



January 2024 Issue

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans, since 1919

Happy
NEW YEAR

2024



 AMERICAN
LEGION
BE **THE** ONE



National Commander's Message

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

Let me say this in the clearest terms possible: Veterans should feel safe and confident when filing for claims, knowing that no matter who they choose for representation, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reviewed, approved and accredited that party.

That is why The American Legion opposes the PLUS (Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans) Act. If enacted, the PLUS Act would transition our system of securing benefits for disabled veterans to an unregulated profit-driven industry.

Currently, there are unaccredited third parties that present themselves to veterans as legitimate claims service companies to assist veterans in obtaining their earned benefits. The PLUS Act aims to legalize these companies by allowing automatic accreditation after 90 days regardless of whether VA has completed its verification process. The VA-accreditation program exists to ensure that veterans and their family members receive appropriate representation on their VA benefits claims. The American Legion wants to hold bad actors accountable, not give them a free pass to prey on veterans.

Our team is working hard to protect all veterans from the PLUS Act. In September 2023, The American Legion sent a letter of opposition to the congressional representatives sponsoring the Plus Act and I personally voiced our opposition during my congressional visits just last month.

However, there is legislation that would help veterans elude the clutches of bad actors. In an effort to protect our nation's veterans, The American Legion supports the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act. The legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for VA disability compensation benefits.

The American Legion continues to muster support to protect all veterans and their families from claims sharks. [Join us in telling Congress to support the GUARD Act.](#)

For God and Country,

Daniel J. Seehafer
American Legion National Commander

BE THE ONE

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BUDDY
CHECKS
"TODAY"**

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Each new chapter of our lives requests an old part of us to fall and a new part of us to rise.

TRIVIA

1. In what year was the Battle of Little Big Horn?
2. What code name was given to The Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943?
3. In which conflict was the US Passenger liner the Lusitania sunk?
4. In which war were submarines first used?

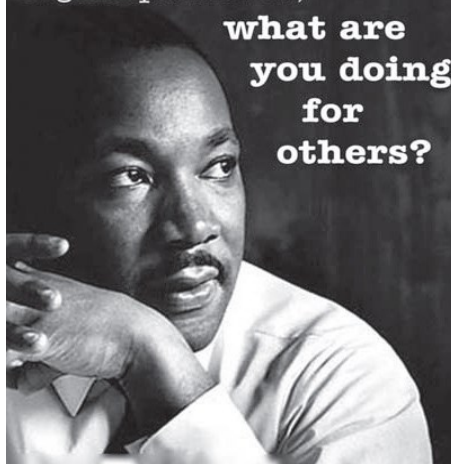
ANSWERS PAGE 27

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

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



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THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

AMERICAN LEGION BE THE ONE

Freedom has a voice

One of the founding principles of the United States that Americans cherish is the right to freedom of speech. Enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution, freedom of speech grants all Americans the liberty to criticize the government and speak their minds without fear of being censored or persecuted.

Right?

Even though the concept of freedom of speech on its face seems quite simple, in reality there are complex lines that can be drawn around what kinds of speech are protected and in what setting.

The Supreme Court declared in the case Schenck v. United States in 1919 that individuals are not entitled to speech that presents a “clear and present danger” to society. For example, a person cannot falsely yell “fire” in a crowded theater because that speech doesn’t contribute to the range of ideas being discussed in society, yet the risk of someone getting injured is high. On the other hand, in Brandenburg v. Ohio in 1969, the court declared that even inflammatory speech, such as racist language by a leader of the Ku Klux Klan, should generally be protected unless it is likely to cause imminent violence.

While the text and principle of the First Amendment have stayed the same, the court’s interpretation has indeed changed over time. Judges, lawmakers and scholars continue to struggle with balancing strong speech protections with the necessity of maintaining a peaceful society. What do you think? Why is the freedom of speech an important right? Why might it be important to protect even unpopular or hurtful speech? And yet, when might the government draw reasonable limits on speech, and why?

Just something to think about!



Commanders Corner

Happy New Year!

Are you welcoming in 2024 with any resolutions, new or old, for changes or improvements in your life? Perhaps a recommitment to more exercise or to lose a few pounds? Or, to make time for a new hobby that you’ve held interest in but never made the time? Maybe it includes doing a few buddy checks each week?

New endeavors – change – often can create and grow even more opportunities. As the new year is ushered in, we are at that juncture within our department, as we look to fill the critical position of department adjutant. In my 11 years as a legionnaire, we have had five individuals hold the position. Each one, obviously, a veteran, committed to strengthening and elevating our department and programs. What that turnover suggests to me is that the position can be an extremely challenging one. Rewarding? Absolutely. But also, a position which requires a strong Legion-business acumen. Not just experience being a legionnaire, but in managing the business before us. And, take note that I didn’t state doing all of the business.

It is also important to recognize the challenges presented by the landscape of our department’s membership. Our membership numbers help fuel – fund – much of what we are able to conduct in the way of program delivery, but also in what we can afford in salary, work-hours to a limited staff, and other expenses in conducting department business. That’s where the leadership of each of our officers, commissions and committees become so very important. And valuable. Accepting the challenge in leading programs as well as the targeted-areas that a commission or committee exists to support takes commitment. To each one of you, thank you for your commitment and dedication. Whether you are an officer, chairman, committee member, or dedicated volunteer and supporter, it takes each of us to be successful. Yes, we have a tremendous opportunity before us in seeking to find a department adjutant. We also have a tremendous opportunity to re-engineer our department headquarters’ business acumen. And, in doing so, to also strengthen leadership within the department in conducting the business and program delivery of the Department of Oregon. Just changing to another adjutant isn’t enough, we’ve experienced that already. We also need a recommitment by each of us in leading and supporting our commissions and committees. Helping and volunteering where it is needed, the right way. The Legion way.

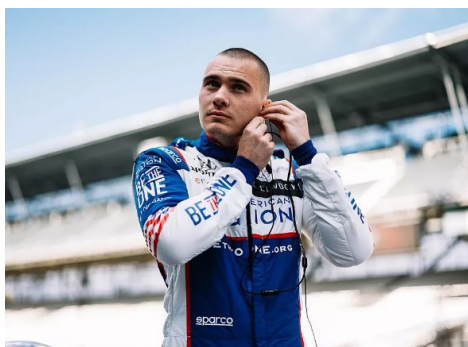
I look forward to the future and in continuing our service to our members and to Oregon’s veterans!

Thank you for all that you do in support of our American Legion. With your help we will continue changing lives and saving lives. For God and country...continue to Be The One with me, when needed, to save a veteran.

Corey Brokmann
Department Commander

Buddy Checks

BE THE ONE



The American Legion moves to Linus Lundqvist's CGR ride for 2024

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) announced Linus Lundqvist will have The American Legion on its #8 Honda-powered entry for the 2024 IndyCar Series season.

The 24-year-old Swede signed a multi-year deal with CGR on Aug. 31 following an impressive showing in just three starts of 2023. He will be set with The American Legion's red, white and blue "Be The One" livery for his rookie campaign in 2024.

"I'm incredibly excited to be partnering with The American Legion for the 2024 IndyCar season," said Lundqvist, the 2022 Indy NXT champion.

"To move on to the next chapter and to be connected to the veteran community makes it even more special. A major thank you to Dean (Kessel) and The American Legion for this opportunity. I am privileged to be able to represent such an impactful organization and I am looking forward to our work together with 'Be The One.'"

The partnership between CGR and The American Legion dates back to 2021. The team has scored four wins and 12 podiums in the 28

races that The American Legion has served as a primary sponsor.

Lundqvist will share his name alongside a roster of top class drivers to have represented The American Legion with CGR, including defending Rookie of the Year Marcus Armstrong, seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson, 2013 Indianapolis 500 winner and 2004 IndyCar champion Tony Kanaan and two-time IndyCar champion Alex Palou.

"I am very much looking forward to Linus getting on the track to show the kind of driver that we all believe he will be," said team owner Chip Ganassi. "In addition, I believe Linus' off-track presence will match well with the strong partnership we have with The American Legion.

"Over the last three seasons it has been a tremendous honor to work alongside The American Legion in our shared mission to save veteran lives. So, stepping into 2024 with Linus piloting the 8 car our expectations are rather high, and I am very much looking forward to our first official race together in March."

