

October 2023 Issue

# The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans, since 1919

## SPECIAL EDITION INSERT:

Alex Palou / Ganassi Racing &  
The American Legion Team WIN 2023 INDYCAR  
Championship, with their 5th win of the season.  
Pages 13-18



 AMERICAN  
LEGION  
BE THE ONE



# VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) continues to grow, According to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretary of Health Dr. Elnahal, the VHA now has 400,740 employees, a historic high. The organization has “far surpassed” the goal of hiring 52,000 people this year and has grown by 5.5% since the start of the fiscal year. The new hires include 27,236 employees in the seven highest priority occupations. The VHA hopes to hire 30,000 physicians, nurses, LPNs, nursing assistants, schedulers, food service workers, and housekeeping aides by the end of the fiscal year. Elnahal pointed to current trends, and expressed confidence this will be achieved. The VHA continues to take an average of 180 days to onboard new employees, which Elnahal acknowledges is “obviously, way too long.” They implemented a standardized hiring process starting June 1, and he hopes the process will soon shorten. Elnahal expects the VHA workforce to continue to grow.

However, as the next fiscal year approaches, they will take a “close look” at hiring goals in order to focus upon areas in which staffing continues to fall short. Elnahal wants to increase the VA’s presence in the country’s health care training pipeline, especially in mental health. History has shown that many people who train at the VA want to work there, in part due to the Department’s unique mission. The VHA is also preparing for the next big PACT Act deadline. The legislation created a special enrollment opportunity for veterans who served in the theater of combat operations within Central National Legislative Division Weekly August 11, 2023 Command after 9/11 or in combat against a hostile force during the period after November 11, 1998. Among this cohort, individuals who left the military between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, originally had five years in which they could directly enroll in the VA regardless of service-connected injuries. The PACT Act gives these veterans a new period, until September 30, 2023, to enroll in the VA if they did not do so previously.

Elnahal told reporters today this provides lifetime enrollment in VA health care. Those without a service connected condition would be in a higher priority group, but at least they would be enrolled. The VA is currently pressure testing its online enrollment website ahead of the new deadline in order to avoid the problems that arose earlier this month as veterans filed for backdated PACT Act claims. Elnahal does not expect similar issues to arise, as the system has been improved for greater capacity and because this cohort of veterans is much smaller. The VHA’s pause on expanding the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) initiative continues. Elnahal said they will measure success through “demonstrable improvements” in end users’ satisfaction with the system. He is focused on having a “significant presence” at each of the five sites using the new EHR, both in person and virtually, to achieve faster ticket response times as users identify issues.

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**BE THE ONE**

# 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

### In this edition:

<b>Commanders Corner</b>	<b>Pg 3</b>
<b>New National Cmdr</b>	<b>Pg 4</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Pg 5</b>
<b>Dept. 2nd Vice Cmdr</b>	<b>Pg 6</b>
<b>Legion Foundation</b>	<b>Pg 7</b>
<b>SAL report</b>	<b>Pg 8</b>
<b>Chaplains Pulpit</b>	<b>Pg 9</b>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Pg 11</b>
<b>Boys State</b>	<b>Pg 20</b>
<b>Scouting Commission</b>	<b>Pg 21</b>
<b>Internal Affairs</b>	<b>Pg 22</b>
<b>Scuttlebutt-Vets News</b>	<b>Pg 23</b>
<b>Americanism</b>	<b>Pg 24</b>
<b>Sick Call &amp; Relief</b>	<b>Pg 25</b>
<b>District 2</b>	<b>Pg 27</b>
<b>Upcoming events</b>	<b>Pg 28</b>
<b>VA&amp;R</b>	<b>Pg 29</b>
<b>ODVA</b>	<b>Pg 31</b>
<b>Membership / Activities</b>	<b>Pg 32</b>
<b>How You Can Be The One</b>	<b>Pg 9</b>
<b>Intent of Founding Doc's</b>	<b>Pg 10</b>
<b>Veterans Health Amin</b>	<b>Pg 2</b>
<b>Legion Burgers</b>	<b>Pg 12</b>
<b>14 Cents</b>	<b>Pg 19</b>

# freedom has a voice AND IT'S YOU

Freedom and self-awareness

There cannot be freedom without self-awareness. To be free means to have choices to choose from. The only way to have choices is to become self-aware, so self-awareness gives us life's choices. Self-awareness is having clarity about who we are. This includes knowing our personality, strengths, weaknesses, thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, and emotions. Self-awareness also allows us to understand others and how they perceive us, and our responses to them. It is the first step in creating what you want, where you focus your attention and reactions to determine where you go in life. The benefits of gaining self-awareness include greater clarity and peace of mind.

Most importantly, self-awareness is transformational, as it derives self-transformation – it transforms how you view yourself and are viewed by others. Once we become self-aware, we are then in a position to know what to take responsibility for. Personal freedom comes by taking responsibility for making choices to live authentically.

Taking responsibility is empowering and leads to freedom. Taking responsibility empowers us by making us accountable for our own behavior, to think critically, perform well under pressure, and handle challenges with ease.

Owning our decisions provides us with a powerful focus on what we want. Responsibility begins with knowing what we want and creating a plan to get there – not because of a sense of duty, but from our own desire.

When we take responsibility, we take ownership of behavior and its consequences. We accept our choices and their outcomes – without blaming others or life's circumstances. This makes us strong and resilient.

The degree of freedom we experience in life is a direct proportion of the amount of responsibility we take within ourselves.

By: Sebastian Salicru



# Commanders Corner

## Missions of Veteran Engagement

It didn't take newly-elected National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer long to emphasize his efforts for the coming year. Mission: Be The One. Operation: Eye of the Tiger. Project: Veterans and Children Foundation. Look familiar?

It should. There is tremendous synergy among national leadership, candidates for high offices, and within our departments and membership, where "boots on the ground" mobilize and activate to get the job one. A strong continuity persists over the past three years which further adds to the return on our efforts and investments. There is an excitement and energy to accomplish more than we have in the past.

National Commander Seehafer just completed a tour of the Department of Oregon, which took him to portions of Districts 5, 6 and 10. At each of his stops, at posts and within communities, his message is clear and his demeanor willful and empowering. Let's Be The One...and let's take care of membership.

The week of October 8 the will find key leadership from our department participating at the Fall meetings and national executive committee meetings in Indianapolis. Speaking of leadership, later in the month we welcome National Vice Commander Randy Edwards (UT) to Oregon. He will be joining us in District 4 and participate in membership engagement within the

district as well as at our Fall department executive meeting. Membership matters. Retention of existing members is vital to maintaining a strong organization. Please support your post's membership efforts. We are stronger and more effective working together!

Thank you for all you do to support our veterans, our youth, and our communities. Please continue to join with me to "Be The One" should the need arise to help save a veteran.

