



# Festival of Balloons

“ON Behalf of the Tigard, OR Post 158, we would like to give our sincerest thank you. We appreciate everything the Department of Oregon American Legion did to help us with our goal to make the Tigard Festival of Balloons a success and bring the POW/MIA Hot air balloon back to Oregon. If you were not aware the POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon, is one of only 2 at the festival that is ADA accessible. We had the opportunity to allow 4 of our members to take a flight in the balloon this year, thanks to your generous donation and assistance. Our Department Commander, Cory Brockmann was also be featured in a local news special. We were photographed many times by local papers, and we were able to direct people to our QR code for the find my post, as we had people from all over the state interested in the American Legion. Hopefully this will generate new membership for several posts around the state. The goal of our sponsorship of the POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon and the American Legion booth, was to bring awareness to the great things that the American Legion and Family does for not only its local community, but for the nation. We achieved that goal, with your help. Again, we thank you for your help in making this possible.”

Angela Brinley  
Tigard Post 158



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is important not only to your Post but also to the state and national organizations. Each year, the number of our members and programs for veterans and communities are reported to Congress. Truly, there is strength in numbers, positively affecting proposed legislation for veterans benefits. Stand up and show your support for our veteran's and The American Legion, as well as the men and women currently serving, by renewing your membership today.

## Renew today

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# Freedom has a voice



When we think about freedom, our minds usually go to freedoms that people had to fight and die for, like freedom of religion, speech, to bear arms, and so on.

So we are quick to respond in the affirmative when confronted with philosophical questions such as “are we really free?”

Of course we’re free, we tell ourselves. We can say what we want, worship (or not) how we want, and even own guns if we want.

Johann van Goethe, who is widely regarded as the greatest and most influential writer in the German language, famously said, “none are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.”

When you consider freedom in its truest form, which according to the [Cambridge Dictionary](#) is “the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited,”

Can you really say that you’re free!

**FREEDOM**

**has a**

**“VOICE”**

**and**

**IT’S YOU**



## Commanders Corner

Today is our day. This is our time. Please don’t think that we have won the battle for our veterans and our work is finished because it isn’t. Before us now, however, is the work of our own department and it begins in providing training to current and future leaders alike. A new footprint to our Oregon American Legion College (OALC) is being established and, through the actions of our department executive committee, we have established a Chancellor position to help improve and strengthen our OALC.

Through the significant efforts of Chancellor PDC Gene Hellickson, the initial course is being conducted at Albany #10 on August 12th. I hope you make time to participate or ensure a member of your district or post leadership can participate.

Beaver Boys State Congratulations to Chairman Fred Broadwater and the entire Boys State Committee and staff that worked to conduct a hugely successful week at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Attendance doubled for this year’s Boys State over last year. A good example of success that comes in working together.

Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp (JWLECC) The minimum number of applications received is ahead of last year as I understand it, that’s great news. This year JWLECC will again be conducted at Camp Rilea and conducted the week of August 13th. These youth will have a wonderful experience thanks to the efforts of Chairman Ed Owens, the JWLECC committee, and the partners that they work with - Oregon State Police, Department of Public Safety, Oregon State Sheriff’s Association and Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. Let’s see if we can’t work together to double next year’s attendance!

Membership Every member matters to our organization and every effort must be made to improve buddy checks and engagement. While it isn’t reasonable to expect every member to attend post meetings or hold office, it doesn’t make their membership any less important or valuable. Please work within your post leadership to develop the means, the process, of making contact with all members and sharing your word of the value of their membership to The American Legion. Thank you for all you do, it is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, please continue to join with me to ‘Be The One’ in your post and community should the need arise. Together we can destigmatize asking for mental health help and work to bring an end to veteran suicide.

**Cory Brockmann**  
**Commander**  
**Department of Oregon**

**Buddy Checks**



## Auxiliary President



The beginning of this year has been a blur! June was full of fun supporting our veterans and communities. This included: a balloon festival where I helped promote the Legion Family and the Be The One initiative with Tigard #158; a spring bazaar where I talked to potential members and reconnected with friends at Aloha #104; and a family fun day where I got to meet members, the public, and community leaders at Washington #2.

In July, I was honored to represent our department at the Boys State closing ceremony and at the Oregon Korean War Memorial Commemoration. Before the Boys State closing ceremony in Corvallis, I spoke with a parent who was concerned about Girls State. It was a great discussion, as it helped me to better understand the importance of our program to those with girls aspiring to attend military academies or other institutions of higher learning. At the end of the month, I attended the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville. As Cory's father and my father both served during the Korean War era, this was a very meaningful remembrance.



Early August was an opportunity to help support a Legion Family table at the Hillsboro Hops Baseball games during Local Heroes Night and Military Appreciation Day. I promoted the family, provided post-specific information, answered questions about programs, and had many conversations with veterans and their families. Getting to explain the Be The One initiative multiple times really helped me to understand how important each individual person is...from the veteran to those who know veterans. We can all be the one who asks, listens, and reaches out when needed.

Katherine Brockmann  
Auxiliary President  
Department of Oregon



# BE THE ONE

*American  
patriotism  
has helped  
the  
American  
people get  
through the  
darkest times  
in history and  
keeps the  
country  
united and  
strong.*

*Better to die  
fighting  
for freedom than be  
a  
prisoner all your  
days*



"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

— UNKNOWN



## Points to Ponder

The **right to freedom** is a fundamental right that gives citizens basic freedom with respect to speech and expression, form associations, freedom of personal liberty, freedom to live a life of dignity, etc. The United States Constitution's First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

## Department Finance Officer



*Let's discuss our budget, specifically income versus expense, and budgets in general. There seems to be some confusion with some of our members who use the Department budget for their Legion activities. Our Convention delegates adopt The approved Department Budget at each Department Convention for the new Membership Year. Considerable work goes into the Department Budget, initial budget requests by the officers, programs, and activities of the Department, which is a business. An initial Budget meeting with preparation, reviewing budget requests, and understanding income that will be available to support the new budget, which includes membership, which is our market, like any other business. The "market does dictate in any business." Unique, in our business, we do have pass-throughs and self-supporting programs, and some of those programs also have grants and other revenue streams. Those programs are co-mingled in our Department Budget as they are programs/parts of our Department. Income versus expense; our expenses cannot exceed our income. As we do each year, the Finance Commission will ask all officers, chairs of commissions and committees, and administration to submit their budget requirements in the next few months. Keep in mind as you meet with your team, plan your activity for our next membership year, and complete your budget request that if you have income, your expenses do not exceed your income. We have many years of actuals, income, and expenses, so we can provide you with this information. Far too many times, a program will list that their income is going to be \$50, \$70,000, and their actual income is \$9, 10,000, and their expenses are \$15, \$20,000. Remember, this is a business, and this is our business. One issue that we experienced this year is that a commission thought that the income number they submitted, which was adopted at Convention, even though they did not receive their projected income, they can spend it. NO. There is nothing wrong with planning for a larger program/event that is acceptable, encouraged, and supported. We must stay within our "actual" income line if it does not materialize. We have a lot of excellent programs; we are the only VSO with all these excellent programs. I would encourage officers, chairs of the Commission, and committee members to attend District and post meetings throughout our Department and provide information on their programs and become cheerleaders in all the great programs and activities that we do. And while out there, I get commitments and am sure a lot of interest in our programs and activities. There are a lot of grants in Oregon, and each chair should be applying for them for their program; we have a 501c3 that the grants can be held in for your program. And remember, we are a member organization; membership is our market, and the market dictates. Remember, we are here to help and answer questions, and there are no dumb questions.*

*PDC Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer*



## Department 2nd Vice-Commander

As your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, I will have oversight of the Americanism Commission and look forward to working with this year's Americanism Commission Chair, Ian Gerstel, from Newberg Post 57. I know he will do a great job for the Department of Oregon with our Post Programs. He knows you, too, will work hard for our youth.