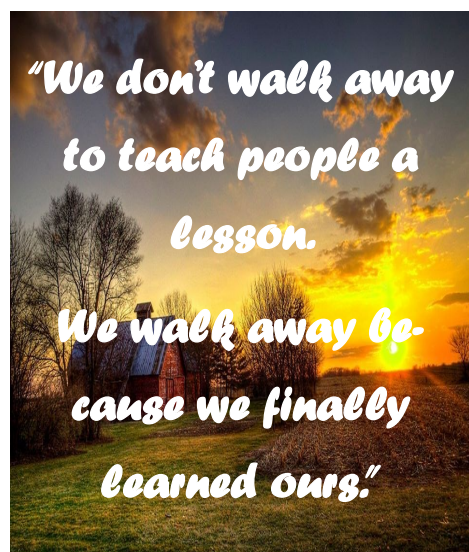
CGR and The American Legion work together on a variety of initiatives, including Giving Tuesday and "Be The One." Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement to help transform communities across the world, is Nov. 28. The team encourages fans to think about The American Legion as a preferred charity during this season of generosity.

CGR and The American Legion will launch their "12 Days of #VetsGiving" on Giving Tuesday, when 12 unique prize packages

**TRUST
LOYALTY
&
RESPECT.
IF YOU
LOSE ONE,
YOU LOSE
ALL THREE.**

will be listed for auction with a buy-it-now option, too. The initiative was first launched by the team in 2022, and nearly \$40,000 was raised. All proceeds will go directly to The American Legion.

"We are thrilled to build off the championship season with Chip Ganassi Racing and form this new relationship with a talented young driver in Linus Lundqvist," said Dean Kessel, The American Legion chief marketing officer.



"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

People used to wait in line at the checkout and daydream. Now they pull out their phones and go right back into the digital world.

This is a missed opportunity to reflect, to relax, to be mindful of the moment.

Creativity really lives in those quiet, silent spaces.



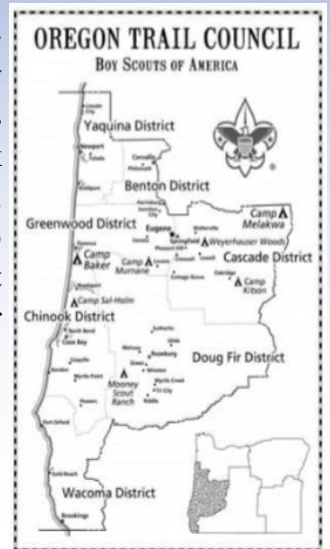
SCOUTING

This month, we'll look at the Oregon Trail Council. With its main office in Eugene, the council serves more than 1200 youth supported by over 700 adults in 83 units.

They're made up of 6 counties in Western Oregon from the Cascades to the Coast including Eugene, Springfield, Corvallis, Roseburg, and Coos Bay. Scouts are served along the famous Oregon Coast from Lincoln City to Brookings.

Oregon Trail Council is divided into 7 Districts, Yaquina, Benton, Greenwood, Cascade, Chinook, Wacoma and Doug Fir Districts. They have 6 major camps; Camp Baker on Siltcoos Lake (just outside of Florence). Camp Chinook (near Coos Bay), Camp Kitson (near Oakridge), Camp Melakwa (near McKenzie Bridge), Camp Murnane (west of Eugene), and Mooney Scout Ranch (near Winston), along with other smaller camps.

Mike Speer
Scouting Chair
Department of Oregon



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

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



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 updated on what is happening in their Legion.



Department Auxiliary President

As we move into 2024, take one last look back at 2023 and say a prayer of thanksgiving that we made it! The Christmas Gift Shops were a success, and it was great to be back in the facilities.

Thank you to all who helped!

With the update of the alaoregon.org website, information is now at your fingertips! Take a look to find bulletins, newsletters, and any form you might need throughout the year. Information is updated frequently, including membership numbers, so bookmark the site!

We are planning for the Mid-Winter DEC virtual meeting. This will be an opportunity for everyone to listen in to hear what is happening, and it won't cost anything, except maybe an hour of time. Check the online calendar for the date and time, with call-in specifics coming out closer to the actual date.

National President, Lisa Williamson, is scheduled to visit our state April 8-11. We are making plans and working on things for Lisa to see. The tentative locations are Eugene, Florence, Coos Bay, and Roseburg. If you'd like to meet the National President, try and find time to come to the events that will be planned in these locations. More information will be coming out the closer we get to April!

Lastly, thank you to all who attended the Department Christmas Party. And to all who have donated toward our Commander and President's Project, we truly appreciate your generosity. We look forward to seeing how many tow-and-go trailers we'll be able to fund!

Catherine Brockmann
Department President



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:

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

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ABOVE
E-MAILS

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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



2024 is here and we are halfway through the Legion Year. I hope everyone is off to a great start.

As I sit down to write this article, it is still December of 2023, and we still have 2 squadrons that have a 0 in their renewed column. Several of you have not transmitted dues in several months. What seems to be the problem? We are doing great in membership, but with everyone's help we could do a lot better.

Currently we are number 18 in the nation and number 4 in the West. As we start to wind down the 2023-2024 year, it is not too early to start working on our consolidated squadron reports. There is NO reason for any squadron not to complete this report. It captures your entire year and shows the purpose of our being.

National Commander J. R. Hall has asked all of us to work the 4 pillars on which the American Legion was founded. I sent out a form earlier and I hope every squadron fills it out and gets it sent to national. Working with our posts, we can accomplish our goals. Commander Hall will be in Oregon March 7 through the 10th. Due to the time of year, we will probably stay around the I-5 corridor. We will send out an agenda when it is complete. I am asking every squadron to support the Willie Williams SAL Scholarship with a donation of at least \$100. Any SAL member in good standing can apply for the scholarship.

Our next DEC will be at Tigard Post 158, Jan. 20th at 1PM. Look forward to seeing you there. Plan to stay for dinner.

Detachment Commander
Robert D. Liebenow
The Sons of The American Legion



**"THE BAD NEWS IS TIME FLIES.
THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'RE
THE PILOT."**

Just something to think about

**Military help line
for Legionnaires**

<http://militaryhelpline.org>

[/about-us/](#)

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

**EDITORS
NOTES**



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



CHAPLAINS PULPIT

Hello Legionnaires,

Merry belated Christmas and a very Happy New Years to us all!

In case you have not heard, I am the new interim Department Chaplain after Steve Shollenburg, stepped down due to health reasons. I will be finishing out his term till Convention.

If there is anything that I can do for you or if you have questions I can answer please let me know. My number can be found in the confidential roster in a few locations or here it is.

503-781-3215

I hope the New Year brings us new energy, new ideas, and renewed commitment to the pillars of the American Legion.

Chaplain
Betty Fish-Ferguson
Department of Oregon



PAST DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

As for my parting words, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. We just finished with Christmas and I hope and pray everyone had a wonderful time with family, friends and never forgetting what the Reason for the Season is all about, and that being the magical Birth in the little town of Bethlehem so many years ago.

For this new year take some time to reflect on last year, and what you would of done different if you could. Make new plans, wonderful plans with your family & friends, another words take some time for you. We are in such a fast paced life, trying to get by, make ends meet, and we sometimes forget the one place we should be turning, and that is God's word.

So, relax, enjoy life, you never know what might be around the corner.

Steven D. Shollenburg
Past Dept. Chaplain

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL

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

Why a Constitution?

The need for the Constitution grew out of problems with the Articles of Confederation, which established a “firm league of friendship” between the States, and vested most power in a Congress of the Confederation. This power was, however, extremely limited—the central government conducted diplomacy and made war, set weights and measures, and was the final arbiter of disputes between the States. Crucially, it could not raise any funds itself, and was entirely dependent on the States themselves for the money necessary to operate. Each State sent a delegation of between two and seven members to the Congress, and they voted as a bloc with each State getting one vote. But any decision of consequence required a unanimous vote, which led to a government that was paralyzed and ineffectual.

A movement to reform the Articles began, and invitations to attend a convention in Philadelphia to discuss changes to the Articles were sent to the State legislatures in 1787. In May of that year, delegates from 12 of the 13 States (Rhode Island sent no representatives) convened in Philadelphia to begin the work of redesigning government. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention quickly began work on drafting a new Constitution for the United States.

