

December 2023 Issue

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans, since 1919

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

 AMERICAN
LEGION
BE THE ONE



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

To my fellow Legionnaires in Oregon,

In October, the Department of Veterans Affairs held its first annual Buddy Check Week. This was significant because it turned a practice that The American Legion has conducted for several years into a national movement.

There is no one answer alone that will solve veteran suicide, but we do know that peer wellness checks are among the most effective ways to prevent these tragic losses. The resources to save veterans lives are there. In 2024 there is no reason we cannot have a major impact in reducing these deaths. It is up to us to spread the message that seeking mental wellness is a sign of strength and those in crisis should call the 988-emergency hotline (extension 1 for veterans). Veterans value courage and it takes courage to ask for help. Let us make it easy for them.

Buddy checks and Be the One are just some of the many ways in which our American Legion Family saves lives and changes lives. During the first three quarters of 2023, our 3,000 American Legion service officers obtained more than \$16.8 billion in compensation benefits for veterans who have incurred disabilities during their time in the military.

Moreover, The American Legion has the finest patriotic youth programs in the country. Our Temporary Financial Assistance grants provide vital funds for children in need, whose veteran parents are experiencing financial difficulty. We can do this because of the generous donations given to our Veterans & Children Foundation. I am forever grateful for and know that I can continue to count on your support for this outstanding program.

I just cited a few of the ways that The American Legion saves lives and changes lives. At the local level, American Legion posts are conducting their own programs and serving their communities in thousands of unique ways every single day. You are making an undeniable impact.

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

For God and Country,

Daniel J. Seehafer
National Commander

NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR STATE

LEGION FAMILY:
IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE

UP TO \$5,000.00

NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION

For Online Activation Visit: TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

0318
444636

Endorsed by Your American Legion Department

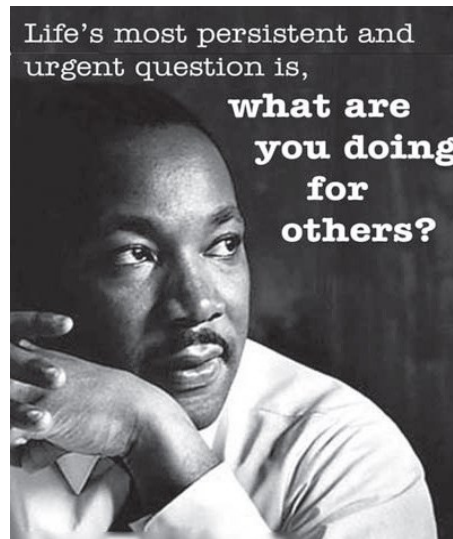
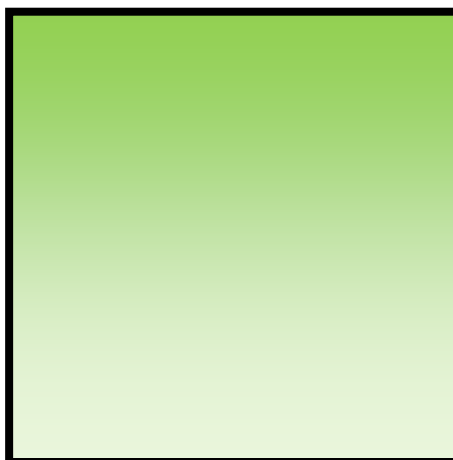
MEMBERSHIP

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

TRIVIA

1. The Spanish for "little war" gave us what G-word term for a type of warfare in which small groups of fighters take on a large and less mobile military?
2. On December 1st, 1959, a dozen nations around the world signed a treaty declaring which chilly continent a no-military zone that would be used mainly for scientific research?
3. Not the best place to make friends, a school called BUD/S is the course that trains what U.S. special operations units repped by the "S" in BUD/S?



In this edition:

National Commander	Pg 2
Commanders Corner	Pg 4
Auxiliary President	Pg 4
National Commander	Pg 5
WRV Commander	Pg 6
Dept. President	Pg 7
Cmdr & Pres project	Pg 8
SAL Commander	Pg 9
Chaplains Pulpit	Pg 10
Articles of Conf	Pg 11
Dept Finance	Pg 12
National News	Pg 13
Children & Youth	Pg 14
Military / NAVY	Pg 15
Legion Foundation	Pg 16
NVC Edwards	Pg 17
Internal Affairs	Pg 19
Scuttle-Butt News	Pg 20
District 2 Cmdr	Pg 21
Harney County	Pg 22
PUFL	Pg 23
Adjutants Farewell	Pg 25
VA&R	Pg 27
Dept 2nd Vice	Pg 28
Scouting	Pg 30
Veterans News	Pg 31
Remembrance	Pg 32
Selective Service	Pg 34

Be prepared with the Lifeline Medical Alert Service

Fast access to help, 24/7

Free shipping + Free activation

Learn more

Or call 855-495-4359

Endorsed by Your Department of the American Legion

PHILIPS Lifeline

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

AMERICAN LEGION

BE THE ONE

Freedom has a voice

“To suppress expression is to reject the basic human desire for recognition and affront the individual’s worth and dignity.” — Justice Thurgood

A voice is a tool that transports us into the future. A future that has more possibilities and more solutions. A voice is a tool that can be used for standing up for what is right, rather than what is easy. A voice gives your opinions a platform, and gifts you with the opportunity to have perspective and knowledge on things that matter. No two voices are the same, each voice has something different to say. And in a world that needs to represent freedom and democracy, a voice is a powerful symbol of this. It is what has allowed people to protest injustice, to sing for freedom, or simply speak the truth. A voice can be a source of hope in difficult times.

Using your voice for the truth is important to create a better world. Everyone’s voice matters. It is important to not let yourself become silenced, because when a voice is not used it prevents the opportunity for a true democracy where each voice is valued in a peaceful manner. Voices convey passion and excitement; voices can convey anything, whether it’s a feeling, a place, or an idea. In a way, voices are a superpower if you know how to use it.

Voices can be used to create change. People can take anything material from you, but your voice is one of the things that cannot be taken away. Voices are meant to encourage other voices too, to unite and support each other. One of the most powerful things someone can do is to use their voice.



Commanders Corner

The Holiday Season is upon us and I hope each of you and your family, along with your post’s Legion Family, are able to enjoy this special time of the year. Please, take time to relax, and to reflect, on the true meaning of the season. In giving over receiving.

As I reflect back on our recent visits with National Vice Commander Randy D. Edwards (UT) to Grants Pass #28, Williams Valley #50, and Klamath Fall #8, I, again, see the real blessing of what the American Legion Family brings to our smaller communities. We work closer together because, in small towns, we’re bound together in that community, that is what makes it thrive. It is a blessing to be thankful for.

America needs The American Legion.

America needs the values, and the principles, that are found not only in the words of our Preamble, but abundantly, within each one of us, in how we live our lives. America needs your servant leadership. A leadership complete with competence, character and commitment. And, as I shared at our Fall DEC, at times, courage.

It is your selfless service and your dedication that bring you together to make a difference in the lives of veterans, your communities, and our nation. Thank you for being the leaders you are. Membership retention remains vital to the well-being of every veteran, every post, and every community. It is also a key element in the health of our organization. Our membership efforts don’t end at the end of December. Take time now to assess where your post’s membership numbers are at, then adjust your membership strategy, accordingly, to gain back all those that have not renewed this past year and the year prior. Often times it really is just a phone call that’s needed, a Buddy Check, to reengage a member.

The American Legion changes lives...and saves lives. And, it is because of members like you. Thank you for all that you do throughout the year in support of our, beloved, American Legion.

For God and country...continue to Be The One with me, when needed, to save a veteran.

Cory Brockmann

Buddy BE THE ONE Checks



National Commander

Task Force Movement: More than a job program

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

For many years, The American Legion has worked to help transitioning military personnel convert their experiences in uniform into credits to help them move quickly and effectively into civilian careers that require special licenses and credentials.

Many of those civilian careers are in serious need of qualified professionals. That need grew painfully clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in such areas as commercial truck driving and nursing.

The American Legion is proud to have a place on the steering committee of Task Force Movement, a White House initiative that unites key stakeholders from industry, education, labor, government and the military to help our nation fulfill two key objectives:

- Get the U.S. economy rolling again in areas of need that, if not adequately staffed, pose national security and public health threats.
- Help transitioning military personnel and veterans get into career fields that make the most of their training and can put them in jobs that pay well, offer good benefits and fulfill important purposes, all of which contribute substantially to good mental health and well-being.

Last August, during the 104th American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., the committee met and announced an important new area of emphasis – health care. Look for new developments on that front in the months ahead. Task Force Movement was launched in April 2022 to speed up and ease the process for veterans to work in the commercial trucking industry, which now has some 80,000 vacancies. Five months later, TFM added cybersecurity to its targeted industries, where some 70,000 jobs are available in government and perhaps 10 times that in the private sector.

The program proved successful in its first year, providing scholarships, apprenticeships and education waivers for veterans who had already proven their skills while in uniform. It's no easy endeavor to make this happen because different states and different industries in those states have different requirements to achieve certification. TFM has been working tirelessly with multiple stakeholders to break down barriers for veterans who are ready now to step into these careers in an economy starved for well-trained and capable employees who care about fulfilling important needs in the nation they swore with their lives to protect and defend.

