



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

**November 2017-January 2018, SECOND QUARTER FY2018, NEWSLETTER**



**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT**

**Helen Hisaw**

**“Build it and they will come”**

Thank you to all that have had the conversation concerning membership in our organization! Thank you for all that you do to move us forward!! We are gaining

momentum and I am excited to see the future looking brighter, membership is arriving in department and we are ahead in membership from last year by almost 200.

Headquarters has been busy planning for our winter DEC as well as a visit from our National President Diane Duscheck. The winter DEC promises to be loaded with information & tools to help us all build our organization. I am looking forward to sharing with all of you what I have learned visiting our units and districts, this is only the beginning – a lot more ahead.

Our VA&R Committee is working with our finance committee to help with the Christmas gift Shop’s as well as working on ways to strengthen our entire VA&R program. Our commitment to assist our veterans and their families remains our main focus.

I have issued a challenge to the American Legion, the post with the largest increase of new Auxiliary members between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>. will receive \$100.00 awarded at the winter DEC! Yes, this includes the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors.

Commander Gene thought it was a good challenge, so he has decided to challenge the Auxiliary with the same, the unit with the largest increase in Legion members will be awarded \$100.00 as well. What a great incentive to build together to strengthen our entire Legion family!

There will be incentives for members and Districts for all who submit the largest increase in email contact information to department. The incentives will be based on the number of members that do not have an email contact already on file.

I look forward to visiting with you throughout the year and sharing our plans, progress and success stories. Please follow this link, <http://www.alaoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Dept-Pres-Visit-Request-Form-FILLABLE.pdf>, and invite me to visit your Unit, District and/or Event!

**FINANCE REPORT**

**Karen Banks, Department Treasurer**

The FY2017 Audit is underway of the Department financial records. After completion the DEC will receive an opportunity to review the audit and the IRS990 form filing.



For the FY2018 year to date, we are underbudget in income for membership, which is our main revenue stream. Membership dues

are needed to assist with carrying out the mission programs.

Don't forget to send in your annual bonding fee and orders for poppies.

Does your Unit have a budget you develop and adopt annually? If not this is something you should implement.

The National organization adopted a dues increase of \$3 for the 2019 membership year for seniors and \$1.25 for Juniors. Are your Unit dues enough to cover Department and National requirements?

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Krisann Owens,  
Department Vice  
President**



#### **Ideas for Finding New Members**

- Respond quickly to any inquiries from prospective members, while their interest is high.
- Write letters to the editor occasionally rather than news releases. Editors often find room for letters.
- Submit informational "how to" articles to the local newspapers. Such as: how to display the Flag; what the Pledge of Allegiance means; what does Americanism mean; etc.
- Invite community leaders to address your Unit. Look for opportunity for Unit to assist with joint projects.
- Hold a candidates' forum during election period and invite community members.
- Get to know local reporters and keep them informed of your Unit activities. Send them copies of your newsletters.
- Use the National "Auxiliary" magazine as promotional tool.
- Use the additional benefits brochure as incentive.
- Hold a special "new members" meeting every few months, to give new members information and opportunity to meet other members.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE**

**Kirk Harvey**

January 15 is the next national dues notice mail date. Make sure to get all paid members dues in so they won't get a notice!



Visit our website at [www.alaoregon.org](http://www.alaoregon.org) to find valuable ALA information.

All unit and individual forms are on our website. Click on the "info library" tab and see links to all the forms.

Constant Contact email notices - We need email addresses of members to ensure they receive information like this newsletter. Send your email address to [executivedirector@alaoregon.org](mailto:executivedirector@alaoregon.org) to be added to the email distribution list.

"What's Happening" is a weekly email member update: Send your unit announcements to [executivedirector@alaoregon.org](mailto:executivedirector@alaoregon.org) to be included in the weekly "What's Happening" email. Your announcement should be press ready. What's Happening will generally come out on Fridays.

