



BOOK OF REPORTS

DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING

Springfield, Oregon

October 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>

# Department Commander

## Larry Wittmayer

### AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

### COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORT

Much activity and events have passed with great success. Success comes from working together as a team. The Department kicked off a Department Fund challenge to defray the large deficit we find ourselves. This three-year challenge ends each year on the 1st of February. We began by asking each district committee and post-committee to meet the challenge. So far, we have raised \$14,219.00.

The next phase will be an individual member. We will ask each member to donate \$100 or whatever they can afford. Our declining membership has partially precipitated this need. Speaking of membership, we did so well last year, and now our start has been slow; let's pick up the pace.

Some of the events this Department has been so successful in these past few months are numerous. We participated in showing the flag and set a national recruiting record for the PIR race events.

We were invited and attended the Department of Washington Convention. Our Department held a very successful Oregon Legion College. And I was looking forward to making this event something one strives to attend. Our family leadership team meetings are held monthly and help in department coordination and planning.

One of the Department's local district events was the Newburgh Festival Parade. The 9/11 Memorial event in Albany and others are in the planning stages. Virtual DEC's were held to make some time-sensitive decisions. National Convention in Milwaukee was very eventful. Our department was awarded the William F Lenker Award, a National Service Trophy. Finally, some of us at the National Convention came home with COVID. I am grateful for the teamwork and the support this Department has shown me in the past few months. Respectfully, \LW\.

## DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

### REPORT

**Don Weber**

It is great to be back at an almost normal year after COVID. We will need to continue the fantastic work to recover. Our program connections changed during the pandemic, leaving us to establish new connections. I encourage everyone to continue developing their community connections early in the year for next year's programs.

My theme for the year was "Reconnecting Veterans." As I traveled around the State, I observed Posts doing just that. Posts continue to welcome home Vietnam Veterans, honor Veterans on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and a multitude of other community events. Our commitment to reducing Veteran Suicide is gaining momentum, and I believe will have an enormous impact in the future.

Our Youth programs are all on track to have a remarkably successful year. Oratorical had an excellent group of contestants and our representation at National was exceptionally good. If you attended the spring DEC, you know exactly what I mean. This year we merged Boys and Girls State and I have feedback that it went very well. I am anxious to share with National how successful the program was. The Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp and Legion are well organized and on track for a wonderful year.

Thank you to everyone for a great push on membership. As of this point, Oregon is in 13<sup>th</sup> place in the nation. I continue that to the great focus on connecting with the community and sharing that in the media. When the community sees what we are doing, they want to be a member of this great organization. Keep up the excellent work, and I look forward to assisting the continued push forward.

# DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER

## REPORT

**Cory Brockmann**

Book of Reports: 07/01/2022 to 10/31/2022  
Submitted by: Cory Brockmann, 10/08/2022

### **Summary** –Report of Department 1st Vice Commander

#### **Report:**

Work continues on increasing awareness of The American Legion to veterans and non-veterans alike. From increasing visibility of our emblem and brand-mark to what we stand for in core values and our four pillars, to the programs we offer to veterans and our communities. These efforts seek to expand visibility to non-members as well as work in conjunction with the efforts by the M&PA Commission in recruitment and retention efforts for the department at the post-level.

#### **KEY ACTIVITIES** and engagements include:

- *St. Paul Rodeo (PRCA)* – In addition to supporting an outreach table, coordinating with St. Paul Rodeo management staff produced designation of The American Legion as its charity organization resulting in raising donations totaling \$3,136.80 for TOALF and veteran suicide prevention efforts.
- *Grand Prix of Portland (NTT-IndyCar)* – The partnership between The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing Team completed its second year of the, initial, two-year agreement. Official word is anticipated on the continuation of this relationship.
- *Portland Trail Blazers (NBA)* – Efforts were successful in supporting Military Appreciation Night, including assisting with identifying and recommending a ‘Hometown Hero’, color guard, and National Anthem performer. An outreach booth supporting #BeTheOne campaign, outreach and membership was held on the Moda Center plaza. Additionally, work continues for another game next Spring, hopefully, around ‘Founder’s Day/Legion’s birthday’.
- *Portland Winterhawks (WHL)* – Contacts have been initiated to support an outreach opportunity in November.
- *National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG)* – The 2023 NVWG will be held in Portland across multiple venues in the metro area. Contacts have been initiated with NVWG and TAL-NHQ leadership on opportunities for helping support the event, including potential for sponsorship and having an outreach table. Volunteers will also be needed and a great opportunity exists to increase our visibility to the public.
- *Legislative Action* – Congressional contacts through the Legislative Action Center were made in support of passage of Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022, which supports mental health improvements. Also, the Richard Star Act, which provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

#### **OTHER KEY ENGAGEMENTS** include:

Work to identify additional funding sources to support our organization and mission, including

QR (quick response) technology for fundraising and membership efforts.

In August I represented our Department in attending the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisc., where I served on the Media and Communications Commission /Council, as well as, on the Internal Affairs - Membership and Other Internal Matters convention subcommittee. And, I attended the 2022 Fall Meetings/NEC in Indianapolis, Ind., participating in Media and Communications Commission /Council, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE), and the Western States meeting.

I continue to provide leadership serving on the Permanent Finance Commission and The Oregon American Legion Foundation; and, submit timely articles to the Oregon Legionnaire.

**Challenges –**

- Strengthening commission/committee-driven leadership;
- Curbing membership loss due to non-renewal; and,
- Enhancing and ensuring full distribution of Oregon Legionnaire.

## **SECOND VICE COMMANDER**

### **REPORT**

#### **Dan Burks**

The last couple of months have been quite filled with activity. Started by attending the National Membership workshop in Indianapolis. During this trip I was able to visit our National Headquarters and see an array of collections the American Legion has on display, including the original draft of the Montgomery GI Bill. Indianapolis has no shortage of monuments paying homage to our military and I was able to visit many of them within walking distance. Shortly after my return home I drove into Lebanon Oregon to attend and speak at the Oregon American Legion College. Great turn out along with great training made for a fantastic weekend and I can't wait to attend again next year. As I am sure you can imagine several leadership meetings along with meetings with National pertaining to the Grand Prix of Portland ensued in preparation for their arrival. This event was a lot of fun and everyone present was able to meet and be photographed with legend Jimmie Johnson. The team did a fantastic job breaking the National record for recruiting the newest members and we were able to retain that honor as the seasoned closed. A dinner by Post 180 where the members hosted us, and National guests provided us with great food and a great environment for our Pre-Race meal. I have spent many of my visits not attending Districts but rather Posts attending several meetings and some events including 9-11 events as well as an open house. I did make it out to the Pendleton Round-up and was able to see a great deal of veterans and patriots who were more than happy to

talk to us. Our Americanism Programs are up and running, the Americanism Chair has a firm grasp on the current status of each and we speak often as I offer assistance where need be. My understanding is we have some confusion pertaining to the Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp number one being called just the LECC, and not yet holding committee meetings. We have taken steps that will hopefully correct this and put the program back on track and making sure that we give Jim Willis the honor he earned by calling this by its DEC approved name. Oratorical is on fire as the Chair is learning quickly and not only has, she been catching up, but is on top of what she needs to be doing thanks to her abilities and willingness to communicate with the Americanism Chair and her committee members. We have a lot coming up, and we need members at the Post level to contribute their time and efforts in order to assist in building our Department, we can't do it without the Posts.

## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

### REPORT

#### **S. Flynn Phillips**

More and more Post Adjutants and Commanders are getting signed up and running with the new MyLegion. National HQ has been steadily refining the bugs out of the system. I'm seeing some of the old guards getting MyLegion up and running, and they are finding out that it's not as hard as they thought. We still have some holdouts that are counter-productive to the post.

Posts need to grow their own new and younger computer savvy Adjutants. They want to help, and what better way to get them going? The Adjutant's role is Pivotal to the post. I stand ready to help anyone get signed up and running with the new MyLegion, It is the future, and the future is NOW.

Last night we had a virtual DEC, and we discussed the budget cut of losing an employee, the Administrative Assistant. The pleasant voice you hear when she answers your call. Her last day will be September 30<sup>th</sup>. The office will be closed to walk-ins, and no phone calls on Thursday and Friday to allow me to try and pick up the slack. There will be a sign on the door, and you will hear a new voice message concerning the new hours of operation. Yes, this affects the auxiliary side as well. Cindy and I plan to work from home on Friday. So, you need to rely on your District

Officers and Commission and Committee chairpersons for help. This will be the new norm until the total membership count gets high enough to bring that help back.

If you remember, our Membership Chair Dan Burks spelled it out pretty well back at the DEC in Burns, Oregon. We need about 6000 members department-wide to be where we need to be budget-wise, or a constant inflow of donations to cover operations. The projected membership number is what we use to base the budget on, and it has declined steadily over the years. But there is still a considerable population of Veterans to tap into right here in Oregon. So, you see, increasing membership is so much simpler. It allows more veterans to get involved in the greatest Veteran's organization.

Think back to WHY you joined the Legion and tell others why you joined the Legion. That positive attitude will rub off on the very people we need in our organization. Membership will grow, and you can feel comfortable that our legacy will continue when you die. So, my fellow Legionnaires, the rest is up to you. I hear a lot that no one reads the Book of Reports. So, if you just did, drop me a line.  
\Flynn\

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

### REPORT

**Kevin Owens**

**KEVIN OWENS, PDC**

**National Executive Committeeman**

**BAY AREA POST 34**

- I just returned from a long week at the Fall Meetings, with many things to report on. Our first report was from the Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson from (SD). The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing entered additional three-year partnership and was pass by Resolution 1 by the National Executive Committee. I bring attention to the fact sheet that was passed on your desk to help our membership understand the value in this partnership.
- The next item that should bring attention to our membership is the finance report. Finance Chairman Gaither Keener (NC) said the deficit for the 2022

budget year called for a \$4,050,000 but is expected to be \$8,000,000. The factors are traditional membership performed below budget resulting in \$770,000 less revenue, second interest income from dividends and realized losses resulted in \$1,364,000 less revenue, corporate sponsorships resulted in a \$2,882 less revenue, enhanced fundraising did not perform and last there are smaller other variances. These are the most impactful things to the budget. The 2023 budget proposes a deficit of \$1,187,804 based on 1,600,000 memberships. The last item that should get your attention with our financial situation and the economy is in bad shape, which leads us to a possible dues increase to take effect 2024 or 2025. This is not certain but seems likely at this point.

