



BOOK OF REPORTS

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Burns, Oregon
April 2nd -3rd, 2022

Department Commander
Don Weber

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORTS

Don Weber Commander

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. Congratulations to the SAL for exceeding their 90% target date. It is time for Legionnaires to step up the efforts.

For the Mid-Winter DEC, we conducted the first virtual component for a DEC meeting. I would like your input on how effective it was. I know we need to improve some aspects like the video quality.

I had an opportunity to attend the Lincoln City memorial park dedicated for Ed Johan. Ed was serving in the US Navy at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. Ed attended the memorial event and shared his experiences. After serving in the Navy, he served on the Portland Fire Department, participated in Mt Hood rescues, and after retirement, he served as a city council member of Lincoln City Council. He is certainly an example of The Greatest Generation.

It was an honor to have National Vice Commander Higuera visit in Jan. Jim assisted in direct contact with expired members in the Multnomah and Clackamas area. A true example of how effective this direct contact can be. If we all follow his example, we can get our membership back on track in no time.

It was a sad day to recognize the accomplishments of our past SAL member Willie Williams. As we gathered in Prineville, it was obvious how much Willie meant to the State of Oregon. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ginnie.

It is with honor that I attended the chartering of a new ALA Unit in Williams Oregon. The members of this Post are energized and planning new events in the community. They are a true inspiration for all of us to follow.

With COVID restrictions lifting it is enjoyable to get out and reconnect with our traditions. Prineville Post 29 hosted another great District Roundup. Congratulations to Larry, Cory, and Dan as they begin the campaign for the next officer positions in Dept of Oregon.

DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER REPORT

PDC 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 E. Wittmayer

Spring DEC Book of Reports

January brought the opportunity to accompany National Vice Commander Higuera on Post visits and member calls in District 7, we knocked on a lot of locked gates.

The Department held a partial in-person- partial virtual DEC at the Community Center in Villebois, Wilsonville in January. With some work on connectivity, this could happen again in the future.

I also attended a Department Membership go to meeting and a Western Region Membership go to meeting in January.

The Department continues to hold leadership team meetings including the entire Legion Family.

February brought Americanism month and conducting District Oratorical contests.

Buddy checks are continuing throughout the Department.

February also brought a memorial service for our beloved Willy Williams. I also attended a budget planning meeting.

On March 5th I attended a VA&R and VE&E Washington conference, and all day virtual meeting.

DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

2021-2022 Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting

Book of Reports: Period covering 1/1/2022 to 3/31/2022

Submitted by: Cory Brockmann, 3/11/2022

Summary – Activities of Department 2nd Vice Commander

Report – Continued efforts were made to further increase our visibility amongst our peers – all veterans – as well as the public in conducting outreach and engagement opportunities. Increasing our visibility will further increase our viability and, with intention, help to increase membership, as well as, gain support from other groups, be they veteran-related or the general public.

Engagement with the Rose Festival Foundation was made to explore opportunities which could be leveraged to further increase visibility of American Legion, Oregonian veterans, and one of our top priorities, veteran suicide prevention. Specifically, desired was the opportunity to participate in the Rose Festival Parade with the #48 NTT IndyCar, along with a display booth at City Fair to engage veterans and the public. Numerous meetings and email discussions were held with Kara Landen, executive assistant & sponsor relations, and Jeff Curtis, chief executive officer of Rose Festival Foundation, along department representatives Charlie Schmidt, public relations chairman, Kevin Owens, TOALF president, and myself. Additional contacts with National Headquarters were made by Chairman Schmidt to engage Dean Kessel, chief marketing officer, and Mary Jo Dial, marketing commission executive, on potential for accessing the #48 NTT IndyCar and/or a Chip Ganassi Racing Team driver. CEO Jeff Curtis and staff developed a tailored marketing package for Department of Oregon that included multiple platform exposures. This included options for entries in both Rose Festival parades, to fleet week, to multiple display booth options, web-based visibility, and more. In the end, while both parties could agree there was mutual benefits available, ultimately, Rose Festival Foundation is a non-profit organization and could not accommodate a no-cost or very low-cost option to us. Opportunities for a future partnership do remain open.

I have also engaged Pacific Outdoor Advertising to explore opportunities available in digital billboard displays. Digital billboards provide an attractive and highly valuable marketing opportunity. While not as prevalent across the landscape as static billboards, digital billboards within the metro area and along the I-5 corridor south to Salem provides millions of engagements with commuters on a weekly basis. Public Service Announcements (PSA) may be available, but work continues on that as an option. Work continues to determine the potential for smaller, shorter targeted effort and period of time, such as 1-2 weeks during a Buddy Check week or around Veterans Day.

Similar lines of outreach include contacts already been made with the Eugene Emeralds and the Hillsboro Hops; both teams are Class High-A, which came about in the last two years with Major League Baseball's (MLB) reorganization of the minor league system. There are only 30 Class High-A teams in the U.S. and Oregon has two of them.

Also, pending contacts include Portland Timbers (MLS), Portland Trail Blazers (NBA), Portland Winterhawks (WHL), and the Oregon State Fair. This is not to exclude all other opportunities, rather for Department to gain access to those organizations that have a very large visibility basis.

Districts and posts should seek similar engagements within their local and regional areas to further explore and conduct outreach opportunities. Outreach creates opportunities to support veterans through sharing what American Legion pillars and our programs can do – positively engage veterans for membership recruitment; etc.

This quarter I attended two district meetings for District 5 at Ray Johnson #44-Redmond and Crook Co. #29-Prineville, along with yet another trip to honor and remember S.A.L. Past-NEC Willie Williams at his memorial service, also at Crook Co. #29-Prineville. In addition to District 5, I attended post, district, and/or department meetings and events in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 8. Among activities were two district oratorical contests and the department oratorical contest; a Four Chaplains Ceremony; and, other private events.

Six articles were submitted to the Oregon Legionnaire covering VA&R benefits and TOALF topics in addition to the monthly department 2nd vice commander updates.

I sat in on the quarterly ODVA Advisory Committee Meeting and heard updates from committee members around the state. Please review the report by accessing it at: https://issuu.com/odva/docs/march_ac_report_2022

While the Washington Conference was virtual again this year, there was no shortage of good information put forth from the National Legislative Commission, National Security Commission, and the VA&R Commission's meetings, of which I took in portions of each of them live via live-streaming. I also took in all of National Commander Paul Dillard's testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate's Veterans' Affairs Committees, respectively. Please reviewing briefings at: <https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference>

Most importantly, I utilized our Legislative Action Center (LAC) to contact and urge support of all of our legislative priorities by contacting Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and Representative Bonamici. <https://www.legion.org/promos/229515/legislative-action-center>

Challenges –

- 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

S. Flynn Phillips

REMINDER, 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 still not getting online. This is the future, so if you are one of those Posts that say they don't use computers, you need to get some younger folks who will do the adjutant's hard work. We have Posts just not willing to get someone to help them with the computer, which is killing us. We are missing our target dates because people are holding on to Membership and mailing them in at the last minute, causing us to miss Membership Targets. The Department and posts run on the revenue generated from Membership. So If you are not renewing your past members and not working the new ones, especially the 114 list, then Legionnaire **YOU** are the problem for our Department dying a slow death.

Yes, I'm speaking to you. **BE** part of the solution, dig down deep in your soul and remember why you joined the legion. Was it to help other veterans and their families? Work the programs to mentor and give leadership to our youth who will be our future leaders? Well, fellow Legionnaire, re-kindle that spirit. Stop worrying about the other guy. Stop throwing your fellow Legionnaire under the bus. Stop the constant negativity and chaos. Negativity generates more negativity. On the other hand, Positive energy, that good old fashion CAN DO Spirit generates enormous enthusiasm, and people want to be part of that. So, Turn on the light switch, change your attitude, and BE the solution. You are the Army of One.

If you don't think you can do this, then put on the whole armor of God-

Ephesians 6:11-18

King James Version.

Ask the Lord, my friend, for help guiding your spirit and cast out that Devil that has a hold on you. This is truly spiritual warfare. Call me, and I'll get you pumped up in a microsecond. You and I and The Lord can surely save our Department.

We Must We Can, We will, Charge over that Hill..... \SFP\

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

REPORT

**Report of
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
TO THE SPRING DEC
KEVIN OWENS, PDC
National Executive Committeeman
BAY AREA POST 34**

Spring has arrived and it is time to elect new Officers in our Posts and soon the leadership for our Department Like most Posts everyone has trouble getting someone to take an office as it might take more time than they are willing to give, or maybe they feel that they are not qualified to be an officer or chairman. What can be done to solve this continued problem? First, we should mentor those members in the Post and provide them with the resources that are available. Knowledge is not power to not spread, but rather to share with others. When elections are held, we need all to remember it's not about friendships and politics, it's about who is going to do the best job. Once the elections are over it is time to all work together to make the programs within the Post successful. Soon I will be attending the NEC meeting in Indianapolis along with others in our department that have a call-in, training will be helpful on some of the programs we are all working such as Boys State, Jim Wills Law Enforcement Camp and American Legion Baseball. As our nation feels some hardships with this turbulent time in Europe especially with the war in Ukraine, we all have experienced some effect by it like gas, food, and general costs of good's. As Legionaries our membership in the American Legion provides support to a Strong National Security which the NEC voted on a resolution to support a peaceful end to the war. Please take time to read. Final as most if you should have copy of your Legionnaire, we are again in the race car business. To put a few facts about this to see if it is worth it. 1. It gets us brand awareness where we have never been before. 2. We have gotten 12 million dollars in free advertising. 3. It has perpetuated awareness about Veteran Suicide, something the American Legion has taken on to end as one suicide is one too many. If you watched the recent race Jimmy Johnson is making headway in his second year and Chip Ganassi had four cars in the top eight. This is great branding for the American Legion. As members there is always something to do in the American Legion just ask, I'm sure you won't be dissatisfied.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
2022**

Resolution No. 1: Statement on Ukraine

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2816 (NC) Department Executive Committee

Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes in a rules-based international order where the territorial boundaries of any sovereign nation should not be changed by force; and

WHEREAS The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an essential element of U.S. national security in an increasingly multi-polar world where rising powers have become increasingly adversarial and have committed to work together to revise the rules-based international order; and

