



THE AMERICAN LEGION

STEVENS-CHUTE POST #4 and AUXILIARY

BEND, OREGON



IT'S MEETING TIME AGAIN!
Tuesday, March 3, 2020



MEETING PLACE
62070 SE 27th Street
"The Collective"

Before each meeting, dinner starts at 6 pm, and Post and Auxiliary meetings follow about 6:30 pm. We enjoy the company of veterans and hope you'll join us. It doesn't matter where you served in the military, only that you served honorably. Spouses are always welcome.

Our Dinner: Keegan is bringing the entrée, and members and guests are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. Sugar free items needed as well. BYOB if you want other than water or soda. A \$3 minimum donation is encouraged to help defray costs of main dish and supplies. Thanks!



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello All,
 I'm Back! Sorry I had been gone for so long but as I know, you all know.....Duty Calls. I am excited to see you all again and looking forward to moving forward.

We are still in need of more members but were able to pick up some more transfers so things are moving in a positive direction. Hopefully we can get the SAL and ALR going full steam by this summer and see more activity in our Legion Family.

Bring side dishes and desserts to complement our meal and as always, BYOB. Also, remember the food donation fund so Keegan can continue providing us these great meals and moolah for the 50/50 drawing.

Thank you all and see you next meeting.

Your Commander, Dan Hayward

NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Again the month of February brought out only a few members to our meeting. I sure would like to see more join us.

After our potluck meal we separated for our meetings. Karen Banks brought some Valentine cards for a group of military we signed and sent to.

We still have many tickets for our drawing of the quilt in July. Still trying to contact our members who need to send in dues for membership. I made phone calls to those.

Still talking to schools about Girls State. Karen put a press release in our local newspaper about Girls State. If you know of a high school junior girl who

would be interested please contact me or Karen Banks.

Karen and I went to the S3DA (our Archery group we sponsor) competition last Saturday here in Bend. It was amazing what those kids can do. We were there to donate snacks and water, and also to have information about the American Legion.

Hopefully March 3rd which is the date of our March meeting we will have more members attend. Would love to see you there. Take care and be safe. Remember our goal is to assist and be here for our Veterans.

President Katie Terry

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Post 4 has exceeded our 85% membership renewal level required for this deadline, after I renewed all our WWII veterans' memberships.

At the February Post meeting, it was suggested that we brainstorm ideas to get the message out to the community of the work American Legion does for veterans.

COVO is involved in a project to provide transitional housing for homeless veterans. They are also still in need of tents, tarps, propane, water, blankets, and clothing such as socks and gloves.

Adjutant Vivian Shannon

UNIT SECRETARY SAYS...

Since we have been in Arizona for a couple of months now, enjoying the sun, hoping for warmer temps, and enduring a couple of helacious! rainstorms as only they can do in this part of the country, we will be heading north in a week or so. So please keep that mild winter handy until we are home again!

The RV Park where we are staying offers classes in all kinds of crafts, games, etc., and as I have been working on my family history for years, I opted to

take the genealogy class, and have picked up lots of tips and ideas on searching for ancestors who are hard to find.

Also, after being blessed to work with and take our WWII veterans to Washington DC on Honor Flights, I am always cognizant that their stories need to be told, and family members should hear them.

We are almost too late to get their stories, but we all have Korean War veterans, VietNam War veterans, and veterans of more recent conflicts, who all have experiences and stories that should be shared.

It's never too early (but many times too late) to have a conversation with our veterans to help us understand what they went through, and help them shed some of the angst that they have inside them from those experiences.

One of the things I always hear is, "Oh, I wish I would have asked Grandma about that when she was still with us." Well, you know what? YOU are someone's Grandma or Grandpa, and you should be sure to get your knowledge of family and life experiences down on paper for those who come after you.

No need to be fancy, just grab a spiral binder and start writing names and relationships, dates, places lived, family stories shared with you, your childhood experiences, etc. It's all valuable and so appreciated when you can no longer answer the questions yourself.

My Aunt who passed away at age 98, always said, "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think!" She was right, so save your legacy for your descendants.

Secretary Yvonne Drury

NEWS FOR VETERANS

HOSPICE of REDMOND is partnering with Redmond Senior Center to provide **FREE lunches for Veterans** every 3rd (third) Wednesday of each month at 12 pm. More info: Maureen Krebs, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, at maureen@hospiceofremond.org or 541-548-7483.

CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS OUTREACH (COVO) NEEDS WINTER DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS VETS & OTHERS: Donate \$\$\$, food, cooking gear, clothing, and time at 61510 S. HWY 97, Bend. More info: 541-383-2793.

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE for VETERANS - <https://www.lhlic.com/consumer-resources/funeral-planning-for-veterans/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES for VETERANS!

HOSPICE OF REDMOND needs volunteers to assist Veterans in their final days. Info: Maureen Krebs, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, USMC Veteran, 541-548-7483, or marketing@hospiceofredmond.com.

C.O. VETERANS RANCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS -- Vet Council needs volunteers for web site, Board of Directors and more. To volunteer or get info: Wendy Rudy at wendy.rudy@gmail.com. more info: Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, 65920 61st Street, Bend, Oregon 97703 PH: 541-706-9062 or aperry@centraloregonveteransranch.org

ALZHEIMER's ASSOCIATION is seeking volunteers to grow their team of passionate volunteers. There are opportunities available for everyone! More info: Kaitlyn Bertholet at Central Oregon Regional Coordinator, phone 541-317-3977 or <https://alz.org/orswwa>

CARING FOR TROOPS (CFT) has been gathering items and shipping care packages to deployed troops from Central Oregon for several years. CFT is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. If you would like to volunteer and/or help out, contact CFT at www.caringfortroops.com

DAV SHUTTLE VAN NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS! Volunteers needed to drive Veterans to Portland VA Medical Center and to clinics in Bend for medical appointments. No special license needed, DAV pays for gas & lunch for driver. Contact Paul DeWitt at 541-647-2363 or pauldewitt@bendbroadband.com

Ernie Tafalla, Veterans Outreach Coordinator for **PARTNERS IN CARE** is always looking for Veterans to be part of a **Vet2vet Hospice Volunteer Program**, providing Veterans on hospice service with camaraderie, companionship and more. Info: Ernie Tafalla: email erniet@partnersbend.org or 541-749-0492.

(Thanks to Steve Wilkes, CO Veterans Council)

AMERICAN LEGION 101st ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL

Principles over politics. Patriotism over Partisanship. Policies over personalities. This has been the manner in which The American Legion has advocated for meaningful veterans legislation over the last 101 years. It is why we are the most respected and successful veterans' organization in the country.

It is especially worth remembering during election years such as this.

During one of the earliest meetings of The American Legion – the St. Louis Caucus in 1919– a movement was afoot to nominate Theodore Roosevelt, Junior, as the first national commander of the organization. A World War I hero and the son of a former president, T.R. Junior was widely perceived to have political ambitions and possibly even follow in his father's footsteps. A term as national commander would be a nice stepping stone toward future elected offices for the young Republican.

But Roosevelt would have none of this. Over shouts of “We Want Teddy,” Roosevelt told the crowd, “I wish to withdraw my name for a number of reasons....We are gathered together for a very high purpose. I want every American through the length and breadth of this land to realize that there is not a man in this caucus who is seeking anything for himself, personally, but that he is simply working for the good of the entire situation.”

Roosevelt knew that the best way for The American Legion to advance its founding pillars of fighting for a strong national defense, caring for veterans, establishing wholesome youth programs and promoting Americanism was to avoid partisanship, political labels and even the perception of personal ambition.

While many Democrats, Republicans and independents have been active in The American Legion during its 101-year history, the organization was beholden only to “God and Country.”

There would be no political action committees, endorsements for public office or kowtowing to corporate lobbyists. Legionnaires would be educated about veterans’ issues and other items pertaining to the four pillars and be encouraged to vote according to their consciences.

Since The American Legion is beholden to no political party, it is widely respected by members of both major political parties. Most importantly, it is respected for what it does every day in communities across America.

The American Legion serves the youth of America with outstanding programs such as American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, Boys State and Boys Nation.

The American Legion has supported the Boy Scouts of America since 1919 and today charters approximately 2,300 Scouting units comprising more than 61,000 young people. Moreover, The American Legion High School Oratorical Program is a constitutional speech contest that has awarded more than three million dollars in scholarships to young men and women since its establishment.

And our support has made a difference to the recipients of Child Welfare Foundation grants, which are used to educate the public about diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Marfan Syndrome and autism.

We have not forgotten the young people whose parents have made the ultimate sacrifice or have suffered from serious disabilities during the war on terrorism. The American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship Fund was created to help pay for the college educations of those who lost a military parent serving since 9/11 or had a parent incur a 50 percent disability rating.