Cory Brockmann

Department Commander

# BE THE ONE

# Buddy Checks

## NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER Navy Veteran from Beaver Dam, Wis., Elected National Commander of The American Legion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Aug. 31, 2023)– Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization today in Charlotte, N.C., during The American Legion's 104<sup>th</sup> National Convention. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," The American Legion's initiative to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, he earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country while in high school and later received a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include district commander's new post achievement award, Silver Brigade, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich Maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan's son, Ja-

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

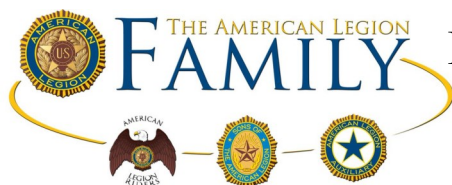
### WHAT WE LEARN

*Becomes a part of*

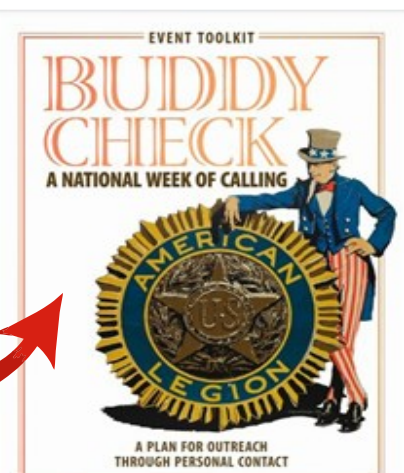
**WHO WE ARE!**

# BE THE ONE

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**



Have you done your  
**BUDDY  
CHECKS**





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

- UNKNOWN



## Department Finance Officer



Our 2022-2023 Department Budget ends on September 30, and our new 2023-2024 Department Budget starts on October 1, 2023. We changed our annual budget from October 1 to September 30 the following year four years ago, from August 1 to July 30, to support our Programs. With the July 30 ending of our budget year, we still had outstanding payments due from our Baseball, Boys State, and Jim Willis Law Enforcement Academy in the following budget year from our Programs being conducted. Officers, District Commanders, and Commission/Committee Chairs, please review your assigned budgets before submitting expense reports or changes for your programs or functions. We will start our annual Tax reporting after the start of the new Budget Year.

I will repeat this as it appeared in the September issue of the Legionnaire and requires reinforcement: Let's talk about our budget, specifically income versus expense, and discuss budgets in general. There seems to be some confusion with some of our members who use the Department budget for their Legion activities. The approved Department Budget is adopted at each Department Convention for the new Membership Year by our Convention delegates. 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-through 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 be asking all officers, chairs of commissions and committees, and administration to submit their budget requirements, which will occur 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 the 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

## Points to Ponder

*The one who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd.*

*The one who walks alone, is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been.*



## Department 2nd Vice-Commander

What a great time to be a member of the American Legion. No Veteran left behind is a great mindset for all of us to have. They need us to bring them into the fold of comradery, purpose, and a sense of belonging. The American Legion has everything to offer our veterans now, in the past, and into the future. They just need our focus on their well-being and support.

I've had the privilege to work with Commander Brockmann and President Catherine Brockmann promoting our "Be The One" initiative at several events in the first few months of the new year. From our engagement with veterans at Hillsboro Hops baseball games on Veteran appreciation nights, Indy car race at PIR honoring veterans for their service and cheering on The American Legion #10 car to victory cinching the 2023 title, we are present and serving veterans of all walks of life. We witnessed the up tick of requests for help with disabilities, benefits, and contact with our VSO's. Always stand ready to help.

This is why we need to take care of our American Legion Veterans and continue to invite all veterans in our communities to be a part of our great organization. Which also, as a by-product, allows us to engage their family and provide caring support to the whole family. We have so much to offer our youth with our Americanism programs. So much to offer with our Sons of The American Legion program and with the American Legion Auxiliary. Let's focus our energy on our communities, offer what we have, and invite them into our American Legion Families. They need us and we need them.

Let's make our 2023-2024 Legion year the best for our communities, our state, and our nation.

Thank you for all you do.  
For God and Country  
Renee Ohler



Cont. from pg 5: Dept. Finance Officer.

supported. If it does not materialize, we must stay within our "actual" income line. We have a lot of excellent programs; we are the only VSO that has all these excellent programs. I would encourage officers, chairs of the Commission, committee members to attend District and post meetings throughout our Department and, provide information on their programs, and become cheerleaders on all the great programs and activities that we do. And while out there, get commitments and, I 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.

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### THE MAN IN THE ARENA

Speech given in Paris France,  
April 23, 1910

*It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.*

Theodore Roosevelt



### The Oregon Legion Foundation

At our last Foundation meeting which was held on September 14, 2023, several subjects were discussed.

We are working on having a Challenge Coins made for Teachers. Thanking them for their dedication to the teaching profession. We are currently working on the design for the coin, and pricing. Hopefully it will be out soon. It

should be a great tool for getting into the schools to help work our programs.

We are also in need of some more "Be the One" pins, as they seem to be a very hot product, and not many left in our supply cabinet, so to speak, so that is in the works as well.

We have been discussing several ways to generate funding, so we are looking for some ideas/fundraisers for our youth programs. If anyone has any ideas, let us know.

TOL Foundation also contributed a grant to the Oregon Society of Artists. The OSA for the last 6 years has partnered with a variety of foundations to provide FREE art classes to military veterans. It is open to all US veterans, and each November they have The Gallery to showcase the wonderful works made by our Veterans.

The opening reception is on Thursday, November 2, 5:30-7:30pm.

Steve Shollenburg  
TOLF Member

**"When you change  
the way you look at  
things,**

**The things you look  
at change."**

Oregon American Legion Foundation



P.O. Box 1730 Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**



## **SAL Commander Detachment of Oregon**



Congratulations to The Detachment of Oregon for their great showing at the National Convention. We received the award for being the first to reach our membership goal in the Western Region despite having less than 85% retention. We also received plaques for the most money donated to the Veterans and Children Foundation and the most money donated to the Veterans and Children Foundation per capita (over \$8.00 per member). We also donated over \$2.00 per member to CWF. We should all be proud of these accomplishments. We received the latest national membership report just before the convention, showing us in 7<sup>th</sup> place at just under 108%. Thank all of you for your hard work. The current membership year does not end until Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, so there is still time for your squadron to reach 100%. We have 19 Squadrons at 100% or higher, one more than last year. We are on a roll.

We need to build on our successes this coming year. We can reach an all-time high in membership. Retention is the key to this. We are doing a great job recruiting new members; we just need to increase the retention rate. Unfortunately, Post 61 has voted to drop its SAL program. That leaves 13 SAL members without a home. They are currently looking at starting a squadron at another post. I wish them well and am sure things will work out for them. In the meantime, we will move them into our Detachment Squadron #9999. As I have said in the past and will continue to say," We are a program of The American Legion, and we must work alongside our post members. We are a family and must act like one".