The Constitutional Convention

A chief aim of the Constitution as drafted by the Convention was to create a government with enough power to act on a national level, but without so much power that fundamental rights would be at risk. One way that this was accomplished was to separate the power of government into three branches, and then to include checks and balances on those powers

to assure that no one branch of government gained supremacy. This concern arose largely out of the experience that the delegates had with the King of England and his powerful Parliament. The powers of each branch are enumerated in the Constitution, with powers not assigned to them reserved to the States.

Much of the debate, which was conducted in secret to ensure that delegates spoke their minds, focused on the form that the new legislature would take. Two plans competed to become the new government: the Virginia Plan, which apportioned representation based on the population of each State, and the New Jersey plan, which gave each State an equal vote in Congress. The Virginia Plan was supported by the larger States, and the New Jersey plan preferred by the smaller. In the end, they settled on the Great Compromise (sometimes called the Connecticut Compromise), in which the House of Representatives would represent the people as apportioned by population; the Senate would represent the States apportioned equally; and the President would be elected by the Electoral College. The plan also called for an independent judiciary.

The founders also took pains to establish the relationship between the States. States are required to give “full faith and credit” to the laws, records, contracts, and judicial proceedings of the other States, although Congress may regulate the manner in which the States share records, and define the scope of this clause. States are barred from discriminating against citizens of other States in any way, and cannot enact tariffs against one another. States

must also extradite those accused of crimes to other States for trial.

The founders also specified a process by which the Constitution may be amended, and since its ratification, the Constitution has been amended 27 times. In order to prevent arbitrary changes, the process for making amendments is quite onerous. An amendment may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress, or, if two-thirds of the States request one, by a convention called for that purpose. The amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the State legislatures, or three-fourths of conventions called in each State for ratification. In modern times, amendments have traditionally specified a time frame in which this must be accomplished, usually a period of several years. Additionally, the Constitution specifies that no amendment can deny a State equal representation in the Senate without that State’s consent.

With the details and language of the Constitution decided, the Convention got down to the work of actually setting the Constitution to paper. It is written in the hand of a delegate from Pennsylvania, Gouverneur Morris, whose job allowed him some reign over the actual punctuation of a few clauses in the Constitution. He is also credited with the famous preamble, quoted at the top of this page. On September 17, 1787, 39 of the 55 delegates signed the new document, with many of those who refused to sign.





Department Finance Officer

All Posts, and District Commanders, welcome to 2024, this is the start of a new year and time to start putting together your financials for tax reporting for the year 2023 if your Post is in a reporting year from January 1 through December 31, 2023. Officers, District Commanders, and Commission/Committee Chairs, I have emailed our end-of-the-month actuals for the month of October 2023 for our approved 2023-2024 Department Budget. I am continuing our audit of all our accounts with everything else on my plate and have already 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 ten days before being submitted to the IRS.

A favorite subject let's talk about our budget requests, specifically income versus expense, and discuss budgets in general. 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, and understanding income that will be available to support the new budget which includes membership, which is our market, like any other business. The "market does dictate in any business". Unique, in our business, we do have pass-throughs, and self-supporting programs, and some of those programs also have grants and other revenue streams. Those programs are co-mingled in our Department Budget as they are programs/parts of our Department. Income versus expense; our expenses cannot exceed our income. As we do each year the Finance Commission will be asking all officers, chairs of commissions and committees, and administration to submit their budget requirements which will occur in the next couple of months. Keep in mind as you meet with your team, plan your activity for our next membership year, and complete your budget request that if you have income, your expenses do not exceed your income. Looking at other areas for income, there are a lot of grants available in our Department. We are also working on legislation for income for one of our programs; and possibly more. 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, and committee members to attend district and post meetings throughout our Department 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. Remember 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.

PDC Bob Huff,
Department Finance Officer



DEADLINE

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

NATIONAL VA NEWS

The PACT Act is a historic new law that will help VA provide health care and benefits to millions of toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, VA has been hard at work implementing this landmark bipartisan legislation—and Veterans have already begun to apply for the benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

Veterans are applying for the PACT Act benefits they deserve The day after the PACT Act was signed into law (August 11), Veterans set an all-time record for filing online disability compensation claims. Since the PACT Act was signed, Veterans have filed more than 200,000 total claims—an increase of more than 21% over the same period last year. And to date, VA has already received more than 70,000 PACT Act-related claims from Veterans since August 10.

Thousands of Veterans participated in toxic exposure screening pilot As a part of the PACT Act, VA will begin providing 5-minute toxic exposure screenings to all Veterans enrolled in VA health care. On September 6, VA began a pilot of this program—screening 13,380 Veterans across 12 medical centers over a 2-week period, and finding a 37.4% concern of exposure among those Veterans. These results will help VA make toxic exposure screenings available to all Veterans in early November, and more importantly, make sure that VA provides all toxic-exposed Veterans with the care they need and the benefits they deserve.



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,
Happy New Year to all!

I hope everyone survived the Christmas season and that they are planning a fresh start to the new year.

I would like to continue explaining more about the history and the opportunities involved in promoting the 4th Pillar of the American Legion: Children and Youth.

Since the beginning of the American Legion in 1919, the National Commission on Children and Youth has been guided by three main objectives:

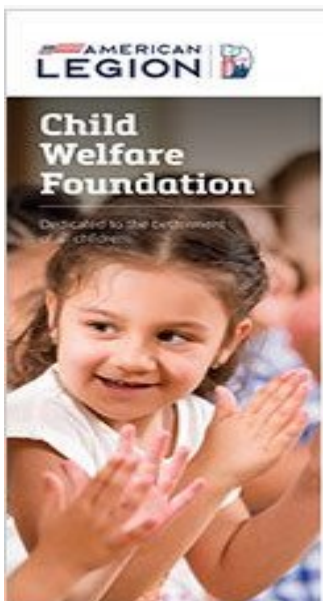
1. To strengthen the family unit,
2. To work with quality organizations that provide services for Children, and
3. To provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people.

In addition to the Temporary Financial Assistance that I have addressed before, this Commission is also responsible for the American Legion Child Welfare Fund that provides more than \$500,000 each year to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people. This has brought awareness to Huntington's disease, autism, Reyes syndrome, meningitis, spina bifida, juvenile diabetes, childhood cancers and other debilitating conditions.

More information can be found on the National website.

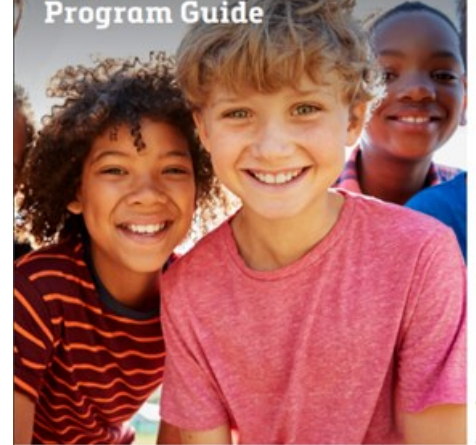
I will stop here for this month and continue with more information in the next edition of the Legionnaire.

Betty Fish-Ferguson
Children & Youth Chair
Department of Oregon



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

**For Military & Veterans
Families in urgent need.
For Disabled Veterans
and
Their loved ones.**

**The American Legion
Veterans & Children
Foundation is
A
FOUNDATION
OF
HOPE**

U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government. Established in 1790, the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until Congress launched the Navy Department eight years later. Since then, the Coast Guard has protected the United States throughout its long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts.

The Coast Guard is both a federal law enforcement agency and a military force, and therefore protector of the United States in peacetime and war. In times of peace, the Coast Guard operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment, guarding the nation's vast coastline and ports, and performing vital lifesaving missions. In times, or at the direction of the President, the Coast

Guard serves under the Department of the Navy, defending the nations against terrorism and foreign threats.

