



BOOK OF REPORTS

DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING

Convention Year-end Book of Reports

June 18th, 2025

Department Commander
S. Flynn Phillips

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

COMMANDER'S REPORT FOR THE BOOK OF REPORT

S. Flynn Phillips

It's been a pleasure as Department Commander. I traveled 11,286 miles this year, visiting Posts and districts. My sincere thanks are to the Leadership Team, 1st Vice Renee, and 2nd Vice Commander Fred Broadwater, both have kept me grounded, and I thank them for their unwavering support. I sincerely hope all of you will support them next year, they have done an incredible job.

It was a pleasure traveling the state with the 2nd Vice, promoting the programs of The American Legion, Boys State, Girls State for the Auxiliary. Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp, Oratorical, Junior Shooting, and Legion Baseball. Renee and I, along with Steve from Post 158, the 158 Baseball chair, had a table at the Hillsboro Hops Memorial Day and Salute to Service,

May 25th. What a great turnout in the park. We had a chance to be interviewed on camera and shown on the big leaderboard. We let them know that there are over sincere appreciation to Fred Broadwater and for helping Tim Sakraida and I put on a Salmon BBQ at Williams Valley Post 50. It was a combined Post 50 and Commander Project to raise money for Hidden Valley High School to raise money for their Landscape project for the inner courtyard Atrium. They have a concrete brick wall in the court yard where they have all of the Armed services logos painted on it. We raise 1500.00 and we presented them a check on June 2nd. During that meeting the principal made us aware of a Junior who had a desire to attend West Point. He brought her out of class and introduced her to us. Interviewed on the spot. We had another Girls State candidate for the Auxiliary. We attended academy nights at Westview High School, and first time for Westview. In Beaverton. These Academy nights are expanding with our close relationship with Major Ian Beaty, Ed.D. Education Liaison Officer, Oregon National Guard. The Department has long desired to make this connection with the National Guard for a long time and we are getting it done.

I participated in the National Guard 5K Ruck March, carrying 20 pounds of food in my Ruck Pack. I walked with Brian Schimmel Forest Grove City Councilman. We finished with 20 minutes to spare. All the food was raised for the Forest Grove Food Bank. I also attended several Recruiter symposiums with the Guard and all the other services, teaching them how to rely on our retired community to cross pollinate our efforts. The end goal is to help all recruiters meet goals and give the best chance at a career for our local graduating seniors.

Many thanks to Bob Huff for his indefatigable dedication and continued support to the team in light of his health issues.

Convention is upon us, and I am trying to hold the fort down and get things done at the Department since Rob gave his notice. Many thanks to Rob for being there, he continues to help with membership.

I had the pleasure of installing the new officers at Milwaukie Post 180 last week and attended District 8 caucus, where Chris Christopherson was elected as the new District 8 Commander.

The District 7-8 Revitalization went well at Canby Post 122. Gary Leach, NVC and Michele Steinmetz were here for the weekend. Gary and I did a lot of Door-Knocking, along with Renee and Michele, as the other team. We had several people join us at the Post for calling on non-renewed lists and 114 transfers. see the June edition of the Legionnaire Magazine for additional details and pictures. We transferred 91 members, with 9 new members. Thank you all who found the time to contact veterans. We had good examples of why we do "Buddy Checks." we discovered a few that passed away, and one that had been in Memory Care. We were able to comfort the spouse and help her with what she needs to do now in preparation for her husband's next steps. I spent Memorial Day at Dalles Memorial Cemetery as a guest of Post 20. District 2 Commander Mike Speer joined me as well as he was able to get there after his first meeting.

Their Avenue of Flags was impressive, having over 800 flags lining the roads. A very nice ceremony. I attended several Vets Coffee sessions at the Hillsboro Elks, Joe Mudd coffee twice a month sessions, and in Newburg at the Nut Tree Ranch Community building. In addition Finance Committee Chair, the Post 158 Commander, and I gave presentations to the Summerfield Retirement Community, Veterans Committee, which had a lot of veterans. They were invited to come to Tigard 158 and join in the fun. I was invited as Department Commander to the Marine Corps League State Convention in Lincoln City. They just happened to have as their guest their National Commander. Great event.

I attended the Spring Meetings in Indy, I spent some time with the Americanism Committee, especially the Law Enforcement Cadet Committee. Noteworthy was having the director give accolades to Oregon's LECC chair, Ed Owens in assisting a sheriff in upper Washington, some pointers on our Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career camp program. Ed has about 15 students lined up this year, and 6 of them are from Angle Mendoza, of McMinnville Post 21, who is also a division officer for the Navy Sea Cadet program. This is what happens when our Legionnaires are cross-pollinating with our other veteran programs. Great job, Angel.

Continued;

My fellow Legionnaires, these have been trying times for our Posts, districts, and Departments. The leadership is moving forward, and we have much to do. Keep in mind our focus on servant leadership. We need to continue to be diligent in doing our buddy checks and letting them know we are there for them. We now have two VSOs. Mike Surett has been working with Ed VanDyke in the background for quite some time. They will be able to handle a lot more claims.

Posts are stepping up to help Veterans, their families, and their communities. Our Posts are working hard, and it's showing. Please keep Bob Huff in your heart and prayers as he recovers. On November 2nd, I attended a District Two meeting at Post 17 in Keizer, Oregon. District 2 Commander Mike Speer, Dept 1st Vice Commander Renee Ohler, and Auxiliary President Cindy Soria were also in attendance.

November 8th

Second Vice Commander Fred Broadwater made a presentation to the Salem Rotary Club on November 8th, about Boys and Girls State Programs. Kevin Manix pictured bottom left was there. The lady is a lawyer in Kevin Manix Law firm. I was in attendance.

On November 11th I attended Post 74 Veterans Day Pancake breakfast, worked membership, and recognized our WWII Veteran. The crowd gave him an outstanding welcome.

November 12th Road trip to Grants Pass District 4 Commander Tyin Sakraida introduced Fred Broadwater and me to the Principal of Hidden Valley High School to give and Boys/Girls State

Program presentation, Tim then invited us to tour his post in Willams and showed off his 105 Howitzer he recently had secured.

November 15th was the Washington County Stand Down, I got there toward the very last as several posts had already broken down and left. Post 124 Commander Juliet Britton, District 1 Commander Wendy Berger-Wood along with Forest Grove Commander Dale Thaler and Karla Thaler were still there.

November 21st was the special DEC

On November 22, Vice Commander Fred Broadwater, Don Weber and I had a meet and greet with The Oregon National Guard Adjutant General, Colonel Alan R. Gronewold, and his staff. It was a great meeting with his entire staff and were are looking forward to more engagements with the Oregon Guard.

Then off to the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Phase 1 Dedication** in Salem. I gave a speech representing the American Legion. A short presentation is now available click this link <https://bit.ly/CNS24-Vietnam> , or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6maMrQeINew>

November 30th was a busy day for me. I attended four functions that day. Starting off with attending a coffee meeting for Post 124 Beaverton Post at the City of Beaverton Court House. Post 124 Commander Juliet Britton a sitting Judge had Mathew King as guest speaker. He is the Veterans Treatment Court mentor coordinator for Washington County, he is looking for Mentors for these veterans. He can be reached at **Matthew T. King, Veteran's Treatment Court, Mentor Coordinator, Washington County District Attorney's Office**. 150 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 40, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-3002 (971) 291-9025.
www.WashingtonCountyDA.org

I broke away early to arrive at the VA Hospital, for the Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop opening. They are finally back on track. Auxiliary President Cindy Soria and I gave remarks and cut the ribbon for the opening. Linda Liebenow was the master of the ceremony. I raced off from that function and headed for Forest Grove to attend a birthday celebration for a 100-year-old veteran from Post 2, 1st Vice Commander Renee Ohler presented him with a Pendleton Grateful Nation blanket. District 1 Commander Wendy Berger-Wood was in attendance as well as the Post 2 Commander Dale Thaler and Karla Thaler.

Then I headed off to McMinnville Post 21 for the Department Christmas party. Everyone had a great time.

I also attended the opening of the Dalles Auxiliary Gift Shop. Geann Horn and her volunteers did an incredible job. I attended the opening of the VA Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop, with Linda Liebenow as MC and Auxiliary President Cindy Soria and me cutting the opening ribbon.

On December 10th, I attended the Newburg Vets coffee at the Nut Tree Ranch Community Center. Many vets from all organizations turned out, and Fred got to promote all the Legion programs.

On December 12th, Fred, Renee, and I attended the Air National Guard Tour at the Airbase. I made connections with several folks.

December 14th, I provided the sound system for Wreaths Across America. They were very appreciative. It rained and the Pop-up tent was grateful and provided by the Civil Air Patrol.

I attended a Boys State and Legion Programs presentation that the Second Vice Commander gave to the JROTC Program at Oregon City High School on 12/19/24. There were two previous Boys Staters from last year who were in the class and gave the class their take on their experience at OSU Boys State.

I have been invited to be a panelist for Congresswoman Andrea Salinas' Military Academy appointments. The panel will interview each candidate and recommend her final selections for the Academy Appointments.

Second Vice Commander Fred Broadwater and I were invited to Pioneer Post 149, an All-Women's Post, for their annual Christmas Party in Rickreall, Oregon. We all had a great time.

On December 28th, Judge Advocate Don Weber, Second Vice Fred Broadwater, 1st Vice Renee Ohler, and I attended the District 6 meeting in Pendleton at the Wild Horse Casino. Renee attended via Video link. It was a great venue. Past District 6 Commander Toni Cordell secured the meeting room and venue. D6 Second Vice Aaron Wetterling and his wife, along with another member of his post, Fred, Don, and I had lunch with Retired Maj Gen Fred Rees. According to Aaron, the general has been a guest speaker for the Hermiston Post many times. Special recognition goes out to Andy Millar, who attended the meeting. Andy, it's still kicking it. Let's keep our buddy checks going for Andy Millar and Toni Cordell, who have battled Health issues these past years. Buddy Checks keeps them connected and shows we care. SFP

DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER REPORT

Cory Brockmann

Report

DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE COMMANDER

REPORT

Renee Ohler

1st Vice Commander
M&PA Commission Chair
Renee Ohler

We were honored to represent veterans during the Hillsboro Hops Memorial game. One of the greatest assets of being there is the number of veterans looking for service officer help with claims, and how to file claims. We also assisted the widows of veterans who keep hitting brick walls when applying for benefits they are entitled to from their spouse's service. It seems that we can do better in preparing our veterans and their families for the final call. It's always better to be prepared for the unexpected and to stay in touch with the needs of our members.

We had our Legion baseball represented, and Steve Knapke from Tigard Post 158 on board to answer any questions related to Legion baseball. Always a great hit with the little leaguers attending the baseball game. It is an honor to give an option for the parents of these young players who have the dream of one day becoming professional baseball players. We will be heading back to the game in July, and we can always use your help if you would like to volunteer.