**Hope to see many of you in Klamath Falls for our first  
DEC on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Rob Liebenow

Commander Detachment of Oregon

# **BE THE ONE**

### **DID YOU EVER?**

*Do you ever wonder if we make moments  
in our lives*

*Or if the moments in our live make us .....*

**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

### Self Commitment

There are only so many hours in a day, and we seem to fill those hours up real fast with different commitments with chores, errands, jobs, extracurricular activities, especially if you find yourself in a job that requires it. But what if, you just volunteer, is that commitment still the same, is it still there? If you give your bond of commitment to someone or your boss, or just an organization to volunteer for a special event, or position, does that volunteer status release you from the commitment required to fulfill that obligation. Only you can make that decision, but first let's take a look at what the biblical definition of commitment means.

The following is taken from *openthebible.org* & *championsquest.com*

***"I will honor Christ, whatever the pain and whatever the cost. I will obey God's word even when that is the hardest thing to do."***

Commitment means fulfillment of that obligation.

There are three circles of commitments, 1. Commitment to each other. 2. Commitment to the team. 3. Commitment to the organization. Do we actually fulfill that roll, or do we just lay back and let someone else fulfill that commitment for us?

Commitment is binding oneself to a course of action, a promise, a pledge, or a firm agreement, or excepting a voluntary position within. To make a commitment, therefore, involves seriousness of disposition, sincerity of decision and steadfastness towards its completion. Breaking it can easily damage integrity or reputation.

What are the 3 C's of commitment consistency?

This internal motivation is the ultimate edge and is founded in the what is called, the 3 C's: **commitment, consistency, and communication.** **Commitment is a promise to do or give something.** This promise is filled with loyalty to specific goals and objectives. The attitude of someone who works very hard to achieve success within the organization they have made the commitment to.

#### Commitment Examples

- Consistent Attendance. ...
- Quality Time. ...
- Communication. ...
- Celebrating Successes. ...
- Building Together. ...
- Sharing Responsibilities. ...
- Commitment to Personal Growth. ...

Keeping Promises. Finally, keeping promises signals personal commitment.

So if we sign-up for a specific job, or position within an organization, according to God's word, it means whatever the cost, I must complete my mission, even if it's the hardest thing we have to do. So do I just volunteer for the TITLE or do I do the job I have given my word to do. Only self-awareness can answer that question.

Partial taken from: *openthebible.org* & *championsquest.com*

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

## 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)**

America's founding concepts written down on paper are referred to as the founding documents. Four of these documents are.:

### **The Declaration of Causes & Necessity of Taking Up Arms**

June 6, 1775. It explains why Americans were at war with the legal, constitutional government of the American colonies. This occurred 13 months prior to the Declaration of Independence, a document possible only because the colonists did not submit their "unregistered assault weapons" to government control at Lexington and Concord. In order to retain their natural rights, Americans were forced to take up arms. 25,000 American died carrying "unregistered assault rifles" in the 8 years of war that established American independence. The document states -

"The arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume...We will...employ for the preservation of our liberties, being with one mind resolved to die **freemen**, rather than to live as slaves."

### **The Declaration of Independence**

The war for independence was 13 months old when the Declaration of Independence was written. Independence was not the reason that the minutemen had fired on government troops at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. The minutemen were defending their God-given right to have firearms, being fully aware that a heavily armed citizenry was the only source of freedom. It had become clear to the Continental Congress that the British government would not stop its assault on the rights of the colonists - independence was the only option. The 56 members of the Continental Congress that signed the Declaration of Independence could be hung for this treasonous anti-government act. These men pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor" in support of the Declaration. Some paid with their "Lives" and their "Fortunes," but none gave up their Sacred Honor. The Declaration of Independence established

## **INTENT of the FOUNDING DOCUMENTS**

"God" as the source of natural rights, and declared a "Duty" and "Right" of the people "to throw off such government" that abuses and usurps natural, God-given-rights.

### **The Bill of Rights**

The Articles of Confederation were replaced by the Constitution for the United States of America, primarily to give the federal government more power over taxation and commerce. The "united STATES of AMERICA" (as it appears on the Declaration of Independence) authored both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for the United States of America. Note that the STATES were "united," and the Constitution was written to establish a government for the union of the states, to be called the United States of America.

Only 39 of the 55 Founding Fathers at the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution. Sixteen refused and warned that the powers being transferred to the new government could be used to take away the freedoms just established. They were right - the power to tax and the power to control "commerce" are being used to override the Bill of Rights - to control Americans, their rights, and soon, their guns.

### **The Constitution for the United States of America**

The Constitution only limits government if citizens actively enforce government limitations.

Since the Constitution only assigned 17 limited powers to the new government many of the Founding Fathers considered a bill of rights unnecessary. But the anti-Federalists feared the power being transferred by the Constitution and wanted no misunderstanding - government was severely limited, and natural rights were not to be "infringed."

The purpose of the Bill of Rights was to clarify that "unalienable rights," which existed before government was formed, could not and would not be "infringed" by the federal government in any way - PERIOD! But, as many of the Founding Fathers warned, the Bill of Rights has been trampled by the unchallenged power of the government of the United States. The 2nd Amendment "right to keep and bear arms," the true source of America's freedom and liberty, is about to disappear at the hands of the once limited government formed to protect and defend the rights of all Americans. The Bill of Rights only limits government if Americans understand and claim their rights







## Children & Youth

At the recent American Legion National Convention, held in Charlotte, NC, August 2023, the Children and Youth Committee met in a joint session in conjunction with the Americanism Commission. There was no breakout session this year for Children and

Youth which is my "call in" committee. Because of this, there was a 4-hour virtual meeting held on 16 September, 2023.

Guests' speakers were:

Rob Dingle, Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation (CFW Recipient) Concussion Outreach Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania Medical School Sports Medicine

Dr Carol Grout (MA), ALA Chairman Children and Youth programs

Daniel Griffin, Senior Director for giving National Kidney Fund (CFW Recipient)

Anastasia (Yaiyai) Wischki (WI), "Be the one For Children"

Joseph Lohman, SAL Chairman Children and Youth Programs

After the speakers, there was an open forum on Temporary Financial Assistance. We were all encouraged to take a Power Point presentation to familiarize ourselves on the process and that is available on the Training site of the National website.

The virtual meeting ended with a Question-and-Answer period and Best Practice-Idea Sharing. This was a very informative meeting, and I learned a lot as I am new to Children and Youth. I enjoyed all the speakers and was most interested in the work being done with children who receive multiple concussions and the long-term effects.

Thanks for reading.