Our programs are so important to the Leadership and Development of our youth. Their parents, guardians, and sponsors count on us to instill a sense of personal obligation to their Community, State, and Nation, our future leaders. Let's blow the doors off our numbers for participants this year and reap the rewards our efforts will achieve. A bi-product from our programs will grow membership, volunteers, bring families together, and grow our community visibility. It's never too early to start planting the seeds for candidates.

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Legion Year of Membership. One of the first things I accomplish each new year on July 1<sup>st</sup> is renewing my American Legion membership online. I log in to [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) account (or create one), renew for one year, and, done. You also have the opportunity to select Paid Up for Life (PUFL) with a MyLegion account. The PUFL cost will be calculated for you before you pay. Too much, do a one year and done. You can even keep your credit card on file if you wish and select auto-renew. If you have not signed up for a mylegion account, you can go to the National site @ [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), click on Renew, and follow the same instructions. You will need your current membership number on your current card to complete the process.

I choose the online renewal process for several reasons: Saves National from printing and mailing a renewal notice, then another if I don't respond, and the American Legion is saving money on paper, printing, and postage. We all need to do our part. I can print a new membership card on the spot or pick it up from your Post. Renewing July 1<sup>st</sup> starts the climb to our end-of-year goal and makes the year easier on the Post Adjutants. Adjutants are busy and bogged down with paperwork, help them out.

I will be attending the National Membership workshop from July 27<sup>th</sup> thru July 30<sup>th</sup> at National Headquarters, where we will receive the new goals for the year. I look forward to working with the Membership Commission and District Commanders best to support our Posts with their goals for the year.

Let's start the year by meeting our goals early and caring for our Veterans and their families on the way. No one should ever be denied the opportunity to join our Legion Families.

God Bless our American Legion Families!  
Rene Ohler

**Have you done your  
BUDDY CHECKS  
today?**



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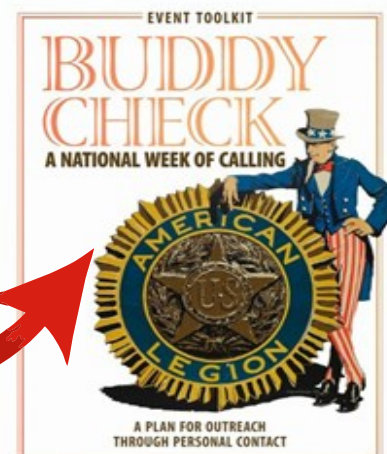
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## Oregon American Legion Foundation



One of The American Legion's founding principles was educating our youth. World War I veterans wanted to ensure that America's next generation would know our national values to prevent future conflicts. As our infant organization grew, so did Legion programs specifically for our youth; Baseball, Oratorical, Boys State/Nation, Scouting, Junior Shooting

Still today, these programs teach student youth how our government works in concert with our constitution, sportsmanship, public safety awareness, and self-confidence building while helping mold our youth to become role model citizens. Every Post is responsible for making program opportunities available to youth in their community. However, in today's world, tuition continues to rise, but Posts should not feel prohibited from offering our premier programs in their communities because of costs.

The Oregon American Legion Foundation (OALF) is here to help. As a tax-exempt under IRS Code 501(c)3, the foundation provides grants to support American Legion programs. A grant request that a Post can apply for financial assistance form is available at [www.orlegion.org/foundation](http://www.orlegion.org/foundation) to provide Legion program opportunities to youth in their community.

Donations from American Legion Family members, Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters enable OALF to provide financial assistance for our youth programs. Online donations in support of OALF are accepted at [www.orlegion.org/foundation](http://www.orlegion.org/foundation). Keeping the OALF strong creates more opportunities for more youths. America's youth need The American Legion. Through the Oregon American Legion Foundation, **WE** can make something good happen for The American Legion and our youth, the future of our country.

Charlie Schmidt  
Commission member

**How to be a better  
person!**

**Compliment people,**

**Magnify their  
Strengths,**

**And not their  
Weakness's**

**BE THE ONE  
BUDDY CHECKS  
"TODAY"**

AMERICAN  
LEGION



## **SAL Commander Detachment of Oregon**



It has been a hectic summer so far. I spent five days at Department and Detachment convention. We followed that up with eight days at Boys State. Then Linda and I worked thirty-two hours over three days at the Hillsboro American Legion Baseball Tournament. Linda and I will spend four days setting up and running Post #6's fire-roasted corn booth at the North Plains Garlic Festival this month. On top of that, I am getting ready to spend eight days at the National Convention.

We are still trying to get the squadrons to send in their year-end reports. How hard can it be? It only takes an hour or so to fill them out and send or email them to The Department. This is a requirement of The Department, and just like the squadrons are a program of the posts, The Detachment is a program of The Department and must be obeyed by their rule. We still have some squadrons who do not understand they are a program of the post and must comply with the post requirements. I keep saying, we are here to support the posts.

Once we have completed the new officers and confidential list, I will send it out to the squadrons I have contact information for. If you do not get communications from me, you have not sent in your year-end reports—just a vicious circle.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us for the Fall DEC in Kamath Falls from October 27th through the 30th. We will meet on Saturday the 28th at 1 PM, subject to change.

Robert D. Liebenow  
Detachment Commander

# **BE THE ONE**

### **POINT TO PONDER**

**“At any given moment,  
You have the power to say”  
This is not how the story  
Is going to end.**

**Military help line  
for Legionnaires**

<http://militaryhelpline.org>

[/about-us/](#)

**Have you done  
your  
BUDDY  
CHECKS**

**today?**

**EDITORS  
NOTES**



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## Chaplains Pulpit



“God has made every thing beautiful for its own time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11a NLT). Life is full of contrasts. We go through mountains, and we go through valleys. We go through successes, and we go through failures. We have wins, and we have losses. In weather, there are four seasons. But in your life, there are dozens of different seasons. And every season of life includes both good and bad times.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 gives us a representation of different life experiences: *“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace”* (NLT).

Life is a combination of contrasting seasons. All sunshine and no rain make a desert. All actions have consequences, and that could be adversity. If you’re following God’s will, if you’re trying to live your life according to the way God wants you to live, then you’ll eventually see that these experiences can have purpose and value in your life.

You may think that the only time you’re in God’s will is when you’re at church or having a quiet time. You can be in God’s will as you’re cleaning out a closet. You can be in God’s will as you’re mowing your

lawn. You can be in God’s will when you move to a new location or stay right where you are. WE are in God’s will all the time. There’s a time and season for everything.

