpose of this commission to oversee the dept. office. We are responsible for matters pertaining to the retirement program, health, liability, theft, and fire insurance. We oversee all other insurance programs.

The Commission has oversight of the maintenance and general upkeep of the Department Headquarters building. The Department Adjutant oversees the day-to-day operations of the dept. office and has the authority to spend up to \$5,000 annually for emergency repairs from the Building Fund with approval of the A & A Commission.

The A & A Commission and the Permanent Finance Commission together will review and make recommendations to the Department Executive Committee on all revenue enhancement programs.

The A & A Commission members are as follows:

Robert D. Liebenow Chairman

Members: PNC Charlie Schmidt, NEC Kevin Owens, Dept. Finance Officer Bob Huff, PDC Jon Marsh, PDC Mike Jones

\*\* Changes in the Code of Procedures



# Americanism Commission Report

Gea Clausier

Note the name change that was approved in the Pre-Convention DEC from Law Enforcement Career Camp to Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. This was done through Resolution 21.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE – Mike Sowles submitted details from last season in a separate report.

BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE – Larry Wittmayer will be attending the National Conference on Boy Scouts on 29 Sep 21 so he will then post the information in The Legionnaire and share it at the next DEC.

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE – Ian Gerstel was unable to attend Conference in Indianapolis, but the information will be forwarded from National and will be shared when received.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE – Judy Johnston

JIM WILLIS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER CAMP COMMITTEE – Eddie Owens

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE – Raoul Salem

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE – Maria Tye

# BASEBALL COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Mike Sowles

**Committee:** Department Baseball Committee

**Chairperson:** Mike Sowles Committee Chair

**Date of Report:** 9/19/2021

Committee members:

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

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

The Oregon Baseball Committee begins planning for summer baseball in October of each year. This past year, we did not know if we would have a season or not. All due to the rules

and protocol dealing with covid. Many teams, managers, and coaches did not commit to summer baseball until late, many of our coaches and managers were involved with high school.

The American Legion Baseball season had to be sandwiched between high school activities. Our potential players and coaches were involved in school, basketball, track, and wrestling.

Their football programs then started in late July and our national playoffs and tournaments began in early August.

Many of our teams started holding tryouts, practicing, and playing games with whoever could make it to those events.

With all of the uncertainty about baseball, many teams did not organize and have a season of baseball. The Oregon American Legion had about 50 teams interested in baseball.

Our season completed the year with 38 teams, 15 triple AAA teams, and 23 Single-A teams.

Many of us feel fortunate to have had a season of summer baseball.

## **OREGON AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL 2021.**

The finish of the Oregon AAA tournament in Roseburg, Oregon saw the Eugene Overhead Door Challengers win the last game of the Tournament over the Medford Mustangs. The Challengers moved on to the NW Regionals in Gillette, Wyoming. The Challenger lost their first game and then won the next two games to climb back in the tournament. The Challengers then played the defending 2019 American Legion Champion the Idaho Falls Bandits and lost 12-9, sending the Challengers home.

Meanwhile at Bob Brack Stadium in Aurora, Oregon the Oregon Single A Tournament started with seven teams on Aug. 4th.: Roseburg Pepsi had a covid player issue and could not come and participate in the State tournament. Adjustments to the tournament bracket were made and the teams began play on Aug. 4th. With two days left and four teams, the Tournament had to be cancelled. The Undefeated team from LaGrande, Oregon had a player test positive for Covid, they had already played the other teams, but had close games with those teams. Teams still in the tournament were the Host North Marion Berries, The Eugene Ole, and the Mountain Side Lobos.

There was a lot of baseball played this season as we, some teams played as many as 50 games. The Oregon American Legion did have a successful year in 2021. Thank you Fans and teams for your involvement in making it happen. A special thanks to the hosts Roseburg and North Marion for all of their great planning and work to put on a good season with some excellent Baseball.

Post Adjutant/Finance/Oregon Legion Baseball  
American Legion Post 58  
P.O. Box 602  
Sublimity, Oregon 97385  
Email: [msowles@wvi.com](mailto:msowles@wvi.com)  
Phone: Home 503-769-4599  
Cell phone: Call or Text 503-509-994

# BOY SCOUTS COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

Committee Members: Robert

Robert Huntington

Phyllis York

Norm Hoffman

Stan Gandy

Contents:

The Scouting program in the five councils of the Department of Oregon has had its ups and downs with many false starts. All councils have been actively working to provide a program to our youth either virtually or in person.

