



BOOK OF REPORTS

DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING

Wilsonville, Oregon

January 8th & 9th, 2021

Department Commander
Don Weber

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

Don Weber

For membership, we started the year strong, then started to slide in our efforts. Remember to work the programs and use that time to encourage people to join. When you receive membership renewals send them into Department as soon as possible.

It is encouraging to listen to the post reports at Dist. meetings. Dist. 10 has some fantastic programs going on. It was an honor to join them at Veterans Day community events around the district and talk with post members in the area.

Clackamas County has a great homeless Veterans housing program including pods with wrap around services for Veterans. The program is proving to be successful, and Estacada is supporting them. Jim Troiola, the candidate for National Commander, toured around the area and will take some ideas back to use during his time as the National Commander.

I hope everyone that attended the Department Holiday enjoyed the evening. It was fun to watch so many people joined raise money for our programs. Post 21 hosted a magnificent event. Thank you.

As we move forward, remember to Reconnect Veterans, work the programs, and turn in those membership renewals. Everywhere I traveled, I saw Posts working Veteran Day, and Pearl Harbor Day events. The problem is I have no information on places I did not visit. Please share all the important things you are working with Department.

DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER REPORT

Steve Adams

Have been working with Posts And Districts to promote programs and membership. With not being able to have facilities fully open we are starting from scratch. Have been involved with various organizations to reorganize Community events and Veteran events. I was asked to be on the Veterans Day Committee to restart the Veterans Day events and Parade. I was also put on the Board of Directors for the Linn County Memorial Association. Both of these positions are to give input from the American Legion to these organizations. All of the members are enthusiastic about the future and are working hard to get back to normal. Am also working with Posts to promote our youth programs and working with school districts.

Steve Adams

Immediate Past Commander

DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER
REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

Winter January 2022 Department Executive Committee Book of Reports

In accordance with The American Legion Department of Oregon Policy revision 2020,
Policy 20-01-0XX. The Book of Reports Policy addresses
Commissions/Committee reports so,
the First Vice Report will be presented verbally.

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

2021-2022 Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee Meeting

Book of Reports: Period covering 10/1/21 to 12/31/21
Submitted by: Cory Brockmann, 12/14/21

Summary – Activities of Department 2nd Vice Commander

Report – The post-covid-19 era is now impacted by covid-variants; however, from post and district visits I have made, there is an evident resiliency of our veterans and Legion Family, as members press on and move forward. Our membership, in general, appears to be reconnecting, though cautiously and methodically, with “new normal” routine activities at the post- and district-levels.

Our Department will only be as successful as our membership will allow us to be. It takes all of us, at all levels, to make a difference in delivering our programs and helping recruit and retain membership. Thus, my continued sense, that increasing our visibility continues to be a critical role in our recovery from covid-driven shutdowns and into our future. It's not just about being seen, rather demonstrating leadership, and having a little fun while doing it. It's through volunteering that helps deliver programs; writing articles for the Oregon Legionnaire; and, overarching, in our ability to accomplish our mission – delivering on our four pillars.

This quarter I was able to attend district meetings for District 3 in Springfield, and District 4 in Grants Pass. Additionally, I have been able to visit eight different posts for various functions, from formal events to post activities; and, some posts were visited multiple times, including for Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion events. Seven articles were provided to the Oregon Legionnaire.

“Project Outreach,” an effort I have coined and undertaken, initiated with a small start-up grant from The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF). The intent is to develop a cost-effective outreach and marketing piece, which can further our efforts on a number of vital objectives – Buddy Checks, membership engagement, community outreach, recruiting, TOALF donations, veteran suicide prevention and more. 6,000 bracelets are being made initially, 3,000 packs of two each, targeting our effort to leave no veteran behind and to increase veteran suicide prevention awareness. Donations received to date have already exceeded the start-up grant. Please ask me how you can help.

Leading candidate PNVC Jim Troiola's visit was very successful, and he appreciated and enjoyed all aspects of it; I was able to participate from

Wednesday evening dinner through Friday. From honoring our veterans at Korean and Vietnam Memorials and Willamette National Cemetery, to the Veterans Village in Clackamas County. Perhaps most, though, he commented that he really enjoyed the past visits and meeting our veterans.

Work continues on how Department of Oregon can further expand its outreach, within the veteran community as well as throughout the state. As an example, I was able to engage the Portland Winterhawks who reciprocated by posting a PSA: *"The American Legion thanks you for your service to our country and in your communities."* during their Hometown Heroes event in December. Additionally, efforts are underway in assessing potential for our participation in the Rose Festival's Rose Parade and CityFair at Tom McCall Waterpark. Both would garner significant visibility to Department of Oregon, along with our efforts to increase veteran suicide prevention awareness as well as increase our membership.

'Honor those who came before us' is one of our six value principles. In that spirit I attended the State of Oregon's Veterans Day Ceremony, conducted on the State Capitol grounds on Nov 10th. Surprisingly, there were only two in attendance wearing a Legion cover. A state legislator, who was one of 7-8 speakers, and me. While it isn't practical to expect just department officers to be present, we could have been much better represented; perhaps next year we have a table to increase outreach. On Veterans Day I provided the keynote at T. Les Galloway #68's ceremony and dinner, which was a fabulous event with a 125+ in attendance. And, I registered a Wreaths Across America (WAA) volunteer group, on behalf of our Department headquarters' office staff, as a means of demonstrating that same principle and in working together, to lay wreaths upon graves at Willamette National Cemetery.

Lastly, I supported Senate Bill 544, among other pending legislation, using the Legislative Action Center (LAC) at Legion.org; S.544 calls for the VA to create a National Buddy Check Week, among other supportive actions. The LAC utility is an easy, and powerful, way for each member to strengthen the voice – *our voice* – of The American Legion and I encourage others to explore the utility and make use of it.

Challenges – Many challenges lay before us; however, I feel the following are significant and needing immediate attention:

- Filling commission/committee vacancies;
- Curbing membership loss due to non-renewal; and,
- Increasing article submissions to improve the quality of the Oregon Legionnaire

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

REPORT

Stephen Flynn Phillips

Since the beginning of April when the new MyLegion change over began, the membership reports and getting people access was incredibly challenging. Most adjutants are online now with some out there still not getting online. This is the future so if you are one of those Posts that say they don't use computers, then you need to get some younger folks that will do the hard work of the adjutant.

We had a large Post send in a huge stack of memberships cards to process and they held on to them way to long, and that cost the department to miss its target goal, and this affects the Post as well, as they could have had a goal ribbon, etc.

Hanging on to membership hurts everyone. The Legionnaire is expecting their membership card mailed to them as soon as possible so that person can balance their checkbook. If you are a Post Adjutant that needs help getting online and help learn how to process membership the new way, please call and I will help you.

Our visit from the leading candidate for National Commander James Vincent Troiola was a tremendous success. He thoroughly enjoyed visiting all the Posts we took him to.

The Wreaths Across America event at Willamette National Cemetery was inspiring. The Department Commanders were asked by the event coordinator to join the event sponsors and help with next year's event. 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann was instrumental in getting a group together to attend the event.

As part of next years' event, we can have the Cemetery rake the leaves in the section where the wreaths are laid so the wreaths will not be overshadowed by the fallen leaves covering the grave markers. The scene would make a better picture of

the event for sure, and possibly we get a battery operated loud speaker for the event speakers as no one could hear them speak.

We are presently preparing for Jim Higuera the National Vice Commander to visit the Department right before the DEC, and he will make a presentation on Saturday, January 8th. His focus will be visiting Posts in the District 7 area.