A lot of work is going into this year's convention, and we hope for a great turnout. As we welcome in all of the new officers this year, let's commit right now that will support them as they enter their new roles. We are veterans who can work as a team to build a great legion organization.

As we close out this year, I want all of you to know it has been a great honor and joy to work for you in the trenches. We will keep fighting for our members.

For God and Country
We are the American Legion

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES
Commission Chair
Renee Ohler

See the other report

For God and Country
Where there's a will, there's a way.
RO
503-348-7160

SECOND VICE COMMANDER

Fred Broadwater

REPORT

Hello, fellow Legionnaires. This is my Report to you as I finish my year as your 2nd Vice Commander. This has been an exciting year for me to represent you as your Second Vice Commander. As you know, the 2nd Vice oversees Programs. I want to acknowledge the many fellow Legionnaires who have assisted me this past year. First off, our Commander Flynn Phillips. He has been unflagging in his support and drive (no pun intended). Reining me in sometimes and encouraging/motivating me at others.

I've learned a lot from 1st Vice Renee Ohler and look forward to her guidance as I hopefully move forward. District 1: Wendy Berger-Wood has been a Godsend; her work delineating High Schools was nothing short of awesome. District 2: Mike Speer allowed me to spread my wings as Boys State Committee Chair, under his supervision as The Americanism Commission, I only hope he didn't start to view me as a "free range bird". District 3: I always sought out Steve Adams' guidance and advice, which he imparted freely. District 4: Tim Sakraida offered me an opportunity to help his Post with a fundraising event, up at 4:30 AM to drive 256 miles, BBQ Salmon, then drive home---what a day: it was fun! District 5: I got to know Alan Alderman a little at the D5 Roundup and am looking forward to getting to know him better. District 6: Randy Tye is a great Legionnaire, and I want to get better-versed with his District.

Aaron Wetterling has supported Boys State with his woodworking expertise, muchly appreciated. District 8: Tim Troup is the consummate individual on procedures. Districts 9 & 10, I failed to get to know Eric Stallings and Robert Hornbeck this year, a situation I hope to

correct in 2025-2026.

I would be remiss if I didn't express my heartfelt loss of not getting to know Lou Neubecker better. He was an inspiration and will be sorely missed. I always learn something from Ed VanDyke, what a fountain of knowledge & experience. As one leg of the three-legged stool, I want to express my appreciation to Ray Kelly, Ann Everetts, and everyone who has put up with me planning and coordinating this year's State Convention, I'm sure I'll hear about the thoughts of my fellow Legionnaires. as for me I need to get better acquainted with Coos Bay/north Bend as Post 34 has been such a supporter of Boys State, and I need to get to know Klamath Falls better.

I'll close with a Latin quote: Qui Audet Adipiscitur

This ends my report. FB

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

REPORT

VACANT

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAN

REPORT

KEVIN OWENS, PDC
National Executive Committeeman

BAY AREA POST 34

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

REPORT

Donald F. Bond

BOOK OF REPORTS

CONVENTION DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 18, 2025

NAME: Department Finance Officer

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER: Donald F. BOND

DATE OF REPORT: May 31, 2025

SUMMARY:

During the Third quarter (1 April- June 30 2025) of fiscal year (FY) FY 2025, several actions have occurred or are still in process.

- a. As reported in the Spring Book of Reports (BOR) a QuickBooks issue came to our attention after W-2s for tax year 2024 were distributed. There were four (4) employees who were affected. Two (2) current and two (2) former. Each of these employees received two (2) each W-2's indicating different amounts of earned income for 2024. During our research and several hours on the telephone with QuickBooks, we finally resolved the issue and corrected W-2's will be issued. This unfortunate situation happened due to the changing of the Departments accounting program with QuickBooks from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online. This change occurred late spring/early June 2024. **UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ISSUE REMAINS UNRESLOVED.** We continue to work on this issue with QuickBooks.
- b. AS noted in the Spring BOR, several accounting/posting errors affecting FY 24 results were identified dating back to January 2024. In some programs, double and triple obligations were posted, as well as obligations being posted to the incorrect accounts. We continue to identify and correct accounting errors for both fiscal years 2024 and 2023.
- c. During our research of accounts, we came across an account that was somehow buried in our files, which was still an open account with US Bank. A Certificate of Deposit (CD) under the name of American Legion Dufur Scholarship Fund was opened in 1988. The CD was set up with annual maturity dates and has renewed every year without question. It appears there was no visibility, tracking or files associated with this CD until recently found. The next maturity date is 20 June 2025.

However, this CD was closed and the funds of \$4,492.00 will be deposited into the Department Scholarship Fund.

- d. During the spring DEC, a question came up on what is the current balance in the “WHITE TOPS” checking account. Unfortunately, it appeared only a few people knew of this account. After some research, we found this account at US Bank with an approximate balance of \$1,130.00. Again, not much in the way of records were found at the Department. The authorized signers on this account are no longer associated with the Legion or Department. This account was closed on May 25th. The funds will be held at the Department until further guidance is received.
- e. Working with US Bank, we have established an Automated Clearing House (ACH) process that will enable the Department to issue checks to the POSTS electronically (Direct Deposit) once we set up the POST’s checking or savings account numbers. More to follow on this important subject:
- f. On 17 April 2025, Gary Baldwin (Finance Commission Chair) and the undersigned met with Scott Anderson from Ameriprise for our quarterly review of the Department’s and Foundation’s investments. A minor change to the investment strategy for the Department’s investments was made to a more conservative nature. No change with the Foundation’s strategy.

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 31 MAY 2025:

US BANK ACCOUNTS:

Totals: \$500,710

Department Checking:	128,740
HRA Checking:	32,746
SAL Checking:	101,826
Scholarship Checking:	500
Department Savings:	236,898

AMERPRISE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS:

Totals: \$598,476

Contingency Fund:	190,937
Permanent Finance Fund	129,423
Building Fund:	82,768
Trust Fund:	80,223

Disaster Fund:	40,489
SAL Fund:	74,636

TOTAL AVAILIABLE RESOURCES: \$1,099,186

FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 31 MAY 2025:

US BANK ACCOUNT: (CHECKING)

TOTAL: \$198,512

AMERPRISE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT:

TOTAL: \$993,504

TOTAL AVAILIABLE RESOURCES: \$1,192,016

BUDGET EXECUTION:

Year-to-Date budget execution for the Department stands at 47%. The major expense for the period was in salaries and benefits totaling 39.7% of our total budget of \$505,285.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

After last summers (2024) convention held in Coos Bay, OR, I was asked if I would accept the position of Finance Commission VICE Mr. Kevin Owens. Unfortunately, Mr. Owens and myself did not have any kind of transition/hand off as I assumed this role. In addition, there was no sense of urgency to get me on as an authorized signer for any of the financial accounts that were associated with this position. In late fall, I was asked if I would backfill Mr. Bob Huff as the Department Finance Officer, as he resigned his position due to personal reasons. I agreed! Again, there seemed to be no sense of urgency to get me introduced or become an authorized signer on any of the accounts. Shortly after my appointment, the current Adjutant submitted their resignation effective mid-December 2024. Things started to happen with getting me involved with the financial management to include becoming an authorized signer on all the financial accounts which was not an easy task. I should note that the Department did not have a bookkeeper since July 2024 until a part-time bookkeeper was hired in December 2024. During my first review of the financial records, I identified some concerns that I shared with leadership. I started to work with our bookkeeper, Danni Gonzales, the Department's bookkeeper, to review and make any accounting corrections that needed to be made for fiscal year 2024 and then 2023. During the fall DEC, the DEC authorized and approved for a review/audit of the 2024 financials to be conducted with no time line given for completion. ***Taking into consideration the numerus accounting errors found, a new bookkeeper on board and a temporary Adjutant, I felt the***

timing was not good for a review/audit to be conducted at this time. I realize some Legionnaires continue to voice their concerns with the management of the Departments financial resources, using the lack of a review/audit not being conducted as basis for their negative comments. I can assure you that between our bookkeeper, Danni Gonzales, working with our points of contact at US Bank and Ameriprise, we have made GREAT STRIDES in overall management of financial resources.

I would like to thank Commander Flynn Phillips for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position and the support given to me by Mr. Robert Liebenow and Ms. Danni Gonzales.

Donald F. Bond

Finance Officer

Finance Officer BOR for June DEC-RESPONSE

Bob, HI!

Thank you for your feedback in regards to my BOR for the upcoming DEC and Department of Oregon Statewide Convention! I really do appreciate your guidance, your corporate history and feedback. I will try to address and answer your concerns:

Ameriprise Investments:

The funds listed under the Foundation are VA&R with a balance as of 7 June 2025 is \$1,002,154. It's my fault that I was not more specific in my report. No funds have been moved in or out of this account since I have become an authorized signer.

SAL Checking:

Shortly after Jessie left her employment with the Department, the subject came up that the foundation had funds that belonged to the SAL Department accounts. A transfer of funds was coordinated to move \$74,636.00 into the SAL checking account from the Foundation. Since then, an additional amount was deposited to this account. Not sure where the funds came from. But, I can research if need be. Within the past two (2) weeks, Rob indicated to me that \$40,000.00 needed to be transferred to the SAL account in Ameriprise. I indicated that I had no

knowledge of this approved DEC action. Rob provided me last week with documents of the approval. I will coordinate this coming week with Ameriprise to move \$40,000.00 to their SAL investment account. Current balance in their Ameriprise account as of 7 June 2025 is \$75,020.00.

American Legion Dufur Scholarship Fund:

Thank you for the BACKGROUND information on this account. Once this account became visible to me, looking through the available records and files that we eventually found, no real background information was located. Working with my POC at US Bank we found the CD was opened back in 1988 with annual maturity dates. It appeared the bank just renewed the CD every year with no notices ever being sent to the Department. Since we could not find any background information, I made the decision to close the CD and checking account with the proceeds being deposited into the scholarship checking account. In light of your comments, I will ensure the funds are sent to the Madras Post this coming week.

American Legion "White Tops" checking account.

As I indicated in my report, I could not find anyone who knew much about this account. Working with my contact at US Bank, we ascertained some information. This account was perhaps mis-labeled American Legion White Tops. I did verify this account does not have the Department's EIN on record. The Department does not own this. Unfortunately, at the time this account was set up, I assume Lynn was working as an employee for the Department and as an authorized signer on this account she kept some records and cooresponced at the Department. Once we receive the funds from US Bank, I will ensure the funds get to someone in the "White Tops". I will tell them to manage these funds themselves.

\$1,000 Check:

Yes, we paid an incentive to the Convention Corporation! We will file the proper paperwork and ask for forgiveness!

I hope the above answers your concerns. Now I have a couple of things I could use your help with:

We received two (2) checks from AGIA Insurance in the following amounts;

An allocation check-\$20,765.50

LIT check for Life Health (VA&R)-\$1,522.49

I want to ensure we credit the correct accounts for this. Do you recall which accounts would be appropriate?

