



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

**August-September-October 2018, FIRST QUARTER FY2019, NEWSLETTER**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

**2018-2019**

**ALA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

President, Krisann Owens  
Vice President, Gea Clausier  
Secretary, Linda Liebenow  
Treasurer, Karen Banks  
Chaplain, Lori Sherman  
Historian, Phyllis MacDaniel  
Parliamentarian, Ardis Snyder  
National Executive Committeewoman, Pam Seelye  
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, Trudi McGriff  
Sgt-at-Arms, Barbara Sumner  
Asst, Sgt-at-Arms, Linda Bullick

District Presidents

District 1, Lori Sherman  
District 2, Debra Godwin  
District 3, Suzanne Driver  
District 4, Cindy Soria  
District 5, Yvonne Drury  
District 6, Kathi Karnowski

District 7, open  
District 8, Erin Walters  
District 9, Carolyn Billman  
District 10, Linda Schmidt

District Vice Presidents

District 1, Jody Marsh  
District 2, Gregoria Hernandez  
District 3, Roberta Peebler  
District 4, Colleen Bouchard  
District 5, Louise Carter  
District 6, Maggie Lamont  
District 7, OPEN  
District 8, Cheryl Park  
District 9, Betty Adams  
District 10, Deby Levy

Oregon's "turn" to present a candidate for **Western Division National Vice President** will be in the 2019-2020 administrative year. At this convention we elected a nominee for the deadlines required by the

national organization. **Congratulations to Cheryl Park** who will be Oregon's nominee.

And.... coincidentally it is Department of Oregon, American Legion's turn to nominate a candidate for National Vice Commander for the 2019-2020 year and that is **Rob Liebenow**, current NEC.

### **2018-2019**

#### **AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

Department Commander, Tom Harris  
First Vice Commander, Steve Adams  
Second Vice Commander, Don Weber

#### **OREGON DEC MEETINGS**

**September 14-15, 2018**

Albany, OR

Natl Commander visit to Oregon

**January 18-19, 2018**

McMinnville, OR

**April 19-20, 2019**

LaPine, OR

#### **2018-2019 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SOME PREVIEWS**

National President's

- Theme: "Serving Our Heroes"
- Focus Area: Women who have served in the US military
- Special Emphasis: Helping homeless women veterans
- Mission Training in Spokane, September 29...topics will be focused on Membership, PR, VA&R, C&Y, Legislative.

How can your Unit work on these areas?

### **KRISANN OWENS**

#### **DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT**



We are off! A new year has begun, and we have some work to do. I know that Vice President Gea Clausier has many ideas and for me I cannot wait to get started.

Our Chairman Coordinator will be working with our Department Chairmen to make sure she is getting in touch with the unit chairmen throughout the year so it's very important to fill out the chairmen form. Please complete that ASAP if you haven't already and send it into department. It's a very important part of the success of our programs. We need you!

We also need to Unit Officers form sent into department. Please send that in ASAP. We will be having workshops on each Saturday of the DEC's on various subjects that are important to us as an organization moving forward. We are open to suggestions so if there is something you'd like training on, we can do that for you. We are here for you, the unit member because we are all unit members first, which is something we should all treasure.

This will be a fun and exciting year for all of us. Lots of laughing and maybe some tricks are ahead of us at the first DEC. We will also bring back some traditions that are fitting for what we are trying to accomplish. People need to realize our traditions are not stuffy or out dated. Most people like structure during a meeting as it moves along faster but it's up to us to keep the traditions alive and new. Laugh at your

meetings and let everyone know we're a fun group.

So, what if a joke is disruptive! If you've got them laughing, they will be even more engaged. Happy Days are ahead of us! It's time to get your Department President Unit Visitation forms into department so the President's schedule can be put on our ALA website calendar. Everyone should and will know where the President is and if I'm in your area, let me know if you've got a program or project and I can maybe attend or just visit with your members, which I love to do. Let's keep me busy!

Please plan on attending the Department Executive Committee Meeting as it is OPEN to ALL MEMBERS and we encourage you to come, learn something new, meet the leadership of the department and enjoy the activities. I'll see you there!