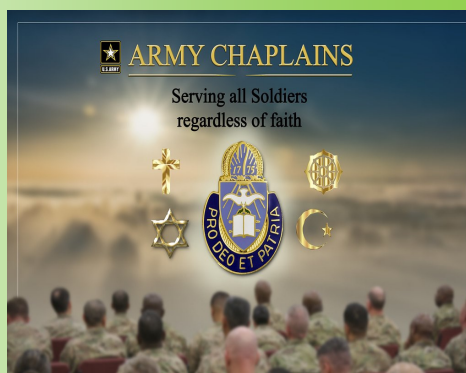
Ray Stevens sang a song called “Everything Is Beautiful” that included the lyric “Everything is beautiful in its own way.” That’s not exactly true. Everything is not beautiful. Cancer is not beautiful, some of us speak from experience. Child abuse is not beautiful. War is not beautiful.

The Bible says it differently in Ecclesiastes 3:11: *“God has made everything beautiful for its own time”* (NIV). That’s very different from “Everything is beautiful in its own way.” Because the Bible is saying that God can take even the bad things and, in the proper season, turn them around and use them for good in the way he intends.

You may be going through a season right now that is not beautiful. Your finances look ugly. Your health looks ugly. Your marriage or a friendship looks ugly. Your future looks ugly.

But God can make something good out of it as you trust him with the pieces.

Chaplain  
Steven D. Shollenburg  
Department of Oregon



## HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

**What:** The American Legion’s Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

**Why:** To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.

**How:** Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be The One.

**Veterans:** Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling.

Ask for help when you think you need it.

Know there are millions of people ready to help you.

Remember your family and friends care.

**Non-veterans:** Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.

Listen when a veteran needs to talk.

Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

**American Legion Posts:** Educate members, other veterans and civilians on the campaign.

Display resources at your post or in your community.

Share events of success stories at [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org).

### **FOR URGENT HELP**

**Call 988 and press 1**

**You may also text**

**838255**

**Or visit**

**[Veteranscrisisline.net](http://Veteranscrisisline.net)**

# WHAT IS CONSTITUTION DAY

Contrary to popular belief, the Fourth of July, or Independence Day, is not when the United States government was born. Instead, it was September 17, 1787, which is what we now celebrate as Constitution Day.

It has been 235 years since the Constitution was signed in the birthplace of our nation, Philadelphia. Since then, there have been over 11,000 proposed amendments to the document that guides our nation's government, but only 27 have been signed into law. The selectiveness of what goes into the laws of our country says a lot about the importance of what was written in 1787.

The Constitution was signed by 39 of the 55 delegates at the Constitutional Congress, with only three refusing to sign as dissenters. The group of delegates originally met to revise the Articles of Confederation, but soon realized that it would be necessary to write an entirely new set of laws. The delegates debated over the course of four months in Philadelphia to put together the document, which spanned 4,543 words before amendments were added.

That's why, in 2004, September 17th was declared Constitution Day in the United States of America. It marks the day that our founding fathers signed the document that still dictates how we live today.

The idea of Constitution Day was a long time in the making.

New York City news giant William Randolph Hearst suggested the creation of a holiday to celebrate American citizenship as early as 1939. In 1940, Hearst used his powers to get Congress to sign a bill into law establishing the third Sunday in May as "I am an American Day," which was the first iteration of Constitution Day.

On February 29, 1952, Congress moved the "I am an American Day" to September 17 and called it "Citizenship Day."

That same year, Louisville, Ohio Mayor Gerald A. Romary proclaimed September 17 as Constitution Day in the city thanks to a petition of resident Olga T. Weber. Weber did not stop there, though. She went to the Ohio General Assembly to have the day signed into Ohio State law, which it was. Weber continued up the ladder to the United States Senate and passed a resolution naming September 17–23 as Constitution Week, which President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law.

From its earliest forms to becoming Constitution Day, the sentiment behind the holiday remains the same: in celebration of our great country and the men who took the lead in establishing us as an independent, sovereign nation. According to Constitutionfacts.com, "Constitution Day, along with Independence Day and Presidents' Day, is an im-

portant part of the cultural heritage of the United States of America, because it recognizes the value of the American experiment, and the success of a nation of free people whose rights and liberties are protected by a written Constitution."

There will never be a document more important written in this country and we should celebrate it as what brought us all together under one flag, one nation.



## BE THE ONE







## Permanent Finance Commission

As a member of the Permanent Finance Commission, I have to tell you that last year was a trying year — and I'm worried. I'm concerned that we will have more difficult choices in the coming year. For those who attended Convention this year, they heard about the deteriorating finances of our Department.

Our membership is our primary revenue source to fund most of our programs and the staff at our headquarters. Since 2010 we have seen the membership go down by 8,000 members. In financial terms, that is a loss of \$104,000 to our budget. That loss has resulted in a reduction in the amount we have to fund our programs, and it has also resulted in a 40% reduction in our staffing at Department headquarters. We are now at a bare-bones level of staffing. We have had to reduce the number of people in the office, reduce the hours the office is open, scale down our equipment capabilities with which we do business, and take severe cuts to fund many of our programs like Americanism.

This last year we asked for donations to help but only received approximately 25% of the needed funds. So, we had to take the next step, and that was a resolution at Convention to raise our dues. But, even that will not be enough because it only partially covers our costs and doesn't take effect until next year (2024-2025 membership year).

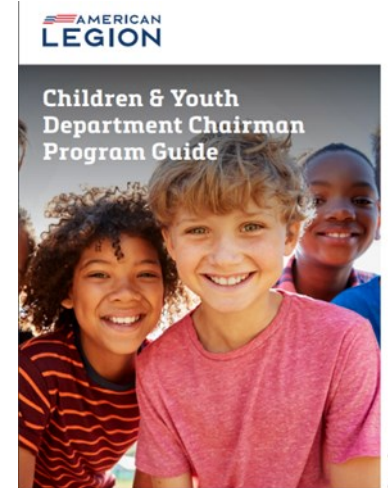
So what can we do now? **A simple solution is to raise our membership.** According to the recent census and the Veterans Administration, there are approximately 261,000 veterans in Oregon. And since we have only 12,489 members, our organization only has 4.8% of that veteran population. If we could each reach out and recruit one new member, we could double our membership and have the additional revenue to restore many of the funding resources we lost in the last ten years. Is that too much to ask — recruit one new member this next year? Indeed, we can ask if people are veterans and tell them about the critical programs our post administers to benefit our communities.

So, let's carry a membership application in our wallets and a Why You Should Belong pamphlet in our cars (or on our person) and engage with community members to get them to know about us and all we do.

Richard Ramey Permanent Finance Commission member

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444636

## Children & Youth



Hello Legionnaires, I am your newly appointed Children and Youth Committee Chairman. Past Chairman Yvette had to step down for personal reasons. I was on the Committee as a member and am looking forward to this expanded role. I will attend the American Legion National Convention in August and received a call-in to the Children and Youth Commission.

I look forward to bringing back some new ideas that the Department might consider developing to promote Children and Youth in the Legion Family. Thank you to Commander Corey for this opportunity. I look forward to moving ahead in this new endeavor.