Office Hours - 8:30 – 4:30 Monday thru Friday.  
Office Phone. (503) 682-3162

Mark your calendar

- Winter DEC January 13 & 14, 2018. Santiam (Lebanon) Post 51.
- Spring DEC April 14 & 15, 2018. Ontario Post 67.
- Department Convention. June 26 – 31, 2018

#### **National President's visit**

January 13 & 14 at Winter DEC. Join us!  
Reserve rooms now. Best Western Boulder Inn.  
505/605 Mullins Drive, Lebanon, OR 97355.  
(541) 405-7024.

Lodging also available:  
**Valley Inn Motel**  
2885 Santiam Hwy.  
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

Call: (541) 258-8184  
Email: [info@valleyinn.us](mailto:info@valleyinn.us)

### **DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN**

#### **Maggie LaMont**

It is sad to report that we have lost a few Auxiliary Members recently. Our thoughts go out to their family and friends. Please remember to complete the deceased information on the Department Member Change Form for all members who have passed.



#### Today's Prayer:

We bow before Thee, our Heavenly Father, in humble prayer thanking Thee for the manifold blessings Thou has bestowed upon us, in this our beloved country. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the sacred institutions of America. Preserve these inspired concepts. Let not the adversary of Light and Truth destroy freedom, worship, and divine faith.

Bless those who direct the Nation.  
Remember, Oh God, those who bear arms.  
Bless the homes from which they come.

Forgive our errors and weakness turning from wrong and unprofitable ways. We pray for the early triumph of righteousness, truth and peace founded in the fatherhood of man. For Thy name's sake.

Amen.

Please contact me if you have any questions. My contact information is Maggie LaMont, Department Chaplain, 2019 Y Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850 – 541-910-9771 – [mlamont97850@yahoo.com](mailto:mlamont97850@yahoo.com).

### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

• Let your unit know of any military families or businesses that should receive a Blue Star or Gold Star Banner in recognition of a servicemember's service.



• Provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family. Refer to the *ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide* for specific suggestions of the type of support military families may value.

• Provide assistance to servicemembers and their families directly affected by current conflicts. Get to know your local Legion Service Officer, they may be able to help you in your efforts.

• Become more informed about issues affecting a military family's home life and the resources available to help, such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy and other issues.

• Refer servicemembers with financial assistance needs to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center at 1 (877) 272-7337.

• Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG). Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.

• Support reserve and transitioning servicemembers and families by working with a returning National Guard or Reserve unit or an individual transitioning servicemember or family.

o *Note:* Units may find servicemembers and families independently or by working with the servicemember transition programs of the U.S. Department of Defense, the military service branches or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Members may provide support on a spouse-to-spouse or family-to-family basis, such as to a family member, neighbor or another military family to which they come in contact. Refer to the *ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide* for additional information and specific steps.

• When a servicemember or military family you're working with is relocating to a different community, help identify an ALA unit in the new community and make introductions.

- Greet servicemembers and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.
- Work with a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program office of a local military unit (Reserve or National Guard) or a state National Guard Joint Force Headquarters to show patriotic and moral support at Yellow Ribbon events; offering hospitality, refreshments or children and youth activities; or making presentations on Auxiliary resources and services to family members of returning servicemembers.
- If you're near a military installation, a U.S. Department of Defense policy makes it easier for you to get and provide information about our services and programs to servicemembers and military families. Refer to the *How to Support Troops and their Families on Military Installations* for additional information and specific steps.
- Organize a Welcome to Our Hometown event to welcome military families that are moving or transitioning out of the military to your community. Refer to the *Welcome To Our Hometown Action Guide* for additional information and specific steps.
- Coordinate for community donations and assemble servicemember care packages and family member support packages.
- Work with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and refer a survivor or caregiver for specialized support. Refer to *How to Collaborate with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors* for information and specific steps.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

- Hold a unit meeting to go over the steps outlined by the *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide* and discuss the legislative priorities.
- Invite a staff member of your U.S. representative and/or senator to a unit meeting so he/she can explain the best way to contact the official.
- Include legislative priorities in unit communications (social media, newsletters).