WHEREAS, After the end of the Cold War, the United States and NATO created a European security architecture that gave no role to Russia; and

WHEREAS Article 5 is an essential element of the NATO alliance and should be upheld, but this mutual defense clause does not extend to non-member states; and

WHEREAS The U.S. should thoroughly exhaust all diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal before utilizing military force; and

WHEREAS The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the sole power to declare war; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission met on February 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and this resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by a vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion support a peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation; and supports a European security architecture that takes into account the national security interests of all parties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion does not support the deployment of troops for combat operations in defense of non-NATO member countries in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict but urges the administration to continue the supply of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukrainian forces; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the administration and U.S. Congress maintain a strong stance and resist any agreement that could undermine the strategic rationale for the normalization of agreements between NATO, Russia, and Ukraine; and be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. service members should not be deployed in support of combat operations in any theater unless four conditions have been fulfilled:

1. That there will be a clear statement by the president of why it is in our vital national interests to be engaged in a particular operation
2. Guidelines will be established for the mission, including a clear exit strategy
3. That Congress is consulted and authorizes the use of military force
4. That it be made clear U.S. forces will be commanded only by U.S. officers; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering admiration of, and

support for, our American men and women serving in uniform throughout the world, and we reaffirm our efforts to provide sufficient national assets to ensure their well-being.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

REPORT

PDC Bob Buff

This report is for the Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting at Harney County Post #63. Has this membership year gone fast, in two and a half months we will meet for our Department Convention in Aloha? We met in February to work on the Proposed 2022-2023 Department Budget. We are presenting the outcomes at this DEC and if required make recommended changes. After this DEC we will publish the proposed budget in the May edition of our Oregon Legionnaire as is required by our Constitution and By-Laws and then the proposed budget will be presented to the Finance Convention Committee at our Department Convention and the Convention Committee will present their outcomes to the Convention Delegates on the floor of our Convention for discussion and acceptance.

Department completed our Tax reporting, and it has been submitted to the IRS. The 990 and 99ez and accompanying documents were reviewed by the DEC members prior to submitting to the IRS.

District Commanders and attendees, as your Post is holding your Post Elections, remember to vote for your Post Delegates and Alternates to attend your District Caucus and Department Convention. Department will send out Post Delegate Forms and new Officer Forms. Post Delegate Forms must be completed and sent to Department 45 days before the Department Convention with the completed Delegate Forms and \$15.00 for each Delegate and Alternate Delegate. When you receive your delegate forms, they will include a table indicating your authorized delegate strength for your Post membership. At your District Caucus you will vote on your District Officers and Delegates for our National Convention. Those forms with your new District Officers and National Delegates need to be sent to Department once your election is completed. Along with the District Forms, any

new officers and delegates that do not have their DD214 on file at Department; a copy must be sent to Department with the District Forms. All delegates attending the Department Convention must have their Post Delegate Forms with their Adjutant certification sent to Department.

District Commanders, yes, it is Tax Time, if your Post has a Tax Filing Period of January 1 through December 31, it is time to put your financial records together to file taxes if you haven't which are due for a 990, 990EZ or 990N by May 16, 2022. There are no exceptions. We, Department and Posts are under the National Umbrella and are under Group Exemption Number 0925, that is our 501c19. Remember, every Post is a separate corporation, it is a business, you operate under Corporate Laws of Oregon, you pay a filing fee each year to the Secretary of State, Corporation Division.

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.

As there will be additional information that will be reported to the Spring DEC, I will verbally report the additional information as many changes that are taking place at this time.

PDC Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

REPORT

Steve Shollenburg

This last year was a jammed packed year, seamed 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 in to 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 everyday the moment we wake up until we lie our heads back to bed when our day ends. When we choose to give in to 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 in to 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 would 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

Dick Winders

No Report

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

REPORT

PDC Gene Hellickson

To: The Department of Oregon

Fm: Department Judge Advocate

Sub: Report for Spring DEC 2022

By: Eugene G Hellickson P.D.C.

The following is the Judge Advocates report for the period following the Mid-Winter 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 March 2022. Additionally, missing Department Resolutions have not either been found or forwarded to Judge Advocate if they have been found.**
2. Several Constitution and By-Laws or “no-change” review has been received since the Mid-Winter DEC. . **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 **Some action has been taken, however, there are still several that need reviewing and editing.**
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. 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. **While there**

has been some improvement it is still recommended 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.

6. The Department of Corrections has performed an audit at Deer Ridge post 131 and Corrections has determined that Post 131 cannot have officers as they are incarcerated. I was instructed by the Department Commander to look into this issue. However, the Department Adjutant, and the District Commander have taken this matter into their own hands. Therefore, the Judge Advocate will not be involved in this issue.
7. As Judge Advocate, I have received several complaints and letters concerning problems with Post 99 and its SAL Squadron. The SAL appears to not be following requirements of the Department Constitution and By-laws. Until Post 99 takes some action, and an appeal is submitted to the Department, the Judge Advocate will not be involved.
8. No action has been taken on the recommendation 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 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
Department Service Officer
(503) 412-8408

Jody Marsh
Veteran Service Officer
(541) 777-1867

We continue...

To see the delay of claims processing skyrocket. We have been advised that across the VBA (Benefits Administration) backlogs are starting to rise and they are trying to work as quickly as they can. The official word is, "VA has seen an increase in the number of claims pending and the length of time to process these claims due to pandemic-related issues and new legislation regarding presumptive conditions for military environmental exposures. VA has taken proactive steps to reduce the number of claims in our inventory by mitigating pandemic-related barriers, hiring additional claims processors, and utilizing funds for overtime. VA is committed to processing claims as quickly and accurately as possible."

To illustrate, Veteran 1, participated in a BVA hearing in the spring of 2019 on an appeal submitted in early summer of 2015. In the late summer of 2019, the BVA decision remanded several issues back to the Regional Office. Some two and half years later (945 days) the veteran is still waiting for the VA to receive information to substantiate the claim.

Veteran 2 filed an initial claim in the fall of 2019. This Navy Reservist was called to active duty 1968-1970 and for 4 months in 1991. In summer of 2020, a grant of hearing loss and tinnitus was completed, and all other issues have been deferred, also waiting for the VA to receive information to substantiate the claim...some two and half years later (943 days).

We continue...

To be baffled by the way in which the VA processes claims. As previously reported, *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.

CFR § 3.816 provides awards under the Nehmer Court Orders for disability or death caused by a condition presumptively associated with herbicide exposure. To be considered a Nehmer class member (veteran eligible for this provision) you must be a Vietnam Veteran defined as “boots on the ground” in Vietnam or on a US vessel operating in the inland waterways, or on a US ship within 12 nautical miles of the shores.

Veteran 3 was denied service connection for bladder cancer in 2015. This prompted a Nehmer review of the claim, as mandated by the federal court. In mid-February 2021, the VA confirmed and continued the denial. In the decision, the VA stated that they conceded herbicide exposure based on service (1966-1969) in the Korean DMZ. VA went on to state that since the records indicate no evidence of in-country service within the Republic of Vietnam, further review under Nehmer is not required as it does not apply to other herbicide-exposed veterans. Prior to this review, this veteran was already granted service connection for diabetes mellitus and prostate cancer. All presumptive diseases of herbicide exposure.

It is unclear if members of the rating teams are restricted by procedures and environment to truly evaluate the best decision, are less skilled, new hires, overworked, or just doing the bare minimum. A conservative estimate of man hours to get this point is 750 – 1000.

The VA rater showed some empathy and contacted the veteran by phone to explain the situation prior to getting the decision in the mail. VA asked or “invited” the veteran to file a supplemental claim by mailing him a packet that included 30 pages - some 17 pages of explanation and instruction, in addition to three (3) blank forms depending on which type of claim he wanted to file. Without representation, this volume of information and paper, would likely result in the vet being so overwhelmed that the claim would stop there. It will be interesting to see how long it will take to process the supplemental claim that has been filed by this office.

We continue...

To be frustrated at inability of VA to adequately roll out an improved or expanded benefit. Case in point, the Comprehensive Assistance for Family

Caregivers (**PCAFC**) is a clinical program that focuses on the needs of participating Veterans (including qualifying Service members) and their Primary and/or Secondary Family Caregiver(s). In October 2020, the VA expanded this program to family caregivers of eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. Previously, this program was limited to on or after September 11, 2001. A veteran must have a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher and must need at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services. The VA Fact Sheet on this program touts “Eligibility Decision Within 90 Days of Application Receipt.”

This office has submitted ten applications for this program since October 2020. Not one received a decision within 90 days. Not one has been approved. Everyone that we have filed exceeds the stated requirements. Every denial indicates that there is no evidence of the need of at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services. This includes the veteran in motorized wheelchair for years (VA provided) that has been determined by the VA to have loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet and/ or one or both hands.

One serious issue is that PCAFC is administered by the Health (VHA) side of the VA. There is no way for a service officer to track the progress of these claims as we are restricted to the Benefit (VBA) side. The Power of Attorney a veteran sign with us (benefits) is not recognized by the VHA (healthcare). We have many questions...does the VHA have criteria similar to VBA for disability ratings...what is the process for a service officer to help, who do you call, how can you cross the HIPPA barrier?

Since October 2020, the VA failed to implement and notify veterans the ways in which to appeal Caregiver claims. It appears that VA recently recognized their error and have just announced various ways these denials can be appealed. Just like disability claims, a healthcare denial, such as eligibility, payment of services, etc., can be reviewed/ re-opened with a Supplemental Claim, a Higher Level Review.

Between September 16 and March 8, the Department Service Office has assisted numerous veterans and their family with VA Benefits and other services. During this period, we brought on 71 new clients, filed nearly 71 new claims (for veterans and surviving spouses), filed 20 lower supplemental claims or higher-level reviews, and represented 15 veterans at virtual VBA hearings. Between the writing of this report and the DEC, we will have conducted an additional two video hearings at the Regional Office and one virtual hearing.

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 September of 2021 after working through the lower appeals process since 2018. The VBA decision granted service connection for all five (5) issues on appeal, resulting in an increased combined rating from 60 to 90 percent.

