

November 2023 Issue

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans, since 1919

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11

Thank You For Your Service

 **AMERICAN
LEGION
BE THE ONE**

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The Future of VA Healthcare

The future of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare is a hybrid system consisting of inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth, and community care. Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of an increasingly diverse veteran population requires VA fully leverage all healthcare modalities and a seamless transition between them. Modernizing electronic health records, veteran-centric access standards, a transparent online scheduling system for VA-provided care and community care alike are essential to ensuring that veterans receive the benefits they deserve. The means by which VA delivers care may change, but one thing cannot – VA should continue to deliver the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

A critical component of modernizing VA healthcare is investing in its infrastructure. The average age of a VA medical facility is approaching 60 years old while the median age of a private-sector medical facility is approximately 11 years old. The changing nature of healthcare over the last 60 years, combined with shifting veteran demographics, has outpaced VA's ability to realign its infrastructure in accordance with patient demands. While the authorization of 31 major medical leases in Section 702 of the PACT Act was a critical first step in addressing VA's infrastructure demands, more must be done.

The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program, another cornerstone of VA healthcare modernization, is expected to take about 10 years to implement across all VA facilities, with projected completion in Fiscal Year 2028. The recent acquisition of the Cerner system has been far from seamless and has come with a wide variety of challenges. For example, VA staff reported difficulties adjusting to the new system, due to a lack of proper training. In addition, it was discovered that the new system created an "unknown queue," a problematic feature that has caused referral orders to effectively go missing at VA. Moreover, according to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) audit team. VA lacked a reliable integrated master schedule consistent with scheduling standards, which increases the risk of missing milestones and delaying the delivery of a system to support timely, quality care to veterans. Schedule delays that extend the program are also likely to result in about \$1.95 billion in annual cost overruns and may undermine VA's other modernization efforts on supply chain and financial management systems. A lot more must be done to rectify these issues.

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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BE THE ONE

Freedom has a voice

Freedom of expression, enshrined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is essential for empowering individuals and building free and democratic societies. A fundamental right on its own, freedom of expression also provides the conditions for protecting and promoting all other human rights. But its exercise does not happen automatically; it requires a safe environment for dialogue, where all can speak freely and openly, without fear of reprisal.

Today, the twentieth anniversary of World Press Freedom Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment in challenging times. Every day, freedom of expression faces new threats. Because they help ensure transparency and accountability in public affairs, journalists are frequent targets of violence. More than 600 journalists have been killed in the last 10 years, many while reporting in non-conflict situations. A climate of impunity persists — 9 out of 10 cases of killings of journalists go unpunished. Too many media workers also suffer from intimidation, threats and violence. Too many experience arbitrary detention and torture, often without legal recourse.

We must show resolve in the face of such insecurity and injustice. The theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day, "Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media", aims to rally international action to protect the safety of every journalist in every country and to break the vicious circle of impunity.

These goals underpin the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The United Nations system is strongly committed to coordinating action, raising awareness and supporting countries in upholding international principles and developing legislation for freedom of expression and information.

Action must encompass both traditional media and the digital world, where news is increasingly produced and consumed. Bloggers, citizen reporters and social media producers, as well as their sources, face increasing threats to their safety. In addition to physical dangers, they are being targeted with psychological and emotional violence through cyberattacks, data breaches, intimidation, undue surveillance and invasions of privacy.

Such assaults not only limit the right to freedom of expression and threaten the safety of online journalists and their sources — they undermine the ability of all people to benefit from a free and open Internet.



Commanders Corner

Much to be thankful for...changing and saving lives.

Thank you for all you do in supporting our members — and all veterans — across our Department of Oregon. While we recognize Veterans Day each November, those with a great passion for advocating for our veterans come to understand that every day is Veterans Day. We don't stop advocating on behalf of those who served or are still serving when the day ends. We continue our advocacy to ensure veterans are provided the care and benefits they have earned in serving our country.

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer had a powerful message he delivered to our posts during his official visit to Oregon. He is sharing it across the nation during his travels, and it's worth sharing here for your benefit. The message is simply this: of all the tremendous veteran advocacy and community work we do as a Legion Family, if you had to narrow it down to explain it to someone, it comes down to just two things — we are changing lives and saving lives. That's a message we can all be thankful for in our service to veterans.

Be the One and conducting buddy checks are key components to changing lives and saving lives. This month and throughout the year, I am thankful for our members efforts in supporting those initiatives. This Veterans Day, the Dept of Oregon will be hosting our first Be the One summit engagement at White City. Thanks to VA&R Commission Chairman Bob Huffs leadership, we are targeting 3 to 4 events through this membership year, and each event will focus on a different aspect of Be the One and the support resources available to help communities.

Similarly, Buddy Check creates engagement opportunities for our members to stay connected with their posts and maintain an ability to contribute to our greater cause of veteran advocacy. Through your efforts in contacting your legislators, the Department of Veteran Affairs has established National Buddy Check Week on October 16-20th. This adds additional effort to our American Legions established Buddy Check weeks encompassing the Legions founding day, March 15th, and Veterans Day, November 11th.

I was able to sit in on the National Legislative Quarterly Meeting and, among the business updates given, was the status of congressional contacts reported for Jan 1-Sep 22 and ranked number one — Oregon. Oregon is making a difference through our grassroots efforts and voices!

I am also thankful for the continued positive strides being made in membership recruitment and retention! It takes teamwork, and we have already hit both early target dates for 50% and 55%. The 65% target date is November 15th - let's blow right by it! Hitting our target dates means we are reaching our members and engaging veterans. Strong veteran communities are important to our state and nation!

Commanders Corner: Cont. on pg 4

Buddy Checks BE THE ONE

Commanders Corner; cont from pg 3:

Yes, there is much to be thankful for. Our American Legion Family is the fabric that blankets America, woven into the communities as leaders who can be counted upon. Thank you for all you do.

Please continue to join with me to “Be the One” should the need arise to help save a veteran.

National Commander; Thank You Oregon

Seehafer Thanks Oregon

On behalf of National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, who sent a thank you text message following his official visit to Oregon in October, I extend his sentiment on what a fabulous visit we had engaging our Legion Families at Hermiston 37, La Grande 43, Ontario 67, Prairie City 106, John Day 77, Harney County 63 and Sisters 86. Your posts and districts made a lasting, positive impression on the national commander and his aide. He recognizes the strength of our American Legion posts and what those members mean and brings to the small communities he visited.

