



BOOK OF REPORTS

DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING

Redmond, Oregon

April 15th-16th 2023

Department Commander
Larry Wittmayer

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

First and upmost is our membership status. Presently we are #46 with 83.97%. We need 2274 more to make goal. We sit at 5th from the bottom in Western Region.

THE TIME IS NOW, PLEASE WORK AND TURN IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

The DEC in Redmond is coming soon. We are hopeful for full participation. Yes we all bear the financial burden. What we need is more membership to alleviate this issue. There will be a Dist Commander /First Vice breakout for a discussion.

Since last reported I have visited Districts 7, 2 and D9 for a Legion Birthday Dinner. Leadership meetings have been held monthly. I attended the Department Oratorical Contest in Lebanon, a Korean War Memorial Association Luncheon and the Neisei Foundation presentation.

I had the opportunity to join with NVC Uhrig and the Membership team on a District 1 revitalization. At that time we were successful in reactivating Tillamook Post 47, a century Post started in 1919.

DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER REPORT

Don Weber

It was nice to restart the Dist. 5 Roundup with candidates announcing their candidacy for office. Dist. 5 is a great host, and always a great opportunity to link up with Legionnaires.

Dist. 1 conducted a revitalization and located a new Legionnaire to be the Post Commander for the Tillamook Post. This is a great opportunity for the Post to get back on track and link with the community.

DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Cory Brockmann

We continue to experience membership declines that are, negatively, impactful to our budget. This decline has forced travel budgets for department officers and commission/committee chairs to be held, on balance, in reserve, as membership-income is below what was previously budgeted. Early projections on next year's budget may result in a similar reality, significantly decreased or no available travel funds for department officers and commission/committee chairs.

This in no way diminishes the importance of the work before us. What it does do is challenge us to seek innovative means as we continue to fulfill our mission. The questions raised should not be "what are we going to cut?" Rather, "how are we going to get it done?"

Membership impacts all levels of our organization and will become successful once more members choose to, proactively, support organized efforts to end the decline.

Outreach and engagement opportunities continue to be identified and explored, then acted on as appropriate, to continue increasing visibility of our American Legion. Our accomplishments and the programs and services we offer remain vitally important to elevate in the consciousness of the public, in its entirety (i.e., veteran and non-veteran communities). We have encountered some success in growing relationships but must continue to expand our efforts.

It's early still, but Tillamook #47 is being reinvigorated by patriots with a heart for their community and our American Legion. While the demographic, presently, appears to be similar to the national organization - "68% are age 68 or older" - they are re-energized in wanting to maintain a post. They are in need of support and nurturing and district leadership will be vital to their foundation becoming re-established.

ACTIVITIES and engagements include:

- Participated in 'Winning the Battle | A Veteran Mental Health Summit, held at Clackamas County Community College, Oregon City. "Be the One" initiative discussions were held with mental health providers in attendance.
- The national "Be the One" initiative continues to leverage our department's efforts and positive energy in supporting other engagements around the nation. Numerous media releases have showcased TOALF-funded and Legion Family supported Buddy Check and "Be the One" bracelet packs and "how to" activities. This includes national news distributions with Legion.org, American Legion Online Update, Digital Dispatch, and social media postings on national American Legion Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- "Be the One" and/or Buddy Check bracelet packs were requested by and provided for outreach/engagement events for Crook County Post/Unit #29; John Kalmbach #90; Aloha #104; Korea Defense Veterans Association (KDVA); Hillsboro #6; and, Blue Star Mothers/Liberation Veteran Services, in VA, requested two dozen for an event being supported.

- *TALMA Training Tuesday* – I provided a 35 min session on Dept of Oregon “Be the One” activities focusing on how smaller communities can increase engagement.
- Participated in NVC Doug Uhrig (WY) visit to Department of Oregon in support of the D1/Tillamook #47 membership event. The revitalization efforts included face-to-face walk-up contacts as well as telephone contacts of existing members and Post 114 members.
- *National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG)* – Grassroots work is underway on planning some level of outreach and engagement with disabled veteran athletes that will participate at the 2023 NVWG in the greater-Portland area, July 4-9, 2023. Considerations include hosting a booth; a department ‘welcome packet’; a mixer/meet-and-greet at a post; and, leveraging NHQ involvement to improve future relationships between NVWG and our organization.
- *Legislative* – I have been appointed to the National Legislative Council and assigned as national congressional liaison to Senator Ron Wyden. A phone contact was made with Senator Wyden’s Portland office, via voice message, with a near-future visit to the office planned.
Congressional contacts made through Legislative Action Center (LAC) include legislation support for passing Senate Bill 316 which calls for repeal of the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs), to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden.
- Continuing support and contributions to Permanent Finance Commission (PFC) and The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF).
- Attended the virtual component of the Roseburg VAMC “Women Veterans Town Hall,” which focused on holistic care for female veterans and efforts to attract and maintain female health providers. Other topics included Serve Act, PACT Act, mental health, weight management and nutrition, and more. 12 veterans/10 employees onsite and 11 virtual. POC Jessica Burnett, LCSW, Women Veterans Program Manager, Roseburg VAMC (jessia.burnett2@va.gov).

Challenges –

- Membership - curbing membership losses due to non-renewal.
- Culture - strengthening a positive culture and adapting to changes.

SECOND VICE COMMANDER

Dan Burks

Since our last Virtual DEC I have been pretty busy in various activities. I was able to attend a Post Oratorical contest where I was asked to be a timer, shortly followed by District 10 Oratorical contest where I was selected to be a judge. I attended a Legislative meeting discussing different topics to be held back in Washington DC. Something new was brought up called

National Night Out that I was asked to assist with and even chair the Military and Veterans portion of the event. This is where we bring the community together with our Police Officers, 1st responders and even our military and veterans. It will be a great way to reach out to the public and I plan to look into how it is ran and what type of engagement opportunities there might be for other cities (Posts) to do so as well. I later attended a National VE&E virtual meeting. Afterwards I then boarded a plane and headed for Washington DC where I was able to sit through several National meetings including my official call out, VE&E accompanied by an ANAVICUS breakfast. Most recently got to be part of a team that hosted 2 National Guests, NVC Doug Uhrig and National Membership Engagement Coordinator to help with a revitalization of District 1 with a focus on rejuvenating Tillamook 47.

All in all, it has been a pretty busy quarter with several different areas visited. I would like to visit more Districts and help as much as I can but to date I haven't been able to get out to nearly as many as I like. Lou Neubecker has done an exceptional job as Americanism Chair really making my oversight easy. Only thing our Programs need, is YOUR PARTICIPATION! Get as many students involved as you can, our programs are doing great but need you to fill the seats.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REPORT

S.Flynn Phillips

The Tillamook Post 47 membership revitalization just wrapped up. Let's congratulate the New Commander Donovan Goff, 1st Vice Nick Torres, and new adjutant Larry Emery. NVC Doug Uhrig and Membership engagement coordinator Michele Steinmetz were there to help. Doug inspired the people in attendance. Their trip was well worth it, and Tillamook is off and running again.

Maupin Post 73 has a new Commander, Dennis Wright, So we are seeing a rise in getting posts back in Action. It is amazing what happens when you engage folks with a positive attitude and a will to help get posts back on their feet. These two posts were all but written off. Attitude and Action are where it's at, It's good seeing people look at the glass as half full instead of empty.

The Department is tasked to host the convention, a hat tip to Richard Ramey for volunteering to lead our local brainstorming group to help put this together. So think about volunteering to help us at the Mill Casino in North Bend.

The Department still struggles with a shortfall in funding. The root cause analysis is continued membership decline. Seeing the glass is half full, we can reach our goal of 3500 more members

state-wide. Achieving that goal and sustaining that would put us back to where we need to be. But we should strive to shoot further. When you look at the membership standing, we are in 50th place. We used to be in 32nd place before covid pandemic hit. So I invite any post to set up a recruiting booth and table. I can show up with our department tent and literature and buy you lunch. Let's get some tiger teams out there and show the communities what the value of a legion post is to every community. Let's don't talk about it; let's do it, and you won't be alone.