Veteran B: This veteran came to this office in December 2020 after being denied on his most recent claim. At that time, the combined rating was 50%. After a review of the STR's (service treatment records) and many conversations to educate and inform the veteran of what was needed to re-open the claim, a supplemental claim was filed in March of 2021, and subsequently denied by mid-April. In May, a claim for Higher Level review was submitted. By early July, an informal conference was held in which it was pointed out that the buddy statement and medical opinions submitted in March are enough to warrant at least a new exam and opinion. Six months later, in early October, the VA granted service connection for one issue and deferred the other. The result, a combined rating of 80% (effective Sept 2019) and an award of \$15,000. A few weeks later the deferred issue was resolved and resulted in a favorable decision, bringing the combined rating to 90% (effective Apr 2020) with an additional \$10,000. A claim for increase in a specific condition was filed by this office in early February 2022, bringing this veteran to a combined rating of 100% and granting permanent and total status.

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
Veteran Service Officer
(541) 777-1867

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

REPORT

Lou Neubecker

Well, we held our District meeting at Post 68 in Clatskanie on March 12th. We had a nice turn out, 16 members were present.

We discussed the Post upcoming elections, getting the new Officers installed and all paperwork into department.

Vice-Commander Susan handed out the Post 114 list, and she discussed on calling those members and doing a buddy check and during the conversation ask them to renew or transfer into your Post.

During the meeting we were informed that our contestant Mrinmayee Kulkarni took second place at the department contest that was held in Lebanon Post 51. We sent two contestants there our District 1st place winner was Mrinmayee Kulkarni and the District 2nd place winner Viti Eachambadi. Viti was sick that morning and could not participate.

We also welcome the new Riders Chapter 119 in District 1 from Vernonia.

We also voted to endorse Cory Brockmann for 1st Vice Commander at the Department level.

Our next District meeting will be in Seaside Post 99 on May 14th with lunch starting at 1130 and the meetings will start at 1 PM.

Adjutants, PLEASE start filling out your Consolidated Post Reports. You can fill them on the Department website or in www.mylegion.org.

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

REPORT

Juan Palacios

BOOK OF REPORTS DISTRICT 2

At the present time, District 2 is in 2nd place, with three posts at 100% plus. Post 173 Carlton Memorial is at 110 %. Post 17 Keizer is at 115%. Post 21 McMinnville at 101%.

The district will have two posts with the 100% American Legion Family Ribbon Award. They are Post 173 Carlton Memorial and Post 21 McMinnville. District 2 meetings are well attended by the posts and members.

Keizer Post No. 17

McMinnville Post No. 21.

Post 21 membership is at 101%, the Auxiliary is 100% and the Sons of the American Legion is at 100%. Making the post eligible for the 100% American Legion Family Ribbon Award. The Post lowers the flag to half-staff for veterans who passed and do a Draping the Charter Ceremony at the membership meeting. All the families are doing great with membership and programs.

Post 21 will have a blood drive in May. Legion members along with the Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders are planning to visit local cemeteries on Memorial Day to pay respect to our Veterans and will have a Barbeque and Car & Motorcycle show July 4th.

Lester C. Rees Post No. 57 (Newberg).

The Post is supporting the Auxiliary fundraising event for the Department Auxiliary President's Project. They formed a committee to establish a Sons of the American Legion Squadron. Post Riders participated in escorts and flag lines. Several of the Post members are helping repair the local grange. Members are active in the local Wood Ministry, providing firewood to needy citizens.

Scouting units are active and have successfully rechartered for the year. The Post has started the process of nominating one of their scouts for Eagle Scout of the Year.

The Post is continuing the can and bottle recycling for Youth programs. Continuing their Flag Service in Newberg on putting out flags on holidays.

Stayton Post No. 58.

Post 58 Legion Riders and Flag Line members have participated in 28 flag lines, 7 escorts, 3 parades, 5 other events, traveling a total of 12,961 miles and 639 hours in the last three months. They have distributed 12 food boxes to veterans; donated \$100 to the food bank

and facilitated the Oregon State Penitentiary Veterans Association Thanksgiving Day meals to needy veteran families.

Buddy checks have been completed with over 200 members, over 50 Christmas cards were sent to those without email or phone numbers.

Post 58 Baseball program has facilitated the donation of \$3,000 to the construction of the Regis High Baseball batting facility.

Sheridan Post No. 75.

Legion Riders program growing in membership. Outreach to 4 local high schools for Boys State and Senior Scholarships – very positive feedback – Already received an inquiry from a student wishing to apply to the scholarship; Buddy checks / Follow-up phone calls ongoing.

Regular fundraising for Legion, Auxiliary and Riders through weekly bingo games using volunteers from each group. Donated items to Toys for Tots, collected winter coats in partnership with First Federal Bank. Hosted a community chili feed and planning a USO show with music and entertainment. Planning a community Scrapbooking Crop and Sheridan Hometown Days Breakfast. Planning a Motorcycle Show with the Hwy 18 Riders and a Veterans Stand Down Event. Hosted an online auction.

Mt. Angel Post No. 89.

Post programs supported: Donations to VA/Lebanon.

Community activities: Planning for Memorial Day services.

Fund-raising activities: researching grants to repair collapsing stairwell.

Aurora Post No. 110.

Additional outreach and recruiting are on-going. Checking in with members. They are currently updating the mailing and email lists. Manual updates were done at District as well as additional training on processes, using automated online system and continue to work on correcting the erroneous information online.

The Post sponsors a Veterans Evening on the third Thursday of month.

Legion support: New Facebook page is up and will be used for outreach and community awareness. Hosted Department Training in October 2021. Working with ALA to get projects done for the building and exploring a joint effort with Pastor Craig of the Lutheran Church for the Backpack Buddy program.

The Post is part of the Aurora Emergency Preparedness Group and continue to advocate for organized community preparedness. They have events for the Aurora Colony Flea (ACF); Aurora Maker's Market, twice yearly, Spring & Holiday; NW Radio Collectors; Oregon Bottle Collectors; North Marion Community Library. The Post donates space for meetings to the daughters of the American Revolution, the Aurora AA, the Aurora

Wellness Center, and the Boy Scouts Troup 528. They continue with relationships with local youth volunteers to assist with projects at the Legion Hall.

Community activities: North Marion Community Library joint community events, to include assisting with adding a second book sale and the third year of the American Legion Post 110, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 110 and the NMCL to present Trick or Treat on Halloween. They also have and continue to work with the Aurora Fire District.

Canby Post No. 122.

The Post works with Troop 258 in assisting with Highway Clean-up. Working with Red Cross to have a Blood Drive at the Post. They have a volunteer appreciation dinner.

Fund raising activities: Weekly family burger feeds, weekly Bingo, bi-monthly breakfasts.

Salem Post No. 136.

The Post Chaplain is active in distributing food to families in need.

Pioneer Post No. 149.

Post 149 has had deliveries of non-perishable foods from the AMEN group. These boxes in turn were delivered to Veterans in need. They collected Wish list items from The Grace House and Oasis-Brooks School. They donate to children's agencies with birthday bears, stuffed animals, craft items and books.

Post 149 nominated Detective Mike Day from the Oregon City Police Department and he was selected as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the Department of Oregon.

Carlton Memorial Post No. 173.

Membership is at 100% plus; their Auxiliary is also at 100% and the Sons of the Legion are at 100%. Post is eligible for the 100% American Legion Family Ribbon Award. The Post had one Fire Officer candidate. They completed their third Blood Drive collecting thirty pints with a goal of 31 pints. The post is a member of the Carlton Business Association and participated in the city's Pub Crawl for St. Patrick's Day. They put out flags for President's Day. Presented the City of Yamhill with a new flag for their flagpole and retired their unserviceable one. Along with their buddy checks, they have given a couple of haircuts to veterans that are not able to get out

End of report.

Juan M. Palacios

2nd District Commander

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

REPORT

John Morford

District 3

Eugene Commander is not running for election, so the post is trying to find some to become commander for next year, may have to change post meeting time.

Albany: Car Show July 10 raising funds for Honor Flights
Car Show August 13 raising funds for Veteran Fishing
Buddy Checks are continuing
The Post is offering empty shell casings to other Posts for use in Honor Guards.

Corvallis: Hope to begin meetings soon. Selling poppies for Memorial Day. baseball team Is getting ready for new season

Cottage Grove: Currently meeting at VFW following truck crash they are now back into their building.

Springfield: looking forward to doing a pancake feed for fire department also planning other upcoming events.

Lebanon: Squadron 51 National Commander will visit May 27th.

Junction City: Currently meeting in Grange Hall which is known in the community as Legion Hall. Looking for new meeting place

Santa Clara Very active raising money for their new building Check their web page for meals date and time

Lincoln City: Will do poppies for Memorial Day . looking into putting a Flagpole in a local park.

Philomath; no update

Newport: Have been closed due to Covid. Now serving Sunday dinners. Thank Sons for meeting luncheon.

Oak ridge: still having meetings and planning for upcoming events.

Sweet Home Commander Dale Jenkins is making his comeback after 4 surgery's this year.

Brownsville: Weekly Bingo, Saturday 5:00 pm. All welcome. Sponsor Easter Egg hunt with pancake breakfast beforehand. Flags and ceremony on Memorial Day.

Nominating Committee: Larry Williams, Chair of the Nominating Committee reports they have candidates for the 2022-2023 elected officer positions.

District Commander	Dale Jenkins
1 st Vice Commander	John Lee
2 nd Vice C0mmander	Norm Simms
3 rd Vice Commander	Jerry Patton

New Business: Commander Morford along with Judge Advocate Bowmen proposed a series of changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Closing Comment: Commander Morford stated he was considering changing the name of the Coastal Region to Western and rebalancing the regions by reassigning specific Post.

John Morford
District 3 Commander

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dave Applegate

As previously reported, the Posts of District 4 have been operating under Government mandated restrictions and protocols due to the Covid-19 virus for the last couple of years. Before the devastation brought on by this virus, 4 Posts out of the 10 in this District were struggling with sustaining membership, holding meetings and planning and participating in Legion events. Dealing with this virus has been devastating to these 4 Posts as it has to all of our Posts. Many of the Posts have lost members due to this virus, especially officers. We have a lot of rebuilding to do.

Post 8; Klamath Falls: Members continue to complete building repairs struggling with acquiring supplies and volunteers.