Betty Fish-Ferguson  
Commission Chair

# DEADLINE

**For the  
October  
Issue:  
Deadline Is  
September 5**

# Memorial Day, Unity, and Community

Memorial Day is a day to honor and mourn the military personnel who died while serving in the military. On May 29, 2023, the Legion and Auxiliary of Washington Post 2 Forest Grove, Oregon, collaborated with the community to honor the fallen and recognize community resources in support of Veterans.

The event began with a parade of Colors by TAL, ALA, and Scout Troop 2060 and 213. Layne Teague, Post Commander, and Sheri Russell, Auxiliary President, lead the parade. The Neil Armstrong Middle School Choir, directed by Anna Elliott, sang the National Anthem. The 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard conducted a flyover with two F-15 aircraft.

Each year Washington Post 2 pays tribute to one of their past Legion members. This year Wendy Berger-Wood researched and selected Ray Williams. Ray was born near Forest Grove and graduated from Forest Grove High School. He joined the Army National Guard, 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Hillsboro. On September 16, 1940, Ray entered Active Service. He was mobilized for 12 months of training, but Congress extended that time to 30 months and then to "Duration of War" after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Ray and his comrades of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 186<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 41<sup>st</sup> Division deployed to the South



Pacific. The 41<sup>st</sup> was the first complete Division sent overseas after sailing just four months after Pearl Harbor. Ray's unit was recognized as one of the first US divisions to defeat the Imperial Japanese Forces. The Jungle warfare took a heavy toll on the Division. Malaria, dengue fever, tropical diseases, scarce food, and the damp tropical climate all had an impact on the soldiers of the Division. Ray returned stateside after participating in the Papua Campaign and the New Guinea Campaign. Ray continued his military service stateside until after the war ended. Ray rejoined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1961.

After returning to Forest Grove, Ray went on to earn a master's degree from Western Oregon University and a Ph.D. from Portland State University. Ray became the principal of Gales Creek School, where he taught classes and drove the school bus. Ray received his certificate for 50 years in The American Legion on April 19, 2012. Ray died on April 7, 2018, at the age of ninety-seven.

The Army reorganized the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division to the 41<sup>st</sup> Enhanced Infantry Brigade (EIB), headquartered in Oregon in 1965, and later to the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Bri



gade Combat Team (IBCT). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 218<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery of the 41<sup>st</sup> IBCT continues to serve in Forest Grove. Following the Honor Flag ceremony Lt. Col. Manual A. Robledo, Commander of the 2-218 FA, provided keynote remarks. Lt. Col. Robledo commented on the toll deployments take on service members and the need to eliminate the stigma of depression and the impact it has on the military.

The Post and Auxiliary laid a wreath at the Forest View Cemetery obelisk and returned the flag to full staff while the Neil Armstrong Choir sang "God Bless America."

By Don Weber & Wendy  
Burger-Wood







## Commanders Notes

### First 30 Days

District Commanders,

Greetings Comrades! Our first 30 days are behind us, and I am taking this opportunity to update you on just a *few* of the goings-on since our department convention.

**Engagements** - Letters of introduction and engagement were sent to key veteran stakeholders within the state, including:

Senator James I. Manning, Jr. (D-7), Chair, Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal, and World Affairs

Representative Dacia Grayber (D-28), Chair, House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director, Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs (ODVA)

Mary J. Mayer, Chair, United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO)

These (above) I share as synergies are sought for a potential opportunity to create a Veterans Day at the Capitol for all Oregon veterans. This would not be dissimilar to what we do with our federal senators and representatives during the Washington D.C. Conference each winter, only brought closer to home with our state legislators. There has been early, positive traction as I received responses from both state legislators while in recess, and I have a meeting with Senator Manning in early August.

**Oregon American Legion College (OALC)** – It is not too late to register for the day-long basic course scheduled for Saturday, 8/12, at Albany #10. This ‘refreshing’ of our OALC and formalizing of course content is extremely exciting and creates a great opportunity to strengthen our Department and increase interest in Legion knowledge. You are strongly encouraged to participate along with any/all from within your district. Register by Aug 4<sup>th</sup> to ensure headcounts for food and seating.

Register by emailing Chancellor Gene Hellickson ([eugeneghellickson@gmail.com](mailto:eugeneghellickson@gmail.com)).

**Codes of Procedure (COP)** – Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Dan Burks has been tasked with working with commission/committee chairs to complete the codes of procedure reviews. He has hit the ground running! He has made multiple contacts with the chairs as the COPs are actively being sought for review/updating well in advance of the Fall DEC (as discussed at the post-convention DEC) so that they can be reviewed and approved by the DEC prior to the Fall DEC. Please support this effort as it is intended to improve our DEC experiences!

**Membership & Post Activities (M&PA)** – I trust with summer in full swing that, you are enjoying activities within your districts and at your own post! As I send this, Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Renee Ohler is participating in the *Membership Workshop* conducted by national staff in Indianapolis, IN. Upon her return we will look to engage (i.e., implement and conduct) the membership strategy. We would easily be a goal department if we renewed expired memberships. It can be done! Until then, a review of our strategic plan is in order. Is it really outdated? Or have we just not implemented it thoroughly?

Review at: <https://orlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/5-YR-STRATEGIC-PLAN-edited-with-Larry-steve-kevin-and-gene-AUG-11-2020.pdf>

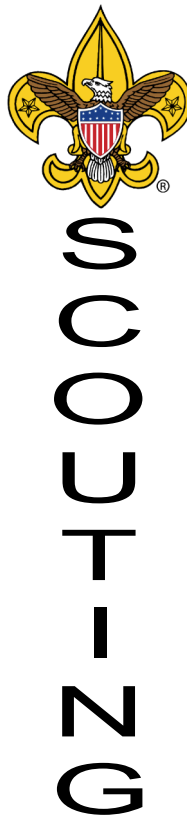
**National Convention** – In advance, I extend my sincere thanks to all who will be attending the 104<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The American Legion in Charlotte, NC, Aug 25-31. Dept Adjutant Flynn Phillips has been busy, as have others, in all the behind-the-scenes work needed to get registrations and arrangements completed. It will be a busy but rewarding experience representing our Department of Oregon and its members. I am anticipating Oregon will be receiving national awards from VA&R and M&C commissions. If you aren’t able to attend this year, please consider doing so in the future as it provides a much broader and larger perspective of all the outstanding work done by The American Legion.

**Oregon Korean War Memorial** – On July 29<sup>th</sup>, I will be representing our Department and, especially, our Korean War members and families at the Oregon Korean War Memorial Interpretive Center as the Korean War Memorial Foundation of Oregon commemorates the signing of the Armistice to end the fighting of the Korean War and opening of the new Interpretive Center.

Cont. on pg. 15: First 30 Days



## SCOUTING COMMISSION



Greetings Oregon Legionnaires: My name is Mike Speer, and I am the new Scouting Committee Chair. A little background. My better half and I have been involved with scouting, off and on, since my oldest son volunteered us to be Den Leaders back in; well, it's been a long time. I've been a Den Leader, Cub Master, Troop Committee member, Woodbadge trained, Roundtable staff, Order of the Arrow Chapter Advisor and ceremonies coach, Vigil member, and most recently, Charter Org Rep for three units. Larry Wittmeyer (former chair) and I recently sat down to do a pass-down. I have a ton of file folders to go through, primarily historical documents, which will help me figure out what we have done in the past as a committee.

