

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

FALL DEC

OCTOBER 30, 2022

Springfield, 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.

Opening Prayer was given by Gregoria Hernandez, Department Chaplain.

Americanism Chairman, Cindy Soria, led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Pam Seelye, Department Parliamentarian, led us in repeating the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

WELCOME

Department President, Debra Godwin

Welcome everyone to the Fall DEC in Springfield. It has been a long time since convention. We have a lot to cover today.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Pam Seelye, Western Division Children & Youth

INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Debra Godwin, Department President

Catherine Brockmann, Department Vice President, Membership Chairman

Linda Liebenow, Department Secretary

Helen Hisaw, Department Treasurer

Gregoria Hernandez, Department Chaplain

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 Asst Sgt-at-Arms

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District #1	Dianne Standing	(Sheri Russell, VP)
District #2	Kim Johnson (absent)	(Glenna Smith, VP)
District #3	Roberta Peebler	(Suzanne Driver, VP)
District #4	Cheryl Martin	(Martha Smith, VP) (absent)
District #5	Ginny Williams	(Karen Banks, VP) (absent)
District #6	Maggie LaMont	(Mary Ward, VP) (absent)
District #7	Vacant	
District #8	Trudie McGriff	(Angie McKinney, VP) (absent)
District #9	Frankie Trask	(Betty Adams, VP) (absent)
District #10	Linda Schmidt	(Shirley Torrey, VP)

INTRODUCTION OF PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Krisann Owens, PDP (2018-2019, 2003-2004)
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)
Deby Levy, PDP (2016-2017)
Helen Hisaw, PDP (2017-2018)

INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Administrative	Jody Marsh, Chairman Helen Hisaw, Deby Levy, members
Americanism	Cindy Soria
Audit	Vacant
Aux. Emergency Fund	Debra Ashe (absent)
Chairman Coordinator	Karol Satterfield
Children & Youth	Angie McKinney (absent)
Community Service	vacant
Constitution/Bylaws & Policies	Pam Seelye
Convention Chairman	Jody Marsh
Distinguished Guest Chairman	Ginny Williams
Education and Scholarship	vacant
Finance	Helen Hisaw, Treasurer Maggie LaMont, Suzanne Driver, Bobbi Peebler, members
Girls State Commission	Deby Levy, Director

Pending Approval

Junior Activities	vacant
Leadership	Deby Levy
Legislative	Tracy Peets (absent)
Membership	Catherine Brockmann
National Security	vacant
Poppy & Poppy Poster	Dianne Standing
Public Relations	Yvonne Drury
VA&R	Marie Larson, Chairman Linda Liebenow, member
Portland VA Medical Center	
Gift Shop Coordinator	vacant
Rose Court	Geanne Horne
Transplant Unit	Becky Crosby
Roseburg VA Medical Center	
Gift Shop Coordinator	vacant
Oregon Veterans Home	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Geanne Horne
Lebanon Veterans Home	
Gift Shop Coordinator	vacant

RULES OF THE DEC read by Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow

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 and Past Department Presidents with membership in the Department of Oregon.

Those members with the right to vote are the Department Vice President, National Executive Committee person and District Presidents with the Department President voting in case of a tie.

Minutes of the Convention and Post Convention DEC

President Debra, you have received the minutes of the Convention and Post Convention DEC, are there any additions or corrections? Hearing none, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS

Department Historian	Geanne Horne
Community Service	Margie DeMoss
Junior Activities	Chery Park
National Security	Yvonne Drury
OVH Lebanon Gift Shop	Michelle Wilkinson
VA&R	Maggie LaMont
Portland VA Gift Shop	Linda Liebenow

Consent was given to ratify .

Pending Approval

Installation of District President by Parliamentarian Pam Seelye

District 10

Linda Schmidt

Policy Updates by Parliamentarian Pam Seelye

Executive Director

Past Presidents Parley

Electronic Communication, Internet & Social Media

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Department Secretary

Conflict of Interest Compliance Statement

Confidentiality Policy & Procedure

Confidentiality Agreement

Department Convention Policy

We will be using the Consent Agenda again. If you would like any of these pulled for discussion, we will pull them out and then vote on the rest as a body.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

As a PDP with a voice, do I have the ability to pull one of the policies, or do I need to go through my District President?

Pam, you have a voice so you can ask yourself to have something pulled.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

I would like to pull the Department Secretary Policy and the Department Confidentiality Agreement from the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda will include:

Executive Director

Past Presidents Parley

Electronic Communication, Internet & Social Media

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Conflict of Interest Compliance Statement

Confidentiality Policy & Procedure

Department Convention Policy

President Debra, all in favor of the Policies just listed say Aye, those opposed. Motion carried.

