

Catherine Brockmann:

... This evening. We hope you will enjoy tonight's ceremony to kick off our annual convention. I present to you my co-host, the Department of Oregon's Second Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann:

And I present to you my co-host, the Department of Oregon's American Legion Auxiliary District One President, Catherine Brockmann.

We're glad to be with you in the Oregon American Legion Family again, reflecting on this year's programs of serving veterans, their families, our youth, and our great nation, in addition to preparing for another year of service to community, state and nation. Let's have a great time here in Beaverton before we return home to continue the good work for the American Legion Family. Thanks to each of you for what you do every day for the American Legion Family. Our veterans need us, and America needs you, the American Legion Family.

Catherine Brockmann:

It is our honor to introduce the leadership of our Oregon American Legion Family, the Auxiliary, the Legion, and Sons of the American Legion and the special guest. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and greet our American Legion Auxiliary Department President, Debra Godwin of McMinnville, unit number 21.

Cory Brockmann:

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our American Legion Department of Oregon Commander, Don Weber, of Aloha Post 104. And our Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Oregon Karl Pawlik of Squadron 61.

Please remain standing as Aloha Post 104 Color Guard brings forward our nation's colors, the flag of our United States of America.

Catherine Brockmann:

The national colors, "Wherever I go, my colors speak of freedom for all peoples. I was conceived to represent an ideal, one whose message has been carried over two centuries. I wave in proud, silent tribute to the good that mankind has shown. My fellow Americans I am liberty, the flag of the United States of America."

Cory Brockmann:

Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing and uncovered for the singing of our national anthem by American Legion Auxiliary past Western Division President, Cheryl Park of Milwaukee, Unit 180. And remain standing for the invocation, pledge of allegiance, and reciting of the American Legion Family Preamble.

Speaker 2:

Please follow me in reciting the pledge of allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Cover.

Post the colors.

Cory Brockmann:

Please remain standing and uncover. I call on Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg of Lester C. Rees Post 57 to offer the invocation.

Steve Shollenburg:

Thank you. Eternal God, you are a rock and you are a firm foundation for everything we build. You give gifts to your people for the good of your church. You equip and train your people to carry out good works, you have prepared us for in advance. As we meet this week, we invite you to join us in our deliberation and our tasks that you have set forward to us. And bless our works, Father. We ask that you would provide wisdom, guidance, and direction to all of our leaders. Remind us that you are our loving ally and our fortress. You are our tower of strength and you are a rescuer. Everything we need is found in you, Father God. Everything you do reveals your glory and majesty. Open our eyes to see what you are doing in our lives. Let us marvel at your good gifts and your wise provisions. Your acts are amazing, Lord.

Transform us, Lord, and make us more like you. We thank you for our many blessings, particularly the pleasure of enjoying that special fellowship that comes from the common heritage. We gratefully remember our forefathers who, through sacrifice, suffering, and death, maintain stout hearts to lay the foundations of our great country and preserve its liberties, the same liberties we fight for today. Finally, we remember our brothers and sisters who are absent and may be in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Bless them as you can only bless, Father. Bring us all together in like mind this week to do and continue your will. We pray in your holy name and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Catherine Brockmann:

Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing for our American Legion Family Preambles led by our Department President, Debra Godwin of McMinnville Unit 21.

Debra Godwin:

Okay, everybody has paper, right? So, for God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations of all wars;

Debra Godwin:

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to prosperity principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Cory Brockmann:

Those who have served and those currently serving in the uniform services of the United States are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We're compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures or others who have endured and may still be enduring the agony of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment.

Before we continue our activities, we pause to recognize our POWs and MIAs. Tonight, more than 80,000 American service personnel are still missing from previous conflicts. Our nation's POW MIA Agency remains relentless in its mission to provide the fullest possible accounting to the families and the nation until they're all home. Let us uncover, remain seated and be in the moment of remembrance.

We call your attention to this small table which occupies a place of dignity and honor. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POWs and MIAs. We call them comrades. They're unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join to pay humble tribute to them and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The table is small symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their nation's call to arms. The single rose in the vase signifies the blood they may have shed in sacrificed to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return. The red ribbon on the laws represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us. A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless volunteers of families as they wait. The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us at this time. The chair is empty, they are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors to the open arms of a grateful nation. The American flag reminds us that many of them may never return and have paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure our freedom.