### SEPTEMBER IS JUNIOR MONTH

**ANGELINA  
MCKINNEY,  
CHAIRMAN**

Calling all Juniors!! Your Junior



Department President Lina and I are excitedly planning the 2018-2019 Junior Auxiliary Year. Our first official meeting is being planned with our Junior Department President Lina for **October 20th at 10 AM** at North Eugene Santa Clara Unit 83 which has a new Junior Unit that is very active. We are planning a Halloween theme for this meeting. This year what we are planning is to do the Fall meeting and one in February around **Feb. 9th and I'm looking for a Unit** to host this meeting. We are planning a Valentine theme for this meeting. We are

looking to do **Junior Conference on May 4th** at Oregon Trail Unit 150. This will be the meeting when we elect new leadership for the next year and where we showcase all we have accomplished this pass year. By giving you the dates, we are looking at, we can give you time to plan to bring your Juniors to join us and get to know one another so they can become lasting friends.

We are planning a year that will be informative and fun for all who take part. I want to again put into action the "Military Youth Table" which is fashioned after the POW/MIA table only this for children from military deployed families to remember their loved ones. If you don't know what this is please contact me and I can share this with you. We are also going to do a service project for our Juniors. We will discuss this at our first meeting. Our Junior President Lina is going to continue her project of raising funds to send girls to Girl's State. This is a program that she really believes in. Her theme for this next year is: **"Juniors Working for Our Military and Their Families."** We are planning a year of fun and learning as our Juniors are the backbone of our organization. We need to mentor these young ladies, so they will want to continue to belong to our organization once they graduate to Senior membership. I will be doing a bulletin of the things I would like to see our Juniors work on for this year, so please watch for it. Also, remember to send in your mid-year and year end reports to me so I can report all the things you do with your wonderful Juniors. If you need me contact me at: [angelmic71@gmail.com](mailto:angelmic71@gmail.com) or 503-284-8777.

**2018 Oregon Junior member of the Year  
Rachel Hagen, Louis Larsen Unit 68**

Rachel is described as a shy yet energetic young lady, who sets her mind to a task and doesn't lose sight of it until its complete. As the first active Junior in a long while for her Unit she has jumped in and taken on projects while maintaining Honor Roll status though high school. Service flags from every military branch for the Legion Post was one of her projects that she coordinated with the Americanism chairman to raise funds and present at a ceremony. Rachel arranged for a local veteran to speak at her school about the US Flag Code and the Pledge of Allegiance. She assisted Unit members with making 198 Poppy corsages for their sales to raise funds for the VA&R program. The biggest project she undertook was for Memorial Day. She collected shoes and boots to represent and honor active duty military, veterans, and their families by placing flags and names in them and displayed along the highway in Clatskanie. Some of the shoes and boots were painted gold to represent those who lost their lives in war. Rachel attended the 2018 Girls State session and is looking forward to her future participation as a senior member.

**OCTOBER FOCUS AREA**

**Education:** Make a donation to the Oregon Scholarship Program. Begin work with local schools for Americanism, Poppy Poster Contest, Oregon Girls State, and November Education Week events.

**Poppy order** with payment is due to Department by October 1. Order form is on Oregon website.

**Holiday VA&R programs:** donations needed to support holiday events for VA&R programs.



**EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among schoolchildren by scheduling Veterans in Community Schools programs at local schools.

Ideas for Individual Member:

- Locate a veteran willing to share his/her experience with school children. Attend a post meeting or ask around the clubroom for a volunteer.
- Contact your local schoolteachers or principals to see if they would be interested in hosting a Veterans in Community Schools event.
- Volunteer to provide transportation to and from the school for the veteran speaking in community schools.
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit schools.

Ideas for Units:

- Collaborate with your local American Legion post to present Veterans in Community Schools within your local schools.

- Promote your Veterans in Community Schools event through local media and on your own social media accounts.

### **NOVEMBER FOCUS AREA**

Celebrate Veterans Day  
Plan for holiday support for veterans and their families needing assistance.

### **WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A LEADER**

To some, the title “leader” implies a domineering, take-charge, charismatic individual.



Leadership isn’t an adjective. You don’t need to be an extrovert or charismatic to be a leader. Most members define leadership as the ability to achieve a position, not the ability to get followers. Leadership is a mindset in action; it stems from social influence, not authority or power. Leadership has nothing to do with titles. You can be a leader in your workplace, your neighborhood, your family, and/or our organization, all without having a title.

**Be Knowledgeable:** It is not necessary to be an expert on everything, but basic knowledge is essential. Where are your resources?

- Familiarize yourself with documents that govern the operation of your unit or committee
- Possess a level of familiarity with programs of the American Legion Auxiliary
- Strengthen knowledge on Parliamentary Procedure
- Know the process for the appropriation and control of money. Bad financial practices do not just hurt the

organization; they can result in criminal investigations and prosecution.