By adding health care to its portfolio, TFM addresses a need The American Legion has listed among its highest priorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs over the last decade – recruiting and retaining qualified health-care professionals, particularly nurses. The shortage of health-care professionals in the nation right now is estimated at nearly 2 million, so everyone in that industry is competing for talent, more of which is desperately needed.

To keep making progress, TFM looks to continue building its roster of partners from industry, government, education, charitable foundations that want to support the initiative and the veterans community. Online registration forms to get involved are available on the TFM website at taskforcemovement.org.

Most important, all stakeholders – including The American Legion – have a responsibility to close these labor gaps because understaffed hospitals, idled trucks and online vulnerabilities do not simply represent economic inconvenience; they threaten our national security.

National Commander
Daniel J. Seehafer

It doesn't matter
How old you are
Or where you
come from.
"Manners,
Kindness,
Respect and
Compassion,"
Will always be
a
Sign of a
Good human
being.

James Hilton
Cowboy



"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

**IN EVERYTHING AS
A PARENT, TEACHER,
INFLUENTIAL
ADULT, MENTOR,
OFFICER, OR
FRIEND...**

**ASK YOURSELF
WHAT AM I
TEACHING
BY EXAMPLE?**

Western Region, National Commander

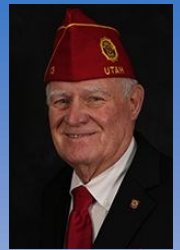
Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving, TEAM Western Region
It is hard to believe that the Holiday Seasons are here already. Thanksgiving is one season that we can share time with our families and friends and enjoy, At least most of you, Football and a lazy weekend watching movies, playing games or just relaxing with a good book and quiet time.

Linda and I send our THANKSGIVING WELL WISHES. We hope that you are spending this time with family and personal friendships and Be The One to those you love most and friends that you have recently made. That phone call that you were prompted to make, may be the most important call of someone's life.

As I have the opportunity to travel I want to add to this message as I close our Department visits and give NVC Suggested Remarks., my final thoughts...I call them my Sunday thoughts...Be kind, Be Forgiving, and Be Compassionate. There has only been one true leader in this world. Our Supreme Leader, God the Father, Jesus Christ. Of all the greatest gifts given to us in this world, He alone has given us the greatest gift through his atonement. Life everlasting. As sinners we make mistakes but he has forgotten them as he has forgiven us. Through his atonement – his giving his life for us – this an ultimate gift we can or never will be able to repay. If YOU Or you know of anyone wanting to commit suicide let them know with certainty there is a loving God and his Angels are always near watching over us. Our life is not ours to take but his to serve. If you give of yourselves to others it takes away the "ALL ABOUT ME" and serves as a message that the only purpose in life is to Glorify God, His Kingdom and his People who are my family, my best Buddy, my neighbor, my friends, my veterans and co-workers. As The American Legion has provided Be the One - MISSION. Call and check on your Buddy. Let's all support our National Commander, Pastor Dan Seehafer and follow his National Commander "JUST ASK LIST" "Be the One," Be the "Leader Servant," Contact "Grassroots Legislation" every day, "Complete a 100% Consolidated Reports", Give to the Veterans and Children Foundation, Our National Commanders Service Project, and let your community know why the American Legion is RELEVANT. We can Change Lives and "WE" are Saving Lives. It is not how many lives we have lost to suicide – It is YOUR Be the One that can save a precious life. We are always cautioned to have a daily plan... ro just say that is not enough... Mine is the Utah Hope Squad Plan – "A suicide Gate Keeper Plan", developed by Utah Dr. Gregg Hudnal. I use this automatically...QPR **Quantify** a family member, listen to a friend Veteran that he/she needs help **Persuade** them to get help. **Refer** and take them to the Professional help they need. We are not therapists or professionals but we can BE THE ONE ' - Be Kind, Forgiving, and Compassionate toward one another. May I WISH YOU and YOUR FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING and especially, THANK YOU for all you do for the Western Region and our National objectives. HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING. You are my extended family.

For God, Family & Country
Randy Edwards

BE THE ONE



Post Commanders & Adjutants

Please make sure you print-out or forward the Legionnaire Magazine each month to your membership.

This is the only way they get to keep up on what is happening in their Legion.



Department Auxiliary President

Be thankful... This time of year can become so hectic that we forget to be thankful for all the blessings we have been given. Spend a few minutes each day to give thanks for the wonderful people in your life, the freedoms we enjoy in our country, and for the sacrifices of those that have served in our armed forces.

If you missed the training at DEC, we had a great session on Girls State. The new Director, Connie Smith, is working hard to make this program a success. How can you help? By getting the information out to school counselors and working with them! We are working to get all the current information up on our website, alaoregon.org. Please be patient as we update forms and work to confirm dates, location, and costs.

The Department Christmas Party is going to be on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Aloha Post 104, from 5-8 pm. We look forward to having a fun evening talking, eating, laughing, exchanging optional gifts, and enjoying each others company.

Please come share the festivities!

President
Kathrine Brockmann
Department of Oregon



BE THE ONE



LEGIONNAIRE Official Publication

For The American Legion, Department of Oregon Legionnaire magazine, is published online 12 times per year by The American Legion Department of Oregon. Copyright 2018 business and general offices:

30450 SW Parkway Ave.,
P.O. Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730.
Phone #: (503) 685-5006
adjutant@orlegion.org
www.orlegion.org

The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions for content.

The Oregon Legionnaire Committee:

Publisher: S. Flynn Phillips
Chairman: S. Flynn Phillips
Layout
Design: S. Shollenburg

Member: Mike Speer
Member: Richard Ramey
Member: Dan Burks

Submit Articles to:
orlegionnaire@gmail.com
adjutant@orlegion.org

PLEASE SUBMITT
ARTICLES TO THE
ABOVE
E-MAILS

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

LEARN MORE

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



2023-2024

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

COMMANDER'S & PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

For over 104 years in communities across the Department of Oregon, our American Legion Family has been a positive influence supporting veterans and children. Our President's and Commander's project seeks to continue that heritage by raising funds in support of David's Chair, an Oregon company that works to create opportunities for individuals with mobility challenges to use track chairs, at no cost, to access the outdoors.



David's Chair is a 501C(3) nonprofit.
For more detailed information
about David's Chair navigate to
<https://davidschair.org>

Donations may be made directly to either of the Department of Oregon's American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary, and funds will be combined and provided to David's Chair following the 2024 department convention. The cost of a Tow and Go (chair and trailer) exceeds \$20,000. Please join with us to make Oregon's beautiful outdoors accessible to others!

To donate:

LEGION

Please make checks payable to:
The American Legion
Department of Oregon
and include in the
Memo: **Commander's Project**

Mail to: American Legion
Department of Oregon
P.O. Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070

AUXILIARY

Please make checks payable to:
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Oregon
and include in the
Memo: **President's Project**

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Oregon
P.O. Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of others!



SAL Commander Detachment of Oregon



We are not your little boys anymore. After 91 years, we have grown up, stop treating us like little kids. We still need your leadership, but we don't need you telling us how to run our squadrons. Some of us are older than you. Start treating us like equals and work alongside us. Doing so we can accomplish much more than if you try to control everything we do. Yes, I always say that we are a program and that will never change but give us some respect and you will get respect in return. We are here to support your programs, so let us do that in our own way. The SAL supports some of your programs better than you do and they are your programs.

There are personality conflicts out there and there always will be. Some post members feel that the best way to resolve these conflicts is to discontinue their squadrons. Why do you want to punish the whole squadron just to get rid of one or two members. Just because I personally don't like an individual, doesn't mean that I cannot work with them. I have been doing this for my 51 years in The American Legion.

It is time that we all grow up and act like adults. Why do our programs have to suffer just to make a few individuals happy? I ask you, please learn to work together for the betterment of our Legion Family.

***DON'T FORGET THE REASON WE ARE HERE. IT IS FOR OUR
VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES, NOT TO FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES.***

Remember, have peace with yourself and have a little tolerance with others.

I wish all of you the best for the Holiday Season and The New Year that we all may live in harmony with each other.

Robert D. Liebenow
Detachment Commander



**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.



CHAPLAIN PULPIT

On stepping down from my position as Department Chaplain, I have had time to reminisce over the last 6 years, it was one of the best times of my life. I have met new friends, which I now call family and always will. Now I must take time for myself and health and recover from the last 2 years.

I was very reluctant when I was asked to be Department Chaplain by PDC Tom Harris, almost to the point of pulling teeth, but I felt God was leading me in that direction, so I put my fears away and said yes, a very positive point in my life.

I have enjoyed this time tremendously and will cherish the memories, friends, family, and the Legion forever. Thank you all for your support and friendship over the last 6 years. I am not going anywhere, I will still be around to help in any way I can, still part of Post 57, The Newberg Connection, to help our veterans, community and continue to build a great Post and Legion within the Department. Again, thank you all.

Over the last few years, we have seen a decrease in membership, and I have listened to, and received phone calls concerning this issue. Why is our membership declining and what can we do to turn it around? Well, listening to the membership, "the members," approximately 70% of them say the same things. We need training, more training. We need training at the D.E.C. on Saturday. We need more training than just once a year. We need to learn how to recruit new members. We need Post Commanders that know how to do the job. These are just some of the comments that I have heard over the last few years.