This committee has submitted a Code of Procedures proposed change. Basically, the Department Convention Committee reasoned that if a basic premise was that Scouting is based on a fundamental religious premise then the requirement for a religious award for Eagle Scout of the Year was not necessary. This Department has had no candidates for ESOY in the past two years and it is believed that the religious award is the reason. Therefore the change drops that requirement for a Department Eagle Scout of the Year with the understanding that if the Department ESOY does not have a religious award they are not eligible to participate in the National Scholarship ESOY contest. The Committee also recommends increasing the scholarship from

\$500 to \$2500 to bring it in line with other Department scholarships.

This committee will participate in a virtual National Legion Scouting Chair Workshop at the end of September.

The number of Scouting units chartered by the Department of Oregon Posts is 44.

\*\* Change in the Code of Procedure on/with Eagle Scout

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ian Gerstel

No Report

NO Report submitted at this time

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston

No Report submitted at this time

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Rahl Salem

No Report submitted at this time

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eddie Owens

No Report submitted at this time

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Maria Tye

No Report submitted at this time

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jon Marsh

The report will give on the floor

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

## REPORT

Steve Adams

The Internal Affairs Committees have been busy reviewing their Code of Procedures. There are changes to the Resolution Assignment Committee, American Legion Riders Committee, and Internal Affairs Commission Code of Procedures. There are no changes to the Code of Procedures for Constitution & By-Laws, Sons of the American Legion, Training & Development, and Trophy and Awards Committees.

Training & Development Committee held training for District Officers in early August and it was well-received by those who attended.

Only 4 of the 10 Districts attended so it is apparent the Districts need to step up and take advantage of training when it is offered. They are planning to have training for Post level leadership as soon as the dates can be set around the state. Keep up the good work Betty.

All Committees are working to keep in contact with the Commission and Department and I am optimistic that this will be a very successful year.

\*\* Change in the code of Procedures

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ward Allen

No Report submitted at this time

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

REPORT

Gale Sears

No Report submitted at this time

\*\* Changes in the Code of Procedures



# RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Terry Brown

### **Resolution Assignment Committee**

#### **Book of Reports**

Date 9-6-2021

**Chairman** – Terry A. Brown

**Committee Members** – Judy Johnston, Don Adams, Larry Hill, Position 4 Vacant

**Report** – From June 26, 2021 to September 7, 2021 there was one resolution (Name Change for Resolution Assignment Committee change to: Resolution Committee) submitted to the Resolution Assignment Committee for review. Resolution was forwarded to Internal Affairs Commission Chair.

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

End of my report

**\*\* Changes in the Code of Procedures/Resoulation**

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Daniel Burks

The SAL has been pretty quiet so far. A letter was sent about a member without the consent of the Executive Board. While consent is not explicitly required, in order to prevent future issues and accusations I am advising the Detachment to proceed with full consent and caution.

The SAL Detachment Commander did make it to the PIR event for 1 day, however, no other presence was there for the remaining 2 days, ergo a lack of recruiting at the event took place to my knowledge.

I have been requested to investigate 2 different Squadrons, which I will bring to the SAL Committee and then the Executive Board to ensure everyone is on the same page prior to the investigations.

At this time I have not been approached with any other issues or concerns.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Burks

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

No Report submitted at this time

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston

No Report submitted at this time

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

# REPORT

John Lee

Chairman: John Lee

Members: Keven Owen, Bob Huff, Keena Hodges

The Legislative Commission has not had any meetings this quarter. The Oregon legislative session ended late April and the next session (Short Session) will not start until February 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a House interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management meeting to introduce new members. They will also be discussing the Veterans' Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Landscape as well as the Grant programs, specifically the Bridge Grant and the Rural Veterans Transportation Grant.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

## REPORT

S. Flynn Phillips

**Key Activities:** The digital edition of the Oregon Legionnaire continues to get better with each issue. Keep the compliments coming. The team strives to keep getting better.

Please don't let Covid get in your way of helping our veterans, Blow your own horn, send me articles with a picture or two. Getting the word out and showing activity is the best way to promote your post. Don't forget to get that press release in your local newspaper. Get the 2 for one newspaper and Legionnaire.

As a reminder, Posts should print and mail issues on their local level to those folks that do not have a computer or possibly maybe in a retirement home. Adjutant, please forward the Legionnaire link to all your members. You can use Mail Chimp or Constant contact for small posts. Check the pricing small lists are free.