The Coast Guard is the principal Federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in U.S. Ports and waterways. In this capacity, the Coast Guard protects and defends more than 100,000 miles of U.S. coastline and inland waterways, and safeguards and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) encompassing 4.5 million square miles stretching from North of the Arctic Circle to South of the equator, from Puerto Rico to Guam, encompassing nine time zones—the largest EEZ in the world. As one of the six Armed Services of the United States, the Coast Guard is the only military branch within the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to its role as

an Armed Service, the Coast Guard is a first responder and humanitarian service that provides aid to people in distress or impacted by natural and or man-made disasters whether at sea or ashore. The Coast Guard is a member of the Intelligence Community, and is a law enforcement and regulatory agency with broad legal authorities associated with maritime transportation, hazardous materials shipping, bridge administration, oil spill response, pilotage, and vessel construction and operation.

The modern U.S. Coast Guard was formed by a merger of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life-Saving Service on 28 January 1915, under the Department of the Treasury. In 1939, the U.S. Lighthouse Service was also merged into the U.S. Coast Guard. As one of the country's six armed services, the U.S. Coast Guard has deployed to support and fight every major U.S. war since 1790, from the Quasi-War with France to the Global War on Terrorism.

Semper Paratus



UNITED STATES MILITARY

Military Times: Total number of VA claims lost in online system, tops 120,000

By: Leo Shane III

Veterans Affairs leaders on Monday acknowledged that more than 120,000 veterans who attempted to use department online platforms to file for benefits in recent years were stonewalled by technical problems, a total nearly 35% larger than previously reported.

Officials said they are still working to correct those errors and process those claims as quickly as possible. But House lawmakers raised concerns about the scope of the problems, some of which date back more than a decade.

"Mistakes are bound to happen," said Rep. Matt Rosendale, R-Mont., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's panel on technology, during a hearing on the topic on Monday. "But it's unacceptable that some of these errors persisted for years before anyone discovered them."

In late August, VA officials announced that roughly 32,000 disability claims had been lost in the VA.gov computer systems for several months or years. Two weeks later, department leaders found 57,000 more lost cases, most involving veterans who tried to add or remove dependents on existing disability claims.

On Monday, Veterans Affairs Chief Information Officer Kurt DelBene said that further reviews have found about 81,000 dependency claims misdirected within the computer system, as well as several thousand other cases in other categories.

He promised fixes as quickly as possible.

"VA.gov is the digital front door, and veterans need to have confidence and trust that their benefits and services are available, accurate, and secure," he said.

About 26,500 of the outstanding dependency cases have now been

processed and completed, and 22,500 of the outstanding disability claims finished, he said.

The department's VA.gov site fields more than 14 million inquiries each month. VA staffers have blamed the past mistakes on software errors compounded by a lack of regular monitoring for potential problems.

While individuals whose cases were processed late can be eligible for retroactive payouts back to the original date they tried to file, the delay of months or years for those cases to be processed could have caused significant financial hardship for some veterans and their families.

Rosendale said he intends to file new legislation forcing closer oversight of the online benefits systems to avoid similar problems in the future.

"We all need to be confident that errors in VA.gov and other systems will never again be allowed to compound undetected and impact so many people," he said.

Meanwhile, DelBene said he hopes the department will be able to process most of the remaining unaddressed cases before the end of the month.

BE THE ONE

Permanent Finance Commission

Each year it seems we wrangle over the budget for our Department. The key issue is that we must live within our means. That is when we ensure we are revenue neutral and maintain a balanced

budget. In other words, we must make sure we don't pay out more than we take in. One of our principal revenue producing elements is the portion of the membership dues that the Department receives. Other sources of income include donations, grants, advertising, etc..

In February, the Permanent Finance Commission will again meet to determine the budget that will be presented to the delegates of the Department Convention. And, of course, a major revenue resource will be how much we think our Department will get from membership dues.


Each District, Commission, and Committee will submit a budget to fund the activities and programs for which they are administering. And some of those Committees will have additional revenue from grants and donations to help them meet the financial requirements. SO, when the District, Commission, or Committee meet, they need to discuss all of the revenue they will take in, and explain in detail what they administration of the program will cost.

Then, the Permanent Finance Commission will weigh all these inputs and recommend a budget that will achieve as much as possible the administrative and program accomplishments the Department would like to make possible in the coming year.

Think hard about what you would like to accomplish, what it will cost, and act to secure any additional funding you might get through donations. Enter all that on the budget request and send it to the Permanent Finance Commission.

Richard Ramey

Permanent Finance Member



You have to, in some ways, trust in the human spirit and in human ingenuity.

Ariel Garten

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAYS TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Central Linn Elementary School (CLES) in Halsey, Oregon paid a special tribute to veterans on the morning of Thursday, November 9, 2023. This second annual U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Appreciation Assembly was again coordinated and M/C'd by Central Linn School District employee Mrs. Sandra Brown. A United States Army veteran, Sandy previously served as an army medic.

Mrs. Sandra Brown spent not less than a few weeks volunteering her time, beyond serving her normal caseload of students with behavioral needs, inviting teacher participation; including new Central Linn Jr/Sr High School choir and drama director Mr. Joe Demianew, locating an active duty service member to be keynote speaker, plus sending out invitations, via students and their families, respectfully requesting the attendance of veterans—that they might be fittingly honored. Brownsville, Oregon's The American Legion Travis A Moothart Post 184 furnished a Color Guard to properly commence the veterans recognition assembly. Mr.

Demianew lead the celebrated CLHS "Blue Notes" choir in a rousing and patriotic rendition of "God Bless America" to a packed standing-room-only gymnasium full of students, staff, parents, grandparents, guests, school board members and veterans. One of many special highlights of the assembly involved Mrs. Baney's and Mr. Koehnen's kindergarten classes who filed down to the gym floor from the bleachers to sing "American Soldier," a patriotic ditty that moved not a few among the approximately two dozen seated veterans in attendance to tears.

Two keynote speakers delivered moving and much-applauded speeches while also giving thanks to the men and women who've spent a portion of their lives defending the United States Constitution and American way of life. First, Lieutenant Hite of the United States Naval Reserve delivered remarks. He drew special attention to the many veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the many wars and conflicts throughout United States history. LT HITE, USNR also gave a brief bio of his qualifications and training, including having earned the coveted submarine "Dolphin" and aviation warfare pins. When not drilling with the Naval Reserve, LT HITE practices full-time as an RN at McKenzie Willamette Hospital in Springfield, Oregon. Drawing equal applause after delivery of her speech, was Amelia, a fourth grader at Central Linn Elementary School who offered praise and thanks to both living and departed veterans in honor of their selfless service to country. Deceased veterans were further dignified by a long black backdrop artfully accented by student-painted white tombstones as a reminder of those citizens and residents who've helped maintain freedoms that all Americans enjoy.

The CLES Veterans Appreciation Assembly fittingly concluded with an "unknown bugler"—positioned behind the tombstone banner—who solemnly played "Taps" for all veterans who've passed.



"We Remember" Poppies held in hands of Central Linn Elementary School students adorn the lobby entrance during Veterans Week 2023 appreciation events. Poppies are forever associated with the flowers which bloomed atop veterans graves in the fields of France after World War I.



Seven Oak Middle School Presents Thank You For Your Service cards.



Seven Oak Middle School Leadership Class students present personalized "Thank You for Your Service" cards to local veterans following festivities and refreshments. Mr. Chad Moore—grades 7 & 8 leadership teacher—delivered the patriotic keynote speech. The Thursday 09 NOV 2023 Veterans Social, hosted at Lebanon Senior Center, was organized by Activities Coordinator Michelle Schaefer. Representatives from Linn County Veterans Services Office, The American Legion Santiam Post 51 (Lebanon), The American Legion Travis A Moothart Post 184 (Brownsville), and Lebanon High School JROTC Color Guard participated.

Don't forget !!!!!

You have a special function at your Post or District, send in pictures and an article, let's let everyone see what's going on Department wide.

Oregon American Legion Foundation



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

Post 184 officers Pose for Photos at Veterans Day Breakfast



The American Legion Travis A Moothart Post 184 e-board officers pose for a photo prior to opening their doors to the public 0700-1000 for Veterans Day Breakfast on 11 NOV 2023



The Mid-Willamette Valley Quilts of Valor Foundation is led by group leader Judy Clay. They lease space from The American Legion Travis A Moothart Post 184 in Brownsville, Oregon and invite volunteers to join them in sewing QoV for veterans on Thursdays 0900 to Noon.