We used to see a lot more members come to the D.E.C. meetings, that number has dropped dramatically, why? Again, what I hear is that most members used to come for the training on Saturday, but basically there is none now, and if there is it's not real core training, usually on something for Adjutants not what is needed to improve membership.

I've talked to a past District Commander that did not know what the Four Pillars are. Had no idea what Boys State was and what they did. My question is how can a post go out to schools and try and recruit students for our programs when they don't know the programs themselves?

Another point of contention is recruiting, I've been asked who, what, when, where on how to recruit new members, I think we need to get back to the basics and ensure that our members and officers at post level have the tools they need to build not only their posts, but The American Legion Department of Oregon.

I asked some of the individuals why don't they bring this up at the D.E.C. meetings, and the answer was usually the same. "Why? No one listens," or "You just get shut down in the conversation." Our members are the blood of the Department, I think we need to listen to them.

This is just one man's opinion and viewpoint, and never be afraid to give your positive opinion, someone just may be listening.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year, and may your stocking be full of wonderful blessings for the new year and may God Bless You All.

Chaplain

Steven D. Shollenburg

Something to remember:

When you tell someone that you will pray for them, you have made a promise and covenant to speak to God on their behalf. Those are serious words not to be taken lightly.

Someone is counting on you..

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

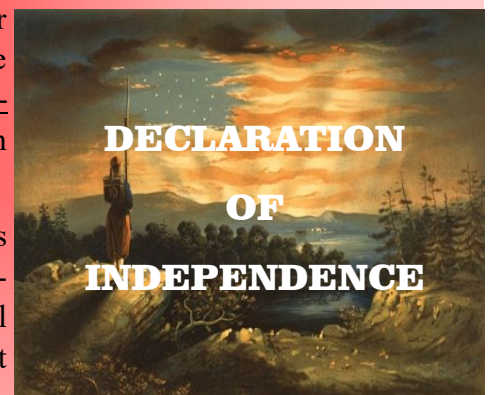
WHAT ARE THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION?

The **Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union** was an agreement among the 13 states of the United States, formerly the Thirteen Colonies, that served as the nation's first frame of government. It was debated by the Second Continental Congress at Independence Hall in Philadelphia between July 1776 and November 1777, and finalized by the Congress on November 15, 1777. It came into force on March 1, 1781, after being ratified by all 13 colonial states. A guiding principle of the Articles was the establishment and preservation of the independence and sovereignty of the states. The Articles consciously established a weak central government, affording it only those powers the former colonies had recognized as belonging to king and parliament. The document provided clearly written rules for how the states' league of friendship, known as the Perpetual Union, would be organized.

While waiting for all states to ratify, the Congress observed the Articles as it conducted business, directing the war effort, conducting diplomacy with foreign states, addressing territorial issues and dealing with Native American relations. Little changed procedurally once the Articles of Confederation went into effect, as ratification did little more than constitutionalize what the Continental Congress had been doing. That body was renamed the Congress of the Confederation; but most Americans continued to call it the Continental Congress, since its organization remained the same.

As the Confederation Congress attempted to govern the continually growing U.S. states, its delegates discovered that the limitations placed upon the central government (such as in assembling delegates, raising funds, and regulating commerce)^[1] rendered it ineffective at doing so. As the government's weaknesses became apparent, especially after Shays' Rebellion, some prominent political thinkers in the fledgling union began asking for changes to the Articles. Their hope was to create a stronger government. Initially, in September 1786, some states met to address interstate protectionist trade barriers between them. Shortly thereafter, as more states became interested in meeting to revise the Articles, a meeting was set in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787. This became the Constitutional Convention. Delegates quickly agreed that the defects of the frame of government could not be remedied by altering the Articles, and so went beyond their mandate by replacing it with a new constitution. On March 4, 1789, the government under the Articles was replaced with the federal government under the Constitution. The new Constitution provided for a much stronger federal government by establishing a chief executive .

The political push to increase cooperation among the then-loyal colonies began with the Albany Congress in 1754 and Benjamin Franklin's proposed Albany Plan, an inter-colonial collaboration to help solve mutual local problems. Over the next two decades, some of the basic concepts it addressed would strengthen; others would weaken, especially in the degree of loyalty (or lack thereof) owed the Crown. Civil disobedience resulted in coercive and quelling measures, such as the passage of what the colonials referred to as the Intolerable Acts in the British Parliament, and armed skirmishes which resulted in dissidents being proclaimed rebels. These actions eroded the number of Crown Loyalists (Tories) among the colonials and, together with the highly effective propaganda campaign of the Patriot leaders, caused an increasing number of colonists to begin agitating for independence from the mother country. In 1775, with events outpacing communications, the Second Continental Congress began acting as the provisional government for the United Colonies. president), courts, and taxing powers.



**BE THE ONE
BUDDY
CHECKS
“TODAY”**



Department Finance Officer

Officers, District Commanders, Commission/Committee Chairs, I have emailed our end of budget year actuals and approved 2023-2024 Department Budget numbers to each of you as I will each month this year. Please review those; on the budget sheet is a history of what your office or program has expensed in the past, understand that information and changes you need to make to your office or program in the future to be successful. I am continuing our audit of all our accounts with everything else on my plate 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 IRS. As we are coming to an end of another year, I hope all have a wonderful holiday season with their families. I will keep repeating this as it appeared in the September, October and November 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 which 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, understanding income that will be available to support the new

budget which includes membership, which is our market, like any other business. The "market does dictate in any business". Unique, in our business we do have pass-throughs, 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, 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, that your expenses do not exceed your income. We have many years of actuals, income and expenses, so we can provide you with this information. We have a lot of excellent programs; we are the only VSO that has all these excellent programs. I would encourage officers, chairs of 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, a lot of funding available in Oregon, a lot, 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 market dictates. Remember, we are here to help and answer questions, there are no dumb questions.

Bob Huff

Department Finance Officer



DEADLINE

**For the
January
Issue: Is
December 5**

NATIONAL NEWS

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) just made history: 1,000,000 Veterans have joined VA's largest health research effort.

More than a decade ago, the MVP team had a dream to build the nation's largest research program dedicated to improving Veteran health care. It started with the vision of enrolling one million Veterans so that researchers could better understand how genes, lifestyle, military experiences and exposures affect health and wellness. What started as a vision is now a reality as MVP is one of the largest and most diverse research programs of its kind.

Veterans helping Veterans

As the first VA research program to reach a recruitment milestone this large, MVP is paving the way for improved Veteran health and wellness. Veterans across race, gender, age and service branch are coming together for one mission: to advance Veteran health care.

Terrence Hayes, VA's press secretary and an Army Veteran of 20 years, knows his calling is to help other Veterans. "I served in the military for 20 years, fighting alongside my battle buddies, and I want to do that in this field as well. I want to be able to raise my hand, be a part of some research that can be groundbreaking for men and women just like myself who have served," Hayes shared.

Helping future Veterans is one of the main reasons Army Veteran Benjamin Flynn decided to join MVP. "I look at it as a way to do my part and make sure that the men and women that served alongside me, before me and after me are all properly taken care of," Flynn said.

Their reasons for joining may differ but one thing remains consistent: Veterans helping Veterans.



Don Weber, Department Commander for 2021-2022, Tyler Tadema 4th Place, Mrinmayee Kulkarni 2nd Place, Aliza Saunders 1st Place, Tanner Stenkamp 3rd Place, Katlynn Strickler 5th Place

The Oregon Oratorical Contest

For more information:

Oratorical Chair Person Ann Everetts 503-910-8252

annwalt235@earthlink.net

The Department of Oregon Oratorical Contest is scheduled for APRIL 6th, 10:00 am
at Santiam POST 51 Lebanon, 480 S Main Street Lebanon, OR 97355-3309

<https://goo.gl/maps/x7X5PJVUMGJ95qkb8>

Please notify all District Commanders.

BE THE ONE

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, obli-



Children & Youth

Hello Legionnaires,

As we wrap up Halloween activities and are headed into Thanksgiving, I hope each of your Posts included sort of treat to the Children of your member or the Community. In this day of having to be careful who gives candy to our children, the American Legion can still support the Pillars of our organization devoted to children and Youth.

Now on to November and the Holidays, a time to give thanks for all the good things in our lives. One of the things that The American Legion has to offer is the TFA-Temporary Financial Assistance, to assist with military American Legion member that might be trapped at this time of year. I would like to review the steps in this program, as the criteria changed a little bit in 2017.

This one time grant is now offered to American Legion members only, and I want to reiterate that anyone can initiate a request for a TFA grant, and anyone can get the entry information.

Additional documentation depends on the issue that has caused the financial hardship.

Here is some information from the National Children and Youth office.

Betty Fish-Ferguson
Children & Youth Chair
503-781-3215
bettyfish1@msn.com

TFA Eligibility Criteria

- The minor child(ren) must be the biological child, stepchild, legally adopted, or in the legal custody of, a qualifying veteran or active-duty servicemember.
- A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces currently serving on federal orders under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion.
- Active-duty applicants will be considered for TFA without being a member of The American Legion.

