

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 December 2022

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION **FAMILY**



Notes from Commanders,
Commission Reports,
Auxiliary, SAL,
Trivia and so much more...

Also in this Issue:
Wreaths Across America
Page 21
National Commander Visit
Page 27

Mt. Hood
Photo by S. Flynn Phillips





LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

If this reaches you before Christmas, I wish you Merry Christmas. If not I sincerely hope you remembered the reason for Christmas.

We recently finished our Fall DEC where much progress was made.

I am planning for the Winter DEC which will be partly Virtual and part-

ly in person to be a one-day DEC on Saturday on 14 January from 8:00am to around 1:00pm. This will give time for those dual SAL members to attend the SAL meeting at Post 180 and to stay for the Willy Williams Scholarship Extravaganza also at Post 180.

We have identified some areas in our Constitution and By-laws that could be worked on. More on this later.

The report from our Legislative Chair highlighted work by the commission chair to develop grass roots Department participation. This will come from the District Commanders to the Posts. We heard at National

Convention that we **MAY** have lost some of the clout and influence we have enjoyed in past years. With our Legislative activity we can regain that perceived loss.

Every Day, Week, Month and Year is **BUDDY CHECK** time. It is very rewarding to spend some time checking on our comrades.

Our membership campaign needs a giant boost. The month of November was Member Retention month. Let's work those non-renewals.

Please feel free to call me with anything. 503-970-4944.



CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

You have a powerful voice! Elections are powerful opportunities for our voices to be heard. With the recent November 8th elections not far

behind us, I trust you exercised your right to vote and, thus, contributed to the democratic process. By voting, you made your voice heard. We are blessed to live in a country where we have the right to vote, and it is due, in no small part, to the sacrifices made by so many of the service members – veterans – that served before us.

My hope is that you will always and forever demonstrate your freedom and liberty, your love of country, and let your voice be heard. Those that have served, and more so those who

made the ultimate sacrifice, deserve to have us make their sacrifices worth it.

You can make a difference!

As a grassroots organization, our voice is a very powerful tool, but only if we use it. We have ample opportunities throughout the year to have our voices heard on matters that directly and positively impact and benefit our veterans and their families. We can be that difference, but it takes each of us to strengthen that impact.

With technology today, our voices can be much more effectively heard by our elected officials, our Senators, and Congressmen/Congresswomen, and it is effortless to do. The American Legion's Legislative Action Center allows you to register for 'Action Alert' emails. Once signed up, you will occasionally receive Action Alert emails that will prompt you to send pre-drafted letters of support on veteran and military service-related

legislative bills to your Congressional delegates. And it is all completed with just a few taps or clicks on your cell-phone or computer. It doesn't get any simpler or more convenient than that!

Will you join me in strengthening our voice in support of our veterans? Can you please, do that? It takes very little time to register for Action Alert emails. You won't receive junk emails. By signing up, you will receive occasional Action Alerts in your email, prompting you to support our veterans and service members. It is so easy to do, and you will be making a significant difference in supporting our veterans. To register, please navigate to <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

Thank you for helping be a difference in the lives of our veterans. We have much to be thankful for, and I am thankful for all you do. The power of one begins with one. You. Join other supporters and me to *'Be The One. We are Veterans Strengthening America.'*

Since our last issue of the Legionaire, we held our Fall Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting in Springfield. We held training on Saturday and our DEC on Sunday. Both days were very productive, and we held Finance Training on Saturday with emphasis on Post and District Finances and Post Taxes, and Sunday, we discussed our Department's 2022-2023 Budget and Budget challenges. We had a lot of questions and a lot of good dialogs on our finances, all positive discussions.

I hope to have more of this type of training at the Post and District level as we move our meetings around our Department. I have had telephone conversations since our training with Post and District Officers resolving Post issues. This is all positive. As our Past National Chaplain would say in each meeting, "Go to Church" I will say, "File your Post Taxes" there are

"no exceptions. You must file taxes each year". And as 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 has filed their 990 tax forms, either 990, 990EZ, or 990n (ePostcard).

On the positive side, I know from the communication I am having with District Commanders and Posts that the training worked, the questions are being asked, and Posts are responding; thank you all. We also continually ask if anyone needs help, please call or email that we are here to help.

I would like to thank the Training and Development Committee for scheduling this training at the Post and District level, and I would encourage Posts and Districts when a DEC or training is held in your area to attend the training. All members

are welcome to attend our DEC meetings and training sessions.

Remember, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a



PDC, BOB HUFF
DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

501©3, and their contributions are tax-deductible, and 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, and we have our Foundation, which is a 501c3 which the grants can be made out to earmarked for your Program.



PDC, KEVIN OWENS
NECMAN

of honoring our membership, our State, and most of all, our great Department and the good things we do. We started out picking up the Commander and his Aide at the Medford Airport. The next day we traveled to the SORCC White City, where we visited with the Director and were able to tour the grounds and the museum.

Thank you to PDC Bob Huff for set-

ting up this great experience for all. Next off to Williams Post 50, the reception was overwelling with members from the Post and Auxiliary in attendance. This Post is a model for all of us of what can be accomplished when you roll up your sleeves and work together. Thank you to all the members of Williams Post and Unit for what you do to spread the word of the American Legion in your community. Next off to North Bend, where we visited Bandon Post 26.

This was the first visit of a National Commander in the history of the Post. A great turnout and the members with the Leadership of the Post Commander have made this Post a real partnership in their community. The next day the National Commander had the experience of his life with a meet and greeted of the Officer-in-

Charge and crew of USCG Station Coos Bay. After a briefing, we were off to the boathouse and a ride the National Commander will never forget anytime soon. After gearing up, we went out for a ride on a 47-foot Motor Life Boat.

Once we got to the river bar, the National Commander took the helm and was able to take it to full speed by the BMC. The look on the Commander's face when the 47-footer jerked him back in his seat was priceless, and we sped out onto the ocean on a beautiful sunny day and flat sea.

You could not have asked for a better day for a boat ride, and the Commander experienced what it is like to be in charge on a small boat. Please look for the video on the National website. *Continued on page 5*

2023 Department Convention on the Coast in Southern Oregon



The Mill Casino • Hotel & RV Park
3201 Tremont St. North Bend, OR 97459

JUNE 14th-17th

FUN! ADVENTURE! EDUCATION! PARTICIPATION!

SCAVENGER HUNT? We've got one!

PASSPORT To Education and Participation? We've got it!

SPORTS? We've got golf! GAMES? We've got them!

TRAINING? It's all here at Convention!

Come to this year's Convention at Coos Bay for this and much more!
All this and more, more, more at this year's Convention.

Department Officers

Commander	Larry Wittmayer
Imed. Past Cmdr	Don Weber
1st Vice Cmdr	Cory Brockmann
2nd Vice Cmdr	Daniel Burks
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Kevin Owens
Alt NECman	Gene Hellickson
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Steve Shollenberg
Historian	Dick Winders
Judge Advocate	Gene Hellickson
Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
V. S. O. Assistant	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen

Continued from page 3

PDC, KEVIN OWENS Following the boat
NECMAN ride, we were off to
Sector North Bend to meet with the
men and women at the Air Station.
The Commander met with the CO,
XO, and the Command Senior Chief
and was briefed on their role and the
needs of the Coast Guard.

After the briefing, an all hands of
the crew was held where the Com-
mander observed awards given out by
the Sector Commander, and then he
was able to speak to the crew about
the American Legion, the support we
have for the Coast Guard and our **"BE
THE ONE" CAMPAIGN.**

After the crew meeting, the National
Commander was suited up for another
first for any National Commander,
a two-hour ride on a Coast Guard H-
65E rescue helicopter. The helo took
him to the border of California along
the shoreline and over the moun-
tains. The Commander returned with
memories he will never forget. He
told us the professionalism and pride
the Coast Guard has is unmatched.

The last event was a dinner that
night at the Coos Bay Elks and Bay
Continued on page 6

Need to Know Dates

December

Oregon Veerans Home
Christmas Gift Shop 3rd
Pearl Harbor 7th
Christmas Cheer
National Closed 23rd-26th
Christmas 25th
National Closed 31st
Visit Veterans who are ill or
in assisted living homes

January

New Years Day 1st
National Closed until 3rd
Martin Luther King Day 16th
Initiation ceremonies
present flags and copies of the flag
code to local schools
Check dates for Post, District and
State Oratorical contests

February

Valentine's Day 14th

Editors Notes

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Since 1919

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WORDS OF WISDOM

*"What lies behind you and what lies
in front of you, pales in comparison
to what lies inside of you."*

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Continued from page 5

PDC, KEVIN OWENS Area Post, Unit **NECMAN** and Squadron 34. The Commander was honored with the traditional myrtle wood clock presented by the Post Commander. The next day we were off to Florence Post 59 and were greeted by a large group where the National Commander was able to talk to the members one on one and then spoke to the large group.

His message shared with them seemed to make them proud to be Legionnaires. In the last part of the trip, we were off to Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay, where the Commander

was met by the **CO** and **XPO**. He was given a tour of the small boat station with a briefing on their role in Newport. After the tour, we were able to have a BBQ Ribs lunch with the crew. The Coast Guard cooks always serve wonderful meals.

As we ended our trip, I think the National Commander was given a good representation of our Department, our members, and the great things we do to promote our amazing organization. I would like to like to thank all the Posts involved for hosting us and to all who have made this trip one that the National Commander will never forget.



SUSAN HUGHES
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

District one membership is slowly increasing. I thank everyone for getting busy calling members and doing buddy checks. It has significantly increased after I talked to most Commanders from each Post.

You gave me a lot of ideas. I want to try to get District 1 at 100% faster, but as of the last report, we are no longer in 2nd to last place. We are in 7th place. Remember District meeting is on December 17th at 1 pm at Tigard post 158. Lunch will be served from 11:00 to 12:30, with the meeting following the need to have officers and members attend this meeting from each post so that you can be informed at what I learned from the last DEC. that concerns you and your posts and

Well, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

District one membership is slowly increasing. I thank everyone for getting busy

your members. And things that need to be done next year. If I don't see you at the next District meeting, I hope you have a safe Christmas and a happy New year.