*“I Pledge Allegiance
To The Flag of the
United States of
America...”*



We also support a strong veterans health care system, support that has undoubtedly saved countless lives.

The American Legion does these things not because it can, but because it’s who we are.

The author of America’s greatest legislation, Past National Commander Harry Colmery, knew that it was right for America to remember returning war veterans by making it possible for them to obtain formal educations and purchase homes.

While others scoffed that such a benefit would ‘break the treasury,’ The American Legion held firm and ensured the passage of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights.

But The American Legion did not rest on its laurels even after that significant and historical accomplishment.

Today we are still serving and still fighting.

We are fighting to improve post-9/11 GI Bill benefits so the current generation of veterans can pursue the educational opportunities needed to succeed in the 21st century.

We are fighting to ensure veterans have access to quality health care and that the VA System is responsive to the unique medical needs of people who have served this country.

While some groups criticize the high cost of veteran benefits, The American Legion reminds the public that the true debt is one that can never be truly repaid – it is a cost that is on display in every U.S. military and veteran cemetery around the globe.

Benefits are not given, they are earned and available to anyone who is willing to visit their local recruiter and sign the dotted line.

We are also fighting to make sure that the flag of the United States is constitutionally protected from desecration.

If it’s sacred enough to place on a soldier’s coffin, it is important enough to protect from physical desecration.

Thousands of American Legion service officers nationwide help veterans access high-quality VA health care and disability compensation. We are the nation’s leading advocates for enhanced treatment of traumatic brain injuries, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other medical conditions associated with military service.

Through our Operation Comfort Warriors program, The American Legion turns financial donations into gifts for wounded, injured and ill servicemembers recovering in military hospitals, VA Centers and warrior transition units around the world. OCV gifts may not make these veterans “whole” again, but they do show that The American Legion appreciates their service and sacrifice.

Another way The American Legion supports the troops is by assisting their families while they are deployed. Whether it’s mowing a lawn or shopping for groceries, the American Legion’s Family Support Network stands ready to assist those who need it most.

This is our American Legion Birthday and a time to reflect on the 101 years that have passed since the founding of our great organization. National Commander Bill Oxford is calling for us to look ahead and build a Foundation for the Future.

The manner in which The American Legion delivers its services must adapt and change with the times, but our core principles and pillars remain unwavering.

Commander Oxford has adopted The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation as his major fundraising project for the year. In addition to providing training for service officers, this great foundation funds temporary financial assistance to veterans with young children in need.

The Foundation provided more than one million dollars of assistance to Coast Guard families impacted by the 2019 federal government shutdown.

And your American Legion continues to call on Congress to pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act to ensure that the Coast Guard, like the other military services, will be paid during future shutdowns.

The American Legion’s influence extends far beyond Washington. It is found in statehouses, city councils and campuses throughout the country.

It is The American Legion’s presence in the community that makes a difference. It is the true value of our memberships.

It’s displayed on an American Legion baseball field, in a recently renovated VA hospital wing or at a veterans memorial that was built with American Legion financial support.

We are not in this for ourselves; we are in this for our brothers and sisters-in-arms. We are in this for the husbands, wives and parents of those who served.

And like President Lincoln once promised, we do this to “care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”

As it has been since our founding, citizens of this great nation know that when America calls, American Legionnaires will continue to say “At your service!”

The American Legion will always be an organization of principles, not politics.

God Bless you and God Bless America!



***A Community of Volunteers
Serving Veterans, Military,
and their Families***

Join us Tues.day, March 3 for our general membership meetings

We welcome and need your participation and fellowship.

2019-2020 Post Officers:
Cdr: 541-977-2469 (eves.)
Adj: 425-220-3089

VSO: 541-647-9548

Mailing address: American Legion Post #4, PO Box 784, Bend, OR 97709

Commander Dan Hayward
Vice Commander Denny Shannon
Adjutant Vivian Shannon
Judge Advocate Denny Drury
Service Officer Keegan Hodges

Finance Officer Denny Drury
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Historian
Jr. Past Cdr Keegan Hodges

2019-2020 Unit Officers:
Pres: 541-312-3741
Chap: 541-390-4231

Mailing address: American Legion Auxiliary Unit #4, PO Box 7911, Bend, OR 97708

President Katie Terry
Vice President Karen Banks
Secretary Yvonne Drury

Treasurer Carole Jura
Chaplain Carol Wilson
Sgt.-at-Arms Bonnie Wilkins

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If you have information of interest to Veterans, please submit to Yvonne at ydrury47@gmail.com