**Be Passionate:** A good leader exhibits excitement; and through demonstrated, unswerving commitment to our vision, instills hope and inspiration to other members. A good leader “walks the talk” and in doing so, earns the right to lead.

**Listen:** If you exhibit a proper attitude in listening, really listening to your members, the potential for identifying new opportunities will emerge. Instill in yourself, and others, that listening is an opportunity to grow. In the end, your success as a leader will be predicated upon your ability to listen and understand the viewpoint of others.

**Have a Positive Attitude:** Leaders should have an upbeat, optimistic attitude that serves as a source of inspiration for others. If leaders seem discouraged or apathetic, members are likely to also become uninspired and demotivated.

- Be a cheerleader. Motivate others by your enthusiasm.
- Follow up with your members to ensure they are achieving the goals, objectives, and milestones established.

**Lead with Integrity:** A good leader must possess unquestionable character and lead with integrity. Integrity gives you so much as a leader; credibility, trust, confidence, influence, and more.

**Lead by Example:** Who says leadership is a one-way relationship? As you work toward developing leadership qualities in yourself, don't forget to look to your fellow members for feedback and inspiration.

- Pay attention to the things that have been effective in the past and always be on the lookout for new ways to inspire, motivate, and reward your members.

- Be willing to delegate responsibility – use the talents of others!
- Always instill a climate of goodwill.
- Be respectful. Remember those all-important "shout outs" to deserving members and certainly the two most important words — thank you.
- Do you care about your members and strive to help build leadership capacity in them?

**Be Confident:** Be aware of the way and manner which you present yourself. Bearing is everything! Be confident and decisive in your decision-making. Members will pick up on your approach to leadership and find reassurance, clear direction, and security when a leader portrays confidence and positive demeanor.

**Act Professionally:** As a leader, you should be cordial to all your members. You should also recognize the importance of dressing appropriately, showing up for meetings on time, and communicating in a professional manner. Your goals and expectations should be clear from the beginning. Members will be more motivated and less confused. Ask for input. Tell them that their perspective is crucial to your success. For more information, check out the resources available at [www.ALAforVeterans.org/Members/Leadership](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/Members/Leadership).



**REVIVING A UNIT: ONE MEMBERS STORY**

It was happening right in front of Margaret “Margie” Erskine’s eyes: American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 230 in Spring Lake, N.C. — the unit to which she belonged — was

experiencing substantial membership inactivity.

Erskine grew concerned about what that meant for the future of Unit 230, and for fulfilling the ALA’s mission of honoring and helping veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and promoting patriotism and mentoring youth.

She didn’t want to see Unit 230 fall by the wayside, so she did something about the situation —with the help of her husband, American Legion member Mark Erskine. The Erskines visited the inactive ALA members and asked each of them to return to the unit. At that time, Mark was commander of Post 230. He and Margie were, and still are, equally committed to having a strong Legion Family at the post.

“We went door-to-door whenever we could; not every day though. We told them we were about to lose our unit. And if they wanted to keep the unit and keep helping our veterans, we needed people to come to the [unit] meetings and get it going again,” Margie Erskine said. “We managed to get 10 members to come back. That took about nine months.

“Even though I look different, and I say things differently than the people here [in North Carolina], they still listened to me,” noted Margie, an Alaskan Inupiaq Native (also referred to as Inuk). There are different native tribes in Alaska. Margie belongs to the tribe of Inupiat, also known as the Inuit tribe.

Margie has lived in Spring Lake, N.C., for eight years. She said she has always felt welcomed and appreciated by her fellow Auxiliary members and among the Legion Family at Post 230, as they worked together to help others in the community. She wasn’t about to let Unit 230 become completely inactive without trying to

revitalize it. And she didn't stop at face-to-face home visits.

"I made phone calls, put out newsletters, and sent out emails. I started writing letters to members since I was starting to feel like the Lone Ranger," she joked. "What encouraged me to keep on with all of this was keeping in contact with the department and getting the department's newsletters. Also helpful was keeping in touch with, and getting encouragement from, the [department-level] committee chairmen and reading their newsletters. I stopped feeling so all alone."

At the same time, Margie attempted to recruit members. Stocked with ALA pamphlets and other informational items, she would set up booths at various community events and talk to everyone she could about the American Legion Auxiliary: who we are, what we do, and why we matter. She had some success with recruitment.