Respectively Submitted



One of the worst disasters in history of the U.S. happened December 1922 in what state?

- A. Ohio
- B. Florida
- C. Oregon
- D. Washington

Calendar of Events

December Pearl Harbor Day

7 Pearl Harbor
17 District 1 Mtg
23-26 Christmas (Closed)
30-2 New Years (Closed)
31 New Years Eve (Closed)

January Happy New Year

1 New Year
14 DEC Virtual
14 Post 180 Dinner

February

14 Valentine's Day



BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Hello Legionnaires,

As of this writing, the Holidays are ahead of us. Thanksgiving starts off this season, followed by Christmas and New Year. A busier time of year does not exist. It seems fitting that Thanksgiving gets the ball rolling since, in all things joyous, we should be ever thankful.

I have continued my Post visitations and am nearly complete. I continue to enjoy the interactions with the various Posts. The differences vary, as do each of the communities that they represent. I see the great work that each does, and I am grateful. I try to encourage and emphasize the upcoming

Continued on page 7



JIM MORIARTY
DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

dero in Estacada, and we did not have a quorum but discussed many topics with Post 30 Commander Dan Tardiff about the recent DEC in Springfield, OR.

Be The One -- is about raising awareness about **PTSD** and Suicide among Active Duty members and Veterans -- you can print the brochures from the national website.

We met with the 2024-2025 Candidate for National Commander (from Connecticut). His message was about communication. Stay in touch with the troops and talk with them constantly.

Hello all,

I hope everyone is well and recovering from that nasty storm yesterday. We met (1st VC Terry Brown and I) today at the Caza-

Finance --- Posts, please make sure that you pay your taxes.

Training --- Get reports into Dept in a timely manner, Bylaws/Constitution Review April 23, **CPRS** June 23.

Membership --- We were in 52 out of 54 places at the DEC but have moved up to 47th place nationally. Keep up the hard work now that we are entering the winter months. Please keep pushing and engaging in your communities.

NEC --- Possible due increase in 2024-2025. There were 25 resolutions passed at NEC.

Service Officer -- Vietnam Vets from 1962 to 1975, the VA concedes to Agent Orange but are adding different locations: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnson Atoll. The Gulf War vets - the Burn Pit Registry has two new conditions: hypertension and MGUS. The last one is the Camp LeJeune lawsuit from 1953-1987. There is a list of presumptive conditions primarily caused by herbicides. And the Post

9/11 vets, there are 20 new conditions.

Boy's State -- will be happening at Oregon State University next year from June 25, 2023, to July 1, 2023.

Legislative --- Veteran's History Project - Library of Congress (I have attached sheet) and sign up for legislative alerts (additional sheet).

Foundation --- Purchased coins to honor Law Enforcement and Firefighters with American Legion Logo (see Flynn). The American Legion will participate and have a booth at the Portland Trailblazers game on November 15, 2022. They are also working with the Trailblazers to have the "Be The One" logo put on their jerseys, possibly during a spring game. Also, they are working with Dutch Bros. to have The American Legion logo placed on their T-shirts and shot out of the tubes by cheer units at Blazers games.

Please let me know how District 7 can help with information, fundraising, events, and other functions that you might have coming up in the new few months. Take care and stay safe.



Continued from page 6

BETTY FISH-FERGUSON ing youth programs. I am so looking forward to a robust District Oratorical competition this year. Enough said.

May each of you have a wonderful Holiday season. See you at the next District meeting in December in Carlton.



PNVC, ROB LIEBENOW
DETACHMENT COMMANDER

The tickets are **6 for \$5.00, or 30 for \$20.00** giving you an extra 6 tickets.

I have a POW/MIA Wooden flag, made by a fellow veteran, that I am raffling off for my Commanders Project.

Please call me at **503-318-6426** if you wish to purchase some tickets.

The drawing will be held at Department Convention in June 2023





JIM JEROME
DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

District 10 attended the DEC at the end of October. In November attended Post 63 monthly meeting. I attended the Burns High School Veterans break

fast and an all-school assembly. When the grade school students sang "God Bless America," there were not too many dry eyes in the Veteran group. Including this, Commander. I attended Post 63's Veterans Dinner on November 11th.

I contacted all Post Commanders in the District. Keeping the lines of communication open! Welcomed along with Posts 67, 79, 106 and our 2nd Vice Commander Burke the three Marines doing "The Long Walk" on US-20 the MOH Highway, except for Massachusetts. The Marines hope that Mass. will pass a resolution competing for MOH designation on Highway 20 coast to coast. Post 63, and Post 106 met the three Marines again last Saturday in Burns to encourage them on in their endeavor. The three Marines are doing a walking memorial for all MIAs / POWs. They are dedicated!



Marines crossed into Oregon from Idaho on November 12th.

District 10, Posts 77, and 106 presented Law Enforcement challenge coins to the Grant County Sheriff Department Deputies. Also, one Oregon State Trooper received a challenge coin. District 10 supports our County Sheriff's Department and State Troopers with Legion challenge coins. We are thanking them for all they do to serve us!



PNVC, ROB LIEBENOW
DETACHMENT COMMANDER

We had an excellent turnout for our Fall DEC. We passed five resolutions, and the Department Executive Committee also passed them. As you know, we are a program, and the Legion must pass our resolutions in order for us to move forward. Four of them had to do with our budget, and that was just moving money from one line item to another. The other resolution establishes the Willy William's SAL Scholarship.

Membership is coming along at a good clip. We are ahead of the Na-

tional target dates, and this puts us in great shape to make and exceed our 100% goal. We are doing great in sign-ing up new members but need to work a little harder on retention. We should have a 90% retention rate, and I know we will get there. We are working on closing eight squadrons, which seems like a lot. The squadrons in question should have been closed several years ago. We have two squadrons who are trying to rebuild, and we are working with them. Williams Post #50 has sent in their application for a squadron, which has been sent to National. We have at least two more posts interested in starting squadrons.

I am always up to visiting squadrons, so if you would like me to attend one of your events, don't hesitate to contact me, and I will see what I can do to attend.

Our mid-winter DEC will be held at Milwaukie Post 180. The time will be 2:00 pm. Every squadron should have a representative at all DEC's. Each squadron has a vote and should be there to exercise that right. After the meeting, Squadron 180 will be hosting the Wild Willy Western Days. There will be food and lots of things to do. This is to raise funds for Willy's SAL Scholarship. Dress up in your best western gear and joins us for a **GREAT TIME**. Feel free to attend the DEC in your western getup.

Here we are in the middle of the Holiday Season and almost halfway through our Legion year. I hope everyone has a **GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON**, and wishing the best in the coming New Year. Say safe and healthy, and I hope to see you in Milwaukie for the mid-winter DEC.

Department of Oregon 2023 Membership



as of 12/2/22

Including Encumbered HQ Transfers



OR Dist 0001 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0002	Washington	Forest Grove	7	35	57	2	101	140	72.14
OR-0006	Hillsboro Inc	Hillsboro	6	55	107	5	173	245	70.61
OR-0012	Clatsop Inc	Astoria	15	56	164	0	235	410	57.32
OR-0042	J H Wellington Inc	St Helens	2	17	56	0	75	120	62.50
OR-0047	Tillamook	Tillamook	0	2	1	0	3	15	20.00
OR-0056	Argonne Inc	Shenwood	4	31	102	2	139	235	59.15
OR-0068	T Les Galloway	Clatskanie	1	20	65	0	86	120	71.67
OR-0090	John Kalmbach	Banks	3	19	53	0	75	142	52.82
OR-0099	Seaside	Seaside	21	39	158	2	220	320	68.75
OR-0104	Aloha	Aloha	10	66	230	2	308	500	61.60
OR-0119	Vernonia Inc	Vernonia	1	2	23	0	26	38	68.42
OR-0124	Beaverton	Beaverton	1	14	40	0	55	115	47.83
OR-0126	Neill Walker	Nehalem	0	3	1	0	4	15	26.67
OR-0158	Tigard	Tigard	19	68	244	3	334	584	57.19
OR-0168	Cannon Beach	Cannon Beach	2	10	73	1	86	151	56.95
SUM:			92	437	1,374	17	1,920	3,150	60.95

OR Dist 0002 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0007	Delbert Reeves	Silverton	0	9	10	1	20	27	74.07
OR-0009	Capital	Salem	0	40	74	2	116	180	64.44
OR-0017	Keizer	Keizer	0	2	28	2	32	44	72.73
OR-0020	Carl B Fenton	Dallas	0	16	61	1	78	131	59.54
OR-0021	Mc Minnville	Mc Minnville	23	47	225	5	300	449	66.82
OR-0033	Independence	Independence	0	5	24	0	29	40	72.50
OR-0046	Woodburn	Woodburn	0	10	21	1	32	53	60.38
OR-0057	Lester C Rees	Newberg	8	8	39	4	59	75	78.67
OR-0058	Stayton	Stayton	3	24	97	2	126	173	72.83
OR-0075	Sheridan	Sheridan	8	8	36	1	53	58	91.38
OR-0089	MT. Angel	MT. Angel	0	2	43	1	46	58	79.31
OR-0110	Aurora Inc	Aurora	0	3	2	0	5	15	33.33
OR-0122	Canby	Canby	9	49	147	3	208	300	69.33
OR-0136	Salem	Salem	1	33	52	0	86	130	66.15
OR-0149	Pioneer Inc	Salem	1	12	10	0	23	40	57.50
OR-0159	Mill City-Gates	Mill City	0	2	1	0	3	22	13.64
OR-0173	Carlton Memorial	Carlton	3	12	65	1	81	105	77.14
SUM:			56	282	935	24	1,297	1,900	68.26