Pam Seelye,

Let's do the Confidentiality Agreement.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

Pending Approval

My only concern was in the third paragraph where we were going to remove “past officer”. Wouldn’t this refer to Past Department Presidents, they are part of the DEC and may not be an officer and yet they would be included if we went into Executive Session and should sign a Confidentiality Agreement. The first sentence in the third paragraph would read “As an office, Past Department President, chairman,.....”

President Debra, all those in favor of the changes in the Confidentiality Agreement say Aye, those opposed. Motion passed as corrected.

Department Secretary Policy
Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

The Admin committee has been working on an accurate job description for the Administrative Assistant. I would like to ask to postpone this until we get that job description complete. Some of the things in the policy are things that we are paying the Administrative Assistant to do.

President Debra, when this was being worked on the job description was not complete, it was more for a part time employee. We should have a complete job description for the full-time employee. Some of the items on the Secretary policy are also on the job description for a full-time employee and we don’t want to duplicate them. The Secretary’s job is very important, and she has a lot to do. I personally feel until we get the administrative assistant job description done, that we table this.

Pam Seelye, when we did this, we wanted the Secretary to be a backup and she needs to know a lot of these things.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

I move that we table the Secretary Policy until Mid-winter DEC.

Motion was seconded. No discussion

President Debra, all in favor of tabling the Secretary Policy until Mid-winter DEC, say Aye, those opposed. Motion carried.

Reports from Department Officers.

Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow

To those of you who are new District Presidents, take anything out of your binder but please leave the binder and the dividers.

In the form section you have the new Senior Membership Transmittal that has the correct totals on it. You also have the Installation of Officers Report, Unit Chairman, Bonding notice, Poppy Report, Expense Report, and other useful information. If your Units ask for it, you have it all right here.

We still have some Units that have not paid their Bonding so remind your Units that the Bonding was due October 1.

If you have old membership applications, please throw them away. If they have Direct Descendant on them, throw them away. There are current membership applications in the back of the room. There is also the 8x5 application in your binders.

Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw

Pending Approval

The Finance Committee met and performed an internal audit at Department in September. A note from the Finance Committee said that this was one of the most efficient and complete internal audits. All information was readily available, and the audit was completed in an efficient time frame. The books were closed with no issues. The final determination will come when the CPA files with no issues.

We have engaged the CPA firm of Jarrad, Seibert, Pollard & Co. to complete the filing of our 990. A list of documents has been requested and the Department Admin Assistant is working on that list. An extension has been filed as a precautionary measure.

The Girls State inventory has been completed and sent to the CPA to be used on our 990 filing. Please note there is a change to the budget, Girls State has been increased to \$650. This was done by National so there is nothing for us to vote on, it is automatic.

As directed by the DEC, the theft insurance has been purchased.

Also directed by the DEC, a separate checking account has been established for our VA&R restricted funds. That account is at Columbia Bank. Our first order of checks was paid for from our general account as the funds will only be used as restricted funds. A reminder, we request all VA&R donations be on a separate check when you send them to Department.

The website host has been engaged and is currently working on the website. The cost of the initial upgrade has increased from the original quote as it contains our annual and monthly maintenance fees. Please keep in mind that these fees include the security certificate and constant "pushing" to allow our website to pop first when a search is applied. We all understand that in this day our web presence is very important.

Our investments at Ameriprise are down \$30,000.00 from the initial investment. This is across the board for everyone. The market has proven to be a little volatile this last year for many reasons. Our investments are at medium to low risk, and we are better off than many. Our firm looks at and adjusts if needed every three months.

Any questions?

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, Geanne Horne informed us that the storage unit at the Oregon Veterans Home that they were using for storage of gift shop items was no longer available. We have had discussion before that the Girls State storage unit is more expensive. We started looking for a smaller one, now we need to have a discussion that maybe we could use a portion of the storage unit to store the gift shop things there and then the gift shop funds would help pay the storage fees, based on area used.

Linda Schmidt, District 10 President, is there another storage facility that would charge less?

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, it is my understanding that this is the going rate. We did look at moving to a smaller unit which would save a couple hundred dollars a year. To move to another area that might be cheaper doesn't make sense because of the inconvenience.

Linda Liebenow, Secretary, if the Oregon Veterans Home is going to want us to move our items out of there, we also face the possibility that the Portland VA would want us to move our items out, also. We do have gifts and wrapping supplies stored up there, nothing has been said at this time. You don't want these things stored in someone's personal home. Having a bigger unit and sharing it would be more cost effect than having two smaller units.

Pending Approval

Maggie LaMont, District 6 President, my opinion is that if Geanne is happy with it, we should proceed on.