Commander
Cory Brockmann



Department Auxiliary President

Being seen at public events in branded clothing is a great way to start the conversation about who the American Legion Auxiliary is and what we do. I was pleased to attend the Grand Prix of Portland this year, helping work the Legion family booth over multiple days. I spoke with many veterans, their spouses, and family members, explaining the benefits of belonging to our great organization.

In September, I visited many Units while participating in the National Commanders visit to Oregon. The first stop in Hermiston showed the family working together to put on a wonderful BBQ. I could reconnect with members I hadn't seen since the convention! Next was LaGrande, where they had a full house. I enjoyed visiting with members I had met before and meeting new members. Having time to chat with members is my favorite part about visiting Units!

We then went to Ontario. I had a great time talking with the members there, and the best part was when the spouse of a newer Legion member came over and asked if she could join our group. She said it looked like we were having fun, and she wanted to be a part of it. She was handed an application, an Oregon Be The One pin, and filled in on all the good things happening in the Auxiliary. The next stop was Prairie City... what an awesome place!

Time spent answering questions, sharing ideas, and discussing ways to help the veterans in their community was a highlight of this Unit. We moved on to John Day, where I met two members and talked about them getting back on their feet after losing a member recently. Everyone has struggles. The more we can share and help each other, the better off we'll all be.

We visited Burns next, saw their post home, found the garage sale & it was going strong, and had lunch the following day. We made it to Bend, where Auxiliary members supported visits to the Bend Brooks Park Memorial and the Veterans Village. It is a fun experience to travel parts of the state and meet members working the programs and making a difference in the lives of their veterans and community.

President
Catherine Brockmann
Department of Oregon

“May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.”

Peter Marshall

“America was not built on fear, America was built on courage, on imagination & unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

Harry S. Truman



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

— UNKNOWN



Have you renewed your membership?

Points to Ponder

It takes 6 to 8 Pallbearers to lift you up when you die!

Imagine what you could accomplish if you had 6 to 8 people lifting you up while you are living.

POST EVERLASTING



Patsy J. Nester 1986-1987

Patsy J. Nester

Past Department Commander

1986-1987

Pasty passed away in October and Her Internment will be at the Willamette National Cemetery on November 3, 2023.

There will be a Celebration of Life November 13th



Dick Winders

Department Historian

&

Photographer

2019—2023

No dates for services have been set. We will post them as soon as we receive them.

Please keep Patsy & Dick's families & friends in your thoughts and prayers during this time of grieving.





Department 1st Vice-Commander

As Department 1st Vice Commander, my main duty is oversight of our membership. Our Membership Chair 2nd Vice Renee is doing a fantastic job and I ask each of you reading this to lend her your support.

We recently hosted the National Commander where we heard the phrase “Be The One” frequently, but are we doing all we can to Be The One? More importantly, are you doing all you can to “Be The One”? Now you might be thinking, that was a weird transition from membership into “Be The One”, but truly it’s not. We all pledged to help our fellow veterans and our members are all veterans, so are we reaching out to take care of our members? I challenge everyone in the Department of Oregon, to reach 1 member each week, to speak to that veteran and check on him or her. Everyone has a story, and in addition to that challenge, I challenge each of you to send me an email, telling me about this member, his or her story, his or her well-being and if need be, what you did to help. If this is done, I should have received approximately 14,000 emails by this year’s end, and I pledge to respond to every single email, I also would like to use instances, not specific to protect the members privacy, but rather instances to show the Department it can be done. Legionnaires, you are our eyes and ears, our backbone, and our ambassadors in your community, we would like to reach out to our membership as well as grow in numbers and in strength, so that we might continue the good work of The American Legion, will you answer the call? We need you and your support to move into the future, our future depends on you. Join me in reconnecting with our members and growing our Department.

Wishing all, Happy Holidays
Dan Burks
Dept. 1st Vice Commander

BE THE ONE



LEGIONNAIRE

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Department 1st 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 need our focus for their well-being and support. Americanism Programs are in need of growth and our numbers need to grow. What a wonderful tool to help the families in our state. Let's encourage our leaders of tomorrow by working hard today.

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 PIAR 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 bi-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
Dept. 2nd Vice Commander



Surrender to what is..

Let go of what was....

&

**Have faith in what
will be!**





SAL Commander Detachment of Oregon



November starts the holiday season. Don't forget about your renewals while we are in the festive mood. Membership never stops, and neither should we.

The day after Thanksgiving, I will be helping set up the gift shop at the Portland VA. I will spend the next week helping the Auxiliary serve our veterans and wishing them a happy holiday season.

Our membership is going great again this year. I thank everyone for their support and hard work. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Since the Legion is having a virtual mid-winter DEC, I am not sure where we will have ours, but it will be in person. It will be in the metro area, somewhere near Wilsonville. More on that after November.

As I continue to say, "We are a program of The American Legion, and there are rules that we MUST FOLLOW. Remember, if your post no longer wishes to support a squadron and drop the program, all property, including your bank account, become property of the post. That is a National Rule, like it or not.

Rob Liebenow
Detachment Commander

Buddy Check Week: Talk to Ten Veterans, October 16-20

Hey there. We're asking that you call, text or talk to 10 Veterans from October 16-20, 2023 during the first-ever [National Buddy Check Week](#). Check-in and make sure they are doing well.

Even though Buddy Check Week is past, we still need to do our BUDDY CHECKS, daily, weekly and monthly. You never know when one of our Veterans may just need to talk to someone and to afraid to call or ask. They are important!

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO MEET YOURSELF AND SEE YOURSELF FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S POINT OF VIEW?

Just something to think about

Military help line
for Legionnaires

<http://militaryhelpline.org/about-us/>

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

EDITORS
NOTES

Reprinting with permission only!

Articles submitted to The Oregon Legionnaire that are copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original author or publication before they can be included in the Legionnaire magazine. No exceptions. Violations of copy right law is a serious matter that we cannot afford to engage ourselves in. Verbal permission is not acceptable.



CHAPLAINS PULPIT

WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE BEST MEDICAL MANUAL?

Proverbs 17:22 “A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones.”

Do you know that laughter can strengthen the immune system? It has been documented that laughter causes the body to manufacture T-cells and killer cells. OK then, let's laugh it up. The second part of the above verse broken spirit dries the bones, what is it called when the bones dry up, Osteoporosis? *Osteoporosis* causes *bones* to become weak and brittle, so brittle that a fall or even mild stresses like bending over or coughing can cause a fracture. So if laughter helps the immune system, let's enjoy our lives as God intended. Laugh!

Proverbs 14: 30 “a sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy the rottenness of the bones.