The Fall DEC was well attended in spite of being all masked up for covid.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

REPORT

Kevin Owens

It's that time of year to do Buddy Checks. Why do we do them and what is the end game? Sometimes it is not about membership, but that time to reconnect with our members who we do not see at a meeting or activity. Why have they not been around and what can we do to make them feel valued. The Buddy Check is an avenue to make those connections with our members and to help make their day knowing someone cares about them. Please take the time to make a difference. Because of COVID-19 the Washington Conference again will be virtual, and we will not be making those in person visits to our Senators and Congressmen. This should not stop all of us from contacting them regarding the American Legion Legislative Agenda. The National Commander has made Post Consolidations Reports a priority, it is never too late to work on them. Our National Vice Commander will be here January 5, 2022, with the Officers and Membership Team working membership in the 7th District. There are a lot of Veterans who have not had the honor to be part of our organization and those who have decided not to pay their dues for some reason. We want to make a difference in that district with a two and a half membership drive. I will report back on the event at the next Department Executive meeting in the spring. The Veterans Children Foundation is an area we are doing great, but we can do better to help reach our \$26,000 goal sooner than seven years. I am asking each member to pledge \$2.00 this year and we will make our goal. It's not asking too much for the work the VCF does for members in Oregon. Please take time to read the Legislative and the VE&E reports that come out weekly, there's very good information showing what we do at the National

level. If you have not signed up for the Legislative Alerts, please do so as it makes it easy to get the word out to Washington on the needs of all Veterans.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

REPORT

Bob Huff

BOOK OF REPORTS for January 2022 DEC FOR

I am repeating this paragraph as it is important. We started our new Budget Year on October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. The Budget for 2021-2022 which was approved at our Department Convention provides a budget for our programs, our officers, our district commanders; all of which have responsibilities to perform in their office or function. We revisit the budget monthly as the budget is put together with all information that we have available, COVID did not help in our assumptions. We have processes for when items that are budgeted or that are our duties are not performed that we must reduce the budget line for that function. As our new budget started on October 1, 2021, I have reviewed the Oregon Legionnaire for October and November and December 2021, now January 2022, this month and am alarmed at the number of district commanders and chairs that have not submitted articles for the Legionnaire. I would like to congratulate and thank District 1 Commander Lou Neubecker who always provides a Legionnaire Article of the activity in his district and messages to his members. That is the purpose of placing articles in the Legionnaire. For the Months of October, November, and December 2021 we will be reducing the budget line on those required to write articles in the Oregon Legionnaire that have not submitted articles. District Commanders, Chairs, this is your means of communicating to your Districts and Chairs, information about your programs and what is going on in your programs. Also, all Officers, District Commanders, Chairs, will be holding our Department Budget Meeting in February, you are required to submit your budget requests for

your function, if not submitting Legionnaire Articles and Book of Reports, do you need a budget if nothing is going on? There is a lot going on in this Department.

As I asked all the District Commanders during our Fall DEC, when making their Post visitations and Post assessment, to verify that their Posts have filed their 990 Taxes. If the Post has not filed in three years, the IRS will revoke their EIN numbers and they will lose their 501 c19 status. This is part of the District Commanders' assessment of each Post in their District. If not doing your assessments, your budget line will be reduced.

We took a lower membership quota for income for our 2021-2022 Budget year. As I reviewed our membership numbers in December, we are behind our membership at the same time last year. We cannot continue to reduce our membership; we are holding our 2022-2023 Budget meeting in February; we will have to make some serious decisions on which direction to go which will be presented to the DEC in our spring meeting. Lower membership will mean reducing expenses in our other operations, our programs. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We have found that making Buddy Checks which is doing the right thing for our members is providing positive outcomes in renewing our members. 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.

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

This last year was a jammed packed year, seemed like every weekend was filled with going here and going there, but it was a great year except that we are still dealing with this Covid outbreak, so where is our faith during this momentous period in our lives. Thinking about it I thought I would share a little about faith and one man who had faith enough to walk on water.

“And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And He said, Come. And when Peter came down out of the ship, He walked on the water, to go to Jesus.” Matthew 14: 28-29

Throughout the Bible, did you know that it’s only Jesus and Peter who walked on water?

Peter walked on water because he chose Jesus. He chose to fix his eyes and place his confidence in his Savior. He did not allow his faith to be taken over by fear.

“And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they came into the ship, the wind ceased.” Matthew 14: 31-32

But just as Peter began to walk on water, he started paying attention to his senses, his flesh, and the circumstances that surrounded him. Because of this, fear took over, doubt took over, anxiety took over, and he eventually started sinking. Upon realizing that he gave into his fear, he cried out “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately stretched His hand and caught him.

Faith is From the Heart, but Fear is What You Get From Your Senses.

We face thousands of decisions every day the moment we wake up until we lie our heads back to bed when our day ends. When we choose to give into fear and let it control the course of our lives, we would not be living the way God has designed it to be.

Romans 1: 17, teaches us that we move from faith to faith, not from faith to

fear. So, when we subscribe to faith, it is required and critical that we also continue to walk in faith. But just because we have Jesus in our life and hold His Word, it does not mean that we won't get attacked. In fact, being attacked is not a sign of unbelief, it would expose the condition of our heart on whether we subscribe to faith or fear.

So be careful. The trick of the adversary is to attack our faith. Whenever our faith comes under attack, do not compromise and give in because

though we start in the spirit, we might end up in the flesh. So, what do we do when fear starts to cripple into our lives?

Deal With the Causes, Not the Symptoms.

In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples unfortunately gave into the fear of drowning as they were caught up in the middle of a storm one evening. The moment they looked at Jesus, they were surprised to see Him sleeping soundly in the midst of what was happening. As they were trembling with fear, they finally woke Jesus up. And the first thing He did? He spoke to the wind, and NOT the storm. Jesus decided to go after what was causing the storm, and just when He did, the wind died down and became completely calm.

So, what's our takeaway?

When we're dealing with a storm in our lives, just like what Jesus did, we need to ask God to reveal the cause, and speak to it! It is time to dig deeper and address the root cause because things will not calm down if we just deal with the things we can see.

We are in a unique season where things can get out of hand quickly. In a season where confusion, fear, and doubt can slowly take over our lives if we fail to fix our eyes to our Savior.

It's time for us to move forward and fight the good fight of faith.

Steven D.
Shollenburg
Chaplain

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

REPORT

Judy Johnston

Not Report Submitted

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

REPORT

Gene Hellickson

To: The Department of Oregon

Fm: Department Judge Advocate

Sub: Report for Mid-winter DEC 2022

By: Eugene G Hellickson P.D.C.

The following is the Judge Advocates report for the period following the Fall DEC. There are several issues that (**still**) need to be resolved and action taken as listed below.

1. Request for copies of Department Resolutions has shown that there does not seem to be a logical or controlled method in use to control, track or store resolutions at Department Headquarters. **No change as of December 2021. Additionally, missing Department Resolutions have not either been found or forwarded to Judge Advocate if they have been found.**
2. One Constitution and By-Laws or “no-change” review has been received since the Fall DEC. A standard form has been developed to show review by the Department Judge Advocate on submitted Constitution/By-laws and/or “no-change.” The form is kept on file at Department Headquarters with the other required post documents. **However, there are still posts that have not submitted either Constitution and By-Law changes or Department form showing review with no changes needed.**
3. It is the recommendation of the Judge Advocate, that the Internal Affairs Committee be tasked in writing as to what their specific duties entail. Items such as a yearly review of required post documents on file, resolution,

accountability and storage procedure, and reviewing of the Department Adjutant's responsibility for review and action on Headquarters' policies that are under their requirement to review. Examples: Policy 20-04-020 Book of Reports; Policy 20-04-021 The Legionnaire Newsletter; 16-09-001 Conference Calls (Go to Meeting); Policy 16-09-004 Document Retention; Policy 16-09-005 Equipment Inventory Checkout and Usage; Policy 16-09-007 Official Department of Oregon Vehicles(s); Policy 16-09-011 Rental of American Legion Facilities. **No action as of December 2021.**