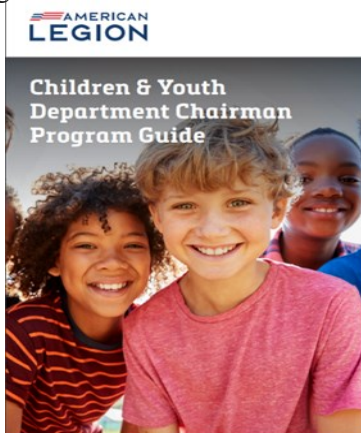
Betty Fish-Ferguson

Chairman

Children and Youth Committee



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AUXILIARY

**DEADLINE**

**For the**

**November**

**Issue:**

**Deadline Is**

**October 5**



# LEGION BURGER IS A BELOVED STAPLE OF THE GRANT COUNTY FAIR

By BENNETT HALL Blue Mountain Eagle Aug 12, 2023-Updated Aug 15, 2023

Submitted by: Jim Jerome

Dave Traylor mans the grill at the American Legion hamburger stand at the Grant County Fair on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, as Brenda Mosier, left, and Heather Lippert pitch in. Bennett Hall/Blue Mountain Eagle. Homemade relish is the Legion burger's secret weapon. Hot, greasy, rib-sticking food is one of the attractions of any county fair, and the Legion burger has been a staple of the Grant County Fair for more than half a century. "We built this thing, I think, 54 years ago, and I've cooked here every year since," said Dave Traylor, who was manning the griddle on Thursday, Aug. 10, in the cinder-block burger shack just inside the fair's main entryway. For many fair-goers, tucking into a Legion burger is something they look forward to all year long.

Heather Lippert, one of half a dozen people putting in volunteer shifts for the American Legion on Thursday evening, said her co-workers will start pestering her about it long before the start of the fair. "They will ask me, 'When do they start selling the Legion burgers?'" So what makes Legion burgers so special? "I would say the relish," Lippert said. The relish — a mixture of chopped onion, celery, green pepper and tomato — goes on the grill along with the quarter-pound beef patties, where all the ingredients get a good sizzle. It's optional, but most diners seem to, well, relish a steaming scoop of relish on their burger. "Of course, people are really hungry when they show up here, so that has something to do with it," Traylor put in. The entire enterprise runs on volunteer labor.

Art Pereira, the commander of American Legion Post 77 in John Day, has been involved in the annual effort for three decades or so and has been running the show for most of that time. "Years ago I raised my hand up to help with the hamburger stand," Pereira said. "The old guy that was doing it before me decided to bail out — he was getting old, like I am now." Lippert has been helping out for three or four years now. Mostly she calls orders to the cooks, she said, because "I'm really, really loud." Ron Ballard, who was helping Traylor on grill duty, has been pulling burger detail for about five years now. "Dave made me do it," he said. "I volunteered one time and now they call me every year." The same could be said of Traylor's wife, Leslie, who was at the counter talking orders with her good friend Brenda Mosier. Both have been volunteering at the hamburger stand for 13 years.

A regular Legion burger goes for \$7, and you can add an extra patty for a dollar more. Not bad in today's economy, although there's still some nostalgia among the old-timers for days gone by. "When Johnson was president," Traylor announces, "a hamburger was 50 cents or 75 for a double." In any case, Pereira added, it's all for a good cause. "It's a pretty good fundraiser for the Legion," he said, "and I guess it helps the fair, too."

Bennett Hall is the editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle. Contact him at 541-575-0710 or [editor@bmeagle.com](mailto:editor@bmeagle.com).



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ALEX

PALOU

# CLINCHED





## “Alex Palou/CGR and The American Legion have won the 2023 NTT INDYCAR Championship.”

Alex won his fifth race of the season today in Portland, OR., at the Portland International Raceway. With the first-place finish, he secured his second INDYCAR Championship in three years and the 15<sup>th</sup> INDYCAR title for Chip Ganassi Racing.

The title is the first for The American Legion and caps off a season where The Legion was featured as the primary sponsor for 13 of the 17 races in 2023. TAL has also now received \$25,000 from People Ready as part of their sponsorship where they award \$10,000 to each race winner with \$5,000 going to the driver's charity of choice.

Additionally, TAL has received in excess of \$55 million of media coverage and exposure as we utilized the car; our media buys on NBC; and our at-track activation efforts to support TAL's Be The One initiative to end veterans suicide.

More to come next week as the INDYCAR Series will officially celebrate the Alex's Championship at the final race of the season in Monterey, CA.

Finally, thanks to everyone associated with The American Legion for the support of this amazing platform that has enabled The Legion to speak to millions of veterans and active-duty military about Be The One and The Legion's 104 years of service as the nation's largest veterans service organization.

Dean Kessel  
Chief Marketing Officer



# BE THE ONE



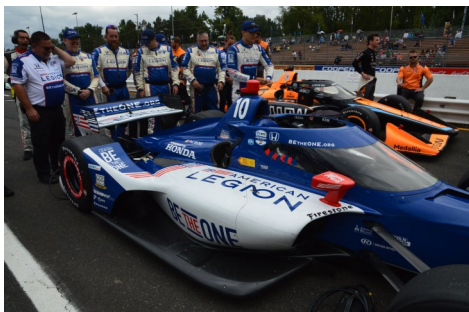
# Alex Palou / Ganassi Racing The American Legion



Alex Palou lifting the winners trophy



Team Ganassi Pit Crew working



TAL Dept of Oregon Commander & Legion members, congratulating Alex Palou on his win.



Alex Palou & Chip Ganassi





**TEAM Ganassi & The American Legion wins again**  
**!!WINS 2023 CHAMPIONSHIP!!**





Ganassi Racing Team: 2023 INDYCAR Champions  
CONGRATULATIONS, from The American Legion,  
Department of Oregon



Working hard & having fun at Portland  
International Raceway



BE THE ONE





Palou wins again, to win the INDYCAR Championship for 2023:

Congratulations to team GANNASI.



INDYCAR driver Alex Palou greets members of the Oregon American Legion Family during a pre-race meet-and-greet two hours before the green flag drops at the Grand Prix of Portland.



INDYCAR driver Alex Palou explains to Chuck Krupa, American Legion, and Oregon Legion Family members why he no longer eats fried chicken after winning a race.

*(He was winning so often that he couldn't maintain his weight!)*



Tim Baughman, INDYCAR Senior Director of Track Safety and Medical Services, Indianapolis, Ind., exchanges challenge coins. Baughman shared that he received an American Legion Citizenship Award when he was 10 years old, in Indianapolis, and still has the award in his office today.



Law enforcement officers and Oregon American Legion Family members show their support to "Be The One" in support of the Grand Prix of Portland.



"BE THE ONE" Out in forced at the Portland International Raceway, to witness THE WIN!



# Fourteen cents a day

Borrowed from Department of Arizona

**It is not the price of membership; it is the price you paid to be eligible.**

Your commitment and sacrifice to this great Nation make you eligible to join The America Legion. Your membership allows you/ us to continue to serve our community, State, and Nation.

Your membership dues allow us to support our veterans, their families, and our children and youth. In Oregon, annual dues are fifty dollars or less, which breaks down to less than \$4.50 a month or thirteen cents a day. Fourteen cents a day: provides training and accreditation for nearly 3,000 service officers who help veterans and their families file VA benefits claims applications and provide other forms of support, free of charge. The American Legion also offers free services for veterans appealing claims decisions and seeking guidance with GI Bill benefits and military transitions.