Speaking of the committee, our members are myself (Newberg), Larry Wittmeyer (Wilsonville), Ian Gerstel (Newberg), Eric Stalling (North Bend), and Norm Hoffman (Eugene). As you can see, we're all on the west side of the state, so I will be looking for someone from the east side to join us.

Our first order of business is to finalize our Code of Procedures and submit them to Dept. There will be a few adjustments, but not much. One of our focuses is to try and get orphan scout units and Legion posts together. Stay tuned.

Mike Speer  
Dept Scouting Committee Chair.

*The true test of a  
persons character is  
how they stand during  
a test of adversity.*

**Leadership  
Is not about  
being  
The best or  
knowing  
the Most.**

**Leadership is  
about  
Making everyone  
Else better.**

## *Spaghetti FEED Fundraiser*

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

**3PM to Closing**

**Harvester Tap Room**

**20260 River Rd., N.E.**

**St. Paul, Oregon**

**All you can eat \$26.00**

**1 time through \$14.00**

**LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLES**

**The Harvester was founded by local firefighters and Veterans. They are a HUGE supporter of the Veteran Community and jumped at the chance to partner with us with this event.**

**Families with kids, welcome**

**“EVERYONE INVITED”**





**Cont. from pg 13: First 30 days:**

**National Commander Visit** – NEC Kevin Owens confirms that National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will be visiting our Department Sept 22-26. More details will be shared when available.

**VA&R and Be The One** – Planning discussions are underway with VA&R Chair Bob Huff, DSO Ed Van Dyke, VA&R Member Dr. Casey Shillam, and myself on the potential of our Department conducting public Be The One outreach and engagement events across the state in support of our national initiative. These summit-type events will seek to target veteran mental health resource providers as well as family members and supporters to bring information to the front line for engagement. Stay tuned for more details.

**District Meetings** – If you haven't already, please submit your district meeting dates for the year to Dept Adjutant Phillips, and I would appreciate a copy of the email. Thanks to those that have already sent them in!

At the request of Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dan Burks, I had the privilege of writing a letter to a legionnaire celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday – I considered it an honor. If you have WWII veterans celebrating a birthday (or other veterans and special type events), please reach out to them. Let them know they are cared for and valued for who they are, their membership, and their service.

In closing, think about what your leadership efforts can do differently this summer and, moving forward, to impact our membership retention positively – *then take action*. It takes all of us! Again, we are a *goal department* if we renew all of the expired memberships. I believe those men and women still want to be Legion members and just need to see the value of their membership to themselves and our organization.

Thank you for all you do!

Be The One!

**CORY E. BROCKMANN**  
Department Commander



- 1. What is the only US state that borders just one other?**
- 2. What's the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world?**
- 3. What is the only US state with a Spanish motto?**

## Training & Development

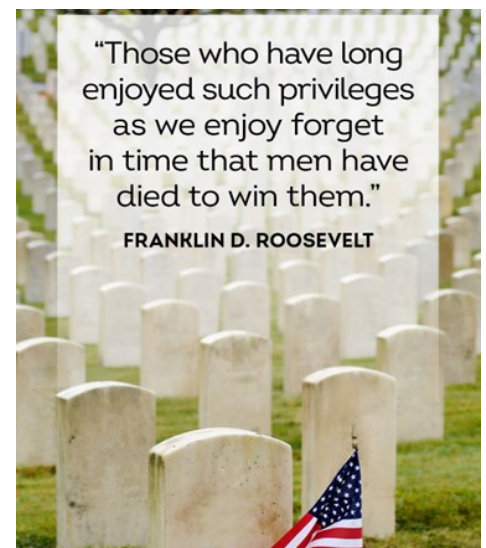


We celebrate our achievements in June with awards and recognition at Convention. Hopefully, every Post has submitted awards documenting the successes achieved in conducting the associated programs in their communities.

The Convention is also a time when Legionnaires can attend training. This year we have training in Membership, Post Chaplain, Finances, Post Adjutant, and Parliamentary Procedure. Also, the Americanism and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation briefings will provide additional information.

This year, Convention attendees will also have opportunities to visit with members of various Department Commissions and Committees to learn about the programs and initiatives that are being promoted around the Department. Each Commission / Committee will host a table for approximately 3 hours to provide information and answer questions. Take advantage of this time to find out how these committees can help with the programs in your Post.

Richard Ramey, Chairman



"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



## WORDS OF WISDOM

**“Guard well your  
thoughts when alone  
and your words when  
accompanied.”**

**There is no ‘I’ in  
‘We the People’**

## Internal Affairs Commission

### Operations and Reports



It's not too early to begin planning for the new (2023-2024 membership) year and in just one month, summer will be winding down, families will be finished with vacations and become focused on school activities. Now would be a good time to begin the process of getting started on all the American Legion programs we conduct during the fall and winter months.

One of the first things we need to ensure we accomplish is our reports that are due to Department by September 20th (per the Department Constitution and By-Laws). Among those are the Post Confidential Report, Post Officer Installation Records, and the Post Committees Assignments. This important information provides the Department Headquarters, Commissions, and Committees with the current contacts for relaying information to the Posts about initiatives sent from the National organization, and corresponding Department of Oregon information.

Likewise, Districts need to provide this information. These forms are available on the Department website ( [www.orlegion.org](http://www.orlegion.org) , go to the Resources tab, then select Forms and Publications, and scroll down to the appropriate forms).

A great amount of helpful information is available in the Officers Guide. For instance, it has a program reminders list, on pages 13 and 14, where National suggests events that are relevant to the time of year for each month. Use these hints to provide speakers for the programs at Post meetings, and to brief members on the Post's activities in these areas.

Richard Ramey  
Commission Chair

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

# BE THE ONE

### Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By  
Your American Legion  
Department

Money to help pay YOUR  
portion of hospital bills or  
you can use your cash  
benefits however you see fit!

**LEARN MORE**







## Scuttlebutt-Vets News

### Parading through a small town

Way back when, I wrote about the patriotism that lies within the hearts and souls of our surrounding communities, and once again, I want to write about our experience as members of Post 37 of the American Legion. We participate in 5 parades each year and are happy to join the many clubs and citizen groups that celebrate these local festivities.

Our first one of 2023 is the "Landing Days" parade in Umatilla, and like everything else, we had to fill out an application to participate. This gave the parade committee the information they needed to see how many people would be involved. Before I go any further with this paragraph, allow me to congratulate the various departments of Umatilla who put this all together. You did a wonderful job.

When I called to see why we hadn't received a confirmation email about our application, I soon learned that I apparently either hadn't mailed it in or sent it via cyberspace. Without hesitation, I was quickly informed that we would lead the parade with all our flags waving in the morning breeze.