Oratorical was a huge success at the Lebanon Post, and now, we are ramping up for Boys State and the Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. ROTC and JROTC award events are already happening. Jr Shooting Sports and Baseball are getting ramped up.

We have a lot of good things on the horizon; Oregon Air Show, Hillsboro (tentative), Memorial Weekend events in Hillsboro, Portland, and Salem, NVWG-related activities and St. Paul Rodeo; preference first to NVWG/Bob H. needs, A-Legion Baseball tournament, Redmond, AAA-Legion Baseball tournament, Eugene, Salute to Service event, Hillsboro, LECC, Camp Rilea/Warrenton, GPP/NTT-IndyCar, Portland Oregon Air Show, McMinnville.

"Believe and Achieve," "Great attitudes stir excitement, and Action gets results." So I encourage everyone to get up off the couch and start living the dream 😊

Stay safe.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

REPORT

Kevin Owens

- With the Washington Conference behind us, we all know what the 118th Legislative Priorities are for the American Legion. It is time for everyone to contact our Senators and Representatives and let them know where The American Legion stands on these items. The Action Alerts are only part of the equation and we need to call or e-mail them at minimum quarterly. Build that relationship with them so they know we are serious about our Veterans not only in The American Legion, but all Veterans in Oregon.
- Recently we were honored to have our National Vice Commander Doug Uhrig from the Department of Wyoming visit and participate in a membership revitalization in Tillamook. Because of our Department Leadership, Doug, and Michelle Steinmetz from National Headquarters along some members of the M&PA Commission, Tillamook Post 47 has a new life. It takes some effort and a little elbow grease to make things happen and boy do things happen. With a population of 6000 and a Veteran population of 2500 in

Tillamook County, a Post is needed. The new members, transferred members and ones coming to join The American Legion, they all believe we are needed. Contact was made with the Superintendent of the local schools to share the programs we offer and the importance of why we were here to spark life into the Post. On Wednesday March 15th, 2023 at 3:00pm on the American Legion 104th Birthday Post 47 was reborn with new Officers a place to meet and a new life. I believe this Post will grow again and be a vital part of its community. Just a side note the Post was at one time 7000 members and had a Post home. Thank you to the 2nd Vice Commander for stepping up and making things happen.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

REPORT

Bob Huff

Putting our Proposed 2022-2023 Budget for our Department of Oregon together is serious business, we are a business. Some difficult decisions had to be made, it is our responsibility to come up with a balanced budget to present to you and our members. This Proposed Budget is being presented to our District Commanders and Department Officers during this Spring DEC in Redmond and will then be published in the Legionnaire for all members and presented to the Department Convention Finance Committee at Department Convention and then presented to your Post Delegates to our Department Convention at the Mill Casino in North Bend. The Post Delegates will cast their vote for adoption. This is required by our Department Constitution and By-Laws. Our Department Budget Year is October 1 through September 30. This is also our Department Tax Year which is being submitted now. Lower membership does affect our Department Budget and what we are able to do to complete our mission and our commitments to our Members and Veterans Community. Our plan for our 2021-2022 Department Budget was for increased membership and matching funds to offset our shortfall as agreed in our Spring DEC and Department Convention. We have not accomplished that requirement in our plan. We had to revisit our budget, which we do monthly throughout the Budget year which is part of that plan, we cannot

have a negative budget. As we put this Proposed 2022-2023 Department Budget together, we were required to reduce our Membership income to support our actuals and make further reductions in expenses. We need to work on our membership, there are plenty of opportunities in our Department for growth. We are holding several events this year in which we have the opportunity to develop new members and new opportunities for growth. Several Posts are active again and are doing programs, doing a good job for their members and their communities, and holding events. It is all of us that must work together as a team to turn this around, we have done it before and been very successful. Face-et-face

Remember, for those Posts with a Tax Year of January 1 to December 31, it is time to get your financial information in order and file your 990-N, 990EZ, or 990 Tax Form. Remember there are no exceptions. The IRS system has gone live.

Remember the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3 and is there, 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, there are a lot of grants available, we have our Foundation which is a 501c3 which the grants can be made out, and earmarked for your Program.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

REPORT

Steve Shollenburg

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

REPORT

Dick Winders

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

REPORT

Ed Van Dyke

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

REPORT

Susan Hughes

Well, I wonder if Mother nature is done with us yet.

It has been slow but steady at the posts for membership. I was hoping that membership would increase after the holidays. They have been busy with community events and functions.

Now it's time to get busy getting the memberships up and to contact past due members on renewals, as well as new members.

Department did a revitalization of the Tillamook post, they now have a commander, 1st vice and adjutant. Their meetings are on Wednesdays at 1pm at the elk's lodge.

Will be working with the posts that need assistance with getting new members as well as getting the renewals in.

Next District meeting Caucus on May 13th at 1 PM at Seaside post 99 lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 Also nominations and voting for next year's officers. And maybe some of the officers for the department will also be there.

Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Hello Legionnaires,

Here we are at the Spring DEC. It has been a busy winter, but Post visitations are completed, and I have been fortunate that moderate weather has permitted that without incident. Now I am entering a different phase of activity, which would be the swearing-in of new Post officers and the celebration of the Legion's birthday. Both were very enjoyable times to connect with Post members. Again, I was able to skirt around the brief episodes of snow.

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dale Jenkins

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Dave Applegate

Post 8 Klamath Falls: The post Commander, Jim Whitlock, has had to resign from this position citing medical reasons. We wish him well. Members Doug Riese and Samantha Totten-Perry have stepped up to install new officers and maintain the Post activities and membership. Doug Riese will assume duties of Post Commander. They provided a corned beef & cabbage dinner for members and guests for St. Patrick's Day. Members have more activities planned for the coming months.

Guy T. Applewhite (Ashland) 14: This Post is installing new officers, reorganizing their meeting place and planning activities. They just lost their finance officer, Ron Fuller, a 40+ year member, to Post Everlasting.

Post 28 Grants Pass: Our charter signature Boy Scout Troop is still meeting at the Post every Wednesday, including the leaders. Also, Pack 23 is also meeting on Wednesdays. The Ladies Craft Social still meets at the Post every other Thursday. The Elks were meeting at the Post but have recently reopened their Lodge. We have a good relationship with them and are working with them to come in to aid us in conducting a Veterans Breakfast at the Post once a month. We are in the process of establishing a Veterans In Need Program. Bake sales will resume on Valentine's Day. Our resident DAV representative is at the Post every Thursday from 9 to 12 to assist with claims. Claims are handled on a walk in basis. The Post publishes a Post newsletter every other month that is mailed to all members. This is accomplished with the assistance of the SAL Commander, Tom Van Allen and his wife. The Post hosts Friday dinners for members and guests. And, also provides premeeting dinners for members in attending.

Membership: Total members 295 Paid 2023 234 Pushing on 61

Post 50 Williams Valley: Members are continuing maintenance and updating work on our building. The goal is to have most of these projects done by this fall. It's been a long process but the building is greatly improved and is a pleasure to hold meetings and events there.

At our January general meeting members made plans for the next three months. The Post is still holding pancake breakfasts and bingo nights as fund raisers. The bingo nights are open to members and guests and is doing very well. The pancake breakfasts are not doing so well so plans are being made to eliminate the breakfasts and increase bingo nights. A quick vote was taken in regards to this plan and it was unanimous to increase the bingo.

In February our bingo night had to be cancelled because of rough weather. The Post hosted a Valentine's Day party for all of our Legion family members; lots of fun. Prizes and raffle items were donated from our local businesses.

In March the Post hosted the Sons of The Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton. Breakfast was served to all members and guests present. The Commander gave an outstanding speech that included how he became an SAL member and how he became involved in programs to help veterans. His presentation was very inspirational to all, especially our new SAL members. Accompanying the Commander was NEC Mark Chaney, ANEC Larry Horne, Detachment Commander Rob Leibenow, ADJ Ward Allen and District 4 Commander David Applegate. Our original plan was to have Commander Carlton present the Charter to our newly formed Post 50 SAL Squadron. Unfortunately, the Charter did not arrive in time from National. The Charter will now be presented on May 13th, 2023, by the Detachment of Oregon.