Fourteen cents a day: Nationwide, The American Legion conducts or participates in more than 1,200 veteran job fairs and career events each year. Employers Include multinational corporations, defense contractors, government agencies, and other companies. Fourteen cents a day: American Legion posts in many communities nationwide maintain strong connections with veterans on college campuses. The American Legion provides assistance and guidance as student veterans make the transition to civilian life.

Fourteen cents a day: The American Legion has a powerful presence on Capitol Hill, regularly testifying before House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs to protect and maintain vital health-care services, timely delivery of VA benefits, relief for caregivers, and career opportunities for veterans and their families.

Fourteen cents a day: The Legion, which drafted and obtained passage of the original GI Bill in 1944, work with Congress and VA to ensure education, home-loan, and business assistance are relevant and viable for to-days generation.

Fourteen cents a day: In local communities, the Legion fields nearly 5,000 youth baseball teams and sponsors more than 50,000 Scouts. The American Legion volunteers millions of hours at VA health-care facilities and gives selflessly in activities, from food drives to homeless veteran stand-downs.

Fourteen cents a day: The American Legion is one of the Nation's top blood donors, and, in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, its National Emergency Fund provides immediate financial relief while an army of quick responding volunteers offers other aid. This list is just a small part of what we do. The American Legion is, in fact, an organization of veterans serving veterans, their families, and communities.

**To Join: [legion.org/join](http://legion.org/join)**

**ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL ONE HEART - ONE SOUL**



# UNITED STATES MILITARY



## BOYS STATE COMMITTEE CHAT ROOM

Well, it's the end of September, school has started, and now is the time to forge relationships with those High School Principals, Counselors, and Teachers. Boys State in 2023 grew by 322% versus 2022.

We had young men from 15 High Schools, 2 Charter Schools, and 2 private schools out of the over 250+ High Schools in the State of Oregon.

That represents about 7% of the schools in the state, or looked at differently, it means that 93% of our schools aren't getting anyone interested in Boys State. Why is that? Has your posts assigned a member to contact your local High Schools? Has the Post Commander invited a principal or Counselor to a Post meeting to demonstrate the Patriotism of The American Legion? Has the Post invited their mayor or a prominent local citizen or business in to assist in sponsoring a young man to Boys State. Have you had a recognition dinner promoting the Boy you sent in 2023 and solicited his help in recruiting for the Class of 2024.

Our Preamble states "We associate... to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism. Boys State was founded in 1935. It is a distinguishing event, one that is highly regarded and respected by Colleges, Universities, nationally and all the Military Academy's.

Ours is a hand on program with the citizens learning how a city, county and finally the State functions. We have had guest speakers who explain real world situations and solutions. Some of the notable Alumni of Boys State include Neil Armstrong, Mike Huckabee, Tim Scott, Michael Jordan, Bruce Springsteen, and our own Ted Kulongoski and Earl Blumenauer.

I'm reminded of an old saying; "talent is equally distributed, opportunity not so much." Get involved. In 1966 when I went to Boys State from Corvallis, there were 20 in my class with over 650 at OSU. While we may never see classes of that size again, if we can get 1 boy per post that would be over 100, and if we could get 1 boy from each High School that would be over 250.

I'm looking forward to addressing, in November, locations, specific dates, and guest speaker commitments. I'm also excited that our Auxiliary has secured a lady to restart Girls State. I'm sure she will have articles for future publications. If any of my fellow Legionnaires have any questions or comments, my email address is: [broadwater6616@comcast.net](mailto:broadwater6616@comcast.net). I welcome your inquiries.

If your Post needs Boys State brochures, let me know and I will get them to you, or pick some up at Department HQ.

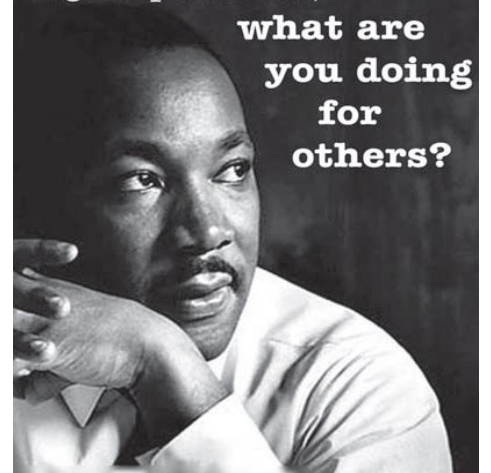
Respectfully  
Fred Broadwater  
Boys State Committee Chair



**The American Legion Family**

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Life's most persistent and urgent question is,  
**what are you doing for others?**





Join us for a 1 hour presentation

# Safeguarding Veterans Against Scams



Learn about trending scams targeting  
our military community.



Date: October 3, 2023  
Time: 10am - 11am  
Place: Tualatin Marquis  
19805 SW Boones Ferry Rd,  
Tualatin, OR 97062

Presented by Ben Richardson  
US Navy Veteran  
Seniors Real Estate Specialist

Questions? Call 530-305-1593

Free Presentation and  
Raffle Drawing

(Registration not required.)



1. ***What 1927 film effectively ended the silent movie era by introducing synchronized talking and singing?***
2. ***The Da Vinci Code, opens with a murder in which famous museum?***
3. ***What was the first message sent by morse code?***

## SCOUTING COMMISSION



Next month (Nov) is recharter time. This will be the last year of the old-style recharter where you renew the unit and its members. Those new members that joined after August 1<sup>st</sup> are already renewed for next year. Next year, the unit will renew separately on its yearly anniversary and all members will need to renew their own membership on their anniversary. I have been told this is a "work in progress" so details may change next year. This is only a heads up that changes are a coming.

Mike Speer  
Scouting Chair  
Dept. of Oregon



**Interested in getting  
your Post involved  
in Scouting?**

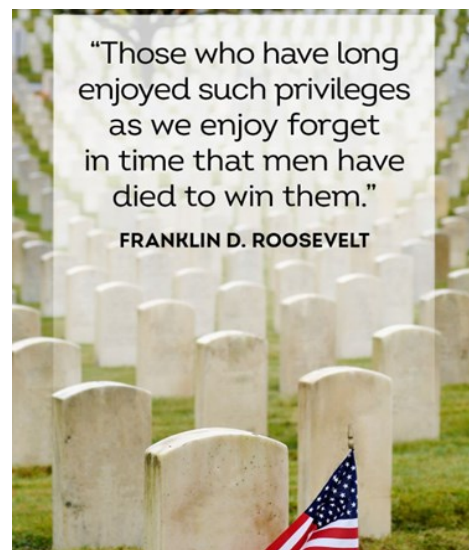
**Give me a call!**

**It's a lot of fun,  
working  
With the Scouts.**

530-305-1593

"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**

**Wisdom is not a product  
of schooling but of the  
lifelong attempt to ac-  
quire it.**

---

***It is the province of  
knowledge to speak,  
and it is the privilege  
of wisdom to listen.***

## Internal Affairs Commission YOUNG VETERANS



Over the past several years, we have emphasized the importance of keeping in contact with our members, and now, with the Buddy Checks, we have been given a primer on things to ask. Much of our efforts mostly have focused on the ‘older’ veterans, the people we see at meetings, post functions, and post activities. In some ways, we have become stereotyped by the public as an “old veterans” organization. Do we have enough familiarity with the needs and interests of the younger veterans?