UN-forgiveness: I was counseling a lady about 4 years ago and she had a problem with her ex. She could not forgive him for the things he did to her during their marriage. She hated him, and you could see it. I talked to her about forgiving him and she told me she couldn't. It was a sad thing to see. I continued to talk with her and told her if you don't he still has control over you, at first she didn't understand what I had said. I continued to explain to her that even if he didn't know it, that that emotional control was still there. She had to forgive him, in her heart in order to be healed completely.

She called me about a year later and told me she had finally been able to forgive her ex, and it was amazing how different she felt, she felt free, and her health was even getting better. So if you have those pings in your heart and soul, the pings of bitterness, or UN-forgiveness, let's do something today, let it go.

So many females suffer with Primary Fibromyalgia Syndrome (PFS). (Merck Manual, 16th edition, pp, 1369-137) ..likely to occur in healthy young women who tend to be stressed, tense, depressed, anxious, and striving...

Okay, PFS is the result of fear, anxiety and stress; unresolved conflicts, and we know that to be true. When the anxieties and the insecurities issues are dealt with, many times the PFS will go away. But you have to deal with them.

When dealing with self hatred and guilt, many times lupus and other autoimmune disease will go away, and a broken heart? Many times allergies will go away.

Bottom line is that the Bible is the best medical manual out there for all sicknesses and diseases, if only we would get into it and study it more.

God even tells us in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is time to laugh; and there is a time for everything.

(take time today to read Ecclesiastes 3)

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. (and that covers everything)

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down; and a time to build up....;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh.....”

So as you go out this month, take time to laugh. Laugh with someone (not at them). Again, laughter is a gift and it is meant to be shared. Someone around you might be having a tough day, week, or month and a good funny story might be the medicine they need to laugh their way through the difficult times. So again, this month take time to laugh. Make it a deep belly laugh. Let your laughter be carefree and contagious!

Fun Fact: You can't tickle yourself. Why? Your ability to laugh when tickled is due in part by the fact that you are surprised. So, when you try to tickle yourself, your brain knows what is happening already.

Chaplain Steven D. Shollenburg

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.

FOR URGENT HELP

Call 988 and press 1

You may also text

838255

Or visit

Veteranscrisisline.net

The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation served as the written document that established the functions of the national government of the United States after it declared independence from Great Britain. It established a weak central government that mostly, but not entirely, prevented the individual states from conducting their own foreign diplomacy.

The Albany Plan, an earlier, pre-independence attempt at joining the colonies into a larger union, had failed in part because the individual colonies were concerned about losing power to another central institution. As the American Revolution gained momentum, however, many political leaders saw the advantages of a centralized government that could coordinate the Revolutionary War. In June of 1775, the New York provincial Congress sent a plan of union to the Continental Congress, which, like the Albany Plan, continued to recognize the authority of the British Crown.

Some Continental Congress delegates had also informally discussed plans for a more permanent union than the Continental Congress, whose status was temporary. Benjamin Franklin had drawn up a plan for "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union." While some delegates, such as Thomas Jefferson, supported Franklin's proposal, many others were strongly opposed. Franklin introduced his plan before Congress on July 21, but stated that it should be viewed as a draft for when Congress was interested in reaching a more formal proposal. Congress tabled the plan.

Following the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Continental Congress realized it would be necessary to set up a national government. Congress began to discuss the form this government would take on July 22, disagreeing on a number of issues, including whether representation and voting would be proportional or state-by-state. The disagreements delayed final discussions of confederation until October of 1777. By then, the British capture of Philadelphia had made the issue more urgent. Delegates finally formulated the Articles of Confederation, in which they agreed to state-by-state voting and proportional state tax burdens based on land values, though they left the issue of state claims to western lands unresolved. Congress sent the Articles to the states for ratification at the end of November. Most delegates realized that the Articles were a flawed compromise, but believed that it was better than an absence of formal national government.

On December 16, 1777, Virginia was the first state to ratify. Other states ratified during the early months of 1778. When Congress reconvened in June of 1778, the delegates learned that Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey refused to ratify the Articles. The Articles required unanimous approval from the states. These smaller states wanted other states to relinquish their western land claims before they would ratify the Articles. New Jersey and Delaware eventually agreed to the conditions of the Articles, with New Jersey ratifying on Nov 20, 1778, and Delaware on Feb 1, 1779. This left Maryland as the last remaining holdout.

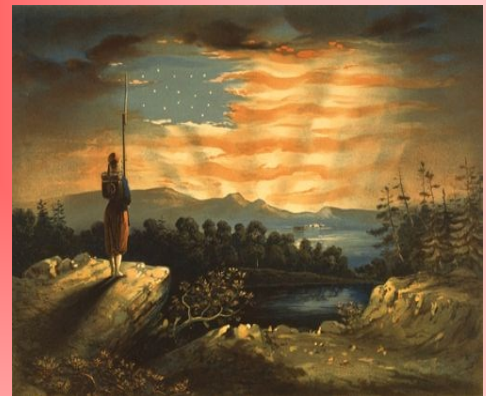
Irked by Maryland's recalcitrance, several other state governments passed resolutions endorsing the formation of a national government without the state of Maryland, but other politicians such as Congressman Thomas Burke of North Carolina persuaded their governments to refrain from doing so, arguing that without unanimous approval of the new Confederation, the new country would remain weak, divided, and open to future foreign intervention and manipulation.

Meanwhile, in 1780, British forces began to conduct raids on Maryland communities in the Chesapeake Bay. Alarmed, the state government wrote to the French minister Anne-César De la Luzerne asking for French naval assistance. Luzerne wrote back, urging the government of Maryland to ratify the Articles of Confederation. Marylanders were given further incentive to ratify when Virginia agreed to relinquish its western land claims, and so the Maryland legislature ratified the Articles of Confederation on March 1, 1781.

The Continental Congress voted on Jan 10, 1781, to establish a Department of Foreign Affairs; on Aug 10 of that year, it elected Robert R. Livingston as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The Secretary's duties involved corresponding with U.S. representatives abroad and with ministers of foreign powers. The Secretary was also charged with transmitting Congress' instructions to U.S. agents abroad and was authorized to attend sessions of Congress. A further Act of Feb 22, 1782, allowed the Secretary to ask and respond to questions during sessions of the Continental Congress.

The Articles created a sovereign, national government, and, as such, limited the rights of the states to conduct their own diplomacy and foreign policy.