Lebanon High School Junior ROTC Participates



Lebanon High School Junior ROTC students: (L-R) Miss Scott, Miss Dunn, Miss McKenzie, and Miss Wooden (trained by The American Legion Santiam Post 51) await to retire colors during Veterans Social at Lebanon Senior Center on Thursday 09 NOV 2023.



Brownsville, Oregon's The American Legion | Senior Citizen Center windows reflect a rare crisp clear Thanksgiving 2023 Day.



Internal Affairs Commission

“ATTITUDE”



All those cloudy and cold days giving you're a dreary spirit?
Tired of all the negativism? ...
Well it is high time to accentuate the positive!
Celebrate our successes!
Appreciate and motivate!
Count your blessings!
Brag a little!
Pat each other on the back!

Let's take on an attitude of gratitude!

What have we to be cheery about? Well, for a start, we have already made great accomplishments. Take the Consolidated Post Reports for instance. In the 2021-2022 reporting year, the Department of Oregon documented 37,755 volunteer hours. Get Ready ... drum roll please ... because in the 2022-2023 reporting year we upped our game and documented...76,985 volunteer hours . Yes, we really ... more than doubled the number of volunteer hours documented from the previous year. That means we have spent 76,985 hours working for the betterment of veterans, children and youth, and our communities. THERE is something to celebrate!

What else is there to be cheery about? What about the successes that were accomplished in District 4 the week of the Winter Department Executive Committee meetings. The Western Area National Vice Commander was there to help with recruiting efforts in the Williams and Klamath Falls area, including the re-introduction of The American Legion to the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Base. The Department Commander and leadership were able to have comprehensive talks with the base leadership and start an ongoing dialogue to introduce military members to all that The American Legion does nationally, state-wide, and in the local Klamath Falls community. We're talking about introducing approximately 1000 military members/veterans to our programs.

Likewise, we can celebrate the many articles written in the Oregon Legionnaire that document the great things that fellow Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders are doing to build up our communities, help veterans, and educate children and youth.

We have many posts that are producing informative newsletters to keep our members informed about the programs we are working. We have American Legion members working on getting additional privileges for veterans in our communities. We have our members conducting buddy checks to connect with members. We have lots, and lots of posts working on community awareness to highlight all that we do to help everyone. These are all things we should celebrate! So shake off those blues and celebrate the news!

We have a lot to cheer about, so let's break out the party hats and ring in the New Year with a fresh enthusiasm!



The American Legion Family

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Associated Press:

Centenarian survivors of Pearl Harbor attack are returning to honor those who perished 82 years ago.

BY AUDREY MCAVOY AND CLAIRE RUSH | Updated 12:07 AM EST, December 7, 2023

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Ira “Ike” Schab had just showered, put on a clean sailor’s uniform and closed his locker aboard the USS Dobbin when he heard a call for a fire rescue party.

He went topside to see the USS Utah capsizing and Japanese planes in the air. He scurried back below deck to grab boxes of ammunition and joined a daisy chain of sailors feeding shells to an anti-aircraft gun up above. He remembers being only 140 pounds (63.50 kilograms) as a 21-year-old, but somehow finding the strength to lift boxes weighing almost twice that.

“We were pretty startled. Startled and scared to death,” Schab, now 103, said at his home in Beaverton, Oregon, where he lives with his daughter. “We didn’t know what to expect and we knew that if anything happened to us, that would be it.”

Eighty-two years later, Schab plans to return to Pearl Harbor Thursday on the anniversary of the attack to remember the more than 2,300 servicemen killed. He’s expected to be one of just six survivors at a ceremony commemorating the assault that propelled the United States into World War II. The actual number may fluctuate depending on how many of the increasingly frail men are able to attend.

The aging pool of Pearl Harbor survivors has been rapidly shrinking. There is now just one crew member of the USS Arizona still living, 102-year-old Lou Conter of California. Two years ago, survivors who attended the 80th anniversary remembrance ceremony ranged in age from 97 to 103. They’ll be even older this time.

David Kilton, the National Park Service’s interpretation, education and visitor services lead for Pearl Harbor, noted that for many years survivors frequently volunteered to share their experiences with visitors to the historic site. That’s not possible anymore.

“We could be the best storytellers in the world and we can’t really hold a candle to those that lived it sharing their stories firsthand,” Kilton said. “But now that we are losing that generation and won’t have them very much longer, the opportunity shifts to reflect even more so on the sacrifices that were made, the stories that they did share.”

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs doesn’t keep statistics for how many Pearl Harbor survivors are still living. But department data show that of the 16 million who served in World War II, only about 120,000 were alive as of October and an estimated 131 die each day.

There were about 87,000 military personnel on Oahu at the time of the attack, according to a rough estimate compiled by military historian J. Michael Wenger.

Schab never spoke much about Pearl Harbor until about a decade ago. He’s since been sharing his story with his family, student groups and history buffs. And he’s returned to Pearl Harbor several times since.

The reason? “To pay honor to the guys that didn’t make it,” he said.

Thursday’s ceremony will be held on a field across the harbor from the USS Arizona Memorial, a white structure that sits above the rusting hull of the battleship, which exploded in a fireball and sank shortly after being hit. More than 1,100 sailors and Marines from the Arizona were killed and more than 900 are entombed inside.

A moment of silence will be held at 7:55 a.m., the same time the attack began on Dec. 7, 1941.

The Dobbin lost three sailors, according to Navy records. One was killed in action and two died later of wounds suffered when fragments from a bomb struck the ship’s stern. All had been manning an anti-aircraft gun.

That Sunday morning had started peacefully for Schab. He was expecting a visit from his brother, who was also in the Navy and was assigned to a naval radio station in Wahiawa, north of Pearl Harbor. The two never did get together that day.

Schab spent most of World War II in the Pacific with the Navy, going to the New Hebrides, now known as Vanuatu, and then the Mariana Islands and Okinawa.

He was never wounded. He told the Best Defense Foundation in an online interview three years ago that he must have had a guardian angel.

“You’re scared stiff, but you stagger through the events as they happen and hope everything’s going to turn out all right,” he said.

After the war, he worked on the Apollo program sending astronauts to the moon as an electrical engineer at General Dynamics. In retirement he volunteered as a state park docent in Malibu, California, explaining the migration patterns of monarch butterflies.

A tuba player in the Navy, Schab stayed close with his bandmates long after the war. For decades, they organized annual reunions, said his daughter Kimberlee Heinrichs.

Schab has slowed down in recent years. But he still gets together each week for cocktails over Zoom with younger members of his fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi. He drinks cranberry-raspberry juice.

These days, he’s happiest listening to big band jazz and audiobooks and going out to meet new people, Heinrichs said.

At his age, he’s thankful to still be able to return to Pearl Harbor. Heinrichs is going with him, along with caregivers. The family has a GoFundMe account to help them raise money for the pilgrimage.

“Just grateful that I’m still here,” Schab said. “That’s really how it feels. Grateful.”



District 2 Commander

Well, we're at the halfway mark in the Legion year.

In November, we had our District 2 meeting at Aurora Post 110. The post and unit did a great job hosting. At the meeting, there were some issues. During the opening, we saluted the flag and then I went into Scout Mode and went right into the pledge of Allegiance. Oops! Then the fact that the meeting went almost 3 hours. We agreed that, in the future, we would hold (time) the post reports (potentially 16) to no more than 5 minutes. That should help. We also had a training segment at the end of the meeting about Oratorical. It was longer than I anticipated, but very informative.

Tis the season for Christmas Parties. Many posts, as well as Dept, are having them. Our district decided that too much partying is not healthy (fun, but not healthy) so we opted not to have one. Enjoy the ones you attend.

Oratorical, still waiting to hear which posts have contestants. District competition is February 24th in Newberg. We are raffling a Pendleton blanket from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to raise money for District Oratorical. So far, so good. \$10/ticket, drawing at the District 2 meeting Feb 3rd. I plan on sending out 5 tickets to each post hoping our folks want to get involved. Post Commanders, look for them in the mail soon.

Everyone loves to have a home of their own. In District 2, we have 7 posts that have their own building and 9 that don't. What seems to be important to folks is having a lounge (bar). Of our 7, 4 have a lounge and 3 don't. While bars are money and membership generators, they are not without their issues. For those of you with them, be careful. For the rest of us, enjoy visiting them, but remember, everything is in moderation.