The Legionnaire committee members, the layout pro-Geanne Horn, and others involved work hard to make this happen each month. It shows you care about our Legion and can help others make that decision to join our ranks and do what we do best by helping our comrades and fellow veterans. We also use these for your recruitment booths and our stand-downs. We just finished the Portland International Raceway Event with the new Legion Sponsored car #48 Jimmy Johnson as the driver. We walked away with 8 new members and a lot of exposure. The Race was on ESPN. !\FP\

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

OREGON LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Jim VanAllenSr.

S. Flynn Phillips

It's been a great year getting the Department of Information Technology to Industry "Best Practices." Axiom Technologies have been instrumental in getting us there. Their support has been outstanding. Those of you who had tech support this year can appreciate it.

As the New MyLegion cutover for the new database was taking effect, I had a tremendous amount of lost adjutants needing some help, myself included. With the use of the Windows Quick Assist application, I was able to assist all the calls much easier. Actually seeing what they were doing really helped.

**Public Relations:** Please see Charlie Schmidt's addition in the Book of Reports. He always is on target.

Without a doubt, Our Portland International Raceway event with Jimmy Johnson driving Car#48 for the Chip Gnassi Racing team was a hit. There is a great article on the national website about it.

Facebook Reminder; For those other posts that are using Facebook, be careful of what you post. Remember keep the "good of the order" in mind. Don't post negative remarks; it makes us look bad and could get your post into trouble. When the National Adjutant has commented on some negative posting, he has seen it makes the legion as a whole more difficult to recruit. \\FP\

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT

## Charles E. Schmidt

### **Members: None**

The PR Committee continues to showcase our Department's Posts and members to National visitors who come to Oregon. Following Department's 2021 Convention, American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford arrived on June 28, 2021, for a visit with the Department of Oregon. Over a 6-day period, Commander Oxford visited numerous Posts and Legion Family members in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 and participated in several social media venues. He also visited Willamette National Cemetery and had a virtual visit with the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs Director to discuss veteran issues. Commander Oxford enjoyed his visit to Oregon.

In anticipation of newly elected National Commander Paul Dillard's September 13-19, 2021, visit Oregon, the PR Committee designed a tour for the Commander to visit Posts, call on the Adjutant General of the Oregon Guard, Director of Portland VA Medical Center, and tour Astoria U.S. Coast Guard Air Station and a USCG ship and crew with media opportunities. Regrettably, the Commander's schedule was canceled but has been rescheduled for June 19-23, 2022.

The PR Committee will be developing an itinerary for November 17-21, 2021, visit our Department by Leading Candidate for National Commander James Troiola (NY). The visit will focus on Districts 1, 7, and 8 with an emphasis on membership opportunities. Future visits are being planned for National Vice Commander James Higuera (CA) and Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Daniel Seehafer (WI)

Now that the school year has begun 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. Now is the time to connect with area high schools, charter schools, and home school programs.

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's FB page. Districts and Posts 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.

The Public Relations (PR) Committee has not been assigned any members to date. Lack of members hinders the committee's productivity.

## MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT

Daniel Burks



Membership has taken off this year meeting our 50% target early. We have been met with many obstacles revolving around mylegion. We have Posts reporting they have membership but are unable to transmit, they have since been instructed to send in membership manually. I have also encountered a Post that has transmitted over 40 members, however, they show 0 on the reports, yet they show as paid members in mylegion for the 2022 year. It is impossible to have a 100% accurate assessment for the Department knowing these discrepancies exist. The M&PA Commission however while we will continue to monitor this situation and work diligently with the department and National to rectify these issues, will not be deterred from our mission priority, which is to take care of membership goals by taking care of our members and assisting with Post activities.

My ability to report and to assist the Department is severely hindered by my restricted access to the online membership systems. I am unable to access rosters, pull 114 lists for DMS, view or help individual Posts or Districts, or even answer any questions. I am in the works via email to rectify this as well at this point.

Our mission this year is to simplify Membership. The most important part about membership is our members. By keeping the Posts active and encouraging members to participate, our membership will grow on its own. Yes, understanding recruiting new members must take place however it becomes a much easier task when the community knows who you are, or a non-member shows up to a Post function to recruit individuals rather than telling them they should join an organization they will never be a part of. That makes us car salesman, not Legionnaires. More importantly, while reminding ourselves that our members come first, we must show our members the same. They have already pledged their loyalty to us, it is our duty to reciprocate, once we have accomplished this, we will begin to close the back door allowing us to recruit new members, not new numbers.