As we coursed thru town, I was amazed at the enthusiasm of our parade attendees. Little and big kids lined the streets, hoping to bag a Halloween-sized haul of candy. I know, I know. It states on the application, "No candy tossing." When you see it thrown from the lead police car, that clause in the contract literally goes out the window! BTW, we love passing out miniature American flags to parade onlookers.

We are off to the fabulous "July 4th Parade" in Stanfield a few days later. I love attending this parade because it is to celebrate

our wonderful Freedom and Independence from a tyrannical country. This parade rivals the Round-Up Parade in Pendleton, as far as I'm concerned. Where else do you get to see every type of mechanized machinery, from old farm tractors to rebuilt automobiles, from horses to miniature cars, colorful floats, and I don't know what-all in between? If memory serves me correctly, the parade committee had to add some distance to the route. It was somewhere along this portion of the route that the candy-tossing police car ran out of goodies. A motorized 4-wheeler arrived and resupplied the 'sugar tossing litterbugs.'

As our parade route entered 395, the main drag thru town, I experienced what I thought was a rather humorous mental moment, "Where else in the world can I chase a police car through crowded streets, all the while swerving from curb-to-curb, and get away with it?"

Then we wait for the parade and festival that celebrates our famous watermelons, "The Irrigon Watermelon Festival." This small town loves to celebrate a person, or a special couple, that has instilled their love and devotion to this community by making them the Grand Marshall. Way to go, Irrigon!

Now we wait a few days for the Umatilla County Fair Parade. This year I have asked the Hermiston High football Coach Faaeteete, to loan us a few team members to pass out miniature American flags along the parade route. Why? Not only to express patriotism, but they will represent their team members who graciously put up, and later put away, the American Flags that were waved during Memorial

Day weekend at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Our fifth parade is the Dress Up Parade in Pendleton. This is by far our longest route. Last year's event was well attended due to the lifting of Covid restraints. When this parade travels through Pendleton, I'm glad I'm in a motorized vehicle and get to dodge 'the road apples.' For those that do not know, immediately following this parade, the city crews are already cleaning the streets of all organic and non-organic debris.

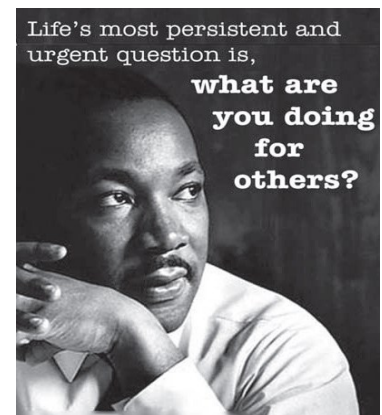
I'll close with this final and future parade in Echo on Veteran's Day. The Echo School District puts on this parade, and nearly everyone in that school system participates. A fellow Legionnaire and I attended last year's event. We came away wanting to encourage other Vets to participate in this year's event, not only this event but the one that follows later in the afternoon in the high school gym. My eyes were very moist throughout that outstanding presentation of patriotism and their appreciation of our veterans. The superintendent said something I'll never forget, "The veterans are part of your American history."

Thank you, Small Town America!

Semper Fi

Thanks for checking in.

Aaron Wetterling







## Legion Baseball

Redmond Sunset Builders Single A champs for 2023 Rt, Tigard Post 158 Barbers AAA Champs 2023 The Baseball Committee is made up of 15 Baseball people, coaches, manager, business leaders, many have played legion baseball. The Baseball Committee works all year long, planning, making new rules, scheduling, and recruiting new teams. Our season starts January 1<sup>st</sup> with team registration and the purchase of insurance for the teams. We begin our playing season on June 1<sup>st</sup> and end it about July 29<sup>th</sup>. This year we registered 50 teams in Oregon, 33 were Single A teams and 17 were Triple AAA teams.

We have had 800 to 900 players in American Legion baseball this year on teams from the Triple AAA level to the Developmental level of Junior teams. We have over 200 coaches and staff in Oregon American Legion Baseball, all receive background checks and Adult Abuse Training.

We are currently planning to have more new teams developed in Central and Eastern Oregon. The Single A champion this year is the Sun-west Builders of Redmond, Oregon. They have won back-to-back Single A Championships. They are attending the NW Single A Tournament in Havre, Montana.

The Triple AAA Champion is The Post 158 Tigard Barbers. The Barbers have been very good team in Oregon American Legion Baseball for many years. They have moved on to the Regional Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming.

Mike Sowles  
Baseball Committee Chair



## District 2 Commander



Last issue I talked about making plans. Well, we made a couple and here they are: District 2 was the only district that met on Sunday. I was told by a few folks that Sundays are for church and family. Well, I'd have to agree and since 8 of the 10 districts meet on Saturday, I figured that was a safe bet, so, after getting feedback from some of the Post Commanders, our meetings will now be on Saturday. The Fall District 2 meeting will on September 9<sup>th</sup> at McMinnville Post 21. Pot-luck at noon, meeting at 1:00.

Dan Burks used to give the district's 4 questions each month for us to answer when we had the membership meeting. One of them was "what district event do you have planned?" Well, I had never heard of a "district event", but it sounded like a good idea, so we are having a District Picnic August 19<sup>th</sup>. I'll let you know how it went.

A lot of members feel that any district or department meeting should include some training. Awesome idea, except our meetings are long as it is, just ask an  
Cont. on pg 22: Dist 2

BE THE ONE



## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

Our Department Convention is over, and the work begins. We should have our goals set for what we will achieve this coming year. Membership is always a topic of discussion at every meeting, and I know that everyone gets tired of hearing the same old tune. What does the \$13.50 pay for, and why must we increase membership?

Just like at the National level of our organization, membership provides for the support and execution of all we do to make all the programs successful, no money, no American Legion. The similarities are the same at National. We see a decline in membership, and it causes us to react before we run into a problem.

Rumors seem to run quickly throughout the Department before the DEC makes decisions. Until it is voted on, it's just a rumor. There are plenty of things we can be doing to improve our Department. Rather than complaining, bring ideas forward to help the Department become better. I would ask when attending DEC's or any meeting. You have your questions written down on a piece of paper, so you are ready to ask your question, and don't stop asking until your question is answered.

Please never stop asking questions. However, it's essential to ask the person/officer who is well-versed in the subject so you know the answer is correct and it's not a rumor.

Kevin Owens, NEC

## Dispatch Article Outcomes HOH and Revitalization Events

The Department of Oregon has had another successful HOH (Hire our Heroes) job fair in Salem, which was held on March 13 with our partners: US Chamber, Department of Labor – Vets (DOL-Vets), Employers Service for Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Workforce Oregon. We are holding meetings for our next HOH event scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, at the National Guard Armory in Roseburg. All of these Veterans Hiring events have been very successful, with a lot of involvement and participation from our members. The American Legion, the only Veterans Organization partnering and participating in these events, has received much positive recognition in Oregon and Nationally.

At the same time as the Salem HOH event, we held a Revitalization event in District 2 at our Canby Post, another successful event. It was great working again with Sean Sparks from our National Membership Team. Over 200 DMS members were transferred into Posts in District 2 in addition to new members from the HOH and members who had not paid their dues returning to Legion Posts, which was very successful. The following week we held the District 3 Revitalization at our Springfield Post. We had a great event, transferred over 260 DMS members, and that is still growing into our Posts where most Posts were represented plus several new members, generated from the list of

Cont. on pg 16.