During a conversation we had a few months ago, you mentioned that the Foundation received \$152k to support Boys State. As I understand, these funds still exist on the foundation's books and no funding has ever been given to support Boys State. How do I locate some documentation to support this funding grant? Thanks!

I guess that I need to provide a spreadsheet with next year's budget request with current YTD obligations. How did you do this last year? How did you populate the obligations on the spreadsheet? Manual input from a P&L?

Bob; again thank you for your assistance! I really appreciate it.

Don

Donald F. Bond

Department Finance Officer

Big Reminder, Tax Time, yes if your Post has a Tax Filing Period of January 1 through December 31, it is time to put your financial records together to file taxes that are due for a 990, 990EZ, or 990N by May 15, 2025. There are no exceptions.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Hello Legionnaires,

June marks the end of the 2024-2025 business year. It has been an eventful year, but it has been a pleasure to serve as your Chaplain. We have weathered the year together - laughing, learning, praying, and enjoying the work of the American Legion that we all signed up to do.

I leave you with this parting thought.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift his countenance upon you and grant you peace.

I invite you all to attend the Memorial Service for those members who have passed to Post Everlasting this past year. It will commence 15 minutes after the adjournment of the joint opening service on Wednesday evening of the Convention.

See you all at Convention.

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Department Chaplain

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

REPORT

Vacant

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

REPORT

Edward Van Dyke

BOOK OF REPORTS for DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JUNE 2025 Department Service Office DSO Edward Van Dyke and Mike Surrent

The Department Service Office has had another great year assisting veterans, widows, and families with their VA Benefits and other services. This year, we brought on 136 new clients, filed 312 new claims (for veterans and surviving spouses, to include healthcare, caregiver and NOD's), filed 86 lower supplemental claims or higher-level reviews, represented 9 veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals, and at the Regional Office.

Mike Surrent is doing a great job and his increasing knowledge of VA law is very refreshing. He is a quick learner, listens to guidance and asks questions during our weekly conversations. He mostly asked the "what-if" instead of the "how-too" questions when we talk. He understands basic VA law and always comes prepared to discuss his interpretation of a claim, denial, argument or challenge he may have, very refreshing. I cannot say enough on how proud I am of Mike and his accomplishments since he has come aboard. If you get a chance look him up and thank him for a job well done!

I would be remiss if I neglected to report this next topic, but I feel it is necessary for the Department to be transparent. In February 2025, I started my 2024 taxes and realized that I had (2) W-2 forms from the Department of Oregon, with 2 different amounts of earnings for 2024. I emailed the Commander, Acting Adjutant, A&A Committee and Accountant, and informed them of my problem. This is where the nightmare begins. At first, the only one to respond was the Commander. He requested the Accountant to look into it, but the response from the Accountant forwarded the request to the Finance Officer.

The Finance Officer did respond promptly. He did what he could by contacting Quickbooks to determine how to resolve the issues with the (2) W-2 forms. The guidance he received didn't make sense to me, so I started to research the issue. He explained to me that he didn't have the appropriate access to actually talk to Quickbooks about an employee of the Department. After this conversation, I asked him for a letter that I could have for my records showing that I did, in fact, have (2) W-2s that did NOT reflect my true earnings for 2024 from the Department.

I took it upon myself to research this issue, and found that I needed a corrected copy of the incorrect W-2 form to submit with my taxes. I provided IRS references and submitted my findings to the Commander, Acting Adjutant, A&A Committee and Accountant in early March 2025.

Again, no response from the paid employees whom I thought would at least try to resolve this situation. The Commander and Finance Officer were again the only ones to respond to my request for help. They diligently kept trying to find the answers and kept running into road blocks, or lack of support, from staff.

I did receive guidance from the Acting Adjutant, but I'm sorry to say, was incorrect and didn't adhere to IRS policies. In early March, the Commander, Finance Officer, Lynn Newton and Myself met at the Department Headquarters to try to resolve the issue. It took us about an hour to reach the appropriate department in QuickBooks. We were luckily able to provide enough information to them to open a case.

It was identified that a W-2C (a corrected W-2) was needed to resolve the issue. We requested the W-2C's not only for myself, but the two other employees that received (2) W-2 forms from the Department as well. QuickBooks informed us at the time that the W-2C's should take 30 - 45 days to process, and be received by the employee.

The Finance Officer did receive an email on March 18, 2025 confirming that our request should be completed in 20 days, and corrected documents sent. Today is May 23, 2025 and we have still not received a corrected W-2C. Without any full time staff "taking ownership" of this problem, it is still unresolved.

I am frustrated that the Acting Adjutant reported on the transition from QuickBooks Desktop to another QuickBooks product during the DEC in La Pine; and didn't report on the problem this transition created, and the lack of assistance provided to employees!

I recommend that we look hard at bringing a qualified team back to manage the American Legion Office. My recommendation is to bring Flynn back as the Adjutant, and Lynn back as the Office Assistant, as both are highly qualified and were willing to assist without payment. As a side note, when asking about problems with membership, think of the scenario above.

Edward M. Van Dyke Mike Surrent Department Service Officer Department Service Officer
American Legion American Legion US Army SGM (Retired) US Army 1SG (Retired)

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

REPORT

Book of Reports

District 1 Commander

Wendy Berger Wood

These past couple of months have been pretty busy for several of District 1's Posts. But first, I'd like to start out by saying "Thank You" to those Posts that held a Memorial Day event:

Forest Grove Post 2 -- Observance @ Forest View Cemetery
Hillsboro Post 6 -- Observance @ Pioneer Cemetery
Astoria Post 12 -- BBQ @ Post
Tillamook Post 47 -- Observance @ Nehalem American Legion Cemetery
Sherwood Post 56 -- Observance @ Gibbs Cemetery
Seaside Post 99 -- Spaghetti Feed @ Post
Aloha 104 -- BBQ & Potluck @ Post
Beaverton 124 -- Observance @ Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park
Tigard 158 -- Observance @ Crescent Grove Cemetery
Cannon Beach 168 -- Observance @ First Street Bridge

Beaverton Post 124 had several Honor by Listening events at different high schools in their area: Liberty High School, Southridge High School, Sunset High School, Westview High School. Veterans were on hand to talk with the students throughout the day. Questions were asked, stories and experiences were told. It was a great experience for both the students and the veterans.

The 2-218th FA's Ruck March and Food Drive which was held on May 3rd had a great turn-out of guardsmen, a local Forest Grove city council member, Department Commander Flynn Phillips, and one very happy baby. Several Forest Grove Post 2 members were on hand at the start of the march, but due to other commitments the Post 2 members were not able to complete the march. They did, however, donate food to the cause.

I really want to acknowledge the hard work put in by District 1's Posts in getting students lined up for both Boys and Girls State. A couple of the Posts without an Auxiliary Unit stepped up and made a concerted effort to reach out to the girls in their school districts. The girls' information and applications were then sent to the Girls State Chairman to be distributed to those Units who did not have an applicant but who were wanting to help sponsor a girl. And, too, several Posts stepped up to help with sponsoring the overflow of applications from the boys from the Posts who were maxed out on their budgeted funds. Now. Let's work on Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp!

Nehalem Post 126 is now down to three members. Of those three remaining members two are WWII veterans and one is a Korean War-Era veteran.

This has been a very busy year for me. I took a part-time job with a temp agency that contracts with different school districts throughout the area. Last fall I ended up at a high school that was having internal issues and my part-time job turned into a temporary full-time job. This caused me to miss out on a lot of my duties as District 1 Commander, and for this, I apologize.

Respectfully submitted.

Respectfully,

Wendy Berger Wood

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

REPORT

Michael Speer

This is a busy time of the year for posts and districts. Elections are taking place as well as officer installations. I hope all your positions are filled and installed. Hopefully, you didn't have to beg too much.

Memorial Day will have come and gone by the time you read this. I hope the weather was good and everything went smoothly. Enjoy whatever you bought at the many sales there are always. Just remember the reason for the season.

Recently, I was asked by an elderly member how much it is to become a PUFL. I checked. At his age, he would recoup his investment when he reached 102. Couldn't recommend it. Check before you take the plunge.

As I get ready to step down from a 2-year term as District Commander, I realize that there is still plenty to do as Immediate-Past-Commander. While I tried to do mentoring while I was Commander, it's needed even more now that the incoming Commander is stepping in. It's hard to teach them how you did things while allowing them to do it their way. Hopefully, I can be "hands off". Time will tell.

I'd like to say how proud I am of all the incoming and outgoing officers, both district and post, that I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with. The proudest times I had were when you felt comfortable enough to ask me questions or tell me about your concerns. Sometimes I had the answers, sometimes I had to ask someone else, sometimes there wasn't an answer. The fact that you asked made me feel good.

Mike Speer

District 2 Commander

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER

REPORT

Steve Adams

Steve Adams

Commander District 3

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

REPORT

Tim Sakraida

District 4 report

2025 convention

District 4 has had a reasonably good year. There is always room for improvement. This coming year the district officers will be looking at better ways to help out the posts. District 4 had four posts represented at the DE Cat la Pine in April. We have two posts in the district that will have new post commanders this year, post 50 and 28. Post 50 has legion, auxiliary, and SAL at 100% membership goal, and will be eligible for a family ribbon. Posts 70 and 192 have also made their membership goals for this year. We have some other posts close to reaching their membership goals for the year.

Post 192 Commander, Bob Huff is currently working on two stand downs. One at the v a domiciliary in white city, on July 9th, the other one will be at Josephine County Fairgrounds in

Grants Pass, September 3rd. Members from the different posts in the area will be volunteering to help. On June 16th the Oregon Department of VA will be at the National Guard Auditorium in Salem. Post 192 also does the American Legion Student Award Program for the schools in the Rogue Valley. From three high schools, they presented 7 senior students with American Legion medalion awards. Post 192 also sent one boy to Boys State.

At our January District 4 meeting, department commander, flynn phillips, 1st vice Renee Ohler, and 2nd vice Fred Broadwater were in attendance. They were there to present Bob Huff with a Pendleton veterans blanket for all his years of service to the American Legion.

Commander Phillips and 2nd Vice Broadwater came back in February to meet at Hidden Valley High School with me. We were there to discuss Boys' state with the principal. Afterwards, he showed us the veteran's memorial in their common area that the school had been working on, as funds allowed. We then talked about a fundraiser for the school to help pay for part of it. It was later decided that we would do a Department Commander and Post project in May. Second Vice Commander Broadwater volunteered to do a salmon bake at Post 50. The fundraiser was a great success, and we raised \$1500 for the school. The check will be presented to the school principal on June 2nd. Department Commander Phillips and 2nd vice Vice Commander Broadwater will be in attendance as well as members from Post 50.

at our April 26th District 4 caucus meeting, members running for high office participated in our meeting. This included Renee Ohler, Fred Broadwater, Mike Speer, Don Weber, and Betty Fish Ferguson. The district also had nine posts represented at our meeting.