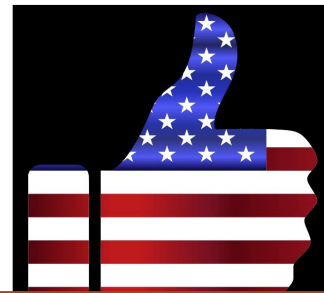
Retirement is a great thing for the retiree, but not so much for the ones left behind. We wish our former Dept Adjutant Flynn Phillips all the best. We will miss having you at Dept. We also want to give Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson all our support and patience while he works at covering the position until a replacement is hired.

Commander
Mike Speer
District 2



BE THE ONE

**What's going
On in
Your District?
Let us know!
Send in an article for
Next edition.....**



AMERICANISM

"THE LOVE OF AMERICA"

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year, This last year was a great year for our programs after the Pandemic, at least we got them started again.

Now we have to bear down and get our youth notified and updated on our programs, and why they should be participating in them.

There are so many schools & school counselors that do not even know we have these programs, we have to get out and inform them of how great our programs are and how they will absolutely benefit their students, in the form of scholarships, beneficial for the Military Service Academy's, Law Enforcement careers, even political.

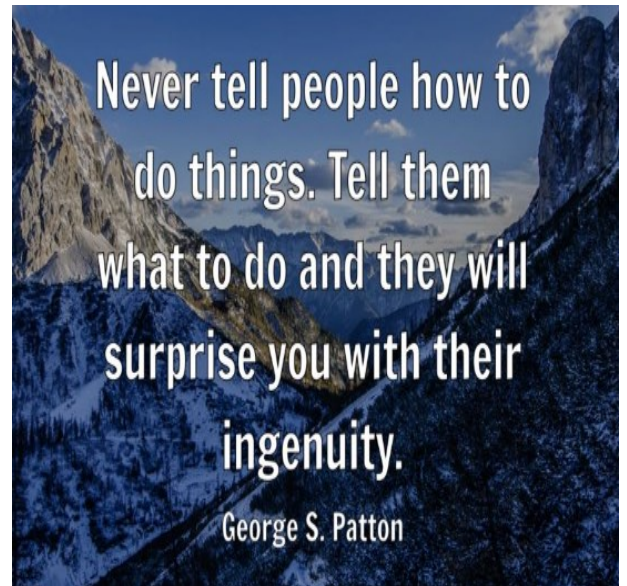
Let's get out there and get the job done even better this year, the kids need us.....

Ian Gerstel,
Americanism Chair.





**AFTERNOON
RELAXATION**



Never tell people how to
do things. Tell them
what to do and they will
surprise you with their
ingenuity.

George S. Patton

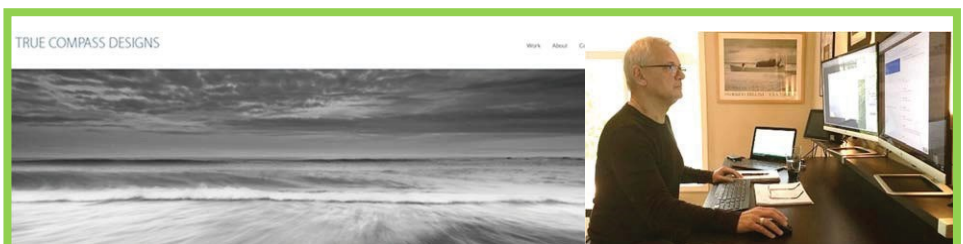


***“Volunteerism is the
voice of the people
put into
action. These ac-
tions shape and
mold the present in-
to a future of which
we can all be
proud.”***



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

***Alone we can do
so little;
Volunteering
together we can
do so much***



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
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Camas, WA 98607

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

Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership

Anyone who is currently an 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 one 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

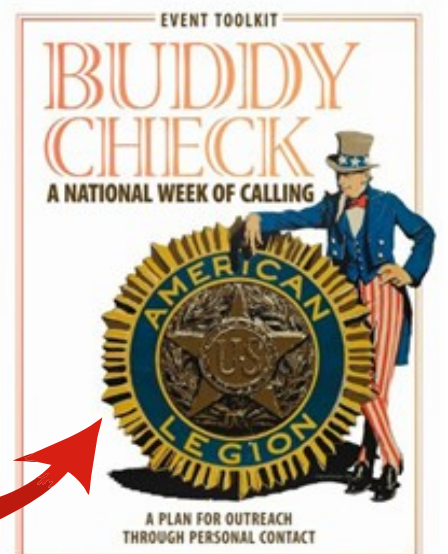
Money to help pay YOUR
portion of hospital bills or
you can use your cash
benefits however you see fit!

[LEARN MORE](#)



**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**

**STAY AWAY FROM
PEOPLE THAT
CAN'T SEE ANY
WRONG IN THEIR
ACTIONS, BUT SEE
EVERY WRONG IN
YOURS.**



VITAL RECORDS

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

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



UP COMING EVENTS

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



Five Things to Know

The American Legion

Dec 4, 2023



1. [Three commercial ships came under attack Sunday four times by drones and missiles in the Red Sea](#), and a U.S. warship there responded to the distress calls as part of an hours long assault claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said. The attack potentially marked a major escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Israel-Hamas war as multiple vessels found themselves in the crosshairs of a single Houthi assault for the first time in the conflict.
2. [U.S. and Japanese divers have discovered wreckage and remains of crew members from a U.S. Air Force Osprey aircraft](#) that crashed last week off southwestern Japan, the Air Force announced Monday. The CV-22 Osprey carrying eight American crew crashed last Wednesday off Yakushima island during a training mission. The body of one victim was recovered and identified earlier, while seven others remained missing.
3. [The Biden administration on Monday sent Congress an urgent warning about the need to approve tens of billions of dollars in military and economic assistance to Ukraine](#), saying Kyiv's war effort to defend itself from Russia's invasion may grind to a halt without it. In a letter to House and Senate leaders and also released publicly, Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young warned the U.S. will run out of funding to send weapons and assistance to Ukraine by the end of the year, saying that would "kneecap" Ukraine on the battlefield.
4. [Seoul test-fired a U.S.-built ship-to-air missile in South Korean waters for the first time on Friday](#). The destroyer ROKS Gang Gam-chan fired the Standard Missile-2 in the East Sea, or Sea of Japan, and hit an inbound unmanned aerial vehicle, South Korea's navy said in a news release Sunday. The SM-2 was tracked from Samcheok Marine Research Center on Gangwon Province's eastern coast. The 65-acre facility opened in 2021 and provides a host of analytical services, including underwater noise and infrared testing.
5. [Israel's military renewed calls Monday for mass evacuations from the southern town of Khan Younis](#), where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge in recent weeks, as it widened its ground offensive and bombarded targets across the Gaza Strip. The expanded operations, following the expiration of a weeklong cease-fire, are aimed at eliminating Gaza's Hamas rulers, whose Oct. 7 attack into Israel triggered the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades. The war has already killed thousands of Palestinians and displaced over three-fourths of the territory's population of 2.3 million people, who are running out of safe places to go.

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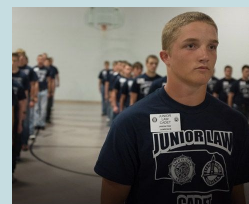
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THE AMERICAN LEGION



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY





**Past National Commander David Rehbein
and National Legion College Chancellor,
speaks to a class at National Headquarters.**

**“YOUR WHY IS WHAT
KEEPS YOU IN
THE AMERICAN LEGION”**

Upon his return home from deployment to Germany in 1971, David Rehbein walked into a café dressed in his Army uniform. His appearance garnered little respect or appreciation, as unfortunately common to military servicemembers during the Vietnam War. He then made the decision to put his military service behind him. But then, “I was missing something. What I was missing was that spirit of camaraderie,” the American Legion past national commander and National Legion College chancellor shared with the 2020 class during his remarks Nov. 15 at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. “But the day I walked into that American Legion post (because of his wife, Ann, who grew up in the Legion Family) and joined, I found that spirit of camaraderie. You could feel the same feeling you had back there in that Army unit.