TFA Application Form

- The TFA application is designed to allow any Legionnaire, regardless of previous TFA program experience, to successfully complete and submit a TFA application.
- Before scheduling the two-party TFA investigation, it is recommended that investigators first confirm that the applicant meets the basic eligibility requirements:
 - Age of the child(ren)
 - American Legion membership is current or the servicemember is currently serving under title 10 orders of the United States Code.
 - Legal custody of the children

What TFA does

- TFA provides a onetime non-repayable cash grant of up to \$1,500 for the eligible minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran.
- The basic needs of minor children are considered to be:
 - Shelter (mortgage or rent)
 - Utilities (electric, gas, propane, water, trash and sewer)
 - Essential Consumables (food, personal hygiene supplies and cleaning supplies)
 - Educational Expenses (see TFA policy)
 - Clothing for the child(ren)
 - Medical or dental care of the child(ren)*
 - Medications for the child(ren)*
 - And more (see TFA policy)



TFA Action Form

- If a TFA application is denied or additional information is required, National Headquarters will return a TFA Action Form (checklist) to the department C&Y chairman, department adjutant and the department commander indicating the reason(s) for the returned or denied application.

TFA Supporting Documentation

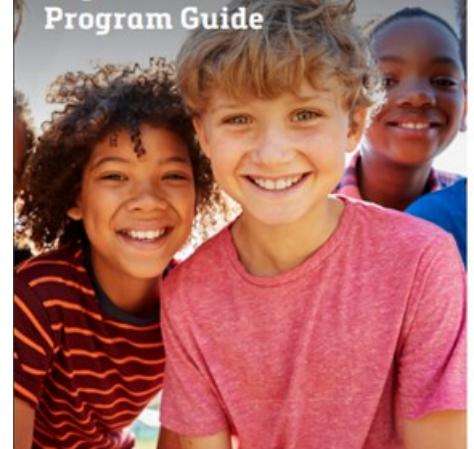
- Copies of the following documents must accompany each TFA application:
 - Current Legion membership card or current active-duty military orders
 - Birth certificates of child(ren)
 - Marriage license (if applicable)
 - Death certificate (if applicable)
 - Custody documentation, divorce decrees and legal name changes (if applicable)
 - All current statements, bills, leases, foreclosures, eviction notices, disconnection notices, etc., to be considered

TFA Investigator's Report

- The investigator's report is a critical part of the TFA application. Information in the report must answer the (who, what, when, why and how) questions in order to validate the need for a TFA grant. The report should also detail what steps have been taken to help alleviate the need. What steps have been put into place so that the veteran and family gets back on their feet? What are the investigators or post's follow up plans with the veteran?

AMERICAN
LEGION

Children & Youth Department Chairman Program Guide



The purpose of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is

“To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth; to aid progress in the field of child welfare and to the sum total knowledge of children and youth through research, studies, surveys and projects, or in other ways, including but not limited to activities and programs benefitting the children and youth of this nation.”

“It is through the gifts provided to this foundation that children's lives are saved, their quality of life is improved, and they are taught traditional American values through your selfless actions and demonstration of integrity.”

Please help us by donating. Your charitable gift of \$25, \$50 or \$100 contributes to special moments in the life of a child.

Send your donations today to: The American Legion P.O. Box 361626 Indianapolis, IN 46236
Earmark check: Child Welfare Foundation Or donate online: cwfi-inc.org/donate/overview

U.S. NAVY

The **history of the United States Navy** divides into two major periods: the "Old Navy", a small but respected force of sailing ships that became notable for innovation in the use of ironclads during the American Civil War, and the "New Navy" the result of a modernization effort that began in the 1880s and made it the largest in the world by 1943 .

The U.S. Navy was founded on 13 October 1775, and the Department of the Navy was established on 30 April 1798. The Navy has the following main components, all of which ensure the navy is capable of taking on the enemy anywhere in the world.

The Navy maintains, trains, and equips combat-ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining the freedom of the seas.

THE SURFACE FLEET:

This consists of vessels of all sizes. Whether providing insertion or cover for special operations on in-

land or battling modern day pirates on the high seas, the navy has a ship suited for every waterborne military mission.

THE SUBMARINE FLEET:

Known at the "Silent Service" submarines have played a number of roles in a hundred years of both war and peace: attack, surveillance, commando insertion, research, and nuclear deterrent.

Submarines give the Navy the ability to arrive on scene before the enemy is aware they're on the way.

THE NAVAL AVIATION WING:

In addition to the surface and submarine warfare capabilities the Navy's aviation contingent consists of Helicopters, Fighter/Attack Jets, Surveillance, Transport and Cargo Aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

THE SHORE "SUPPORT" ESTABLISHMENT:

The shore establishment provides

support to the operating forces (known as the fleet) in the form of: facilities for the repair of machinery and electronics; communications centers; training areas and simulators; ship and aircraft repair; construction, intelligence and meteorological support; storage; storage areas for repair parts, fuel, and munitions; medical and dental facilities; and air bases.

After World War II ended, the U.S. Navy entered the 45 year long Cold War and participated in the Korean and Vietnam proxy wars. Nuclear power and ballistic missile technology led to new ship propulsion and weapon systems, which were used in the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and Ohio-class submarines. By 1978, the number of ships had dwindled to less than 400, many of which were from World War II, which prompted Ronald Reagan to institute a program for a modern, 600-ship Navy. Following the 1990-91 collapse of the Soviet Union the Soviet Navy was divided among the former Soviet Republics and was left without funding, which made the United States the world's undisputed naval superpower, with the ability to engage and project power in two simultaneous limited wars along separate fronts. This ability was demonstrated during the First and Second Persian Gulf Wars.



UNITED STATES MILITARY

American Legion Foundation News

Veterans Showcase

On view November 3 - January 4, 2024

On view in the OSA Gallery

November 2 - 30, 2023

Visit the OSA Gallery

2185 SW Park Place, Portland, OR 97205

Monday – Friday 10 AM – 4 PM and Saturday 1 – 4 PM

<https://www.osagallery.org/veterans-show-2023>

<https://osartists.org/sponsors>



The Gallery at Oregon Society of Artists is proud to present an exhibition dedicated to the artwork produced by US Military Veterans. For over six years, OSA has partnered with various foundations to provide free art classes to military veterans. These foundations include The Braemar Charitable Trust, The American Legion, the Randall Charitable Trust, the Swigert-Warren Foundation, and The Stimson-Miller Foundation. Each November, we dedicate The Gallery to showcase the beautiful works being made by veterans at OSA and beyond. The joys of creation are on full display as we honor the diversity, ingenuity, and talent of the US Military Veterans in our communities.

The American Legion Oregon Foundation has supported this Veterans Art Program for two straight years. I had the pleasure of attending the exhibition on November 2 and talked with many of the veterans showcasing their work. Two vets told me the program saved their life. One said he had been a hermit. The other said he lived alone and didn't even know he could draw. I saw the effects of how this program is helping these vets in our backyard; So, when we say the American Legion saves lives and changes lives, I had a front-row seat.

I also talked long with Nancy Truszkowski, the Executive Director, including President Steve Klier, Tim Mahoney, and Veterans.

For more information about this program and to register click [HERE](#) for the in-person class and [HERE](#) for the online class. Please call the office to register for the Beaverton location. For questions, please contact the OSA office at 503-228-0706 email at info@osartists.org.

2023 Veterans; Program Sponsors include: The Braemar Charitable Trust, The American Legion Foundation, Randall Charitable Trust, the Swigert-Warren Foundation, The Stimson-Miller Foundation, and the City of Beaverton, director Ginette DePreist, Wonderful People.

S. Flynn Phillips

Department Adjutant



The American Legion Family



NVC Randy Edwards visits “Land of No Slack” and spurs key Oregon engagements.

KLAMATH FALLS, ORE. – National Vice Commander Randy D. Edwards (UT) visited the Department of Oregon October 25-29th to lend leadership and support to membership efforts in District 4 of southwestern Oregon. It was Edwards’ first departmental visit conducted during his year as national vice commander of the Western Division. While his words, “I’m here to work” were shared mere minutes upon his arrival at Rogue Valley International - Medford Airport, little did those in the travel party realize that the nearly four-day visit would spur key new engagements and partnering opportunities.

Scheduled stops on the visit included Legion Family member engagements at Grants Pass Post 28, Williams Valley Post 50 (Williams), and Klamath Falls Post 8, where Edwards’ shared messages of “Be The One”, the importance of servant leadership, and how the American Legion’s many programs lead to changing lives and saving lives. Buddy checks, membership renewal contacts, and providing veteran service officer support were among activities at varying stops of the trip.

Also included during Edwards’ visit was a tour of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls. Kingsley Field, known as “The Land of No Slack” is home to the 173rd Fighter Wing and training squadron where all U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard F-15C pilots train.

During the tour visitors were fortunate to receive a close look at the F-35 Lightning II, the Air Force’s latest and most- capable fifth-generation fighter. The F-35A, pilot and ground crew at Kingsley Field are home-stationed with the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz., and were in Oregon on a training assignment.

The Air Force has selected the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing as the preferred location to host the service’s next F-35A Lightning II training squadron. Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, briefed the Legion tour group that Kingsley Field is slated to host 24 active F-35A’s for pilot training and two additional aircraft for ground training and maintenance. The first F-35’s should begin arriving in August 2024, as the 173rd FW begins divesting the F-15C’s currently in use.