Some of the posts in our district have been doing fundraisers to support the veteran's programs and the remodeling of their post buildings. Post 8 participates on the 3rd Thursday of the month barbequing hot dogs and hamburgers on Main Street. They are joined by other businesses in town for this event. Post 8 has remodeled the bar area with blue pine boards on the walls. This has helped to with the lighting. They are also working on getting a new chairlift for the stairs and painting the outside of the building in the future.

Post 28 have remodeled their kitchen and has everything up to code now. District 4 held all of it's district meetings for the year there, except for one. The post was also put in a new patio on the side of the building. It will be a welcome addition for the summer. The food was very good at our district meetings, thank you, Commander David. The post is still having friday night dinners and Wednesday evening meals from 4 to 6 pm. The post's SAL is very close to making their membership goal. The SAL held a golf tournament on May 3rd and raised over \$6,000 for the Willy Williams Memorial Scholarship and the Children's Wellbeing Foundation. The money will be shared equally between them.

Post 15 is now having regular meetings after it's revitalization last November. They have been growing their membership and promoting their post at golf tournaments for veterans. The post

commander and adjutant have been doing a very good job for the post. They have also sponsored a student for the Boy's State. I look for good things to be happening next year for post 15.

Post 70 had participated in Veterans Day celebrations as well as Memorial Day in Cave Junction. The post commander is also volunteering at the Roseburg VA. The post has also made its membership goal for the second year in a row.

Post 84 held the first district meeting of the year last August, and they served an excellent lunch. We will be making plans to have another district meeting in the area this year. The post also provides an honor guard service for veterans' funerals, when asked. They participate in Veteran Day and Memorial Day events in the town of Malin. This year's Memorial Day they had a breakfast for a fundraiser, and afterwards the members went to the cemeteries and placed flags on the veterans' graves.

Post 50 held its Memorial Day celebration and rifle salute at the post and then went to the nearby cemeteries and placed flags on the veterans' graves. Afterward, everyone in the community was invited back to the post for a barbecue. Post 192 helped put on the Memorial Day celebration at the national cemetery in Eagle Point. It was a successful event thanks to Bob Huff.

Post 129 continues to support American Legion baseball. They also help to send students to Girls' State and Boys' State when help is needed. The post also helps support other Legion programs.

District 4 commander

Tim Sakraida

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

REPORT

Department of Oregon

Commander Alan Alderman

Pre-Convention

Book of Reports

On April 2nd, 2025, I drove to Hood River Post 22. We all met at 1730 hrs in the Hood River Elks Club. There was a little social time and dinner followed by a meeting in the back dining room at 1800 hrs. Commander Carl Casey presided over the meeting and the agenda. They discussed several Scholarships being currently in the works. I was very pleased with the order of the meeting and the involvement of all who attended. The VFW Commander also attended the meeting as they are just starting to get their Post going again.

I spoke about the Winter DEC and the upcoming DEC in April. I offered my assistance with fundraising and membership drives that they may plan. Hood River has a population of 8,346 as of 2025 with a -6 in growth. I will maintain contact with Commander Casey to see how I can help with growth for Post 22. I told them all, I liked how they were all involved in upcoming events. Commander Casey seemed very well respected and liked.

On April 3rd, 2025, I met with Mosier Post 55 at 1700 hrs for a Beer and a sandwich at The Mosier Company. Mosier Post 55 paid for a beer and whatever the member wanted to eat prior to the meeting. Then we walked or drove to Mosier Post 55. The building is also being used by a group that volunteers to maintain a library in the Post. I installed Dave Bendinger as Commander and Kathy Crow as 1st Vice Commander.

I spoke about the closing of 5 posts in our District and the importance of membership. The posts I spoke of have not been active in many years. I spoke of the Winter DEC and what was discussed. I told them about the Spring DEC that was approaching April 12th and 13th in LaPine. We had a discussion on what type of emails they like to get or not get from me. I try to keep the information pertinent to their area and interest's. Kim Owen told me he appreciated what he was getting and was also weeding out information not relevant to the Post interests.

On April 8th, 2025, I drove to The Dalles Post 19. Ruben Hall is the current Commander and will continue as Commander into 2025/2026. We met at 1830 hrs for a meeting in Post 19 building. I spoke about the closing of 5 Post's. The Dalles has a population of 15,636 with a -75 in declining growth. It has been very difficult to gain new membership. The Dalles is currently at 70% towards their goal.

A City as large as The Dalles, I would like to see a much hire membership rate. I offered to see if the Revitalization Committee could help them with membership. Commander Hall explained that is very difficult getting members to meetings.

On April 12th & 13th, I attended the Department of Oregon Executive Committee (DEC) meetings. On April 12th, Internal Affairs Chairman Richard Ramey gave a 3-hour lecture for District Commanders. There was a lot of discussion regarding forms needed by the Department and timing of these forms. This was a very informative lecture and I very much appreciated the time.

On April 13th, the DEC was convened. Acting Department Adjutant Rob Leibenow and Finance Officer Bob Bond have found that ALL the money presumed missing have been all accounted for. The reason given was mis-coding monies for different accounts. These accounts were in very bad shape and have all been organized. The Department is looking into getting aa Check Scanner for direct deposit from HQ in Wilsonville.

The 15th of each month is the deadline to get stories, invitations or just letting the Department know what you are doing in your communities. Post Data Reports are due and must at least cover the \$42 needed for National and The Department of Oregon. I submitted my final investigation to dissolve Post 48 Warm Springs, Post 131 Deer Ridge (Correctional facility outside of Madras), Post 164 Spray, Post 135 Wamic, and Post 73 Maupin. It is very sad that we were unable keep these posts going.

On May 3rd, 2025, I drove to Post 44 Redmond for a meeting at 1100 hrs. Commander Larry Roshak held the meeting. I installed .

The meeting was well attended. I spoke about the upcoming DEC, the Winter DEC, and the closing of 5 Posts.

On May 4th, 2025, I held our District 5 Caucus and vote. I was voted back in as District 5 Commander. Greg Marvin, Vice Commander North, Gene Hellickson, Judge Advocate, Eva Summers, Adjutant, Lance Trowbridge, Chaplain, and Scott Anderson, Sgt-at-Arms. I am very honored to serve again!

On May 13th, 2025, I drove to La Pine Post 45 to install their Post Officers. I was asked by their SAL to install their officers as well. I installed all of the officers for The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 45. I then installed Scott Anderson as the continuing Commander for Post 45. In also installed Kat Kiker; Sgt-At-Arms, Keith Taylor: Finance/Chaplain, Dan Richard; E-Board-at-

Large. I reminded Commander Anderson to get in their Consolidated Post Report and the Confidential Post Report.

541-233-6523, oneincustodyal@gmail.com

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER

REPORT

2024 – 2025

Randy Tye

District 6 Officers:

Commander, 2024 Randy J. Tye

Adjutant, Maria Del Socorro Tye

1st Vice Commander Aaron Wetterling

2nd Vice Commander, Andy Millar

Chaplain, Karl Niemeyer

Sgt at Arms, Brian Spinden

Service Officer/Finance Officer

Committees - American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program –

Department of Oregon Committee Member for Districts 10 & 6 – Aaron Wetterling

Committees: The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

District 6 Chairman for Oratorical Program, Aaron Wetterling

This year, District 6 had one participant from District 6 Kruse Post 72. Kaylee Moore won second place for the Department of Oregon.

Kruse Post 72 provided the scholarship award in the amount of \$500.00. The District 6 level was also \$500.00. The Department of Oregon's second place scholarship amount is \$2,500.00. The Department of Oregon Chairwoman was Carol Bova-Rice. The delegation from District 6 included Randy Tye, Cmdr., Aaron Wetterling, 2nd Vice Cmdr., as well as the District 6

Committee Member Oratorical Program, Margaret Wetterling, Judge and Auxiliary President for Post 37 and Mary Ward District 6 President Auxiliary, Maria Tye Adjutant District 6.

BOOK OF REPORTS:

This consists of District 6 posts Activity Reports. The method for obtaining this information is by email and meeting.

Post 37, Hermiston - Commander, Aaron Wetterling - The post participated in patriotic and community events, Fourth of July, Veteran's Day events, dinners, coffee meetings. Christmas festivities as well as PNWWA Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, St. Patrick's Day Dinner. The post holds Yard Sale, potato bar and dessert socials. Post 37 assists EOTEC in sorting toys for Children and have an active Honor Guard. Their local Chamber of Commerce is very pro veteran and 10 Hi-Viz safety vests to be printed with the post name and number. They have contributed over 2000 volunteer hours. They have an active auxiliary.

Post 41- Baker City- Commander Christopher Kriss – They participated in Veteran's Day events, Christmas Parade, Festival of Trees, Wreaths Across America, delivered holidays gift bags to local convalescent home and hosted the Christmas Party, shooting program Legion Riders is active. Participates in local activities with the VFW.

Post 157 – Wallowa Lake Joseph – Commander Jeff Baty – Post actively participates with the local Outreach Programs. They help in placing flags at the local cemeteries on Memorial Day. They hosted the Walla Walla Jonathan Wainwright Veterans Hospital Town Hall Meeting, hosted their Annual Veterans Day Breakfast. The post assists the local VFW in organizing the Wallowa Fourth of July Parade County wide. They participate in the local shooting program.

Post 95 – Ione – Commander Brian Rietmann – Participated in the Fourth of July and Veterans Day events. They sponsor a scholarship program at the local high school. They have provided their American flag for Morrow County Fair and provide 21-gun salute. They rent their hall. They have provided color guards for parades. They have an active auxiliary.

Post 43 – La Grande – Commander Dave Mattot – The post participates in local activities, holds bingo, Burger Night and this post has an American Legion Riders. They have an active Auxiliary. The post donates to the local ROTC program. They participate in a Golf Tournament. They have an active auxiliary.

Post 72 – Kruse- Wallowa – Commander Maria D. Tye - The post is still striving to up grade post building.

Post 130 – Athena – Commander – Erick Pickard -No report all year. They have an active auxiliary.

Post 140 – Mission – Commander Antone Minthorn – trying to revitalize. - No report all year

Post 23 – Pendleton- No officers need to revitalize

Post 24 – Milton Free-Water - They have post dinners. Place flags on Memorial Day. Participated in local events. They have an active auxiliary.

End of Year Book of Reports

District 6 Commander Randy J. Tye

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

REPORT

Vacant

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

REPORT

Tim Troupe

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

REPORT

Eric Stallings

According to the latest membership report, we are approximately 86% for the District. Bay Area Post 34 is the only post that has achieved its goal so far.

Our last District meeting was our District Caucus held on May 10th at Bay Area Post 34. Lunch was provided. Business was conducted. Reports given and submitted by attending Posts.