The Post also held a Saint Patrick's Day party for members and family. The menu included the customary corn beef & cabbage dinner and a green beverage. Members are very appreciative of the tremendous amount of planning and work our Adjutant, Mark Cole, did to make these festivities so enjoyable by all.

Post 70 Glen Morrison (Cave Junction) 70: The Post is in the process of adding two new members and currently stands at 26 members. Mr. Roger Brant, a city official for Parks & Recreation, has asked Post members to assist in moving the WWI memorial and flagpole off of private property to a city owned location, Jubilee Park. He also plans to include a memorial site recognizing our American Legion Post 70 at this site. The Commander, Bob Soria, is working with Mr. Grant on writing grant requests to cover expenses.

Two Post members belong to The Clamper Group, which is a volunteer group dedicated to researching, recording and installing historical monuments. They will be helping to move the above items also. The Clampers also plan to put up monuments for all theaters of war.

Mr. Ed Webb, a member of the Laurel Cemetery Group, has found many unmarked veterans graves and is planning to mark each grave with a new cross. He has asked Post 70 members to help in this endeavor. He has also asked the Post members to perform a flag retirement burn for old flags on May 27th. Post members are participating in re-establishing the annual Old Timers Picnic. This will include a memorial ceremony at the park and at the City Hall the following Monday.

Post 84 Malin: January and February meetings were canceled due to a lack of quorum and inclement weather. At the March meeting, members discussed hosting the Memorial Day Breakfast and the posting of flags on veterans graves in the Malin Cemetery. Post members have attempted to contact schools for Boys State and Law Enforcement Career Camp candidates. One school counselor responded saying they had no candidates. Post members performed an Honor Guard at two funerals for veterans.

Post 129 Myers Holland (Central Point): Members continuing work on membership; close to goal. Had a young man from Crater High School apply for Boys State. The Post is helping him with the finances. Members are supporting Gold Valley Little League this year over in the town of Gold Hill. Members are continuing to visit with veterans that are in ill health. And, members continue to help vets into the VA health care system.

Post 192 Camp White (White City): Bob Huff, the Post Commander, received The 4 Chaplains Humanitarian Award for selfless service in the area from MC League.

Members of the Post attended the memorial service and funeral for Post 14 40+ year member, Ron Fuller, at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Members continue doing buddy checks. Three members have been moved to memory care in Brookings.

Coming out of the Covid-19 disaster, officers are meeting to plan events to increase interest and to motivate members to become active again in our rural area. The Covid-19 disaster and the wildfires that occurred in our area have devastated our membership resources.

The Post is hosted the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event at the VA SORCC in White City on Wednesday, March 29th, at the Community Center.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

REPORT

John Reish

We held our District meeting November 5th. John Lee the Department Legislative Chairman gave a presentation. The District Commander gave training on how to pull the 114 lists and process the transfers.

Our next District meeting will be January 21st in Redmond Lunch at 1130 and meeting at 1300. District Oratorical will follow the meeting.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

Randy Tye

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

REPORT

James Moriarty

An Estacada City Councilor and the Post 74 Commander have a Veteran's podcast in Estacada called Ranger Games. We have a new platform for our veteran podcast in Estacada. The podcast link is backwoodsbulletin.com, youtube.com/@backwoodsbulletin, and are also on Twitch, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TickTok and Twitter.

Post 74 recently chartered the local Boy Scout Troop and Pack 186 in Estacada. It is very exciting to charter these young men due to the hard work ethic that they have displayed during special events in town such as the Veteran's Day parade, fundraising and Post 74 Veteran's Day Breakfasts.

Post 74 is now awarding two \$1,000 Estacada High School scholarships that are due on May 1, 2023 for graduating seniors.

Post 74 and the Estacada Community Center collaborated with Milo McIver State Park for a bottle/can collection to benefit both organizations in Estacada.

District 7 held its quarterly meeting on January 21, 2023 at the Hitching Post Pizza in Estacada and we had four Posts in attendance (Post 30, 74, 134 and 137). The Department Commander Larry Whitmayer, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips and Legislative Chair John Lee were in attendance.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

REPORT

Tim Troupe

It has been a busy quarter. Lots done and more to do.

I have seen the Marine drum and bugle corp. attended the Clackamas county mental health summit.

The dinner for the national president of the auxiliary at post 150. Plus lots of local talking to people. Also spoke with people at game storm (a local gaming convention). Note the VA is now recognizing how gaming helps fight PTSD and being alone.

It is my hope that the legion would support an information resource booth at the convention sponsored by ofsci. (Orycon and game storm)

We in district 8 had a long discussion about joint electronic and in person meetings. The idea is to increase access to limited mobility folks and open avenues to members to attend.

We are doing a revitalization last weekend in April at post 180, for district 8, district 7 is also invited to attend

We are also looking at fund raising for the district, so we can have more tools.

The other issue that is happening with new members some of them who sign up and list their post to join are still being put into post 114... How are we meet goals when the national computer takes them away from our posts? We need to change the system. It

is cumbersome, the national it help is non excitant. If they were my company, oh wait they are, I would fire the lot. And start over.

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

REPORT

Larry Hill

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

REPORT

James Jerome

Here is District 10's report for the April DEC in Redmond. We have three of our six District Posts that are struggling to meet the goal. Nyssa Post will receive poppies to get their name out in the community. When the weather and Post Cmdr. work schedule line up, we'll meet and discuss strategies for the most impact on the poppies.

District had its Oratorical contest on February 11. We had three contestants. Two from Post 63 and one from Post 96. Post 63 Juniors took first and third. Post 96's freshman took second place. Posts 63 and 96 winners placed 2nd for a contestant from Post 63. Post 96's contestant scored third. My thanks to the Post Commanders, Tabulators, and Judges. Especially to PNC Charlie Schmidt for MC-ing the program. And a big shout out to the parents who supported their High School students to participate.

American Legion Birthday was celebrated at the John Day Elks Lodge on March 15. This was also the Lodge's Day for Veterans Coffee and Donuts. Vets Chairman Bob Van Voorhis and Post 106 members organized the celebration and purchased the cake. PNC Charlie Schmidt spoke of the history of the American Legion and where our organization should be prepared to be in the future. We had 45 men and women veterans who attended. Members of Posts 63, 77, and 106 were in attendance.

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Because if weather communications to Posts had been mainly by phone. Our District Membership chair Van Voorhis had done an excellent job of doing Veterans demographics for the three counties that make up District 10. Based on VA and ODVA census numbers, that work shows D-10 has over 4,100+ veterans. Of that number, 970+ receive VA benefits. Those benefits are a direct result of American Legion Lobbying. Thanks, Legionnaire Van Voorhis, for putting

those veteran numbers in perspective. We have good numbers to work from. Now we need to turn those numbers into membership.

Commander, that concludes my report.

ADMINISTRATIVE & ADVISORY COMMISSION

REPORT

Charles Schmidt

1. Department membership continues to remain stagnant. Minimal membership growth continues to be a significant factor effecting our Department's financial stability; impacting incoming revenue, Legion programs, and revenue enhancement programs. Some voluntary monetary donations have been received to counter the loss of revenue that would normally be generated by membership growth. However, the enthusiasm and purpose for donations and membership growth seems to have wilted. Our Department has only one way to go, and that is **UP!!** We have the potential. *"There are only two options: Make progress or make excuses."*

Anonymous

2. The Department Headquarters office budget is a sizeable part of the Department budget even with the continuance of a declining membership. However, reality has arrived! Our will to grow membership has lessened and so has our operating capitol. Department officers and program chairpersons have been or may be asked to employ their personal creativity and generosity to perform their duties and responsibilities. While open to suggestions, A/A Commission members are exploring where possible administrative costs could be trimmed in the headquarters budget and still be able to maintain a feasible Department Headquarters operation. It is only prudent that A/A re-look at Department's administrative costs that could be a potential savings. *"If you don't sacrifice for what you want, what you want will be the sacrifice."*

3. Every member across our Department must realize we cannot continue to function with a declining ration of dollars to membership. Every day our Department nears the certainty that if we don't change the way we do business in Department of Oregon, we are not going to overcome our financial challenges. Turning our backs on our fellow veterans, our youth, and our America would be out-of-character for The American Legion Department of Oregon.