- An area that our department needs to focus on is our Legislative Action Alerts. It was reported with over 550 members on the Council just over 100 contacted the Congressional Representatives. It was noticeable with the recent alert for the Pact Act. Just over 34,000 contacts were made from a membership over 1.6 million members. It isn't that we are not doing our job either as an organization or as a department. We can do better getting the word out to everyone in our department, to our Sons and Auxiliary. We should be including our friends and family members who are not part of either of our organizations. The question is: are we still relative today as we were 5, 10, or even a year ago? I am asking all of you as leaders of this Department to make this a priority for all of us. Our Department Chairman can get reports to see where we stand on each alert. This should tell all of us what we need to work on to increase our numbers. PNC Schmidt has identified Legionaries to be assigned to Senators and Representatives and will be submitted those names. We hope to increase our presence in Washington DC.
- The American Legion has a strong push for the "BE THE ONE" campaign to end Veteran Suicide. What can we do at the Post, District, and the Department level to make this an everyday event? An average of 17 Veterans takes their life each day, WHY? Could the American Legion membership and the things we offer be the thing that prevents that suicide. I am asking that we all BE THE ONE and reach out to our current members with Buddy Checks and to Veterans you see and invite them to our organization. We as the American Legion are the ones who provide the greatest opportunities to give the needed tools that may prevent someone from taking their life.



- I encourage all of you to review the 25 resolutions The American Legion National Executive Committee passed which are available on the Digital Archive. Each of you will receive a Positions and Programs pamphlet. Please take the time to read, carry with you when you attend events you are invited to. It is a great reference to the subjects you may be asked to speak about or asked questions about when attending a speaking event. That old saying “YOU DON’T KNOW, WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW”.
  - Lastly, I would ask all the District Commanders encourage your Posts to get copies of the We can all “Be the One”, Veterans & Children Foundation and the 1919 Society brochures. Knowledge is power and the more we share the hope we can provide, is the spark needed to increase the membership of our department.
- 

- I want to thank you all for electing me as the National Executive Committeeman and I am honored to represent all of you at the National level.  
\KO\

## DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

### REPORT

#### **Bob Huff**

For the past eight years in all our Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meetings, all my Legionnaire Articles and Book of Reports, in all training sessions I have emphasized, “File your Posts Taxes” and there are “no exceptions, you must file taxes each year”. I continually emphasize to our District Commanders, on your visitations to your Posts and when you are doing your Post assessment, to ask and check that the Post have filed their 990 tax forms, either 990, 990EZ or 990n (ePostcard).

We also continually ask if anyone needs help, please call or email, that we are here to help. Each Post is a separate corporation with an individual EIN number and is under the National Umbrella and are under the National American Legion Group Exemption Number 0925, that is our 501c19. Remember, every Post is a separate corporation, it is a business, you operate under the Corporate Laws of Oregon, you

pay a filing fee each year to the Secretary of State, Corporation Division. When a Post has not filed their Taxes in a three-year period, they will receive a letter from the IRS that their EIN is revoked; warning letters are sent out prior to the revocation letter.

There is a process to have your EIN reinstated, you must act immediately upon receiving the warning or revocation letter from the IRS. When your EIN Number is revoked, you are not covered under the National American Legion Group Exemption Number 0925 and have no 501c19 Tax Exempt status. Yes, there is a reason that I am writing this message again; as I answer my phone for Posts that have received a letter from the IRS that their EIN has been revoked or they have not filed their taxes and are being warned, I wonder how the District Commanders' visitations and assessments have not found this issue and assisted the Post or asked for help.

At the next DEC and following DEC's when the District Commander is presenting their District Report and reports that their report is in the Book of Reports and the topic of filing taxes for their Posts is not mentioned in the Book of Reports I will be asking each of those District Commanders the Tax Filing Status of each of their Posts and do they need help as this is a serious issue.

This is a new Department Budget Year, it started on October 1, 2022. All District Commanders and Department Officers have attended meetings on our reduced Department income with declining membership and our other sources of income have been reduced and our expenses, as all of ours have increased.

We have held discussions and have a plan which is achievable, we will continue to visit our plan our membership has not increased, we missed our first goal which was achievable, this is not positive. Information has been presented by your District Commanders at your District Meetings and from Department Officers and through this publication and our Department electronic communications.

Each Post has received a flyer with the Commanders Challenge for your Post and Members asking for your assistance in the form of donations. The real solution is increased membership, the life blood of our organization.

Remember the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3 and is there, contributions are tax deductible, funds are used for our programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site.

Department Program Chairs, there are grants available for most of our programs, all you must do is apply for them, we have our Foundation which is a 501c3 which the grants can be made out to earmarked for your Program.

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

### REPORT

**Steve Shollenburg**

## DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

### REPORT

**Dick Winders**

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

### REPORT

**Ed VanDyke**

2022 Fall DEC

Meeting

Springfield, Oregon

The PACT Act is reported to be the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our **P**romise to Address **C**omprehensive **T**oxics (PACT) Act.

It expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras; Adds

more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures; Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation: Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care; and helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

#### Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veteran eligibility

More than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions have been added based on the PACT Act. *This change expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veterans.*

These cancers are now presumptive:

Brain cancer, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, and Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

These illnesses are now presumptive:

Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis

If you served in any of these locations and time periods, we've determined that you had exposure to burn pits or other toxins. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:

Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen, or the airspace above any of these locations.

On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:

Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), or the airspace above any of these locations.

#### Vietnam era Veteran eligibility

Based on the PACT Act, 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions have been added:

High blood pressure (also called hypertension), Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

plus, there are five (5) new locations added to the list of presumptive locations:

- JAN 9, 1962 - JUN 30, 1976 | Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand
- DEC 1, 1965 - SEPT 30, 1969 | Laos

- APR 16, 1969 - APR 30, 1969 | Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province
- JAN 9, 1962 - JUL 30, 1980 | Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa
- JAN 1, 1972 - SEPT 30, 1977 | Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll

If you served on active duty in any of these locations, VA will automatically assume (or “presume”) that you had exposure to Agent Orange.

- Three (3) new response efforts have been added to the list of **radiation** presumptive locations:
    - JAN 1, 1977 - DEC 31, 1980 | Cleanup of **Eniwetok Atoll**
    - JAN 17, 1966 - MAR 31, 1967 | Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of **Palomares, Spain**
    - JAN 21, 1968 - SEPT 25, 1968 | Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near **Thule Air Force Base in Greenland**
- If you took part in any of these efforts, VA will automatically assume (or “presume”) that you had exposure to radiation.

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

**Veteran A:** (Crawford) Board of Veteran’s Appeals hearing in May 2022, decision rendered July 27, 2022. Obstructive sleep apnea was granted at 50 percent effective September 15, 2015, the date the claim was received. A claim for this same condition was submitted in 2012 and although the veteran disputed the denial and the VA issued a Statement of the Case (SOC), the veteran did not respond, and that claim/decision became final. The veteran reopened his claim in 2015 and *because* it had been in continuously perused his combined rating increased from 60 to 80 percent and resulted in an award of \$47,365. The evidence provided at the hearing was sufficient to grant the maximum benefit allowed for OSA without additional exams.

**Veteran B:** (Stott) The veteran appeared before the Board of Veteran’s Appeals in October 2021 on three issues: (1a) entitlement to an initial 30 percent rating for migraines prior to October 2019 when granted 0 percent and (1b) entitlement to a rating more than 30 percent; (2) entitlement to a total disability rating based on individual unemployability; (3) and request to reopen a previously denied claim of service connection for hypertension. The decision in April 2022 granted (1a), 30 percent rating prior to October 2019 and (3) the request to reopen the claim for hypertension. Furthermore, the decision remanded (sent the claim back for additional development and possible exams) issues (1b) a migraine rating more than

30 percent, (2) individual unemployability prior to November 1, 2021 (granted under a different claim), and (3) service connection for hypertension.

The 2022 BVA decision will require three separate rating decisions by VA. To date, two have been completed. **1.** The grant of (1a) 30 percent prior to October 2019 resulted in an increased combined rating from 50 to 80 percent effective 10/19/2018 and receipt of \$2,932.55 in back pay by the end of April.

**2.** Individual unemployability was granted in September, effective May 3, 2019 (the last day the veteran worked), resulting in an additional \$44,509 in back pay.

**3.** The development and C&P exams for hypertension have been completed and this portion of the claim was on hold pending implementation of PACT Act Legislation, until mid-September. It will be interesting to see if claims under the Pact Act will incur a delay of processing like was seen with Blue Water Navy claims.

**Veteran C:** (McDaniel) Virtual hearing in November 2021 , decision in March 2022, granted reopening hypertension, remanded rating greater than 30 percent for PTSD. In April 2022, after further development and additional exams, the rating for PTSD was confirmed and continued, a SOC was issued, and the appeal was returned to the Board of Veteran's Appeal for a decision. In the same decision, hypertension was granted with a 0 percent evaluation. In August, the Board returned a decision of entitlement to a rating of 50 percent for the PTSD which provided \$21,203 in back pay.

During the above period, a review of his previously denied claim for bladder cancer was reviewed and granted at 100 percent from November 2019 and then 20 percent assigned from October 2020 resulting in an award of \$29,688. This veteran came to the American Legion in February 2020, at which time we filed the claim for bladder cancer. They were homeless, living in shelter and about to begin cancer treatment. The appeal was already in process (2019). The result (\$50,891) has provided this veteran the opportunity to have their own apartment/home and has purchased a used vehicle for transportation.