On October 21-24, the Post hosted a 40/8 Cheminot, raising \$600 and producing a table full of Toys for Tots.

Members held a Halloween party on October 31st with prizes for costumes.

Members placed over 50 POW-MIA flags on Main St. in downtown K.F.

On Veterans Day, members served about 80 guests a free breakfast. And served about 100 guests a free lunch.

Post 14; Ashland: Still working on resuming meetings in their building. Have lost one of their principal officers to Post everlasting.

Post 15; Medford: Did not meet in January but met in February and March. Looking for new officer positions; commander and two vice-commanders.

Post 28; Grants Pass: At the beginning of the New Year, the Commander provided free appetizers and beverages for members present.

Post members continue to offer weekly Friday bar-b-que dinners for a reasonable price to members and guests. This is our principal fund raiser and is very popular.

The January General and SAL meetings were held on the 10th, including dinner.

The District 4 Winter Executive Committee meeting was held on the 15th, including lunch. Eight of the ten Post Commanders were in attendance. Before

lunch and the meeting, Post 28 hosted the District 4 Oratorical Candidate presentation. The candidate was sponsored by Post 50.

A Combat Veterans meeting was held on the 21st.

The Post Executive Board meeting was held on the 24th.

A Post Work Day was held on the 28th.

February and March included similar schedules to January. General membership meetings continue to be held on the second Monday of each month with dinner included. Executive Board meetings continue to be held on the fourth Mondays.

A Valentines Day Bake Sale was held on the 10th & 11th.

The Post was open for service on the 12th, Super Bowl Sunday.

The Combat Veterans Meeting was held on the 21st.

A Memorial Service was held by members on the 25th.

Post 50; Williams: Did not meet in January due to an increase in Covid-19 cases.

Members provided military honors for members that passed due to the virus.

Post members continued work on renovating our downstairs floor.

In February the Post held a scheduled General Meeting, with a quorum attending.

Plans had been made to present a Charter to our newly formed Auxiliary, but due to conflicting schedules, this was moved to the March meeting.

The Post held its first Oratorical Contest for a High School Freshman student at Hidden Valley High School over in Murphy. Williams does not have a high school.

The candidate performed well and was advanced to the District contest.

Unfortunately, within the next few weeks, the family experienced sever health issues and the candidate was forced to cancel her next performance. She is a Freshman so we intent to keep in contact with her to encourage participating next year.

The Post March General Meeting was special as members planned a presentation ceremony for our newly formed Auxiliary. Auxiliary Unit 50 was presented with their official Charter by Department Officers. Attendees included Department Commander Don Weber, Department Finance Officer Bob Huff, Department Historian Dick Winder, National Executive Committeeman Krisann Owens, Department Auxiliary President Debra Godwin, Department Auxiliary Second Vice Cindy Soria, District 4 Auxiliary President Donna Hartwell.

Post 69; Rogue River: No report.

Post 70; Cave Junction: No meetings held in January. Three members met in February; was no quorum. Five members met in March: no quorum. Still struggling with membership. Several members have moved out of this area, including the commander.

Post 84; Malin: January meeting canceled due to weather and snow covered roads. The February meeting was well attended. Post members spent time cleaning & oiling our M-1 Garand ceremony rifles. Some members had not done this in 50 years resulting in lots of memories and stories shared by all.

March meeting did not have a quorum. Plans for the coming Memorial Day breakfast were discussed and approved.

The Post has contacted Lost River High School and Bonanza High School regarding Boys State and Girls State. Mazama High School and Klamath Union High School will be receiving information letters from the Unit 84 Auxiliary. These 3 schools are in Klamath Falls.

The Post is planning to put on their annual Memorial Day Breakfast. This is the Post's primary fund raiser and has not been held the past two years. That is the longest period without this breakfast since about World War II.

Elections nominations will be held at the April meeting.

The power company has replaced several poles after Malin maintenance workers removed the Post's flag holders. The city of Malin has volunteered to replace the street flag holders.

Post 129; Central Point: No report.

Post 192; White City: Members participated in 2 in-person Job Fairs at the VASORCC for clinical and administrative employees; both were very successful. This Post provides support for the VA for all events.

The Post has increased their volunteer hours and support days in dealing with other VSO's not supporting the VA.

The Post has been requested by the VA SORCC Director to hold an In-Person Veteran Stand Down this summer. Planning is underway with the Jackson County Bar Association, the District Attorneys office and community partners.

Members are participating in the quarterly indigenous veteran funerals at Eagle Point National Cemetery. 23 funeral honors are planned for this quarter.

The Post is participating and providing speakers for the Vietnam Era Veterans Day ceremony on March 29th at the VA.

The Post will be holding an in-person Memorial Day Ceremony at the Eagle Point National Cemetery. Senator Ron Wyden will be the key speaker. The ceremony will include bag pipers, a private aircraft flyover, buglers and a flag line team. In the past this ceremony has drawn over 3000 participants. With increasing demands for support, Commander Huff is requesting additional volunteers from the District to share in the workload.

Dave Applegate
Commander, District4
Finance Officer, Post 50

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

REPORT

Lance Trowbridge

Commander Lance Trowbridge called the meeting to order at 13:05 hours.

Commander Trowbridge led the hand salute to the National Colors, led the opening prayer, led the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony and pledge of allegiance.

Department Commander Don Weber led the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

Role Call: Bend Post 4 three members present, Redmond Post 44 one member present, and Sisters Post 86 3 members present.

A motion was made by Department Judge Advocate General, Gene Hellickson to suspend a formal meeting as there are not enough Post present for a quorum. The motion passed unanimously.

Guests: Department Commander Don Weber, 2nd Vice Commander, Cory Brockman, Past Department Commander, Current Judge Advocate General, Alternate National Committeeman, Gene Hellickson.

Dept. Commander Don Weber

Department membership goal of 80% was achieved. Oregon is the 29th state for membership and the first state in the western region.

Posts working programs have met goals for membership

Dept. of Oregon 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann

"Results Reflect Effort" references to membership goals met. Oratorical Contest- Scholarships available

\$ 5,000 at Department of Oregon level of competition

\$ 2,000 at the National level of competition

\$25,000 at National level of competition Last year, 2021, Covid 19

hithard in Oregon

Law Enforcement Career Camp is available for the year 2022. Boys State and Girls State are available for your 2022.

Veterans Remembrance

First Priority: Veterans Suicide Prevention, Buddy Checks

Oregon has 31 Commission Committees

Oregon has 15,000 members in the American Legion.

Senate Bill 544: Veterans Administration recognizes National Buddy Check Week. American Legion Emblem versus Logo!

New Logo (BE THE ONE)

Judge Advocate General Gene Hellickson

There is a real need to encourage more participation at Post, District, and Department Executive Committee Meetings.

Dick Tobiason

Chairman of the Hero Foundation and Bend Post 4 member

Three out of twenty-eight veterans groups have supported the tiny village project for homeless veterans.

Senate Bill 790

Highway 30 is the last highway to be named in honor of veterans

Resolution ---

Will recognize Highway 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

Attachment 1: Resolution for National Medal of Honor Highway

Attachment 2: Fact Sheet for National Medal of Honor Highway

There was no other business to come before the meeting. Commander Trowbridge led the closing prayer.

The POW/MIA empty chair flag was recognized.

Commander Trowbridge led the salute to our National Colors. Meeting adjourned at 14:02 hours.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

Activities of District 6 Posts

District 6 had a change of District Commander. Chase Ence moved to Washington and the current Commander is now Andy Millar.

We have as current District 6 Officers:

Commander Andy Millar

Vice Commander Randy Tye

Chaplain Aaron Wetterling

Adjutant Maria Tye

The update officers for our posts are:

Pendleton Post #23

Cmdr. Rodney Thompson

Adjutant Alan Zebre

Milton Freewater Post#24

Cmdr. James A. Richardson

Hermiston Post #37

Cmdr. Aaron Wetterling

Treasurer John Shaver

Adjutant John Walker

Baker City #41

Cmdr. Duncan Pierce

Adjutant Geraldine Lynn

LaGrande Post #41

Cmdr. Dave Matott

1st Vice Al Mastrude

2nd Vice Bob Kennon

Finance Officer John Craig

Adjutant Roberta Dalgiesh

Kruse Post #71

Cmdr. Maria Tye

Vice Comdr Jimmie Collins

Adjutant Randy Tye

Chaplain Randy Tye

Veterans Service Officer Maria Tye

Heppner Post 87 is in the process to merge with Ione Post 95.

Cmdr. Edward E. Baker

Adjutant Mike Sweek

Ione Post #95

Cmdr. Brian Rietmann

Adjutant William DeBoer

Athena Post #130

Cmdr. Eric Pickard

Adjutant Tim Kennedy

George St. Dennis (Mission) Post #140

Cmdr. Antone C. Minthorn

Adjutant Toni Cordell

Wallowa Lake (Joseph) Post 157

Cmdr Mike Teece

Adjutant

Legion Riders

Activities

District meetings have determined the need to engage more readily to recruit new members. Suggestions are :

1. The wearing of American Legion accessories or apparel so that when people see us, we will have a better opportunity to speak of our American Legion mission and programs that better our community.
2. Promote American Legion mission and provide programs for Elementary children to learn about the U.S. Constitution.
3. Chamber of commerce in our areas are a vital way to provide outreach. Participate actively by being a speaker at annual meetings.
4. Participate and be a part of organizing patriotic activities and have a booth at events.
5. Hermiston Post 37 – Cmdr. Wetterling stated that members of his post visited an assisted living facility and served coffee etc. This is something very much needed in conjunction with Buddy Checks.
6. Cmdr. Wetterling had a presentation pin for a member that has 75 years with the American Legion. This presentation was submitted to National and local

newspapers. Their post gained 12 new members at their picnic and their auxiliary made \$1000.00 at a Yard Sale. Participation included 4 parades and a Veterans Potatoe Bar.