The membership team stands poised and ready to assist any District and/ or Post with anything they require, We have been able to attend some District meetings but are specifically wanting to help with events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Burks

# NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

## REPORT

Greg Marvin

Fall 2021 Department Executive Commission Book of Reports-National Security Commission

Commission Members:

Greg Marvin, Commission Chair

Steve Adams, Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC

Eva Summers, Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee

Jim Jerome, Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

Don Adams, National Guard & Reserve Committee

September 20, 2021

The 2021-2022 year begins with PDC Steve Adams being appointed as the Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee Chair, Eva Summers, Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee Chair, Jim Jerome Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee Chair, and Don Adams National Guard & Reserve committee chair. The first task for the Commission is to update the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Fire Fighter of the Year applications with the new year dates. The Application/Information Form should start being sent out to the Posts in the Department in the first part of October so Posts will have time to make their selections to be sent into Department by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. This gives the Commission time enough to review the applications and make our selections of the Department winners. Hopefully, we will have more entries this year. We only had one candidate in the Law Enforcement category and none in the Firefighter category last year. We assume this lack of entrees was due to the COVID-19 restrictions. We will make every effort to have a better turn-out this year. It is always a pleasure to recognize the outstanding efforts of our Law Enforcement and Firefighter Officers.

Greg Marvin, National Security Commission Chair

September 18, 2021

#1. I did not accept this position, in fact, I specifically told Flynn that I did not want to chair this committee but would remain a member. I never received the paperwork that you sign to accept this position.

# 2. Code of Procedures has no changes.

#3. LEO of the year guidelines: Change title date to 2021-2022; (5a) change date to December 31, 2021; (5b) change 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022; page 5, change last line 2020 to 2021; page 7, change last line 2020 to 2021; page 8, change last line 2020 to 2021.

#4. FF of the year guidelines; Change title date to 2021-2022; (5a) change date to December 31, 2021; (5b) change 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022; page 4, change last line 2020 to 2021; page 5, change last line 2020 to 2021; page 6 change last line 2020 to 2021.

Eva Summers, Chair, Law & Order, and Homeland Security Committee

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Legionnaires my report for Military Benefits and Quality of Life is as follows

Military Hunger Prevention Act:

This act will give basic needs to the lower ranks of active duty personnel with families. It will provide toiletries and food to ranks who qualify. It will ensure that no one goes hungry because of earning because of earning power. HR 2339 and SB 1488 are bills that still have to be approved in both houses.

US Coast Guard pay bill: As of the 2021 National Convention this bill to pay the Coast Guard when the federal government can't pass the national budget. It is still in the halls of Congress lingering who knows where. The American Legion strongly supports this pay bill. It has lingered too long.

1. Giving spouses of active duty military first option in Government openings for employment that are qualified or able to train for. Work in progress in Congress.
2. Making it nationwide that spouses of active duty military that have professional licenses (lawyers, hair salons, teachers, nurses etc) are excepted nationwide. Work in progress in Congress.

Respectfully Submitted

James Jerome, MBQL Committee

September 19, 2021

Was unaware I was Chairman until I received your email. Read Code of Procedures. No changes are necessary as far as I know.

Don Adams, Chairperson, National Guard & Reserve Committee

#### Codes of Procedure

I have reviewed the Code of Procedures for the National Security/Foreign Relations and Homeland Security Commission and No changes are necessary at this time. I recommend the Code of Procedures be accepted as written. Greg Marvin, National Security Commission Chair

I have reviewed the Code of Procedures for the Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee and there are no changes at this time and can be approved as written. Steve Adams. Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee Chair

I have reviewed the Code of Procedures for the Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee, and can be approved as written. Eva Summers, Law & Order, Committee Chair

I have reviewed the Code of Procedures for the National Guard & Reserve Committee and there are no changes necessary and can be approved as written. Don Adams, National Guard & Reserve Committee Chair.

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

REPORT

Steve Adams

ROTC Steve Adams Book of Report

I have reviewed the code of procedures for Foreign Relations/ROTC and there are no changes at this time and can be approved as written.