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 Office  
(503) 412-8408

Jody Marsh  
Veteran Service Officer  
(541) 777-1867

## DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

### REPORT

**Susan Hughes**

Well, it's been exciting 5 months since I was elected as District Commander

Most the posts did have representation at the Caucus and at The Department Convention in June.

Most post had a slow start to membership but have gained momentum.

With the passing of the District Finance officer in June we have been attempting to get all reports that he had. And change the financial officer, with 5 persons on the signature card getting them to get off so we can add the new officers has been a challenge.

A Couple of posts have started doing David's Chair. Which is a rental of all terrain motorized wheelchair very good program if anyone is interested.

Also, a couple of posts in District 1 have started Vittles for Veterans where they go pick the food from Grocery Stores and offer the items to members and then disburse to the local food banks to assist the community, also a great program done by local posts if anyone is interested.

Most of the posts have donated to assist the Department to get them some financial assistance. We don't want them to leave

Hope everyone has a great fall and holiday season.

Respectfully Submitted

## DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

### REPORT

**Betty Fish-Ferguson**

At the time of this writing, District 2 has not yet held its first meeting of the instructional year.

This will be held on Sunday, 18 September 2022, at Post #75 in Sheridan, Oregon.

This is an exciting time for the District as we have an energetic, enthusiastic, and dedicated executive leadership team this year. I am trying to keep the Post Leadership of District 2 informed, and we have added a training component to every meeting this year. Following this

upcoming meeting, we will hold a Mylegion training session for those who are still struggling with membership electronically.

I have visited 2 Post meetings and have had on-site conversations with 3 Post Commanders, so I am well underway trying to get out and see what the District is involved in.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming District 2 meeting in Sheridan.

Respectfully submitted,

**DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER**

**REPORT**

**Dale Jenkins**

**DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER**

**REPORT**

**Dave Applegate**

**DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER**

**REPORT**

**John Reish**

**DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER**

**REPORT**

**Randy Tye**



District 6 officers:

Randy J. Tye, Commander

Toni Cordell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr.

Andy Millar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Comdr.

Aaron Wetterling, Chaplain

Brian Spinder, Sgt. At Arms

Maria D. Tye, Adjutant

District 6 will be holding an Oratorical Program in January and the monetary amount is \$500.00.

1. Activity Reports from Posts:

- a. Pendleton Post #23 -Revitalization assistance to no avail. The Commander Rodney Thompson resigned, closed the P.O. Box, creating chaos and if members sent their dues they will be returned to sender. District will pursue a new mailbox and try to get hold of current members. When we held the Revitalization, 2 members showed up.
- b. Milton Free Water Post 24 – It is an active post with their own building.
- c. Hermiston Post 37 – This post is very active. They hold annual events such as Veterans Day Parades, Veterans Yard Sale, Veterans Picnic, Honor Guard at their local cemetery and the Pendleton Round up. They made flyers for Oratorical Program as well as put the information in the local newspaper.
- d. John Nolde Holcomb - Baker City #41 -It is an active post. The post is getting ready to hold a Veteran's Day celebration. No response on whether they will again host the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Caucus. If they don't, we will hold it at the Baker City Library. I have already made contact just in case.
- e. La Grande Post #43 – They hold Bingo weekly and do Boys State. They held our previous D6 Meeting, and we DID NOT HAVE A QUORUM.
- f. Kruse Post 72 – We had a storm/tornado like occurrence, and it destroyed roofs, cars, and windows. It took our building's roof. I went to the City of Wallowa and applied for assistance for the roof since we found out it is not insured. We will sponsor the Oratorical High School Scholarship Program in December. Our Oratorical Contest amount is \$500.00. We do have a recurring column in the Wallowa Chieftain Newspaper. We are a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Still trying to do a post website.
- g. Hepper Post #87 They were supposed to merge with Ione, but the documentation was lost. So, we have to start from scratch and Ione is looking for any documentation. Important to know that those two posts thought the documentation was in process but the District 6 Commander found out at the last Department Convention that the

documentation was lost and no longer exists. In the meantime, the members from Hepper joined the Ione post. The D6 Commander is trying to find any documentation but to no avail at this time. It looks like it fell into some cracks.

- h. Ione Post # 95 – They are an active post. Read the above information.
- i. Athena Post 130 – There haven't been any members attend any D6 meetings for about a year and is now remodeling their post. So, we hope that when the remodeling is accomplished, we can hold a D6 meeting there.
- j. George St. Dennis (Mission) Post 140 – They do the Law Enforcement Program. They are an active post.
- k. Wallowa Lake Post 157 – They have not attended any D6 meeting in a year. They do have an Honor Guard and play tribute to the cemeteries locally.

End of Report

## DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

### REPORT

**James Moriarty**

District 7 Book of Reports

James A. Moriarty Commander

October 20, 2022

Post 30 monthly newsletter has been a big success. They are still conducting general meetings, one at a local restaurant and one at the Post, that have brought several members out with new potential members.

Post 74 donated \$500.00 to the Dodge Community Church that was completely burned as a result of the 2020 Riverside Fire in Estacada. An anonymous donor matched the amount (\$500.00) for the rebuild of the church which has already commenced.

Post 74 members spent four days at the Salem Airport recruiting American Legion and Auxiliary members (four total new members) during the Flying Legends B-17 and B-25 tour sponsored by the B-17 Alliance.

Post 74 is hosting a Veteran's Day breakfast at the Odd Fellows Hall in Estacada. The Post will pay for new members 2023 dues if you sign up on Veteran's Day. Veterans will eat for free. We

will have the Estacada Boy Scouts Troop 186 helping with setup, serving meals, and breakdown of the event.

Post 98 are holding monthly meetings, signed up several new members and have been conducting Buddy checks. Post 98 has been conducting Poppy sales on Memorial and Veteran's Day. Their fearless leader Gerald Caldwell passed onto Post everlasting and will be sorely missed.

District 7 held its quarterly meeting on August 20, 2022 at the Cazadero restaurant in Estacada and we only had three Posts in attendance (Post 30, 74 and 134). We were unable to conduct District business due to lack of quorum.\JM\

## DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

### REPORT

#### **Tim Troupe**

The heat wave is back, but we can use the mango smoothie to survive.

This last month we have been working on how to survive the heat, the budget, and membership.

If your post has not received its lists yet, it is because your paperwork is not up to code.

Money. The department needs it. Look at your funds and see what you can donate. They want a 3-year commitment, but donate this year, and look at what you can do for the next few years.

We have to do some fundraising at the district. This means trips to the tribes. Or raffle-off stuff.

I am going to put a budget measure for prizes in supporting our district. Challenge coins.

I would like input on the request to turn all the drill teams, and color guards into a district-level pool. We all train to the same standard, and uniforms.

District 8 was there to represent the department of Oregon on 9 September 2022. I was moved by how much our brothers and sisters, wanted to share what little they had. It was refreshing, how much a handshake, a smile, and a hug just made it better. My heart swelled, and a tear-filled my eyes, because the emotion of the gathering felt to be more. And We were not alone. We had our veteran family.

So, I ask you how can you not stand up and snap one off?

Also, we as veterans lost a WWII vet today. Yes, she was a queen and allied nation, but she drove in the second big one. And with sept 11<sup>th</sup> coming up her government stood up with us. So now we can remember her and her nation. In their time of need. Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth, you stand relieved, rest in peace you have earned it.

## DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

### REPORT

#### **Larry Hill**

Generally speaking, the troops are relatively quiet. The retention business is slower than I would like.

Post 76 in Port Orford – Kevin and I met with 2 post commanders who were the only ones to attend the meeting. Mr. Dooley is 92 and many years commander. Greg Tidey was the last elected Commander who now sits on the City Council and Park Commission. Dooley and Greg do not want the Post to close. They are going to try to gin up some interest. Tidey made note of the fact that potential members or members in his age group communicate online and in chat rooms. That is not to say that they are closed to membership they would prefer it to be in a medium that they are most comfortable in. Through the wonders of science to quote notables, it would be possible to field such a post.

However, in order to give them something to work with and hang their hats on – there should be written or published guidance on the establishment of a digital post or a blended post that would utilize the “old guy” format for those of us who are accustomed to that and the digital application for the remainder. So, how about a little assistance, please?

Post 16, other I-5 posts, the Douglas County Veterans Forum have joined forces with Vietnam Veterans #805 who this time are spearheading the save the Roseburg VA Hospital from extinction. For the past 4 efforts, the Legion was at the tip of the spear. We obtained some favorable actions and when the director moved on and was replaced, all our work went away. Then 3 or 4 years later there would be another frontal assault on the hospital by VA – trim services, move services to Eugene, and numerous other actions that have resulted in the gutting of the hospital. Almost all specialty clinics are now in Eugene, and the building continues in Roseburg, but the question is why. There are no inpatient beds except for 28 or so for dementia care. The dental clinic now has 4 dentists, and they are overbooked but still here. And so, it goes. More information can be supplied upon request.

VVA leadership met with their National Commander and staff about 3 weeks ago and they have agreed to champion our (Roseburg's) cause on a national level. Roseburg will be the prime example of the deterioration of the state of rural health care within the VA nationwide. So, it would be a great thing for other veteran groups to agitate for the cause also.

For those of you who are preparing for hunting season(s). Good luck. See you all at DEC.

Respectfully submitted,

## **DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER**

### **REPORT**

**James Jerome**

We are leading the Districts in membership standings at this time. One Post Nyssa is working on ideas for increasing membership. Both the 2nd Vice Commander and myself attended the Post meeting in October 13th. We brainstormed ideas. But didn't solve the problem.

Low meeting participation by Post membership. Have talked by phone or in person with all Post Commanders. Optimism abounds as to increasing membership. Our next District meeting is October 22 in Vale, Oregon 10:09am local time.