OR Dist 0003 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0003	Eugene Inc	Eugene	0	17	31	0	48	65	73.85
OR-0010	Albany Inc	Albany	23	83	279	4	389	527	73.81
OR-0011	Corvallis	Corvallis	0	19	35	0	54	94	57.45
OR-0032	Calvin Funk	Cottage Grove	8	11	36	1	56	62	90.32
OR-0040	Springfield	Springfield	0	25	37	1	63	106	59.43
OR-0051	Santiam Inc	Lebanon	11	53	369	1	434	636	68.24
OR-0059	Francis M Yost	Florence	2	12	38	0	52	105	49.52
OR-0061	Tri-Counties	Junction City	0	16	34	2	52	75	69.33
OR-0064	Cascade	Oakridge	0	6	13	0	19	27	70.37
OR-0083	North Eugene-Santa Cla	Eugene	2	31	93	0	126	273	46.15
OR-0097	Lincoln City	Lincoln City	0	10	15	0	25	29	86.21
OR-0100	Mary's River	Philomath	0	1	7	0	8	15	53.33
OR-0116	Newport	Newport	27	29	154	2	212	299	70.90
OR-0133	Timber City	Sweet Home	0	8	12	0	20	29	68.97
OR-0184	Travis Moothart	Brownsville	3	13	37	0	53	58	91.38
SUM:			76	334	1,190	11	1,611	2,400	67.13



DAN BURKS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Currently, the Department of Oregon is in 45th place out of 55, sitting at 64.48%. Our next target date is December 14th, with our target being 75%. We have a long road ahead of us and some hard work as well. We are currently well behind our last year's membership. Legionnaires, our Department needs your help! Our membership is wasting away at an alarming rate, and it takes each of us to work on it to fix it. I ask you, why are you a member? Why are you reading this article? The answer is simple because you care!

I am fairly certain you are not reading my article due to my abundant charm. So if you care, what are you doing about it? What is your Post doing about it? What is your District doing about it? Let me tell you, and I was quite alarmed at our last membership meeting, held via computer, able to be done from the comfort of your own home.

Continued on page 11

OR Dist 0004 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0008	Klamath	Klamath Falls	8	34	141	0	183	281	65.12
OR-0014	Guy T Applewhite	Ashland	0	4	7	0	11	24	45.83
OR-0015	Medford	Medford	0	38	86	4	128	232	55.17
OR-0028	Grants Pass	Grants Pass	4	30	119	1	154	288	53.47
OR-0050	Williams Valley	Williams	6	6	39	0	51	43	118.60
OR-0069	Rogue River	Rogue River	0	2	3	0	5	15	33.33
OR-0070	Glenn Morrison	Cave Junction	0	4	16	1	21	38	55.26
OR-0084	Malin Inc	Malin	1	10	32	0	43	63	68.25
OR-0129	Myers-Holland Inc	Central Point	0	4	113	0	117	132	88.64
OR-0192	White City	White City	0	8	41	0	49	84	58.33
SUM:			19	140	597	6	762	1,200	63.5

OR Dist 0005 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0004	Stevens-Chute	Bend	0	24	27	1	52	145	35.86
OR-0019	The Dalles Inc	The Dalles	1	13	36	0	50	84	59.52
OR-0022	Hood River	Hood River	0	10	31	0	41	73	56.16
OR-0025	Frank Burns	Condon	1	4	16	0	21	32	65.63
OR-0029	Crook County	Prineville	9	21	157	3	190	236	80.51
OR-0044	Ray Johnson	Redmond	2	41	123	5	171	266	64.29
OR-0045	La Pine	La Pine	17	80	136	1	234	416	56.25
OR-0048	Eugene Cougar Greene,	Warm Springs	0	2	0	0	2	15	13.33
OR-0049	Sherman County	Moro	0	9	13	0	22	44	50.00
OR-0055	Mosier Inc	Mosier	0	2	17	0	19	24	79.17
OR-0073	Maupin	Maupin	0	0	1	0	1	15	6.67
OR-0086	Sisters	Sisters	1	11	70	0	82	141	58.16
OR-0125	Jefferson County Vetera	Madras	0	6	19	0	25	48	52.08
OR-0131	Deer Ridge	Madras	0	1	0	0	1	31	3.23
OR-0135	Wamic	Wamic	0	1	1	0	2	15	13.33
OR-0164	Don L Medlock	Spray	0	3	0	0	3	15	20.00
SUM:			31	228	647	10	916	1,600	57.25

OR Dist 0006 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0023	Pendleton	Pendleton	0	9	4	1	14	37	37.84
OR-0024	Milton-Freewater	Milton Freewater	0	14	41	1	56	87	64.37
OR-0037	Hermiston	Hermiston	13	13	50	0	76	110	69.09
OR-0041	John Noble Holcomb	Baker City	0	10	25	1	36	65	55.38
OR-0043	La Grande	La Grande	3	35	122	1	161	233	69.10
OR-0072	Kruse	Wallowa	1	2	11	1	15	30	50.00
OR-0087	Heppner	Heppner	0	0	0	0	0	39	0.00
OR-0095	Ione	Ione	1	16	23	0	40	41	97.56
OR-0130	Athena	Athena	1	2	14	0	17	18	94.44
OR-0140	George St Dennis	Mission	0	4	4	0	8	27	29.63
OR-0157	Wallowa Lake	Joseph	0	7	37	0	44	63	69.84
		SUM:	19	112	331	5	467	750	62.27

OR Dist 0007 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0030	Gresham	Gresham	0	15	38	3	56	130	43.08
OR-0074	Carl Douglas	Estacada	15	36	63	0	114	180	63.33
OR-0098	St Johns Inc	Portland	2	13	42	0	57	55	103.64
OR-0108	Corbett	Corbett	0	7	7	0	14	20	70.00
OR-0134	Frederick And John Ravi	Portland	7	22	48	1	78	180	43.33
OR-0137	Dana King	Portland	0	4	19	0	23	36	63.89
OR-0185	City Of Roses Musicians	Portland	1	3	12	0	16	24	66.67
		SUM:	25	100	229	4	358	625	57.28

OR Dist 0008 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0001	Portland	Portland	7	59	94	2	162	425	38.12
OR-0005	Willamette Falls Inc	Oregon City	4	7	10	2	23	75	30.67
OR-0065	Wilsonville	Wilsonville	1	5	18	0	24	65	36.92
OR-0127	Sandy	Sandy	0	2	8	1	11	20	55.00
OR-0150	Oregon Trail	Portland	4	21	56	2	83	110	75.45
OR-0180	Milwaukie	Milwaukie	16	38	346	1	401	605	66.28
		SUM:	32	132	532	8	704	1,300	54.15

OR Dist 0009 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0016	Earle B Stewart	Roseburg	3	48	94	3	148	256	57.81
OR-0026	Bandon	Bandon	4	5	40	0	49	60	81.67
OR-0034	Bay Area	North Bend	0	25	82	9	116	160	72.50
OR-0036	Coquille-Myrtle Point	Coquille	0	6	28	0	34	52	65.38
OR-0062	Reedsport	Reedsport	0	14	14	1	29	45	64.44
OR-0076	Port Orford	Port Orford	0	9	7	0	16	47	34.04
OR-0121	Sutherlin	Sutherlin	0	2	48	0	50	56	89.29
OR-0123	Fallin	Canyonville	4	6	40	0	50	81	61.73
OR-0152	Baird-Heaton	Oakland	0	5	16	0	21	44	47.73
		SUM:	11	120	369	13	513	801	64.04

OR Dist 0010 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0063	Harney County	Burns	3	12	73	0	88	113	77.88
OR-0067	Ontario	Ontario	11	10	78	0	99	131	75.57
OR-0077	Ellis Tracy	John Day	2	5	23	0	30	53	56.60
OR-0079	Nyssa	Nyssa	0	3	12	0	15	29	51.72
OR-0096	Vale	Vale	8	4	30	1	43	59	72.88
OR-0106	Prairie	Prairie City	4	4	54	0	62	63	98.41
		SUM:	28	38	270	1	337	448	75.22

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0114	Headquarters	Portland	0	76	321	0	397		
		SUM:	0	76	321	0	397		

Department of Oregon Totals

	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Transfers	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
Sum:	389	1,999	6,795	99	9,282	14,174	65.49

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1	OR Dist 0001 LGN	92	437	1,374	17	1,920	3,150	
2	OR Dist 0002 LGN	56	282	935	24	1,297	1,900	
3	OR Dist 0003 LGN	76	334	1,190	11	1,611	2,400	
4	OR Dist 0004 LGN	19	140	597	6	762	1,200	
5	OR Dist 0005 LGN	31	228	647	10	916	1,600	
6	OR Dist 0006 LGN	19	112	331	5	467	750	
7	OR Dist 0007 LGN	25	100	229	4	358	625	
8	OR Dist 0008 LGN	32	132	532	8	704	1,300	
9	OR Dist 0009 LGN	11	120	369	13	513	801	
10	OR Dist 0010 LGN	28	38	270	1	337	448	
11	OR Dist 0099 LGN	0	76	321	0	397		

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1		389	1,999	6,795	99	9,282	14,174	
	SUM:	389	1,999	6,795	99	9,282	14,174	

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**



Detachment Of Oregon 2023 Membership
as of 12/2/22

Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0050	Williams Valley	Williams	0	0	0	0	0		
		SUM:	0	0	0	0	0		

Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0001	Portland	Portland	2	0	18	0	20	44	45.45
OR-0006	Hillsboro	Hillsboro	1	0	18	0	19	22	86.36
OR-0008	Klamath	Klamath Falls	1	0	13	0	14	16	87.50
OR-0009	Capital	Salem	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0010	Albany	Albany	4	0	8	0	12	20	60.00
OR-0012	Clatsop	Astoria	10	0	39	0	49	75	65.33
OR-0015	Medford	Medford	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0019	The Dalles	The Dalles	0	0	6	0	6	10	60.00
OR-0021	Mc Minnville	Mc Minnville	2	0	17	0	19	54	35.19
OR-0022	Hood River	Hood River	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
OR-0024	Milton-Freewater	Milton-Freewater	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.00
OR-0028	Grants Pass	Grants Pass	2	0	13	0	15	23	65.22
OR-0029	Prineville	Prineville	2	0	50	0	52	79	65.82
OR-0032	Calvin Funk	Cottage Grove	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0034	Bay Area	North Bend	5	0	22	0	27	21	128.57
OR-0041	John Noble Holcomb	Baker City	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0043	La Grande	La Grande	0	0	0	0	0	32	0.00
OR-0044	Ray Johnson	Redmond	0	0	9	0	9	23	39.13
OR-0045	La Pine	La Pine	0	0	5	0	5	61	8.20
OR-0048	Eugene Cougar Greene	Warm Springs	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0051	Santiam	Lebanon	4	0	35	0	39	94	41.49
OR-0056	Argonne	Sherwood	7	0	17	0	24	59	40.68
OR-0058	Stayton	Stayton	5	0	13	0	18	23	78.26
OR-0061	Tri-Counties	Junction City	1	0	8	0	9	10	90.00
OR-0067	Ontario	Ontario	0	0	13	0	13	14	92.86
OR-0075	Sheridan	Sheridan	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0122	Canby	Canby	5	0	24	0	29	52	55.77
OR-0134	Frederick And John Ravi	Portland	0	0	2	0	2	10	20.00
OR-0136	Salem	Salem	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0150	Oregon Trail	Portland	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0158	Tigard	Tigard	12	0	32	0	44	71	61.97

Continued from page 9

DAN BURKS

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

District 1 and District 2 were the only Districts with a District Commander present. District 2 and District 9 had a Membership Chair, while District 7 communicated early he would not be present and provided a written answer to each of my questions.

District 4 sent me some communication. We are basically mid-way through the year, now is the time we need to step up because Oregon is better than 45th place, last year, we ended in 13th, and I have no doubt we can crush that this year, but we need to get to it. The membership team is ready and willing to help out, so let's do this. "If you or a loved one recently joined the American Legion and your Post or District is now experiencing a shortage of membership, struggling with Buddy Checks, or need some ideas and help, dial 541-212-2394. Team members are standing by." If we work as a team, we can accomplish anything, but only if we work as a team.



Detachment Of Oregon 2023 Membership as of 12/2/22

OR-0168	Cannon Beach	Cannon Beach	3	0	64	0	67	101	66.34
OR-0173	Carlton Memorial	Carlton	3	0	15	0	18	24	75.00
OR-0180	Milwaukie	Milwaukie	19	0	44	0	63	87	72.41
OR-0184	Travis Moothart	Brownsville	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-9999	Sal Holding Sqdn	Tigard	0	0	0	0	0		
SUM:			133	0	632	0	765	1,416	54.03

Detachment of Oregon Totals

	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Transfers	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
Sum:	133	0	632	0	765	1,414	54.1

District Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1 OR Dist 0004 SAL	0	0	0	0	0		
1	133	0	632	0	765	1,416	54.03



DAN BURKS

2ND VICE COMMANDER

4th through the 12th with the exception of 1 day. These events are some of my favorites as our youth perform patriotic songs and speeches, dancing and playing instruments; it warms the heart to see children waiving Old Glory while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. If you haven't at-

The last month has been quite busy. I was able to attend a minimum of 1 school Veterans Day event every day starting November

4th through the 12th with the exception of 1 day. These events are some of my favorites as our youth perform patriotic songs and speeches, dancing and playing instruments; it warms the heart to see children waiving Old Glory while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. If you haven't at-

tended an event like this in your area, I highly advise you to take the time to do so.

I rode as the Grand Marshall in a Veterans Day Parade where I witnessed citizens standing along the side of the road, hands over their hearts, and some even in tears as a trailer carrying a DJ playing our National Anthem as they passed. Later that week, I was asked to speak at a Veterans Day ceremony, where I was joined by Congressman Cliff Bentz. There was a great crowd, along with an entire High School that joined us.

Later that evening, I spoke in Burns at the Veterans Day dinner there.

Continued on page 16



County Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1	133	0	632	0	765	1,416	54.03
SUM:	133	0	632	0	765	1,414	54.1

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JIM MORIARTY
FOUNDATION MEMBER

purchased 1,000 coins honoring those who put their lives on the line every day in this great country. All members of the law enforcement community and firefighters are honored on these coins, while the American Legion

The American Legion Foundation of Oregon has been busy the last few months, and results are starting to appear this month. The Foundation recently purchased

logo appears on the flip side.

This is not the first time the American Legion has supported the law enforcement and firefighting communities. The Legion yearly their finest partners in every community, state, and nation by recognizing these heroes in our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year



Awards.

The Foundation is sponsoring a booth at the Portland Trailblazers game on November 15, 2022. This is another great collaboration by the Foundation, not only for membership but also getting the word out about “Be the One.” Be the One is raising awareness about PTSD and suicide among active duty and veterans. The Foundation is also working with the Trailblazers to have “Be the One” on their jerseys during a spring game this season.



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

lessening their involvement in Scouting and the American Legion has an opportunity to pick up those units that were sponsored by the Methodist Church.

I recently met with the Cascade Pacific Council Council Commissioner to develop a plan to involve Legion post in chartering Scout units. The United Methodist Church is

Activity is increasing with a number of posts coming online chartering scouting units. I will be traveling to The Dalles to speak to them about the possibility

Council events

Cascade Pacific Council

503-225-5777

12/15 Cascadia Chapter OA

Oregon Trail Council

541-485-4433

12/1 Roundtables

12/1 Cascade District

Commissioner Mtg

12/3 Venture Leader Training

12/9-10 Council Leadership

Summit

12/10 OA Chapter Officer Training

12/17 Camp Mooney Service Day

Blue Mountain Council

509-735-7306

12/1 OA LEC Mtg

12/3 Winter Camp Preparations

12/8 OA 3 Rivers Chapter Mtg

Mountain West Council

208-376-4411

12/3 Venturing Officer “Stuff the Bus”

12/22 Tukarica Lodge LEC Mtg



RICHARD RAMEY
INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR

our communities. As examples, here are some of the noteworthy accomplishments mentioned in those documents.

District 4 has scheduled two revitalizations.

Post 136 of Salem participated in the Salute to Veterans at the Volcano Baseball Stadium; and recognized a member who, at age 102, received his certificate from National acknowledging 75 years of membership.

Post 83 of Eugene had a post-car

Continued on page 13

OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Monmouth American Legion host Boys and Girls State event

News Release by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Photo by Paul Rushing,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

MONMOUTH, Ore. - Former Oregon Guard members Maj. Gen. (Retired) Raymond F. Rees, former Undersecretary of the Army and Adjutant General, Oregon, and Lt. Col. (Retired) Fred Broadwater attended the American Legion program Boys and Girls State in Monmouth, Oregon

on June 14, 2022. The event centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments.

Boys and Girls State is operated by high school students elected to various offices running a simulated state government. Rees spoke on leadership and helped the gathering celebrate flag day, the adoption U.S. Flag, by cutting a cake with a military saber. If you are interested in community service organizations, every national guard member in Oregon is eligible to join the American Legion.



Continued from page 12

RICHARD RAMEY show, noted **INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR** their monthly "Breakfast Buddies," where veterans meet at a local diner, and has an excellent page every month in their newsletter that lists 'Resources for Veterans' for their area.

Post 4 in Bend noted their efforts in assisting veterans in assisted living.

Post 17 in Keizer had a recognition dinner for the delegates they sent to Boys & Girls State and are obtaining a popup canopy with the Post screen-printed on it for Post recruiting and functions.

Post 42 in St. Helens placed 580 flags at five cemeteries with the help of the Scouts and American Heritage Girls organizations. They also provided two \$500 scholarships to High School Seniors.

Post 90 of Banks donated a new flag to the community and gave \$750 to local charities.

Post 65 of Wilsonville sponsored a Scout Troop and participated in a Primary School cleanup.

These are all great examples of how fellow Legionnaires work in their communities. Perhaps you can use apply some of these as an idea to accomplish in your community.



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JOHN LEE
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

2000 and now has over 114,000 interviews and narratives in its collection. Senator Merkley's office is teaming up with the VHP and is looking for volunteers to help serve Oregon's veteran community in this special way.

The collections are [accessible to all online](#) and are used by millions of researchers, authors, filmmakers, students, teachers, and more each year. High-profile projects that utilize VHP-gathered interviews include Ken Burns' *The War* and *The Vietnam War*.

Senator Merkley Teams Up with the Veterans History Project

The [Veterans History Project](#) (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center started in

You can participate in three ways. If you are an Oregon veteran, sit down, share your story with a family member, friend, loved one, or community member, and record a conversation about your military experiences for 30 minutes or longer. You can volunteer to interview a veteran in your family or community. Or you can collect or donate a veteran's historical documents.

The VHP website (www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home) walks you through how to participate with a [field kit](#) and [training video](#), which explains how the forms should be filled out, and how to prepare and conduct the interview.

Oregon veterans can participate at any time with the help of family, friends, or loved ones, but Senator Merkley's office wants to make the

Veterans History Project accessible for every Oregon veteran in every community.

To achieve this mission, Senator Merkley's office is looking to build a team of volunteers across the state who can be called upon to interview an Oregon veteran or collect their materials for submission to the Library of Congress. They will be a crucial resource for Oregonians who would like to connect with VHP or who need assistance conducting or recording an interview with a veteran.

Senator Merkley's office has officially launched their involvement with VHP on Veterans Day. Oregon veterans or community members with questions, and those interested in conducting interviews or collecting materials from veterans, should email VHP@merkley.senate.gov.



PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

2nd 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 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2022-2023 membership year are IPDC Don Weber, Department

VA & R

our future supporting Veterans and families in our Department.

The Commission has oversight of our Department Service Office and activities of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and 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 by 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, reassigning clinical staff to higher priority assignments, and moving patient needs to community care.