Let us pray to the supreme commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice. May God's Will ever watch over them and protect them and their families. Let us remember. Let us remember.

Please recover.

Catherine Brockmann:

It is a pleasure to introduce the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons members who unselfishly gave their service, dedication and commitment to our department and attachment in years past. Ladies and gentlemen, let us meet those Past Department Commanders, Past Department Presidents and Past Detachment Commanders. Please stand to be recognized. Audience, please hold your applause until we have completed the introductions.

Cory Brockmann:

1978 to 79, Past Department Commander, Charles Bingham.

Catherine Brockmann:

1981 to 1982, Past Department President, Linda Boone.

Cory Brockmann:

1982 to 1983, Past Department Commander, Robert D. Scott.

1986 to 87, Past Department Commander, Patsy Nestor.

Catherine Brockmann:

1989 to 1990, Pass Department President, Judy Farmer.

Cory Brockmann:

1993 to 1994, Past Department Commander, Richard Schenfeld.

Catherine Brockmann:

1994 to 1995, Past Department President, Jan Hufford-Wilson.

1995 to 1996, Past Department President, Juanetta Gunder.

Cory Brockmann:

1996 to 1997, Past Department Commander, Robert Liebenow.

Catherine Brockmann:

1996 to 1997, Past Department President, Florence Comber.

Cory Brockmann:

1997 to 1998, Past Department Commander, Donald Epperson.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Toni Emerson.

1998 to 1999, Past Department President, Patty Cooper.

2000 to 2001, Past Department President, Sherita Potter.

2001 to 2002, Past Department President, Virginia Biddle.

Cory Brockmann:

2002 to 2003, Past Department Commander, Toby Potter.

Catherine Brockmann:

2003 to 2004, Past Department President, Krisann Owens.

Cory Brockmann:

And in 2003 to 2004, Past Attachment Commander, Bill Lewis.

2004 to 2005, Past Department Commander, Charles Schmidt.

Past Detachment Commander, Bill Lewis.

2005 to 2006, Past Department Commander, Sid Carter.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Gen Horne.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Attachment Commander, Bill Lewis.

Catherine Brockmann:

2006 to 2007, Past Department President, Phyllis Parent.

2007 to 2008, Past Department President, Ellie Buell.

Cory Brockmann:

2008 2009, Past Department Commander, Kevin J. Owens.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Cyndi Dahl.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Del White.

Catherine Brockmann:

2009 to 2010. Past Department President, Cheryl Park.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Del White.

2010 to 2011, Past Department Commander, Jackie Collison.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Trudy McGriff.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Del White.

2011 2012, Past Department Commander, Jon Marsh.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Jody Marsh.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Larry Horne.

2012 to 2013, Past Department Commander, Bob Huff.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Pam Seelye.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Attachment Commander, Larry Horne.
2013 2014, Past Department Commander, Mike Morris.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Ginny Williams.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Bill Lewis.
2014 2015, Past Department Commander, Andy Millar.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Linda Liebenow.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Attachment Commander, Del White.

Catherine Brockmann:

2015 2016, Past Department President, Angie McKinney.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Del White.

Catherine Brockmann:

2016 to 2017, Past Department President, Deby Levy.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Mark Chaney.
2017 2018, Past Department Commander, Gene Hellickson.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Helen Hisaw.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Mark Chaney.
2018 to 2019, Past Department Commander, Tom Harris.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Krisann Owens.

Cory Brockmann:

Past Detachment Commander, Ron Mitchell.

2019 to 2020, Past Department Commander, Steve Adams.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Kathi Karnowski

Cory Brockmann:

2020 2021, Past Department Commander, Steve Adams.

Catherine Brockmann:

Past Department President, Kathy Karnowski.

Please be seated. And we have one honorary Past Department President from 1995 to 1996 is Judy Lloyd from Lebanon 51.

Cory Brockmann:

It is also our privilege to introduce the headquarters staff who tend to daily operations and assist our department commander and president and detachment commander. We appreciate you so very much and thank you. Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips.

Annaka Jorgensen, Administrative Assistant.

Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer.

Lynn Newton, Finance Specialist.

Catherine Brockmann:

For the Auxiliary we have Cindy Hilliard, our Department Admin Assistant.