4. Merger of Districts and Posts are not following the instructions of The Department of Oregon By-laws Annex "B." **Recommend that Department, Internal Affairs, Districts and Posts, keep the Department Judge Advocate up-to-date on these actions. Failure to do so delays proceedings until the Judge Advocate has the opportunity to review information concerning these actions.**
5. One item of interest is Post officers contacting the Judge Advocate, asking for advice on an issue regarding their post. When asked where I found the answer given them, they were informed that it was in their own Constitution and By-laws. **Apparently, it's easier to ask the Judge Advocate than read their own Constitution and By-laws.**
6. Department is still not forwarding information to the Judge Advocate. This causes delay when the Judge Advocate, Internal Affairs Chairman or others, have to forward the information to the Judge Advocate. **Recommend that the Administrative and Advisory committee, that has oversight of the Adjutant and Headquarters, ensure that all pertinent material be forwarded to the Judge Advocate in a professional and timely manner.**
7. **Recommend that the Department of Oregon look into forming a permanent Internal Affairs "Committee." This committee would allow all Department of Oregon members to know who is on this committee and avoid the supposed accusation of a "cherry-picked" ad-hoc team to resolve issues as "certain members" desire what the outcome is to be. This suggestion has been brought up in the past, but there has not been any action to discuss, or bring before the DEC.**

Roberts Rules of Order:

The other type of committee is a special committee, also called a select or ad-hoc committee. This committee is created to perform a special task and is dissolved

when the task is completed, and the final report is given. The membership should not create a special committee to do something that is within the designated function of a **standing committee**.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

REPORT

Edward Van Dyke

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 have created a longer wait period on initial claims. Many of the initial/ new claims this office has filed since the 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 schedule 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 the 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 a 10-year manifestation period after separation from service, which is a maximum time frame of manifestation supported by scientific research; eliminates minimum time frame required for the 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. VA is asking all partners to encourage veterans to respond to these surveys. The top categories of survey responses have centered on Notification and Communication.

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 the convention that virtual Board of Veteran Appeals hearings is now up and running. We have completed two since the convention and have twelve scheduled through the end of December. This is about the same number completed in the 2020-2021 membership year.

Recently, we received a call from a female veteran who voiced her anger, frustration, and dissatisfaction with her new primary care physician at the VA, a transgender woman...defined by Merriam Webster as: *a woman who was identified as male at birth*. Note, the doctor is assigned to the **Women's Clinic**. We can only assume that this is not an isolated incident. It appears to be based in part on a presentation to the VA Center for Women Veterans (CWV) Partners, dated May 5, 2021, by Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary. This presentation indicates it is ORMDI's Road to the Future (Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion). The presentation speaks to equality ("fair"

is not everyone getting the same thing) vs. equity (“fair” is everyone getting what they need) and diversity and inclusion at the VA for staff leadership in terms of equal employment opportunities (EEO).

Between May 15 and September 15, the Department Service Office has assisted numerous veterans and their families 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: This veteran went before the Veterans Board of Appeals (VBA) in December of 2020 after working through the lower appeals process since 2014. The initial rating, February 2014, was 50 percent. In 2018, after a review of the case, the Regional Office granted a disability rating of 70 percent. The veteran contended that their service-connected PTSD symptoms warranted a higher disability rating during the period on appeal. Just last month, the veteran was notified that his appeal was granted and was awarded \$28,000, the difference between 50 and 70 percent for the period from February 2014 and October 2018. This veteran’s win was a direct result of his commitment to what he knew was correct, and the execution of meeting each deadline in keeping his claim open.

Veteran B: This veteran went before the BVA in November of 2020 from his appeal of an October 2013 decision in which he was denied for service-connected tinnitus and hearing loss because they missed the C&P exam. The delay stems from the veteran's frequent moves within Florida, where the claim originated and notices not received. Upon notification, we reached out to the veteran, and he was thrilled to have representation in Oregon. The BVA granted the tinnitus and remanded (sent back to Regional Office for further development) the claim for hearing loss. This veteran received a Combat Action Badge while in IRAQ after being within five meters of an IED explosion, comprised of two, five-gallon fuel canisters with an artillery shell of unknown size. While the hearing loss claim is being developed, the veteran was awarded \$23,000 for the tinnitus evaluation effective February 25, 2013.

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

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

REPORT

Lou Neubecker

District 1 was been busy courting the Leading Candidate for National Commander during the month of November.

Most Posts held community functions during the Holiday season. Toys for Tots, Christmas for Kids, feeding the less fortunate of our community, to name a few.

We are holding our own membership, during the holiday season. Not where we should be and we can and will improve.

Most Posts held a New Year Eve dinner and entertainment. They were well attended.

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER REPORT

Juan Palacios

District 2 Meetings are well attended by the Posts. Only a couple of Posts were unable to attend but submitted their reports to the District Adjutant.

As of December 24, 2021, District 2 is in 3rd place for the State of Oregon. The district has two Posts that have achieved 100% status. Keizer Post 17 is at 100% and Carlton Memorial Post 173 is at 101.11%. Both Posts are still working on their membership status.

Keizer Post 17- Boy State Program is very successful with several entries. They had fundraisers that were very successful and well attended. The Post was involved with the City of Keizer Christmas Light Parade.

With Commander Broadwater's leadership and dedication, the Post will continue to be outstanding.

McMinnville Post 21 is at 91.09 % and continues to get new members. Veterans walk into the Post, like what they see, and sign up. Many members renew their membership when they walk into the Post. The Post Club is family-orientated and families continue to return.

The Post has a good working relationship with the Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, and the Auxiliary.

The Post hosts several events for the Department, National Commanders, and local events.

Sheridan Post 75 has a new Commander and wants to make the Post a good Post. The Commander is not afraid to ask for help. I am sure that he will get the Post back on track.

Carlton Memorial Post 173 was the first Post in the district to reach over 100%. The posts continue to work with the community with their veterans.

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

REPORT

John Morford

Post 51 Meeting was devoted to new changes to their constitution. The committee chairman refused to cover the Bylaws until they pass the constitution.

Post 11 Is planning a Christmas dinner get together

Post 97 tried a virtual Meeting but did not get much participation. The second try was more successful with planning for Poppy's at Safeway on Veterans Day.

Turned out to be successful for the post

Post 100 No meeting this month needs to replace Adjutant for health reasons.

Post 10 is business as usual They had the flags stolen from their Flagpole.

Post 32 is still getting their building repaired so they are still meeting at VFW building.

Post 184 meeting went very well their new Commander is getting a good hold in their meeting. They presented 2 Quilts of Valor at their meeting.

Post 40 Hosted the District 3 Meeting with a great meal. Also had Department Commander. 1st Vice Commander. 2nd Vice Commander in attendance.

John Morford

District Commander

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dave Applegate

Our District 4 Posts continue dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic and the health and safety mandates.

Post 8: Klamath Falls—Jim Whitlock, Commander: Have been working on building repairs for the past few months. Progress has been thwarted by non-return phone calls and a lack of help.

On October 21-14 the Post hosted a 40/8 Cheminot which raised \$600.00 in cash and a table full of Toys-for-Tots.

On October 31st, the Post hosted a Halloween party, awarding prizes for costumes. For Veterans Day, members placed American and POW_MIA flags on Main St. in downtown Klamath Falls. Four flags were placed at each intersection: numbering about 50 flags. Also, on this Day, the Post hosted a free breakfast for about 80 people and a free lunch for about 100 people.

Post members participated in a ceremony at the local Veterans Park including presenting wreaths for the American Legion Legionnaires, Ladies Auxiliary, 40/8, and Korean War Vets.

Post members served about 100 people for a free Thanksgiving dinner.

Members participated in the local Toys-for-Tots.

The Post closed for Christmas Day but opened for a New Year's Eve party.

Post 14: Ashland—Jean Cooms, Commander: The Post has not been able to meet at its usual location during this last year as the owner closed it for renovations. However, they have recently been notified that they can now return for Post

business. Meanwhile, members have been meeting at the Elks Lodge to maintain activities.

The husband of Commander Dooms recently passed away and has been entombed at the VA National Cemetery in Eagle Point. Members of 4 Posts in the District attended his memorial with the family.