All of this happened about three years ago. Unit 230 has been back on its feet for a while now and has many noteworthy achievements. With much pride, Margie (now president of Unit 230) shared the news about the unit following the Annual Convention of the Department of North Carolina this summer:

"American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230's membership continues to reach its goal. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, we received a certificate of appreciation of 115.5 percent membership goal, including a membership certificate for 'completing its membership quota equal to or exceeding the previous year.' We received a certificate of participation for updating our unit constitution and bylaws.

"Also, we received a certificate of participation in appreciation of and

recognition for Active Participation in Outstanding Legislative Program. One of our members received a citation for Meritorious Service for her hours of helping veterans and soldiers with PTSD, case-management and aftermath," Margie also said.

The ALA — the world's largest women's patriotic service organization — has close to 8,000 units throughout the United States, in some U.S. territories, and in a handful of other countries. Units are ALA's local entities where members join the Auxiliary to promote patriotism in their communities, mentor youth, and do mission-based outreach work that serves veterans, servicemembers, and their families. The time and effort put forth by ALA members in outreach service continues to have a massive impact on those whom we serve. However, widespread inactivity among ALA members can diminish that impact.

Take a cue from ALA member Margie Erskine: Find ways to gain and maintain members. Perhaps you, too, can bring inactive members back into the fold. Find out why your fellow members have become inactive and see if those issues can be resolved. If so, address the issues and then let the inactive members know they're welcomed to return to your unit if they still want to serve and honor veterans, servicemembers, and their families. Sometimes, it takes face-to-face visits, phone calls, newsletters, and emails. Communication within your unit can work wonders.

Keep members engaged in mission-based activities and outreach.

Also, find ways to recruit more members — making sure that women eligible for membership understand, and feel, that they

are welcomed in the American Legion Auxiliary.

### **Get fresh ideas in new ALA Volunteering Toolkit**

*Service Not Self* is a core value of the ALA. Last year, the impact of Auxiliary members' mission service exceeded \$1.5 billion - the ALA matters, indeed! The new *American Legion Auxiliary Service Not Self Volunteering Toolkit* provides members with ideas for more volunteer opportunities to support veterans, military, and their families. Service ideas include ways to provide help to veterans, tips for organizing an ALA Star Spangled Kids activity, volunteering at ALA Girls State, organizing a "Give 10" school supply drive, and more.

**ALA entities can use the ALA 100th anniversary logo for apparel, etc.** Looking forward to celebrating the ALA's centennial in 2019? ALA units, districts, and departments can create customized and branded apparel, products, and other items with the ALA's 100th anniversary logo in preparation for our landmark year. Emblem usage approval is required and is the same as filing to use the ALA emblem and ALA Girls State logos – simply fill out the ALA Emblem Use Approval Request form. Check out the centennial items currently available from Emblem Sales. You can proudly showcase the ALA's upcoming milestone birthday on shirts, banners, posters, and more!



### **HOW TO WRITE YOUR UNIT HISTORY**

Let's say in preparation for the American Legion Auxiliary's centennial celebration, you

volunteered to write your unit's history. You start by perusing files, digging through boxes, and finding records and previous unit histories. But the history you come up with has large gaps and some unexplainable events.

Here are some tips to help you fill the gaps, connect the dots, and entice your readers: **Let's get digital.** If you're looking for history from a specific time, try your library's newspaper archives. Many libraries have digitized these collections. Often, these files aren't indexed or coded, which could mean a lot of sitting and scrolling to find what you want.

**Post it.** Another good historical resource is your American Legion Post. Many Auxiliary units are joint ventures with the Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Post. Remember that many posts and units have a small space or no space at all. Some items might be in the possession of members or even in storage. Consider looking for information in other community outlets too such as historical societies or even libraries. **Have faith.** American Legion Auxiliary units often partner with local churches. When looking for information, request the help of a church secretary. If they don't have a secretary, then go to the minister — who else knows their congregation better? The minister could even point you to a longtime member of the congregation who might remember something.

So, now you have all the raw information and you're ready to compile it into a history of your unit. Below are some tips and best practices from ALA National Headquarters' Archivist and Data Projects Coordinator Cathi Taylor.

**Get personal.** Don't overlook what could be your most valuable resource — current and past members of units and posts. Consider

current members who can't make it to meetings because of a disability or old age. Just because they're not active members anymore, doesn't mean their memories have disappeared. Some members or former members might have things in their possession.

**Partner up.** If your ALA unit often partners with community organizations for events, reach out to the frequent partners. They might be able to recall some things that Auxiliary members can't. And, as a bonus, they'll remember it from a different perspective.