Our Constitution and By-Laws will be updated, voted on, and ratified. Commander that concludes my report.\JJ\

## **ADMINISTRATIVE & ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **REPORT**

**Charles Schmidt**

**Department Administrative & Advisory (A/A) Commission  
October 22-23, 2022**

**Chairperson:** Charles Schmidt

**Committee Members:** Rob Liebenow, Jon Marsh, Kevin Owens, Bob Huff

**Date:** October 4, 2022

1. The Department Executive Committee (DEC) approved the commission's propose resolution titled "2022-2023 Department Budget Deficit" during an August 2, 2022, Go/To DEC meeting. Department Commander Wittmayer made a formal announcement of the resolution August 6, 2022, at the Oregon American Legion College at Santiam Post #51 in Lebanon, Oregon. During the September 19, 2022, A/A virtual meeting, voluntary donations had reached \$6,869.00. The commission recommended all of department's leadership share the resolution's intent and purpose with members during meetings, speeches, and travels and an accounting system be implemented to monitor each year's donations over the 3-year period.

2. Contract for the temporary office assistant filled by Annaka Jorgenson expired September 30, 2022. We wish Annaka well in her next employment endeavor and thank her for her services rendered to our department. Because of department's 2023 budget deficit, no temporary or permanent employee will be hired, leaving Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips and Bookkeeper Lynn Newton to run the Department of Oregon headquarters office. The A/A Commission recommended the following during its September 19, 2022, virtual meeting to free up the adjutant and bookkeeper from interruptions and distractions to stay abreast of daily staff business:

a. Reduce walk-in traffic, phone calls, excessive electronic communications, and direct information seekers to the respective program chairperson by developing direct e-mail addresses for each individual commission/committee chairperson and publish them on department website; by-passing department staff and reaching the chairperson who has the answer(s).

b. Legion office staff close the office to walk-in traffic on Thursday and Friday to enable Adjutant Phillips and Bookkeeper Newton to take advantage of the quiet time to stay abreast with daily office functions. The adjutant may, on occasion work from home on Fridays. Should this arrangement not fulfill its intent, the A/A Commission will readdress it. This recommendation received DEC approval during a 6:30pm virtual meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2022. The A/A Commission was not called on for a report during the meeting.

c. The office copier contract is a significant expenditure in the office budget. The contract is in the third year of a 5-year contract; a cost of at least \$1,200 per month or at least \$72,000 over the life of the contract. The A/A commission asked the adjutant to query Pacific Office Automation (POA) for any cost-savings adjustments they would agree on that may reduce monthly copier expenses. The response was to reduce the number of black/white and color copies produced each month.

3. National Marketing (Chuck Krupa) provided a draft donation letter for our department's review should Oregon wish to enter a memorandum of understanding for national to manage a donation program on behalf our department. As all program details, particular costs, are unknown at this time, the commission will pursue additional information from national of the particulars of this national program.

4. Office volunteers are welcome to lend a helping hand with administrative duties at the discretion of the Department Adjutant, providing each volunteer has been briefed by the adjutant and understands that communications and/or correspondence they may be exposed to while performing volunteer duties is privileged information and its sensitivity must be safeguarded. Such communications are not to be discussed or conveyed beyond department headquarters offices.

## AMERICANISM COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Lou Neubecker**

## BASEBALL COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Mike Sowles**

Answers to your questions for the Baseball Committee.

1. Our next meeting will be scheduled for the latter part of September.
2. Our previous meetings were held at the state tournament games at Roseburg and Aloha. I met with coaches, Managers, and eight Committee members.  
We discussed locations for the next tournaments, both Single-A and Triple AAA. We have about three offers for both divisions. We also discussed growth in Central Oregon, Southern Oregon, the Metro Area, and the Willamette Valley. We have the potential to have as many as six additional triple AAA teams and 4 additional Single A teams.  
We also have a team interested in hosting the Single A Regional tournament in the future.

In October our 4 areas will meet and set their league schedules, so they will be able then to schedule their non-league schedule and plan for non-league tournaments for the summer of 2023.

On January 1, 2023, we will start to register teams in the national registry, They will be able to purchase team insurance in March 2023, During the winter and into the spring Coaches, Managers, and staff

Will be able to complete their background checks and their Abuse Awareness training. Team tryouts will begin in late May and early June. The teams can play legion ball beginning 6-1-2023 and end the last week of July 2023.

I will be recruiting a new Single-A Legion committee Chair and an Area 4 Single-A Committee representative. Hopefully having them in place by Dec. 1, 2023.

# SCOUTING COMMITTEE

## REPORT

**Larry Wittmayer**

**Scouting committee.**

Fall 2022 DEC Book of reports.

Committee members.

Ian Gerstel.

Norm Hoffman

Stanley Gandy

Eric Stallings

Comments:

Each legionnaire lists the activities of each of the five Councils served by this department. This past summer, scouting has been coming back to normal. All Councils held Cub Scout daily camps and Scout. Scout summer camps.

Councils are planning for their contingencies to the National Jamboree. It will be held at Summit Scout Reservation in Bechtel, West Virginia.

The Cascade Pacific Council District Commissioners have contacted me concerning Post-chartering Scouting units. I will meet with the Council Commissioner to start a program of involving more Posts in Scouting. Yours in Scouting.

# BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

## REPORT

**Fred Broadwater**



Our first committee is scheduled for next Friday, October 19, and we have a lot to discuss and make recommendations to Department. Our first order of business will be after-action reviews for Boys State 2022 for distillation for the Book of Reports for the DEC meeting.

The discussion points I have been as follows in no particular order we'll tackle these as the committee decides (please feel free to raise your issue concerns-points):

- Committee areas of focus and responsibility
- District assignments for recruiting
- Returnee invitations & assignments
- Polo shirt colors & design
- Badges & lanyards for all personnel (design/format & colors)
- Guest speakers
- Donations/support
- Letter to the parents
- Review/revision of the Boys State handbook & the Bar exam

I think that's enough. Some points may only take a couple of minutes, others may take longer and require further discussion at future committee meetings. I'm looking forward to our meeting, frank discussions, and Boys State 2023!

Boys State was held June 12 through June 18, 2022, at Western Oregon State University in Monmouth, Oregon. Committee members were Ian Gerstel, Chair (returning for 2023), Robert Liebenow (returning for 2023), Steve Shollenburg, John Lee, Jim Craig, and myself (new Chair for 2023). There were 17 young men from Oregon, 12 young men from Washington, and 20 young women from Oregon representing the American Legion Auxiliary. Our 17 delegates came from 13 different High Schools and were sponsored by 12 Posts. Districts 6, 8, and 10 were not represented. Two boys were nominated to represent Oregon at Boys Nation. It is anticipated about 9 boys will be returning to assist in the program for 2023. Every young man and woman I spoke with expressed great excitement and remarked positively on their personal learning.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

## REPORT

### **Yvette Morse-Warrington**

As Committee Chair I am reporting on the activity as of yet. On September 17, 2022 I was on a zoom meeting with the National American Legion Children & Youth Committee Conference. The highlights were Flag education for kids, Internet crimes against children, and Preventing child abuse including sexual abuse. New flyers on Drug abuse will be available for us to print out soon and handout to schools for children. I was hoping at our 1<sup>st</sup> Convention in Eugene/Springfield I would have our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting I was going to make calls and see how many would be there, if not all we can add them to a zoom with the rest of us. I went to Central High School in Independence and talked to their Scholarship Counselor and he was excited about the Oratorical Scholarship and said he may be able to get a couple of students to participate. I was also asked to help Dallas and Falls City to go into schools and talk about the Oratorical Scholarship, which I am happy to do. I am talking with Liberty House which is for abused children about all Posts becoming Stewards about child abuse. Liberty House has a class they teach about steps to keep children safe from child sexual abuse. All of us would learn facts about child sexual abuse, how to minimize opportunity, talk about it, recognize signs and react responsibly. I am trying to figure out how to have them come to one of our Conventions and teach us all.

We had an Americanism zoom meeting on October 11, 2022 at 18:30 to approximately 20:15. Everyone checking in on each other and were told to get Book of Reports to Lou ASAP!

# JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

## REPORT

### **Raoul Salem**

Report of Youth Shooting Sports Activities for the Year  
Department of Oregon, The American Legion, Submitted on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 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). The “Third Round” is named the “2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament”. It is an in-person competition for individual competitors (but does not include teams) conducted entirely at one indoor shooting range.

## First Round Qualifier

The First Round Qualifier (or Preliminary Round) competition is the qualifier competition for the Second Round Qualifier competition. It is also the Oregon Championship competition. It includes an individual competition, and a competition for teams comprised of four competitors each. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The shot official competition tournament target sets were required to be mailed to the Civilian Marksmanship Program with a postmark no later than Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. All official tournament scores were ranked and posted on the Civilian Marksmanship Program website by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 of Affiliated Ranking Standing						National Ranking out
Name	Club or School and Program with	City	Prone			
1 <sup>st</sup> Kyler Boyce 177- 3it	Lebanon High School Army JROTC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Post 51	Lebanon	196-11it			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Carmella Martinez 158- 2it	Lebanon High School Army JROTC 40 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	Lebanon	196-11it			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Alivia Griffiths 161- 4it	Lebanon High School Army JROTC 49 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	Lebanon	175- 2it			
4 <sup>th</sup> Alex Martin 160- 2it	Lebanon High School Army JROTC 50 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	Lebanon	184- 5it			
5 <sup>th</sup> Zoë Geoghegan 159- 2it	Lebanon High School Army JROTC 55 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	Lebanon	190- 7it			