Recommendations were accepted by the District nominating committee and officers were unanimously elected for another year.

Commander – Eric Stallings

Vice Commander – Don Adams

Finance Officer – Kevin Owens

Our posts have been involved in their communities. Especially with Americanism programs. Our posts like to give back and recognize those who work hard and serve others in our communities.

Bandon Post #26 completed their goal of installing a flagpole at Ocean Crest Elementary School, with a celebration on April 16th. A new flagpole will also be installed at Bandon High School in June. Post 26 participates with other local veteran groups and attends the local Veterans Café. Work continues on the restoration of the GAR cemetery. The Post is also attending the local Vietnam Veterans Day celebration and parade in March. They also made a donation to the Bandon School District for school supplies for next year.

Bay Area Post 34 has been very busy. The membership goal was achieved this year. Sea Cadets and Boy Scouts have been active. Post 34's Legion Rider Chapter has new leadership and have 9 new members and is growing. They are planning events and fundraisers. The Post is excited to have this part of the American Legion Family active again. David's Chair has continued to be a vital program that Post 34 supports. Recently, the chair was checked out on May 2nd to help veterans hunt and fish. The Post continues to visit our veteran members at Ocean Ridge. Flags for First Graders programs were presented at North Bay and Eastside Elementary for 120 students.

Reedsport Post 62 has started a new Facebook page. You can find it under American Legion, Reedsport, OR Post #62. They have started to post some great pictures of their latest events. The Post has been putting out flags along the roadways on major holidays. This is their major fundraising event for the year. Post 62 could possibly have 2-3 boys for Boys State this year. They are looking to sponsor a Cub Scout Pack. Plans are being made for Memorial Day events. Business cards have been made to pass out to people and potential members in the public. Working with the local AM radio station to get information out.

Oakland Post 152 participated in Quarterly honors at the Roseburg VA National Cemetery, and will place flags on 200 graves of 3 different cemeteries. They have plans to lay a wreath during Memorial Day celebrations at the VA Cemetery.

Our next District Meeting will be held at Bandon Post #26 on September 6th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Stallings

Commander, District 9

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

REPORT

Robert Hornbeck

Administrative & Advisory Commission

Report

Americanism Commission Report

Mike Speer Chair

June 2025

All the committees have been busy this time around.

Legion Baseball (Mike Sowles)

See baseball Book of Reports

The season officially starts on June 1, every year. Teams and organizers work year around to plan schedules and organize. So far there are 55 registered teams.

Boys State (Fred Broadwater)

See Boys State Book of Reports

To date, there are 55 boys registered, hailing from Oregon, Idaho and California. This is a 38% increase over last year. Buses will be taking the Boys State and Girl State attendees to the state capitol for a visit.

Children and Youth (Betty Fish-Ferguson)

See C&Y Book of Reports

Betty attended the Children and Youth Committee meeting at the National Spring Meetings at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Numerous topics were discussed. If you have any questions, refer to her Book of Reports or the recent Legionnaire.

Junior Shooting Sports (Raoul Salem)

See JSS Book of Reports

There are 8 JROTC High School Air Rifle teams, 4 Smallbore (.22 cal.) Rifle teams that shoot at various gun clubs and several 4H teams.

Law Enforcement Career Camp (Ed Owens)

See LECC Book of Reports

Anticipate around 20 attendees, need a male and female chaperone.

Oratorical (Carol Bova-Rice)

See Oratorical Book of Reports

Oregon Oratorical wrapped up in March. Mark Saunders, our Dept winner went to Nationals and got a \$2,000 scholarship.

Scouting (No Chair, 2 members)

This year's Eagle Scout of the Year is Elijah Jones from Forest Grove via Forest Grove Post 2.

JIM WILLIS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER COMMITTEE

REPORT

Ed Owens

ED has 15 students so far this year, the program is on track.

Sincerely,

Ed Owens

360-991-9665

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Mike Sowles Chair

Book of Reports for May 2025 Legion Baseball

Team Registrations are at 55 teams total, 17 Triple AAA teams and 38 single A teams, all with 3 more days to register and complete requirements.

We have certified 135 background checks, 110 Abuse Training, 35 teams have purchased Insurance.

The Single A tournament will be held in Eagle Point, Oregon this year from July 23 to July 27. The Triple A tournament will be held in Portland, Oregon at the University of Portland, from July 26 to July 30.

The single A Regional tournament will be held in Burley, Idaho and the Triple AAA Regional will be in Billings, Montana.

We have teams from Ontario, Oregon to Coos Bay, Oregon and from Portland and the Dalles to Medford and Klamath Falls. Our center of growth in the past two years Has been in Redmond and Bend, with 8 teams. The valley teams have increased with 4 new single A teams in the last two years, two in Albany and 2 in the Corvallis area.

Our season officially starts on June 1, every year. Teams and organizers work year around to plan schedules and organize.

Please continue to support the American Legion Baseball Program, now celebrating 100 years 1925-2025.

Mike Sowles, Systems Administrator

Email: msowles@wvi.com

Phone: 503-509-9948 or Text.

BOY SCOUTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Chair

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Fred Broadwater Chair

This report covers the period from July 2025 through May 2025.

Separating the duties and actions of the Boys State Committee is a little like trying to wash your hands one at a time. This has been a most exciting year. It reminds me of planting Tulips in the garden. In the fall, with planning and preparation, you put your bulbs in the ground and hope for the best, waiting with anticipation. This year we are blessed with a beautiful bouquet.

We are expecting 54 young men from Oregon, Idaho, and California to congregate at Oregon State University from Sunday, June 22, through Saturday, June 28. This represents a 600% growth since our rebirth after Covid in 2022, and a 35% growth versus 2024. Your rock steady Posts in Coos Bay/North Bend, St Helens, and Elmira again responded by sending about 24% of this year's delegate class. There were some young men from areas that have not been represented in the past: Baker City, Ontario, Vale, John Day, and Corvallis. When I'm invited to visit a High School, I try to present all our Legion youth programs-Oratorical Boys State, Girls State, Jim Willis Law Career Camp. An example of this would be Mike Williams invited Flynn Phillips and me to Culver High School, and I think our Auxiliary benefited with two young ladies for Girls State. A similar experience happened at Hidden Valley High School in Murphy. Tim Sakraida's Post agreed to sponsor a young lady to Girls State.

I don't work in a vacuum. Ian Gerstel is retiring this year, but will be the Committeeman Emeritus and will always be welcome for his knowledge and experience. As many of you know, the term emeritus is defined as holding, after retirement, an honorary title corresponding to the last held position. The other individual I will miss is Rob Liebenow, who has been a great sounding board, giving the Committee thoughtful advice, and I'm sure I'm responsible for some of his grey hairs. I'm looking forward to Commander Ohler's new appointees to this committee.

FB

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Hello Legionnaires,

I had the opportunity to attend the recent National Spring Meetings at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5th, 2025. I represented Oregon on the Children and Youth Committee. I would like to share a synopsis of the minutes that were presented to the Americanism Commission from the Children and Youth Committee.

The Committee on Children and Youth met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Panorama A Room, on the 21st floor at 10:15, following the opening of the Americanism Commission. An invocation was given and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

A roll call was taken with 11 members present and a quorum declared. The C&Y Committee Chairman, Herbery Petit, Jr., brought greetings.

The first topic discussed was the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation:

Founded in 1954 to support worthwhile youth programming. Since 1955 to date, \$21 million has been awarded to organizations that support Children. Also reported that the name had been changed to the American Legion Child Well-being Foundation since the Fall meetings.

The next topic was a review of the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. In 1925, WW1 Veterans, Widows, and Children continued to struggle to adjust to postwar. In 1925, \$5 million was raised to establish this fund. In 2024, \$10,210,094. The majority are coming from the Legion Rider Legacy Run.

Next discussed was the Temporary Financial Assistance Program. A review of the program was presented, and with the criteria. A resolution was put forth to raise the award amount from \$1500.00 to \$2500.00, which I heartily support. Other resolutions affect the Health and Safety of our Nation's children. These will be discussed in more depth at the Fall meetings in October.

There is a newly revised second edition of the bookazine called the Whole Child. It highlights the impact the American Legion has had on the Children and Youth Pillar in 2024. It can be ordered from Emblem Sales. We received a copy, and it is a beautiful publication.

The 19th annual Children and Youth Conference will be held during the Fall Meetings on September 26-28, 2025, in Indianapolis. I hope to attend.

If you have any questions, please let me know. A closing prayer was given, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

I felt very fortunate to attend.

This is the end of the 2024-2025 year. I do not know if I will be Chairman of Children and Youth, but I have enjoyed bringing back these updates.

Betty Fish-Ferguson

Chairman, Children and Youth

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Raoul Salem Chair

Report on Junior Shooting Sports to the Meeting of Medford American Legion Post 15, District 4, Department of Oregon

On Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

The most notable High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program in Oregon, which participates in junior air rifle competition, is Lebanon High School Army JROTC. But there are other JROTC programs in Oregon that participate in air rifle competition.

Redmond High School Marine Corps JROTC (in Redmond)

Mountain View High School Navy JROTC (in Bend)

Madras High School Multi-Services JROTC (in Madras)

North Salem High School Army JROTC (in Salem)

Oregon City High School Army JROTC (in Oregon City)

Crook County High School Navy JROTC (in Prineville)

Reynolds High School Multi-Services JROTC (in Troutdale)

Also, there are some very active junior shooting sports *clubs* that are *not* JROTC in northern Oregon programs.

Tri-County Gun Club

Sherwood, Oregon

The junior shooting group is named Timber Beasts.

Colonel Allison Junior Rifle Club

Keizer, Oregon 97303

A youth organization of the

Four Corners Rod and Gun Club

Salem, Oregon

Portland Rifle and Pistol Club

Portland, Oregon

Clatskanie Rifle and Pistol Club

Clatskanie, Oregon 97016

Unfortunately, only Lebanon High School Army JROTC participated in the **2025 American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Championship Tournament**.

There were 16 shooters from Lebanon High School who participated in the **first round** (which was a postal tournament, meaning that the shooters shoot their official tournament target sets at their “home” shooting range). The shot target sets were required to be mailed to the headquarters of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) at Camp Perry (near Port Clinton, Ohio), and postmarked not later than February 1st, 2025. Three of the shooters (Jalynn Wilson, Erin Hiller, and Alana Griffiths) each had **individual** scores over 530 (out of 600 points possible), which meant that they were invited to participate in the *second* round (also a postal tournament).

The official tournament target sets for the **second round** were mailed out by February 15th by the CMP. They were required to be shot and mailed back to the CMP with a postmark not later than April 1st, 2025. For the **individual** competition, out of 26 competitors, Erin Hiller was 6th, Jalynn Wilson was 19th, and Alana Griffiths was 22nd. Only the top 15 competitors (in this case, only Erin Hiller for Lebanon High School) were invited to compete in the third round, which will be the National Championship Tournament for individual competitors, at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan from July 22nd through July 26th.