However, this proved difficult to enforce, as the national government could not prevent the state of Georgia from pursuing its own independent policy regarding Spanish Florida, attempting to occupy disputed territories and threatening war if Spanish officials did not work to curb Indian attacks or refrain from harboring escaped slaves. Nor could the Confederation government prevent the landing of convicts that the British Government continued to export to its former colonies. In addition, the Articles did not allow Congress sufficient authority to enforce provisions of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that allowed British creditors to sue debtors for pre-Revolutionary debts, an unpopular clause that many state governments chose to ignore. Consequently, British forces continued to occupy forts in the Great Lakes region. These problems, combined with the Confederation government's ineffectual response to Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts, convinced national leaders that a more powerful central government was necessary. This led to the Constitutional Convention that formulated the current Constitution of the United States.



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



Children & Youth

Convalescing at home:

But OK, on to the topic at hand. Recently I was reviewing the Code of Procedures for Children and Youth. Being so new to this Committee the majority of it was acceptable but some things pertaining to Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA's) will be changing. Requests for TFA's have drastically reduced in the past 2 years. I am just starting to appreciate the reason for this.

I would like to encourage everyone to offer TFA's to Veterans who meet the criteria which is primarily having dependent Children in the home. Documentation to support the request can be gathered initially and forwarded to me as chairman of Children and Youth. I can follow up as necessary before forwarding to National to dispatch the check.

For questions call me and I can walk you through the process.

Betty Fish-Ferguson
Chairman Children and Youth



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WAS
SUBMITTED
FOR
THIS
SPACE**

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LEGION
AUXILIARY**

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DEADLINE

**For the
November
Issue:
Deadline Is**

NATIONAL NEWS

The American Legion Responds to Attacks on Israel, Calls on Congress to Act

The Nation's Largest Veteran Service Organization Grieves with Ally

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Legion today responded to the heinous atrocities committed by the terrorist group Hamas who targeted innocent Israeli civilians, resulting in the loss of children, families, and American lives. As the Department of Defense redirects resources to the region, The American Legion expressed its support for the servicemembers moving further into harm's way.

The American Legion also called on Congress to prioritize national security by ensuring military leadership confirmations, military is fully funded, and U.S. servicemembers are paid.

The American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer issued the following statement:

"We pray for our friends in Israel and mourn the loss of innocent American lives at the hands of Hamas' terrorists. We grieve for those who have lost loved ones, hope for the humanity and safe return of those taken, and remain hopeful for families waiting to know.

"The American Legion extends its unwavering support for our troops abroad. The safety of our servicemembers is vital to our success in deterring further escalation.

"Congress must keep America safe and get to work. We cannot jeopardize our national security, nor undermine the progress made to create peace in the Middle East."



ORATORICAL

A SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For students seeking an academic challenge and an opportunity to earn college scholarship money, the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. For more than 80 years, this Constitutional speech contest has educated youth on our nation's founding documents, with an emphasis on citizenship.

The main purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among students. Participants also grow in leadership ability, their capacity to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and understanding of the rights, responsibilities, obligations and privileges of U.S. citizenship.

This is an awesome Legion Program and scholarship opportunity for our youth, if your Post is not involved in the Oratorical Program, why not? Get involved today, contact Ann Everetts, Commission Chair.

Ann Everetts

503-910-8252

annwalt235@earthlink.net

BE THE ONE
Department of Oregon

AMERICAN
LEGION

Oratorical
Contest



"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

Over \$203,000 in National American Legion Scholarships



SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



U.S. MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps was founded Nov. 10, 1775 when the Continental Congress ordered two battalions of marines to be created to serve during the Revolutionary War.

They further resolved that this force be acquainted with maritime operations in order to serve aboard naval vessels. Thus, the United States Marine Corps has always been an expeditionary naval force ready to defend the nation's interests overseas.

Official Marine statements include: "We are warriors, one and all. Born to defend, built to conquer. The steel we wear is the steel within ourselves, forged by the hot fires of discipline and training. We are fierce in a way no others can be. We are marines." "In the Marines, everyone, sergeant, mechanic, cannoneer, supply-man, clerk, aviator, and cook, they are all a rifleman first. All speak the language of the rifle and bayonet, of muddy boots and long hot marches. It's never us and them, only us. That is the secret of the Corps."

Death ground: today's American infantry in battle the saying goes, "Every Marine is a rifleman first." This quickly demonstrates the marines' intense focus on warfare. Their well-known slogan, "The Few, The Proud, The Marines," expresses the marine Corps' intense focus on values as well. Warriors with values – this defines the U.S. Marine Corps.

To be a Marine is to always move forward with tenacity towards the next battle standing in the way of our Nation's progress, but Marines also have a long lineage of defining moments to look back on, serving as a source of immeasurable inspiration. One such unit was the Navajo Code Talkers; crucial in securing victory over Japan in WWII. It was our Marine Navajo Code Talkers who provided the unbreakable code necessary to communicate on the battlefield effectively. Another fighting force of the Marine Corps; was the Montford Point Marines, they paved the way for generations to come, more than

20,000 Montford Point Marines made history winning crucial battles for our nation in the Pacific, Korea and Vietnam battlefields.

A cadence steeped in history, it is 10 November of every year that our Nation, our Corps, and our Marines pay tribute to all the Marine Corps Symbolizes. Listen to the marine Corps Birthday Cadence on November 10, and feel the heartbeat of the legacy nearly two and a half centuries long.

Semper-Fi

"Always remember, that leadership is a privilege. When you're in a leadership role, your influence may affect the trajectories of people's entire careers (and often, their lives)."



UNITED STATES MILITARY



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE CHAT ROOM & Salmon BBQ

On Saturday, October 7, Keizer Post 17 held its annual fund raiser dinner. This year we combined boys and girls state citizen recognition within the event. Four young men and one young lady were recognized and honored by the assembled populace. Their sponsors were also recognized. From McNary High School, Bradley Fryman who was elected by the committee staff as First Citizen, Zach Snegirer whom the citizens elected to be the Secretary of State, Dane Vaughn, and Tate Woodard. All of these citizens will be invited back to Boys State to be counselors for the class of 2024.

Faith Fitts went to a first in the United States combined Boys and Girls State in California. Faith is from Independence and sponsored by Post 17. Each citizens' parents were in attendance to witness the ceremonial draping of the Boys State and Girls State Medals.