6 <sup>th</sup>	Henry J. Giomi-Brown		Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team	Sam's Valley
186- 7it	141- 1it	183- 6it	510-14it 69 <sup>th</sup> Post 15	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Aliya Griffiths		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	186- 5it
163- 1it	160- 1it	509- 7it	72 <sup>nd</sup> Post 51	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Kacy Trebes		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	183- 5it
139- 1it	178- 4it	500-10it	90 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Aidan Waterman		Redmond High School MC JROTC Redmond	175- 4it
141- 0it	163- 3it	479- 7it	141 <sup>st</sup> Post 44	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ezequiel Magana		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	165- 0it
144- 0it	155- 1it	464- 1it	180 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Alana Griffiths		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	180- 4it
120- 0it	143- 2it	443- 6it	218 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Franklin G. Giomi-Brown		Jackson County OR Jr Rifle Team Sam's Valley	181- 7it
128- 0it	131- 2it	440- 9it	226 <sup>th</sup> Post 15	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kayden Trebes		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	156- 1it
121- 0it	146- 1it	423- 2it	262 <sup>nd</sup> Post 51	
14 <sup>th</sup>	Gavin McLaren		Redmond High School MC JROTC Redmond	163- 1it
123- 1it	111- 0it	397- 2it	315 <sup>th</sup> Post 44	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jasmine North-Perez		Redmond High School MC JROTC Redmond	145- 1it
108- 0it	115- 1it	368- 2it	354 <sup>th</sup> Post 44	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Andrews		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	136- 0it
82- 0it	130- 1it	348- 1it	375 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Rusty Vaughn		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	137- 1it
95- 0it	67- 0it	299- 1it	409 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Derrick Varner		Lebanon High School Army JROTC Lebanon	141- 1it
20- 0it	38- 0it	199 -1it	457 <sup>th</sup> Post 51	

Daniel Evers of American Legion Post 46 in Woodburn (the former Chairman of the Youth Shooting Sports Committee) obtained medals from Department of Oregon stock for the three top-

ranked individual Oregon competitors and for each of the four members of the three top-ranked Oregon teams, of the Preliminary Round/Oregon Championship Tournament. He then took all the medals to an engraving shop to have them custom-engraved so as to be personalized for each recipient. Mary F. Laudon (at that time 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 youth shooting sports organization is affiliated, there to be presented to each recipient. She also created certificates for each of the three top-ranked individual Oregon competitors, and for each of the four members of the three top-ranked Oregon teams (also personalized for each recipient) and shipped them also to the American Legion Posts with which each youth shooting sports organization is affiliated, there to be presented to each recipient.

## **Second Round Qualifier**

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 the 2021-2022 Preliminary Round/Oregon Championship Tournament. The cut-off score for an invitation to the Second Round Qualifier Competition is 530 points (out of 600 points possible), so he was the only individual competitor from Oregon to be invited to the Second Round Qualifier Competition (which also is conducted on a local shooting range). The shot official competition tournament target sets were required to be mailed to the Tournament Director via United States Postal Service Mail, this time with a postmark not later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Lebanon High School Team 1 was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> nationally, and Team 2 was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> nationally, out of a total of 101 teams for the Preliminary Round/Oregon Championship Tournament. Team 1 was among the top-scoring ten teams competing in that competition, and so was invited to the Second Round Qualifier Competition. Members of the team were Tyler Boyce, Carmella Martinez, Alivia Griffiths, and Alex Martin.

In the Second Round Qualifier Competition, Kyler Boyce was the second highest-scoring competitor among 31 competitors in the individual sporter air rifle competition. He was three points (out of 600 points possible) and four inner tens (out of 60 inner tens possible) behind the first-ranked competitor, Charles Bratton of Clover High School in South Carolina. Kyler Boyce was among the fifteen highest-scoring individual sporter air rifle competitors, all of whom received invitations to compete in the “Third Round”, which is named the 2021-2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Championship Tournament.

Lebanon High School Team 1 was ranked third among nine teams competing in the Second Round Qualifier Competition (which constitutes the national championship tournament for teams). The team’s score was 72 points (out of 2,400 points possible) and 12 inner tens (out of 240 inner tens possible) behind the first-ranked and National Champion team, Nation Ford High School Team 1 of South Carolina. Team plaques were presented to the three highest-ranked teams. However, this is the end of the line for all teams, and no teams were invited to the “Third Round”, which is named the 2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament.

## **2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament**

The fifteen highest-scoring individual sporter air rifle competitors (and likewise for precision air rifle competitors) of the Second Round Qualifier Competition competed in the 2021-2022 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Championship Tournament, which was conducted from Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at an indoor shooting range of USA Shooting (the organization responsible for promoting international-style shooting sports in the United States of America, and for selecting and training the members of USA international and Olympic shooting teams) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This tournament was only for individuals (and not for teams).

The National Champions in both the sporter and precision air rifle categories each received a \$5,000<sup>00</sup> college scholarship, provided in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion. The two National Champions also received an expense-paid trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where they will be honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation during the 2022 American Legion National Convention from Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A \$1,000<sup>00</sup> college scholarship was awarded to the second-ranked competitors in both the sporter and precision air rifle categories. This scholarship was provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

I looked at the results of the National Individual Championship for Sporter Air Rifle on the website of the National Headquarters of The American Legion and on the Club & Competition Tracker of the Civilian Marksmanship Program. I was very surprised and disappointed not to see an entry for Kyler Boyce, indicating that he had not competed in the event. I then sent inquiries to the adult leaders of the Army Junior ROTC shooting sports programs of Lebanon High School and received the following reply from Head Coach Nelson Shew: “It was not a matter of money for him to make his decision. He is not going on to college, so a scholarship would have done him no good. He made his decision earlier in the year and could not be persuaded to go. He felt he would rather let someone who would use a scholarship have the chance to win it. He is in training as an electrician. This was one of those things that cannot be passed to the next best shooter.”

The following appeared in a news item posted on the website of the National Headquarters of The American Legion.

The highest-scoring sporter air rifle competitor was Samantha Zermino of the Nation Ford Junior ROTC Rifle Team in Fort Mill, South Carolina. She is seventeen years old and has been shooting for three years. Taylor Crane of Minnesota was the second highest scorer, and Austin Rahmig of Western Nebraska Shooting Sports was third.

## **First Round Qualifier of 2023 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament**

Based on previous timelines for this tournament, the official competition tournament target sets for the first-round qualifier may be ordered from the Civilian Marksmanship program as early as Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and not later than Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The website of the National Headquarters of The American Legion shows the tournament program for 2021-2022, and it is hoped that the tournament program for 2022-2023 will be available soon.

### **Meeting of the Department of Oregon Youth Shooting Sports Committee**

Because of the great distances among the various members of the “Youth Shooting Sports Committee, the “meeting” of the committee will be an exchange of telephone calls, mobile telephone text messages, and E-mail messages which will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The purpose will be to update the committee members on the status of the various Oregon youth shooting sports organizations that have fielded air rifle teams in the recent past and who should be contacted to encourage their participation in 2022-2023. Another item of interest will be the sharing of leads on youth shooting sports organizations that have not been competing in the American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament.

## **JIM WILLIS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT**

**Ed Owens**

## **ORATORICAL COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT**

**Maria Tye**

### **Oratorical High School Scholarship Program Committee Report**

**Maria D. Tye, Chairwoman, Oratorical Program**

### **Book of Reports**

Committee Members:

Debra Jacobson      Districts 1,7 and 2

Jerry Outslay                      Districts 5 & 8

Larry Hill                              Districts 3, 4 & 9

Aaron Wetterling                  Districts 6 & 10

Activity Report: The Oratorical High School Scholarship Committee has been having meetings once a month via Go-To-Meetings and we do have the Americanism Chair, Lou Neubecker in attendance.

We have 3 well-seasoned Oratorical members, **Debra Jacobson, Larry Hill and Lou Neubecker.**

Our other committee members as am I, not as experienced in this program.

**Jerry Outslay** was an Oratorical chair for his post and submitted the most perfectly complete package to me last year, so I wanted him on our TEAM. He has had experience in scholarship programs.

**Aaron Wetterling** is a very organized member from District 6 as a Cmdr., Post 37 in Hermiston as well as the Chaplain.

1. I have emailed a few documents to District Commanders indicating who the District Cmdrs. Are in relation to the assigned Oratorical Program Committee Members. It has the telephone numbers and email addresses.
2. We have updated our website to show the Committee Members assigned districts. The photo of last years contestants and their respective awards. Aliza Saunders was awarded the First Place for the Department of Oregon and went on to the National Oratorical High School Scholarship Program Contest. She placed in the 30 and above level. We are very proud of this young woman.
3. Aaron Wetterling made flyers and sent us a copy via email, and we have adopted his idea. All our Team members have sought to recruit contestants by ads, articles and visiting local high schools and FFA, Toastmasters etc.
4. We are providing the information announcing the months that the Posts having their contest in December 2022, District Contests being held in January 2023 and the Department contest in February 2023. The National being held in April 21-23 in Indianapolis West Hotel 2544 Executive Dr. Indianapolis Indiana.
5. We are looking for a venue for our Department Contest in order to set a date. I contacted the Santiam Post 51 in Lebanon and looking at the Fairgrounds in Albany since they have remodeled their facility.



This is the end of the Oratorical High School Scholarship Program report for this DEC meeting scheduled for October 2022.

Maria D. Tye, Chairwoman, Oratorical Program

## CONVENTION COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Jon Marsh**

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Richard Ramey**

October 12, 2022

The Department of Oregon Internal Affairs Commission met on July 29, 2022 in person and with Go-to-Meetings venue. Members of the Commission discussed the Codes of Procedures for the Internal Affairs Commission and the Codes for the Resolutions, American Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, Training & Development, Trophies & Awards Committees.

The Commission discussed goals and projects for the coming year, and Committees were encouraged discuss projects among their members and to set goals for the year. Among the goals for the Internal Affairs Commission are the completion of any investigations the Commission would be directed to accomplish, review of Department programs and post indicators to determine the health of the Department, and to recommend areas for improvement within the Department.

One area noted from last year was the low number of reports completed by Department Committees and District's completion of Post Analyses. Another area discussed was making recommendations for filling the vacancies on committees. The Commission elected Terry Brown as the Internal Affairs Vice Chairman.