The Lebanon **team** (of Jalynn Wilson, Erin Hiller, Alana Griffiths, and Zachary Schlundt) were ranked fifth (out of 75 teams). They were invited to participate in the second round, for the top ten teams (which was also a postal tournament).

The second round of the team competition *was* the National Championship Tournament. Out of ten teams, the Lebanon High School Army JROTC team ranked seventh. The team members were Erin Hiller, Alana Griffiths, Jalynn Wilson, and Rusty Vaughn.

Although it is not an American Legion junior air rifle competition, the participation of the Lebanon High School Army JROTC program in the 2025 Civilian Marksmanship Program Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Western Regional Championship, from April 10th through April 12th in Sandy, Utah is worthy of note. In all, Lebanon fielded a total of 16 individual air rifle shooters, and four teams of four shooters each. In the qualifying round of the individual competition, Erin Hiller ranked third, Christopher Slingluff was 5th, Jalynn Wilson was 13th, and Rusty Vaughan was 22nd, from a total of 130 competitors. The eight highest-scoring competitors in the qualifying round advanced to the finals, in which Erin Hiller ranked third, and Christopher Slingluff was fourth.

The junior smallbore rifle shooting group of the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club meets on most Friday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The first in a series of five three-county junior smallbore rifle tournaments in Southern Oregon was conducted at the indoor shooting range of the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club on Saturday, December 7th, 2024. There were nine competitors.

The second tournament was conducted at the indoor shooting range of the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club on Saturday, January 18th, 2025. There were fourteen competitors.

The third tournament was conducted at the indoor shooting range of the Josephine County Sportsman Association (near Merlin and Grants Pass) on Saturday, February 15th, 2025. There were thirteen competitors.

The fourth tournament was conducted at the indoor shooting range of the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club on Saturday, March 8th, 2025. There were thirteen competitors.

The fifth and final tournament was conducted at the indoor shooting range of the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club on Saturday, April 26th, 2025. There were eleven competitors. This marked the end of the smallbore rifle training and competition for the junior smallbore rifle shooting group of the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club until autumn of 2025.

There are three 4-H shooting sports clubs, for children of age 9 through 18 years, which meet at the outdoor Range Number 7 of the Jackson County Sports Park on the first and third Sundays of October through April. There was a Jackson County 4-H Shooting Sports Championship Tournament for smallbore rifle, smallbore pistol, and muzzle-loading rifle on Saturday, May 10th, 2025 at Range Number 7. Raoul Salem was not able to attend, has not yet seen the tournament results bulletin, and does not know how many competitors participated. The 2025 Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Championship Contests will be conducted at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club shooting ranges in Shedd, Oregon from Monday, June 16th through Wednesday, June 18th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Raoul B. Salem

Very truly yours,

Raoul B. Salem

[876 Archer Drive Medford, Oregon 97501-4412](mailto:raoul_b_salem@Charter.NET)

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ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

Carol Bova-Rice Chair

Mark Saunders, our Department Winner, went to National Oratorical Competition and represented us well. He did not make it to semifinals but received \$2,000 scholarship for each bracket he did pass through. Unfortunately, Mark was a senior this year so is no longer eligible to participate in Oratorical Contests. Never fear, he has a sister we will try very hard to take his place next year.

GOOD NEWS: Next year's forms and literature are now online at legion.org/oratorical/resources

I highly suggest that EVERY POST AND DISTRICT COMMANDER COPY EACH AND EVERY FORM AND PIECE OF LITERATURE AND COMPILE A NOTEBOOK FOR YOU AND YOUR ORATORICAL CHAIR AND BECOME VERY FAMILIAR WITH ITS CONTENTS.

Having all the information, rules, and forms now, there should be no excuses for saying you didn't know what to do for next year's competition. START WORKING NEXT YEAR'S ORATORICAL PROGRAM TODAY WHILE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO COACH AND PRACTICE WITH THEM AND HAVE MORE THAN ONE OR NO CONTESTANTS.

Also once our updated COP is ratified, my team and I will ensure each District Commander gets a copy to place in your newly created Oratorical Notebooks so you can pass it on to your chairpersons at Post and District level.

At each DEC I will ask each District Commander to bring their notebooks so I and my team can help you with any problems you are having.

LETS HAVE A GREAT ORATORICAL YEAR AND HAVE 10 CONTESTANTS AT OUR DEPARTMENT CONTEST!!

SIGNED

Carole Bova-Rice

Department Oratorical Chair

503-551-0596

cbrafgal@gmail.com

CONVENTION COMMISSION

REPORT

Jim Waggoner Chair

Want to say my 1st year as your Convention Chairman has to say the least been a tremendous, and at times stressful and rewarding learning experience.

I also want to thank Santiam Post 51 for hosting the fall D.E.C. In Lebanon. And Lapine Post 45 for hosting the Spring D.E.C.

A big thank you to Salem post 136,149,17 for all their hard work and time spent hosting the 2015 State convention.

I hope everyone comes to the State Convention in Salem. We will have a great time.

Jim Waggoner

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REPORT

Richard Ramey Chair

The Internal Affairs Commission is comprised of the Internal Affairs Commission Chairman and the Chairman of the American Legion Riders Committee Gale Sears, Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chairman Ward Allen, Resolutions Committee Chairman Tim Troupe, Sons of The American Legion Committee Chairman Adam Gettmann, Training and Development Committee Chairman [most of the year — Past Department Commander (PDC) Steve Adams, Steven Shollenburg, and Trophies and Awards Committee Chairman.

Throughout this year, the Internal Affairs Commission has assisted Legionnaires, reviewed reports, meeting minutes, newsletters and other documentation of the Department, Districts, Commissions, Committees, and Posts and attended District meetings to survey the operations of our Department. That analysis has enabled the Commission to recognize achievements, best practices, and identify areas where improvements might be made in the Department of Oregon.

Again this year it is noted that Districts and Committees, as a whole, have few meeting minutes on file at the Department. The official records of all organizational entities are the minutes of proceedings held within those organizations. When available, leadership at all levels can utilize these documents to assist our Department and Posts in improving, and in so doing ensure greater effectiveness in conducting The American Legion programs.

Likewise, the submission of Post and District Confidential, Installation, Committee Assignments reports was below requirements. These, also, can be utilized by the Department, Commissions, Committees, and Districts to assist in the administration of The American Legion programs if the information is available. Only 43% of the Posts had the Confidential, 36% of Installation, and 8% of Committee Assignment records on file at Department. Seven of the ten Districts have minutes on file, and only 26% of the Commissions and Committees have minutes on file at Department.

If Post Analysis Reports are an indication of the posts visited, only 38 of the 111 posts in the Department were visited by District leadership, and those were in only six of the ten districts. The importance of post visits by Department and District leadership cannot be over-emphasized. Posts are the “boots on the ground” and need the help and encouragement of our Department and District leaders to guide, direct, and recognize the achievements of these people who are administering the programs in the communities to help veterans, children, and youth, and the citizens throughout our state.

Of the districts that did submit meeting minutes, many reported extensive activities by posts in their districts. And from those reports, we can substantiate that 57 posts attended district meetings, many of which reported activities for the year.

Posts are still documenting the Consolidated Post Reports for this year, and an analysis of the reports submitted for the 2023-2024 year showed a marked improvement in documenting activities and volunteer hours over the previous year. Eighty (80) Posts of the Department of Oregon documented 160,967 volunteer hours administering the programs of The American Legion last year. For reference, the Department of Oregon documented 76,985 hours for the previous year.

Several issues were referred to the Internal Affairs Commission and the Commission investigated the circumstances and coordinated with affected entities.

On a positive note, several Posts are producing excellent newsletters which keep their membership informed and document the great efforts and progress they are making on administering The American Legion programs within their communities. Also, some posts have been filing their meeting minutes with Department and they reveal well conducted meetings which provide detail on the activities in working the programs to keep their members well informed.

Moving forward in the coming year, the importance of leaders reviewing and utilizing the publications of the Post Officer’s Guide, District/County Commanders Guide, Post Adjutant Guide, and other publications available from the National and Department websites must be **emphasized**. In these publications are detailed descriptions of procedures, instructions, ceremonies, etc. which when utilized will make for more effective meetings and programs administration.

OREGON AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

REPORT

Gale Sears Chair

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	63	64	58	63
Aux	11	11	8	11
SAL	13	13	11	13
Legion	39	40	39	37
new members	2	1	1	3
supporters	0			0
Donations out			500	9500
Escorts				2
Flaglines				
Hours	544	432	838	249

Miles				
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McMinnville Post 21

Friday dinners are 6 people for 4 hours, 4th of July BBQ,

- 11 July Veterans Lunch
- Robert Da Kar is gathering riders to partake in the Newberg Old Fashion Festival parade
- June 1st Mac Parks and Rec All Legionnaires and Families are welcome. POC Bob Berweger
- 15 June Sheridan Home town days Poker Run registration 8 am: will need Aux and Son's to also support Ivan and Cheryl with the event registration, bike games and closing
- June 14-16 Oregon Brews and BBQ: Yamhill County fairgrounds. Bike show the 16th
- June 21-23 Oregon ROMP LaPine Vendors, Teddy bear delivery 22 June 10am Deschutes Childrens foundation in LaPine.
- July 12-14 Confederated Tribes Veterans Pow Wow Veterans Lead the opening ceremony. 6 days AIR SHOW SET UP, CEREMONY AND TAKE DOWN. Chapter member voted ALROH and Rider of the YEAr FALL- oct Veterans Lunch , Air Show set up , ride, Bunny judging for kids, Jerry George Rider of the Year. Sept Scholarship Ride.

Winter :Participated in the McMinnville Memorial Day McMinnville parade.

Red white and Blue Bunny show at the Yamill county fairgrounds 12 pm Memorial Day POC Bob Berweger

FUTURE EVENTS AND SERVICES YOUR CHAPTER HAS PLANNED; (use separate sheet if necessary)

3,000-mile criteria change: The committee met to review the current procedures to update individual participation with other chapter members and rides that include other events representing the American Legion. Upon approval via chapter members review and a positive vote of concurrence. Miles will be recorded for 2,000 and 3,000 miles depending on the ride event and activity. Updated procedures were developed and approved.

Bob Wilson Secretary/Scholarship: Finalized the Scholarship application form for its presentation to the local schools and posting to the new website. In addition, the Post pledged to provide 3,000 to our fund, and Paul pledged and additional 2,000 from the Christmas tree fund.