4. Minutes of proceedings are official record of actions taken during Department of Oregon's Annual Convention. Minutes, DEC or commission/committee meetings, summarizes topics of discussions, decisions, votes on specific motions, activities, administrative information, date/time of meetings and names all attendees. Meeting minutes serves a historical purpose, a legal purpose while documenting a group's adherence to the proper procedures and organizational Constitution and By-Laws, Code of Procedures, Policies, State and Federal guidelines. Minutes and recordings made during a meeting are discoverable in litigation. The Department Commander and Adjutant have been working on previous minutes of Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings and Department Convention proceedings (2022 Pre- and Post-Convention DEC meetings, 2022 Department Convention proceedings, September 22, 2022,

virtual DEC meeting, October 30, 2022 DEC meeting, and 2023 Mid-Year Virtual DEC meeting) that will be presented for DEC approval at the Spring DEC meeting, April 15-16, 2023 in Redmond Post 44. The A/A Commission will be putting forth resolutions to amend the Department Constitution and By-Laws regarding Department Executive Committee meetings and Department Convention proceedings.

“Leadership is not a title, it’s an action, and it starts with you. Leading with INTENTION creates purpose. Leading with CONNECTION creates momentum. Leading with DIRECTION creates collective efficacy. Leading with all three in mind will not only build your capacity but foster an environment where everyone in your organization has the best opportunity to lead from where they are.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

REPORT

Lou Neubecker

See the following Americanism Committee Reports

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Michael Sowles

Online registration for American Legion Baseball teams began Jan. 1, 2023, rule books are published on the resource page, the resource page has a multitude of items to help with team management.

Insurance for the teams was available to purchase on March 1, 2023.

Tryouts and practice can take place once a team has purchased their insurance.

American Legion Baseball teams must be fully Registered and Insurance purchased by June 1, 2023

The American Legion Baseball season can begin June 1, 2023.

Each Manager, coach and adults that encounter the players are required to pass a background check and to take Abuse Training for Adults.

The deadline for team managers to submit their teams foster is June 25, 2023. This is also an on-line process.

The Oregon Single A Tournament will be played July 19-23 at The Redmond Rotary Field in the David M. Jaqua Sports Complex in Redmond, Oregon. The Single winner will move on to Havre, Montana, playing on Aug. 4-8th. The Single A season will end with this tournament.

The Oregon Triple AAA Tournament will be played in Eugene, Oregon at Swede Johnson Stadium, on the North Eugene High School campus, July 22-26, 2023. The winner of this tournament travels to Gillette, Wyoming and plays Aug. 2-6, 2023.

The winner of this regional tournament is then sent to The American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina, August 10-15, 2023.

The above deadlines and rules are enforced by the Oregon Baseball Committee.

SCOUTING COMMITTEE

REPORT

Larry Wittmayer

Committee Members

Norm Hoffmann

Ian Gerstel

Stann Gandy

Eric Stallings

Comments

During this reporting period, this Department has added 3 Posts to the list of Posts chartering Scouting units.

As I draw to the end of my tenure as Chair of this committee I report:

We have changed the Department requirements for Eagle Scout of the Year.

In the past 3 years this Department has gone from chartering 19 Scout units to 44.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to have served this Department and above all Scouting.

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Fred Broadwater

1. There have been three Boys State Committee meetings since the Winter DEC; February 13,

March 13, and April 10.

2. The following High School Counselors have been contacted by Committee members and Post members in recruiting efforts; McNary High School in Keizer, St. Helens High School in St. Helens, Central Catholic High School in Portland, McMinnville High School in McMinnville, Newberg High School in Newberg, Sheridan High School in Sheridan, Reynolds Learning Academy in Troutdale, and Centennial High School in Gresham. In most all cases the American Legion was welcomed and generated 5 Boys State applications.

3. To date there are 8 applications on file @ Department Headquarters from Oregon & 2 from Washington. We are expected to receive an additional 15 applications this month for a total of 25, representing a growth of 47% in 2022. It is further hoped that our citizen population will be around 40-50 citizens for the Class of 2023 (a growth of almost 300%).

4. We have secured commitments from 3 State Legislative Officials, 2 Attorneys, and 1 Mayor plus a City Manager to attend as Guest Lecturers and participants, with a retired Multnomah Circuit Court Judge being used to swear in the 2023 Boys State elected officials at their Graduation exercise.

5. At the request of the USMA (West Point) 1 Post facilitated the attendance @ California Boys/Girls State for a young lady from Oregon.

6. Theme days have been established for the Week; Monday is Press/Publishers Day, Tuesday is Educators Day (High School Principals & Counselors/Instructors are invited), Wednesday is Alumni Day (any previous Boys State is invited), Thursday is Post/Sponsors Day (any Legion member or Business Sponsor is invited).

7. The largest obstacle facing Boys State continues to be Post involvement. At this point, we have only maybe, maybe, 10 Posts throughout Oregon involved, which represents about 8% of all Posts in the State.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Yvette Morse-Warrington

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Raoul Salem

Attached is a MicroSoft WORD document file containing my report on the outcomes of the Preliminary Round / State Championship of the 2023 American Legion National Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament, with a focus on participation by Oregon youth, to date.

In 2022 there were 18 individual sporter air rifle competitors from Oregon, and in 2023 there were 17 individual sporter air rifle competitors from Oregon.

Nationally, there were 485 sporter air rifle competitors in 2022, and there were 545 sporter air rifle competitors in 2023.

In 2022 the highest-scoring competitor from Oregon was ranked second in the nation, and in 2023 the highest-scoring competitor from Oregon was ranked ninth in the nation.

In 2022 the highest-scoring team from Oregon was ranked sixth (out of 101 teams) in the nation, and in 2023 the highest-scoring team in Oregon was ranked sixth (out of 77 teams) in the nation.

In both 2022 and 2023 there were one individual sporter air rifle competitor and one four-person team from Oregon invited to the second round.

I thank you very much in advance for your continuing interest in American Legion Youth Shooting Sports.

Very truly yours

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ed Owens

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Maria Tye

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jon Marsh

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REPORT

Richard Ramey

Spring 2023 Department of Oregon Executive Committee (DEC) Internal Affairs
Commission Report

1. The American Legion Department of Oregon Internal Affairs (IA) Commission continues to review Department of Oregon Post, District, Commissions, and Committee reports, Oregon Legionnaire articles, District and Post meeting minutes and make recommendations for improvement during the course of the year.

1.1. The audit of the available records through March 2023 for the 2022-2023 membership year, thus far, has noted that Department, District, and Post reports on file at Department are mixed results for completion of required reports. Many, many reports are missing completely, or incomplete. Examples include: Not all entries entered on the forms, no signatures, only some officers listed, only one committee identified, etc.

As of being three-quarters-way through the membership year, there still have only eleven (11) Post Analysis Reports been documented of the 112 posts in the Department.

