

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON  
SPRING DEC  
APRIL 3, 2022  
BURNS, OREGON

The meeting was called to order by Department President, Debra Godwin.  
Colors were in place, so we rendered a hand salute to the Flag of our Country.  
Gregoria Hernandez gave the opening prayer in the absence of the Department Chaplain, Phyllis McDaniel.  
Americanism Chairman, Donna Hartwell, led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.  
Everyone sang the National Anthem.  
Pam Seelye, Department Parliamentarian led us in repeating the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Debra Godwin, Department President  
Cindy Soria, Department Vice President, Membership Chairman  
Linda Liebenow, Department Secretary (excused)  
Helen Hisaw, Department Treasurer  
Phyllis McDaniel, Department Chaplain (excused)  
Geanne Horne, Department Historian  
Pam Seelye, Department Parliamentarian  
Krisann Owens, National Executive Committeeperson  
Jody Marsh, Alternate NEC  
Suzanne Driver, Department Sgt-at-Arms  
Suzanne Hurd, Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms

**INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**

District #1	Catherine Brockmann	(Debra Ashe, VP)
District #2	Gregoria Hernandez	(Glenna Smith, VP)
District #3	Roberta Peebler	(Suzanne Driver, VP)
District #4	Donna Hartwell	(Pamela Mize VP, resigned)
District #5	Ginny Williams	(Denise Mitchell, VP)
District #6	Maggie LaMont	(Mary Ward, VP)
District #7	Vacant	
District #8	Trudie McGriff	(Barbara Sumner, VP, absent)
District #9	Frankie Trask	(Betty Adams, VP, absent)
District #10	Linda Schmidt	(Shirley Torrey, VP)

**INTRODUCTION OF PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS**

Cheryl Park, PDP (2009-2010) Past Western Division Vice President (2019-2020)  
Krisann Owens, PDP (2018-2019, 2003-2004)

Pending Approval

Trudie McGriff, PDP (2010-2011)  
Jody Marsh, PDP (2011-2012)  
Pam Seelye, PDP (2012-2013)  
Ginny Williams, PDP (2013-2014)  
Linda Liebenow, PDP (2014-2015) (excused)  
Angie McKinney, PDP (2015-2016)  
Debra Levy, PDP (2016-2017)  
Helen Hisaw, PDP (2017-2018)  
Gea Clausier, PDP (2019-2020) (absent)

**INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Administrative	Jody Marsh, Chairman Helen Hisaw, Linda Liebenow (excused), members
Americanism	Donna Hartwell
Audit	Vacant
Aux. Emergency Fund	Margie DeMoss (absent)
Chairman Coordinator	Karol Satterfield (absent)
Children & Youth	Angie McKinney (absent)
Community Service	Denise Mitchell (absent)
Constitution & Bylaws, Policies	Pam Seelye
Convention Chairman	Jody Marsh
Distinguished Guest Chairman	Ginny Williams
Education and Scholarship	Edna Redhead (absent)
Finance	Helen Hisaw, Treasurer Maggie LaMont, Gea Clausier (absent) Suzanne Driver, members
Girls State Commission	Krisann Owens, Director Cindy Hillyard, Gea Clausier (absent), members
Junior Activities	Tawnya Lege (absent)
Leadership	Cyndi Dahl (absent)
Legislative	Vacant
Membership	Cindy Soria
National Security	Trudie McGriff
Past President Parley	Kathi Karnowski (absent)
Poppy & Poppy Poster	Dianne Standing
Public Relations	Yvonne Drury (absent)
VA&R	Marie Larson (excused), Chairman Linda Liebenow (excused), member
Portland VA Medical Center	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Linda Liebenow (excused)
Rose Court	Geanne Horne
Transplant Unit	Becky Crosby (absent)

Pending Approval

Roseburg VA Medical Center  
Gift Shop Coordinator Carol Hunt (absent)  
Oregon Veterans Home  
Gift Shop Coordinator Geanne Horne  
Lebanon Veterans Home  
Gift Shop Coordinator

**RULES OF THE DEC** read by Department Secretary, Jody Marsh, Pro Tem

Article V, Section 2

The Department Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Department President, Department Vice President, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, the District Presidents, National Executive Committeeperson, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt-at-Arms, and Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms.

The Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt-at-Arms and Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms shall be members of the Department Executive Committee, with all rights except the right to vote.

All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee, with all rights except the right to vote.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS DEC**

Department President, Debra

You have received the minutes of the Mid-Winter DEC held via Zoom, January 9, 2022. If there are no corrections and no objections the minutes of the previous meeting will stand approved as printed.

The minutes stand approved as printed.

**REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

**Department Secretary Pro Tem,** Jody Marsh, no written report

**Department Treasurer,** Helen Hisaw

Our current budget shows us that our operating expenses are at 60% of budgeted projection.