- Work with your Legion counterpart to make arrangements for Legion Family members to meet with respective Congressional delegation while on recess and in-home districts.
- Choose a different legislative priority each month and allow time at each unit meeting for members to draft letters and communicate the importance of legislation related to veterans and their families. Watch for *Legislative Action Alerts* for any pressing priority.
- Work with your Legion Family to host a "Meet the Candidate" night. Make veterans/military issues the primary topic for discussion.

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

#### **Christmas Gift shop dates:**

Now is the time to send donations!!



#### **Oregon Veterans Home**

Gen Horne 541-544-2095

Set Up Dec. 1st Opening Dec. 2nd 10am

#### **Lebanon Veterans Home - Nov. 29th**

Lynette White 541-405-6039

#### **Roseburg VAMC - Nov. 29th**

Karol Satterfield 541-517-5740

#### **Portland VAMC**

Linda Liebenow 503-826-5877

Nov 25th Opening 11am

Nov. 27th—30<sup>th</sup>

### **DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **MEETING WEEKEND**

**JANUARY 12-14, 2018**

**Lebanon, Oregon**

Weekend Special Guest

National President, Diane

Duscheck



#### **Friday-January 12**

2:00-4:00 PM National President social event with veterans at the Lebanon Veterans Home.

You are invited!

### **Saturday-January 13**

Workshops-Everyone Welcome to attend!

- 9-10:30 AM Workshop: Legal Issues of Charitable Gaming
- 11-AM-Noon Workshop: Developing Interesting Meetings
- 1:00-3:00 PM Workshop: Valuing Differences in Our Membership

**Joint Banquet-National Commander, Denise Rohan, special guest**



### **Sunday-January 14**

9:00 AM-Noon DEC Meeting  
National President, Diane Duscheck, presentation

### **ALA ACADEMY**

[www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)  
Recently the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary launched an on-line learning program to assist members to learn about our organization.



The first chapter of the anticipated eleven is **ALA 101** that provides basic

information about our mission and how to use the resources provided by the ALA National Headquarters through [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org), *Auxiliary* magazine, and monthly e-newsletters. It takes about 30 minutes to cover the material presented.

Two other modules are now available:  
Communications 201  
Leadership 201.

Each Unit and District is encouraged to have a study group to go through the on-line workshop and hold discussions and share information, in FY2018. It just takes a laptop computer and a WI-FI connection!

### **NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL**

#### **Donate miles to help!**

Nearly 200 gold-medal winning veterans will be traveling to Buffalo, N.Y. for the annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) held Oct. 23-29. The event recognizes the progress and recovery made through art therapy and raises visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability, or life crisis. Each veteran who attends NVCAF is provided free airfare courtesy of Hero Miles, a program of Fisher House. Flights are made possible through frequent flyer mile donations made by individuals. They need more miles donated! What a great way to serve the ALA mission by donating your extra frequent flyer miles to Hero Miles. It's simple to do online. Hero Miles works with certain airline companies: American, Alaska, Delta, Frontier, and United; just check the following link to learn how to donate miles. Help veterans get to NVCAF by donating those miles, [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org), under Programs "Hero Miles".

### **AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

Did you know that the National Headquarters of The American Legion has a website specifically for the upcoming centennial celebration? Visit [www.centennial.legion.org](http://www.centennial.legion.org) There are Oregon Posts that have submitted information about their Post and Unit. Has yours done that?



The American Legion will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> convention in Minneapolis 2018, their anniversary will be in 2019.

The American Legion Auxiliary, National Organization's centennial is November 10, 1919 and Oregon's is June 13, 1922.

How will your Post and Unit celebrate?