Post 15: Medford—Tom Fitzgerald, Acting Commander: The Post is still meeting at the VFW Post and working to re-establish activities.

Post 28: Grants Pass—John David, Commander: Membership is 172 paid out of 352 for 2022. The Post has been able to resume activities in conjunction with the Covid-19 mandates.

Post sponsored Boy Scout Troop 23 and Pack 23 continue to meet on Wednesdays. And the Ladies Yarn Social meets every Thursday. And The Elks meet at the Post 3 Thursdays of the month.

On Thursdays from 9 to 12 the Post hosts a local DAV representative to assist veterans with their claims.

The Post presents Chuck Wagon Dinners on Fridays.

In October, The Post hosted an Octoberfest dinner, provided a General Meeting pre-dinner before the meeting on the 12th, held a bake sale on the 16th, held the SAL and DEC meetings on the 23rd, held an Executive Board meeting on the 26th, and held a Post workday on the 30th.

This schedule was run again in November and December and will continue into the following year. Also in November, a Thanksgiving Day Dinner was provided freely to veterans and their families serving 50. In December, the Post was closed for Christmas but re-opened for New Year's Eve appetizers.

Post 50: Williams—Tim Sakraida, Commander: The Post is happy to report that our membership goals have been met for our Legionnaires and Auxiliary.

Membership stands at 48 Legionnaires and 25 Auxiliary members.

Post members are looking forward to the Charter presentation to our new Auxiliary Unit on January 20th. We are still working on establishing an SAL squadron.

Six Post members attended the Annual Veterans Appreciation Day at Hidden Valley High School in Murphy. The students and staff put on a very appreciative and enjoyable program ending in lunch served by the students.

For the first time, the Post is sponsoring a candidate for the Legion Oratorical contest. This activity has been a good learning experience for members. Our candidate is a student at Hidden Valley High School and is also a Junior Member of our Auxiliary. Grants Pass Post 28 has been supportive in allowing our Post

members to meet there for the first presentation. Post 28 also added 50 dollars to our Post candidate award.

Our lower floor restaurant has been closed for over a year due to a lack of patrons and the Covid-19 situation. Members are currently working on remodeling the kitchen and patron areas. We hope to have the work completed within the next few months. Next, we will be in the market for kitchen equipment.

In December Legionnaires and Auxiliary members made up many Christmas wreaths to sell for the season. Auxiliary President Cheryl Martin made arrangements with the Food for Less store in Medford to provide a site for selling the wreaths. This activity was a great success, selling all the wreaths within 6½ hours and netting over a thousand dollars.

In December Auxiliary members collected underwear and towels to present to veteran patients residing at The VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics. The Legion maintains an office there where veterans in need can request these items. Bob Huff of Post 192 and Tom Fitzgerald of Post 15 man the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The items donated were estimated to be \$800.00 in value.

Post 69: Rogue River: no report.

Post 70: Cave Junction—Bob Soria, Commander: No report.

Post 84: Malin—Steve McKinley, Commander: Membership is at 43 as of January 3rd, 2022.

On October 16th, members of Post 84 and VFW Post 6147 led the Merrill Potato Festival Parade. It was a very nice day. On the 29th, members attended the memorial service for Jim Ottoman, a Post Past Commander, among his many other accomplishments. Jim was Post 84's last World War II veteran, serving as a B-25 bomber pilot. On the 30th, members attended the re-dedication of the Tulelake Veterans Park. The new park looks great and is three times the size of the previous one.

On November 11th, members participated in The Veterans Day Memorial Service at the Malin Veterans Park providing a Rifle Salute and Taps. Members also participated in The Veterans Day Memorial Service at The Tulelake Veterans Park. Three top students from Tulelake Elementary School were chosen to read their reports about Veterans Day. After readings and speeches, members provided a Rifle Salute and Taps, closing the ceremony. On the 13th, members attended the Memorial Service for member Mike Webb. Mike was a long-time owner of Mike & Wanda's Restaurant in Tulelake.

Post 129: Central Point—Phil Cardinal, Adjutant: Post members continue to keep in touch with occasional meetings in small numbers. One member is a teacher at Crater Lake High School and has posted information on Oratorical and Girls and Boys State programs. Unfortunately, there has not been much interest; maybe next year.

Members have collected a list of needy families and will distribute Christmas Baskets before Christmas.

The Adjutant regularly checks on members and receives positive responses.

Members continue to refer veterans to the VA for help which also receives positive responses.

Post 192: White City—Bob Huff, Commander: The Post received a Commendation from the VA for increased volunteer work at the VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics.

Members organized and held The Veterans Day Parade in Eagle Point, including lunch for the community.

The Post supported the Eagle Point National Cemetery quarterly Indeginess Funeral for veterans without family participation.

Post members supported and planned the December 4th Employment and Education in-person event at the VA SORCC. 98 veterans and community members attended seeking employment.

Post members judged 11th and 12th grade Logos High School students on their speeches on their 5-year plan for college and employment.

On December 18th, members participated in laying wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event at the Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Happy New Year!

Dave Applegate

District 4 Commander

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

REPORT

Lance Trowbridge

No Reprot Submitted

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

Andy Millar

No Report Submitted

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 ten months but it has been very slow.

Out of the 7 posts within District 7, there are three posts that 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.

On November 24, 2021, District 7 and Post 74 welcomed the Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola at the Cazadero Restaurant in Estacada for lunch and a tour of the Estacada Support Our Troops Foundation Veteran's Memorial. We also welcomed Department Commander Don Weber, Past National Vice Commander Rob Liebenow, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, and Department Historian Dick Winders. Many of the different District 7 Post Commanders spoke about their successes this past year, American Legion programs (Oratorical, Boys State), harvest markets, car shows, and new memberships, etc. After lunch, we traveled over to the Estacada Area Support Our Troops Foundation Veteran's Memorial. The Commander enjoyed the Veteran's Memorial.

Post 30 members attended a Veteran's Day event in Gresham Main City Park and helped with placing American Flags down Main Street in Gresham. Post 30 also started a Coffee with a Vet on Saturdays 1/2 times a month at different places in Gresham and Troutdale.

Post 30 attended an event w/cruise-in (PR&Membership) on September 11, 2021.

Post 30 members assisted with Wreaths Across America at Willamette National Cemetery. They also attended the 2021 Spirit of Gresham Holiday Tree Event in December.

Post 74 hosted its 7th Annual Cruise-In Car Show at the Viewpoint restaurant in Estacada. We had some raffles, sold t-shirts, bullet pens, and had a successful event with 112 automobiles, trucks, pickups, and convertibles in attendance.

Post 74 also hosted a Veteran's Day breakfast at the Odd Fellows Hall in Estacada. The Post paid for all veterans, law enforcement, and firefighters breakfasts and paid for new members' 2022 dues if you signed up on Veteran's Day. We had exchange students from ISE (Estacada and Barlow High Schools) and Boy Scouts Troop 186 helping with setup, serving meals, and breakdown of the event.

District 7 and Post 74 members attended the Fallen Hero Memorial Highway Dedication Service of Clackamas County's only Medal of Honor recipient SPC4 Larry Gilbert Dahl on December 8, 2021. Department Commander Don Weber, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, Department 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann and Department Historian Dick Winders were in attendance.

District 7 held its quarterly meeting on October 23, 2021, and Department Commander Don Weber, Adjutant Flynn Phillips, and Chaplain Shollenburg were in attendance.

End of report.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

REPORT

Chris Christopherson

No Report Submitted

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

REPORT

Larry Hill

New Years Greetings to One and All – 2022 Has Got to Be Better

Provided below is a short synopsis of the by-Post the goings-on in District 9.

Post 16 – Earle B. Stewart, Roseburg. (12 new members). Held a food drive, hosted a free Veterans Day Breakfast, and participated in the Veterans Day Parade. Worked with the Auxiliary putting out over 1,200 wreaths in the VA Cemetery. Assisted the Auxiliary with setting up their Christmas Shoppe at the VA Hospital. Please note – our Auxiliary is growing and is beginning to take shape, so all is well with our sister group.