7. LaGrande Post #43 - They have Bingo weekly and Boys State.
8. Kruse Post #72 – is upgrading their post which is in need of new siding and roofing materials. The inside of the post building also needs an overhaul. The building is one of the few building that American Legion has in Oregon. The post is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Newspaper article have been submitted promoting the American Legion mission and programs. The post is setting up a website. The post is scheduled to start Bingo.
9. Baker City Post #41 – The post has been getting their post building ready in order to hold Veterans Day celebrations. They have renamed their post to, John Nolde Holcomb. He was awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor being killed in Viet Nam.
10. The Merger of Heppner and Ione is still pending completion.
11. George St. Dennis (Mission) Post 140 – Adjutant Toni Cordel request status of Mission on Tribal Post. She is requesting a building and assistance and clarification of American Legion & Tribal rule.. They are in process to reorganize and affiliate tribal meetings
12. District 6 is in need of a POW flag.

District 6 will hold their District 6 meeting and Caucus on May 14, 2022, In Baker City. More information to follow as received.

District 6 did not have any Oratorical contestants for this year.

For the Commander District 6

Andy Millar

Maria Tye

Adjutant

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

REPORT

James A. Moriarty

Out of the 7 posts within District 7, there are four posts that are currently meeting (Post 74 quarterly, Post 134 monthly, Post 98 monthly, and Post 30 monthly). The remaining three posts (Corbett Post #108, Dana King Post #137, and Musicians Post #185) have not conducted meetings in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID restrictions. We do have one post in distress due to Corbett Post #108 with no current commander.

On January 6 - 8, 2022, District 7 welcomed the National Vice Commander James Higuera (California) in Estacada, Portland, and Gresham for lunch and buddy checks all over Clackamas and Multnomah counties. We also welcomed Department Commander Don Weber, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, Department 1st Vice Commander Larry Whitmayer, NEC Chairman Kevin Owens, and Department Historian Dick Winders. Posts 74, 134, and 30 went around and knocked on doors in their Post areas and conducted buddy checks with NVC Higuera for three days. It was very successful reconnecting with veterans within District 7.

Post 30 also started a Coffee with a Vet on Saturdays 1 to 2 times a month at different places in Gresham and Troutdale and has had some success connecting with the community.

Post 74 is continuing with its flag exchange program within the Estacada area. Post 74 exchanges old tattered flags for brand new free ones. The old flags will be retired by the local Boy Scout troop in the summertime.

Post 74 has submitted to Department one student for acceptance for Boys State upcoming in June 2022.

Post 98 started meeting again at their Community Center on March 22, 2022. This is great news that 98 is back having meetings with their membership.

Post 134 has been continuing construction of their post and real progress is being made. Recent work is the mold abatement and possible work on their storage area.

District 7 held its quarterly meeting on February 26, 2022, and Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips was in attendance.

End of report.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

REPORT

Chris Christopherson

District 8 membership has been disappointing. We have two posts under 50% that really need to get to work.

Post 150 hosted our District Oratorical on January 18. We had one speaker, Tyler Tadema, a sophomore from Wilsonville H.S. I want to thank Wilsonville Post 65, Commander Larry Edwards, and especially Oratorical Committee Chair Jerry Outsay for finding our speaker and organizing an outstanding event at their post in December. Tyler represented our District very well at the Department Oratorical at Lebanon Post 51 on March 12. I watched him improve at each event and I hope he will continue with the program.

Portland 1, Oregon Trail 150, and Milwaukie 180 posts have been busy scheduling meals and events to get people to return to the posts after a rough couple of years.

Post 1 has meals and card bingo on their calendar and raffled off a Springfield rifle on March 18. They host a monthly dinner for the veterans who live at the Wyeast Veterans facility. I am looking forward to attending their monthly WWII/Korea/POW luncheon on March 25.

Post 150 had another terrific holiday fundraising season. They raised \$4102 to buy toys for children of the troops at Camp Withycombe, \$1535 for the VA gift shop, and \$210 worth of socks for Ft. Kennedy. In January they delivered about \$2200 in goodies, including a check for over \$500, to the Veterans Home in The Dalles so those veterans can celebrate Superbowl, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day. (I'm told they enjoy their Non-Alcoholic beer.)

Post 180 is hosting monthly blood drives; their weekly bingo has recently seen its largest crowds ever and the meals and events they have scheduled have been very

successful. The Honor Guard has been very busy at Willamette National Cemetery. With sometimes as many as 15 events a week, they have attended well over 200 ceremonies since June. If anyone is interested, they could sure use some new members to share the load.

Looking ahead, Post 180 will be installing new HVAC units on the roof, Post 150 will be replacing their roof, and Post 1 Commander John Bolner will have his hip replaced. Good luck John.

First nominations are under way and elections are right around the corner. I hope all of our posts can fill their officer and committee positions this year.

Chris Christopherson

District 8 Commander

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

REPORT

Larry Hill

Spring has finally sprung, and the trees are giving off pollen near the top of the charts.

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

Post 16 – Earle B. Stewart, Roseburg. Been a rather quiet reporting period. The Post had a booth at the Sport Show and sold raffle tickets for the 3 Henry rifles. The drawing will be held on Veterans' Day after our annual breakfast. The Post also hosted this year's 4 Chaplains Service. It was well attended as always. Buddy Check program is sputtering but is being done. Our Sea Cadets are going to Fleet Week in Portland. The Auxiliary is doing well and getting more active as the weeks pass. We now have 186 new and renewals for this membership year putting us at 72.37% (still at the bottom of the pile).

Post 26 – Bandon. Doing the Buddy Check Program monthly. Only has 4 to go for 100%

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

Post 36 – Coquille-Myrtle Point. No response.

Post 62 – Reedsport. Boy Scouts are starting up. Flag routes are being done. Training is ongoing. Buddy Checks starting up.

Post 76 – Port Orford. Nothing to report. The situation down there has not changed.

Post 121 – Sutherlin. Held quarterly meeting. Donations were made to 2 local nonprofit organizations. One member is participating in the 100 mile walk for the second time.

Post 123 – Myrtle Creek. Held their annual Flag Retirement and 197 flags were retired. Attendance was exceptionally good for that ceremony. They also held their annual 4 Chaplains service which was also well attended. Buddy Checks are being done. A local business has stepped up and is working one flag route since the Post is aging out and need the help. The District 9 Oratorical Contest was hosted by

Post 123 at our District meeting on Saturday, January 15, 2021. Luncheon was served after the Contest followed by the meeting.

Post 152 – Oakland. The Post is at 100% of goal. Whew – we need that!! Attended the Legion birthday party at Post 34. Held one meeting in the quarter.

Seems as though that the renewal/new member well has slowed to a trickle. It is shameful that once again D9 is at the bottom of the barrel. Post 26 (Bandon) with 4 to go, Post 36 (Coquille-Myrtle Point) with 16 should be able to halve that number, Post 123 (Myrtle Creek) with only 4 to go has a good chance of making goal. As for the remainder of the Posts one can only hope for the best.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Hill

Commander, District 9

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dan Burks

Prepared for Spring DEC

Burns Oregon Post 63

April 2nd -3rd 2022

District 10 continues to soldier on within our communities and our own Posts. Membership just broke 80% for the 2nd time this year as we struggle to understand how and where some of our membership disappeared to, as well as Posts that were shut down appearing on our weekly report with membership, while showing no one in the Post is active, then disappearing taking what appears to be chunks of our membership with them. At our last District meeting, the District voted to endorse Dan Burks, District 10 Commander for the high office of Department 2nd Vice Commander.

Post 63 has been extremely busy preparing to host the Spring DEC while running their normal activities. The last of their Oratorical contestants was declared he or she was unable to contend late in the running leaving the Post without a contestant, unfortunately. The Post showed great support however for the program as many traveled to the District Contest and several went on to Lebanon to witness District 10's Oratorical contestant perform.

Post 67 has been busy internally, developing new leadership as the Post voted to endorse Dan Burks, Post Commander for the high office of Department 2nd Vice Commander. We are finding new life as new members have declared they would like the roles of 1st Vice Commander, and 2nd Vice Commander, understanding we need dedicated individuals to run programs and work on membership, with an emphasis on retention.

Post 77 has been very quiet, with only 2 active members currently, I am working with the Post Commander on a day where the District can show and support a revitalization.

Post 79 Has been quiet, a training day for the Post and its members are in the works currently.

Post 96 is the story of the year so far. Post 96 has been well known for only having 2 members at its meetings for several years, predating even me. With John Recla being the Adjutant for 46 years now, and Gino Silva continuing as Commander for 16 years, certain aspects have grown a bit stale. However, new members have created a bit of a buzz, I may be stepping into the Commanders' position and the other may finally relieve John as the Adjutant. Amongst this commotion, a young lady named Aliza Saunders called the Commander and asked to participate in the Oratorical contest. For the 1st time known, 24 members of Post 96 showed up for a meeting to witness the contest. 7 members showed up to the following month's meeting. This young lady has gone on to win 1st place at the Department contest and is preparing for National.

Post 106 continues to be a front runner in the District boasting 110% membership, and continuing to be in the surrounding communities, helping with everything from holiday ceremonies, to grave side honors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Burks

District 10 Commander

ADMINISTRATIVE & ADVISORY COMMISSION

REPORT

Rob Liebenow

The Commission met on March 13, 2022, at Department Headquarters. We had several topics to cover.

One being the budget for 2022-2023, that involved the administrative and headquarters part of the budget. We need to find ways to reduce our operating costs, which includes, building maintenance as well as administratively.

We went over the adjutant's annual performance review, made some minor changes and the Department Commander and A&A Chair will set down and discuss the final review with the Department Adjutant.

We finalized the Adjutant's next contract, and it will be presented to the DEC on April 3rd.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

REPORT

Gea Clausier

No Report

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Mike Sowles

Department of Oregon Baseball Committee (updated Dec. 2021)

Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Parker McKinley(Area 1 Chair)	parker.mckinley@lagrandesd.org	541-975-3009
Daniel Stauffer (area 2, A Chair)	stauffer.daniel19@gmail.com	503-729-2509
Joe Duran (area 2, AAA Chair)	jojod9@hotmail.com	503-803-1501
Art Cummins (area 3, Chair)	abcp_2000@yahoo.com	503-510-7467
*Les Duman (State AAA Chair)	lduman@comcast.net	541-285-3151
*Kevin Schafer (area 4, AAA & A Chair)	shaferk16@gmail.com	541-913-8141
Rod Trask (State Vice Chair)	rodct60@hotmail.com	541-679-6731
Mike Sowles (State Chair)	msowles@wvi.com	503-509-9948
Ron Long (fund raising, recruit.)	ronlong44@gmail.com	541-294-1452
Greg Admire(2021 AAA Tourney)	grega@umpquadairy.com	541-580-1689
Tucker Brack (2021 Single A Tourney)	Tucker_brack@gervais.k12.or.us	503-957-3129
Tom Fitzgerald (area 4, at large)	tom@tffitzgerald.us	818-324-4420
Vance Croney (area 3, at large)	cronyb@comcast.net	541-740-7166

Those listed above are members of The Oregon Baseball Committee, each one has involvement with

Oregon American Legion Baseball and are involved with the teams in their area as well as having expertise in our organization and the American Legion. Above all, these individuals volunteered.