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eva Summers

No Report submitted at this time

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT

James Jerome

No Report submitted at this time

## NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

### REPORT

Eva Summers

No Report submitted at this time

### Report of

## PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

Kevin Owens, NEC

The Permanent Finance Commission meeting was held via Go-to-Meeting Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, at 6:12 pm. The following members were present Jon Marsh PDC, Corey Brockman 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Gea Clausier, Betty Fish-Ferguson, and bob Huff PDC, Department Finance Officer. No minutes of the previous were read and the meeting moved into discussions about the beginning of the new budget year starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Commission talked about the rules involving items that need to be done monthly to avoid and reduce budgets. It was noted that the reductions will be retroactive from the start of the election year. Discussion about funds that will be transferred from The Oregon American Legion Foundation to cover the costs of the VAVS Program, no action needed by the Permanent Finance Commission. We talked about the change of Command when Commission Chairman is unable to attend meetings and who should make those decisions and how approves them. The Code of Procedures and Policy manual we revied in august so no action was taken as Commission Members made any changes prior to the meeting. The last item was setting the time to prepare the annual budget for 2022-2023, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Department Headquarters was accepted by all members of the Commission. The meeting closed at 6:36 pm.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

## REPORT

Bob Huff

Our VA&R Commission Team includes PDC Jon Marsh, Ann Everett's, Larry Williams and Chair Bob Huff. We have an opening for an additional Commission member. If interested in helping Veterans please contact Chair Bob Huff, (541-601-9283) or [huffe4@aol.com](mailto:huffe4@aol.com) or our Department Commander Don Weber. We have held a virtual meeting to discuss some of our challenges, our go forward plan and address limitations placed on our team with COVID restrictions. We have some limited face-face meetings, more virtual and go-to meetings and 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 during a very difficult time. 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, some more depending on the area. 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 and Education Events, Woman Veterans Events, Mobilization and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon, which all events have been cancelled with social distancing and gatherings during COVID. We have participated in virtual meetings to support some of this effort. With COVID variants, smoke, fires, outdoor events which we participate in are not in the near plan. This has been an unusual time, life has changed, we must change the way we support Veterans and their families. What we did before COVID and the fires and smoke and droughts, hopefully we will be able to return to. Making plans a year out, has changed to sometimes, day by day as the rules change. 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](mailto: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

PDC Bob Huff, VA&R and VE&E Commission



# VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

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## VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

### REPORT

Bob Huff

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission is an arm of The American Legion Pillar I: Veterans, that is charged with Veterans Employment, Veterans Education, Help for Homeless Veterans and at-risk Veterans. Currently, our Commission has one ratified member, the chair PDC Bob Huff. We have openings for members; those interesting in Veterans Employment, Education, and Veterans Homelessness, this is a great opportunity to support our Veterans community and be involved in a very important project. If interested, please contact the undersigned or our Department Commander. 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 remains ready and willing; continues to be slowed down on what was our normal activity of holding events as we had to support COVID rules in holding gatherings. We honor each County Health rule for the safety of our Legion Family and Veterans community. We have seen some light in face-to-face meetings again; finding venues for events has been an issue as with our partner organizations to support the events with rules from their parent organizations for safety during this covid variant have limited our ability to hold venues. We have started planning events and meeting on venues to hold them and have had to cancel and put future events on hold in our current

environment. Once we have the green light, 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 are 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, veteran's and participant's safety remain our focus.

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

## **OTHER**

### THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION

#### REPORT

Kevin Owens

The following is the actions taken by the Board:

#### GRANTS:

Two TOALF grants were requested and approved as follows:

1. TAL / Dept of Oregon/ VA&R

Amount: \$7,000

Recipient: Department of Oregon/Flynn Phillips, Department Adjutant

Objective: Utilize funds to support membership engagement and awareness opportunities at NTT IndyCar race Sep 10-12, 2021. Maximize veteran and public engagement for veteran suicide prevention awareness and membership growth.

Status: Department Adjutant shall provide status verification.

2. TAL / Dept of Oregon

Amount: \$550

Recipient: Cory Brockman, Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; TOALF member; VEE member

Objective: Create generic and program-focused marketing packs containing slipknot bracelets for distribution. Increase engagement of TAL's four pillars, programs, and priorities through increased marketing visibility. Deliverables: Approx. 3,000-packs, 6,000-bracelets.

Status: \$447 expended; conservative figure. 500-packs created with 1,000 bracelets; an additional approx. \$1,000 bracelets made awaiting packaging.