The annual Salmon Barbeque was attended by, the Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, the Department Chaplain Steven Shollenburg, District 2 Commander Mike Speer, District 2 1st Vice Ian Gerstel and the Department Past Commander Don Weber. Post 136's commander Ray Kelly was also in attendance, along with Post 158 Commander Allyson Krompf. It was a great day and we had about 130 people in attendance from the Salem/Keizer and surrounding areas. The food was outstanding, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

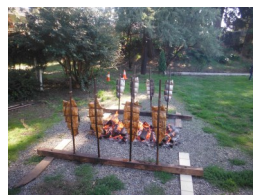
Connie Smith was there to announce the restart of Girls State next year and it looks like these two prestigious programs will be supporting each other with common guest speakers and lectures but remain separate entities. The dates for the Class of 2024 have not been announced, but it is anticipated to be in late June 2024.

Kevin Mannix's office was represented as well, by Nichole Weston, (a Girl's State graduate herself), as was Valor Mentoring's President Tim Davis.

Fred Brockwater
Boys State Commission Chair
Department of Oregon



The American Legion Family

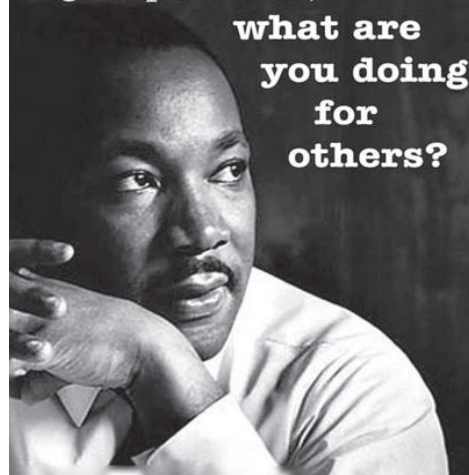


**B
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Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

**what are
you doing
for
others?**





Department Finance Officer

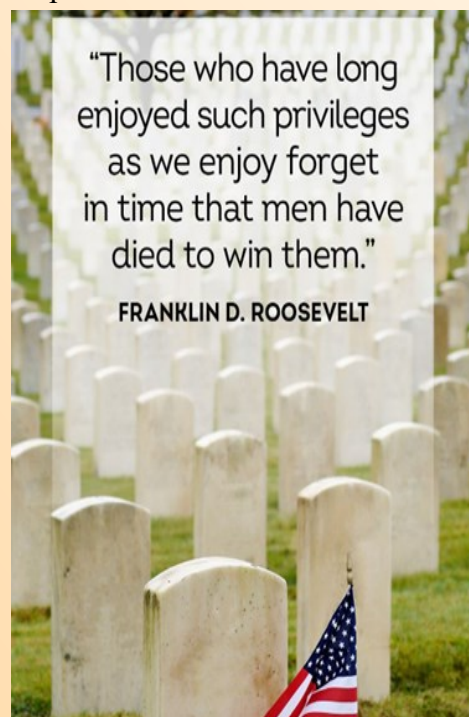
Our new 2023-2024 Department Budget started on October 1, 2023. We changed our annual budget from October 1 to September 30 the following year four years ago, from August 1 to July 30, to support our Programs. With the July 30 ending of our budget year, we still had outstanding payments due from our 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, I have emailed our end-of-budget year actuals and approved 2023-2024 Department Budget numbers to each of you. Please review your assigned budgets before submitting expense reports or changes for your programs or functions. I have started auditing all our accounts and have started our annual Tax reporting for this past Budget Year. All voting Department Executive Committee Members will receive copies of our Department 990 Form and schedules and supporting data before being submitted to the IRS. I will keep repeating this as it appeared in the September and October issue of the Legionnaire and requires reinforcement: Let's talk about our budget requests, 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." Uniquely, 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 was that a commission thought that the income number they submitted, which was adopted at the Convention, could be spent even though they did not receive their projected income. NO. There is nothing wrong with planning for a larger program/event that is acceptable, encouraged, and supported. If it

BE THE ONE

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, and committee members to attend District and post meetings throughout our Department, provide information on their programs, and become cheerleaders in 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 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. There are no dumb questions.

Bob Huff
Dept. Finance Officer



Internal Affairs Commission

Looking Beyond



I would like to stay positive about our department and find the indicators that we are getting our act together and starting to move forward making progress for each successive year. However, after reviewing the records at Department Headquarters, it appears we are still in a malaise and treading water. I speak of the diminishing efforts to make progress in working the programs of The American Legion in our Department.

The Department Constitution and By-Laws describes in a framework how we are structurally supposed to operate. It details in the Constitution By-Laws, Article II, Section 3 and Section 6 that all the officers are to be installed and committees appointed no later than September 20th of each year. Yet, as of October 3rd the records on file indicate the following:

	2023-2024 Reports		2022-2023 Comparison
	Posts	Districts	Posts
Confidential Reports:	57	4	74
Installation; Certification:	49	2	72
Committees:	26	2	43

As you will note, last year was anything but a stellar year with only about two-thirds of the posts having submitted their Confidential and Installation records, and only 40% of the Posts submitting Committee records.

WELL, this year it is even worse with only 50% filing. Confidential and Installation records, and only 23% filing Committees records. And it would be nice if our Districts were on top of the process, but you can see that their record (pardon the pun) is dismal also; with only 4 of 10 Districts having confidential records on file, and only 2 listing their Committees.

Why is this important? In accordance with our Constitution By-Laws Article I, Section 4, each District shall have a District Chairman for each Commission and/or Committee having a program at the Post level with the duty of promoting and coordinating their respective programs among the Post in the District. So, if we are approximately one-quarter of the way into the membership year, and we still do not have officers installed and committees appointed, we may presumably be behind in accomplishing the goals and objectives of accomplishing our programs.

This is by no means an enviable situation to be in! If we are to conduct our programs and do the work of The American Legion in our communities in an organized and productive manner, we must be organized. That means finding people to lead, setting a vision and goals to accomplish that vision and leading and administering that process to produce a quality product throughout our Department, Districts, and Posts. All is not lost. We still have three-quarters of our year ahead of us, so Looking Beyond we must get our act together and work out programs in an orderly manner. Each of our Department Commissions and Committees should have met by now, and they should be sharing their vision and insights throughout our department to make steady progress on promoting and administering our programs. IF they have the names of the people in leadership positions as reflected on the Confidential Reports and the Committee Reports they can then connect with those people to help Department, Districts, and Posts to move forward in making our programs progressively more effective throughout this year and beyond. By working to make incremental improvement each year we can make our department a standout in accomplishing the programs throughout our state.

Richard Ramey
Dept of Oregon
Internal Affairs Chair

So, let's get going!