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**TRADITIONAL**  
**Salmon Bake**  
**October 7th, 2023**  
**Lions - 4100 Cherry Ave. Keizer, OR**

**KEIZER POST #17**  
**WE ARE HERE FOR**  
**VETERANS and COMMUNITY**  
**SUPPORTING:**  
**KEIZER CHAMBER**  
**KEIZER ROTARY**  
**BOYS and GIRLS CLUB**  
**UNION GOSPAL MISSION**  
**MARION-POLK FOOD SHARE**

**Tickets:**  
**\$35**

**FOR TICKETS CALL:**  
**RICK DAY - (503) 999-1736**  
**DON McBRIDE - (503) 871-6516**

**Presenting Sponsor: SMI REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**



Cont.. From pg 19.

DMS members having not paid. Current and returning, and new members as we hosted walk-in and Department Service Officer support for both events. Great working with Brad Buskirk from our National Membership Team. We have now held Revitalization events in Districts 2, 3, 7 & 8. All have been successful events; all were supported by our Department Officers, Staff, and District Officers. We are now looking forward to our next District Revitalizations and HOH events; all have been well-received and well-supported by our Department.

JPDC Bob Huff

Media & Communications  
Council



## VITAL RECORDS

With the devastating fires in Hawaii lately, it brings to mind that you need to make sure you PROTECT YOUR VITAL RECORDS from these natural disasters. These may include recent tax returns, Social Security cards, birth certificates, deeds, insurance policies and medical records. You may even want to make copies and store the digitized files on a portable external hard drive, and place your copies in a safe deposit box, or entrusted to someone in a different location.

Take photos of your art, collectibles or other valuable personal property. This will help you support your claims for insurance purposes.

HAVE  
YOU



RENEWED  
YET?

## UP COMING EVENTS

- August 13-18: Jim Willis, Law Enforcement Camp
- August 19: Dist 2, Picnic, St. Paul Harmony Center
- August 25-31: National Convention, Charlotte, NC
- August 31-Sep 3: Grand Prix of Portland
  
- September 4: Labor Day
- September 9: District 2 meeting, Post 21
- September 13: Roseburg Stand Down
- September 22-27: National Commander Visit
- September 29: Air Show, McMinnville
  
- October 9: Columbus Day
- October 28-29: Fall D.E.C., Klamath Falls
  
- November 4: District 10 meeting
- November 5: Day light saving ends
- November 10: Veterans Day observed
- November 11: Veterans Day
- November 18: District 2 meeting
- November 23: Thanksgiving
  
- December 8: Hanukkah (1st day)
- December 9: District 9 meeting
- December 25: Christmas
- December 31: New Years Eve



## VA & R Commission Report

*Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2023-2024 membership year are IPDC Don Weber, Ann Everetts, Dr. Casey Shillam, Betty Fish-Ferguson, and PDC Bob Huff, Chair. The focus of the Commission is oversight over VA&R activities for our Department. Our Commission has held our first virtual meeting already with the entire American Legion Family VA&R Team, Legion, ALA, and SAL, good meeting. In the next couple of weeks, we will be meeting again, and we are working on activity now, in addition to breaking for our National Convention. This is a busy time of the year. Our Commission is busy and is getting busier with increased activity in our Department to support our Veterans and their families. Our Department Service Office is focusing on virtual, telephone, and outreach to support our veterans and their families. We have positive outcomes from all three of these activities. We are scheduled for additional outreach at several events in our Department, and more are being planned. The list is growing, which is good, and offers new challenges. We have scheduled Veteran Service Officers to do outreach, be present at all our Department events, and support our District and Post events. +++Please let us know if your Post or District is scheduling a Veterans Stand-Down, Employment, Education or Benefits event, or Revitalization for Membership. If not conflicting with another event, we will support it in person. 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, and the VA is asking us for more support. Remember, our VAVS, VA Volunteers, and VA&R members are all volunteers, and we need more Legion Family volunteers to support our programs. We need you if you have some extra time and are looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans. We have a lot of members in all areas of our Department. We do not have a lot of volunteers.*

*The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries.*

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

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





Cont. from pg. 18: Dist. 2

Auxiliary member. So, your district staff will be sitting down and trying to figure out what can be cut to allow time for a brief training segment. Stay tuned.

The post membership goals are out, most went up, some when down, as usual. So how do we, as a district, help our posts make goal? At our Staff meeting, the subject of “Tiger Teams” came up. Sounds cool. What they are, is a group of folks (3) that focus’ on a post that seems to be falling behind the monthly goals and “revitalize” that post. In other words, visit them and help them contact their members to encourage them to renew, “shut the back door”. Then suggest how they can improve their “bait” (post activities) so they can hook new members. Depending on the number of volunteers we get, we can even have more than one. We’ll talk about it at the September meeting. Think about it.

A thought to ponder: Anyone can grab a tiger by the tail. But you only survive by knowing what to do next.

Mike Speer  
District 2 Commander

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Maine
2. Jericho
3. Montana, their motto is  
“Oro y plata” which  
Means “Gold & Silver”

WE BELIEVE...  
**IN SUPPORT  
FOR VETERANS**

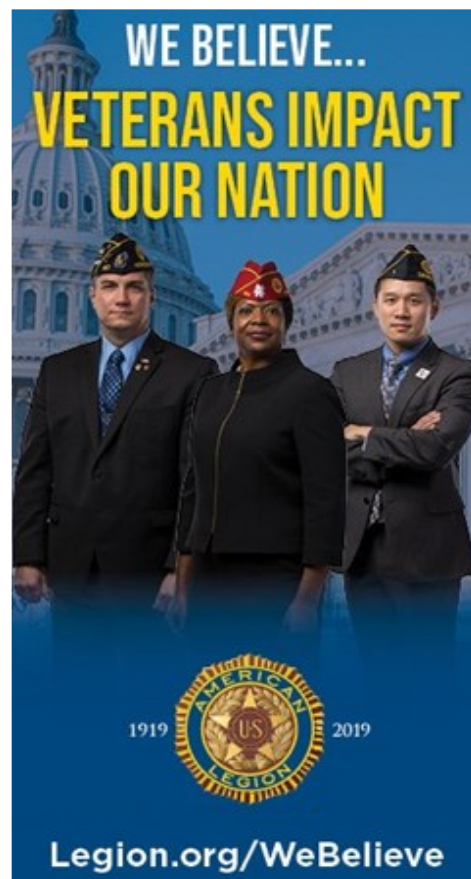


### How different military branches use the stars:

The U.S. Army sleeps beneath the stars.

The U.S. Navy uses the stars to navigate.

The U.S. Air Force chooses their hotels, with swimming pools based on the stars.