During a key capstone leadership meeting following the tour, American Legion leadership, including NVC Edwards, Department Commander Cory Brockmann and NEC Kevin Owens, among others, briefed Col. Bouma and 173rd FW leadership, along with State Representative Emily McIntire, on “Be The One”, the Legion’s initiative – mission – to destigmatize asking for mental health help and further help to bring an end to veteran suicide, a top priority of the American Legion.

Other key discussion points included Kingsley Field’s Resiliency Operations Center (ROC) and the role it plays in Pictured (l. to r.) National Vice Commander Randy Edwards and National Executive Committeeman Kevin Owens look inside a F-15C fighter jet as Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander explains equipment functionality.

Pictured (l. to r.), USAF (ret.) Col. John Miller, post commander of Sisters Post 86, a former jet pilot, shares a word with F-35 pilot, Maj. Hollywood Villalobos, 56th FW, Luke AFB, Ariz.

today’s airmen readiness and wellness. One hundred “Be The One - Oregon” pins and wallet cards were left with Resiliency Operations Center staff to use in their future engagements. A briefing was also received on the Department of Defense (DOD) STARBASE program, a youth S.T.E.M. program targeting fifth-grade students and its importance in providing science-based creative thinking and development. Budget shortfalls threaten the STARBASE program’s availability and success, and discussion included need for support. A vital growth opportunity was supported by Col. Bouma, who requested the American Legion to schedule an American Legion benefits and programs outreach event to Kingsley Field airmen during key drill weekends later this fall.

Another key outcome will be collaboration between Department of Oregon leadership and State Representative Emily McIntire, an Oregon Girls State alum, to draft legislation for the funding of Oregon’s Boys State Cont. on Pg. 16

Cont. from Pg. 15: NVC Edwards visit.

and Girls State programs. The idea arose in discussions as NVC

Edwards shared how just such an endeavor was done successfully between the State of Utah and the American Legion Department of Utah. To further support the Legion's top priority, Klamath Falls Post 8 commander, Doug Riese, helped organize and lead a "Be The One" community awareness walk in Klamath Falls. The mile and a half walk began at the post and encompassed portions of Main street, the downtown business area, and Veterans Memorial Park. Noteworthy, one of the walk participants was 92 year-young, Joe Lindsay, a 57-year and Paid Up For Life member of the American Legion. Upon returning to Klamath Falls Post 8 following the walk, a civic leader and post meet-and-greet was conducted the remainder of the morning. Included during the event was honoring the services of Fire Chief Greg Davis and Deputy Chief of Operations Matt Hitchcock, of Klamath County Fire District 1, with Department of Oregon American Legion Fire Fighter challenge coins. Both Davis and Hitchcock are military veterans and were signed up to become American Legion members of Klamath Falls Post 8. Additionally, Lindsey Davis, Greg's spouse, was present, and was eager to sign up as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Klamath Falls Unit 8. NVC Randy Edwards' visit to Department of Oregon was extremely productive. Not only did he bring strong messages of support on behalf of National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, to help drive servant leadership and membership, but he also provided key insight and leadership to aid in funding youth programs.

BE THE ONE



Pictured above (l. to r.) Department Commander Cory Brockmann, State Representative Emily McIntire, and National Vice Commander Randy Edwards, following a productive afternoon at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Opportunities abound!



Pictured above (l. to r.) State Representative Emily McIntire (OR D-56) engages in discussions with Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, during a recent tour of the 173rd FW and Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. Also pictured, Chief of Staff Ryan McIntire and Corbin McIntire.

BE THE ONE



Pictured (l. to r.) National Vice Commander Randy Edwards and National Executive Committeeman Kevin Owens look inside a F-15C fighter jet as Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander explains equipment functionality.



Pictured above (l. to r.) Matt Hitchcock, Deputy Chief of Operations, and Greg Davis, Chief, Klamath County Fire District 1, are honored for their service by NVC Randy Edwards and Department Commander Cory Brockmann, with presentations of American Legion Fire Fighter challenge coins.

Internal Affairs Commission

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)



At the 2022-2023 Convention I gave a brief training session on the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). That training explained that the CPR was a report to the National organization on the activities of our Legionnaires working the programs of The American Legion. This accounting was then utilized by the National Commander to brief Congress on the many, many activities The American Legion works on throughout the year to help veterans, their families, the children and youth, and our citizens of this great nation to make our communities better.

Also mentioned, was that the Consolidated Post Report changes each year, and so, once again it has for the reporting of activities in the 2023-2024 Report. The report still includes documentation entries for Blood Drives, Children and Youth and education activities, veterans' honors events, participation in patriotic holidays, etc. However, again where to document the many hours of activities is limited to four sections: In the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation section:

Line 9 _____ No. of volunteer hours recorded at VA hospitals.

In the Americanism section:

Line 73 _____ Hours of service to Education program.

Line 85 _____ Community Service; Estimated no. of hours of service.

In the Children and Youth section:

Line 97 _____ no. of volunteer hours for C&Y programs and activities.

(Gone is the Line 122 on the 2022-2023 CPR Form _____ Volunteer hours not captured above.)

So, if you are in the Honor Guard for the Veterans Day parade; or making telephone calls to encourage membership; or, traveling to a committee or other American Legion meeting; or building a ramp for a veteran's home; or donating blood in a blood drive; or helping in a fundraising event for your Post; or publishing the Post newsletter; or participating in the funeral honors for veterans; or working at a veterans employment and education career fair;

You will need to document your hours for community service on: Line 85 _____ Community Service; Estimated no. of hours of service.

When in doubt as to where to document hours, you can always, and should place them on Line 85. After all, we are all working in our communities to make them better and it is Community Service, whether to a veteran, our youth, or our neighbor.

Richard Ramey
Internal Affairs Chair



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





Scuttlebutt-Vets News

This week it seems as though I spent more time with veterans than ever before, and it all began over a year ago. A year ago, I, and a fellow Legionnaire, visited the Veterans Parade in the hamlet of Echo, OR. What is so special about that? It was presented by the Echo School District and orchestrated by the teachers and approximately 350 students from K through 12th grade.

In the afternoon I returned to Echo to attend the Assembly to honor Veterans. I was so impressed with their presentation that an idea to promote this event rumbled through my brain housing group. I wanted more veterans to witness this event that made a vet feel as though he/she was really appreciated. Our American Legion Post meets once a month and every now and then I'd mention our future involvement concerning this endeavor.

Two months ago, I approached a local church who had a "seniors' bus" that would be perfect for handling the transportation of 20 or so vets to Echo. When those plans fell through (insurance reasons) I formulated Plan B...we'd carpool. I passed this info along to a bus driver friend (and a vet) of what had taken place and he promptly said, "Let me see what I can do." A week later he informed me that the bus company he worked for would provide a bus and he would be our driver! Thank you, Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Final plans were made, and the information was passed along to our Post members. Thursday morning 11 of us boarded the bus for the Echo Parade and true to form the Echo students, and faculty, pulled off another great parade. The students were so enthusiastic that it spilled over onto the small crowd. It was an honor to stand on Main Street and salute the flag as a soloist sang the National Anthem. Following the Parade, Brian, the driver, hustled us back to Hermiston for lunch at a local diner. It is true, having lunch with a bunch of veterans is good for the soul. Then it was back to Echo to attend the assembly that was going to be held in the gymnasium.

Once again, it was worth attending. As we were getting ready to walk down the "Hall of Honor" one of our vets said to me, "It is all you said it would be." I'd like to know what he was thinking after he walked down the "Hall of Honor" where the entire school lined the hallway and applauded as we walked to the commons for the conclusive fellowship with the kids who peppered us with questions. You just have. To be there to feel the moment because I can't truly describe it. Final preparations for the Veterans Breakfast began in earnest about two months ago as Diana and Kelli gathered local businesses to sponsor the breakfast. One day Diana asked me if I had the program planned and I quickly replied, "It's all in my head." She then asked if our Post could come in and set up tables and chairs for 300 guests. "We'll be there," and we were, two days before the meal. She wanted the two days to decorate the Community Center. She and Kelli did a super job!

When we arrived at the Community Center Friday morning, we were greeted by a host of Chamber Ambassadors and other dignitaries. The tables were beautifully set. The caterers were ready, the coffee was ready, servers were everywhere putting the final touches to the scene.

As veterans entered the facility the excitement began to swell, and I cannot put into words the feeling I had to see all of this come to pass. Between the last word of the previous sentence and this sentence I had to pause and sop up the moisture gathering in the corners of my eyes.

I cannot express how much I appreciated Flynn Phillips, our Department Adjutant, who came all the way from Beaverton to be one of the guest speakers, and to Dr. Dean Hackett, who delivered another stirring speech on what we hold dear.

What a great time of fellowship and the breakfast was 'spot on.' A BIG 'Thank you' to the owners of the Pheasant Bar and Grill who prepared the meal and a special 'Thank you' to the young people who bussed tables and delivered water and coffee to the guests. 'Thank you' Majazty Choir for singing the National Anthem.

A special 'Thank you' to the sponsors - Sherwin Williams, UEC, the Kiwanis Club, PGE, Eastern Oregon

University, Hermiston Parks and Recreation, Rogers Toyota, Burns Mortuary, and the Chamber of Commerce - who gave from their hearts and wallets. After everything was put away, I reveled in all that had taken place this weekend. I love small town America.

Thanks for checking in and Semper Fi!