1.2. District Meetings. District meeting minutes on file at Department reflect situations, where in some districts an insufficient number of posts attending are resulting in that business

could not be conducted because of a lack of quorum. Below are the results of reviews of District meeting minutes:

<u>Number of District</u>	<u>Number of Posts in District</u>	<u>Average number of District meetings</u>	<u>posts in attendance</u>
1	15	3	0
2	17	3	11
3	15	3	9
4	10	3	7
5	16	2	7
6	11	No meeting minutes of file at Department	
7	7	2	3
8	6	No meeting minutes on file at Department	
9	9	2	6
10	6	1	6

A review of minutes indicate that many posts have active programs being administered. With no documentation of reports and non-attendance at District meetings, Department can not substantiate that the following posts are complying with the National organization's requirements for their charter of meeting at least twice a year, having officers, and working at least one program:

District 1: Post 47 Tillamook, Post 126 Neil Walker (Nehalem), Post 168 Cannon Beach

District 2: Post 33 Independence

District 3: Post 59 Florence, Post 100 Philomath

District 4: Post 69 Rogue River

District 5: Post 22 Hood River, Post 48 Warm Springs, Post 55 Mosier, Post 73 Maupin,
Post 131 Deer Ridge, Post 135 Wamic, Post 164 Spray

District 6: Post 23 Pendleton, Post 72 Wallowa, Post 87 Heppner, Post 130 Athena,
Post 140 Mission

District 7: Post 98 St Johns, Post 108 Corbett, Post 137 Dana King

District 8: Post 1 Portland, Post 5 Oregon City, Post 127 Sandy, Post 150 Oregon Trail

District 9: Post 62 Reedsport, Post 76 Port Orford

1.2. Of the eleven (11) Department Commissions only four (4) : Administration & Advisory,

Internal Affairs, Permanent Finance, and Veterans Affairs Commission had minutes on file at Department.

And of the twenty-six (26) Committees ten (10) have meeting minutes on record at Department: Boys State, Department Executive Committee, Oratorical, American Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion,

Training & Development, Information & Technology, Membership, Veterans Employment & Education, and The Oregon American Legion Foundation.

2. With so little documentation available, it is difficult to ascertain the activity level of some Posts, Districts, Commissions, and Committees. With three-quarters of the membership year behind us, how many of the Posts have been visited by Department and District leadership? What can Districts, Commissions, and Committees tell of the vitality of programs throughout the Department? For those Districts that have produced minutes, it appears at least two-thirds of the posts in those Districts are reporting activity, but what of the posts not attending District meetings, and of the Posts for which Districts have yet to send District minutes to Department.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ward Allen

Committee:

Phyllis York

Lou Neubecker

Steve Adams

Judy Johnston

There have been no inquiries into the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. We continue to communicate via E-Mail throughout the year to see if anyone needs anything or if we have heard of any issues that need resolved.

Next year, there will be two positions available on the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, as Steve Adams & Judy Johnston will no longer be on the Committee. If the incoming Commander will have me, I will stay on as Chairman & will be looking to fill the "Four Year position" and the "One Year position." If anyone is interested, thinks they know someone that will do a good job or knows of an individual they would like to see mentored through the chairs please let me know.

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

REPORT

Gale Sears

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post 180 Milwaukie:

1. 7/10 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Brkfst 9 am – 12
 2. 7/5 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 3. 7/14 Rider Meeting 6:30 pm – UC
 4. 7/24 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Brkfst 9 am – 12
 5. 7/19 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 6. 8/11 Rider Meeting 6:30 pm – UC
 7. 8/14 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Brkfst 9 am – 12
 8. 8/16 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 9. 8/28 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Brkfst 9 am – 12
 10. 9/6 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 11. 9/14 Rider Wings Wednesday 5:30 pm – 7
 12. 9/20 Rider Taco Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 13. 9/23 Post BBQ 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 14. 9/25 Rider/Post/SAL/Aux Breakfast 9 am – 12
 15. 9/28 Rider Wings Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm
 16. 9/30 Rider Lounge Menu 5:30 – 7:00 pm Total Volunteer Hours: 439 \$ Donated : \$1400
- Miles: 1500

ALR EVENT THAT Post 180 Participated in during this Quarter not mentioned above
 July August
 Mayhem Fall Girl Softball Sponsor 1 Escort

Post 180 continued:
 2 Escorts 1 Flag Line
 1 Flag Line Ride SW Washington County
 Tigard Balloon Festival Veteran Balloon Rides NW Art and Air Festival
 September
 Fred Jossi Memorial POW/MIA Open Golf Tourney
 Veteran Community Support and Visits
 End of Summer Ride 9/17
 Standby for Escorts and Flag Lines

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

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

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

ALR will lead the pack this year. 11/24 - Thanksgiving Dinner from 1400-1600 at Post 10
12/25 - Christmas Dinner from 1400-1600 at Post 10

POST 58 STAYTON: (Miles- 8696) - 25 Flag Lines, 6 Escorts, 3 Parades, and 18 Other (ie: meetings, recruitment, business, retirement ceremonies, ect) FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS: 9-11 ceremony at Post 10, Lebanon (11 Sept), Veterans Day Parade in Lebanon (11 Nov), Flag Ceremony at Stayton Retirement home (5th Sept)

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

POST 57 NEWBERG: National Commander Escort- 40 (10hrs x 4) Riders Meeting at Convention-6 (2hrs x 3)
Chapter Riders Meeting-24 (1.5hrs x 16) Post Fun Run/Picnic 8 (2hrs x 4) Newberg Old Fashion Festival Parade 20 (4hrs x 5) Legion Collage (ALR presentation) 1hr FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS Lunch Rides Attending Post 21 Scholarship poker run 9/11 ceremony

Gale Sears Chairman	Post 21
Michael Speer	Post 57
Gordon Treber	Post 99
Mike Lueck	Post 180
Charley McCarthy	Post 58

Respectfully

Chapter Quarterly Reports 4th QTR 2021	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
001-Portland				
010-Albany				1
020-Dallas				
021-McMinnville	1			1
029-				
032-Cottage Grove		1		
034-Coos Bay/North Bend				
043-La Grande				
044-Redmond	1	1		1
045-La Pine				
048 Warm Springs				
051-Santiam/Lebanon		1		
057-Newberg	1	1		1
058-Stayton				
074-Estacada				
075-Sheridan				
083-Santa Clara/Eugene				1
099-Seaside				1
116-Newport	1	1		
119-Vernonia		1		
150-Oregon Trail				1
157-Wallowa Lake				
175 Sheridan				

158-Tigard				1
180-Milwaukie		1		1
Totals	4	7		8

RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Terry Brown

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

Report – For the period January 14 to February 23, 2023 there were 7 resolutions forwarded to the Resolution Committee for review. The following Resolutions were reviewed and forwarded to Department/Constitution & By-Laws Committee:

- Article VII Resolution Assignment Committee Roles
- Resolution Assignment Committee Name Change
- Appendix A Rule 9
- Appendix A Rule 15
- By-Laws Amendments Article VI
- Article V Section 6
- Article XV Section 2

Meetings Held: No virtual or in-person meetings were held. All resolutions submitted to the committee for review are via email and findings/recommendations from the Committee to the Commission/Committee Chairs are via email.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE

REPORT

Adam Gettmann

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Richard Ramey

The Training and Development Committee is arranging for training at Convention. The Committee is asking any members of the Department of Oregon for suggestions of training required for the 2023 year.

The reality of budget restrictions has further emphasized a new approach to Training within our Department. Until membership can be increased to a level that will allow the reinstatement of financial support for travel and training, the future may need to rely on a combination of detailed Department available lesson plans, within District training resources and mentoring. If this is the direction that Department leadership would decide to pursue, Training and Development would be looking to gather from National, Department, District, and Post resources common training material that can be distributed to all levels of the Department for use in conducting training at local venues. This combined with the use of virtual formats in conjunction with self-study, and meeting-style classes may be the future in the immediate term.

These proposals are still in the ideas stage, and the Training and Development Committee looks forward to any input that Department members offer for suggestions in types of training and content.

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Judy Johnston

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

REPORT

John Lee

On the local level the 2023 session began on January 17, 2023. Both the House and Senate committees for veterans have added additional duties from previous sessions. The House has added General Government and the Senate has added Federal and World Affairs. The chairs for both committees did not change from last year. This year's committee members are a good mixture of past members, new members with legislative experience, and new legislative members. This year all meetings at the Capital are in person. I have been attending many of the meetings. This has given The American Legion a recognizable presence.