## Department Officers: 2023-2024

Commander:	Cory Brockmann
Immediate Past Cmdr:	Larry Whittmayer
1st Vice Cmdr:	Dan Burks
2nd Vice Cmdr:	Renee Ohler
Adjutant:	Flynn Phillips
NECman:	Kevin Owen
Alt. NECman:	Gene Hellickson
Finance Officer:	Bob Huff
Chaplain:	Steven Shollenburg
Historian:	Windy Berger-Wood
Judge Advocate:	Gene Hellickson
Service Officer:	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-at-Arms:	Robert Hornbeck
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ryan Shockley
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ward Allen



**American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson provides an update on the “Be the One” program. (Photo by Hilary Ott)**

## **Legion Family members urged to raise ‘Be The One’ awareness at the start of each month**

By Steven B. Brooks

MAY 11, 2023

During Day 1 of The American Legion National Executive Committee’s Spring Meetings, the organization’s governing body approved a new method for raising awareness of the Legion’s “Be the One” veteran suicide-prevention initiative. The NEC passed Resolution 13: Be the One Days. The resolution urges American Legion Family members and American Legion posts to – on the first of each month, starting this June – set aside that day as an opportunity to reduce the stigma around mental health issues. Legion Family members are urged to wear a “Be the One” item to signal their commitment to the initiative.

“We believe it will take a little bit of time to get this off the ground,” said American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson. “But once it spreads widely across the Legion Family, it will be a great way to keep the awareness high about this important issue all year long.”

During Evenson’s remarks, Kim Meesters – Brand Strategy and Innovation Director in the Legion’s Marketing Division – shared the story of a servicemember who approached national staff during an event earlier this year and said he had contemplated suicide, at one time having a weapon in his hand to do so. He was immediately connected with an American Legion service officer.

“Not only did they quickly get him some companionship and some compassion and tell him they would help, but within 24 hours the gentleman had the appointments he needed, the right caretakers to help him (and) he had been connected with a (Legion) post,” Meesters said. “How do we measure success with (‘Be the One’)? We measure it if we save one life. It means all of this is **worth it.**”





## District 2, Pic-Nic

This last Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, District 2 had its first and hopefully, annual picnic. It went fantastic, if you weren't there you missed a great time. Lots of great food, and camaraderie.

Out of District 2 we had 9 Posts represented, Auxiliary members present, and 3 Department Officers attended, and PDP Debra Godwin. It was great to see over 40 people attend and having fun.

Mike Billings, from Post 21, donated 2 beautiful Cribbage boards he made for raffles, and they were won by Mike Speer and Dana Reeser. The BIG door prize, which was 2 tickets for a Hot Air Balloon ride was won by Ray Kelly from Post 136. The Corn Hole tournament had many individuals sign up and we had a great time, it was a little warm but the fun everyone had was worth it, the winners were, 1<sup>st</sup> place: Steve Shollenburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Ian Gerstel, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Vickie Hajduk. Congratulations to all the winners.

The venue where we held the picnic was Red Oak Farm just outside St. Paul, a very beautiful place and the owners are very pro-veteran, they went out of their way to make sure everything was perfect for us. A big thanks to them and we will be back.

We all would like to extend a big thank you to Lori Vallery, Auxiliary, Unit 57, for putting the picnic together and worked very hard to make sure it went off without any problems, and a big success.

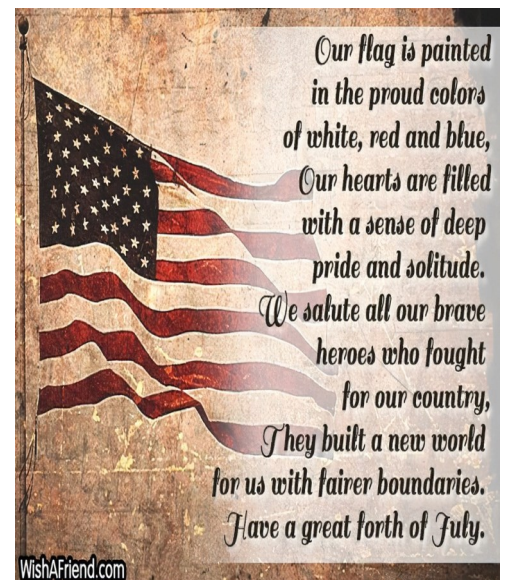


## SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDERS UPDATE

Son's of the American Legion set a new all time high with 375,743 members for 2023. This surpasses the 2019 all time high.



The Detachment of Oregon is at 107.71% at this time. Western Region not only came in at 105%, and all Detachments made 100% or higher. Well done Son's, keep up the great work.





# NEVER FORGET THE FALL OF AFGHANISTAN

## NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear American Legion Family members and friends, It was two years ago when we were collectively dismayed at how swiftly the Taliban reasserted control over Afghanistan. Once the withdrawal of American troops gained momentum, we only knew it was a matter of time. Still the speed of the Taliban takeover unleashed anger, frustration and concern for Afghanistan interpreters and other allies who risked their lives to help U.S. troops during the 20-year war. Predictably, Taliban rule has plunged Afghanistan into a floundering economic state where human rights are compromised, malnutrition is rampant and education is shoved aside. And our allies' lives remain in danger. As veterans we understand what it means to say, "No one gets left behind." For two decades, our troops fought shoulder-to-shoulder with trusted Afghan allies who served as translators, protected troops from harm and fought for freedom. And to this day, the brave Afghan women who undertook missions with Green Berets and Navy Seals as Female Tactical Platoons have Taliban bounties on their heads. We must continue our two-fold fight for them. The United States must honor its promises and provide lasting protection for Afghans who have safely resettled in America as well as those who were left behind. The American Legion is urging Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would allow Afghans who fought alongside our service members the opportunity to apply for permanent legal residency after undergoing additional vetting. Join this mission to support our Afghan allies by sending a message to Congress through our Grassroots Action Center. Thank you for what you do every day on behalf of our nation's veterans, service members, their families and the communities in which they live.

Thank You  
National Commander

American Legion  
Child Welfare Foundation



# BE THE ONE



## WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

**Patriotism** is the feeling of love, devotion, and a sense of attachment to one's country. This attachment can be a combination of different feelings for things such as the language of one's homeland, and its ethnic, cultural, political, or historical aspects. It may encompass a set of concepts closely related to nationalism, mostly civic nationalism and sometimes cultural nationalism.[1][page needed][2]

An excess of patriotism is called *chauvinism*; another related term is *jingoism*.

The English word "patriot" derived from "compatriot," in the 1590s, from Middle French *patriote* in the 15th century. The French word's *compatriote* and *patriote* originated directly from Late Latin *patriota* "fellow-countryman" in the 6th century. From Greek *patriotes* "fellow countryman," from *patrios* "of one's fathers," *patris* "fatherland." The term *patriot* was "applied to barbarians who were perceived to be either uncivilized or primitive and who had only a common Patris or fatherland." The original European meaning of *patriots* applied to anyone who was a fellow countryman regardless of the socio-economic status.

*Only God can turn a Mess  
Into a Message,  
A TEST into a TESTimony,  
a TRIAL into a Triumph,  
a VICTim into a Victory.  
GOD is GOOD all the time.*





# 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:**

- ☐ Global War on Terror ☐ U.S. Army  
☐ Gulf War ☐ U.S. Navy  
☐ Panama ☐ U.S. Air Force  
☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ U.S. Marines  
☐ Vietnam ☐ U.S. Coast Guard  
☐ Korea ☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only)  
☐ WWII  
☐ 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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_