Roseburg and White City are also changing over to CERNER, the new computer program supporting the VA, which has been slow but is progressing. There have been many challenges that are affecting our Veteran Population and Employees at both facilities and have caused the further installation of CERNER at VA Portland to be delayed until the challenges are corrected. We have been requested by VA SORCC to hold a venue in the rural communities to support the new PACT activity.

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

PDC, BOB HUFF

VA&R CHAIRPERSON

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 veterans' 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. Thank you to all of you that continue to support our

VA & R

Veterans' community. Keep up the good work. Issues that are currently being discussed and worked are transportation, rural area support, and an aging Veteran population. By Federal direction, the VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being completely up to date on their COVID shots. Face mask requirements continue at all Federal and Medical facilities which are in red. 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 supports the System Worth Saving Saving the Program and has supported four events in the past at our Roseburg and White City VAs with our National Organization.

If your District is holding its meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, don't hesitate to contact me; we will be happy to support you.

Military help line
for Legionnaires
<http://militaryhelpline.org/about-us/>



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TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

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,

The members of the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission and Committees are District

9 Commander

please provide your contact information, as this is a needed service for our veterans and their families. The Commission and Committees support Veterans' Employment, Education, Homelessness, Service Connected, and Veterans Small Business opportunities. We still have restrictions on our ability to hold large events, which we desperately need. We held our third VA Employment Event on Saturday, October 22, at the VA SORCC for 245 jobs at the VA in Clinical and Administrative Support positions. The event and one held at the Portland VA on October 1 were both successful. The VA Employment Events were supported

by VISION and National Employment Specialists, and written job offers were extended to qualified applicants at both Employment Events on the same day, a first from our experience. We are planning more in the future but must comply with COVID restrictions. We continue to gather equipment, clothing, and supplies for when we will be able to return to holding Veterans Stand Downs, Employment, and Benefits Events. We are in discussions for a venue for an in-person event, but we still must comply with restrictions for all the participant's safety.

Continued from page 11

DAN BURKS

2ND VICE COMMANDER

Hosted by Harney County Post 63 and the Elks Lodge, they had a great turnout and even better food. Shortly after the Veterans Day activities, we had three marines who started at the USS Constitution walking Hwy 20. The Medal of Honor Hwy, known as "The Long Road" team, made their way into Oregon on November 18th. I was able to greet them on the bridge entering Nyssa to welcome them to our state. Followed by a police and fire escort by Nyssa Police and Fire Department, they ended at Nyssa City Hall, where they were greeted by the community, the Mayor, several officials, and of course, American Legion Post 79.

The whole team was taken out to dinner sponsored by Ontario Post 67. The next day they made their way to-

ward Vale and stopped short to conduct repairs on the chase vehicle, and wait for some surprise guests. Our surprise guests included Auxiliary National President Vickie Koutz, as well and National Director of Security and Foreign relations Mario Marquez. Our guests joined the Long Road team and walked the rest of the way into Vale, where they received an escort by Local Police, Fire, Sheriff, and Paramedics. They ended at City Hall, where there was a photo opportunity and a little Q&A.

Afterwards, the team walked over to American Legion Vale Post 96 for some coffee and donuts as well as a few more pictures. Following a short stay at the Post, the Long Road team and our national guests were treated to dinner again sponsored by Ontario Post 67. The team departed Vale after a meal covered by the Starlite Café

owner in Vale and headed towards Burns. Since Thanksgiving fell on a day with these marines in the middle of nowhere, they scooted into Burns with an invite from Harney County Post 63 for a free Thanksgiving meal at the Elks Lodge.

They then backtracked to where they had left off and started again. Once again arriving to Burns, on foot this time, they were greeted by the community, Legionnaires from the Post, and across the District while they had an escort from the local law and fire department. I have been tracking this team since before they entered Oregon and as of the 30th the team landed in Bend Oregon.

They will rest for a few days and then make their way to Newport Oregon, where they expect to arrive on December 18th or 19th.



Welcome to the NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END VETERAN SUICIDE®

<https://www.na2evs.org/>

<https://www.na2evs.org/OVF>

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Online via Zoom and locations in WA & OR & CA are regularly scheduled, consider attending online or in person. With additional sponsorship we can bring this workshop to communities across the nation. To start the conversation for your community, send an email to Rod.Wittmier@na2evs.org for more information: Contact the website or,

Mark Ayers 541-816-2665

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MARIA TYE
ORATORICAL CHAIR

ing the initial part of contestants participate this month of December 2022.

Please contact your assigned Oratorical Committee Representatives and let them know what posts in your districts have contestants and from which posts. We want to motivate more posts to participate each year. This new year 2023, will be the dis-

Merry Christmas to all our Comrades. The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has started hav-

tricts to hold their contests. Our department is hoping to see many contestants. The Department of Oregon holds these scholarship contests every year, and it is fascinating to listen to our youth each year. This year, once again, we will hold the Department of Oregon's High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest, the Santiam Post 51, in Lebanon, Oregon, on February 18th, 2023, at 9 a.m. We request that the contestants and participants arrive at 8 a.m.

The Department of Oregon will award five contestants as follows:

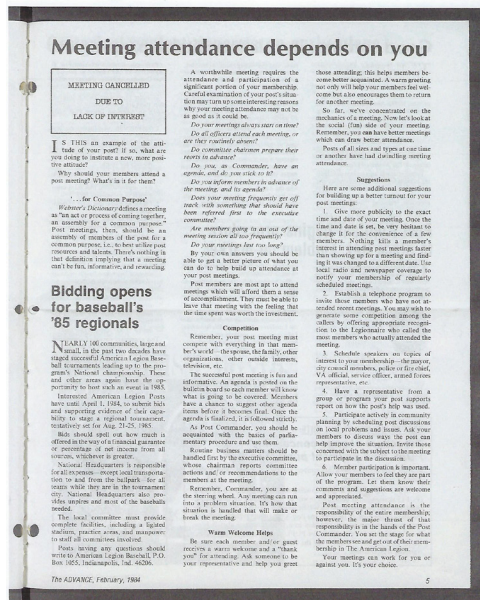
- 1st place \$5000.00.**
- 2nd place \$3,500.00**
- 3rd place \$2,500.00**
- 4th place \$2000.00**

5th place \$1,500.00

The Oratorical Committee has worked hard to keep in touch with all our District Commanders.

The District Commanders are an essential source for a successful Oratorical Program. We appreciate them and our Oratorical Committee members and especially the Americanism Chair, Lou Neubecker, that has provided wonderful leadership to us. The Posts are the motivation for outreach. And their questions are very important to this program. Sometimes we encounter a few glitches but these glitches help all of us to learn and grow this wonderful program for our youth in Oregon.

Merry Christmas to all.



TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS



True Compass Designs is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. Mick is *The American Legion Department's Web Designer*.

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

360.210.4157
19215 SE 34th St. #106
PMB 142
Camas, WA 98607

<https://www.godaddy.com/garage/true-compass-designs-navigating-web-design-by-honoring-his-true-north/>

Are you moving?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

Name: _____
New Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Effective Date: _____
PhoneNumber: _____
Email Address: _____

Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org
Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon
Attn: Adjutant
P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730





2023 CONVENTION ADVERTISING RATES

****THIS ISSUE WILL BE IN FULL COLOR****

Standard Pricing		Premium Pricing	
Full Page	\$300	Inside Front Cover Color	\$450
½ Page	\$225	Inside Back Cover Color	\$450
¼ Page	\$150	Back Page Cover Color	\$550
Business Card	\$100	Page 3	\$350

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR ADS: April 15th, 2023

Submit Artwork in PDF form.

Please make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Oregon PO Box 1730 Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

Questions? Please contact Renee Ohler at (503) 348-7160

The American Legion Department is a registered 501 (c)(19) nonprofit organization Tax ID: 93-0112195

Take this opportunity to highlight your Legion Family and/or the candidate you are endorsing. Doing so will support the Department. All proceeds from this convention will be divided among the Department Legion Family.



Commissary Shopping Privileges for Veterans

Many Veterans are eligible to shop at Defense commissaries worldwide, including Veterans with any service-connected disability, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and caregivers of eligible Veterans.



VA Disability Payments to Increase in 2023

VA disability compensation rates are increasing in 2023 based on Social Security's cost of living adjustment. Official compensation tables will be provided by VA in December 2022.

Interesting things to make you say



Hmmm.....

1922 Gummy Bears were created in Germany.



We support our Youth! Earn Scholarships

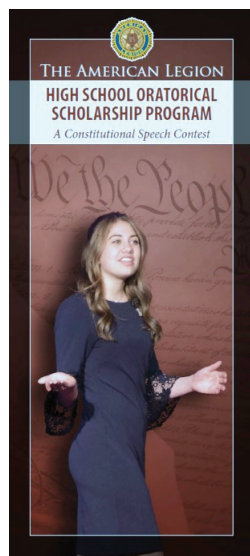
Baseball
Boys State
Girls State
Oratorical
Scouting
Shooting
Sports



Would you like to be part of this please call The American Legion Department of Oregon at 503-685-5006.

They are there to help you get your children involved

Donate today to The Oregon American Legion Foundation so our children can experience this tomorrow!





We welcome the Holiday Season!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

During this season, we cherish time spent with family and friends, as often it may be the only time during the year all may gather together.

It is also a special time taken for honoring, and for some, healing, the service and sacrifices of military servicemembers that are now laid to rest.

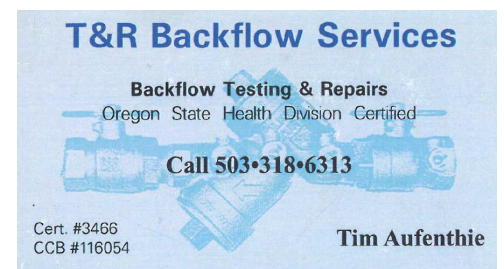
On the third Saturday of each Dec-

ember, proclaimed National Wreaths Across America Day, we demonstrate our gratitude for the service and sacrifices that have been made by placing wreaths, as a tribute, to those laid to rest at Veteran Affairs national cemeteries, state Veterans' cemeteries, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations across the U.S. and abroad.