Scuttlebutt-Vets News

“A Different View of Veterans Day”

As Veterans Day approaches, I wish to share an experience I had a little over a year ago. Ken Buckles and I had been invited to attend a meeting of the local Rotary Club to share about the two upcoming events, “Remembering America’s Heroes” that was going to be held in the Hermiston High School gym and the “Wall of Honor” that was going to be on display at the Hermiston Community Center.

After the meeting, Ken chatted with the Rotary members while I was off to one side, giving my best “beef raffle” sales pitch to other members, hoping to score a few sales that were needed to support our non-profit organization.

A young man patiently waited until I had a free moment, then approached me, followed by him introducing himself. I noticed an accent in his speech, and I couldn’t quite figure out where he might’ve come from, so I asked. He responded, “South Africa.” I immediately had common ground on which to pursue this conversation because my wife and I have been to South Africa numerous times while on our way to either Botswana or Namibia, where we worked assisting missionaries in their endeavor. Jo’burg is the southernmost airport hub on the continent of Africa. More than likely, I offered him the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket, and there is the possibility that he purchased one, but at the moment, my

memory fails me. Following a brief introductory conversation, he moved on with his intentions. My new friend quickly informed me that his father had served in the South African Army. I must admit that I interrupted his delivery because I had visited the largest sand dune in the world, which is near Walvis Bay along the Atlantic coast in Namibia, where South African troops completed their training by carrying a full load of battle gear while slogging through bottomless sand. That took place in days gone by. He pressed on with his message. The following conversation is paraphrased. “In America, the people honor their veterans with special holidays. In South Africa, nothing is mentioned about them. In fact, there is nothing to honor veterans because of the politics associated with the history of apartheid.” Whether you know it or not, at one time, South Africa had a well-trained military complete with modern weaponry. South Africa supported the U.S. during the Korean War.

As our conversation progressed, I soon learned that veterans really didn’t communicate with each other except for the ones who knew each other. He went on to explain that the structure here in America is very different from highways and buildings named after a veteran or war, and there are other memorials dedicated to those who served with distinction. It is so easy here for veterans to

communicate and come together despite the inter-service rivalries. When our visit came to a close, I invited him to visit our monthly meeting to share these insights with my fellow Legionnaires. He did, and we thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

Thank you, veterans, for your service, and have a safe Veterans Day. Semper Fi:

Thanks for checking in.

Aaron Wetterling

UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans Day Parade in Echo, OR., Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:00 a.m. You don’t want to miss this!

Veterans Assembly in the Echo High Gym, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m. You definitely do not want to miss this!

Veterans Day Breakfast at the Hermiston Community Center, Friday, November 10, 2023. Call 541-667-5018 to reserve seating.

Marine Corps Birthday November 10, Celebrating 248 years.

Veterans Day November 11, 2023 - treat a veteran to lunch.





District 2 Commander

During my years with the Legion, I've made some observations. Here are two: "This National Membership Report is wrong; I know I have more renewals than that!" How often have I heard that? How often have I said that? Several times, I've even been told "once you submit a renewal, it happens instantly." Well, yes and no. I did an experiment; I submitted a new member in MyLegion on Thursday. It indeed was reflected on the National Membership Report the next day. However, that was using MyLegion. If you mail it to Dept, you now have introduced "people lag" into the mix. That will result in a delay, depending on how busy Flynn is. That said, your renewal will not be added to your roster until the bank does it's thing (5-7 days). So now you know, and knowing is half the battle (GI Joe). Let's talk about Ants...Everybody has them and everybody tries to get rid of them. I use ant traps. The trick to using ant traps is to put them where the most ants are. If you put the traps where only one or two ants are, you can't complain

**What's going on in your
District?**

**Let us know,
send in an article !!!!!**

that the traps aren't getting full. If you want to trap the most ants, put the trap where the most ants are. Make sense? In my humble opinion, Department meetings (DEC's and Conventions), should follow that same strategy. Look at your demographics and put them where you have the most members. If you don't, you can't complain about attendance. Just saying.

Commander
Michael Speer
District 2



AMERICANISM "THE LOVE OF AMERICA"



Yes, Americanism is "The Love of America," and we all love our country. But what is Americanism within the American Legion?

I think it is partly teaching our youth what America is all about, where we have been, where we are, and where we should be going. The land of the free, home of the brave.

So many of our youth today are missing out on learning the truth about this Beautiful Country. With this WOKE agenda our history is being eroded away gradually and it may just be up to us, (Veterans & true Patriots) to step up and do something about it.

So how can we do this, well, how about working our 4 Pillars & our youth programs so we can get as many of our youth as we can to understand the true meaning of what Americanism is.

So let's get to work and see how many of our youth we can get for our programs this next year.

Boys & Girls State
Oratorical
Law Enforcement Camp
Scouting

Ian Gerstel
Americanism Chairman

BE THE ONE

A Promise Fulfilled

The American Legion Riders smashed their record in fundraising for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, one last time.

This year's Legacy Run brought in a record \$1,551,631, for a total of nearly \$20 million raised since 2006. More than \$667,000 was raised during and prior to the ride, and \$884,000 in donations was presented on the convention floor.

"Thanks to your generosity, we're making dreams come true and fulfilling the promise we made back in 2001 to never forget the children of the fallen and those who have come home carrying both the visible and invisible scars of war," said Legacy Chief Road Captain Mark Clark, chairman of the Riders' National Advisory Committee. "None of this would have been possible without the entire American Legion Family.

Starting next year, the Legacy Run will raise funds for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, which funds the Temporary Financial Assistance program and training and accreditation costs for American Legion service officers.

"With the passage of the PACT Act, there's never been a time we needed more trained and certified service officers, and the Legion is rising to meet that challenge," Clark said. "The American Legion Riders will assist in that effort....stick with us and help us make this transition a successful one."

Steven B. Brooks

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

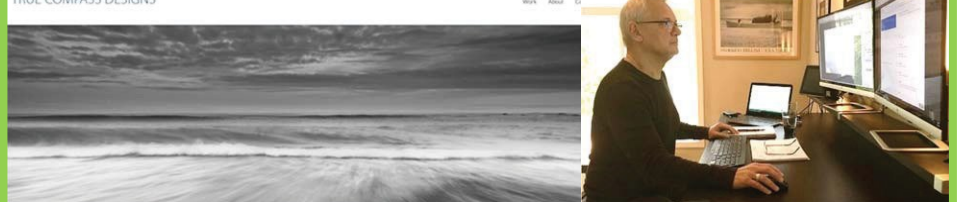
Dept. Chaplain
Steven D. Shollenburg
971-241-8925
ssholly1@yahoo.com

Adjutant, Post 57
Mike Speer
503-703-2757
Dist. 2 Comdr.