Milwaulie Post 180

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	18	30	30	

Aux	5	4	4	
SAL	5	6	6	
Legion		20		
new members	3	1	2	
supporters	3	6	6	
Donations		8300	1950	
Escorts		2		
Flaglines				
Hours	893	1242		
Miles				

**Breakfast Fundraisers, Taco Tuesday, Ronadl McDonald Toy Run, Kids Christmas Party, Valentines Party, Residential Care Facility visits. Baker City Run, Patriot Flag Run, Cpl Diffie Fundraiser THANKSGIVING, VETERANS DAY RUN, (summer) Patriots Ride escort PDX to Pasco. Wall Escort, 7 Breakfast FR. 5 Dinner, 7 Taco Tues. 6 Wing Wed. 2 Youth Sport, BCMR Recruitment Ride, Gold Star Mother event. Cpl Diffie. Gladstone Comm. Parade Youth Sport Sponser, Flag Replacment campaign. Everlasting Escorts. Post 21 Scholarship Run, POW/MIA golf, Octoberfest, kids Halloween , Veterans Day Parade. Community Thanksgiving. FALL- breakfast FR, Dinner FR, facility maintenance, taco tues, Wing wed, children & youth fr, post 21 scholarship run, Jossi POW, MIA golf tourn. Ocktoberfest, Kids Halloween, Vet Parade, Assisted Living Facility Veteran Recognition , Thanksgiving 310 free dinners) future: kids umbrella parade, kids xmas party, volunteer recoginition, Jack Bailey teddy bear drive, bi-annual 141 bde spt bn regimental host, McDonald toy run, youth memeber medical needs FR, Wagaon FR, 2025 post elections
Winter December 24- Ronald McDonald Toy Run, Teddy Bear Collection, Hosted Local Military Association Event, Rode in Holiday Parade, 3 Breakfast Fundraisers, Supported Kids Gift Wrapping Event, 2 Meat Drawing Fundraisers, 2 Dinner Fundraisers, Sponsored Community Kids Christmas Party, 2 Taco Tuesday Fundraisers, 2 Wing Wednesday Fundraisers, Supported the Post Family Officers Christmas Party and Donated over \$1950**

**January 25 – Supported College Bowl Game Day and the National Championship, 2 Taco Tuesday Fundraisers, 1 Seafood Dinner Fundraiser, 3 Breakfast Fundraisers, 2 Wing Wednesday Fundraisers, 1 Blazer Ticket Drawing Fundraiser, 1 TX Hold'em Tournament Fundraiser, Supported SAL Crab Feed Fundraiser, and donated \$2400
February 25 – 2 Taco Tuesday Fundraisers, 2 Dinner Fundraisers, 2 Wing Wednesday Fundraisers, 1 Meat Drawing Fundraiser, and donated \$1100**

FUTURE EVENTS AND SERVICES YOUR CHAPTER HAS PLANNED; (use separate sheet if necessary)

March 25 – Chicken Fried Chicken with a Meat Drawing Fundraiser Dinner 6-8 pm on 3/7, 2 Taco Tuesdays 3/4 and 3/18 Fundraisers, 2 Breakfasts 3/9 and 3/23 Fundraisers, 2 Mid-Week Munchies (Wednesdays) Happy Hour Fundraisers 3/12 and 3/26, and Vietnam Veterans Day Shuffleboard Tournament

April 25 - 2 Taco Tuesday Fundraisers 4/1-(Honest No Fooling) and 4/15, Vietnam Remembrance Day Event 4/5, 2

Mid-Week Munchies (Wednesday) Happy Hour Fundraisers 4/9 and 4/23, Easter Bunny Breakfast (Kids get a free picture with the Easter bunny when they Buy a breakfast) 4/13, 1 Breakfast Fundraiser 4/27, Shuffleboard Tournament 4/19, and TX Hold'em Tournament Fundraiser 4/26

La Pine Chapter 45

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	25		36	36
Aux				
SAL				
Legion				
new members				1
supporters	1		1	1
Donations				
Escorts				3
Flaglines				

Hours	650		196	345
Miles				

Ice Breaker W 200 IN ATTENDANCE, memorial services, Cooking at post, Karoke host, ROMP, Quarterly meeting, Golf Tournament, AUCTION, (summer) ROMP election Ice Maker event, winter

We cooked dinner each Thursday and 5 Saturdays.

We held 5 pizza Saturdays (lunch through dinner)

We had Karaoke nights 5 nights

FUTURE EVENTS AND SERVICES YOUR CHAPTER HAS PLANNED; (use separate sheet if necessary)

Our Annual Ice Breaker will be May 16-18. We will have live bands, food, raffles, auction, bike games and a Poker Run. Camping will be available, hookups and dry available for purchase. We will start booking camping 1 month prior.

Tigard 158

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	18	18	18	18
Aux	5	5	5	3
SAL	3	3	3	5
Legion		10	10	10
new members		0		0
supporters				0
Donations	917	2500	450	
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours	528	550	360	425

Miles				
<p>Salvation Army Donation post dinner -raised \$450 Post Outside Workparty - 1/28/24, 3/24/24, 4/28/24, 5/19/24 Post Inside Workparty - 2/25/24 , Ride Feb 2024 Post Americanism dinner 2-24-24 recognize First responders, boys state, Legion Baseball. Hosted ORALR election meeting. Memorial Day Crescent Grove Cemetary (summer) Work Party, Western ROMP, Mac Air Show, Paint detail, Dinners, Mt Hood Ride FALL: mt hood run, workparty (x 3) Veterans day flags, Sat, dinner UPCOMING: 12/19 Holiday party, Gift delivery, Honor flight donation, Salvation Army donation <u>Winter</u>: Salvation Army Gift delivery. Holiday Potluck, Outside Post work party x 2</p>				

Albany post 10

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members		10	10	12
Aux		2	2	2
SAL		3	2	2
Legion		5	8	8
new members		0	1	
supporters			1	2
Donations			500	

Escorts	2			
Flaglines	16	11		
Hours		591	193	141
Miles		5367	1543	1697

POST & AUX EVENTS, (DINNERS, POPPIES, MEMORIAL FLAGS) 2 SCHOLARSHIP, GARY SINISE FOUNDATION ESCORT, FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY, PARADES, TOY RUN, FLAG CEREMONY 4TH OF JULY. RIDE FOR THE ALIVE, VETERANS THANKSGIVING DINNER, VETERANS CHRISTMAS DINNER, Ride for The Alive Meetings Birthday Drive By 9/11 Ceremony Retirement Home Visit (summer) ROMP 2 parades, 4th july baseball, car show, veterans visits, booth at Fair, Patriots Day, Wall of Honor escort, Ride for the Alive
FALL: patriots day, veterans parade, ride for the alive, gold star sign dedication, wall of honor escort, set up and tear down, 12 challenge coins presented. pearl harbor, kids Xmas gift giving,
Winter: Donated \$500 to our Post to help with utilities.
Helped Auxiliary with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners (not included in time/miles)
FUTURE EVENTS AND SERVICES YOUR CHAPTER HAS PLANNED; (use separate sheet if necessary) Working with ALR 20,51,83 on upcoming Oregon R.O.M.P.
Working with Vets Helping Vets HQ for Wall of Honor Escort in May
Working with SW Oregon Honor Flight April sendoff event at Linn Co. Courthouse
Working with Post 10 & 9/11 Committee to organize Patriots Day (9/11/25)
Ride for the Alive - planned for late summer

Oregon Trail 150

22-23	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members		3	3	
Aux			0	
SAL			0	
Legion		3	3	
new members			0	
supporters				
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours			0	

Miles				
FALL hosted Fall Quarterly meeting. WINTER: nothing to report				

Stayton 58

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	13	13	13	11
Aux	3	3	3	3
SAL	5	5	5	5
Legion	8	8		8
new members	2			
supporters	7	7	7	7
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours			308	465
Miles			4612	12649

Flaglines, escorts, training, meetings. Monthly coffee with veterans with several local assisted living facilities. Attended the Silverton Parade, Newberg Parade, Mill City Parade, Stayton Parade, Corn Festival Aumsville Parade, Membership Drive at the Stayton Festival, Attended the 2024 ALR Romp in LaPine.

FUTURE EVENTS:

> We have several parades scheduled, flaglines and escorts. Participation in the 911 Remembrance Ceremony in Albany, Ride For the Alive 2024, Wall of Honor Escort, Honor Flight Escort.

FALL: Flaglines, escorts, training, meetings. Monthly coffee with veterans with several local assisted living facilities. Many attended the Ride For The Alive. 9/11 Memorial ceremony, Attended and led the Veteran’s Day Parade in Albany. A ride by of 4 assisted living facilities to honor veterans that lived there for Veteran’s Day. Canned food drive at our monthly rider meetings. Mounting, replacing, repairing flags on Fallen Hero signs. Attended and presented Hero Coins at the B-17 coffee with veterans.

Attended dedication of the first installment of the Vietnam Memorial Dedication in Salem.

FUTURE EVENTS :

> Flaglines as needed. Toy drive for holiday family adoption for Christmas. Toy handout, Ceremonies for Pearl Harbor Day

Winter:Flaglines, escorts, training, meetings. Monthly coffee with veterans with several local assisted living facilities. . Canned food drive at our monthly rider meetings. Mounting, replacing, repairing flags on Fallen Hero signs. Attended and presented Hero Coins at the B-17 coffee with veterans. Adopted a family for Christmas and participated community toy giveaway. Attended meetings for planning of American Legion State Convention in Salem. Participated in the Four Chaplain Remembrance Ceremony. Attended Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony. Replaced a flag at Cascades of Stayton Assisted Living.

FUTURE EVENTS AND SERVICES YOUR CHAPTER HAS PLANNED; (use separate sheet if necessary)
> Flaglines and Escorts as needed. Planning meetings for the ALR Romp, Escort of Wall of Honor from Albany to Ontario, Oregon.

Vernonia 119

Total Members	10	10	9	
Aux	0	2	0	
SAL	2	0	1	
Legion		8	8	
new members				
supporters		1		
Donations		120	100	

Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours	115	120	100	
Miles		600	100	

Collect & deliver \$250 to Vernonia Fire dept. toys for joy. Deliver AL xmas trees to family in need. Visit elder
 Lion to get glasses & benefit Poker game. Build ad board for Post. Scout Derby cars. Donate Boy & Girl Scout
 sidewalk @ post. Emergency response & replacement of post plumbing.. Vernonia Friendship jamboree & le
 show. donate to family @ xmas. plowing snow from school. & lots. maintain Highway memorial sign. Meet
 March 16th. Spring Poker Run May 183 PARADES, HOSTED MOROTCYCLE SHOW, ASSISTED POST 119 BBQ, E
 REPAIRS, ELDERLY VETERAN MOVE. Placed flags and crosses at Vernonia area cemeteries for Memorial Day.
 Removed flags after Memorial day. Put up flags on Bridge Street for Memorial Day and Flag Day. Retrieved
 after Memorial Day and Flag Day. 2nd Annual Chapter 119 Poker Run. Attended Vernonia Memorial Day
 Ceremony.(SUMMER) HOOD TO COAST RADIO COORDINATION. FREINSHIP JAMBOREE. POST 100 YR ANNIV
 ON BRIDGE WESTERN ROMP RAFFLE FOR KNITTED BLANKET.BOOOTH AT VERNONIA SALMON FEST
 FALL: abate toy drive, Vernonia food bank donation,, recruiting, winter poker run, veteran day flags, Raffle t
 knitted blanket, (dwg dec 14) Winter: \$100 donation to Vernonia
 Bank for family of 2 at xmas. Raffle ticket for Harley knitted blanket. Xmas Potluck .. upcoming: spring poke
 May 18th flags on Bridge street Vietnam Vet Day. replace flag at Rickreall

Newport 119

	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
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Total Members		13		
Aux		1		
SAL		3		
Legion		9		
new members				
supporters				
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours		750		
Miles				

PLACED 4 MEMORIAL FLAGS FALL: meal prep post meals Thanksgiving and service for public. Post anniv. Pin sales for memorial flag replacement.