Aaron Wetterling





District 2 Commander

Campfire roasted salmon or smoked chicken, a tough decision, but a bunch of us had to make it at Keizer Post 17's Salmon Bake in October. While the fish and chicken got good reviews, the highlight for a lot of us were THE BEANS! Man, were they good! Beans aside, the event was well attended and well executed. A tip of the hat to Fred and the Keizer post crew.

2nd Vice Mike Ireton and I attempted to visit Aurora Post 110 but discovered that the post meeting had been moved to a different day. However, the Auxiliary Unit was meeting, so I said goodbye to Mike and invited myself to their meeting (I'm a dual member). Pam Seelye is their Treasurer and vouched for me. The ladies were very welcoming and tolerated the "district guy" asking lots of questions.

The Aurora Unit is very busy and I enjoyed learning about all the projects they have going on. Thank you, ladies!

There are several posts that are planning for their Christmas parties, including Dept. Several are also doing holiday dinners. Some are serving dinners while others are suppling "you bakem" dinners. Either way, they are always appreciated by those in our communities that would otherwise do without. Kudos to you.

For Veterans Day, we our post had invitations to several school programs during the week leading up to the 11 th . To our surprise, there were a lot of veteran parents there and were interested in learning about the Legion. We didn't realize what an opportunity it was to interface with younger vets. Learn something new every year.

Commander
Mike Speer
District 2



**What's going on in your
District?
Let us know,
send in an article !!!!!**

BE THE ONE



AMERICANISM

"THE LOVE OF AMERICA"



With the Holidays coming upon us, that means the clock is ticking for us to get started recruiting for;

1. BOYS STATE
2. GIRLS STATE
3. ORITORICAL
4. JR. LAW ENFORCEMENT
5. JR. SHOOTING

So let's get in contact with our youth and get them signed up for the programs.

Wishing all a very Happy Thanksgiving, don't get to full.

Committee Chair
Ian Gerstel
Americanism





Harney County Post 63

During the week of Veterans Day, November 5-11, 2023, The American Legion conducts Buddy Checks. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who many need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or e-mail, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

The student body at the Burns High School will honor all veterans on Thursday, November 9th, beginning with a breakfast provided by the students in the cafeteria at 8:00am that will be followed by a program by the students in the gymnasium at 9:00am. All veterans are encouraged to attend as students have made this event an annual tradition at Burns High School.

In honor of Veterans Day, American Legion Harney County Post 63 will be the sponsor for the weekly lunch at the Harney County Senior Center on November 9, 2023. The free lunch of spaghetti, bread, a vegetable and a dessert will be served to all veterans and their spouses from 11:30am until 1:00pm. Located at 17 South Alder in Burns, our community appreciates and thanks you for your service to our nation. Hope you can attend.

American Legion Harney County Post 63 and Burns Elks Lodge 1680 will co-host their annual Veterans Day dinner on November 11, 2023, in the Elks Lodge. The evening's events will start at 5:30pm with dinner being served at 6:00pm. Veterans will enjoy a free meal while a meal donation is requested from all others. The keynote speaker will be Elks Past Grand National Exalted Ruler Keith Mills from Idaho.

The next meeting of Post 63 members will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 7:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. Membership renewals may be made during the Post meeting or sent

to Harney County Post 63, POB 565, Burns, Oregon 97720, or renewed on-line at www.legion.org. If you would like to express your advocacy for American Legion's legislative efforts that support veterans, their families, and our America, you may do so at www.legion.org/action. Our US congressional representatives need to hear from us. We are the grassroots who voices and votes can make a difference.

Charlie Schmidt
Adjutant,
Harney County Post #63
The American Legion
Department of Oregon



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

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

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

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

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

**Don't let your
fear of being
judged stop you
from asking for
help when you
need it. Some-
times asking
for help is the
bravest move
you can make.
You don't have
to go it alone.**

Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership

Anyone who is currently and American Legion member or who is Eligible for membership may become a PUFL member.

Lifetime membership can be paid either in one single lump sum or over 12 equal, monthly payments. Once a member fulfills the PUFL membership dues, he/she will be protected from any future dues increase at the post, department, or national levels.

**PAID
= UP FOR =
LIFE**

All PUFL applications must be submitted to National Headquarters by on of three methods:

1. Online applications: Once the quote is received the member can apply online. Once confirmed and payment is made, the member clicks "Submit" to complete the application process. Note: For those without internet access, the post or department can perform the process. A link to the PUFL application page has been added to myLegion.org for posts and departments.
2. Printed applications: Once the quote is received, the member can print an application to complete and mail to National Headquarters. The application will be pre-filled with the member's name, address, birth date, ID number and total cost of PUFL membership. (Incorrect member information can be updated on the application.) Mail the application and payment to National HQ's at the address provided on the form. Note: For those without internet access, the application should be printed by the post or department and forwarded to the member for completion. A link to the PUFL application page has been added to myLegion.org for posts and departments.
3. Call Customer Service: Members can call toll free 1-800-433-3318 and speak directly to a customer service representative. Note: This should not be considered the routine or primary procedure, as members, posts and departments have this ability.

The rate chart listed below applies to post dues of \$48.00 or less. If a post's annual dues are \$48.01 or higher, the post adjutant should contact Customer Service for the correct fee.

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
FEE	\$1,535	\$1,399	\$1,229	\$1,025	\$815.	\$599.	\$429.	\$329.

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

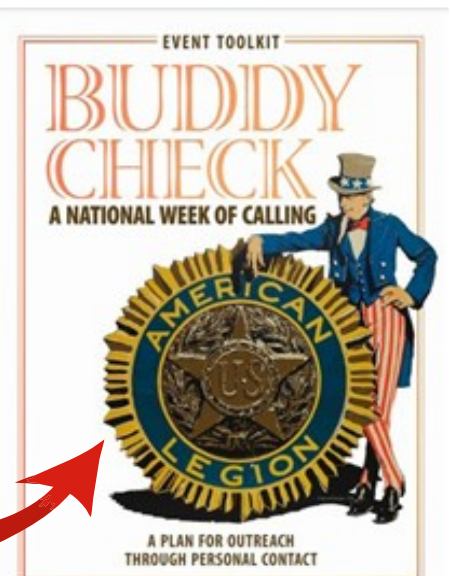
[LEARN MORE](#)

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



**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**





TEACHERS COINS NOW AVAILABLE

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. GUERRILLS
2. ANTARCTICA
3. NAVY SEALS



VITAL RECORDS

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

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

HAVE
YOU



RENEWED
YET?

UP COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| November 23: | Thanksgiving |
| December 2: | Post 57, Newberg Christmas Party |
| December 8: | Hanukkah (1st day) |
| December 9: | District 9 meeting |
| December 9: | Dept Christmas Party, Post 104, 4:30 |
| December 19: | District 8 meeting, 4:30 |
| December 25: | Christmas |
| December 31: | New Years Eve |
| January 15: | MLK Holiday |
| January 20-21: | D.E.C. Virtual |
| February 19: | Presidents Day Holiday |
| March 29: | Good Friday Holiday |
| April 20-21: | D.E.C. John Day, OR |
| May 27: | Memorial Day Holiday |
| July 4: | Independence Day Holiday |
| September 2: | Labor Day Holiday |
| November 11: | Veterans Day Holiday |
| December 25: | Christmas Holiday |





Farewell Address

This is my last article as Department Adjutant.

Other people tell me that they don't read the Oregon Legionnaire Magazine; the people who contribute to it work very hard to put out the best communication device the Department has. They volunteered their time and energy. They gave of themselves. It's also obvious that the link that is sent out to all each month doesn't get passed on to their post members or printed locally to have around the post. I am also told that no one reads the Book of Reports either, except a few possibly.

I think this is indicative of our poor performance every year in membership. This has been going on for years. Only Bob Huff has ever had a 100% membership as Department Commander. He has often said how you need to get out of your chair, travel the state, and connect with Posts and their members. But that doesn't seem to happen unless we have a national officer visit or put on a real revitalization effort like having NVC Randy Edwards out to revitalize the Tillamook Post.

The excuses run the gambit: Covid, can't get into the schools, I call for help and don't get any from the Department. The once great numbers of volunteers have slowly backed away from helping, being an active participant as a committee member or chair. Real mentorship seems to disappear. The pontificators and bloviators are still out there, but nothing is happen-

It's disregarded. Donations to the bottom line have stopped. Do you see the pattern? Do you recognize the disease?

It's simple until we stop throwing each other under the bus and start loving one another.



NOTHING is going to change except LOCK the Doors; no one is home. This organization stands for GOD and COUNTRY. Where is God today in your life? I've been screamed at," This is a business," and how right you are, but we are not Walmart or Burger King. We are a volunteer organization run by Volunteers, and like a church, if you don't take care of your volunteers, then why show up for church and tithe? Why show up and renew your membership? Why show up and take on an officer or committee role.? This is not someone's personal club.

So when you decide to get up off the couch and start loving your fellow brother and sister, you just might be able to "Be The One" to save a life, change a life, and grow this organization. So which will YOU be ?, Part of the problem or Part of the Solution? For me, it doesn't get any more personal than that.

BE THE ONE

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"
"Semper Fi"

Flynn

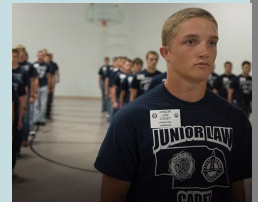
The American Legion Jim Willi Law Enforcement Career Camp of Oregon

Don't let time get away from you, start recruiting for Law Enforcement Camp, now.