Did you know that we have forty-four (44) military units in thirty-one (31) Oregon cities with National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard military members? Do we know what their perspectives are for themselves and fellow veterans?

A common comment about the activity level at Posts is that most of their members are older’ and can’t do as much as they used to. Why do we have difficulty getting younger members to join us in working the many programs of The American Legion? Could we haven’t made a ‘good’ effort to relate to them?

When was the last time a group of your posts contacted the local military unit to ask about what we could do to help them? Or to invite them to one of our activities? Or to ask them to join us in distributing Thanksgiving or Christmas packages to veterans in our communities?

Perhaps if we were to contact our local military installation and arrange for a time to set up a table with the purpose of finding out what they need, those younger veterans would see that we are willing to help their families in our local communities, as well as the efforts on their behalf at the National level. And, by the way, we could introduce them to some of the other programs we are working in our local communities to serve veterans, children and youth, and others.

Richard Ramey  
Internal Affairs Chair



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Department

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





# Scuttlebutt-Vets News

By: Aaron Wetterling

Sometime back, I set out to visit members of our Post who've not attended our meetings in quite a while, and there are times that they can be difficult to locate. Addresses change, and landlines are replaced by cell phones. After locating Arch Besancon, I knew I had to revisit and learn more about this 92-year-old sailor.

Before I go any further, let's pronounce his name correctly. When I called the first time, his wife, Shirley, quickly gave me the proper pronunciation. It is French and is pronounced Buzz-on-son. Arch's grandfather migrated from Besançon, France, about 110 miles southeast of Paris.

Arch was born in Yakima, Washington, and attended school in that city and Ellensburg but did not graduate. He dropped out of school and went to work on a highway construction crew. A few years later, he received his diploma by taking USAFI (United States Armed Forces Institute) courses and had almost two years of college credit upon discharge from the Navy.

Shortly after his 17th birthday, Arch encouraged his mom to sign the papers so that he could join the Navy. She finally relented, and he soon went to boot camp in San Diego, California. He was assigned to Company 48237.

Following boot camp, Arch was stationed at Alameda Naval Air Station, where he learned his job as an AB - Aviation Boatswain's mate, which covered many jobs such as catapult and recovery operations, deck maintenance, and aircraft parking on carriers.

The USS Boxer (the 6th ship to bear the name the HMS Boxer, which the British captured in the War of 1812), was a straight-deck carrier launched in December 1944.

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, the Navy summoned the services of this Essex class carrier and had the ship loaded with squadrons of Marine fighter planes, supplies, and all the fuel it could hold and was quickly dispatched to the war zone. The Boxer departed Alameda and was off the coast of Inchon in less than two weeks - the fastest ship crossing of that day.

On the return trip, the Boxer attempted to break its own record but failed to do so when they "threw a screw." (They lost one of their propellers). The ship limped into Pearl Harbor, where a new screw was installed in record time.

Following repairs, the Boxer returned home to Alameda, where it was reloaded with Navy Squadrons and returned to Korea.

When Arch joined the Navy it was for a 3 year enlistment and with 11 months remaining on his contract Korea broke out and the military needed these short timers to fill the gap. It was during this time that "Uncle Harry's Year" came into play. Arch had to remain in the Navy for another year. "Uncle Harry's Year" no doubt had to be in reference to the then President, Harry Truman. Arch's time the military was 3 years 11 months.

**Scuttlebutt: Cont on pg 23.**





## AMERICANISM

DEF: AMERICANISM: "THE LOVE OF AMERICA"

We are well into our new year, and since Convention we have been planning, and working on our programs. It's time to get out and get started at Post level. We have awesome programs within The American Legion that needs to get out to the high schools and the public, and they can't find out about them unless we (as a team) get out and inform them of what we have.

We have (8) eight committee's under the Americanism Commission and I have called all eight, to let them know that it's time, and we at District level and Department level are here to assist them in anyway we can. They are all working on their Code of Procedures, which is due very soon, so get them done and turned into the Department Adjutant.

Our first program coming up is Oratorical, and if you need help the Oratorical chairperson is Ann Everetts, give her a call at 503-910-8252, let get the info out to ALL high schools and have an awesome Oratorical program this year.

Same with Boys & Girls State, it's time to get a hold of the schools, if your having trouble getting into your high schools, as some are, go see your District Superintendent, good place to start.

The Chairperson's for all of our programs are listed on The American Legion Department of Oregon web site, so look them up and if you need assistance give them a call, it is important that we work our programs to the fullest, if they can't get you the answers you need, they can get help from Department. At Post level, make sure you find someone that is very interested in working a certain program. The Post level Chairperson of your programs needs to be as enthused as the kids are about attending. Let's not just sit on our programs, they can't run themselves, LET'S-GET-R-DONE....

OUR PROGRAMS ARE OUR FUTURE, and who knows you just may be helping a future General, or President, Congressman, you never know.

Ian Gerstel  
Americanism Chairman  
Department of Oregon



# BE THE ONE



## District 2

### Commander

Communication is a major part of leadership. But what does it look like and how much is enough...or too much?



Emails are the most convenient way of passing on information when you are dealing with a lot of folks. Phone calls are more personal, but can take a long time, that's if you get someone to answer.

Personally, I use email a lot. It's important that members feel they have a personal connection with the leader the next level up. I've heard to many times "we never hear from district". A periotic email or phone call can fix that perception. In that email, invite them to contact you, it works both ways. How much is to much? Some post commanders work a job and don't appreciate numerous emails on a daily basis.

Department sends out several emails everyday, I forward only the ones that I feel the posts need to know about. Here's a thought, try sending a Department officer and email: "Hi how's it going...?" in other words, a buddy check. It might start a conversation that could be enlightening. Of course, you might end up on a committee or worse, but I think it's a risk that might be worth taking. TRY IT.

Mike Speer  
District 2, Commander





Fellow Legionnaires:

The October 6-7, 2023, Post Yard Sale has been rescheduled for the weekend of October 13-14, 2023, during the hours of 8:00am-2:00pm each day. If you can volunteer during sales days, your time will be greatly appreciated.

The American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will be visiting Harney County Post September 25-16, 2023. A no-host dinner will be held in his honor at 6:30pm, Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Burns Elks Lodge 1680. Post 63 Legionnaires who display a 2024 membership card will enjoy a free meal. All others will pay at the door.

Members may renew their membership for 2024 by forwarding their payment to Harney County Post 63, P.O. Box 565, Burns, OR 97720 or renew on-line at [www.legion.org/member](http://www.legion.org/member).

## SICK CALL & RELIEF

Hello everyone, just to let you know, Post 57, Newberg, has put together a Department wide Sick-call & Relief/Prayer chain.