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	11	11		9
Aux	5	5		5
SAL				
Legion	6	6		7
new members	1			1
supporters	5	6		3
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours	382	100		465
Miles		1257		1573

**6 Covered Bridges Run, Relay for Life Colorguard, Auxiliary Charter Member Flagline, Romp, Mill City Jly 4 Parade
Volcanos Veterans Presentation, Several ALR 20 Group Rides
FALL:**

Hillsboro 6

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	11	12	12	
Aux	1	1	1	
SAL	2	2	2	
Legion	8	9	9	
new members	11	1	0	
supporters	0		0	
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours		25	25	
Miles				

FALL: Assisted in organizing and participating at the Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Blue Ox Axe Throwing Nov. 10th (5 members)

Aided in the planning and attended the Veterans Day Service at the Washington County Memorial in Hillsboro Nov 11 (3 members, 1 bike)

Assisted with the booth at the Washington County Stand Down, created ALR flyer for info. Nov 15 (2 members)

Retrieved Totem from Tigard Post (2 members, 2 bikes)

FUTURE EVENTS: Looking into joining other Rider activities at this time. Still in the discussion/learning phase for planning an event other than rides with the group

Winter: Assisted in organizing and participating at the Holiday Ham Dinner Dec 14 (3 members)

Aided in the planning and attended the Police Officer of the Year Dinner Feb 4 (3 members)

Ontario 67

23-24	SUMMER 24	FALL 24	WINTER 25	SPRING 24
Total Members	6		11	11
Aux	2		2	3
SAL				5
Legion	4		9	3
new members				
supporters			3	7
Donations				
Escorts				
Flaglines				
Hours	16			22
Miles				

new chapter, meet and greet, hosted mayor etc. Pendleton Iraq afghanistan wall to Ontario, ROMP, Parade in Burns centennial celebration (summer) Dist meeting, Gold Star Hwy dedication

Winter: Trunk or Treat at Vets Hall. Vets Day Parade. Pride ride as soon as Pass Clears

RESOLUTION ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Tim Troupe Chair

Resolutions submitted as this Time/ Date

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

REPORT

Detachment Commander

Robert Liebenow

We are just finishing up another great year. Our membership numbers are not where they should be, but we will get there. Our squadrons are working hard to support the Legion programs and once again, we are leading the way in donations for CWF. We are now starting to concentrate our fundraising efforts toward the Veterans and Children's Foundation.

Our mission is to support The American Legion. That means to help with not only their programs but the day-to-day projects and fundraising at the post and department. level.

As we continue to grow each year, I look forward to more posts starting SAL programs and increasing our membership.

RL

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Steve Adams Chair

XXXX

TROPHY AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT

VACANT

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

REPORT

Tim Cowan Chair

Respectfully

Tim Cowan

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REPORT

No Chair

LEGIONNAIRE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Vacant

Chair

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Justin Wutzke to be ratified Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT

Maria Tye Chair

This would enhance the camaraderie and assist in recruiting for new and younger veterans.

NOTE TO DEC:

We want to make a video regarding outreach and the advantages of having a public relations chair in every district. Does this committee have the necessary resources to accomplish our responsibility? Who is this committee's contact person?

End of report

Maria D. Tye, Chairwoman

Sheryl Loberger, Committee Member

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

REPORT

2nd Vice Commander Renee Ohler

Please see the 2nd Vice Commander Report

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

REPORT

Greg Marvin Chair

Greg Marvin, Chair

National Security Commission

FOREIGN RELATIONS & ROTC COMMITTEE

REPORT

Steve Adams Chair

LAW & ORDER, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

REPORT

National Security/Foreign Relations and Homeland
Security Commission

Robert G. Marvin Commission Chair

No report currently

Roger D. Holderby, Chair

National Guard & Reserve Committee

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Susan Hughs Chair

NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE COMMITTEE

REPORT

Roger Holderby Chair

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSION

REPORT

Gary Baldwin Chair

Minutes of the Finance Committee, Department of Oregon, American Legion.

2 June 2025 on site, Tigard American Legion Post 158 and by email consensus.

1. Appointment of Richard Ramey as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee
To be able to officially represent the committee if questions arise during the convention.
2. To formulate the Finance Committee's position as far as the current budget and
The proposed adjutant pay for a new hire.
The recommendation reads:
The candidate would be offered the current budget (2024-2025) of \$50,000
if hired before October 1st, 2025, with the pay going to \$55,000 as of the effective date of
the 2025-2026 budget proposal. Reviews would be encouraged, but no increase until
The following budget year 2026-2027.

End of report.

Submitted by

Gary Baldwin

Chair, Department Finance committee

ETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

REPORT

Bob Huff Chair

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R) COMMISSION

PDC Bob Huff

BOOK OF REPORTS for DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JUNE 2025

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R) COMMISSION

PDC Bob Huff

Welcome to our Department of Oregon Convention for 2025. Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2024-2025 membership year are Department Judge Advocate and PDC Don Weber, Ann Everetts, Department Chaplain Betty Fish-Ferguson, John Reish and PDC Bob Huff, Chair.

The focus of the Commission is oversight over VA&R activities for our department. During this membership year, we have held combined meetings with our Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission members as their Commission participates with our Commission on our activity supporting our Veterans and their Families.

Members of the VE&E Commission are District 8 Commander Tim Troupe, Larry Hill, Allyson Kropf and Ryan Shockley.

Our commission has met several times this membership year virtually on ZOOM and participated in events and still have events scheduled. We have had a lot of demand for our activities to support Veterans events. We have focused on both virtual, telephone and outreach for our Department Service Office which our commission has oversight. Since the end of our last June Department Convention, members of our commission participated in GPP-NTT, Indy Car at Portland International Raceway (PIR) and held “Be the one”, campaign, display, information, bracelets and pins, at a Veterans Stand down, Employment and Benefits Event, which was very well attended at the VA SORCC, Veterans Day Parade and Eagle Point High School “Be the One” Benefits and community event, before I took a break with health issues; an Expo event in Clackamas County.

We supported the Christmas Shops, Patient Christmas Parties, “Be the One” events for staff and patients at the VA SORCC as part of our VAVS area. and Virtual National VE&E meetings and panels through the 2024-2025 membership year. We held the Welcome Home Vietnam Era Veterans 50th Anniversary and presented Congressional Pins and “Be the One” pins and

literature and VA had staff support tables for 246 Vietnam Era Veterans. As I am writing this we are presenting High School Awards to seven students at three High Schools this week, and presenting “Be the One” information, bracelets and pins at our information tables at the High School graduations to participants and families. We will have “Be the One” information, table, hand-outs at this Department Convention, stop by and see us.

Our team members Betty Fish Ferguson and Ann Everett’s are planning and working on a Veterans Stand-Down in September at the YMCA in Salem and a Veterans Expo on October 15th in Clackamas County. Don Weber said they are in four High Schools doing Vets Listening Day, Speaking Events and they are well received. While Don was in DC he met with the US Chamber of Commerce and Department of Labor (DOL) and Don informed them of our Guard deployment and they are bringing one Hire our Heroes (HOH) hiring event to Oregon for our National Guard during TAP training during a Yellow Ribbon.

Since all “DEMOBS” in Oregon will be held at the Salem National Guard Auditorium, none local to this deployment; they will bus our Returning Guard, Army, and Air to Salem for the event. I will be discussing that date with the Guard before the Convention. We also have a table and “Be the One” display and program information at the ODVA Expo 25 event at the Salem National Guard Auditorium on Monday June 16, the same week as our Department Convention.

We also have a Veterans Stand Down, Employment and Benefits Event and Veterans Court on Wednesday July 9th at the VA SORCC, we will be at the Century Eagle Event at Kingsley Field on Saturday and Sunday July 19 and 20 with an information table and “Be the One” hand-outs and information.

On September 10 we will be at Josephine County Fair Grounds holding a Veterans Stand Down, Employment and Benefits event with “Be the One” information. We are holding planning meetings and preparation for Veterans Day Events in three cities plus Parades in two. We still have a lot on our plates, which is good. I apologize if I missed an event or giving credit to those supporting our events and activities, we have been very active this membership year.

If your Post or District is scheduling a Veterans Stand-Down, Employment, Education or Benefits event, or Revitalization for Membership, please let us know and if not conflicting with another event, we will support in-person. We are looking for opportunities to get out the information on the “Be the One” campaign and to support our department and Veterans and their families.

We have a lot of opportunities with our returning veterans from Deployments. We are busy, that is good, supporting our veterans and their families is our mission. Remember, Veterans and Families do not have to be members of our Legion Family to receive support from our Veterans Service Officers; we are available. We are starting to have and will continue to have conflicting events which we are partnering with our VE&E Team to support as we both are Pillar I, Veterans.

We also have oversight of our Department VAVS Program which we now have members actively supporting all three VAs in our department, by American Legion members. We still need SAL members to support our VA Facilities, and we can always use more volunteers; we have lots of opportunities.

Remember our VAVS, VA Volunteers, VA&R, and VE&E members are all volunteers, and we need more Legion Family volunteers to support our programs. If you have some extra time and are looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans, we need you. We have a lot of members in all areas of our department, but we do not have a lot of volunteers. I know I am repeating this and will continue to.

Thank you to all of you that continue to support our Veterans community, all that have supported our deployed troops, thank you and keep up the good work. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point National Cemetery as we have more face-to-face contact.

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. Thank you again and welcome to our Department Convention and thank you for all your support for the Veterans and their families. While at Convention stop by and visit us, VA&R will have a table set up with “Be the One” material, VA&R and VE&E material and are here to answer your questions, and how we can help and how you can help, please do not hesitate to ask questions and how your Post can participate.

Remember, we have two excellent speakers for our **VA&R Lunch** on Thursday at the Convention. Brigadier General Alan Groenwold, Oregon’s Adjutant General and Dick Tobiason (Retired LTC) Thank you .again

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

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION AND HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION

REPORT

Tim Toupe Chair

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, and HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION CHAIR

OTHER

THE AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF)

REPORT

KEVIN OWENS, PRESIDENT