Linda Liebenow is our Department Secretary.

And Helen Hisaw is our Treasurer.

In addition to the headquarters staff's mention, our Legion, Auxiliary and Sons Officers also assist department and detachment leaders outside of the office to carry the legacy of our legion family forward. Let's meet them as they stand to be recognized. Again, please hold your applause until they've all been introduced

Cory Brockmann:

For the American Legion Department of Oregon, Steve Adams, Immediate Past Department Commander.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Kathy Karnowski is the immediate Past Department President for the Auxiliary.

Cory Brockmann:

Department First Vice Commander, Larry Whitmayer.

Catherine Brockmann:

Vice President and membership chairwoman, Cindy Soria.

Department Second Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.
National Executive Committeeman, Kevin J. Owens

Catherine Brockmann:
National Executive Committee Woman, Krisann Owens.

Cory Brockmann:
Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Gene Hellickson.

Catherine Brockmann:
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, Jody Marsh.

Cory Brockmann:
Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips.

Catherine Brockmann:
Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow.

Cory Brockmann:
Department Chaplain, Steve Shollenburg.

Catherine Brockmann:
Department Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez.

Cory Brockmann:
Department Historian, Dick Winders.

Catherine Brockmann:
And Department Historian, Geanne Horne.

Cory Brockmann:
Department Judge Advocate, Gene Hellickson.

Catherine Brockmann:
Department Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye.

Cory Brockmann:
Our Department Service Officers, Ed Van Dyke and Jody Marsh.
Department Sergeant at Arms, Phyllis York.

Catherine Brockmann:
Department Sergeant at Arms, Suzanne Driver.

Cory Brockmann:

Department Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Ward Allen and Mike Morris.

Catherine Brockmann:

Department Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Suzanne Hurd.

Cory Brockmann:

Aide to the Department Commander, Adam Gettmann.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Department Administrative Assistant, Cindy Hilliard.

From the shores of the Pacific Ocean East to the banks of the Snake River from the Columbia River Gorge, South across the Cascades to the Klamath Basin, our department covers over 98,000 square miles and is divided into 10 districts.

Ladies and gentlemen let's meet our District Commanders and District Presidents. We call them our Field Generals. Please stand and be recognized when your name is called. Again, please hold your applause until the very end.

Cory Brockmann:

District One Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Catherine Brockmann:

President Catherine Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann:

District Two, Juan Palacios.

Catherine Brockmann:

Gregoria Hernandez.

Cory Brockmann:

District Three, John Morford.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Bobby Peebler.

Cory Brockmann:

District Four, David Applegate.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Donna Hartwell.

Cory Brockmann:

District Five, Lance Trowbridge.

Catherine Brockmann:

Ginny Williams.

Cory Brockmann:

District Six, Andy Millar.

Catherine Brockmann:

Maggie Lamont.

Cory Brockmann:

District Seven, James Moriarty.

District Eight, Chris Christopherson.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Trudy McGriff.

Cory Brockmann:

District Nine, Larry Hill.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Frankie Trask.

Cory Brockmann:

District 10, Daniel Burks.

Catherine Brockmann:

And Linda Schmidt.

Cory Brockmann:

Give them all a round of applause.

We now recognize our Sons of the American Legion Detachment Officers. Please stand up to be recognized when your name is called and we please ask you to hold your applause until they're finished.

Detachment First Vice Commander, Jerry Patton.

Detachment Second Vice Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Immediate Past Attachment Commander, Ron Mitchell.

National Executive Committeeman, Mark Chaney.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Larry Horne.

Adjutant, James Marlet.

Judge Advocate, Andy Millar.

Sergeant at Arms, Ed Halback Jr.

Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Dale Brown.

And Chaplain, William [inaudible 00:28:34].

Please let's give them all big hand.

We also recognize our American Legion Riders Officers. Director Paul Schnell.

East Director, Robert Baker.

West Director, Robert De Kar.

Adjutant, Lori Heinz.

Sergeant at Arms, Dane Egan.

And Chaplain, Jim Connelly.

Catherine Brockmann:

We have Oregon Legion family members who have and are representing us at national headquarters. Representing Oregon's American Legion Auxiliary are, National Executive Committee Woman, Chris Ann Owens, and Alternate National Executive Committee Woman, Jody Marsh.