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS



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

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Military Times | Lawmakers demand accountability after VA loses track of vets' claims

By Leo Shane III | Sep 26, 2023

House Republicans on Tuesday called for employee discipline and potential firings after the discovery that tens of thousands of veterans' disability cases were lost for months or years in the Department of Veterans Affairs claims systems due to software glitches.

"VA.gov has gaps, and veterans are falling into them," said Rep. Matt Rosendale, R-Mont., who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on technology, during a hearing Tuesday. "This is a situation where the VA is badly in need of independent oversight."

In August, VA leaders announced they had found roughly 32,000 veterans' disability claims delayed — some dating back years — due to technical flaws in the department's VA.gov filing systems. Two weeks later, officials acknowledged 57,000 more similarly delayed cases involving veterans trying to add dependents to their accounts.

In all of the cases, VA officials pledged to backdate veterans' pay as soon as possible. But the mistakes may have delayed potentially thousands of dollars in monthly payouts to individuals suffering from military-related illnesses or injuries.

Veterans Affairs Chief Information Officer Kurt DelBene noted that the errors represent a small fraction of the more than seven million cases filed since early 2018, but he also acknowledged that any mistake that causes financial harm to veterans is unacceptable.

"VA will resolve these issues, prevent them from happening again, and address them more quickly when needed," he told lawmakers. "And most importantly, we'll make sure that all impacted veterans get the benefits and services that they deserve as quickly as possible."

But several lawmakers said those promises aren't enough.

"I think we have a problem with addressing the major issues in leadership and officials not being held accountable for things that they do or do not do in upholding their responsibilities to veterans," said Rep. Morgan Luttrell, R-Texas. "My concern is that no one is holding [anyone] responsible for this."

DelBene said leadership is pressing for fixes and improvements to the system, but not with the threat of mass firings. Officials from the department said that work will include better oversight systems to ensure that similar problems in the future are quickly caught, preventing problems from compounding over months or years.

Earlier this month, in a letter to VA leadership, committee Chairman Mike Bost, R-Ill., lamented the problems as "just the latest in a string of electronic filing issues that continue to plague the department."

Such problems include ongoing issues with the department's 10-year, \$16-billion effort to overhaul its electronic health records system, which has been delayed by technical issues for months.

VA officials at Tuesday's hearings promised regular updates to the committee on their proposed fixes in the coming weeks. Rosendale said he expects to hold more hearings on the issue in the months ahead.

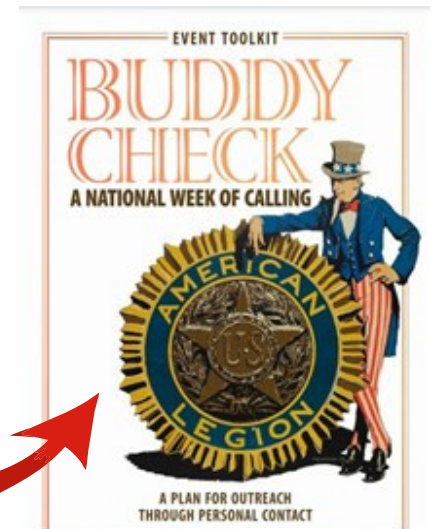


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Department

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portion of hospital bills or
you can use your cash
benefits however you see fit!

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**Don't forget to turn in your
Volunteer & Service hours
along with your Buddy
Checks each month to your
Post Adjutant.**

**Have you done your
BUDDY
CHECKS**

DONT 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

MEET & GREET

**Randy Edwards, Our National Vice Commander West-
 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 many items to discuss and vote on with the many changes taking place and all the new demands which we are not short of.

What we are short of is Legionnaires volunteering and being involved in their communities. We have no shortage of requests for support with a new activity we are receiving. Our Department Service Officer is responding seven days a week, and with me it is causing some challenges. Our Department Service Officer, Ed VanDyke, when you see him say thank you. We will be at Klamath Falls for the Revitalization, walk, and DEC and then in Eagle Point for the Veterans Day Parade and Veterans Resources event to follow. We will be posting for an Assistant Service Officer in the coming weeks. If you are interested, please contact Ed or myself. 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, as at this point, we are fighting for time with all the meetings in the evening. We are scheduled for additional outreach

at several events in our Department and more are being planned, the list is growing 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 members are VAVS Representatives, and we are being asked by the VA 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. If you have some extra time and are looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans, we need you. We have a lot of members in all areas of our Department, but

we do not have a lot of volunteers.

The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We are active with two of our National Cemeteries in our Department.

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 if available.

Thank you.

Bob Huff

VA&R Commission Chair
Dept of Oregon





Legionnaire Insurance Trust

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when you're away from home.



From Your American Legion Department



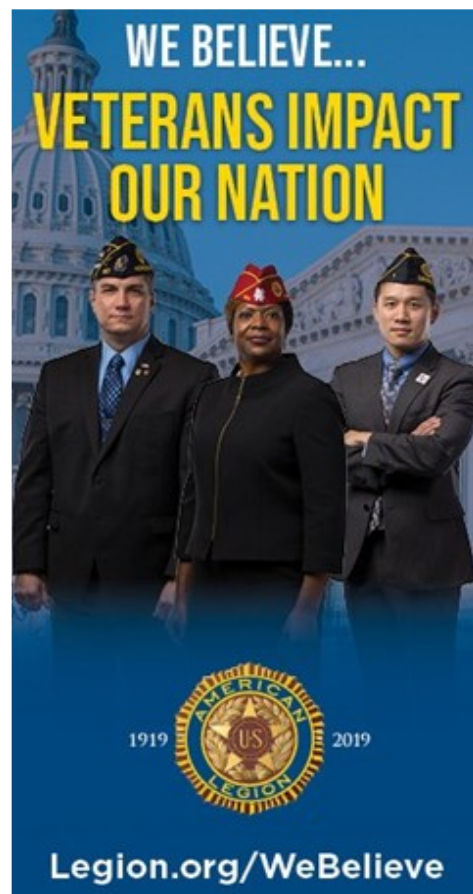
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1. The profile of George Washington appears on what United States military decoration?
2. WWII flying ace Manfred Von Richthofen is known by what nickname?
3. In 1952, the United States Airforce created Project Blue Book to study what?

“Volunteer”

A Great big thanks' to John Lee for all the volunteer work he does around Department HQ. With the reduction in office staffing, we need help getting things done, again, thanks John for all your hard work.