This year, Wreaths Across America Day is December 17th and your department headquarters leadership, once again, is a registered volunteer

group at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. If you would like to participate in wreath-laying with this group, please send a courtesy email with your name(s) to cory.brockmann@comcast.net by December 10th.

For additional details on how you can help sponsor wreaths, purchase wreaths for your home or volunteer in other locations, navigate to <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>



About R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training

The complete **R.A.C.E.** Suicide Prevention training is three 1-hour sessions delivered over three consecutive weeks. Each session is a prerequisite for attendance at subsequent sessions. Active participation is encouraged and assigned "homework" encourages practice of skills learned during the training.

The acronym **R.A.C.E.** stands for:

- Recognize signs of distress
- Ask the person about what they are thinking and feeling
- Care for the person and actively listen to them
- Escort the person based on their needs

The **R.A.C.E.** model for suicide prevention has been used throughout the United States Marine Corps for many years. The model stands out among others because it includes an important aspect of suicide prevention that other models do not; that is Recognize signs of

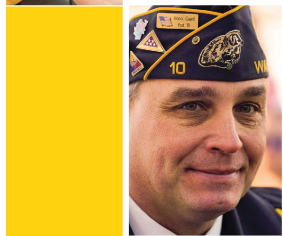
<https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Publications-Reports/Guides/Navigating-a-Mental-Health-Crisis/>

<https://racesuicideprevention.us/>

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

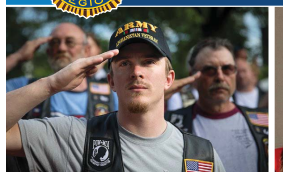




THIS IS



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Veterans strengthening American communities worldwide.

The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization

Working and volunteering in communities, states and around the world. The American Legion has been dedicated to veterans, troops, national security, youth and patriotism since its founding over a century ago.

Nearly 2 million wartime veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are members of The American Legion. Joining them are nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary, the nation's largest patriotic women's association, and more than 375,000 Sons of The American Legion, male descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. They work as one great American Legion Family of shared values, at more than 12,000 local posts worldwide, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

As a federally chartered organization, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to provide free expert assistance for all who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their families.

The American Legion is at work today in rural towns, urban neighborhoods, military installations and college campuses everywhere.

Each local post has its own unique identity, but they are all connected by common core values. A post in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for instance, provides care for children with cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and other serious diseases. The American Legion in Wyoming coordinates the state high school rodeo championships. An American Legion post in central

California operates a multi-county ambulance service. Another, in Alabama, offers after-school mentorship for students seeking direction. A post in Connecticut built, owns and operates a housing facility to help homeless veterans restart their lives. Local examples of The American Legion's highest values are found worldwide, where differences are made daily for individuals, communities, states and the nation.

The Legion's fastest-growing membership segment is the post-9/11 generation. More than 100,000 strong and increasing, these young veterans join hundreds of thousands more who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War II. No matter the era, our members are indelibly connected through love of country, hope for the future, remembrance of the fallen and duty above self.

The Constitution.

Law and order.

Americanism.

Memories of the Great Wars.

Individual obligation.

Peace, good will, prosperity, justice, freedom and devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Such values are embodied in the language of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. Generation after generation, one century to the next, the words have come to define a purpose as meaningful today as ever before.



A legacy of American Legion accomplishments and impact

- Consolidation of multiple disconnected federal offices, agencies and bureaus into one Veterans Administration in 1930
- Formulating, drafting and fighting for passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944, which educated millions, triggered a half-century of U.S. prosperity, revolutionized higher education and made home ownership possible for average Americans
- Establishment of a U.S. Flag Code and standard rules of respect and display
- Collaborated with Columbia University to prove that exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange caused deadly diseases and adverse health conditions among veterans
- Introduction, growth and continued administration of unparalleled youth programs in government (Boys State and Boys Nation); constitutional understanding and public speaking (American Legion Oratorical Contests); healthy competition (American Legion Baseball and Junior Shooting Sports); and more
- National leadership to improve care accessibility, access processing, update and achieve employee accountability
- Leadership in veteran care including employer-appropriate business representation in Washington, the military-to-civilian care



Services that make differences

Representing at no cost more than 700,000 veterans and their families seeking VA disability and medical benefits every day.

Participating in more than 1,000 job fairs and other career events for veterans and their families every year nationwide.

Fighting for fair conversion of military experience into credit hours for civilian careers in specialized fields such as emergency medicine, commercial driving, civil engineering and hazardous materials handling.

Providing comfort items for hospitalized military personnel recovering from wounds and illnesses.

Supporting and helping homeless veterans

Spending millions of volunteer hours at VA medical facilities at an estimated annual value of \$20 million.

Supporting veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Addressing and lobbying Congress and the White House to provide timely VA health care, efficient benefits processing, effective GI Bill education provisions, a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel and other issues important to Americans.

Assisting during natural disasters, from converting local posts into clinics after hurricanes and tornadoes, to providing food, relief items and other needs to displaced citizens.

Providing financial assistance to needy military and veteran families with young children at home.

Awarding grants to organizations that provide support for children in need.

Awarding college scholarships to children of U.S. servicemembers killed or disabled while on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Mentoring youth through American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation, as well as local, state and national American Legion Oratorical Contests.

Running hundreds of youth programs, including more than 3,000 Scouting units, nearly 4,000 American Legion Baseball teams, dozens of Junior Shooting Sports clubs, Junior ROTC and Junior Law Cadet programs.



Providing citizenship and naturalization education and support for legal immigrants seeking to become Americans.

Serving as the nation's foremost authority on U.S. flag respect, procedures and code.

Educating school children on such topics as flag respect, military service, history and patriotism.

Providing and distributing U.S. flags for the graves of American military personnel laid to rest at overseas cemeteries.

Demanding full accounting and repatriation, when possible, of all U.S. military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.

Participating at thousands of patriotic observances and events around the world each year at the local, state, national and international levels.

Handling honor guard services and memorial tributes for fallen military personnel and veterans, from individual funerals to memorial dedications.

Help us help others. Join now.



Anyone who has served federal active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces since Dec. 7, 1941, and has been honorably discharged or is still serving, is eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Because eligibility dates remain open, all active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

U.S. Merchant Marines are eligible for membership but only if they served from Dec. 7, 1941, to Dec. 31, 1946 (WWII).

legion.org/join

(800) 433-3318

Get involved

Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary offer membership opportunities to the families of Legion-eligible veterans, and The American Legion Riders offers additional opportunities to members of all three organizations.



alaforveterans.org



legion.org/sons



legion.org/riders

Support

Tax-deductible donations help support the many American Legion programs serving veterans, youth, families and communities across the United States.

legion.org/donate

(800) 433-3318



THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1200

@legion.org

[legion.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/legion.org)

twitter.com/AmericanLegion

elp the Department
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task force, and
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reer transition

FOR VETERANS

- Free assistance for veterans and families applying for VA benefits
- Relentless advocacy for a strong VA health-care system
- Free representation for veterans appealing claims decisions
- More than 1,000 job fairs and career events
- Support and assistance for homeless veterans

FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

- American Legion Baseball
- Scholarships
- Flag education programs
- Oratorical competitions
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- Junior ROTC
- Scouting

DEFENSE

- Cash grants for military families who have temporary financial needs
- Comfort items for hospitalized military personnel
- Advocacy for fair military retirement benefits
- Family Support Network of volunteers to help military families
- Representation in Washington to support proper DoD funding
- Assistance in cases before military discharge review boards

AMERICANISM

- National leadership in U.S. flag protection and respect
- Services to help legal immigrants become U.S. citizens
- Support for public expression of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem

COMMUNITY

- Honor and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed
- Emergency relief in times of natural disaster
- Leadership at patriotic ceremonies and special events
- Connections with local schools and home-school students
- Numerous local programs and initiatives, tailored to each community's needs

Stock # 40-009 (Revised 02/2020) Artwork # 40MAC0220



A Word About Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Over Five Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its over fifty years that today over 500,000 Legionnaires in 50 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, almost \$1 billion dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$100 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments. The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.

More Than **50** Years Of Service To The Legion Family

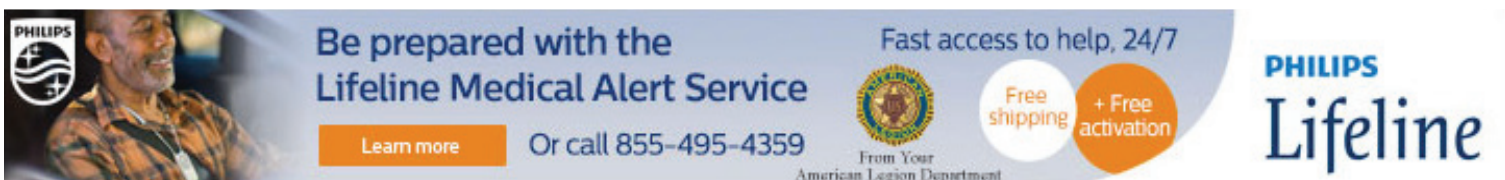
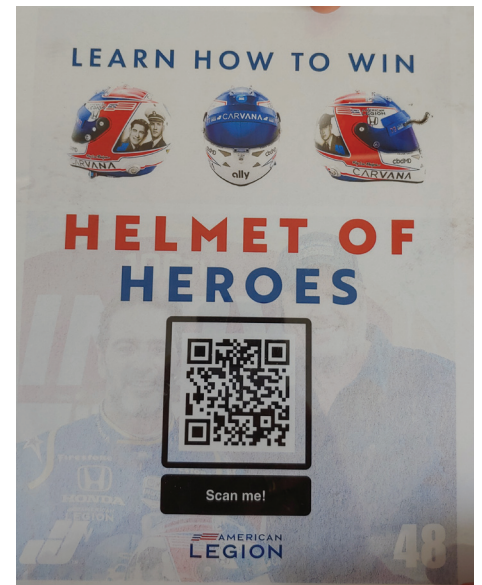
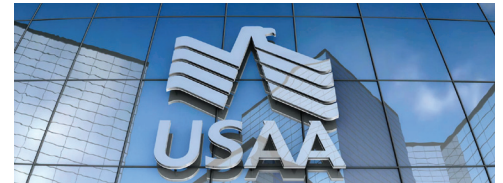


Answer: C. Oregon

In December 1922 the worst disasters in the history of the U.S. strikes the state of Oregon.