“And that’s my why (for remaining a member in The American Legion). Because it doesn’t matter what I do, it doesn’t matter where I go, what hat I wear, it’s that feeling that has kept me in The American Legion. Because of what the organization did for me to restore that feeling of family, besides my spouse and children, this other family. That’s what’s motivated me in The American Legion all these years.”

Rehbein turned the opportunity over to the Legion College class to share their why. “Because it’s that why that keeps you as a member,” he said. “It’s not what you do ... it’s why you do it.” Joseph Schmidt passed his grandfather’s American Legion cap every day growing up as it laid in his parents four season front porch. He never knew his grandfather, as he had passed before Schmidt was born. In 2012, Schmidt was injured while deployed to Afghanistan and left service

two years later. “But my service wasn’t done yet, I didn’t know what else to do,” he shared. “I figured if The American Legion was good enough for (my grandfather), it was probably good enough for me. I walked into a Legion post, signed up and found my place of service where I can continue to serve my community ... serve veterans and soldiers.” “To this day I thank my father for just leaving my grandfather’s (American Legion) cap out there to define my place here in The American Legion,” he said.

Randy Olson’s cousin was shot and injured during a deployment to Afghanistan. “I thought what can I do for him? He has little to none (VA) disability rating since he didn’t lose a limb. I am going to fight for this veteran,” said Olson, a member of American Legion Post 82 in Winnebago, Minn. “One of my whys is that I want to be the one that makes a difference. It gives me more of a drive every day to keep doing more for veterans.”

For Brenda Hokenson of American Legion Post 6 in Moscow, Idaho, her why is “giving back. How can as a veteran I assist other veterans, and this (membership in The American Legion) has given me that chance to help. It’s given me a home, a chance to help others and branch out into the community more.”

After listening to several Legion College students share their why, Rehbein said what he heard, and expected to hear, is that “your why is connected very strongly to your emotional attachment to the organization.” Then he laid out a challenge to them.

“Our challenge is to help the younger folks that we’re recruiting into the organization to understand and develop that same kind of emotional attachment to The American Legion,” he said. “And that’s a challenge that we all have to handle individually because every person we approach is an individual. We won’t know what their why is until they find out what it is.”



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. I have just returned from Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls from a two-day event supporting our Air Guard and personnel assigned to the Base. We presented our programs, Be-the-One campaign, our support with deployments, our American Legion Posts in the area, and how we can help. It was a productive visit, ended up spending three nights there with the worst snow and ice storm and 8 to 10 inches of new snow at Lake of the Woods. I received an open invitation to come back to the base anytime in the area by the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Base and he would take me to all the shops to present our information. Made a lot of contacts and have follow-up action items from my visit. I won't talk about my return trip, I have driven all over this State in the winter; difficult driving conditions, for many years, this was the worst, tow trucks were at both sides waiting, traction tires and chains were required. I continue to work on priorities, December is loaded, with VA, Taxes, Christmas, more meetings and more snow. What we are short of is Legionnaires volunteering and being involved in their communities. It has become more critical for our Posts to be involved in their communities; we have several units in our communities being deployed in the next ten months. We will have pre-deployment activity, families remaining, which some will need help during their deployment. Remember, we are Veterans still Serving. Who else better to understand Veterans needs and Deployments. 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. If you have an interest in performing our Assistant Service Officer position, 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. 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. 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. Thank you.

PDC Bob Huff, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)
Commission Chair
Department of Oregon

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 1876
2. OPERATION HUSKY
3. WWI
4. AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



Department 2nd Vice Commander

Happy New Calendar Year! Or is it really a happy new year? It seems like every where you turn lies Kaos, destruction, and a true lack of respect for our Country, our flag, and for our beloved Veterans. Even the Legion is changing and unfortunately the steady decrease in membership (which effects dollars, which effects support, and worst of all effects our individual members that we claim to value and support) is the bi-product of those changes. Like water chipping away at a river bank slowly eroding very structure that supports it. One step forward, two steps back, and why bother to put in the hard work, to volunteer and build a better Legion Organization for those who will follow in our first steps. It feels as thou we need to put on the breaks, reset, and start over and fix it, whatever it is.

So where do we go from here? We fix it! We stand up, put our big boy pants on, and stand up for our veterans in our organization and make buddy checks and ask how our members and their families are doing. Have coffee, lunch, dinner, or go for a ride to another Post. I know for a fact that this is not being done in every community in every city across the State of Oregon and don't forget those members that are on our roster that live outside of the State of Oregon that give their money to support you and your organization.

When you see something wrong question it, get to the bottom of it, and be a part of a viable solution

for the betterment of the individual and organization by understanding the why and how things happen and voice your feed back on the foreseeable future of our organization as a whole. This is what always happens (or should) at the Post level and is brought to the attention of the District Commander for resolution or a simple clarification. Which brings us to the position and critical thinking of our District Commanders, the voice of the Post at Department Executive Meetings, and anytime they are made aware of a concern at the Post and District Level. Think it thru from beginning to end and take action.

Happy Post's and Happy District Leadership makes for a well-run American Legion Department And show they are willing to put In the hard work for them. We can have massive membership growth,

over the top attendance at Boys State, JWLECC, and even history making contestants for our Oratorical competitions. After all that is why we are here, to take care of our Veterans and support our local communities and their families.

We are on a role to have a 100% membership year by May15 2024 but we need new members to get it done. Let us all work hard, regardless of our circumstances, and prove that we are here to take care of veterans in the State of Oregon and beyond for the Good of The Legion, Our Legion Families, and for our future leaders in our Communities. Humanitarian helpers for those in need. Wake up and recite/read the Preamble every morning and pray for God and Country!

God Bless our Veterans, their families, and our communities!

2nd Vice Commandeer
Rene Ohler
Department of Oregon

Department Officers: 2023-2024

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



Harney County Post 63



Fellow Legionnaires,

You are cordially invited to an American Legion Harney County Post 63 and American Legion Harney County Auxiliary Unit 63 Christmas Potluck Dinner for members on Saturday, December 16, 2023, in the Harney County Chamber of Commerce Hall in Burns. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Legion and Auxiliary members are asked to bring their favorite

dish(s) to share. Meat entrees and a dessert will be provided...but if you have a favorite apple pie you may bring it

Legionnaires, to gauge the number of attendees, please respond no later than Friday, December 5th at bluetuna47.cs@gmail.com or (541) 589-5853 if you and your significant other will be attending and the dish you will be bringing.

A year-end reminder...if you have not renewed your 2024 American Legion membership by January 1st your membership becomes delinquent. You may renew your membership by mail to Harney County Post 63, P.O. Box 565, Burns, OR 97720, or go to www.legion.org to renew on-line, or bring your dues to a post meeting held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The next post meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19th.

The post is working with Harney County high schools in hopes that students will participate in this year's American Legion Oratorical Program – A Constitutional Speech Contest; a program that started in 1938 to encourage students to study our nation's constitution. The post contest is scheduled for Saturday, January 20th and will be followed by the District 10 contest on Saturday, February 3 in John Day. The district winner will compete in the department (state) contest April 6th and a chance to advance to the national context May 17-19, 2024. Each contest gives students the opportunity to compete for a scholarship while honing their speaking skills and knowledge of our constitution.

Charles E. Schmidt
Adjutant
Post 63, Harney County
541-589-5853



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Scuttlebutt-Vets News

My Last Christmas At Home

My last Christmas at home

As the Christmas season approaches I sometimes stop to ponder the memories of, "Christmas Past." The other day I was wondering about my next column and then the two thoughts came together and little did I know that 55 years later I would attempt to remember my last Christmas at home. As the nostalgic sayings go, "There is no place like home," and, "I want to be home for Christmas."

In the summer of 1966 the Pentagon saw the need to increase the size its military to combat the communist forces pervading the country of South Vietnam. As I was entering my second year of college my draft notice arrived informing me that I was no longer 2-S but 1-A. It was a bit sobering even for a teenage mind. I dropped out of college and headed home to hopefully thwart the draft board and join the military and garner a job to my liking. Fortunately for me, it worked out that way. A few days later I was on my way to spend eight weeks at Parris Island to become a Marine.