Mike Sowles, Chairperson
Oregon American Legion Baseball Committee
P.O. Box 778
Stayton, Oregon 97383

Phone 503-509-9948 or text, email msowles@wvi.com

BOY SCOUTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Larry E. Wittmayer

Chair

Scouting Committee

Spring March 2022 Department Executive Committee Book of Reports

Committee Members:

Robert Huntington

Norm Hoffman

Stanley Gandy

Contents:

After extensive advertising and a modification in the scope and amount of the ESOY

Scholarship, the Department received no applicants. More committee work needs to be done to rectify this dilemma.

Scouting has weathered the storm (Covid) and is now beginning to open up its programs.

On March 12 the mask mandate will be lifted.

Scouting birthday was celebrated in February.

Each Legionnaire Scouting article includes current Council events for all the Councils in Oregon.

It is a great pleasure to continue bringing the word of Scouting to our youth.

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ian Gerstel

Yes, there will be a Boy's State this year. It will be held at Western University in Monmouth Oregon.

Our first day will be June 12th and will go through June 23rd, 2022.

We need all of you to help get boys to our Boy's State program.

We are still taking applications for Boy's State. You will find that application on the Department's website under programs. will need help getting Boys for Boy's State.

If your Post needs help with the cost please let us know. Give me a call to the Department office at 503-685-5006 or call me Iar Gerstel at 503-538-9151. If I don't answer please leave a number that I can get a hold of you and your name.

Plus if your Post has no Boys but has funds to sponsor a Boy or Boys to our program please let us know.

We need all the help to get our Boy's State program back on track.

Ian Gerstel

503-538-9151

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston

No Report

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Raoul Salem

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee
Department of Oregon, The American Legion Submitted on March 18th, 2022

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

The *shot* official competition tournament *target sets* for the Preliminary Round/Oregon Championship Tournament were required to be *mailed* to the Civilian Marksmanship Program with a post mark not later than Tuesday, *February 1st*, 2022.

All official tournament scores were ranked and posted on the Civilian Marksmanship Program web site by *February 15th*, 2022.

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 18 Oregon competitors in the Sporter Air Rifle Category, and no Oregon competitors in the Precision Air Rifle Category, for 2021-2022.

Oregon Affiliated Ranking with	Name	Club or School and Program	City	Prone	Standing	Kneeling	Aggregate	National Ranking out of 485
1 st	Kyler Boyce Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	196- 11it	177- 3it	190- 5it	563- 19it	2 nd
2 nd	Carmella Martinez Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	196- 11it	158- 2it	174- 1it	528- 4it	40 th
3 rd	Alivia Griffiths Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	175- 2it	161- 4it	185- 8it	521- 14it	49 th
4 th	Alyx Martin Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	184- 5it	160- 2it	177- 4it	521- 11it	50 th
5 th	Zoë Geoghegan Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	190- 7it	159- 2it	171- 1it	520- 10it	55 th
6 th	Henry J. Giomi-Brown Post 15	Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team	Sam's Valley	186- 7it	141- 1it	183- 6it	510- 14it	69 th
7 th	Aliya Griffiths Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	186- 5it	163- 1it	160- 1it	509- 7it	72 nd
8 th	Kacy Trebes Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	183- 5it	139- 1it	178- 4it	500- 10it	90 th
9 th	Aidan Waterman Post 44	Redmond High School MC JROTC	Redmond	175- 4it	141- 0it	163- 3it	479- 7it	141 st
10 th	Esequiel Magana Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	165- 0it	144- 0it	155- 1it	464- 1it	180 th
11 th	Alana Griffiths Post 51	Lebanon High School Army JROTC	Lebanon	180- 4it	120- 0it	143- 2it	443- 6it	218 th
12 th	Franklin G. Giomi-Brown Post 15	Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team	Sam's Valley	181- 7it	128- 0it	131- 2it	440- 9it	226 th

Kyler Boyce (Army Junior ROTC Program of Lebanon High School) was recognized by the Civilian Marksmanship Program as the highest-scoring Sporter Air Rifle competitor from Oregon for 2021-2022. The cut-off score for the second round is 530, so he is invited to the Second Round Qualifier Competition (which is conducted on a local shooting range, and the shot official competition tournament target sets mailed to the Tournament Director via United States Postal Service Mail, with a post mark not later than April 1st, 2022).

Lebanon High School Team 1 was ranked 6th nationally, and Team 2 was ranked 18th nationally, out of a total of 101 teams. Team 1 was among the top ten teams, and so is invited to the Second Round Qualifier Competition.

Daniel Evers of American Legion Post 46 in Woodburn (the former Chairman of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee) ordered medals for the three top-ranked

individual Oregon competitors, and also for the four members of each of the three top-ranked Oregon teams. He then took all of the medals to an engraving shop to have them custom-engraved so as to be personalized for each recipient. Mary F. Laudon (Office Administrative Assistant for the Department of Oregon) picked up the engraved medals from the engraving shop, and shipped them to the American Legion Posts with which each team is affiliated, there to be presented to each recipient. She also created certificates for each individual, and for each team member (also personalized for each recipient), and shipped them also to the American Legion Posts with which each team is affiliated, there to be presented to each recipient.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raoul B. Salem Chairman
Youth Shooting Sports Committee
The American Legion
Department of Oregon

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eddie Owens

No Report

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Maria Tye

Oratorical Scholarship Contest Committee Report 2021-2022

Maria Tye, Oratorical Chair

Committee Members:

Debra Jacobson Districts 1, 7 & 8

Steve Bergadine Districts 2 & 3

Charles V. Wilson Districts 4 & 9

Charles Schmidt Districts 5, 6 & 10

The 2021-2022 Department of Oregon Oratorical Scholarship Contest was held on March 12, 2022, hosted by Commander Leroy Peterson at the Santiam Post 51 located at 480 S. Main Street in Lebanon, Oregon.

We had 5 contestants:

Aliza Saunders 1st Place

Mrinmayee Kulkarni 2nd Place

Tanner Stenkamp 3rd Place

Tyler Tadema 4th Place

Katlynn Strickler 5th Place

The names and number assigned to contestants and their speeches titles:

- 1- Tyler Tadema – Government of Citizens
- 2- Katlynn Strickler – Citizens of Respecting States Laws
- 3- Mrinmayee Kulkarni – The American Progression
- 4- Tanner Stenkamp – Playing thru the Centuries
- 5- Aliza Saunders – Remembering the Constitution

The three-to-five-minute topic was Amendment V111: Excessive bail shall not be required, more excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

We had over 60 attendees and it was a very enthusiastic audience. The contestants were all very well prepared and inspiring.

Our Department Commander Don Weber was present and presented the awards to all of our contestants.

Also present was our

1st Vice Commander Larry Wittmeyer

2nd Vice Comander Cory Brockmann.

Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips

Our volunteers were:

Chaplain John Staub

Judges

1. Dale Jenkins
2. Robin Nygren
3. Robin Whitney
4. Jay Thornhill
5. Scott McDowell

Tabulators

1. Linda Schmidt
2. Kevin Owens
3. Bob Huff

Escorts

1. Debra Jacobson
2. Randy Tye
3. Jim Jerome
4. Charles V. Wilson

Coordinator/Room Monitor/Monitor - Debra Jacobson

Timers

1. Cory Brockmann
2. Daniel Burks

The Department of Oregon Oratorical Scholarship contest was once again a success due to all of the participating posts and their respective District Commanders. We look forward to an even more successful next year.

For God and country,

Maria Tye, Oratorical Chair

American Legion

Department of Oregon

281-786-5402

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jon Marsh

No Report

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REPORT

STEVE ADMAS

I would like to thank all of the committees under Internal Affairs Commission for having their Book of Reports submitted in a timely manner.

American Legion Riders have been active in supporting the Legion family throughout the Department supporting Veterans in their communities and providing public awareness of what the Legion does.

Sons of the American Legion committee has been busy with the Sons Detachment and is assisting them with communications and encouraging them to work with Posts and to review their Constitution&ByLaws.

The Training and Development Committee has been involved in training events all around the state and is active to create more training events. They also encourage individuals to get online and get involved in many classes and programs provided there.

Resolution Assignment Committee has been busy reviewing various resolutions including the resolution to merge Districts 7/8 along with others.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee has been bust working with Districts and Pots to answer questions about Constitution and Bylaws.

Over the last few months, there has been several issues referred to Department from Posts. Post. Post issues need to be resolved at the Post level if it cannot be then it can be referred to District. Department cannot get involved in Post issues until it has been processed thru the Post then District then Department. We need to adhere to Constitution & Bylaws and follow the rules.

The Committee on the District 7/8 merger is progressing and is following the rules & guidelines to present it at Convention.

Steve Adams

Chairman--Internal Affairs Commission

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ward Allen

Book of Reports
Constitution and Bylaws

There will be a Resolution read to change the Department Constitution to merge District 7 & 8 at this D.E.C. The vote to merge 7 & 8 will not take place until Convention but will be read here. Besides this Resolution, nothing else has come across the desk of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. I will report any other changes at the D.E.C.

Ward A. Allen
Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

REPORT

GaleSears

No Report

RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Terry Brown

Resolution Assignment Committee

Book of Reports

Date 03-14-2022

Chairman – Terry A. Brown

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

Report – From January 9, 2022, to the present, there were two resolutions submitted for review.

- Draft resolution to merge Districts 7 & 8.
- Resolution submitted by District 10, recommending Post 99 SAL Squadron 99 be placed on probation for violating Department of Oregon Constitution and By-laws.