About 24 city blocks of the business district in Astoria were destroyed by a fire that burned under the streets.

The town had been constructed on a foundation of wooden pilings and spread quickly, destroying the town's department stores, hotels, banks and many other businesses and homes.





(L-R) Zachary, Dave, Wade, Cmdr. Wetterling

Hermiston Post #37

Post 37, Hermiston, held a unique initiating ceremony during their annual Christmas Potluck on Dec. 10. During the evening festivities Post Commander, Aaron Wetterling, swore in a father - a former Navy enlisted, and two sons who are both on active duty in separate branches.

Dave Kirkpatrick was a very proud father as he and his sons took the oath. The younger son, Zachary, now serves in an active duty position with the Nation Guard, while his older brother, Wade, serves in the Marines and recently re-enlisted.

These men come from a long line of military men.



ERICK PETERSON
EDITOR, HERMISTON HERALD

once more gave locals a chance to gather in celebration of our veterans.

"I love it," said Rose Johnsongale, a veteran, and an American Legion member.

Other veterans at the event expressed the same feeling. They said they were glad to be at the Hermiston Community Center, where the breakfast took place.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation and the American Legion hosted the breakfast Friday, Nov. 11.

Attendees filled the event so there wasn't an empty seat — save for one.

Keeping an empty seat

Up at the front of the venue, near flags the American Legion placed, there was a small table with a single chair. On the table, there were several items, including a white tablecloth, a red rose in a vase, a candle, and an overturned wine goblet.

A POW/MIA jacket was draped over the chair at the table.

A sign explained the display. The white table symbolized the purity of the motives of service people "when answering the call to duty." The lemon slice was there to remind people "of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in foreign lands."

Vets and supporters turn out for annual Veterans Day Breakfast in Hermiston

By ERICK PETERSON East Oregonian
Nov 12, 2022

HERMISTON — Hermiston's annual Veterans Day Breakfast once more gave locals a chance to gather in celebration of our veterans.



Rose Johnsongale American Legion Post 37 salutes the U.S. Flag at a Veterans Day event Friday, Nov 11th, 2022 in Hermiston, all stories and photos credit to the Hermiston Herald, Erick Peterson East Oregonian

Other items represented "our everlasting concern for our missing men and women," "the tears endured by those who are missing and their families who seek answers" and more.

Attendees expressed their happiness for the event

Johnsongale, who served 1980 to 2004, said this was her fifth year at the breakfast. She said she likes it because it allows her a chance to commune with fellow vets, with whom she has a lot in common.

She said the military creates a rare experience for people like her. It gives people a chance to see the world and interact with foreign cultures. Johnsongale, for example, traveled to Panama, Germany and Italy. She said she likes to talk about her adventures with other individuals, and they tell her about their trips, too.

"I don't get to do this sort of thing in my day-to-day life," she said. Being in the military, she said, was one of the best things she has ever done, and she

Continued on page 25

Continued from page 24

ERICK PETERSON

EDITOR, HERMISTON HERALD

said she was glad to talk with others about it.

Another veteran, Don Hayworth of Hermiston, said he was pleased to be at the breakfast, too. Like Johnson, he said his service was memorable. "It was a little bit nervy sometimes," he said. Hayworth served in the Navy, 1965-69, and he delivered supplies up and down Vietnam's Da Nang River during the war.

He said this was his first breakfast because he hadn't heard of it before. Recently, as he was volunteering at the Agape House, someone told him about the event, and he said he'd give it a chance. As he was waiting for his turn to get some food, he said he was happy to have come.

Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorran of Hermiston was another one of the veterans at the event. "It feels better now than then," he said, as he compared to his experience at the breakfast to his feelings during his service.

Dorran served in the Army 1974-76. "All veterans should be honored each day," he said.

Attendees offered their support

Oregon state Rep. Greg Smith was among the attendees. "It's an honor to be among such honorable men and women," the Republican from Hepner said. Other local residents made similar statements.

Hermiston High School student Katie Hennings said "it's a special honor" to be in the same room as the veterans. She said this as she walked around the room and refilled their water glasses. According to Aaron Wetterling, American Legion post commander, Hennings is an honorary

member of his post, as she has volunteered at several veterans' events.

A couple of Umatilla County Fair Board princesses were at the breakfast and welcomed people at the door. Ashlynn Cutburth and Kylie Temple said they were excited to be able "to give back" and "thank veterans for their service."

Cutburth's father is a veteran, and each of the princesses said they know veterans and care about them. "It's the least we can do," Temple said. Brandon Artz, Parks and Recreation director was there to help. He said he was glad his department could play a part in honoring the veterans. Also, he said, he was impressed by the support received from the community.

He said Kiwanis International, Rogers Toyota of Hermiston, Lamb Weston, Umatilla Electric Cooperative, Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Barnett & Moro and Specks Printing were sponsors for the Veterans Day Breakfast. "We were able to put on a meal that brings together people who may not see one another at any other time during the year," he said, "and it's with the help of all these sponsors that we were able to do that."

Hope you had a wonderful Veterans Day. Students from Burns High School, Hines Middle School, and Slater Elementary School put



on a great program November 10th to honor veterans. The day started off with a fabulous breakfast at the high school prepared by the students and a program that followed. The gymnasium was filled to the brim with students, veterans, and citizens. Kudos to the students and faculties for honoring veterans.

Harney County Post 63 and Burns Elks Lodge 1680 co-sponsored a Veterans Day dinner the evening of November 11th. Everyone was treated a great meal and we heard comments from American Legion Department of Oregon Vice Commander Daniel Burks and County Judge-Elect Bill Hart (USAF veteran).

For more information on BeTheOne program The American Legion has initiated, go to www.betheone.org. BeTheOne initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.



Legionnaire Insurance Trust

3 Marines “Team Long Road”



Photos by Dan Burks

DICK TOBIAS “The American Legion (TAL) Past National Commander (PNC) Charlie Schmidt meets with Justin “JD” Lehew, National Commander Legion of Valor, near Vale, OR during The Long Road walk across the 3,365 mile Medal of Honor Highway Across America on United States US Hwy 20.

Aloha from Hawaii, where we are celebrating our 62nd wedding anniversary and son’s 53rd birthday.

Hope you are following the 3 Marines “Team Long Road” (TLR) walking across the “United States of America” USA on US Hwy 20, also known as the Medal of Honor Highway Across America, raising public awareness and funds for recovering more MIAs:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/698444134910085/>
<https://teamlongroad.com/>

They have crossed ten states, having begun in Massachusetts on June 6, and are now in Idaho, walking 20

miles per day. At that rate, they will cross into Oregon at Nyssa in about 18 days - Nov. 21. Another seven days would take them to Burns (Nov. 28), with six more days to Bend (Dec. 4). Occasionally, the Marines take breaks for weather or mechanical issues. I’ll update the Estimated Time of Arrival and ETAs for Sisters, Sweet Home, Corvallis, and Newport (Dec. 13?). Crossing the Cascades will be a challenge, but they are Marines! I’ll also notify Oregon State Police.

I am working on several events in Bend (alerting vets groups, providing free meals and free lodging, visiting Bend Heroes Memorial, presenting names of Oregon’s 999 Missing In Actions, MIAs, media interviews, Mayor’s proclamation, Oregon laws on Medal of Honor and POW/MIA highways, etc.). Attached is my draft of the Bend City Council’s proclamation. I might draft a similar version for Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

There are 12 Oregon Medal of Honor Highway signs along the 451-mile

US Hwy 20 in Oregon:

6 miles east of Vale (westbound at scenic turnout)

5 miles east of Vale (eastbound)

East and west of Burns

East of Bend (eastbound and westbound)

West of Bend (“eastbound and westbound”, at scenic turnouts)

East of Sweet Home (eastbound, westbound at a rest stop)

Westbound sign at Corvallis (use OSU campus?)

Westbound sign at Newport (City Hall, where we dedicated a sign five years ago)

Some of those locations are fine for photo ops. It might be good to plan indoor ceremonies if the weather is not otherwise suitable.

Massachusetts should enact a law within the next two weeks designating the Massachusetts Medal of Honor Highway. It will be grand if Massachusetts Governor signs it before TLR reaches Newport!

The American Legion Visits Southern Oregon to speak on veteran suicide awareness

By: Camryn Baber Nov 14, 2022, Updated Nov 14, 2022

CAMRYN BABER WHITE CITY
REPORTER/PRODUCER -- The National Commander of the American Legion, the nation’s largest veteran service organization is on a nationwide tour. Today he visited the White City Veterans Affairs campus to raise awareness on veteran suicides.



National Commander Vincent Jim Troiola is visiting all 50 states and 17 countries to visit Legion Posts in smaller communities. Thanking them for providing resources and support to local veterans and talk about their program ‘Be the One’.

Continued on page 27



VINCINT "JIM" TROIOLA
NATIONAL COMMANDER

To my fellow Legionnaires in Oregon,

The American Legion achieved an enormous victory in the 117th Congress. Thanks to the hard work and advocacy of Legionnaires from around the globe, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act is now the law of the land! It passed because elected officials heard from members of your department who understood the harmful effects that environmental hazards and burn pits can have on veterans. Like any legislation of this scope, implementation will be a challenge. On a national level, we will continue to lobby the administration, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to do right by America's veterans. On a local level, we will continue to rely on our excellent service officers to ensure that veterans and their families are able to access their benefits.