Post 26 – Bandon, No response

Post 34 – Bay Area. All is well according to Jackie

Post 76 – Port Orford. Puts out flags on Veterans Day with Rotary assistance. Adjutant Nelson (Only Officer) did not renew her dues after 21+ years of membership. She said this is her way of quitting. She is being treated for cancer; her husband is not at all well. She is taking care of him while undergoing treatment herself. She said that they are moving to Rhode Island in May or June. Because Rhode Island is her spouse's home State and most of the family is there.

Effectively, this is a potential death knell for the Port Orford Post. Now that necessitate a full-court press take place in order to breathe life into the Post. I will discuss with all you wise individuals what you deem would be the best way to breathe life back into the Post. I will be soliciting your assistance next week.

Post 121 – Sutherlin. Assisted the Lions Club with donations to the homeless, Xmas's baskets, donated to the Timbertown (Blackberry) light Parade, donating U.S. and Oregon Flags to the Library (Americanism).

Post 123 – Post 123 – Myrtle Creek. Had an extensive front-page article in the News-Review on Pearl Harbor Day with an accompanying photo of the Post Commander Roy Brogden and another member posting over two hundred flags from I5 through Myrtle Creek and Tri-Cities. The article discussed the tough time the Post has recruiting new members (5 or so this year). Spoke about members aging out and not being able to participate in Post activities. Please note I did not receive in time a PDF of the article to enclose.

Post 152 – Post 152 – Oakland. Now 100% Post!!! Had a recruiting/information booth and at the Blackberry Festival in Sutherlin in October.

The District 9 Oratorical Contest will be hosted by Post 123 at our next District meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2021. Luncheon will be served after the Contest and then we will have the meeting. It was necessary to shift days again as the Post had committed it for another function.

District nine percentage is around the historical January percentage that we experience almost every year. As noted above, the renewal and retention business are slow with a couple of exceptions. The malaise hangs heavy in our neck of the woods. More visits and contacts will be undertaken beginning this month

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Hill
Commander, District 9

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

REPORT

Daniel Burks

District 10 continues to forge a path through 3 counties. With new life in a majority of our Posts, more and more activity is being seen in what used to be seemingly inactive Posts. Post 63 as always is a front runner in the District showing its diligence with regular Buddy Checks, a monthly yard sale which attracts many of their community including veterans, a Veterans Day Dinner hosting our Department Commander, getting air time on their local radio, parades, school appearances and so on. Post 67 has been able to hold various events such as a 9-11 ceremony, Veterans Day ceremony, an annual raffle, teaching flag etiquette at schools, and even helped out a veteran who is a single mother of 4 by assisting her to get into an apartment, Thanksgiving meal, Christmas meal, Christmas Tree, and \$455 worth of presents for the kids. Post 77 is in good spirits as they just helped out at their county fair, hosted a District meeting, and are putting together plans to rebuild membership in that Post. Post 79 is growing every day as this fairly new Post Commander learns his way through the Legion and is growing and starting to get out into public more, conducting funeral honors and appearing at schools for Veterans Day functions. Post 96 has some new members who are diligently training to take the place of older members who are ready to step down. These new members are energetic and enthusiastic and we look forward to what they will bring the Post. Post 106, hard to say enough about Post 106, they

continue to lead the District in membership, activity, and comradery. As always Post 106 sets the example of what a Post should look like.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Burks

D-10 Commander

ADMINISTRATIVE & ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT

Rob Liebenow

Spending time at department headquarters, working membership, I see the day-to-day operations of the office. The biggest issues that they face are from post officers, commission, and committee chairs. Required paperwork not submitted in a timely manner or not at all. If the department commander is not communicating with the district commanders, in turn, they are not communicating with the post commanders, then we have a problem and members ask, why is the department staff not getting the required work done. Simple, too many people are not turning in their reports. As you go through the book of reports, please notice how many reports are missing and from whom. Look at the membership report and see which posts are not submitting membership on a timely basis. It is not the department staff, it is you the members not doing your part in the operations of this department.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

REPORT

Gea Clausier

Commission Committee Members:

Gea Clausier-Chairman
Michael Sowles
Larry Wittmayer
Maria Tye
Judy Johnston
Ian Gerstel
Dan Evers

Summary – Department Oratorical will be held at Post 51 on March 12, 2022
Scouting events will be posted monthly in The Oregon
Legionnaire SAL is working on a program Flying Flags for Heros
that TAL can
support and participate in – See Ward Allen for details.

Contents - A list of the different committee reports to be in the commission
report, only three were submitted for publication.*

*Baseball Committee
*Boys Scouts Committee
Boys State Committee

Children & Youth
Committee
Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle Committee
Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career
Committee
*Oratorical Committee

Procedure – E-mails were used and followed up with phone
calls if no response was received.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Mike Sowles

Baseball Committee Report December 2021

The American Legion brings cost-effective programs to the youth of Oregon. Many of our youth would not be able to afford programs such as those provided to them without the help of the American Legion. Your American Legion Posts and donors/sponsors of legion programs bridge the gap of costs to the players and families that are involved.

The Oregon Baseball Committee consists of 13 members, the committee is made up of four legion members and 9 non-legion members. All providing leadership and to this American Legion Program. Many of these members are managers, coaches, and staff of our teams and other high school and college teams. These members wish continued growth of Oregon Legion Baseball. These managers and coaches are the brain trusts and workers of the program. Without them, Oregon American Legion Baseball would not provide the leadership and opportunity to our 40 teams and 700 players in Oregon.

The Oregon Baseball Committee has had two planning meetings since the season ended in early August 2021.

The committee has dealt with many issues, such as recruiting new teams, replacement of vital committee members, solving issues of Change to our program, due to National American Legion changes of our rules, Covid issues, public relations, scheduling events around and in between high school sports programs and other calendar conflicts, playing field usage for our teams. Including backup locations for our tournaments due to smoke, heat, and other issues that may arise. Online registration for American Legion Baseball teams begins January 1st, 2022. Rule books will be online in February 2022

The Committee has set up the Oregon Legion Baseball dates and locations for the 2022 summer Tournament.

The Single A tournament will be played from July 20th through July 24th at Bob Brack Field in Aurora, Oregon (North Marion High School). Followed up by the winning team being sent to Play their regional tournament in Price, Utah from August 4th through August 9th, 2022.

The Tripple AAA tournament will be at Legion Field in Roseburg, Oregon. July 24th through July 28th, 2022, with the Champion moving on to Gillette, Wyoming with tournament dates of August 3rd, through August 7th, 2022.

American Legion World Series at Shelby North Carolina, August 11th, through August 16th, 2022

BOY SCOUTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

Committee Members:

Robert Huntington
Norm Hoffman
Stanley Gandy

Contents:

As previously reported in other Book of Reports, the Scouting program in the five Scouting Councils of the Department of Oregon has had its ups and downs with many false starts. All Councils has been actively working to provide a program to our youth either virtually or in person.

Annually the American Legion sponsors a National Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship program. The winner of that contest we'll receive a \$10,000 educational scholarship and the three runners up will receive \$2500. Each candidate will come from Department submission and the Department of Oregon is running a contest with applications due no later than March 1st. This year the Department of Oregon we'll also have their own Eagle Scout of the year, and the difference is the Department of Oregon has dropped the requirement for the

religious award. Please check the department website for applications and have the scouts fill them out.

Each monthly Legionnaire list the activities that each council has for the upcoming month to stay ahead of what's going on in your council please check the Legionnaire.

At present, the number of Scouting units chartered by the Department of Oregon is 44.