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:	Wendy Berger-Wood
Judge Advocate:	Gene Hellickson
Service Officer:	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Vacant
Sgt-at-Arms:	Robert Hornbeck
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ryan Shockley
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ward Allen



SCOUTING



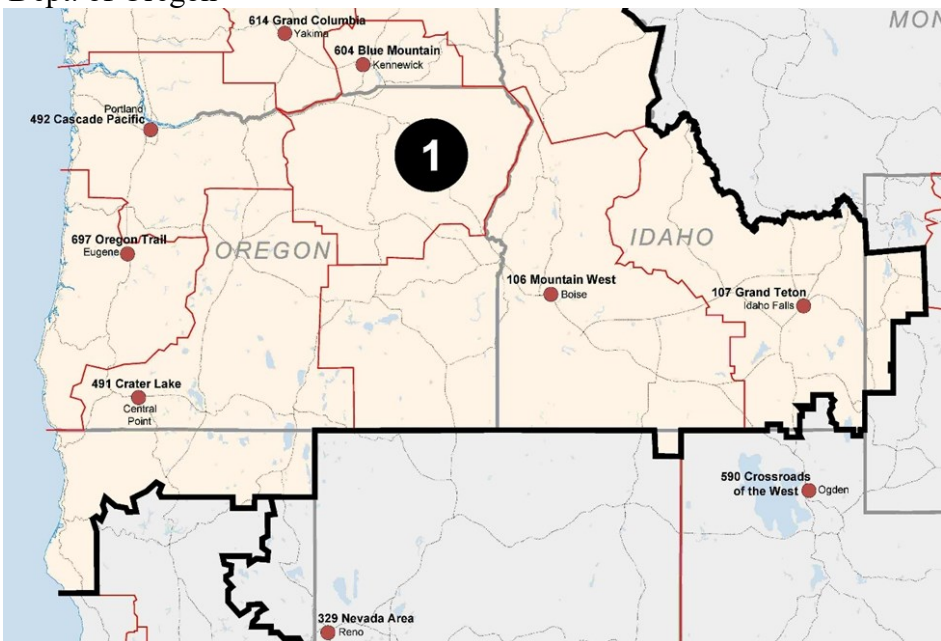
So, when I was thinking about what to write about this month, I got to thinking that a lot of you, even those in scouting, don't have a statewide picture of scouting in Oregon. So, I'm starting a series on the "Big Picture" of Oregon Scouting.

This month, I'll start with an overview. Below is a map of Oregon and the five councils, in the red lines, that make up Oregon, some of Washington, some of California, and a lot of Idaho. I don't know who drew the council boundaries, but I'm convinced they slept through geography class. But, like they say, "it is what it is". As I mentioned, like the Legion, which is broken up into ten districts, scouting in Oregon is broken up into five councils. Each Council has an office with officers and staff who run the activities within their Council. On the scout uniform is a shoulder patch identifying which Council a scout is from. So, if you can't read the fine print, in the NW corner is Cascade Pacific Council, headquartered in Portland. Down the coast is the Oregon Trail Council, headquartered in Eugene. Along the southern border is Crater Lake Council, headquartered in Central Point, near Medford. Traveling east is the Mountain West Council, headquartered in Boise, Idaho. Lastly, the Blue Mountain Council is in the middle of the map, headquartered in Kennewick, Washington.

Because I have spent most of my scouting life in the Cascade Pacific Council (upper left), we'll discuss that Council first next month. Stay tuned.

Mike Speer
Commission Chair
Dept. of Oregon

BE THE ONE



WORDS OF WISDOM

**A person who feels
appreciated will always
do more than what
is expected**

**If your action in-
spires others to
dream more, do
more, and become
More, you are a good
leader.**

Why I Am A Volunteer

*I don't do it for money nor
fame,
And I don't do it for
personal gain.
I volunteer to lend a hand
To Veterans who served this
land.
It's just to give a tithe of
self,
The job that I do means
more than wealth.
It's not for medals worn
with pride.
It's for the rewards I feel
inside.
My rewards are tucked deep
in my heart,
To let me know I've done my
part,
In helping Veterans far and
near.
I am proud to be a
volunteer.*



Adjutant's Thoughts

The Department is still in dire straights. Donations have dried up since the last \$24k was raised. Membership numbers are barely reaching our membership goals. Will we make it to the next target? Will we get out of 48th place at the end? Are you tired of being in last place? Consider actual membership drives if you are tired of the same old rhetoric. That means you will need to put down the TV remote, visit people, shake members hands, kiss babies, show people you care about them, pop up the tent, roll up your sleeves, and work on saving this organization.

The problem is apathy has run amuck for several years. People can no longer point their finger at others to blame. Look in the mirror and ask what you have personally done to move the needle toward the goal. We have the tools. We need the volunteers and the will to do better. Where are the Tiger teams mentioned in the 5-year membership plan? Even though the budget is short, we have investments that could be used to essentially to "Get the Word Out." Spread National Commander Daniel J. Seehafers message. Renew and retain our members. It can be done. You have to believe it. Positive action will get more positive action. Continuing to do the same thing and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. There is only one person who achieved a 100% membership this year, Bob Huff; but you won't do it being an armchair general. So, I call for action, or will it be ignored? If no one reads the Book of Reports, then I ask why? You be the judge. Remember, ignore the haters -

You are not the Jack-Ass Whisperer

S. Flynn Phillips
Adjutant
Dept. of Oregon



Military Humor

"If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly."

BE THE ONE

The reason the American Army does so well in wartime, is that war is chaos, and the American Army practices that on a daily basis

**Have you been a good
Legion Ambassador
Today?**

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Purple Heart
2. The Red Baron
3. UFO's

**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 Posts for reaching our first and second target dates 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 November 15th target of 65%, I encourage Posts 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 Posts 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 December 13th target date jumps to 75% and we have a running start to get the job done. This time of year, is most important for Posts to reach out to their members. Believe in your ability to lead your District and lead your Post, as I believe in your leadership to build strong Posts 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 Posts and help them achieve their membership goals on a monthly basis. We are all in this organization together and our success depends on our leadership so let's work as a team.

The Fall and Winter months are great for virtual meetings. Communication, praise, and assistance are only a phone call or virtual meeting away. I will begin my virtual meetings and District Commander calls following our October DEC. Look forward to a more in-depth look into your leadership plan for the rest of the year.

For God and Country
God Bless the American Legion

Membership and Post Activities
Commission Chair
Renee Ohler

BE THE ONE



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!





THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____

(Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues)

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

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

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

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

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

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

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

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

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 #