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

Dan Burks

Sons Of The American Legion

Report Prepared for the Spring DEC

I received an official request from the Commander of Seaside Post 99 Department of Oregon, to look into his Squadrons adhesion to Legion Policy. Upon reviewing provided documentation I found the Squadron was in fact not following policy. A resolution is being drafted as a recommendation to the Post if accepted by the DEC will be given to the Post and our involvement in the matter closed for the time being.

I have received little to no communication from any of the Sons of the American Legion leadership other than National membership reports. They did make the 75% target I however have nothing else to report from the detachment at this time. I will be making a suggestion the Detachment review their Constitution and By-laws as they seem pretty vague in several areas. I would also encourage the Internal Affairs Commission Chair to suggest to the DEC to spread to our District Commanders and down to our Posts that our Posts should be encouraged to look into their own Constitution and By-laws pertaining to their own Sons of the American Legion Squadron, to ensure they have documented policies to govern their program within their own Posts.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Burks

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Subject: Book of Reports, Training, and Development

As a Committee Chair beneath The Internal Affairs Commission, I am reporting on the year-long activity of the Training and Development Committee. By the time this report is published, we will have completed successful training events in all quadrants of the state. The last is being held in La Grande at Post #43 at a date that is still to be determined as of this report. I am very pleased with these efforts as this was my goal from the beginning. We have also had training events at each DEC, therefore getting back to our training roots. In line with the National Commander's Project to reduce Veteran's Suicides, there has been a speaker from the local VA Medical Center at each training day. These have been especially well-received and may we all be able to make an impact in the life of a Veteran contemplating suicide.

If I were to continue as Chairman, the next go-around of training would be deeper subjects such as Policies and Procedures, Constitution and Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order to name a few. Stayed tuned for upcoming training opportunities.

On an individual level, there are classes and programs that you can be working on right now. There's the online Basic Training that starts with the beginning of the American Legion. There are training videos from the National Training Tuesday series every month, and there is a self-paced booklet from the ALEI (American Legion Education Institute) on the history of this organization. All of these will prepare you for National Legion College, a week-long school at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated in these training events. The support and willingness to step up and train the next group of Department Legion leadership have been greatly appreciated and rewatching. Thank you to Commander Don for his support, Committee members, and all the speakers who came along for the ride.

Betty Fish-Ferguson Chairman

Training and Development

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
REPORT

Judy Johnson

No Report

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

REPORT

John Lee

Legislative Commission

Chairman: John Lee Members: Keven Owen, Bob Huff, Keegan Hodges

March 10, 2022

Met with the Director of Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs, Kelly Fitzpatrick, and United Veteran's Groups of Oregon Legislative committee member, Marco Oswald, on February 1st, 2022. Director Fitzpatrick notified us that both the Past ODVA past legislative director and present legislative directors were leave ODVA, As she still looking for a new one, she would be take care of the ODVA legislative duties until one was hired. We discussed the upcoming short session and what may be expected. Committees would most likely be submitting omnibus bills and the number of bills would be limited.

The short session ended March 7th, 2022. There were 6 bills that would affect veterans and Military. 3 in House and 3 in the Senate. 3 passed both Senate and House. 2 died in committee and 1 a solution was found without a need for legislation. Following is a review of each bill.

SENATE BILLS

SN1509

Provides that Oregon Route 35 shall also be known as Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Historic Highway.

There was a lot a testimony given on both the Senate and House sides. This was some of the most heartfelt and emotional testimony I have seen on any bill. It passed in both and is waiting for the Governor to sign which should happen shortly.

SN1522

This was an educational omnibus bill with multiple part to it. The only section of this bill affecting veterans and military is it will “Repeals provision exempting distance learning from requirement that eligible veterans be provided with in-state tuition”.

Passed in both Senate and House and has been signed by the President. Now wait on the Speaker and Governor to sign. Both should sign shortly.

SN1542

Exempts from state income tax military pay received by Oregon National Guard service member on state active duty.

This was somewhat of a confusing bill. The original informational testimony was to exempt National Guard allowances (Housing, Food, Clothing) for taxes. However, the bill was written to exempt state taxes on all pay while deployed under state orders. Senator Manning requested the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Oregon, the Oregon Military director, and Revenue meet to correct the problem of reporting pay rather than a law to put a band-aid on it. This bill did not come out of committee.

HOUSE BILLS

HB4066

This is another omnibus bill that had close to a dozen parts. One of the parts was the renaming of Highway 30.

The House Veterans and Emergency Management committee was able to get it passed on the House floor the Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness committee felt that this bill was too complicated to complete in the short session. There was also a lot of funding also attached to this bill. This bill will not come out of committee. In Oregon this means the bill will die and it will need to be resubmitted in the long session.

HB4082

Directs County governing body of each county to designate person to ensure interment of unclaimed cremated or reduced remains of veteran or spouse, dependent or survivor of veteran.

This was a hot bill and had a lot of visibility. Although this bill passed the House it did not come out of committee in the Senate. Unfortunately, this bill did not have

all the information and funding necessary to pass. This bill brought about a lot of controversies to the point that Senator Manning was being threatened. To further understand this bill, listen to the Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness committee meeting on February 22nd and 24th. They are available on OLIS (the Oregon Legislative information System)

HB 4095

Establishes Veterans Dental Program in Oregon Health Authority to provide oral health care to low-income veterans who reside in Oregon beginning in 2023.

Passed in both the House and Senate. Now waiting on signatures.

It is important to remember that bills are never as clear as they may seem on the surface. What may seem to be a straightforward and should pass without question may acutely have underlying conditions that make the bill impossible or bad for veterans.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE
REPORT

S. Flynn Phillips

The Committee has not met this quarter. The Oregon Legionnaire continues to get better with each issue. With accolades from our leading candidate for National Commanders Jim Troiola from New York and Jim Higeura from California. Candidates that are running for the High Offices should get the Candidacy letters and the Ads for the Convention Book and the Legionnaire in now.

The Foundation is working Diligently on the PIR GranPrix Jimmie Johnson Car#48 for this Summer. We will be in the Carvana Area and not have to pay for the tent cost.

You should be getting the BOY STATE press releases out to your news outlets now. Some have already done it.

Is your post membership getting the link to the Legionnaire passed on them? If not here it is <https://orlegion.org/media/oregon-legionnaire/>.

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. Each Post gets a physical copy mailed to the post. If you like what you see call dept and give us your accolades. Toot your own horn send me a picture and article of your event and get it in the Legionnaire. We also use these for your recruitment booths and our stand-downs.!\FP\

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

REPORT

Jim VanAllen Sr.

No Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

PNC Charles Schmidt

BOOK OF REPORTS

Department Public Relations (PR) Committee

April 2-3, 2022

Chairperson: Charles Schmidt

Committee Members: Maria Tye

Upcoming events to consider in your PR program: April is Children & Youth Month; April 13 - 95% Membership Target; April 22-24 - National Oratorical Contest; May 1 - Child Welfare Foundation applications available; **May 9 - 100% Membership Target**; May 15-21 - National Law Enforcement Week; May 24 - National Poppy Day; May 30 - Memorial Day; June 14 - Flag Day and Army Birthday; June 22-25 – Department Convention.

The PR Committee has been working with National Marketing and Oregon American Legion Foundation for possibilities of our Department having an entry into the Portland Rose Parade. It was hopeful of having The American Legion's IndyCar #48 and/or members of the Ganassi Racing Team in the parade to raise Veteran Suicide Prevention Awareness. After exploring the opportunity, participation in the Rose Parade is not economically feasible for our Department this year. The PR Committee was contacted by National Marketing in anticipation of Car #48 and Ganassi Racing Team participation in the Portland Grand Prix Race on September 4th, 2022. The PR Committee will be developing a visit for the National Commander's June 19-23, 2022, visit to Oregon.



The American Legion celebrated another anniversary March 15-17, 2022. One hundred three (103) incredible years of serving veterans, their families, and serving America. As we continue to carry the legacy forward of a storied history, we should be knowledgeable and ready to share our organization's history, programs, and successes with other veterans. The American Legion offers a pamphlet at www.legion.org/media/publications with short briefs on Veterans, National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Services, and Honor and Remembrance. You can add information from the pamphlet into your 3-minute elevator speech to potential Legion Family members.

As our Department Convention nears, Post will have an opportunity to nominate their Public Relations Program (PR) for Department recognition. By completing the nomination form, Posts can provide detailed information/articles/photos describing the PR program and activities. Nomination forms are due to Department no later than May 15, 2022. The nomination form will be available in the Convention Awards Forms package and is also available on the Department webpage at www.orlegion.org/resources/forms. Awards will be given to the following categories:

Category 1: Posts with membership 15-150.

Category 2: Posts with membership 151-300.

Category 3: Posts with membership 301 and more.

The PR Committee meets via electronic means as needed. Vacancies still exist on the Department Public Relations (PR) Committee. As a member of the Media & Communications (M&C) Commission, the PR Committee has not attended any commission meetings due to the fact the commission has no chairperson, thus no commission meetings are held.

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

REPORT

Dan Burks

Membership

Report prepared for Spring DEC

Membership continues to struggle. We are not on pace to match last year, and it is quite difficult to pinpoint needs of each District as communication is delivered, but only in one direction. I have tried to invite myself to the Districts but have not been received. I have several attempts to open a dialogue in which we can create a solution to current dilemmas surrounding membership. To date, I have received zero District membership plans.

Membership was able to hit the 80% target date with the extension from National however, we failed to meet the 85% target even with the extension. This could only mean the Department membership transmittals have slowed, we are far too early in the membership year to slow at this pace. I have distributed an email to all PDC's asking for their assistance in ensuring we have as much participation from the District Commanders down to the Posts in actively recruiting and transmitting membership.

Changing tactics, the M&PA has begun holding virtual monthly meetings with District Commanders and Membership Chairs, with questions distributed well in advance in efforts to streamline the meeting and receive the same information as well as distribute the same suggestions in a uniform manner. Staying in constant contact with the Department 1st Vice Commander and ensuring he is kept up to speed on all accords, he has proven an asset on all fronts assisting in every occasion.