No issue is more important to our American Legion Family than preventing veteran suicide. I am asking you all to "Be the One" to save one. Through buddy checks, outreach and dialogue we can destigmatize the issue. Veterans value courage and it takes courage to seek help. If we each focus on saving one life, we will collectively save thousands.

Most kindergartners learn how to use the 911 emergency line. The Suicide Crisis Line has now been simplified to 988 (extension 1 for veterans). Let's spread the word about it. A 988 call today can prevent a 911 call tomorrow.

In November, the American people spoke. They elected our new 118th Congress. It is important that your senators and representatives hear from you. Visit our national website, www.legion.org, to find out the issues that are important to The American Legion. Our influence in Washington is only possible because of the engagement that American Legion Family members undertake with their elected officials.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive conference.

For God and Country,

Vincent "Jim" Troiola
National Commander



CAMRYN BABER
REPORTER/PRODUCER

Continued from
page 26

"Every single place I go, somebody walks up to me afterward and tells me about a hard time in their lives where somebody took their lives, in their family unit or friends that have died or people that have served in the military who took their lives," says Troiola.

According to the national veteran suicide prevention annual report it's estimated between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day.



"It's a bad problem, is it's a travesty," The American Legion says right now they don't want to focus on the numbers. "We're concentrating on one person at a time to make sure that we know that if one veteran's life is saved today that's a plus that means we're doing something right," says Troiola.

One of the most important aspects of the American Legion is its sponsors. Having someone to call up, lean on, and receive support and resources from is what encompasses their entire program.

"When you find a veteran in need and that veteran needs help that person stays with them and they're the backbone," says Troiola.

At its core, the American Legion wants this platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide, and raise awareness about mental health struggles such as PTSD and suicide prevention.

Follow @KDRV12 on Facebook and @KDRV on Twitter for the latest news, sports, and weather in Southern Oregon and Northern California.



VIDEO
The American Legion visits Southern Oregon to speak on veteran suicide awareness
Updated Nov 14, 2022



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

2023 OREGON WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

Stronger Together: Voices of Service

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 20-21, 2023
Salem Convention Center

More information coming soon at
www.wvc.oregondva.com



The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is excited to announce the return of the Oregon Women Veterans Conference which will be held in-person, welcoming women veterans from all eras of military service and from every corner of the state.

The two-day conference will take place at the Salem Convention Center on May 20-21, 2023. Since 1998, this free biennial event has celebrated the contributions, diversity and strength of Oregon's women veteran community, and is the largest gathering of women-identifying veterans in the state.

Sign up to receive 2023 Women Veteran Conference email updates from Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Subscribe

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Senator Merkley's office is proud to announce that they are teaming up with the [Veterans History Project](#) (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, and they are looking for volunteers to help serve Oregon's veteran community in this special way.

About the Veterans History Project:

VHP was created by Congress in 2000 to collect and preserve the firsthand interviews and narratives of United States military veterans from World War I through the present so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of military service.

Currently, VHP has about 114,000 collections, and each collection represents one veteran going back to WWI up to current collections of Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to audio and video recorded oral history interviews, VHP accepts and makes accessible memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps, and other historical documents from veterans.

VHP uses the 30-20-10 rule (only *one* of these requirements must be met):

- The video or audio recording must be at least 30 minutes long;
- *or* at least 20 pages of original narratives/memoirs, and wartime diaries or journals;
- *or* 10 or more letters, official military documents, or collections of original photos or artwork.

The collections are [accessible to all online](#), and are used by millions of researchers, authors, filmmakers, students, teachers, and more each year. High-profile projects that utilize VHP-gathered interviews include Ken Burns' *The War* and *The Vietnam War*. Learn more here about [what the Veterans History Project accepts and collects](#).

How you can participate:

- If you are an Oregon veteran, sit down and share your story with a family member, friend, loved one, or community member and record a conversation about your military experiences for 30 minutes or longer
- Volunteer to interview a veteran in your family or community
- Collect or donate a veteran's historical documents

The VHP website walks through [how to participate](#) with a [field kit](#) and [training video](#), which explains how the forms should be filled out, and how to prepare and conduct the interview.

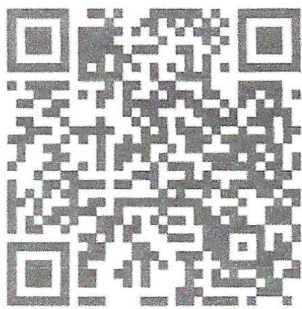
VHP Volunteering:

Oregon veterans can participate at any time with the help of family, friends, or loved ones, but Senator Merkley's office wants to make the Veterans History Project accessible for every Oregon veteran in every community.

To achieve this mission, Merkley's office is looking to build a team of volunteers across the state who can be called upon to interview an Oregon veteran or collect their materials for submission to the Library of Congress. They will be a crucial resource for Oregonians who would like to connect with VHP, or who need assistance conducting or recording an interview with a veteran.

Senator Merkley's office will officially launch their involvement with VHP on Veterans Day, November 11. Oregon veterans or community members with questions, and those interested in conducting interviews or collecting materials from veterans, should email VHP@merkley.senate.gov.

You can help support
The American Legion
Legislative Agenda.



Scan the QR Code
to sign up for text
on your Mobil Device

OR

Go to

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

on your Laptop or desktop
to sign up for email alerts

MOU on Camp Lejeune Justice Act

ALCON

KATIE PURSWELL

DIRECTOR VA&R Background

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 – better known as the PACT Act, signed into law Aug. 10, 2022 – opens the door for certain individuals to file lawsuits and collect damages from the federal government due to their exposure to contaminated water on the Marine Corps base (also known as the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA)). Qualified claimants had to have served/lived at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune, N.C., between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987.

Several law firms, through national ad campaigns, are urging veterans and families to sue the federal government for toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune, N.C. What these law firms are NOT telling our veterans is that the CLJA includes an offset clause. These law firms appear to be ignoring the offset provision because they do not understand VA disability law and have no interest in protecting veterans. This is why veterans should make informed decisions on which “lane” to use in obtaining benefits.

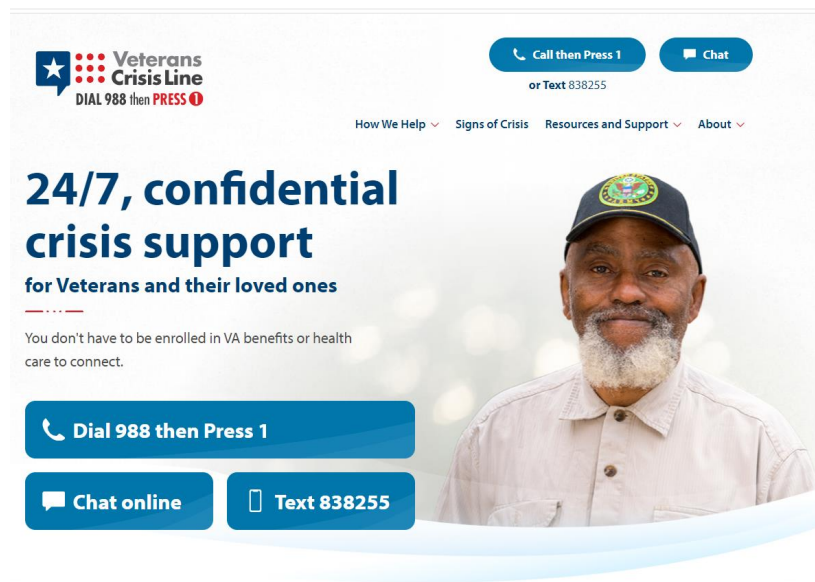
Any award made to an individual, or legal representative of an individual, under this section shall be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit provided to the individual, or legal representative—

(A) under—

(i) any program under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(ii) the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

(iii) the Medicaid program



Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

You're not alone—the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to call.

under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); and

(B) in connection with health care or a disability relating to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

To provide assistance for veterans dealing with the Camp Lejeune water contamination litigation, the VA&R Commission recommended that The American Legion extend our agreement with Bergmann & Moore to help protect our members related to the Camp Lejeune Justice Act feeding frenzy.

In this matter, we respectfully request that you advise veterans and family members to:

1. Contact Bergmann & Moore to determine whether filing a lawsuit is in their best interest (Offset triage to prevent veterans from accepting one-time benefits to their detriment of greater VA benefits). The website www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/al/ provides a secure online form

for Legionnaires and their family members to explain their circumstances. The firm also has a 24-hour phone number – [800-898-9450](tel:800-898-9450) – for those who do not wish to use the web platform.

2. Bergmann & Moore is available to attend your Department's upcoming conferences/meetings and to speak with your members AT NO COST. The POC is Liz Hartman and her contact is lhartman@vetlawyers.com or (252) 497-7255.

Since August of 2017, The American Legion has had a litigation and training relationship with the Bergmann & Moore Law Firm to provide training for thousands of American Legion service officers (more than 2,000 to date), and to represent Veterans who are appealing their VA disability benefits from the Board of Veterans' Appeals to the US Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims. Over the past 5 years, they have assisted with 4,462 cases with an astonishing 99.7% win rate. For more background on B&M, please visit <https://www.vetlawyers.com/>



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____
 _____ (Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues)
 (Gender)

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____
 Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____
 Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
 Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____
 Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
 OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
 (c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____
 Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____
 I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and
 Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues
 Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____
 _____ / _____ / _____ ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over
 Date of Birth (Required)
 Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)
 Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____
 _____ / _____ / _____
 Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____
 If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____
☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)
Veteran Served:
☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)
☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):
☐ Global War on Terror ☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ WWII
☐ Gulf War ☐ Vietnam ☐ Other Conflicts
☐ Panama ☐ Korea
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:
☐ Male Spouse ☐ Female Spouse ☐ Mother
☐ Grandmother ☐ Sister ☐ Self
☐ Daughter ☐ Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer
 I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____

Date

ALA 09/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.
 Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.