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ian Gerstel

No Report Submitted

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston
No Report Submitted

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE
REPORT
Rahl Salem

The principal activity of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee is the support of the American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament. Both the First Round Qualifier competition and the Second Round Qualifier competition are “postal tournaments” (in which the official competition target sets are ordered via United States Postal Service mail, the targets shot at a local shooting range, and the shot targets mailed to the Tournament Director via United States Postal Service Mail).

For the 2020-2021 American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament, the official competition target sets for the Preliminary Round/State Championship Tournament were required to be ordered from the Civilian Marksmanship Program in Port Clinton, Ohio by Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

The shot official competition target sets for the Preliminary Round/State Championship Tournament were required to be mailed to the Civilian Marksmanship Program with a postmark no later than Monday, February 1st, 2021.

Largely because of the COVID-19 Corona Virus Pandemic, youth shooting sports programs have been severely limited in 2020-2021, and again in 2021-2022, as compared to previous years. There were only five competitors in the Sporter Air Rifle Category and no competitors in the Precision Air Rifle Category for 2020-2021.

| Oregon Ranking | Name | Club or School and Program | City | Prone | Standing | Kneeling | Aggregate | National Ranking out of 348 |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| ----- | | | | | | | | |
| 1 st | Dante Leonard | Redmond High School MC JROTC | Redmond | 187- 6it | 138- 11T | 150- 0it | 475- 7it | 136 th |
| 2 nd | Robert Bailey | Redmond High School MC JROTC | Redmond | 179- 2it | 135- 1it | 157- 1it | 471- 4it | 141 st |
| 3 rd | Henry J. Giomi-Brown | Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team | Eagle Point | 182- 5it | 122- 1it | 133- 2it | 437- 8it | 203 rd |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| 4 th | Nolan Gorman | Redmond High School MC JROTC | Redmond | 166- 2it | 128- 0it | 131- 0it | 425- 2it | 215 th |
| 5 th | Franklin G. Giomi-Brown | Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team | Eagle Point | 155- 0it | 100- 0it | 89- 0it | 344- 0it | 303 rd |

Dante Leonard (Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program of Redmond High School) was recognized by the Civilian Marksmanship Program as the highest-scoring Sporter Air Rifle competitor from Oregon for 2020-2021.

There were no competitors from Oregon among those who advanced to the Second Round Qualifier Competition in 2021.

At the time when this tournament was being conducted, Daniel Evers of American Legion Post 46 in Woodburn was the Chairman of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee. He ordered medals for the three top-ranked Oregon competitors, custom-engraved to be personalized for each individual recipient, and shipped them to those American Legion Posts with which their organizations are affiliated, then to be presented to each recipient.

For the 2021-2022 American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament, the official competition target sets for the Preliminary Round/State Championship Tournament were required to be ordered from the Civilian Marksmanship Program in Port Clinton, Ohio by Wednesday, December 15th, 2021.

The youth air rifle teams in Oregon which have registered and will be competing are as follows.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|
| Jackson County Oregon Junior Rifle Team | Medford, Jackson County | Post 15 |
| Lebanon High School Army Junior ROTC | Lebanon, Linn County | Post 51 |
| Redmond High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC | Redmond, Deschutes County | Post 44 |

Looking forward, the shot official competition target sets for the Preliminary Round/State Championship Tournament are required to be mailed to the Civilian Marksmanship Program in Port Clinton, Ohio with a postmark no later than Tuesday, February 1st, 2022.

The members of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee sincerely hope for abatement and control of the COVID-19 Corona Virus Pandemic, such that participation in the 2021-2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament will be much improved over last year's event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raoul B. Salem

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eddie Owens

No Report Submitted

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Maria Tye

No Report Submitted

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jon Marsh

No Report Submitted

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REPORT

Steve Adams

Internal Affairs has been busy overseeing the merger of Districts 7 & 8. There have been monthly meetings since the convention with the committee to stay on track to have all of the resolutions ready and other paperwork completed by the Spring DEC. The resolutions will be submitted to the Resolutions assignment Committee the Constitution Bylaw's Committee and the Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson for their review.

Internal Affairs was also directed to look into Post 73 Maupin's desire to donate the Post building to the City of Maupin. The Department Constitution And Bylaws only cover the sale of the real property and do not cover donation of such. I asked Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson to review this and to contact National for their opinion. Gene received an email from National legal stating they probably can donate to the city depending on state laws and Dept. Const.& Bylaws. The city

has been leasing the building from the Post since 2008 and has put over \$300,000 in building upkeep and repairs. Both parties want to terminate the lease agreement and pursue with the donation at a meeting held on December 17th Gene Hellickson and Lance Trowbridge District 5 Commander attended the meeting.

Internal Affairs will have a go to meeting on January 5th.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ward Allen

Committee Book of Reports: Constitution and By-laws

Mid-Winter 2022 Department Executive Committee Meeting

Ward A. Allen Chairman

Will give a follow-up report at the DEC.

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

REPORT

Gales Sears

Legionaries: Provided is a synopsis of the reports provided by 16 of 23 known ALR Post Chapters. Post ALR chapters, as American Legion post members I feel remain the most active in supporting their Posts, Veterans, and the community while providing Legion public awareness. The ORALR leadership has worked very hard to ensure communications through the State chapters and they are to be commended.

The ORALR provides guidance, recognition, and support in Chapter activities through communications and the ALR website. oregonalriders.org and as individual ALR members.

As these reports flow from Post chapters, through the ORALR we remain proud of these accomplishments

4th Qtr ALR Members 267

2021 Cumulative activities

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Financial Donations | \$10,329.00 |
| Escorts performed | 82 |
| Flag lines held | 62 |
| Volunteer Hours | 6,479 |

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Miles Ridden | 23,583 |
|--------------|--------|

Annual Elections: As the 2022-23 election year is ahead of the Oregon ALR, we find both directors East and West will be stepping down. They have both done a great deal for the organization over many years and we thank them for all they have contributed to the Oregon Legion Rider program, their Posts, and our Veterans,

State Director: Paul Schnell **Vic Director West:** Charley McCarthy
Director East: Robert Baker

Secretary: Mike Speer **Treasurer:** Penny McCarthy

Sgt & Arms: Robert De Kar **Chaplain:** Jim Connelly

Contact information for each can be found at the ALR Website above.

Internal Affairs Commission

ALR Committee Members:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Gale Sears Chairman | Post 21 |
| Michael Speer | Post 57 |
| Gordon Treber | Post 99 |
| Mike Lueck | Post 180 |
| John Blum | Post 180 |

Respectfully

Gale Sears ALR Committee Chair

RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Terry Brown

Chairman – Terry A. Brown

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

Report – From October 10, 2021, to the present, there were two resolutions submitted to the Resolution Assignment Committee for review.

- Resolution to name Oregon State Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Historic Highway
- Resolution to recommend the appointment of Steven D. Shollenburg as The American Legion National Chaplain

After review by the Resolution Assignment Committee, the Resolutions were forwarded to appropriate Commission/Committee chairs.

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 Commission/Committee Chairs were via email.

End of my report

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE

REPORT

Daniel Burks

The SAL has been very quiet with very little to no communication with me. We have some issues and concerns that will be addressed in the New Year. No further communication concerning a letter that was previously sent will be addressed and put to rest as well in the new year.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Burks

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

The next Training and Development event will be held January 29 at Post 16 in Roseburg, Oregon. This is another day long event to prepare Legionnaires in the next steps to holding office in this organization. I would like to give Post 16 Commander Terry Macrae a great deal of thanks for all his assistance in this effort.

Topics include:

- Legion History
- The Role of the Post Commander
- The Role of the the Vice Commanders
- Role of the Adjutant

Veteran Suicide Reduction speaker from the Roseburg VA
Leadership Panal for Q&A

Lunch provided. No mileage will be paid for this event.

For questions just give me call.

Betty Fish-Ferguson
Chairman Training and Development

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston

No Report Submitted

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

REPORT

John Lee

Attended (virtually) the House Veteran and Emergency Management committee meeting on November 16th at 8:00 AM. They discussed a possible problem around veteran plates. It is confusing and may need a change in the cost. Currently, it appears that for “Veteran Support” plated, available to anyone, the cost is \$20.00 but is \$40.00 for “Disabled Veteran” plates. There will be further investigations and may be addressed during the 2022 session.