Membership may have a Commission but the membership team is every member top to bottom. We need to remind everyone of this and ask for everyone's assistance in rebuilding our Department.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

REPORT

Greg Marvin

National Security/Foreign Relations and Homeland

Security Commission

Greg Marvin Commission Chair

Spring 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

March 21, 2022

National Security Commission

The National Security Commission met via e-mail in mid-January for the purpose of selecting the Department Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year to receive their awards at the Department Convention in June. This year we had more nominees than we have had for several years probably due to the easing of COVID restrictions and more Posts coming out of the dark times. Three Posts nominated Law Enforcement Officers, Detective Michael Day, Oregon City Police Department, Oregon City, Oregon sponsored by Pioneer Post #149, Officer Ernesto Villarado, Hillsboro Police Department

sponsored by Hillsboro Post #6 and Officer Shane Suyama , Tigard Police Department sponsored by Tigard Post #158. Three Posts also nominated Firefighters, Captain Brent Wellington, Hillsboro Fire & Rescue sponsored by Hillsboro Post # 6, Firefighter Trampas Bergstrom, Yamhill Fire Protection District sponsored by Carlton Memorial Post #173 and Lieutenant Jason Morgan Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue sponsored by Tigard Post #158. The judging was very close as we some extremely well-qualified candidates. The winners were Michael Day, Law Enforcement Officer, and Fire Captain Brent Wellington. Congratulations to these outstanding Officers and the Commission's support for them in the Western Regions contest to be judged at the Washington Conference. We hope the other Officers will be considered by their Posts to be considered for next years contest as they are well deserved to be considered again and a thank you to the National Security Commission members for their time taken to judge these candidates for these well-deserved honors.

The National Security Commission Washington Conference meeting Saturday, March 5 was held as a virtual meeting again due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Invitees from the Department of Oregon were Robert G (Greg) Marvin National Security Council Member, Jim Jerome Law, and Order & Homeland Security Committee member and PDC Tom Harris Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee. The Committee meeting consisted of meeting opening by Commission Chair Steven Brennan, comments by Alfredo Lozano, Acting Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Operations U.S Border Patrol United States Department of Homeland Security. Comments by Daniel Bible, Acting Deputy Executive Associate Director U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Department of Homeland Security and Remarks by Jessica Vaughan,

Director of Policy Studies, Center for Immigration Studies. The comments by Deputies Lozano pretty much followed the Government line pertaining to immigration and border crossings, especially the U.S./Mexican Borders. MS. Vaughan had some interesting comments from the standpoint of the Think Tank that she directs. More will be heard from that group to direct the way government will conduct immigration policies in the upcoming futures. Following the speakers was a National Security discussion on illegal immigration and a discussion on American Legion Resolutions concerning illegal immigration. All in all, it was an interesting be it a long day that began at 7:00 AM and ended about 1:00P Pacific time but well worth it. Perhaps next year the Washington Conference meetings will return to an in-person format.

Greg Marvin, National Security Commission Chair

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

REPORT

STEVE ADAMS

The committee is in contact with Universities to provide information on when their awards ceremonies will be. We have received information from University of Portland they will have a dinner and awards ceremony on April 12th and Department Commander Don Weber retired National Guard Officer will be presenting the Awards to the Air Force Cadets at that dinner. We have received information from Oregon State University there will be awards ceremony for the Army ROTC on May 25th and John Lee Department Legislative Chairman and retired army will be presenting the awards at that ceremony. As we get more information we will make it available.

Steve Adams

Chairman

Foreign Relations/ROTC Committee

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Eva Summers

No Report

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT

James Jerome

No Report

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Don Adams

No Report

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION REPORT

**Report of
PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION
TO THE SPRING DEC
KEVIN OWENS, PDC
National Executive Committeeman
BAY AREA POST 34**

The Permanent Finance Commission Budget Meeting was held Sunday, February 20th at Department Headquarters. All Commissions were assigned a section of the budget to review and make recommendations at this meeting. It was noticeable that a few Commissions, Committee chairmen, and District Commanders failed to submit budgets for the fiscal year 2022-2023. All budget requests were reviewed by the Commission and entered into the budget. The findings of the budget will be presented at the DEC for discussion. On March 15, 2022, at 6:00 pm the Commission held a Go-to-Meeting to discuss the budget that was reviewed by the A&A Commission at their meeting held on March 13, 2022, at 10:00 am at the Department Headquarters. They will make some recommendations to the DEC that will change what will be presented to the DEC regarding the budget that will be presented to the convention in June.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION REPORT

BOOK OF REPORTS FOR SPRING DEC 2022

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R) COMMISSION

PDC Bob Huff

As of this writing of the Book of Reports for the Spring DEC, the plan is for our Veterans Service Office at the Portland Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) to reopen at the end of March. This will support the VBA's Traveling Boards and fill a void when our Veterans with appeals need computers and support that we can support that need. We are currently assessing the impacts and how we can support our go forward plan to best support our Veteran community. The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon. On Thursday, March 3d I attended a virtual meeting with the VA Directors from Portland VA, Roseburg VA, and the VA SORCC in White City. The meeting was to learn about the Oregon VA's recommendation to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission. This is a Mission Act-required initiative to study the current and future health care needs of Veterans across the country. Oregon VA is the Southern Cascade which includes the Portland VA, Roseburg VA and Eugene, and VA SORCC in White City and all Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Oregon. The recommendations which will be submitted on the 14th, some have started already to better support rural areas, will be moving some CBOC's from Portland to Roseburg/Eugene and some from Roseburg to VA SORCC in White City. Some of the recommendations will be recommended for implementation over the next ten years to support rural areas and an aging Veteran population. A lot of good questions were asked with transportation for Veterans to where services will be available for Veterans and those services that are being addressed at this time

with an immediate need. As recommendations are approved and planned, we will forward the information to our members. Both our Department Service Office and VAVS Program have been impacted with positive COVID cases and have continued to support with reduced in-person support and continued to support with virtual support. The VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shoots, by Federal direction. Face mask requirements continue at all Federal facilities. If going to a VA or Federal Building, you are required to wear a face mask. We are currently participating in meetings with recommendations to start the VA&R Meetings at our Department Convention to include speakers from our National Organization. Our National VA&R Chair has accepted our invitation to speak at our Department Convention this year. We are looking at inviting representatives from our Local VA's, Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and National Cemetery Administration and recognize our VSO and Volunteers that do so much in our Department of Oregon Legion Family. We will be supporting and speaking at the March 29th Vietnam Era Veterans Day Ceremony for our Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans and pin ceremony. 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. 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. With the changes in VA, COVID, still changing, additional information will be presented at our Spring DEC during my report.

PDC Bob Huff, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission Chair

BOOK OF REPORTS FOR SPRING DEC 2022
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS
COMMISSION CHAIR
PDC BOB HUFF

The Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness Commission supported the VA SORCC and held our second in-person Employment Event on Saturday, February 5, 2022, which was a success. The demand for critical clinical needs to support the Veteran population is crucial and the demand continues to grow. We are still held to COVID protocols which has impacted our holding events. In our last two events, we held part inside and part outside. As a critical need exists at all our VA's, more events are in the works. As events are planned and flyers are put together for the events, we will place them in this Legionnaire and circulate them through our department email chain. Each event is held complying with all Mask, Social Distancing and common-sense and Oregon and VA rules for number of participants, all rules are followed for everyone's safety. All employment opportunities for these scheduled events are for critical jobs at VA facilities. All our partners participated. With a shortage of candidates, we are having to work out of the box finding new ways to support. Our goal is Veterans and Spouse employment and supporting where needs of the VA to support our Veterans needs are met. With many changes taking place and new information learned during the Washington Conference on Saturday, March 5th, additional opportunities for our Department were identified and will be discussed during our Spring DEC as changes are still taking place. We still have a "great" need for face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs which has become more critical and is needed. We are gathering equipment, clothing, and have met with the VA Directors for a venue. We are getting closer with in-person events starting.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF)

REPORT

Report of THE AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF) KEVIN OWENS, PRESIDENT

The Oregon American Legion Foundation has been meeting each month to further promote the Department of Oregon and the programs. Over the past few months, we have discussed the Rose Festival, Starlight Parade, and Fleet Week. Due to the high cost of the Rose Parade fees (\$40K to 75K), not much bang for the buck elsewhere, and terrible parking, the committee will write the Rose Festival Committee a letter stating we will pass at this time but keep the door open. At the February meeting, the Foundation voted to give each Oratorical participant that did not finish in the top five a \$1000 scholarship up to the tenth place. The Board felt it would help encourage Posts of the value and importance of the Oratorical which helps provide scholarship money to students who want to further their education following High School. We discussed doing billboard advertising in the Portland area to increase the visibility of the American Legion. More research will be needed because of the costs and the possibility of working with the vendors to provide some reduced or no cost to provided space at those locations. Cory and Flynn will reach out and get more details for our next meeting. Again, at the Department Convention, a Cornhole Tournament and Silent Auction will be taking place. The auction will be small in hopes encourage more bidders. The turnout last was wonderful, and we hope that more will play this year. The Foundation raffle for the 100-year American Legion print is ongoing and we encourage our Department Leadership, District Commanders, and Commission Chairmen to help us promote the sale of tickets. All the money

raised supports the programs of our Department. In the last Legionnaire, it was mentioned that the Foundation will be giving a ticket to those that are registered delegates to the Department Convention an opportunity to win a Paid-up-for-Life Membership. The reasoning is to encourage more attendees to the convention and hopefully more to attend for the first time. I encourage District Commanders to get the word out. This is a great way to not have to pay dues again. The Foundation will be purchasing an ad in the Department Convention Book to get the name out about The Oregon American Legion Foundation. We are working on a possible free booth at the St. Paul Rodeo to push Prevention of Veterans Suicide along with the Air Shows in Hillsboro and McMinnville. Bracelets are still available, contact 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann if you would like some for one of your events. It is a good ice breaker to stir a conversation up about the American Legion and what we stand for. We continue to come up with different bracelets such as POW/MIA Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day just to name a few. If any one of you has any ideas please give me a call, we are always looking for ways to bring attention to our organization. Over the next few months, we are exploring getting an American Legion Day at some of our local baseball teams like the Volcanoes, Hops, and the Emeralds, along with professional teams such as the Blazers and Timbers. There will more to come if we can make it happen. As you can see, we have been very busy since our last Department Executive Committee Meeting and we will continue to meet monthly as our PNC Charles Schmidt said as National Commander, and I quote “Make something good happen for the American Legion”.