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

## REPORT

### **Ward Allen**

I would like to thank the Constitution & Bylaws team of Phyllis York, Lou Neubecker, Steve Adams, Judy Johnston along with the Department Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips for their commitment to making sure that any and all questions are being answered in a timely manner. With, individually, we have answered questions, but have not had anything hit our committee that would need our in-depth scrutinization as a group.

Per our Code of Procedures, we will be having a meeting right before this Department Executive Committee Meeting. If any action needs to be taken care of, I will report it during the Committee Reports.

# OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

## REPORT

### **Gale Sears**

POST 157 WALLOWA LAKE: Color Guard for the 4th of July Parade in Wallowa, Oregon, and Color Guard for Chief Joseph Days in Joseph, Oregon. FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS Host breakfast for Veterans Day.

POST 119 VERNONIA: Putting up/taking down flags in Vernonia for Flag Day, putting up/taking down flags in Vernonia for Independence Day, Vernonia Independence Day Parade, Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Parade, Post 119 Backyard BBQ, Banks Parade with Post 90.

POST 10 ALBANY: ALR Members participated in 11 Veteran funeral flag lines, 4 funeral escorts, 1 parade in Mill City, 1 Navy Retirement ceremony, Volcanoes POW/MIA ceremony, Post 10 Flag Retirement Ceremony, B-17 welcome ceremony, and 1 Auxiliary memorial. FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS: 9/11 - Remembering 9/11 ceremony will be at the Linn County Courthouse starting at 0846 9/17 - Ride for the Alive tribute ride will honor 6 Veterans this year 11/11 - All riders are invited to open the Linn County Veterans Day Parade Bob Lemke and the ALR will lead the pack this year.  
11/24 - Thanksgiving Dinner from 1400-1600 at Post 10  
12/25 - Christmas Dinner from 1400-1600 at Post 10

POST 58 STAYTON: (Miles- 8696) - 25 Flag Lines, 6 Escort s, 3 Parades, and 18 Other (i.e.: meetings, recruitment, business, retirement ceremonies,) FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS: 9-1 1 ceremony at Post 10, Lebanon (11 Sept), Veterans Day Parade in Lebanon (11 Nov), Flag Ceremony at Stay ton Retirement home (5th Sept)

POST 44 REDMOND: Donate time to the post on clean-up days. We are in the planning stage of donating some money to Post for a new refrigerator in the kitchen.

POST 57 NEW BERG: National Commander Escort- 40 (I 0 hrs. x 4) Riders Meeting at Convention- 6 (2hrs x 3)

Chapter Riders Meeting- 24 (I.5 hrs. x I6) Post Fun Run/Picnic 8 (2hrs x 4) New berg Old Fashion n Festival Parade 20 (4hrs x 5) Legion Collage (ALR presentation) I hr. FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS Lunch Rides Attending Post 21  
Scholarship poker run 9/1 I ceremony

Chairman Gale Sears Post 21

Michael Speer Post 57

Gordon Treber Post 99

Mike Lueck Post 180

Charley McCarthy Post 58

Chapter Quarterly Reports 4th QTR 2021	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
00 I- Portland				

Legionaries: Provided is a synopsis of the reports provided by 7 of 23 ALR Post Chapters. Post ALR chapters, as American Legion post members I believe are remaining active in supporting their Posts, Veterans, and the community while providing Legion public awareness.

As the Committee Chair, I continue to receive concerns from Chapters as to why they have to provide reports. My response is, to ensure recognition for the value ALR provides to our Posts and the State of Oregon American Legion. The ORALR leadership works very hard to ensure community cations throughout the State chapters.

**Report details received, as you see the ALR supports a great deal in their communities and veterans.**

Post 32 Cottage Grove: Flags on Main, place POW and Stars & Stripe flags in front of every other store along 3 blocks of Main Street.

Lapine 45 held a poker run from 13-15 May and did a great job raising funds for their programs. They were thought to be lost as a Post and chapter but proved to be alive and well. *During many attempts to collect leadership information, the chapter has seemed to have decided not to participate in the States information chairing activities.*

Post 116 Newport: Flag line, Newport 4 hrs. Escort and flag line Tillamook, 30 hrs. Stand down 12 hrs. Flag stand modification, 6 hrs. FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS OCT. Ride by for WWII Veterans 100 birthday.

Post 180 Milwaukie:

I. 7/10 Ride r/Post/SA L/Aux Breakfast 9 am - 12

2.7/5 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

3.7/14 Rider Meeting 6:30 pm - UC

4. 7/24 Rider /Post/SAL/Aux Breakfast 9 am - 12

5.7/1 9 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

6. 8/ 11 Rider Meet in g 6:30 pm - UC

7. 8/ 1 4 Rider/ Post/SAL/Aux Breakfast 9 am - 1 2

8. 8/ 1 6 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30- 7:00 pm

9.8/28 Rider /Post/SAL/Aux

Breakfast 9 am -12 I 0. 9/6 Rider

Taco Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

11. 9 / 1 4 Rider Wings Wednesday 5:30 pm - 7

12. 9/20 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

1 3. 9 / 23 Post BBQ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

14. 9 /25 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Breakfast 9 am - 12

15. 9 / 28 Rider Wings Wednesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm

16. 9/30 Rider Lounge Menu 5:30 - 7:00 pm Total Volunteer Hour s: 439 \$ Donated: \$1400  
Miles: 150 0

ALR EVENT THAT Post 180 Participated in during this Quarter  
not mentioned above Jul y August

Mayhem Fall Girl Softball Sponsor I Escort

Post 1 8 0 continued:

2 Escollis, I Flag Line

I Flag Line Ride SW Washington County

Tigard Balloon Festival Veteran Balloon Rides NW Art  
and Air Festival

September

010 -Albany				1
0 20-Dallas				
021 - McMinnville	<b>1</b>			1
0 29-				
032-Cottage Grove		1		
0 3 4 -Coos Bay/North Bend				
043-L a Grande				
044-Redrnond	1	1		1
04 5 - La Pine				
04 8 Warm Spring s				
05 1- Sanitary/Lebanon		I		
0 57 - New berg	1	1		1
05 8 -Stayton				
074- Estacada				
075-Sheridan				
083 -Santa Clara/ Eugene				1
0 9 9-Seaside				1
1 16- Newport	1	1		
11 9 - Vernonia		1		
15 0 - Oregon Trail				I
1 57- Wallowa Lake				
1 75 Sheridan				
1 5 8 - Tigard				I
1 8 0-Milwaukie		1		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Terry Brown**

**Chairman** – Terry A. Brown

**Committee Members** – Judy Johnston, Don Adams, Daniel Tardif, Barry Larrin

**Report** – For the period July 1, 2022 to present only one change was submitted to the Resolution Assignment Committee for review: Change in COP for the Resolution Assignment Committee.

**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.\TB\

End of my report

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Steve Adams**

In July we were honored to have Sons of the American Legion National Commander Michael Fox in Oregon. He was taken on tour and visited several Posts and was taken to two rural cemeteries one in Harlen and one in Burnt Woods. Both cemeteries have Veterans graves and to show him we make an effort to find all Veterans so we can honor them. These cemeteries are at least thirty miles from any major populations. Commander Fox was glad to be shown these locations as some of the graves go back to the late 1800s. The Harlen cemetery has Veterans from the Civil War and all Conflicts up to Desert Storm. The Burnt Woods cemetery only has 31 graves and only one Veteran a Navy Veteran From WWII.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the SAL Committee held a virtual meeting and discussed its Code of Procedures and voted to make some minor changes which were sent to Department. SAL Detachment is reviewing their Constitution By-Laws to see if any changes need to be made.

I would like to thank the Detachment Officers for letting me be part of the tour for National Commander Michael Fox it was truly an honor.

## **TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT**

**Steve Adams**

On July 27<sup>th</sup> the Training & Development Committee held a virtual meeting and discussed changes to the Code of Procedures and voted on some minor changes and these were sent to Department. We also discussed the up coming Oregon Legion College and hoped we would have a good attendance. We also discussed when to have three regional trainings for Posts in each region and it was agreed to have them at each of the years DEC.

The Oregon Legion College was held at Post 51 Lebanon on August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and the feed back and the surveys we received was very positive. The surveys indicated the presenters knew their subject and conveyed a lot of good and useful information with some stating it was the best training they had been to. The Positive feed back we got was welcome and a guide for the future. There are Trainings planned for the Fall DEC, Winter DEC, and the Spring DEC for Posts with information for District Officers. As with the College these training sessions are open to all members that would like to attend.

I would like to thank the Committee members all of the presenters and Post 51 you all did a tremendous job in making the College a success.



## TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Judy Johnston**

## LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

### REPORT

**John Lee**

On the local level, there has not been a lot going on for Veterans. The long session does not start until February of 2023. However, the Veterans subcommittees are getting ready with interim committee meetings beginning September 22 and 23.

The House will have Informational Meeting and Invited Speakers for Unclaimed Veteran Remains. Rep. Christine Goodwin, Mary Newman-Keyes, and the Douglas County Veteran Services Officer are invited. They will also be hearing from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) Housing and Education Grant Programs with an update from Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate will be hearing from Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs about the Aging Veteran Services Division Volunteer Program.

On the National level, President Biden ushered in sweeping changes for millions of veterans exposed to toxic fumes by signing the PACT Act in a ceremony at the White House on Aug. 10.

This would not have happened if there was not a grassroots movement to get the bill out of the Senate. There were 34,000 letters sent to our legislators US-wide by the American Legion. A flier is not available that has a QR code that can be used to sign up for alerts. There are many other bills that can use the support of individuals. Share with the posts.

## UPCOMING HEARINGS (National)

- On Wednesday, September 14, the House Ways, and Means Committee will hold a hearing titled “The Future of U.S.-Taiwan Trade.”
- On Wednesday September 14, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing to consider the Coast Guard Authorization Act.
- On Wednesday September 14, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing to consider the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022.
- On Thursday, September 15, the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing titled “Veteran Readiness and Employment: Is VA Succeeding?”
- On Thursday, September 15, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) will hold a hearing titled “Examining women veterans’ access to the full spectrum of medical care, including reproductive healthcare, through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA).”

## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Don Weber**

## INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

### REPORT

**Larry Edwards**

## OREGON LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Renee Ohler**

The Oregon Legionnaire is what keeps our members connected to Department Leadership, District Leadership, Post leadership, and our American Legion Families. The quality of the Legionnaire is a direct reflection of those Family Members who know the importance of getting information into the hands of its membership and beyond. We always talk about communication and now its time to walk the talk.

Where do I find the Legionnaire magazine you ask? On the [www.orlegion.org](http://www.orlegion.org) website. In addition to being available for all on line the Department Adjutant emails the magazine to every post adjutant to distribute to the membership the same day it is released. It is critical that the post has current email addresses for their membership and sometimes we need to just stop and make sure we are using the most effective means possible to inform our members by the use of the Legionnaire magazine.

Print and mail a copy to each and every family member? Of course we can. The cost to take on such an endeavor by your Legionnaire Committee is approximately \$3.00 a copy. So, for a thousand copies a month, which is below membership totals for the families, the cost we would incur is \$3000.00. That is a month and does not include mailing the magazine out. That is more than double the current legionnaire yearly budget and we are only talking one monthly issue.

We are always open to feed back on how to get information to the masses. Your Legionnaire team is here for the good of the legion and its families. Your current Legionnaire team is comprised of Renee Ohler your Chairman, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Daniel Burks, Department Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips, and soon to be after this Department Executive Committee meeting, two new heavy hitters.

Give us your feedback, we would love to hear from you.

God Bless and have a great DEC!

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Don Weber**

## MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Dan Burks**

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter has been a rough start to a building year. We started off by missing our 50% target date by a mere 2%. Ironically, we missed it by 249 members with over 900 on our 114 lists. I Was able to transfer around 60 members and with the assistance of the membership 114 team, it took less than an hour's worth of work to do so. To date, I have no reports of Buddy Check-specific numbers that have been conducted. 4 Districts who have yet to turn in an accurate 114 list so that the 114-membership team can work on it for them and 1 District that sits under the 25% mark. My goal this year is 100% accountability for our members, it is my belief that will not only improve our relationship with our members, and find those members in need, and promote the Legion "Be The One" campaign, but it will help out membership renewals as well. It is up to our Posts to help the Department achieve our goals, but it is up to the District Commanders to lead the Posts within their District. Converting to electronic transmittals will ultimately streamline the process, until then we must all work together, especially since we are not in a position to turn down membership. It is still early in the year, and we have time to turn this around, but it will require assistance from everyone to get us back on track. Membership is everyone's responsibility and the most important part about membership is our members. Buddy Checks are essential. \DB\

## NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

### REPORT

**Greg Marvin**

# National Security/Foreign Relations and Homeland Security Commission

Greg Marvin Commission Chair

Department of Oregon 2022 Fall D.E.C. Book of Reports-National Security Commission

Commission Members:

Robert G. Marvin, Commission Chair

Tom Fitzgerald, Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC

David Solomon, Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee

Adam Gettmann, Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

Robert G. Marvin, National Guard & Reserve Committee

October 19, 2022

## **National Security Commission**

The National Security Commission is underway with the 2022 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year Program. The instruction/applications have been updated and sent out to the Posts and I have sent e-mails to the District Commanders, asking them to send copies of the instruction/application packets to all their Posts making sure we haven't missed anyone. We are looking to have another successful year in recognition of the outstanding Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters in our Department.

The National Security Commission has asked to not to make any changes to our Code of Procedures.

Robert G. Marvin, Chair

National Security Commission

October 19, 2022

## **Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC**

### Members

Tom Fitzgerald, Chair

Open 4-year

Don Adams 3-year

John Lee 2-year

Open 1-year

The Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC is making the following Changes: Adding Southern Oregon University(SOU) to the list of colleges that have ROTC programs and currently are given ROTC awards.

The Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC has openings for two members and would like to have them filled. The two openings are the 4-year position and the 1-year position.

Tom Fitzgerald, Chair by: Robert Marvin

National Security Commission Chair

## **Law and Order/ Homeland Security Committee**

### Members

David Solomon-Committee Chairman

Chuck Zeitler- 3year

Ward Allen- 1 year

Eva Summers 1- year

Open 4 -year

The committee members have been sent by me via email the facts (Law & Order/Homeland Security and the importance of what it stands for.

During the week of September 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> I along with my Executive Assistant meet with the Secret Service pertaining to the arrival of the Governor to the Albany Courthouse and speaking at our 9/11 memorial service. In attendance were approximately 700 participants including the Oregon Department Commander Larry Wittmayer. We were honored to have so many important guests and all security precautions were taken to ensure everyone's safety.

The Law and Order/Homestead Committee is not making any changes to our Code of Procedures.

David Solomon, Chairman

Law and Order/Homeland Security Committee

October 19, 2022

### **Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee**

Members:

Adam Gettmann, Chair

Open 4-year

David Solomon 3-year

Open 2-year

Open 1-year

The Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee will not make any the Code of Procedures.

There are currently 3 open positions on the Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee. These positions are: the 4-year position, the 2-year position and the 1-year position. Hopefully these can be filled in order for it to fulfill the committee's mission.

Adam Gettman, Chair by: Robert Marvin

National Security Commission Chair

October 19, 2022

## National Guard & Reserve Committee

Members:

Robert G. Marvin, Chair

Open 4-year

Ward Allen 3-year

Eva Summers 2-year

Tom Fitzgerald 1-year

The National Guard & Reserve Committee has been inactive for the past several years because we have not really known what we were to do. Hopefully this can be changed this year. An email to Department Adjutant from SPC Brittany Finley, US ARMY NG ORARNG was forwarded to me and may help us find a direction. The email reads

*“Good Morning American Legion,*

*My name is SPC Brittany Finley and I am the Retirement Services Officer for Oregon. I am hoping that you could share my information with any National Guard servicemember inquiring about retirement. Please see the attached flyer/handout that can be hung or distributed with my contact information. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the role/services I can provide please let me know. I look forward to working side by side with you to help provide the best customer service we can to our servicemembers/retirees.*

*SPC Finley, Brittany*

*Retirement Services Officer”*

I will be in contact with her to see how we can be of help.

We will not make any changes to the National Guard & Reserve Committee Code of Procedure. \GM\

Robert G. Marvin, Chair National Guard & Reserve Committee



# FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

## REPORT

**Tom Fitzgerald**

The National Security Joint Commission / Committee Meeting was held at the Milwaukee Convention Center in The Ball Room Section “C” 1<sup>st</sup> Floor @ 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 27, 2022.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Steven Brennan and Director Mario Marquez.

Roll call was not held as we were asked to sign in at the tables in the back of the room before the meeting started.

Oregon members present were Tom Harris and Jim Jarome.

The first order of business was to appoint a new Commission Chairman and Director/Secretary for the Standing Commission.

Nominations were opened for the Commission Chairman. Steve Brennan was nominated and seconded from the floor. The vote was unanimously approved, and Steve Brennan was seated.

Nominations were opened for Commission Director / Secretary and there was a nomination that was also seconded from the floor, and someone was elected but they were moving too fast for us to get the person’s name.

Commission Chairman Steven Brennan reported that we had 33 Resolutions to be reviewed by our Sub-Committees with legislative intent to be reviewed by Congress and that there were only two types of resolutions. One that is approved and those that are rescinded.

Chairman Steven Brennan mentioned that we have 5 Speakers that would be sharing information with us today and they were:

Speaker #1 - Keith Turney of the Fraternal Order of Police where he is the Sgt at Arms and spoke of approximately 1009 officers that have died of COVID due to direct contact while on duty, and another 216 officers that have died due to direct attacks.

Page 2

Keith Turney was asked to step aside as National Commander Paul Dillard came into the room to say a few words on membership, Veteran suicide, and telling everyone to get their friends and family members out to vote...

Speaker #2 - Thomas Constable Principal Asst. Secretary "Department of Defense for Readiness" spoke on general tasks for readiness in the Department of Defense, and that today's DOD's biggest challenge is recruiting young Americans. There are only 23% of our American youth that will qualify to join the military. And the DOD is working to enhance the financial and educational benefits of the recruiting package.

Including spousal work and educational opportunities with Childcare so both parents can work. These are just a few things that the DOD has coming...

Speaker #3 – Lt. General Robert Place of The Defense Health Agency / Tri-Care. The Lt Generals' Priority is to support all military families and supporting agencies worldwide, with enhanced quality of life and safety.

Including organizing all Branches of service under one agency. Note for those over 65 that Medicare will become primary and Tricare secondary.

Speaker #4 – Johnnie Webb Deputy Director of Defense / MIA Accounting Agency. Mr. Webb is a 26-year Army Retired Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Webb was speaking on behalf of 82,500 POW / MIAs that are still missing.

These POW/ MIAs are in 46 countries and at this time they are searching in Vietnam with the assistance of the Vietnamese.

Notes,

\*In Korea – 7500 MIAs are missing with 3500 in North Korea,

- \* 55 Boxes of remains have been sent to us from North Korea,
- \* From 160 remains 65 have been identified from the boxes,
- \* Also, from the USS Oklahoma 388 unknowns were found and 355 have been identified.

Speaker #5 - Jeff Steele - Legislative updates on Foreign Relations.

Page 3

\*Resolution to be generated in support of Afghanistan Immigrants, with sanctions against Russia,

There being no further business the National Security joint Commission / Committee Meeting was in recess.

PDC Tom Harris Foreign Relations Convention Sub-Committee.

## LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

### REPORT

#### **David Solomon**

The committee members have been sent by me, via email with the facts on Homeland Security and the importance

of what it stands for. During the week of September 4th to the 11<sup>th</sup>, I along with my Executive Assistant meet with the Secret Service

pertaining to the arrival of the Governor to the Albany Courthouse and speaking at our 9/11 memorial service. In

attendance was approximately 700 participants including the Oregon Department Commander Larry Wittmayer.