It is for anyone that may need assistance/prayer for whatever reason. So if you know of anyone that needs prayer, PLEASE give me or our Adjutant a call.

WE won't publish any names, as the issues may be private. Our Father God knows what the problems/issues are and it is all turned over to Him.

Individuals from different Posts, and some not even members, so please keep them all in your prayers.

WE distribute the list to our members for daily prayer, if you would like a copy of the list, please let me know.

Thank You

Dept. Chaplain  
Steven D. Shollenburg  
971-241-8925

Adjutant, Post 57  
Mike Speer  
503-703-2757

[ssholly1@yahoo.com](mailto:ssholly1@yahoo.com)

The next Post member meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Post (63 W. "C" in Burns) at 7:00pm.

Charles E. Schmidt, Adjutant,  
Harney County Post #63  
The American Legion  
Department of Oregon

**BE THE ONE**

## SCUTTLE-BUTT

Cont from pg 21.

Arch went on to explain that the Navy was desperate to retain personnel and offered a hefty bonus of \$10,000 if they reenlisted. He refused the offer and was separated in June 1952.

Upon returning home Arch found employment in road construction and worked his way up to superintendent.

After retirement he and Shirley, his wife of 58 years, worked for 10 years as gatekeepers at Plymouth Park for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. They have also traveled to fairs and rodeos selling jewelry and luggage.

Thanks for the memory. Semper Fi and thanks for checking in.

**Other Vet news.** American Legion Post 37 is holding its annual Veterans Picnic at McKenzie Park, Saturday, September 23rd, between 10:00 and 2:00. Bring a chair.

Annual American Legion Auxiliary yard Sale, October 7th, hopefully at Grocery Outlet parking lot.

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS



more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer.

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<https://www.godaddy.com/garage/truecompassdesigns-navigating-web-design-by-honoring-his-truenoth/>

## Subject: Mt, Angel Post #89 Memorial Day Services

About 350 people attended our services, at Calvary Cemetery. Included in our services was a flyover, reading of the Names of the Fallen, POW/MIA Remembrance and patriotic music by the Marion County Citizens Band.

Army Lt. Charles F. Wagner, from Mt. Angel, a B-17 pilot, (Flakstop) one of the Fallen remembered, was shot down over Staphorst, Holland on March 6, 1944. He/his crew were returning from a bombing raid on Berlin. He was initially buried in the cemetery at the Staphorst village churchyard until he was moved to the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, with parental approval.

Dutch citizens Jo Kikken and his late wife Ine adopted Lt. Wagner's grave and honor his memory with graveside flowers on his birth, death, and US and Dutch holidays.

Lt. Wagner's name is included on our Memorial Wall.

Jo Kikken and sister-in-law Thecia Kikken visited the states and visited with Lt. Wagner's niece Patricia Uffelman and her husband John, of Portland. They joined in our Memorial Day Services.

Following our Services they joined us at our Legion Hall and shared some of their knowledge of Lt. Wagner, and the Dutch adopting grave sites of the Fallen.

The family was presented with a picture of Mt. Angel residents serving in WW II, and Patricia recognized two of her uncles.

Regards,  
Jim Kosel  
Post #89 Adjutant





## District 2 takes part in 9-11 Ceremony in Dayton

### **“WE WILL NEVER FORGET”**



District 2: Commander Mike Speer, 1st Vice Ian Gerstel, & Dept Chaplain Steve Shollenburg attended the Dayton 9-11 Ceremony on September 11, 2023. Ceremony was put on by Dayton V.F.W., Commander Mike Billings (also a Legion Member out of Post 21), invited the Legion to take part in the Ceremony.

Ian Gerstel was part of the Honor Guard, and placed the Wreath, Chaplain Steve gave opening & closing prayers.

Several speakers, Dayton Mayor, V.F.W. State Commander and several others gave wonderful messages concerning 9-11. Numerous individuals from the local community were present, and the Ceremony was well received by all.

It was a wonderful ceremony, reminding us of the tragic events that unfolded on the terrible day, where our country was attacked by foreign enemies.

**“THIS WE WILL NEVER FORGET”**

# BE THE ONE

**DON'T FORGET**  
**Our D.E.C. meeting**  
**Is scheduled for**  
**October 27, 28, 29**  
**In**  
**....Klamath Falls.....**

**HOPE TO**  
**SEE A LOT**  
**OF YOU**  
**THERE...**



## **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.



## ***UP COMING EVENTS***

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

## **GREET & MEET**

**Randy Edwards, Our National Vice Commander from (Utah). He will be attending our D.E.C. in Klamath Falls. Show up at the D.E.C. and let's welcome him with a great attendance, and the great Oregon Hospitality**





## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)

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.

We will be meeting in the next couple of weeks with the many changes taking place and all the new demands and activities we are receiving. We had new actions from our National Convention and requests from around our Department. In addition to just returning from our National Convention, which three of our team were, we also had activity at the Portland International Raceway (PIR) with the Indy races and our "Be the One" campaign and contact along the way with COVID/bad flu.

This is a busy time. Busy is good. Our Department Service Office is down to one employee, our Department Service Officer Ed VanDyke. We will be posting for an Assistant Service Officer in the coming weeks. The position can only be filled by a Veteran and a member of The American Legion or SAL. Our Commission will be meeting on this issue also. 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.

Remember, all Posts and Districts are to have VA&R Committees, which should be working with their Cities, Counties, and local communities on activities in their areas. We can assist, depending on their schedules. We have been receiving some positive information from Posts on activities that will be taking place in their areas, and we thank them for that information. Please let us know, and if it does not conflict with another event, we will support in person. Remember, Veterans and Families do not have to be members of our Legion Family to receive support from our Veterans Service Officer; we are available.

We also have oversight of our Department VAVS Program; two of our team are VAVS Representatives, and the VA is asking us for more support, including three more requests as I am writing this article. 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, and 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, don't hesitate to contact me, and we will be happy to support you. Thank you.

PDC Bob Huff

Commission Chair



## The History and Roles of the US Army

The Second Continental Congress founded the [Army](#) in 1775; it is the oldest service of the United States military. Originally formed to protect the freedom of the first 13 colonies, the Army has evolved and grown from this small militia force into the world's premier fighting force.

The Army exists to serve the American people, defend the nation, protect vital national interests and fulfill national military responsibilities. Our mission is enduring: to provide necessary forces and capabilities to the combatant commanders in support of the national security and defense strategies.

The Army recruits, organizes, trains, and equips soldiers who, as vital members of their units and the joint team, conduct prompt, sustained combat, and stability operations on land. The Army is also charged with providing logistics and support to enable the other services to accomplish their missions, and supporting civil authorities in time of emergency, when directed.