Cory Brockmann:

And Legion Representation at National Headquarters are our National Executive Committeeman, Kevin J. Owens and our Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Gene Hellickson.

Also present with us this evening we have with us National Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman, Ralph Bozella of the Department of Colorado.

Representing Oregon Sons of the American Legion at our National Executive Committeeman, Mark Chaney, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Larry Horn.

Catherine Brockmann:

Oregon's Past National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary, 1992 to 93, National President, Linda Boone.

2000 to 2001, Western Division Vice President, Patty Cooper.

2008 to 2009, National Chaplain, Sherita potter.

And 2019 to 2021, Western Division Vice President, Cheryl Park.

Cory Brockmann:

Oregon's Past National Officers of the American Legion.

2016 2017, National Commander, Charles E. Schmidt.

1995 to 1996, National Vice Commander, Robert D. Scott.

2019 to 2021, National Vice Commander, Robert Liebenow.

2016 to 2017, National Sergeant at Arms, Kevin J. Owens.

2016 to 2017, National Commander Aide, Dirk Levy.

And 2017, National Commander Aide, Don Weber.

Oregon's Past National Officers of Sons of the American Legion, Past National Vice Commander, Bill Lewis.

Neighbors from the north joining us this evening are Department of Washington's Commander, Rick Succi. Alternate National Executive Committeeman of Washington, Bob Clark. And Department of Washington's Adjutant, Jesse Horton. We're glad you could join us.

Membership is a lifeblood of the American Legion Family. It is essential to grow membership to fulfill Legion Family positions, programs and services at every level. A resilient membership keeps the American Legion Family's voice strong in our advocacy for veterans on Capitol Hill.

Catherine Brockmann:

Tonight, let us recognize the units, Squadrons and Posts who achieved 100% of their 2021/2022 membership goal. We will start with the Auxiliary.

Portland, number 1.

Hillsboro, number 6.

Albany, number 10.

Medford, number 15.

Dallas, number 20.

McMinnville, number 21.

Grants Pass, 28.

Crook County, number 29.

Bay Area, number 34.

Hermiston, number 37.

Williams Valley, number 50.

Florence, number 59.

Ontario, number 67.

Clatskanie, number 68.

Glen Morrison, number 70.

Chris Schultz, number 71.

Sheridan, number 75.

North Eugene Santa Clara, number 83.

Seaside, 99.

[inaudible 00:34:30].

Dayville, 115.

Oakland, 152.

Carlton Memorial, 173.

Milwaukee, 180.

The Auxiliary has two Goal Districts this year. District number one and district number eight.

Cory Brockmann:

2021/2022 Goal Squadrons in numerical order. Hillsboro, Number six. Klamath Falls, Number eight. Astoria, Number 12. McMinnville, Number 21. Milton-Freewater, Number 24. Grants Pass, Squadron 28. Prineville, Squadron 29. La Grande, Squadron 43. Redmond, Squadron 44. Lebanon, Squadron 51. Sherwood, Squadron 56. Stayton, Squadron 58. Ontario, Squadron 67. Seaside, Squadron 99. Aloha, Squadron 104. Newport, Squadron 116. Canby, Squadron 122. Carlton 173. Milwaukie, Squadron 180.

For 2021/2022 Goal Posts in numerical order based on membership numbers as of the [inaudible 00:38:44], Washington, Post 2. Hillsboro, Post 6. Keizer, Post 17. The Dalles, Post 19. McMinnville Post 21. Hood River, Post 22. Bandon, Post 26. Crook County, Post 29. Hermiston Post 37. St Helen's, Post 42. Tillamook, Post 47. Williams Valley, Post 50. Mosier, Post 55. Argon, Post 56. Staten, Post 58. Florence, Post 59. Harney County, Post 63. Ontario, Post 67. T. Les Galloway, Post 68. Wallowa, Post 72. Carl Douglas, Post 74. Sheridan, Post 75. Port Orford, Post 76. Sisters, Post 86. Ione, Post 95. St John's, Post 98. Seaside, Post 99. Aloha, Post 104. Prairie, Post 106. Corbett, Post 108. Vernonia, Post 119. Sutherlin, Post 121. Beaverton, Post 124. Jefferson County, Post 125. Nehalem, Post 126. Sandy, Post 127. Athena, Post 130. Oakland, Post 152. Tigard, Post 158. Cannon Beach, Post 168. Carlton Memorial Post 173. Musicians, Post 185.