Currently there are 33 bills in the House and 17 bills in the Senate for veteran and military. The bills cover a variety issues, but the majority of the bills are around Taxes (veteran pensions, National Guard pay, property), and education. One of the high priority bills in the House is HB2147 which directs counties to designate person to ensure interment of unclaimed human remains of veteran. This bill is currently stalled in committee to gather information and verify numbers.

One of the educational bills was submitted by Nick Juarez of Post 104. HB2615 Allows veterans to participate in Oregon Promise program if first enrolled in classes within 12 months after discharge from military. Nick testified in person before the House committee. This bill became the first veteran's bill to pass the house and is now in the Joint Ways and Means committee.

I have been visiting as many post as possible to give information on the state bills and passing out fliers to sign up for alerts. The more individuals sign up and use the alerts the better our grassroots movement will be affective.

On the national front, the sessions are just getting started. 6 members of The American Legion and 2 members of the American Legion Auxiliary were at the Washington Conference the last week of February. Visits were made to all Oregon legislators or their staff to discuss the American Legion Legislative Agenda. The complete agenda can be found at <https://www.legion.org/legislative/agenda>.

Once again I want to remind everyone to sign up for alerts. It is quick and easy to sign up. You can sign up at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. Both the Senate and House have now started to hold meeting and have passed a few veteran bills.

BILLS PASSED IN HOUSE

- **HR 502**, by Rep. Banks (R-IN), concerning VA reimbursement of educational expenses;
- **HR 815**, by Rep. McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), the RELIEVE Act, removing the requirement that a veteran must receive care from the VA in the previous 24 months to have emergency care covered if the veteran is within the first 60 days of enrolling in the VA health care system;
- **HR 753**, by Rep. Bost (R-IL), the VA COST SAVINGS Enhancement Act, requiring each medical facility to have an on-site medical waste treatment system; and
- **HR 1226**, by Rep. Aguilar (D-CA), the Wounded Warrior Access Act, related to online ways to submit claims-related records requests.

All of the bills passed either by unanimous roll call votes or by a voice vote.

HEARINGS HELD

- On Tuesday, February 28, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) held a hearing to examine the conflict in Ukraine.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees held a joint hearing titled "Legislative Presentation of Disabled American Veterans before the House and Senate VSO Joint Hearing."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on quality of life in the military.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to consider the authorization and oversight plan for the 118th Congress.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing titled "Building an Accountable VA: Applying Lessons Learned to Drive Future Success."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing titled "Ukraine Oversight."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees held a joint hearing titled "Legislative Presentation of The American Legion and Multi VSOs before the House and Senate VSO Joint Hearing." National Commander Troiola testified. Transcript of the testimony can be download <https://www.legion.org/publications/226221/national-commander-troiolas-testimony>.

UPCOMING HEARINGS

- On Wednesday, March 15, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Subcommittee on Personnel will hold a hearing to examine military and civilian personnel programs in the Department of Defense in review of the Department Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program.
- On Thursday, March 15, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to examine the future path of VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REPORT

Don Weber

The M&C Commission is working on tools to assist Posts with sharing information. Posts interested in creating a computer gaming team can join the Regiment team on line. After the 2022 National Convention there are over 25,000 Legion members using Regiment Discord networking. The Public Affairs Committee created a Twitter account to provide an easy fast method to share information about the Dept. of Oregon. The account is @TALoregon. You can rest assured that this will not become a place to just forward information that you already receive.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

REPORT

Larry Edwards

Committee Members – Larry Edwards, Flynn Phillips, Dick Winders

Report – The Technology Committee has met periodically at Department Headquarters and via telephone to review the status and security of our network and data. Larry Edwards and Flynn Phillips were in attendance.

We feel that our network and data are secure in accordance with current business practices. As our Network Server approaches the end of life in 2024 as state-of-the-art hardware we recommend replacing the current server with cloud support. This will require entering into a contract for cloud implementation, transfer of any stored data, and ongoing support and maintenance of software to achieve that goal. We feel this approach will be in keeping with the direction of industry standards and will result in a reduced overall cost of support going forward. This move will be compatible with the National strategy of The American Legion. If approved, the budget will need to be submitted for the coming fiscal year for hardware, software, and support.

This concludes the Technology Committee activities, recommendations, and reports for this fiscal year 2022-23.

Respectfully

OREGON LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Renee Ohler

Kudos to the Legionnaire Committee for continuing to produce a product with out a budget. The volunteer hours that go into producing a product that reaches the membership population of the American Legion in Oregon are extensive. Hopefully the Post's are ensuring their members are receiving a copy.

Those Department Leaders willing to submit a worthy article representing their dedication to the Legion and sharing their expertise with all Legionnaires are to be commended. Our team reviews all articles submitted, provides feed back on spelling and grammar, and looks for ways to improve the product. Our intent is not to change or add to any articles but to clean them up a little.

The Teams next objective is to work on lay out of the articles and get all the article on one page and/or consecutive pages and reduce the choppiness of the articles. Looking for a possible grant or donation to upgrade the programs and possibly producing hard copies in small batches. Where there's a will there's a way.

For God and Country
God Bless

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Don Weber

The Public Affairs team is hard at work trying to find ways to increase the amount of information we push out to the public. It is clear we need more information from members around the State to publish the great things the Legion is doing. It is also clear we need to reinforce the need to clearly outline who, what when, where, and why of activities going on. It's easy to forget that the public doesn't understand all of the things that we know about Veterans.

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

REPORT

Dan Burks

Membership continues to struggle, I believe I have started each report and article this year with that same line. We continue lead the pack from behind moving into 49th place. Regardless of attempts we have been unsuccessful in getting any substantial momentum. Seeking advice from those who have gone before me as last year utilizing upbeat and motivational attempts left us even further behind. Switching to a more direct and stern approach was the only method that kept us moving forward. This year starting with uplifting, motivational even inspirational comments led us to the worst start we have had in a long time and swapping to the direct and stern approach has delivered slightly better results however not enough to get us back on track. We are 1 of a handful of Departments that has yet to hit a target date this year. M&PA held a meeting on March 15th regarding a Per Capita increase resolution. To ensure we this resolution is our best opportunity to help continue the American Legion Programs, we invited Permanent Finance Commission, Administrative and Advisory Committee, Internal Affairs Commission, as well as our Finance Officer to have a round robin discussion about finance efficiency within the Department of Oregon, the down falls to such a resolution, other financial options as well as other potential solutions to our current financial status. It was determined by a majority vote of the M&PA present that we should forward the resolution on to Convention due to the lack of membership and the lack of faith in increasing membership enough within a required timeframe.

M&PA held virtual meetings with National Executive Committeeman Kevin Owens, Department Officers, Department M&PA Commission Members as well as District 1 Commander and 1st Vice Commander. Purpose of the meeting was to establish a revitalization in District 1 starting at the District 1 meeting and securing assistance from District 1 membership. A couple of substantial hurdles jumped out but the team was able to pull it together and navigate fairly easily.