**New ALA Academy course covers effective branding**



The latest ALA Academy course is now available! In *ALA Branding and Why It Matters to Me*, ALA members will learn that branding is more than just a logo – it's

also how the public perceives our organization and our values. Members will gain a better understanding of why branding is critical to continue our mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. Learn more about the ALA Academy and get started today on all courses – including *ALA 101*, *ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self*, *ALA Communications Methods 201*, and *Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill*.

**Widen your network with ALA Facebook groups**

Did you know: The Auxiliary has over a dozen ALA Facebook groups centering around our national ALA programs! These closed groups are



dedicated spaces where ALA members can share updates, photos, and messages with other members who share common interests in the Auxiliary's national programs. If you are looking for insight on how to run a program, interested in learning more about what other units and departments do to reach veterans, or simply want to connect with ALA members around the world, join one of the many ALA Facebook groups.

**Do you have unused frequent flyer miles? Donate your extra miles to Hero Miles, a program of Fisher House,**

to help wounded, injured, and ill veterans. Hero Miles uses donated miles to provide airfare to veterans and their caregivers traveling to military or VA medical centers or authorized events like the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. So far, Hero Miles has provided 70,000 tickets worth \$105 million to help servicemembers and veterans receive treatment. They need more miles donated! Many of us earn airline miles we won't be able to use - what a great way to serve the ALA mission by donating your extra frequent flyer miles to veterans. Participating airlines include Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, and United. Learn how to donate your unused airline miles.



**Are YOU helping the ALA Foundation by using AmazonSmile?** Through Amazon's charitable program, AmazonSmile, you can support the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation while knocking out some of your everyday shopping! And it doesn't take much effort. Simply sign in to Amazon through this special link, select the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, and

just like that, Amazon donates 0.5 percent of every purchase you make to the ALA Foundation. There's no added fee, no catch, and best of all, you're supporting the ALA Foundation and the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the American Legion Auxiliary today and for future generations. Bookmark this special AmazonSmile link for your future purchases!

### **CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS COUNCIL (COVC)**

#### **AUGUST 25–VETERANS APPRECIATION BBQ and POKER RUN**

*All motorcycle-riding Veterans are welcome!* Organized by Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association (OVMA). Register at 9 am at Redmond VFW. Last bike out at 10. Free BBQ for Veterans starts at 11, continues thru 2 pm. Last bike in at 1 pm. Cash prizes for poker winners, live music! 50-50, raffle prizes, Patriot Pinups, & Camaraderie.

#### **SEPT 6– SIXTH ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT** 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Camp

Withycombe, 15300 SE Minuteman Way, Clackamas, OR 97015. For community providers who work with Veterans, non-profit agencies, government and VSO organizations. **RSVP** required to attend: 503-816-8159.

#### **SEPT 22–SUICIDE PREVENTION &**

**AWARENESS EVENT** at the Madras Fairgrounds from 9:00-3:00. Car Show, Vendors, Kids games, Entertainment, Suicide Prevention Education, and Can Food Drive to support COVO. More info: 541-475-5228.

### **PRACTICAL NEWS for VETERANS!**

ANYONE with a certified hearing impairment is eligible for a FREE CLEAR CAPTION PHONE. Jeff Houston is the local Rep and can be contacted at 541- 200-5892 or [jeff.houston@clearcaptions.com](mailto:jeff.houston@clearcaptions.com) Visit the website: [https://clearcaptions.com/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI\\_W5zZng2wIVAcPkCh1-jwRLEAAYASAAEgJz9PD\\_BwE](https://clearcaptions.com/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI_W5zZng2wIVAcPkCh1-jwRLEAAYASAAEgJz9PD_BwE)

### **FREE ONLINE 25 MIN SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING** from the VA, covering these topics:

- Suicide as a public health issue in the U.S.
- Signs that a Veteran may be at risk for suicide
- Actions people can take if they identify a Veteran at risk.

More info for video:

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/> or read the article: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/49409/va-psycharmor-institute-offer-online-suicide-prevention-training/>

### **WHAT TO DO BEFORE A VETERAN DIES. A GUIDE TO PRE-PLANNING**

is a pamphlet published by the American Legion. More info: <https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/What-to-do-before-a-Veteran-Dies-WEB.pdf> . Free of charge. Also, What a Veteran can do on his/herself: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

**WATCH FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 1  
SECOND QUARTER FY2019 EDITION  
November-December-January**



**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.**