Goal Districts: District one and district 10.

Catherine Brockmann:

Let's give all of our Post Units and Squadrons a big round of applause.

Tonight, we honor those who have served and those currently serving in our armed forces. We are here to celebrate and show our pride for our military services. Please remain seated during the presentation of the United States of America Armed forces standards. However, if you feel inclined to stand to wave or sing along for your branch of service, please do so. If you have a family member or loved one in any of these military branches, celebrate their service as well.

The United States Army. My battle streamers stand in mute testimony of the victories that 226 years of dedicated service have produced. My soldiers have taken their stand and held their ground both in war and in peace. In the traditions set forth by their predecessors at Valley Forge, Normandy, Husan, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Eastern Europe. I am the defender of freedom, the flag of the United States Army.

Cory Brockmann:

The United States Marines.

The United States Marine Corps. Steeped in the leatherneck pride in the traditions of Hiroshima and Tripoli. I've been a leader in the defense of freedom in the air on land and sea, known and respected around the world by the [inaudible 00:46:50]. I am fidelity the flag of the United States Marine Corps. You may post the color.

Catherine Brockmann:

The United States Navy.

From the yards of my first privateer to the decks of my newest nuclear carrier, my men and women have carried the battle to the enemy shores. I have defended liberty on the seas against all who dare to challenge and my heroes have remained victorious. I am tradition, the flag of the United States Navy.

Cory Brockmann:

The United States Air Force.

To dutifully serve their country in war and peace, this proud heritage of the men and women who gather under my colors in defense of my country. I am strong in my resolve to protect this land and the independence it stands for. When called to fight, I am as swift as an eagle and terrible in my vengeance should the liberty I stand for be threatened. I am Freedom Song on Silver Wings, the flag of the United States Air Force.

Catherine Brockmann:

The United States Coast Guard.

From lonely shores to stormy seas, my ships and sailors guard the future of our country. Pride and professionalism are the keywords in the performance of our duty. Though my numbers are few, my contributions are many and everlasting. To those in need, my history shines as a beacon and extended hand in the darkness of the unknown. I epitomized the word "Service", the flag of the United States Coast Guard.

Cory Brockmann:

The United States Merchant Marines.

In times of peace or war, the civilians serving in the United States Merchant Marines have helped keep our nation safe and prosperous. We depend on these men and women serving on our ships and tugs, our ports and shipyards, close to home or far at sea. I am the flag of the United States Merchant Marines.

Catherine Brockmann:

The pride of America, our finest are serving and have served in our armed forces in times of war and peace. Our nation owes them not only our gratitude but our commitment to care for him or her who shall have borne the battle. Formed in 1919 a fledgling American Legion joined by the American Legion Auxiliary in 1920 and the Sons of the American Legion in 1932, together still live up to President Lincoln's words by advocating for and supporting our veterans and their families. Be proud of our contributions. We are the Oregon American Legion Family.

Cory Brockmann:

The American Legion, born of concerns for fellow veterans of all wars. I'm the dedication and patriotism of the millions who join me. I am the purpose of our order. I uphold to defend our constitution. I foster and perpetuate Americanism. I provide the sense of obligation to the community, state and nation. I am the safeguard of justice, freedom and democracy. I am comradeship. I am the flag of the American Legion.

Catherine Brockmann:

The American Legion Auxiliary, with one great purpose, my contribution and accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion is who I am. I am your mother, your grandmother, your spouse, your sister, your daughter, your granddaughter. I am the epitome of support, the flag of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Cory Brockmann:

Sons of the American Legion. I was born at the 1932 American Legion National Convention in Portland, Oregon, and have become an integral and important program of the American Legion. Built by my male descendants of the current or grandparent who served in the US military and became eligible for membership in the American Legion. Together with the American Legion and Auxiliary I too placed high importance on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. I am the flag of the Sons of the American Legion.

Catherine Brockmann:

American Legion Riders.