There is a remaining balance of \$746.09 in grant money procured to provide member training.

The 990 was filed, the cost of that was \$1250. A little under budget but we still need to consider an outside audit for the 2022-2023 year.

We have donations still to be used as follows:

\$1000 for President travel to National Convention

\$3,043.85 to host the National President

\$700 for the Distinguished Guest Chairman

Please keep in mind that this does not include several items that will affect the budget. Some of those items are the DEC, Convention, and insurance.

Speaking of insurance, I would like to point out that we do not have crime coverage in our current policies. What you would consider "bonding". I have reached out to our current broker for an estimate, and they are as follows:

\$100,000 for \$266 per year

\$500,000 for \$827 per year

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\$1,000,000 for \$1025 per year

Our D&O insurance is to protect our director and officers against any form of suit for the decisions they may make concerning management and governing of our organization. We also have liability coverage for the premises. We have coverage against cyber and other crimes from outside of our company. We do have coverage for an employee, but we do not have coverage concerning crime or theft internally. I would also like to note that I received assistance in understanding our policies and coverage from both Maggie LaMont and a member who is not our current broker.

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee that we purchase the \$500,000 for \$827 per year. Department President, Debra, all those in favor, all opposed. Motion carried.

Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw (cont.)

As far as our investments are going, February was a very difficult month for everyone invested in the market. The amount that our investments are down at this point, they are basically what we had gained.

Finance will host a meeting at department, April 15<sup>th</sup> to work on the 2022-2023 budget.

The Finance Committee recommends that we set up a different checking account at a bank other than US Bank for VA&R funds. The reason is that we are over the Federally insured amount at the US Bank. The amount in the VA&R fund is \$109,910.79.

Department President, Debra, it has been recommended by the Finance Committee to move the VA&R funds in the amount of \$109,910.79 to a bank other than the US Bank. All those in favor, those opposed. Motion carried

**Department Historian**, Geanne Horne, no additional report

**Department Chaplain**, Phyllis McDaniel was absent, no report

**NEC**, Krisann Owens

The American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee met on Saturday, March 5, 2022 for its mid-year meeting. This was a virtual session which saved the organization \$70,00.

As of August 2021

Active Units-7793

New Units Chartered-10

Charters Reinstated-14

Charters Cancelled on March 5, 2022-66

Total Active Units-7751

The NEC voted to be listed as a co-sponsor with the National Finance Committee on the dues increase proposal which will be presented and debated at the National Convention. We understand the impact this may have on some members, but we also know that you cannot continue to pull money from reserves to cover the deficit.

National dues are currently \$12 per member and would increase to \$18 per member (+\$6); however, our annual cost per member in 2020 was \$13.51 and \$14.67 in 2021. This shows that our per member costs are higher than our member dues, and these figures were pulled during a pandemic when our member costs were much lower than in normal operation years. In all actuality, the divide between cost

## Pending Approval

per member and member dues is greater than what the 2020 and 2021 numbers show. In order to operate at a break-even point without dues increase, our membership would need to be at 840,000 members to support our current needs.

In summation, the National staff have worked to decreased expenses. They have had their benefits decreased while being asked to take on more responsibilities. Based on our current membership, the National organization has \*one staff person for every 16,000 members, yet Management & General expenses make up less than 20% of total expenses, with the majority of expenses (70%) falling under Programs and Support Services. \*The American Legion National Headquarters has one staff person for every 7,00 members.

The ALA Rejoin Campaign has begun. National sent out “We Miss You” email to former members with email addresses on it to help kick off the campaign on March 21. From March 20, 2022 through April 20, 2022, National Headquarters will be tracking the number of rejoined members for each department. The Department that has the most rejoins per capita during our “Spring Campaign” will be recognized at the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee.

The NEC also accepted the external auditor’s report as presented.

Four policies were updated.

The next printing of C&B amended policies will be in the next reprint that will be out after National Convention.

### **DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ REPORTS**

District 2 President, Gregoria Hernandez, asked to pull the Charter of Mill City/ Gates, Unit #159. They have not had meetings for the last couple of years and are not active in the community.

Department President, Debra, all of those in favor of pulling the Charter for Mill City/ Gates Unit #159, those opposed?

Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S REPORT, Debra Godwin**

We removed the Past Presidents Parley Chairmanship and moved the Unit Member of the Year and the Gen Horne, PDP, Past President Parley Award to the Leadership Chairmanship for the 2022-2023 year. Also, the Strategic Planning Committee has been removed for the 2022-2023 year.

At the Mission Training in Las Vegas, we talked about changing with the times or membership will continue to drop.