Distribution: 400-packs to support NTT IndyCar event; Aloha #104 IndyCar dinner; Sheridan #75 (R. Ohler). Approx. 50 packs distributed at D10 meeting, D2 meeting, Dept HQ, Kalmbach #90.

#### REVENUE (known/anticipated):

1. NTT-IndyCar event/Aloha #104 dinner: \$640
2. FB birthday/Cory Brockman: \$460
3. Milwaukie S.A.L. Sq 180: \$250
4. TOALF online donations/ **Amazon Smile \$37.26**
5. Other TOALF received donations/**unclass \$50.00**

#### FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. TOALF-sponsored Cornhole at DEC's/convention. What commission/committee should lead this?
2. Major campaign – draft a three-year campaign strategy to raise funds through membership, the general public, public/private industry, etc.
  - Comp donations in advertising in Oregon Legionnaire, convention program, orlegion.org/toalf, etc.
  - Campaign target - \$75k? over three years
  - Letter/marketing campaign to target-groups
  - Overhead expenses discussion
  - Employ marketing firm?
3. TOALF pin – consider two iterations, one as a general cap pin, the second as a nicer lapel pin.
4. TOALF challenge coin – coins are still a popular item among veterans and supporters
5. TOALF gambling chip – given away as a token, not unlike a challenge coin, only less expensive.
6. TOALF apparel – consider three main styles – Bermuda-style, polo, and tee-shirt – and give consideration to separate men/women versions. TOALF logo embroidered on the Bermuda-style (beige-color?) and polo and screen-printed on the tee-shirt.

Cory discussed the string bracelets, different colors, i.e., black for POW/MIA, and other ideas, costs, suppliers, and to use them as an engagement tool for suicide awareness. Also, to get it blessed by the Public Relations Committee.

He suggested a campaign proposal over three years to raise 50-\$75,000.00. He mentioned his meeting at National Convention with Idaho Commander Abrahamson about what Idaho was doing for Suicide prevention.

Kevin discussed the Race tires he acquired for future Foundation raffles.

### **New business**

Kevin commented we fund the VA&R program through the Department, and we're coming up at the end of the year and need to move some money. Kevin called on Bob Huff for the amount.

He replied to the number we need to move over for the 2020, 2021 budget is \$124,000.00.

Kevin Called for a motion to move \$124,000 from the Foundation, write a check to the Department to cover that for the VAVS program for the 2021 membership year. Andy Millar makes the motion. Rob Liebenow seconds. Some discussion, overall, it is a typical amount.

Members voted in favor of moving the money.

Bob Huff remarked what we're going to have to do for the 2021, 2022 budget? VA&R 3, or 5%, already approved for the service officers; Kevin asks how much we need to move over to the Department. Bob replied \$7045.

Motion by Any Millar the \$7045 for a 5% increase to the service officer out of the Foundation from the VAVS account. Kevin asked for discussion, hearing none. The motion carried in favor. Kevin remarked that one would be the second check.

Kevin remarked we need to be thinking of what we want to do at the next Dept Convention. He talked to Debra Godwin and possibly helping them raise money for the Auxiliary.

Cory inquired about the Budget for VIP visits. Kevin said \$5000.00 Charlie is the Distinguished Visitor Chairman, his budget. Cory Mentioned the Wife of Chris Kyle, the sniper, who lives in Lake Oswego, a possible guest speaker in the future. Also, we are very low on female veterans as a demographic. We should try and be more attractive to the female membership.

Kevin remarked about the success of the Corn Hole tournament at the convention, making it more fun and less boring to come to a Convention or DEC.

Kevin states Well if that's, it will adjourn this meeting and thank you for coming, and we'll see you guys in, uh, two weeks

### **Adjournment**

Facilitator Name adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM

Minutes submitted by S. Flynn Phillips \SFP\

Minutes approved by:

Sons of the American Legion Committee  
Report  
Daniel Burks

The SAL has been pretty quiet so far. A letter was sent about a member without the consent of the Executive Board. While consent is not explicitly required, in order to prevent future issues and accusations I am advising the Detachment to proceed with full consent and caution.

The SAL Detachment Commander did make it to the PIR event for 1 day, however, no other presence was there for the remaining 2 days, ergo a lack of recruiting at the event took place to my knowledge.

I have been requested to investigate 2 different Squadrons, which I will bring to the SAL Committee and then the Executive Board to ensure everyone is on the same page prior to the investigations.

At this time I have not been approached with any other issues or concerns.

Respectfully

submitted Dan Burks