We were honored to have so many important guests and all security precautions were taken to ensure everyone's

safety.

Respectfully submitted,

## MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Adam Gettmann**

## NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

### REPORT

**Greg Marvin**

October 19, 2022

#### **National Guard & Reserve Committee**

Members:

Robert G. Marvin, Chair

Open 4-year

Ward Allen 3-year

Eva Summers 2-year

Tom Fitzgerald 1-year

The National Guard & Reserve Committee has been inactive for the past several years because we have not really known what we were to do. Hopefully this can be changed this year. An email to Department Adjutant from SPC Brittany Finley, US ARMY NG ORARNG was forwarded to me and may help us find a direction. The email reads

*“Good Morning American Legion,*

*My name is SPC Brittany Finley and I am the Retirement Services Officer for Oregon. I am hoping that you could share my information with any National Guard servicemember inquiring about retirement. Please see the attached flyer/handout that can be hung or distributed with my contact information. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the role/services I can provide please let me know. I look forward to working side by side with you to help provide the best customer service we can to our servicemembers/retirees.*

*SPC Finley, Brittany*

*Retirement Services Officer”*

I will be in contact with her to see how we can be of help.

We will not make any changes to the National Guard & Reserve Committee Code of Procedure. \GM\

Robert G. Marvin, Chair National Guard & Reserve Committee

## PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

### REPORT

**KEVIN OWENS, PDC**

**National Executive Committeeman**

**BAY AREA POST 34**

- The Permanent Finance Commission Budget Meeting was held Tuesday October 18, 2022, at 6:15pm via Zoom. Commission members in attendance were cory Brockman 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Department Commander, Dirk Levy and

Kevin Owens, NEC, PDC as Chairman with Bob Huff, PDC Department Finance Officer. The following items were discussed:

- Chairman Owens received an e-mail from Larry Love that he resigned from the Commission due to his lack of Legion knowledge. Owens asked for names to replace the vacant position.
- The current Budget was discussed with reductions to the administration Budget due to the loss of one temporary employee. See attached for revised budget.
- We reviewed current investments portfolio with Ameriprise which shows a loss due to volatile stock and bond market. On October 19, 2022, at 11:00am we will be meeting with Scott Anderson to see what recommendations he might have.
- The Commission had two resolutions from District 2 and District 8 Commanders for a budget for 2022-2023 budget year as the former Commanders did not submit budgets. A motion was made by Brockman, seconded by Levy, and passed to allow each of them a \$200 budget to be reviewed later as our financial situation changes throughout the year. The last resolution was for the Sons of the American Legion to move money from the Washington Conference line item to the three Area Commanders. Motion was made by Brockman and seconded by Levy and passed.
- Next item was for us to have a plan set in place in the event we do not make our fund-raising goal of \$100K. We will have a plan ready before the next DEC.
- Membership still seems to be a challenge; one we can overcome. We would encourage Posts to push PUFL'S and autorenewals. This would save time and money on all levels of our organization.

- On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at 9:00am, Department Headquarters will start the process of the budget for 2023-2024.
- Being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6:55pm \KO\

## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION REPORT

**Bob Huff**

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2022-2023 membership year are IPDC Don Weber, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Dan Burks, Ann Everetts and PDC Bob Huff, Chair. The focus of the Commission is oversight over VA&R activities for our department. We still have an opportunity for another Legionnaire in good standing an opportunity, if interested in joining or participating with this elite team and being part of our future supporting Veterans and family in our Department.

The Commission has oversight of our Department Service Office, and activities of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) also oversight of our Department VAVS Program which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon, which all need more volunteers desperately. Our VAVS community at Portland VA and Roseburg VA has been significantly impacted with volunteer positions with COVID protocols.

VA SORCC in White City has an American Legion presence which has increased with COVID to support this facility. With the closing of Compensation and Pension (C&P) activities in Roseburg and White City with staffing issues and reassigning clinical staff to higher priority assignments and moving patient needs to community care. Both Roseburg and White City are also currently changing

over to CERNER, the new computer program supporting the VA which has been slow but is progressing.

Portland VA will start the changeover to CERNER on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The VHA is working very hard to support Veteran's needs with changes and challenges facing them in this transition of Computer Systems. We are meeting with the Director of Portland VA and White City VA SORCC on a venue to hold events at their facilities to support our mission and support the new PACT activity.

Volunteer Drivers are desperately needed and in critical need with some services moving to Portland and veterans in need of transportation from rural and other areas of our Department and with C&P moved to Portland. If interested, if you have some extra time and want to help and support veteran's needs, please contact your local VA or CBOC as there are lots of vacancies. You will meet new people, help veterans and their families, our first pillar, and make a difference.

Department of Oregon accepted the National Lenker Award for our Legionnaires volunteer service in our Department for this past year at our National Convention which will be displayed at our Department Headquarters in Wilsonville and will be displayed at our Department Executive Committee meeting in Springfield. Thank you to all of you that continue to support our Veterans community, keep up the good work.

Issues which are being currently discussed and worked are transportation, rural area support and an aging Veteran population. 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 and Medical facilities which are in red. If going to a VA or Federal Building, you are required to wear a face mask.

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. The Commission also support the System Worth Saving Program and has supported four events in the past at our Roseburg and White City VAs with our National Organization.



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. Thank you

## VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

### REPORT

#### **Bob Huff**

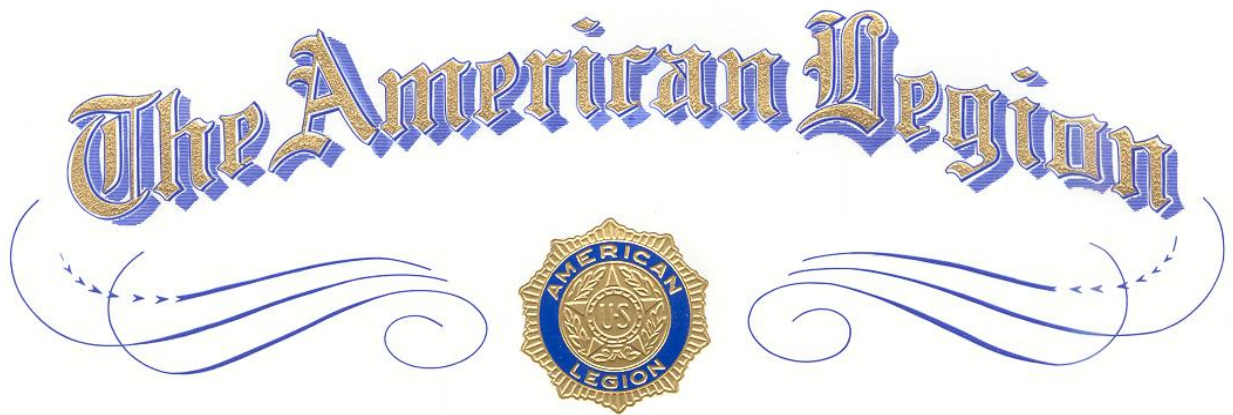
The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission and Committees members are District 9 Commander Larry Hill, Tom Fitzgerald and PDC Bob Huff (Chair). We are still seeking more Commission and Committee members to provide coverage for the whole Department. If interested, please provide your contact information as this is a needed service for our veterans and their families. The Commission and Committees supports Veterans Employment, Education, Homelessness, Service Connected and Veterans Small Business opportunities.

With the pandemic still active in real life which I have experienced 1<sup>st</sup> hand and I have all my shots. We still have restrictions on our ability to hold large events, which we desperately need. Each event we hold will still require complying with the rules for the area we are holding them in, and the number of participants allowed, all rules are followed for everyone's safety. We are scheduled and are meeting to hold a VA Employment Event on Saturday October 22 at the VA SORCC for 245 jobs at the VA in Clinical and Administrative and Support positions.

All our partners are participating. We continue to gather equipment, clothing. I am meeting with the VA Director from Portland and the VA SORCC in White City with discussions for a venue. We are getting closer with more in-person events starting.

## THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION REPORT

**Kevin Owens**



October 23, 2020

The Oregon American Legion Foundation Book of Reports

The Foundation continues to have monthly meetings. The Board has been hard at work to get the name of the American Legion in front of some high-profile events. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of November we will have a table at the Moda Center for the Portland Trailblazers basketball game. The goal is to promote the “BE THE ONE” campaign, but also to be visible to another group of folks who do not know who we are. Cory Brockman has worked hard on a new brochure with the help from Frank who lives in Arizona. Frank has helped develop a QR code to direct people to our Foundation website.

I would encourage all of you to get a reduced ticket that was offered by the Trailblazers to attend the Veterans Appreciation Night. We are still working on other games focused on the American Legion for March, so stay tuned. We have put a pair of coins on each of your desks to help us kick off a new program that supports our National Security program, and that is in support of our local police and firemen.

The coins will be turned over to the Department National Security Chairman to be purchased to honor the men and women First Responders in your community. It will do a couple of things; first making contact with your community leaders who could be Veterans that could belong to your Post, and second giving back to those folks who have worked through some difficult times with defund the police and general negativity against them, who at least one-third are veterans.

We also want to honor the fireman in the say way who put their lives on the line every day. Please take advantage of this great opportunity, its who we are and what we do. The Foundation continues to make efforts to work with the Winterhawks, the Timbers and the Thorns with more to come. I have reached out to Dutch Bros to see if we can work with them on a future event.

The Foundation continues to be the incubator for ideas to make the American Legion more visible and are happy to make things happen, but we need the Commissions to take those ideas and expand on them, improve them, and make them continue. Seven people can only do so much, but we and 14 thousand members can do much more. If you have an idea and are not sure how to start the process and would like some help, we are here to make it happen, if possible, that’s what we do.

I want to thank all the Board members for the hard work they do and take no credit. I've often heard that the boss gets all the credit, but in this case, the credit goes to all of the Board members, I just happen to be surrounded by them.\KO\