Also attended (virtually) the Senate Veteran and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on November 16th at 11:00 AM. Their primary concerns for the 2022 session are mostly around veteran mental health and rural transportation. It was stated that currently there are 17 veteran suicides a day US wide. In Oregon 1 in every 6 suicides is a veteran. This is a rate of 16.6% while veterans make up

only 6% of the population. The committee is looking at outreach programs for veterans returning from Afghanistan. “You Are Not Alone”

There have been two special sessions for 2021. The first had legislation for redistricting the US Congressional districts. After the US census, Oregon gained a Congress representative, an increase from 5 to 6. Also, the Oregon legislative districts for both the Senate and the House were redistricted. Although the State courts upheld the redistricting there may be other filings. Attached is the current maps as it stands now. The first special session ended on September 27th

The second Special session appropriates money for Housing of homeless and rent protection. Also, appropriates money and legislation around illegal marijuana issue arising in Oregon. The second special session ended on December 13th.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

And

OREGON LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Flynn Phillips

The Oregon Legionnaire continues to get better with each issue. With accolades from our leading candidate for National Commanders Jim Troiola from New York. Keep the compliments coming. The team strives to keep getting better.

The Grand Prix car with Jimmie Johnson is gaining momentum and according to Marketing at National Oregon is poised to be in the Carvanna Tent area next year and we will not have to pay the \$3000.00 for our space. With Post 104 hosting the Crew Chief and team. They were so impressed by the enthusiasm that they

carried that forward to the next big race and made a very large impression in the news, sadly Oregon didn't get the credit. But we are ready for next year's event.

He has a new Crew Chief, It's Mike Le Gallic, a Canadian with experience in both Formula One, the NASCAR Cup Series and most recently with Scott Dixon on the No. 9 PNC Bank Honda at Chip Ganassi Racing. Le Gallic is Johnson's new crew chief on the No. 48 Carvana/The American Legion Honda.

Please don't let Covid Apathy 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 news paper. Get a 2fer for newspaper and the Legionnaire.

Is your post membership getting the link to the Legionnaire passed on to them?

The Legionnaire 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.!\FP\

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

REPORT

Flynn Phillips

It's been a great year getting the Department Information Technology to Industry "Best Practices." Axiom Technologies keeps us on our toes with Know before you go testing so keep us alert of potential Phing threats. Their support has been outstanding. They are in the process of rebuilding my laptop as I have had some real issues with it. I can't praise these people enough.

They made me aware of a useful tool in Windows 10 “Quick Assist” Application that I use daily in helping Adjutants navigate through the new MyLegion.

Public Relations: Please see Charlie Schmidt’s addition in the Book of Reports. He is a one man committee at the moment. Accolades to Charlie as he continues to post significant information to our Facebook page.

With out a doubt our Portland International Raceway event with Jimmy Johnson driving Car#48 for the Chip Gnessi Racing team was a hit. We are excited about next Years’ event as we will be in the Carvanna space not having to pay a Tent Fee. This is huge and will allow us to do more things and possible have additional Swag Bag stuff for the event.

Facebook Reminder; You don’t get a second chance at a first impression so keep your remarks

Positive. According to Facebook’s policy you don’t own the content. You gave the rights away.

\\FP\

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Charles E. Schmidt

Chairperson: Charles Schmidt

Committee Members: Maria Tye

Upcoming events to consider in your PR program: February is Americanism Month; February 6 is Four Chaplains Sunday; March 15 is The American Legion’s 103 Birthday and Buddy Check Week; March 29 is Vietnam War Veterans Day; and April is Children & Youth Month.

Having connected with area high schools, charter schools, and home school programs, Posts should be preparing to host their Oratorical contests. The Public Relations Committee encourages chairpersons of Department, District, and Post youth programs to share publicly, information regarding their respective programs. Program details are important so Posts can share the information to students in their communities. The Oratorical Chairman’s Guide, Oratorical Contest

Promotion Brochure, and Contest Rules are available at www.legion.org/media/americanism. Many other Legion programs publications are available at www.legion.org/media/publications.

The PR Committee continues to showcase our Department's Posts and members to National visitors who come to Oregon. Our Department hosted the Leading Candidate for National Commander (2022-2023), Past National Vice Commander (PNVC) Vincent (Jim) Troiola (NY) November 17-20, 2021. Your PR Committee developed an agenda for PNVC Troiola to spend time in Districts 1, 7, and 8, visiting Posts and meeting members. The PR Committee will be working with our NECman to develop a visit for Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Daniel Seehafer (WI). Candidate Seehafer will be attending our 2022 Spring DEC meetings tentatively scheduled April 1-3, 2022, in Burns, Oregon. We are honored to have National Vice Commander James Higuera (CA) visiting our Department January 5-9, 2022. Post visitations and our DEC meetings are on his agenda during his stay in Oregon. I am sure he will be interested in our membership initiatives and growth.



Speaking of membership, military installations are excellent venues to reach military members to share The American Legion story. As a coastal state, Oregon hosts Coast Guard Stations in addition to the Oregon National and Air Guards. Sometimes it is difficult to gain access to these installations and service members. The American Legion encourages Departments, Districts, and Posts to use the “*Access Granted*” booklet as a resource for working with military installations to help troops ease the transition from military to civilian life. The booklet is found at www.legion.org/media/americanism.

The newest version of The American Legion Public Relations Toolkit, now available at www.legion.org/media/publications/media&communications, will help Posts, District, and Department enhance the image of The American Legion through positive communication and messaging. Another purpose of this manual is to provide assistance for all levels of PR practitioners, from novices to experienced professionals. The 73-page American Legion Public Relations Toolkit provides examples of news releases, media advisories and public service announcements, as well as information on networking, social media, podcasts, internal/external media, interviews, crisis management and prevention, and more. Use the tools offered in the toolkit to fill your Public Relations toolbox to communicate with your members and engage your communities.

The PR Committee meets via electronic means as needed. Vacancies still exist on the committee.

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT

Daniel Burks

Membership continues to be challenging on several fronts. Obviously, our numbers are quite important however our reporting system leaves a lot to be desired. It is understood we as a team will continue to push membership and activities from each of the District Commanders however on a more strategic standpoint, it is hard to understand the numbers when it is impossible to decipher the reports. This will only chalk up to be an excuse end of year, so we will continue to march forward as expected. The other front would be communication. While I have sent numerous emails and made several phone calls, it has triggered very little to no response. Based on the responses I have received it would be my belief that with only a handful of exceptions, we have not been conducting Buddy Checks across the Department of Oregon. Also based on the number of responses I have received none of our Posts in the Department of Oregon are conducting any activities, reached out to any veterans, helped out any veterans or really done much of anything this entire year. I don't personally believe this to be an accurate assessment of the Department but solely basing this observation on the level of response received. This level of communication has also contributed to the confusion in our reports, as without proper levels of communication, it is very difficult to gauge where a District is at. While our percentages are up, our overall numbers are down which is what we need to focus on in order to grow the Department. In order to facilitate growth and assist our Districts I have sent numerous emails

attempting to set up events that the membership team can assist with and again have received no response. I will continue to work with members of our membership team to comprise a plan to engage the Districts in order to meet and/ or exceed our goals.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Burks

Department Membership Chair

National Security/Foreign Relations and Homeland

Security Commission

Greg Marvin Commission Chair

Mid-winter 2022 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

December 29, 2021

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and the Firefighter of the Year application packets were sent out by e-mail to the Department of Oregon Posts by Department Adjutant Flynn

Phillips on October 29, 2021, with information about finding the packet and instructions on filling out the applications and returning the completed forms to Department No Later than December 31, 2021. Department Adjutant Phillips sent out a reminder to all Posts on November 30, 2021. As of today, December 29, 2021, we have received four applications for the 2021 awards. Two Law Enforcement Officer and two Firefighters applications. This is an improvement over last year's return which was one Law Enforcement Officer sent in by LaPine Post 45 of District 5. The Officer, Detective Kyle Kalmbach of Deschutes County Sheriff's Office was given his award at the Department Convention at 7 Feathers Casino and Resort. Detective Kalmbach is an outstanding Officer and hopefully, he will be able to be available to attend the 2022 Law Enforcement Career Camp in August as a mentor. One of Detective Kalmbach's projects was a Law Enforcement Youth camp for LaPine students and he has plans to open it up for other Deschutes County students this year. He will be a good addition to our Department Law Enforcement Career Camp staff.