On March 10th M&PA embarked on a journey starting with picking up our National Membership Engagement Coordinator Michele Steinmetz from the Portland Airport and heading towards Aloha Post 104. March 11th we attended the District 1 meeting where the Commander then announced for the 1st time to her membership about the revitalization. This posed an issue as we had originally planned for a very small revitalization with a couple focal points, but as the District Commander told us she had secured 30 volunteers, plans changed and we brought a much larger work order. Unfortunately after the meeting was concluded, only the 1st Vice Commander Tom Miller attended from District 1 as well as 3 members from District 2, Renee Ohler, Mike Speer, and Ian Gerstel stayed to assist and be trained on how a revitalization was accomplished. Unfortunately this wasn't fully accomplished as we were prepared for a different work load. NMEC Steinmetz and myself then went to Tillamook where we were joined the following day by NEC Kevin Owens. We were able to knock on doors from our expired DMS list and get several to renew their membership. Later that evening were met by our Department Commander Larry Wittmayer who escorted our National Vice Commander Doug Uhrig to our location. Shortly after Department 1st Vice Commander Cory Brockmann and Auxiliary Department Vice President Catherine Brockmann arrived as well. The next morning we all met at Tillamook Elks Lodge which was our Headquarters for the rest of our stay where we were met by Department Membership Commission member Renee Ohler and Department Assistant Service Officer Jody Marsh. This team came together with 1 objective, rejuvenate Tillamook Post 47. Over the course of the next 3 days we ran a revitalization for District 1, Tom Miller District 1 1st Vice Commander assisted remotely and even District 2 jumped in and did some as well. During this time utilizing our NVC as a spokesperson, we were able to set up and meet with Tillamook School District Superintendent as well as Director of Scholarships, and then the NVC held an interview with the local Tillamook Newspaper. Next the NVC, NEC and Department 1st Vice spoke to the Rotary club, and presented Department of Oregon Challenge Coins to nearly all of the Tillamook Police Department. A meeting with the City manager led to an appointment and discussion held between the NVC and a City Councilman who is the city chair for Veteran Affairs and a vet himself. A meeting with the Veteran Service Office led to 2 of the 4 CVSO's in Tillamook to come to the Elks Lodge and inquire more from us and speaking with Jody Marsh for potential future collaboration. A guided tour of Pioneer Museum gained us some insight into the town and even produced archived articles about The American Legion in Tillamook. That evening NVC and NEC attended the Elks meeting, asking for and securing a meeting place for the new Tillamook Post 47 members to host meetings. Next we secured a meeting with Care Inc who has a Director that specifically handles veterans in need and homeless veterans and was attended by NVC, Dep 2nd Vice and Dep ASO. A lot about different programs available was discussed as well as our mission. We wrapped up this stay in Tillamook with hosting the 1st meeting Post 47 has had in over a decade with 16 members attending including a Past Post Commander. Conclusion of this meeting was NVC Doug Uhrig swore in a new Post Commander, New 1st Vice Commander and a new Adjutant. While this is a great accomplishment, recruiting, transferring or renewing 22 members for the Post, the work is far

from over. Tillamook will need support from every angle to ensure they thrive with all the excited members. Department and District 1 need to stay on top of this Post and offer any assistance we can and fuel their flame to make sure they don't die out again. I believe this method of revitalization can be duplicated throughout the Department and should be soon to help rejuvenate inactive Posts across the Department in lieu of closing so many.

Respectfully submitted

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
REPORT
Greg Marvin

Commission Members:

Robert G. Marvin, Commission Chair

Tom Fitzgerald, Foreign Relations Committee/ROTC

David Solomon, Law & Order, Homeland Security Committee

Adam Gettmann, Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

Robert G. Marvin, National Guard & Reserve Committee

March 28, 2023

National Security Commission

The National Security Commission met electronically to select the Department Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year. Officer Micah Steeves of Carlton Police Department was selected as the Law Enforcement Officer. Officer Steeves was nominated by Carlton Memorial Post #173. Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Saccente of Coos Bay Fire Department was selected as the Firefighter of the Year. Firefighter/Paramedic Saccente was nominated by Bay Area Post #34. The files of both Officers were sent to National to be considered in the Western Regional contest. The winners will be announced during the Banquet during the the Department of Oregon 2023 Convention.

National Security Commission Chairperson Marvin received a call-in to the National Security Commission meeting held Monday February 27 during the 2023 Washington Conference. Speakers at the Commission meeting were Pat McGuigan, Military and Veterans Legislative Assistant Office of U.S. Senator John Boozman, The Honorable R. Clarke Cooper, Former Assistant Secretary of State, Vickie Koutz, American Legion Auxiliary National followed by Remarks by Matthew Shuman. Chairman, National Security Commission and a Division Legislative Update by Jeff Steele, National Security Analyst National Security Division. The American Legion National Commander briefly stopped by the National Security meeting and spoke briefly of the Legion ensuring its support of the quality of life for American servicemembers and their families. Tuesday February 28 was spent on Capitol Hill meeting with the Oregon delegation of Senators and Congressional Representatives to shape the legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. The Department of Oregon Delegation met with the two Senators aides and with each of the four Representatives in person and their aides explaining The American Legions legislative priorities.

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

REPORT

Tom Fitzgerald

Open 4-year

Don Adams 3-year

John Lee 2-year

Open 1-year

Arrangements have been made for ROTC medals with Oregon State University, University of Portland and University of Oregon. Presentations will be made for the other Universities as requests are made. A list of Oregon High Schools that have Officials JROTC programs has been received at Department. Posts that are in these School Districts can be notified of these programs and make contact with the Persons of Contact to make arrangements for award presentations in the next year.

By Robert G. Marvin for: Tom Fitzgerald, Chair

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

REPORT

David Solomon

Chuck Zeitler- 3year

Ward Allen- 1 year

Eva Summers 1- year

Open 4 -year

ATF Begins Publicly Posting Results of Federal Firearm Licensee Compliance Inspections Involving Violations of DOJ's Enhanced Regulatory Enforcement

The Department of Justice's Enhanced Regulatory Enforcement policy focuses on the GCA violations that pose inherent public safety risk.

Homeland Security Today

For the first time ever, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives began publicly posting information, [available on the ATF website](#), regarding the results of certain compliance inspections of federal firearms licensees (FFL) completed between July 2021 and December 2022. The data posted today involves ATF inspections resulting in the citation of an FFL for violation of a regulation identified in the Enhanced Regulatory Enforcement policy announced by Attorney General Merrick B. Garland on June 23, 2021. That policy, which is part of the Department of Justice's overall [Violent Crime Reduction Initiative](#), identifies regulatory violations of the Gun Control Act that pose inherent public safety risks.

“ATF is committed to transparency,” said ATF Director Steven Dettelbach. “Congress, by law, gives ATF the responsibility to inspect firearms licensees. The information

released today will assist the public in understanding how ATF handles inspections where significant violations are uncovered on the part of firearms licensees.”

ATF’s core mission is to protect the public from violent crime, particularly crimes involving the use of firearms. An essential part of this mission is ensuring that FFLs comply with applicable federal laws and regulations, particularly the implementing regulations of the GCA.

FFLs are often our first line of defense against gun crime and are often a source of critical enforcement information that helps law enforcement identify straw purchasers and disrupt firearms trafficking schemes. FFLs that willfully violate the law, however, must be held accountable. ATF conducts inspections to ensure compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations and to educate licensees on the specific requirements of those laws and regulations.

The Department of Justice’s Enhanced Regulatory Enforcement policy focuses on the GCA violations that pose inherent public safety risk. These violations are:

- Refusing to allow ATF to conduct a lawful inspection
- Transferring a firearm to a prohibited person
- Failing to conduct a required background check
- Falsifying records
- Failing to respond to a trace request

When willfully committed, a violation of these GCA regulations will result in ATF taking action to revoke the license of the offending FFL, unless extraordinary circumstances apply. The data and information posted today identifies the number of FFL inspections that resulted in ATF issuing a citation for one or more of these violations between July 2021 and December 2022, and includes the Final Notices of Revocation for the 93 FFLs whose licenses ATF revoked for willfully violating these provisions.

The law allows ATF to revoke a license when the record shows that an FFL willfully committed at least one violation of the GCA or its implementing regulations. FFLs are provided due process throughout the inspection and revocation process, including the right to a hearing and to appeal a final license revocation in federal court.

Anyone who observes suspected violations of the GCA or ATF's implementing regulations may report them to ATF's tip line at <https://www.atf.gov/atf-tips>. Additional information about ATF's revocation of firearms licenses is available at <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/revocation-firearms-licenses>.

ATF regulates the firearm industry and is the lead federal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction involving firearms and violent crimes. More information about ATF and its programs is available at www.atf.gov.