Upon graduation from boot camp we were bused north to Camp Lejeune, NC where we would undergo 4-6 weeks of infantry training. It was during this time that many of my platoon mates went in different directions and I never saw them again. They went into companies and trained with the ground forces while I, along with many others, were sent to work in the largest mess hall in the Marine Corps. How do I know this? For 16 straight days we worked from 0300 to 2000 hours serving chow, to 20 or more companies that were rushing personnel through rigid training schedules that were accelerated not to quickly train personnel for Nam but to get as many of these

young men home for Christmas, even if it was for just a few days. On the 7th day, around 0300, we were awakened, told to dress, and muster outside in the wintry air of North Carolina. One hundred and twenty of us were collected into S Company and began training in infantry tactics.

This took place somewhere around beginning of December and knowing that the training schedules had been accelerated, via long days in the fields, we thought we'd be home for Christmas as well.

Training came to a screeching halt on December 22 when the First Sergeant announced to our company that we were going to be given a 96 hour liberty pass on December 23rd and return to camp on the 26th. Some of our troops literally arrived home Christmas Eve and departed their families Christmas evening in order to arrive back on base or be considered AWOL.

I was fortunate, my home was about 8 hours away via a Greyhound so I had two full days at home with my family. A year later I was once again fortunate as I was 4 hours away from home via a '54 Chevy, 3 speed on the column. That year was my last Christmas at home.

I spent the Christmas of '68 in Nam and in '69 I was southern California. What was so special about my last Christmas home? With my folks permission I invited my buddy, Dan Williams, to spend Christmas with our family. That was easier than it sounds because Dan had become part of our family during my 18 months in North Carolina. You see, Dan was from the Seattle area and didn't get to go home until a week later. He enjoyed the festivities that

took place in our home. It was also the last time I would get to spend Christmas with my older brother and his growing family.

A few months later Dan was deployed to Nam and two months later that I volunteered for Nam.

As the excitement of the Christmas season accelerates I pause to think about the young men that I was associated with and wonder, was their last Christmas just the few hours they were able to spend with their families worth the long bus trip?

For those that didn't make it home I sincerely believe their families have bittersweet thoughts of those valuable moments.

My daily Christmas present is this, I was allowed to return home, marry, raise two wonderful kids and experience grandchildren and spend time among close friends.

Merry Christmas and a very special Merry Christmas to my veteran friends.

Thanks for checking in.

Semper Fi.

Aaron Wetterling



Pendelton Blanket Raffle

\$10.00 PER TICKET

\$10.00 PER TICKET

**Drawing will be held at
The American Legion
District 2 meeting on February 3, 2023
@ Salem Post 136**

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District 2 Commander:
Mike: 503-703-2757

**WORDS
OF
WISDOM**

**A POSITIVE MIND IS
STRONGER THAN A
NEGATIVE
THOUGHT.**

**MILITARY
HUMOR**

One day, the rain was pouring like crazy and a big puddle formed in front of a local pub just outside the Navy base. An old Marine Sergeant was standing near the edge of the puddle with his fishing line in a puddle. When a Navy fighter pilot saw this, he decided to approach the man and see what he was doing. "Fishing," the old Sergeant replied. 'This poor old fool,' thought the Navy officer, so he invited the old man inside to buy him a drink. While drinking their beers, the smart-ass fighter pilot decided to ask, "How many did you end up catching today." "You the eighth," the old Marine answered.

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Have Questions

There are always questions that Adjutants, Commanders, and legionnaires helping with membership, and transfers have. Some are; what the heck are the letters AD, DMS, and encumbered, unencumber mean. So I ask Michele.

Clarification on a few items, please. Can you explain the difference between ENCUMBERED and UNENCUMBERED? When does the transferred member count as a member of the Post? And finally, some of the people on our listing in the holding Post have 114 and others 114AD, what is the difference?

Michele Steinmetz, the Member Engagement Coordinator at National, has answered some of these:

"I know it seems confusing, but once you understand it, it isn't." DMS means direct mail solicitation, Encumbered means all monies stay at national. When they join, first renewal and second renewal, if they are not transferred into a local post, all the dues collected remain with national. Once they are either transferred into a local post or after they renew for the second time (where all dues stay at national), they become unencumbered.

Only if you transfer 2020 DMS AD (encumbered) members into a local post will that transfer count for membership goals. If it's a regular HQ 114 member, they will only count when they renew for the next year. HQ 114 transfers will show up in the post's membership totals but won't count for the department or national goal purposes. Only traditional renewals or new starts and 2020 DMS AD transfers will count for membership goals on the membership report. 114 AD means "Administrative" or encumbered (\$\$ stay at National until they have transferred into a local post). I hope this helps. You might need to read this a few times to absorb.

Michele

Still Serving America,

Michele Steinmetz, Member Engagement Coordinator

Internal Affairs & Membership Division

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

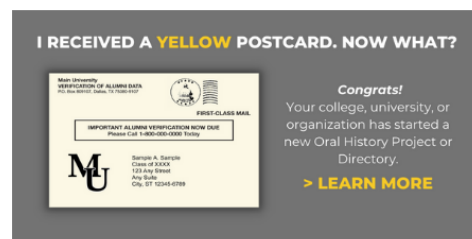
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WHAT IS IT, GO TO:

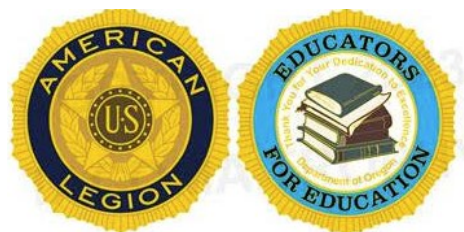
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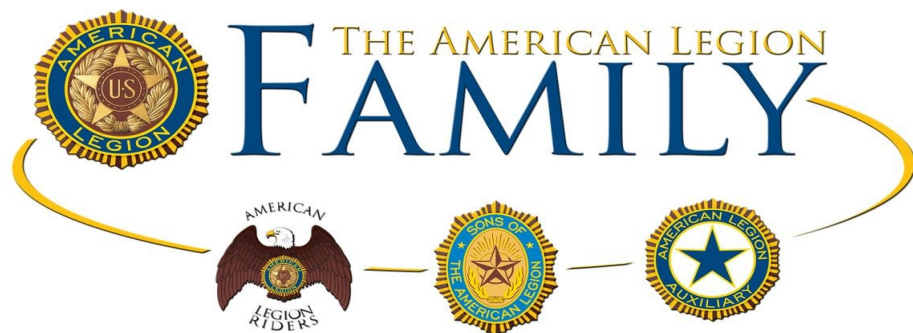


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Pearl Harbor: it's Personal

December 7, 1941, is forever emblazoned in history as the day of infamy. But it was more than that. For Americans the attack was personal. In the weeks that followed, recruiting offices extended operating hours to accommodate the thousands of Americans who lined up to answer their nation's call and exact retribution on those responsible. The day ushered in our nation's entry into a war that would claim more than 407,000 American lives.

It's personal for The American Legion as well. The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion directs us to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars." This includes remembering the 2,403 Americans killed during the attack, the thousands more wounded and the countless witnesses who were forever changed.

To this day our friends in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continue to identify the remains of those who were killed in the attack but remained unknown due to limitations in scientific technology. One such hero was Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux of New Orleans. Stationed on the USS *Oklahoma*, Boudreaux's battleship was struck by multiple Japanese torpedoes before it capsized. The 20-year-old sailor was among the 429 *Oklahoma* crewmen who died from the attack.

Eventually, *Oklahoma's* "unknowns" were interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific before being exhumed in 2015 for scientific analysis by DPAA. Boudreaux will be returned to his family next month for burial in Slidell, La.

The American Legion is extremely supportive of the DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for the missing heroes of all wars involving the United States. If you are related to someone who is MIA, [you may be able to donate a DNA specimen and assist in identification efforts.](#)

Preserving the memories of the fallen is no doubt easier when there are living eyewitnesses. The challenge is to continue the same respect when all are gone. Every veteran of World War II can rest assured that The American Legion will forever honor their sacrifice and service. I hope to convey that message to any Pearl Harbor survivor that I have the privilege to meet as I attend official observances today.

Visiting the USS *Arizona* and the other Pearl Harbor memorials is not just my duty as national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization. It's personal.

By: Daniel J. Seehafer
National Commander



BE THE ONE

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 #