A wonderful program for our youth, to learn and possibly help fulfill their career opportunities.

For information concerning the Law Enforcement Camp contact:

Ed Owens
jfp_@hotmail.com
360-991-9665



Farewell Flynn, Happy Trails

It's always fun to have a party, but when it is a farewell party, to an outstanding member of the team, sometimes it's not... but we did anyway. There was a luncheon "Chicken with Flynn," as he is stepping down from the Department Adjutants position at the end of this month. Flynn has served the department from 2019-2023 in this position and served in an exemplary and outstanding manner during this time.

Flynn was always there to assist in anyway he could, not only at Department level, but District and Post levels as well.

During the luncheon, Post 57, Newberg, presented Flynn with a Certificate of Appreciation for all the help and assistance given to them as they worked on revitalizing their Post over the last couple of years.

When you visited Department HQ, you always found Flynn willing and able to help in anyway he could and also a friendly face and conversation along with it.

We will miss your guidance and support. Your departure from the department is a loss to all, but we are excited for the opportunities that lay's ahead for you. Wishing you all the best for your future ventures. You have been an amazing adjutant and a true mentor, and we will always be grateful for your guidance and support.



Fair winds and following seas our friend.”





VETERANS AFFAIRS & 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, I hope 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. With all the other meetings, multiple committees and other activity with

the VA and Legion, time is very valuable, and I am working on priorities. What we are short of is Legionnaires volunteering and being involved in their communities. This has not just started, it has only got worse, with lots of demands; no shortage of requests for more support, but shortage of American Legion Family volunteers but an increase in arm chair generals. Our Department Service Officer is responding seven days a week, as with me it is causing some challenges, our

Department Service Officer Ed VanDyke, when you see him say thank you. We just completed our activity in Klamath Falls for the Revitalization, walk and DEC and on Veterans Day held an event in Eagle Point for the Veterans Day Parade and Veterans Resources event to follow with Ed VanDyke working claims and an information table also there. We will be posting for an Assistant Service Officer in the coming weeks, if you have an interest, 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 and the list is growing and offers new challenges. I will also be supporting Kingsley Field on the 30th of November and the 1st of this month for a mandatory day with the Air Guard. 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 activity that will be taking place in their areas, we thank them for that information; please let us know and if not conflicting with another event, we will

support in-person if available. 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 which two of our team 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, VA&R members are all volunteers, and we need more Legion Family volunteers to support our programs. If you have some extra time and looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans, we need you. We have a lot of members in all areas of our Department, we do not have a lot of volunteers. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We are active with two of our National Cemeteries in our Department.

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

Bob Huff
VA&R Chair

**On a team, it's not
the strength of the
individual players,
but it is the strength
of the unit as a whole
and how they all func-**





Department 2nd Vice Commander



It's all relevant, it has purpose, and it is designed to make this world a better place. It is For God and Country. For God and Country, we associate ourselves together. Yes, it's our Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America. The glue that holds the American Legion together and holds our Veterans accountable when signing the application certifying they were honorably discharged or are still serving honorably. It is why they give us their money and it is value they expect to receive from the American Legion.

Are we providing a product of value to the veterans that join our organization? Do they feel valued at the Post level as a member? Are they included at the Post level for their expertise and dedication to serve? I often wonder why we have so many veterans leave our organization after their first year of joining. Something to think about and ask yourself why.

Are we involving the Veterans family members with our programs? So many avenues to support those vulnerable high schoolers and engage them with their communities, state, and nation.

Let's engage, after all, it's all relevant in our mission for God and Country. Our devotion to mutual helpfulness, to promote peace and good-will on earth, to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

Hope your Thanksgiving was full of thanks, family, and friends. Community thanks for those in need. Be joyful, Be grateful, and

"BE The One"!

For God and Country ,God Bless our
American Legion

Rene Ohler
2nd Vice Commander
Department of Oregon

**Legionnaire Insurance
Trust**



Department Officers: 2023-2024

Commander:	Cory Brockmann
Immediate Past Cmdr:	Vacant
1st Vice Cmdr:	Dan Burks
2nd Vice Cmdr:	Renee Ohler
Adjutant:	
NECman:	Kevin Owen
Alt. NECman:	Gene Hellickson
Finance Officer:	Bob Huff
Chaplain:	
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

Veterans Day and the dedication of the new Veterans Plaza at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction

Post 70, along with the volunteer work of the City of Cave Junction's Public Works, the Clamper's organization and coordinator Roger Brandt were able to complete the new Veteran's Plaza by November 11. Post 70 donated a flag pole and flags. We were able to have the F 15's from Kingsley Field fly over our Veteran's Day Memorial. Public Attendance for this event was in the hundreds. Department Vice President, myself and others spoke in honoring our Veterans on their special day. Many more things will be added to this plaza including bricks with Veteran's names in the upcoming months .

Submitted by: Bob Soria
Post 70, Cave Junction



Post 70, Cave Junction

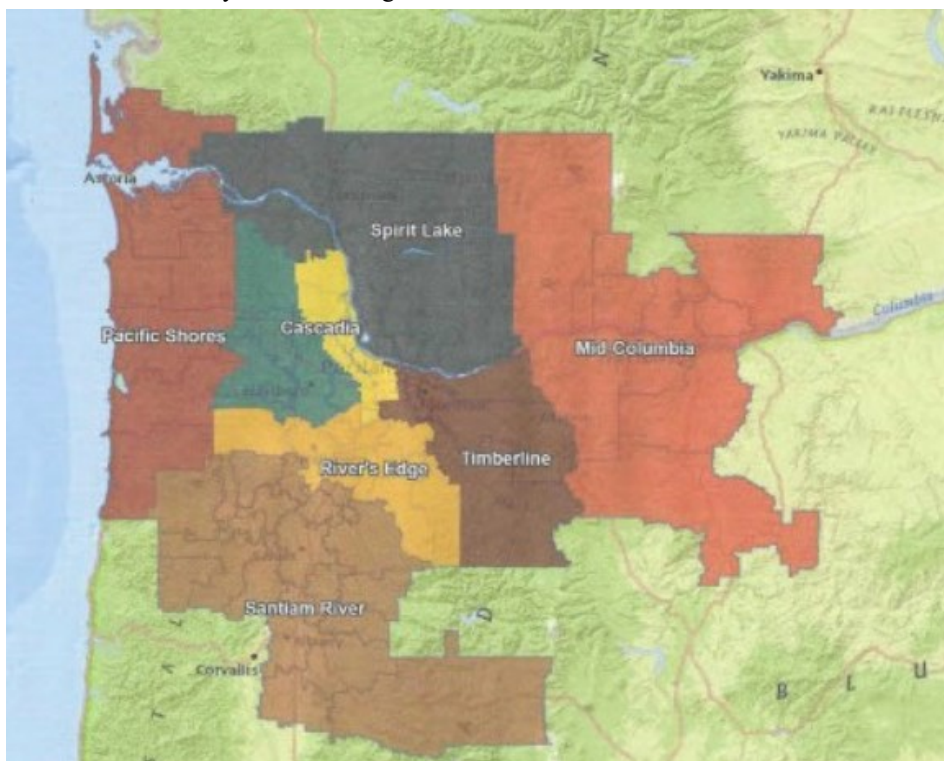




SCOUTING



This month we will talk about the Cascade Pacific Council. It's broken up into 8 districts. The original Portland Council was organized in 1916. Since then, it has merged with 3 other councils (Mid-Columbia, Mt St. Helens and Cascade Area) to become the Cascade Pacific Council. CPC is a very camp rich council with 5 major camps, Camp Meriwether (1926), Camp Baldwin (1947), Camp Cooper (1954), Former Camp Spirit Lake (1955, destroyed in 1980 during the Mt St Helen eruption), Camp Lewis (1956) and Camp Pioneer (obtained during the merge with Cascade Area Council in 1993). There are also several Cub and Webelos camps and day camps. Over 30 of the Scout units in CPC are chartered by American Legion Posts.



Hello All,

Lot's of progress since The American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford's visit. Everything is looking good and we are planning to hand over keys to 7 more cabins to COVO o/a Veterans Day. Son Erick is Bend Heroes Foundation Project Manager.

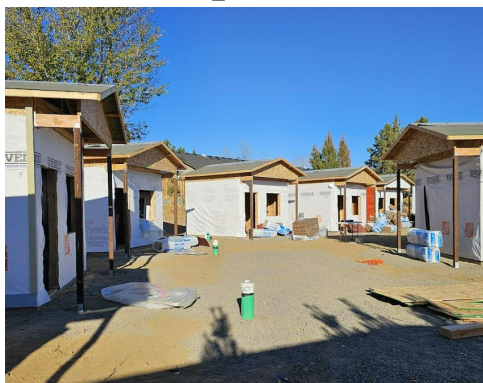
All is great and thanks for all the help we have received.

Dick Tobiason

Chairman,

Bend Heroes Foundation

Central Oregon Veterans Village nearing completion.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Be a reflection
Of what you'd like to receive.
If you want truth, be truthful.
If you want respect,
Give respect.
What you give out will
Always return to you.