The Army continues to provide combatant commanders with a wide range of forces and capabilities to prevail in the war on terror, sustain our global commitments and build effective multinational

**Cont. on pg. 31. Army History**

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. **The Jazz Singer**
2. **The Louvre**
3. **“What hath God Wrought?”**

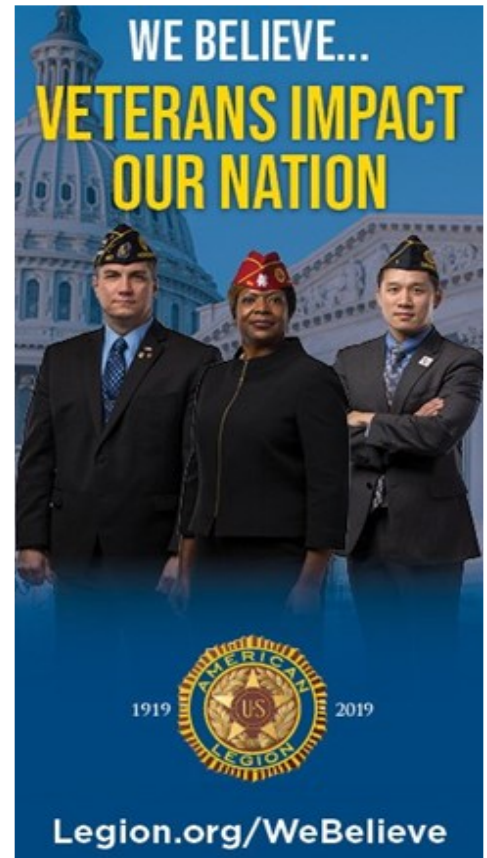
## Military Humor

Ask the Army to secure a building and they will set up a perimeter around it and make sure nobody gets out.

Ask the Marines to secure a building and they will charge in, kill everybody inside, and then set up defenses to make sure nobody gets in.

Ask the Navy to secure a building and they will turn off all the lights and lock all the doors at 1700.

Ask the Air Force to secure a building and they will sign a 10 year lease with an option to buy.



## Department Officers: 2023-2024

Commander:	Cory Brockmann
Immediate Past Cmdr:	Vacant
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



## ODVA Now Accepting Proposals for Veteran Services Grant

*Nearly \$1 Million in Grants Available for Services Supporting Oregon Veterans*

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is pleased to announce it is now accepting proposals for a new round of Veteran Services Grant funding aimed at expanding outreach and services available to veterans in Oregon's rural and urban communities. The 2023 Legislature approved \$ 947,556 to fund organizations that provide direct services to veterans.

The Veteran Services Grant Program awards grants up to \$250,000 to organizations through a competitive grant process. Eligible proposals must provide direct services, at no cost to veterans, that help improve outcomes in areas such as health or behavioral health care, housing security and homelessness, employment opportunities or stability, education and training resources, transportation accessibility and availability, or other critical services within a community. Organizations eligible to apply for this grant include tribal, regional or local governments; Oregon quasi-public agencies; Oregon intergovernmental entities formed under Oregon Revised Statute 190; and private non-profit organizations designated as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19) or 501(c)(23) tax exempt organizations.

ODVA is committed to providing equitable access to services and supports. Proposers are encouraged to serve historically underrepresented veterans including racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse, LGBTQ+, individuals with disabilities, women, student, aging, and house-less, and justice involved veterans.

"Our call for proposals for the Veteran Services Grant is not just an announcement; it's a call to action," said ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick. "It's an invitation for our dedicated community partners to collaborate with us in this mission to ensure veterans have the support needed in order to thrive in Oregon."

A webinar will be hosted at 10:00 a.m. on September 22, 2023, to provide additional information about the application process. Submit an *Intent to Apply* to register for the webinar and to receive additional information and any updates about the Veteran Service Grant during this open proposal opportunity.

**The 2023 Veteran Services Grant application window closes at 11:59 p.m. October 23, 2023.**

Contact ODVA Grants Coordinator Brenna Bandstra at [brenna.bandstra@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:brenna.bandstra@odva.oregon.gov) or 971-388-8204 with questions.

**To learn more about the Veteran Services Grant and funding criteria, visit ODVA's website at [www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Veteran-Services-Grant.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Veteran-Services-Grant.aspx)**

Army History: Cont. from pg 30

of coalitions. In addition to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, the Army also assists with:

- Multinational exercises that reflect our longstanding leadership of, and commitment to, an expanding North Atlantic Treaty Organization and many other alliances
- The defense of South Korea, Japan and many other friends, allies, and partners
- Ongoing peacekeeping operation

- The security of our borders  
Operations and equipment to counter the flow of illegal drugs.

The bottom line: Just because the Army is the oldest doesn't mean you won't be working with today's most high-tech equipment. Most of what the Army does, it does on land. It is the largest of the military branches and has many different jobs to offer.

Article from: Military.com

Each edition will have an article on each military branch. Stay tuned.



**Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan**

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

Endorsed By Your American Legion Department

**LEARN MORE**





## Membership And Post Activities

Congratulations to our District Commanders and their Post's for reaching our first target date in our 2023-2024 Membership year. A job well done! Our target dates are monthly steps that lead to our final goal of 100% membership at the end of our legion year. Your hard work does not go un-noticed and your leadership is a testament to your devotion to veterans across the state. As we focus on our October 18<sup>th</sup> target of 55% I encourage Post's to work their non-renewed rosters for 2022-2023 and encourage those veterans to re-engage with your Post.

Buddy Checks are a great a tool to reengage members and to find out why our 2022 members have chosen not to be a part of the American Legion. The why could just tell us where we need to improve making our organization a place where veterans want to belong. Invite them back and give them a purpose. We know engaging members with our Post's give them a sense of belonging and purpose to serve. They joined to be a part of a veteran organization and serve their communities so let's put them to work.

Our November 15th target date jumps to 65% and we have a running start to get the job done. Believe in your ability to lead as I believe in your leadership to build strong Post's in the communities across Oregon. We are a team and I am here to help with all your membership needs. Keep up your communication with your Post's and help them achieve their membership goals on a monthly basis. We are all this together so let's work as a team.

I look forward to more District Meeting visits and hearing all the good work being accomplished by your Post's.

For God and Country  
God Bless the American Legion  
Rene Ohler  
Commission Chair

# BE THE ONE



**TAKE JUST FIVE MINUTES**  
and check in on a veteran.  
One phone call can  
change their day.

**SAFE DISTANCE? YES. DISCONNECTED? NEVER.**  
KEEPING OUR VETERANS' SPIRITS HIGH IS AS EASY AS A PHONE CALL.



## UNITED STATES

### Citizenship

**It is a priceless treasure. The person who possesses it is guaranteed many valuable rights and privileges. He is, at the same time, required to perform the obligation and duties necessary to safeguard this country from all enemies both foreign and domestic.**

**Every person has the right to live, to be free, and to seek happiness!**

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



1919 2019





# THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Birth) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Gender)

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

**Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:**

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

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (Required) ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over

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):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War             | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama               | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea           |  |

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**

- |                                      |  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister        | <input type="checkbox"/> Self   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter    | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 #