We presented Williams Unit #50 with their Charter on March 16<sup>th</sup>. This Unit will be a Unit to watch. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, I visited my project, COVV. It felt like Christmas, to see the tiny homes complete, Veterans living in them and the success of the program.

March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> I was in Prineville for the Prineville Roundup.

It is important to communicate, work together as a team, and keep the new members included and invited.

If you are not supporting our Mission, then you are supporting the division.

### **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN**

**Department Membership Chairman, Cindy Soria**

## Pending Approval

We have 13 goal Units, and we have 12 more Units that only need 1 or 2 more members to make 100%. District Presidents, please reach out to your Units and help them make their membership goal. District 4 is in first place at this time.

In Western Division, we are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We need 421 renewals to meet our Western Division goal.

Please let me know what I can do for you.

**Administrative Committee**, Jody Marsh, Chairman, no written report

**Convention**, Jody Marsh, Chairman, no written report

**Girls State**, Krisann Owens, Chairman

The Oregon Girls State Committee is pleased to announce we will have an in-person program this year and it will be held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon.

Session Dates: June 12-18, 2022

We realize the delay in finding a place to hold the session may cause some issues. We apologize.

Unfortunately, this has been a game of patience to find a college interested in providing a venue for our program. It turns out that most schools had folks working from home.

If the college went to online learning, there was no staff onsite to answer questions or to return a phone call or email as their timeline late last year for a return to onsite learning wasn't known so there were no guarantees and no reservations.

We will not be continuing the "Socks for Soldiers" program. It was difficult to give them away after the last in-person session. If we want to continue with the socks without the toiletries inside, I think we could donate those quickly so they're not taking up real estate in the office.

I'd like to bring the Poppy back to a place of importance in our program as well as it being a tradition to have the girls make a wreath for the Department President. It has been many years since a Department President received one. Some traditions are okay to keep.

With a bit of updating, the Girls State information should be available very soon. I would contact the schools if you have not and also if you get no response, to go the District Superintendent. We're finding that going to the top gets a better result. If anyone needs assistance getting into a school, let the office, myself, Gea, or Cindy Hillyard know, and we will make sure you get in.

**Poppy and Poppy Poster**, Dianne Standing, Chairman

I attended 3 National online meetings (Nov., Jan., and March)

Poppy Challenge for the year by Sallie Rossman, "A poppy in every Veteran's window."

We are in the poppy season with Memorial Day coming, National Poppy Day is May 27. I have resources on where you can order poppies if you have not ordered yet.

Poppy Posters are due April 15, we have 22 entries at this time

Poppy Year end Reports are due May 1 so that I can send my National Report in by May 15

I would like to see the Poppy Program continue throughout the year, with wreaths, cards, corsages, trees, and center pieces.

At convention we will have a Poppy Hat Parade and Display on our Poppy table.

I would like to get a contact from each Unit to meet 1-2 times a year.

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Please share with me anything you do during the year so I can record it and send it in with my reports to National, pictures would be great.

**COMMUNICATIONS**, Department Secretary, Jody Marsh, Pro Tem, no written report

**OLD BUSINESS**, none

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Candidates for 2022-2023

Vice President, Cindy Soria,  
Catherine Brockmann  
President, Debra Godwin

Each candidate introduced themselves and gave a short speech.

**Policies**, Department Constitution and By-laws, Policies Chairman, Pam Seelye

The Consent Agenda was used for the first time. The Legionnaire Policy was pulled out for discussion.

The Policies updated were,

District President, updated  
District Vice President, updated  
Legislative, updated  
National Security, updated  
Music, eliminated  
Oregon Legionnaire, eliminated  
Part Time Office Clerk, eliminated

Department President, Debra, all those in favor of the changes, all opposed? All policy updates and eliminations were passed.

### **Upcoming Events**

National President's visit, May 16-19, 2022  
Girls and Boys State, June 12-18, 2022, Western Oregon University  
Convention, June 22-25, 2022, hosted by Aloha #104  
District 4 Caucus, April 23, Grants Pass #28, 12pm lunch  
District 5 Caucus, May 7, Madras #125  
District 1 Caucus, May 14, Seaside #99  
District 3 Caucus, May 14, N. Eugene/Santa Clara #83  
District 10 Caucus, May 14, Ontario #67, 10am MST  
District 6 Caucus, May 14, Baker City #41  
District 2 Caucus, May 15, McMinnville #21  
District 9 Caucus, June 4, Roseburg #16  
District 7&8 Caucus, May 17, Milwaukie #180

## Pending Approval

Is there any further business to come before this meeting? If not, we will have Gregoria Hernandez give us the closing prayer.

Till we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the Community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom, Loyalty and Democracy.

Hand Salute to the Flag of our Country.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Executive Board, Department of Oregon, adjourned.