I have sent out information to the National Security Commission Committee Chairs about the possibility of either a virtual meeting or an e-mail vote for the selection of this year's Law Enforcement and Firefighter Department Officers. At this time a decision has not been made. Hopefully, we will have a few more applicants before the due date. There are many outstanding Law Officers and Firefighters in Oregon that should be recognized for their efforts. More Posts should be recognizing the officers in the Posts and at the Department level. Thanks to those Posts making the effort to have programs and entering their officers into the Department programs. Our Department has had a number of winners that have gone on to place at the regional contests and one Volunteer Firefighter, Damon Faust of the Estacada Fire District and sponsored by Carl Douglas (Estacada) Post 74 in 2018 was selected as the National Firefighter of the Year.

Greg Marvin, National Security Commission Chair

December 29, 2021

Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee

I have been trying to contact the schools to have their awards into Department in a timely manner and will continue to do so. There is still a lot of time to do this and I am trying to get more schools involved.

Steve Adams, Chairman

Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee

December 29, 2021

Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

Congress is looking at the lowest pay grade would be at \$15.00/ hour. Last I checked it was still in committee. Won't see anything on this until 2022.

Drinking water lines at Joint Base Pearl Harbor was in progress a week before Christmas of being flushed of chemical contamination. Eight decontamination kits were flown in to flush the system and provide clean drinking water for the base and housing area.

Respectfully submitted;

James Jerome Chairman

Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee, Eva Summers Chair

No Report received as of 1400 hrs. December 30, 2021

National Guard & Reserve Committee, Don Adams Chair

No Report received as of 1400 hrs. December 30, 2021

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

REPORT

Steve Adams

No Report Submitted

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eva Summers

No Report Submitted

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT

James Jerome

No Report Submitted

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Don Adams

No Report Submitted

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

REPORT

Kevin Owens

The Permanent Finance Commission meeting was held via Go-to-Meeting Wednesday December 8, 2021, at 7:06pm. The following members were present Jon Marsh PDC, Corey Brockman 2nd Vice Commander, Betty Fish-Ferguson, and Bob Huff PDC, Department Finance Officer. The minutes of the previous meeting not read as they were posted and presented at the Fall Department Executive Meeting Book of Reports. The following items were discussed.

1. We talked about our current investments with Ameriprise. We believe the market is in good shape and the investments are sound.
2. The budget meeting is on February 19th, 2022, and budget request forms will be sent out and need to be returned by February 1, 2022.
3. We discussed our administration budget briefly and need to look at ways to trim some of the costs and still meet the needs of the Department.
4. We talked about the taxes that still need to be sent out to the Department Executive Committee.
5. Our budget for 2021-2022 is looking good, we still need membership to come in at a little faster pace.
6. We talked about receiving money from the Foundation to fund 5k of the Oratorical Scholarship money and move 5K to the VCF fund by resolution which Bob Huff is writing for the January DEC. This would be an offset and does not affect the budget but helps us meeting our obligation for this year to VCF. Any addition money will be added that has been raised for the rest of the year.

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R) COMMISSION

Bob Huff

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members are Chair PDC Bob Huff, PDC Jon Marsh, Ann Everetts and Larry Williams. Our Department Service Officer is Ed VanDyke and Veterans Service Officer is Jody Marsh. Our VAVS Representative is PDC Bob Huff. Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually and we are again, offices are still closed with COVID restrictions and telephone contact, and virtual meetings have been successful. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSO's are supporting veterans in their hearings. 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 Veterans Service Office is doing a great job supporting our Veterans during a very difficult time and has adjusted to new means in supporting our veterans. With the Oregon National Guard discussing possibly starting to plan for Yellow Ribbon events soon in-person, we will be supporting those events. 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. With VAVS Volunteer opportunities opening, the VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shoots, by Federal direction. The Commission and our VAVS Arm also 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. We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point National Cemetery as we have more face-to-face contact, Employment and Education and VSO activity at these facilities. 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. We have held our first in-person event and continue to participate in virtual meetings and some face-to-face meeting to support some of this effort. Making plans a year out, has changed to sometimes, day by day as the rules change. If you hear of events that VA&R and VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol.com or (541) 826-4916 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, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS
COMMISSION CHAIR
BOB HUFF**

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission has one member, I am the Chair and only member on the Commission and two Committees; if interested, please contact the Department Commander or me. My contact information is huffe4@aol.com or (541) 601-9283. The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission held our first in-person event on Saturday December 4, 2021 at the VA SORCC in White City. The Employment and Education event was held complying with all Mask, Social Distancing and Oregon and VA rules for number of participants, all rules were followed for everyone's safety. The employment portion were for VA SORCC

Jobs with critical shortages, each position advertised was held in a different area, two check-in points outside before entry into a separate building with HR reviewing each applicant prior to an escort accompanying the applicant to each interview area, yes it was fogging and cold outside and we transported applicants to some of the areas. We had our partners DVOP's and Easter Seals working with Veterans that needed help with their Resumes or USA Jobs along with County Service Officers assisting Veterans with questions or requiring claims help and representatives from Southern Oregon University (SOU) and Rogue Community College (RCC) providing help with information on education programs. We also had our Veterans Homeless Program present for any assistance or questions. All our partners participated. With everyone hiring right now and a shortage of candidates we were expecting fifteen to twenty candidates for employment. We had ninety-eight candidates for employment, it was a very successful event. We are in the planning stages for our next event. We also assisted homeless and at-risk veterans, a very successful event. It was cold, but very productive and great to have a in-person event, following the new rules. Most of our partners participated and all are asking when we can do it again. New way of doing business, but it is a start. We still need some face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs. We are gathering equipment, clothing, and I have met with one of the VA Directors for a venue. Everything is in planning stages; venue is still not open. 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. As always, veterans and participants safety remain our focus.

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

THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION
(TOALF)
REPORT

Kevin Owens

It's that time of year to do Buddy Checks. Why do we do them and what is the end game? Sometimes it is not about membership, but that time to reconnect with our members who we do not see at a meeting or activity. Why have they not been

around and what can we do to make them feel valued. The Buddy Check is an avenue to make those connections with our members and to help make their day knowing someone cares about them. Please take the time to make a difference. Because of COVID-19 the Washington Conference again will be virtual, and we will not be making those in person visits to our Senators and Congressman. This should not stop all of us in contacting them regarding the American Legion Legislative Agenda. The National Commander has made Post Consolidations Reports a priority, it is never too late to work on them. Our National Vice Commander will be here January 5, 2022 with the Officers and Membership Team working membership in the 7th District. There are a lot of Veterans who have not had the honor to be part of our organization and those who have decided not to pay their dues for some reason. We want to make a difference in that district with a two and half membership drive. I will report back on the event at the next Department Executive meeting in the spring. The Veterans Children Foundation is an area we are doing great, but we can do better to help reach our \$26,000 goal sooner than seven years. I am asking each member to pledge \$2.00 this year and we will make our goal. It's not asking too much for the work the VCF does for members in Oregon. Please take time to read the Legislative and the VE&E reports that come out weekly, there's very good information showing what we do at the National level. If you have not signed up for the Legislative Alerts, please do so as it makes it easy to get the word out to Washington on the needs for all Veterans.