## **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION**

The ALA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that acts as a lifeline for many facilities and individuals across the U.S., providing services, equipment and support to veterans. The organization was created to support the ALA, a 501(c)(19) veterans service organization, in order to secure external funding to ensure the Auxiliary's mission of service endures. The ALA Foundation's purpose is to enhance charitable and educational programs for the military community through endowed gifts, grants and sponsorships. Since its founding in 2007, the ALA Foundation has supported many local organizations and activities nationwide that directly improve veterans' lives. ALA units and departments have secured grants through the ALA Foundation that have funded everything from mental and physical therapy equipment for facilities to computers and educational materials for veterans who are returning to school or are job searching.

As the ALA Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary, the focus, now more than ever, is on working with local ALA units to identify the right projects for the ALA Foundation to support. [www.alafoundation.org](http://www.alafoundation.org)

## **#GIVINGTUESDAY-NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

### **What is #GivingTuesday?**

#GivingTuesday celebrates the act of giving – on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. On November 28, 2017, the American Legion Auxiliary community will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. It is the opportunity to join more than 98 countries around the world in encouraging giving on #GivingTuesday. Just as the retail world has benefitted from coordinating national shopping days across many brands and platforms, #GivingTuesday does the same for organizations dedicated to serving our communities through philanthropy.

### **Why should you give on #GivingTuesday?**

- Your donation celebrates and encourages support for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

- A dedicated day of giving has tremendous power to positively impact the lives of veterans and military families.
- Giving to the ALAF online is an easy way to support what matters to you from the comfort of your own home.
- You can use the growing popularity of #GivingTuesday to remind family, friends and neighbors of the ALA mission and how generosity can change the lives of others.
- Your donation shows that the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Foundation matter!
- Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to the first \$15,000 by Innovairre Communications.

Donate by visiting: [www.alafoundation.org](http://www.alafoundation.org)

## **READ AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY'S BLOG!**

The ALA National Headquarters' NEW blog has interesting information, tips, and news – everything from fun posts to researching your family's military history, ways to volunteer for veterans, and much more. Blog posts are uploaded daily, so stay current by reading the ALA blog! [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)

## **CONGRESS ADOPTS AMERICAN LEGION U.S. COIN BILL**

On Oct. 6, President Donald Trump signed into law House Resolution (H.R.) 2519, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, a bill that requires the U.S. Department of Treasury to mint and issue gold, silver, and half-dollar clad coins in celebration of the centennial of the Legion, for one year, beginning in January 2019. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with 385 co-sponsors. Unique among U.S. Mint products, all surcharges received from the sale of The American Legion centennial coin will help raise money for Legion programs that support veterans, servicemembers, and their families, as well as commemorate important aspects of American history and culture. Congress only authorizes the minting of two new coins each year.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

Only 62% of Units throughout the national organization reported their activities. Are you one of the Units who did not report? We need your information. Make an effort to report this year!!

This is the data for the last year:  
\$1.7 Billion-the value of ALA members' volunteer service.

Volunteer hours serving mission outreach = 15,534,242

Volunteer hours serving veterans and communities = 28,133,043

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT**

**LaGrande Unit 43**

On August 30<sup>th</sup> Unit 43 had their golf committee travel to The Dalles to present Gen Horne with a \$1,000.00 check for their Gift Shop. Unit 43 earned this money from their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf "Fore" A Vet tournament help on June 3, 2017 at Buffalo Peak in Union, Oregon.



Left to right: Maggie LaMont, Diane Higley, Jody Craig, Gen Horne, Kathi Karnowski & Sue Anderson.

On August 2, 2017 Unit #43 presented a \$5000.00 check to the Eastern Oregon Military Support Fund, accepted by Post #43 Commander Duane Yocum on their behalf. This also came from funds earned by the golf tournament.



L-R: Maggie LaMont, Ronda Doud, Sue Anderson, Diane Higley, Jody Craig, Hazel Alexis, Commander Duane Yocum & Kathi Karnowski.

**WATCH FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 1**  
**THIRD QUARTER EDITION**  
**February-March-April 2018**



**Unit Presidents and Unit Secretaries:**

**Make copies of this newsletter to share with your members.**

**Encourage members to provide their email address to Department Headquarters to receive their own newsletter and weekly information mailings.**