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Adam Gettmann

- 8 popular Cruise Lines offer military discounts: Margaritaville at Sea, Carnival Cruise Lines, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Disney Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean, and MSC Cruises.
- VA has a grant program with \$30 million available to assist formerly homeless veterans. See the VA Website for more information.
- VA proposes rule to waive copays for eligible Native American and Alaska Native Veterans.
- VA to award 52.5 million to local organizations who are working to prevent Veteran Suicide.
- Active, Retirees and veterans can receive a 10% discount from H&R block for taxes, may be a little late this year, watch for it next year.
- HireMilitary is an organization that will assist search for jobs and prepare for interviews. Visit [HireMilitary](#) for more information.
- VA is warning veterans of PACT Act Fraud groups out there, if you are pursuing a claim, be aware you should never have to pay anyone a portion of your disability to get a claim through.
- Free TAS PreCheck for veterans.

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Greg Marvin

Members:

Open 4-year

Ward Allen 3-year

Eva Summers 2-year

Tom Fitzgerald 1-year

The American Legion Legislative Agenda calls for legislation guaranteeing National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity. Despite the same duties National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are deprived of education benefits that active duty servicemembers enjoy. When National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits as do their active-duty counterparts. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts and urges Congress to recognize the service of National Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible the GI Bill.

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

REPORT

Kevin Owens

- On the 11th of February 2023 at 9:00am, at Department Headquarters the Permanent Finance Commission prepared the budget for 2023-2024. We continue to have Department Officers, District Commanders, Commission and Committee Chairman who feel that it is not important to send in a budget. How can we run a business if we cannot find the time to do the simplest thing that takes less than five minutes to do. Folks we have tried to make the process as easy as it can be. What can we do to improve your response or do we just not fund those budgets. We need to do better, and I know we can with your help. Our hope is that membership will improve to restore the funds for travel to everyone, but it is up to all of us to increase our membership.

- The Permanent Finance Commission met with the M&PA and A&A Chairman Charlie Schmidt on Tuesday March 14th, 2023 via Zoom. The discussion was about the resolution being submitted by the M&PA to have a \$5.00 per capita dues increase. There was a lot of opinions on the topic, but our position is that it is needed however, this is only a stop gap to our problems. We continue to look at ways to cut costs and continue to fund our programs and travel funds for our Officers and Commissions & Committees.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

REPORT

Bob Huff

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2022-2023 membership year are IPDC Don Weber, Department 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 to join our team, if interested in joining or participating with this elite team and being part of our future supporting Veterans and family in our Department, please contact us. Our Commission has held virtual Zoom meetings and we are scheduling another now as we are getting busy with increased activity to support our Veterans and their families. With discussion on the staffing of the Veterans Benefits Office in Portland and looking at the outcomes before COVID 19, we are changing our strategy and we will be having discussions in our commission. We have scheduled Veteran Service Officers to do outreach and be present at all our Department events and support our District and Post events. If your Post or District is scheduling a Veterans Stand-Down, Employment, Education or Benefits event, or Revitalization for Membership, please let us know and if not conflicting with another event, we will support in-person. We are getting busy and that is good, supporting our veterans and their families is our mission. Remember, Veterans and Families do not have to be members of our Legion Family to receive support from our Veterans Service Officers; we are available. We also have oversight of our Department VAVS Program which two of our team are VAVS Representatives. The VAVS program has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon, which all need more volunteers desperately, if you have some extra time

and looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans, we need you. I know I am repeating this, it is important to our Veterans, with the closing of Compensation and Pension (C&P) activities in Roseburg and White City catchment areas with staffing issues and reassigning clinical staff to higher priority assignments and moving patient needs to community care. Both Roseburg and White City catchment areas need volunteer drivers to transport Veterans to Portland VHA, Eugene VA appointments and C&P appointments. Both Roseburg and White City catchment areas have also been changing over to CERNER, the new computer program supporting the VA which has been met with challenges.

We have been requested by VA SORCC and NCA to hold venue in the rural communities to support the new PACT activity. We have started adding the new PACT Act dialog to events that we are scheduling with VA Speakers. Thank you to all of you that continue to support our Veterans community, keep up the good work. Face mask requirements are easing in a lot of our areas including the VA non-medical Buildings. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point National Cemetery as we have more face-to-face contact. The Commission also support the System Worth Saving Program and has supported four events in the past at our Roseburg and White City VAs with our National Organization.

And remember, Save the Date for the 2023 Women Veterans Conference, May 20 and 21, 2023. The event will be held at the Salem Convention Center/Grand Hotel. The Theme is “Stronger Together – Voices of Service”. The Website is wvc.oregondva.com and the contact at ODVA is Jessica Bradley, Women Veterans Program Coordinator. The event website is alive, you can sign-up for this important event. We have several Legionnaires interested in attending this event and are reserving rooms for the event. Please get the word out to all Women Veterans in Oregon, all 25,000 of them, this is an excellent event. We will be there and supporting this event.

If your District is holding their meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, please contact me and we will be happy to support. Thank you.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT

Bob Huff

The Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness Commission and Committee members are District 9 Commander Larry Hill, District 4 Vice Commander Tom Fitzgerald, Ryan Shockley, and PDC Bob Huff (Chair).

Our Commission has held virtual meetings on Zoom and is scheduling more now as we are getting active with events planned and more demands for more events. We have been discussing scheduled upcoming events in our Department that we will be supporting, and new events being planned in our Department with increased activity in veterans' employment and homelessness. We are still seeking more Commission and Committee members to provide coverage for the whole Department as we need coverage in all areas of our Department with upcoming and projected events. If interested, 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. Two of our Posts submitted Large and Small Employers Award recommendations with supporting packages. Both were reviewed and submitted to the National VE&E Division in Washington DC for consideration for the National Award for Large and Small Employers. We will also present Department awards. I just returned from Washington, DC for the Washington conference and the National Veterans Employment and Education meetings where we had discussions on awards and employment opportunities, apprenticeships, education, and a panel on Veterans in need and Veterans Homelessness and grants and support services available. VA one of our partners has relaxed some of their requirements for the 50-participant participation cap; we are now in discussion with the VA for events to support our communities, which can be approved at the local level. We are currently reviewing the requirements for our Commission to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and are actively holding dialog on this event, extensive communication in the past 30 days, and more to come.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF)

REPORT

Kevin Owens

The Oregon American Legion Foundation Board continues to work on the behalf of the Department of Oregon. We've been in contact with the Blazers, and we are reaching out to the Timbers. We will get games set up where we will promote The American Legion and "Be the One". Platt Electric has committed to provide towels to hand out at the Blazer games. The Hopps have a possible four games that will feature The American Legion, this includes coin presentations Memorial Day weekend with Bookmarks that have been ordered and Poppies on May 28th game, August 5th, and 6th there will be a local heroes Military Salute to Service. Currently The Foundation has sold approximately \$959.50. Post 158 purchased 130 coins. May is LEO month which is a great time to roll out the coins.

We are working with a church youth group to package the remaining Buddy Check bracelets. Seven hundred fourteen (714) bracelets were packaged in one hour! The Foundation Auction at Department Convention are working on collecting some very cool stuff! The Foundation will be participating in the National Wheelchair Games with a table and special items are being developed for the games.

THE SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER'S

REPORT

Rob Liebenow

I would like to welcome everyone to Redmond for our Spring DEC. So far, we are having a great year. Membership is going great. We have added one new squadron and are in the process of revitalizing at least two more.

We are still finalizing the details for our Detachment Convention in Coos Bay. It looks like our pre-convention DEC will be Friday after lunch with convention to follow. We will close our convention Saturday morning, have installation then follow that with our post-convention DEC. Everything is subject to change.

We are still looking for someone to step up and run for 2nd vice commander, and I know that Ward would love to give up the adjutant position. Marc and I do most of the paperwork, so just need someone at this time to take minutes.

Don't forget to turn in your squadron data reports. You should have had them to department by April 15, we need to get them to national by the end of April. Now that we can renew our membership online, this report is vital. Without it, national will set your dues at \$20, and you will not get your portion and will have to explain to your members why you are asking them for more money. Let's do it right the first time.