I am a program nationally recognized association of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion, members who enjoy the sport and comradeship of motorcycle. I support the aims and objectives of the American Legion. I am well known for charitable work, raising funds for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, [inaudible 00:57:58] wounded service members, and scholarships. Since 2006 I have raised more than 12 million dollars through the American Legion Legacy run, to provide scholarships to children of US military personnel with disability or were killed in action since September 11th, 2001. I am the flag of the American Legion Riders.

Cory Brockmann:

Planning a department convention starts early and continues until the convention is adjourned. It is no easy task for our volunteers who search for a host city and post. Planned publicity, registration, lodging, meals, entertainment, speakers, logistics, and the integration of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion agendas, all into one agenda. The Aloha 104 Legion Family brought it all together this year and deserves our sincere appreciation. Please welcome American Legion Convention Corporation Chairman, Adam Gettmann and Stacy Gettmann.

Adam Gettmann:

We started planning this September, eight months ago and we've hit every imaginable speed bump along the way. But we made it here and we got a good turnout, and we hope everybody has fun.

Stacy Gettmann:

I want to thank the people who are here who also volunteer, who helped, who committed their time. It was a lot of work, but I appreciate everybody's time coming together and I appreciate all of you for being here to enjoy our next convention.

Adam Gettmann:

And we can't forget the mentorship of Jon and Jody Marsh.

Catherine Brockmann:

I call on Commander Don for a response and welcoming.

Commander Don:

Well thank you all for coming this week. It's indeed been an honor to serve this last year. I would especially like to thank the folks for stepping out. I got to tell you, normally they start the convention planning process about three years ahead of time. As of last summer at convention, we didn't have a

Post identified for a convention and although it didn't step up until the fall timeframe so that's why they had such a short timeframe. So, they did, in fact, do a phenomenal job in pulling this off.

So indeed, I want you all to have a good time. We've got a lot of great information coming up this week, some great speakers. We've got some business to take care of and I look forward to getting all that taken care of. So thank you.

Catherine Brockmann:

Next, we will hear from department president, Debra Godwin.

Debra Godwin:

Hi everybody. First, I need to welcome everybody to our Annual Department of Oregon Legion Families Convention. I also need to thank these amazing people from Aloha 104, they've done a lot of communication with me, answered any questions I might have or anything there. Convention to me is a time that we reflect on what we've accomplished and what we need to accomplish and the not so good stuff. Every convention that I've attended through my years with the American Legion Auxiliary has been phenomenal and fun. So, Auxiliary get ready cause we got some fun stuff coming. So, once again, thank you all. We'll see you at convention.

Catherine Brockmann:

All right, and next we have Detachment Commander Karl Pawlik

Karl Pawlik:

Well, we got to thank the Aloha Post, they're doing a great job. But I do want to thank my father, the only reason I get to be here due to his service and like many of the other sons here, only due to our parents service are we allowed to be members. And I get to also thank my son. He's in the Air Force so that's great and hopefully we'll getting to be a member soon. It's brilliant. You're still in the member. I mean it's great.

But I want to thank Aloha. I want to thank the department and I can't wait for elections. Right now, it'd be great.

Cory Brockmann:

Don, would you please come forward for the purpose of presentations? Thank you for your service, Commander.

Catherine Brockmann:

For the benediction, I call a department Auxiliary Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez. Please rise and uncover for the benediction. After the benediction, please remain standing.

Gregoria Hernandez:

Gracious Lord. Thank you for always being there when we need your guidance and strength. Bless all our veterans wherever they may be serving for our great nation and our freedom. Keep them safe from harm. May you always bless and keep grace upon their families as they wait for their return. Raise us all with your knowledge to do our best to fulfill our mission in our great organization. Always in our hearts

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keeping in mind our POWs and MIAs for their sacrifice. Grant us with your love, to love one another, learn from one another and always doing it respectfully. In your precious name, Amen.

Cory Brockmann:

Cover. This concludes our joint opening of the 103rd Convention of the Department of Oregon. The joint memorial service will begin promptly at 08:00 tomorrow morning. Enjoy your evening. We are now in recess.

One more quick announcement I want to let everybody know that Aloha 104 is open for business tonight.

And throughout this convention... Can I have your attention please. One other announcement. The Department of Oregon supporting our Veterans and Children's Foundation. Throughout this convention, you will see small buckets being passed or at the entrance or exit doors. If you see a VCF bucket, please drop in your pocket change. That's all we ask. Just pocket change. Thank you.