MILITARY HUMOR

NATO Commander in the desert. asked a group of troops. "If you found a scorpion in your tent. What would you do?" ARMY said "I would throw a boot at it." Marine said" I would pick it up by the tail/stinger & eat it. Air Force said "I would call Room service & ask why is there a tent in my Room?"



Veterans' desire to serve doesn't end with military service, advocates contend.

By **LINDA F. HERSEY** , November 6, 2023

WASHINGTON — A shortage of 120,000 poll workers to staff voting places in 2022 prompted a national outreach to veterans groups asking members whether they might help.

More than 36,000 veterans in 12 hours signed up. After 24 hours, the number topped 63,500 veterans offering to work at polling places in their communities on Election Day. Assistance offered by veterans cut the need by more than half — and in many cases ensured polling stations opened and operated.

Ellen Gustafson, who leads We the Veterans and Military Families, a nonpartisan organization, offered that anecdote at a Brookings Institution event Monday focusing on veterans and civic engagement. The discussion at the Washington think tank looked at the continuing interest by many former service members to keep serving their country after their time in the military ends.

“We saw that when veterans are called to serve again, they do so and in large numbers. That showed us the incredible opportunity for engaging our veteran community in all the different realms of civic service,” Gustafson said.

The two-hour Brookings event looked at the benefits and opportunities for military veterans to have a greater role in civic engagement and bridging political divides.

The discussion underscored how the background and experience veterans bring in “safeguarding American democracy” might point to a greater desire for supporting democratic activities at home.

Moderator Michael O’Hanlon, son of an Army doctor, said veterans and their families “bear the brunt” of decisions by national leaders for the U.S. to engage in conflicts.

“They are the most invested and informed about those decisions. We should want their voices heard,” he said.

But William Galston, a Marine Corps veteran and senior Brookings fellow, said veteran interest in civic service is no longer reflected by a higher proportion of former service members in Congress.

“Veterans have a unique contribution to offer to American society and to politics. But their contribution has diminished sharply in our lifetimes,” he said. As example, he noted 80% of the Senate was represented by veterans 50 years ago. It is now 17%.

Jeremy Butler, a Navy reservist and chief growth officer at We the Veterans and Military Families, was on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan before transitioning to the Reserve.

A focus of his work at the nonpartisan organization is showing veterans and their family members how they can continue to contribute as civilians “to get things done.”

He said many Americans are not grounded in civics and his organization strives to raise awareness with veterans about “how much we need to do in educating people” about civic participation in U.S. democracy and how to get involved.

Jennifer Morrell, an Air Force veteran, talked about her motivation launching The Elections Group, a nonpartisan organization that works with cities and states to assure best practices in election administration.

“I had a desire to give back to my community and continue to serve,” said Morrell, who in 2020 started The Elections Group.

The nonprofit now has 20 employees who train and support election administrators at the local and state level on the mechanics of running polling places. The organization also does outreach to improve voter education.

Morrell sees a greater role for veterans to bring their specialized background in security and skills as leaders and decision-makers.

“For those leaving the military and looking for a next step, there is a nice fit between military work and work in local and state election offices,” she said.

Gustafson said her organization is encouraging veterans groups to see how voting and polling stations work.

We the Veterans and Military Families recently hosted an educational event at a polling place in New Hampshire.

“We simply invited military veterans to be poll workers,” Gustafson said. “It is a paid position, but it is voluntary. You are doing a service to your country.”

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



In Remembrance of Robert 'Ed' Culbertson

Robert 'Ed' Culbertson, a veteran of the Battle of Okinawa and several other island campaigns, just passed away this month. He was 99 and just a few months shy of his 100 th birthday. He is pictured here with Lou Neubecker, former Commander of the Legion Post in Seaside OR.

Ed was born and raised in Vernonia Oregon not too far from the Clatsop/Columbia County line. He was playing football for the University of Oregon Ducks at Eugene when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He and several others on the team dropped out of the University to enlist in the Marine Corps. He served with a Radio Intelligence Platoon throughout the Pacific. Those platoons were one of the forerunners of the National Security Agency (NSA) of today.

He and his platoon buddies had to backpack radio direction finders (the DAG-1 model they carried weighed 100 pounds with batteries) in the jungles of the South Pacific. Primary job was to locate Japanese radios and therefore possible unit headquarters. They also carried receivers to intercept the communications and they had Nisei Japanese Americans with them to translate those radio calls. There were no jeep mounts back then so everything had to be carried on their backs. He said the Niseis with them of course wore USMC uniforms, but there was always the danger that they would be mistaken as the enemy by other US units, so they had to be escorted everywhere to prevent blue on



Blue casualties.

Prior to deployment Ed did his training at Camp Elliot near San Diego and at Wahiawa in Oahu. Wahiawa was the main stationary direction-finding center in the Pacific during the war and was still there in 97 the last time I visited Hawaii and may still be there. Ed was a China Marine also, as after

VJ Day he was sent to Tsingtao China to help disarm Japanese troops there. After the war he settled down in Rainier, Oregon. But retired from there 34 years ago and moved to the Long Beach Peninsula near a golf course. No golf carts for him though, he walked the course every day, which is probably why he made it



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

COMING IN
DECEMBER/JANUARY

WHAT IS IT, GO TO:

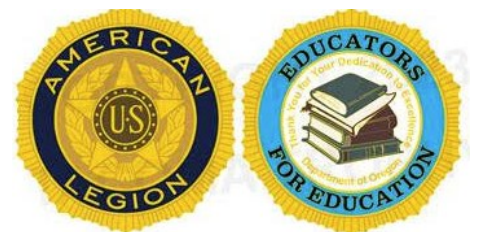
<https://www.publishingconcepts.com/fag-new>

There is no cost to Department and no purchase is required,

Check it out!!!!



EDUCATORS FOR EDUCATION COINS AVAILABLE



TO PURCHASE THE EDUCATORS/TEACHERS COIN, CONTACT RENE OHLER, DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE FOR PRICING.



Join Us in Our Mission
Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 16, 2023** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Champoeg Chapter NSDAR honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Willamette National Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/OR0074P



#ServeAndSucceed

LEGION FAMILY
Christmas
Party & Potluck
12pm Lunch
Saturday, December 2nd
Chehalem Sr. Center
101 W Foothills Dr
Newberg OR
Bring a side dish or dessert.
The Legion will provide the meat.
★ white elephant gift exchange (\$20 limit)
★ 50/50 raffle

COME AND JOIN US AT
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL
CEMETERY ON
DECEMBER 16, 2023
FOR WREATHS ACROSS
AMERICA....
AND HELP PUT WREATHS
ON OUR HERO'S
MARKERS.
TIME 9:00 AM



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





Selective Service System

Open with ▼

November 18, 2023

Mr. Cory Brockmann, Commander
American Legion, Department of Oregon
PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070

Dear Mr. Brockmann,

I am the State Director of the Selective Service for Oregon. As Director, I am responsible for maintaining the draft board infrastructure for the State of Oregon, which includes the staffing and training of 17 local draft boards distributed across our great state. Each local board is comprised of five members, appointed by the governor. Following the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the retirement and health issues of current board members, several boards will be below minimum staffing requirements, leaving those boards unable to discharge statutory obligations in the event the president authorizes a draft call-up.

I am asking for your assistance to connect with American Legion and Legion Auxiliary members from across Oregon who might be willing to serve in this important volunteer role. With a membership of over 8,700 Oregonians, alongside the Auxiliary, Riders, and SAL, the American Legion offers a variety of services and support to veterans, military families, and those in need. The Selective Service requires that same type of selfless service to sustain our program and be ready for the challenges we may face in the future. I also know, based on my personal interactions with the Legion and its members over the years, that respect, integrity, volunteerism, and stewardship are cornerstone values for your organization, and these are values we look for in Selective Service volunteers.

Eligibility for local draft board service is straightforward. An applicant must:

- be at least 18 years of age and be registered with the Selective Service, if required;
- reside in the county where the draft board has jurisdiction;
- be willing to devote sufficient time to board duties and to apply selective service laws and regulations fairly and uniformly.

An applicant may not:

- be an active or retired (receiving a pension) member of the armed services or the reserve components;
- work in a law enforcement occupation (police/judiciary).

Service on a local draft involves a very modest time commitment. There are no required meetings and not more than eight hours each year to complete on-line training requirements.

To be clear, there is no current plan to implement a draft. But just as Federal law requires men to register with the Selective Service at age 18, the law also requires that the core components of the Selective Service system, particularly local boards, stand trained and ready to answer the Nation's call. Local boards are responsible for making initial service / classification determinations, and by recommending local citizens who people know and trust to perform this important service you can be confident that the draft process, if ever instituted, will be reliably fair and impartial. I am confident that members of the American Legion and its partner groups fit that bill, and I'm sure anyone you might recommend to us would be excellent prospects for board service.

Please have your Department Adjutant or other representative forward this request for support to every American Legion unit and member in your rolls. If you or any Legion/Auxiliary staff are interested in serving on a local draft board or know someone who may, please contact me by return email to mkalberg@sss.gov or call 503-490-8636. You may also contact my Reserve Service Member, LTC Robert Earhart, at rearhart@sss.gov. Thank you for taking time to consider my request.

MICHAEL R. KALBERG
Command Sergeant Major, USA (Ret.)
State Selective Service Director



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

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

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

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

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

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

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

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

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

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

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

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

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

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

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

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

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

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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

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 #