Geanne Horne, Unit #71, what is the cost of the unit if we are cutting it down to square footage, so we have an idea and where is the money coming from?

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, the cost of the unit to OVH is hard to determine until we know what it is (how much space it will take up). I can figure out the cost per foot. We no longer get a discount for paying a year at a time. We are paying \$156 a month. I can get you that cost. The money would come from the OVH gift shop funds.

Geanne Horne, Unit #71, and if Portland joins us, part of the cost will come from Portland gift shop?

Helen, Treasurer, yes, we would figure out the footage. If we have other programs that would need storage, they would all help cover the cost depending on the footage they are using. Someone would need to be responsible for the things in storage, keeping it organized and keep track of an inventory. We could set up a list of how you would go about gaining access to the unit. You would have to go through Department to get the key. This would help Girls State if we split the cost of the unit with other programs.

Deby Levy, Harney County #63, in order to save money, if the Portland gift shop needs space, too and to keep from getting a larger unit, could we go back to using the office space at Department? That has been used as storage before. Then we wouldn't have to pay for a storage unit for Girls State, either. It would save quite a bit of money.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, do you all know the space that she is talking about? It is the smaller office with a door that locks. We would need some things that are in there now that would need to stay because they are used by the office.

President, Debra, I sit in there once in a while and meet with other members, but we have a back room that we could meet in.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, at this time we are going to continue the discussion and try to figure out if that is feasible to use that room?

Deby Levy, Harney County #63, there is a lot of room in the storage unit, but the back room would hold a lot of stuff. If it is going to be just OVH and Girls State, I think that we have more than enough room.

Linda Liebenow, Secretary, I think that we could rearrange things and still have that desk in there. Put the storage in the back corner and so Madame President could still use it.

(Unknown person) How soon does the stuff have to be out of OVH?

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Geanne Horne, Unit #71, contacted me last month and said that they were very desperate for the space. We also have Birthday Fund for the Veterans that is stored there, too. I told them that after DEC, I would let them know.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, how do you guys feel about taking the stuff to the storage unit for now, and work on preparing that room so that we can move all of it and get rid of the storage unit and that expense.

Geanne Horne, Unit #71, taking it to the office first would be a good idea so that I could inventory it.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, OK, you bring it to the office then we can determine if it needs to go to the storage unit or if we are going to get started quicker on storing at the office.

Geanne Horne, Unit #71, I have already gotten permission to use the Department van to bring the stuff back.

Linda Liebenow, Secretary, then the Auxiliary should be responsible for the gas.

Bobbie Peebler, District 3 President, is the storage unit paid up through the end of the year and is there going to be a timeline on moving out of the unit?

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, the storage unit is not paid up until the end of the year. Three months ago, we found out that they no longer give us a discount for paying a year at a time, so we started paying a month at a time until we could discuss what we are going to do. Right now, we are paid up until December 1st.

Department Historian, Geanne Horne

I would like to have a Past Department President every month to do a story on them. So, I am asking the Past Department Presidents to please give me some time so that I can write your history and publish it in the Legionnaire and the Auxiliary.

Linda Liebenow, Secretary, do you mean a History of the Department as a whole? Because we haven't had a written History for the Department in many years and that is sad. Do we have a written History for last year? We should make sure we have that first before you spend your time on a something new. Geanne Horne, we don't have it yet.

Linda Liebenow, Secretary, every Past Department President should have a bio at the office that gives some background on them. That should help you.

Department Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez, send me prayers for the members that have lost family members. So far, we have lost 14 members from different Units. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Pam Seelye, Unit #110, would you like for us to send you prayers so that you can put together a Prayer Book for Madame President?

Pending Approval

Gregoria Hernandez, Chaplain, yes, I would be delighted to receive prayers.

NEC Krisann Owens

I don't have a Fall NEC report because we have not yet met for our fall meeting. So, I will have a report for the Mid-winter DEC.

Alternate NEC on National Convention, Jody Marsh

The National convention was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August. The pre-convention NEC meeting was held in two morning sessions. Much discussion and debate and I asked a lot of questions. The general membership was dismissed for an Executive Session to hear updates on current issues facing National. The confidentiality comes into effect so there is no discussion about what it is. When you are thinking that things are bad here, let me tell you that things are worse out there.

Krisann represents Oregon well as noted by her involvement in ad hoc committee assignments at the National level.

There was more debate and discussion on the floor when the dues increase came up for a vote. The end result was National will be raising the dues for 2024 by \$6. None of the incremental increases were passed. For the Department of Oregon, the per capita, starting 2024 will be \$36, \$18 to National and \$18 to Department. The Units need to make sure that they are collecting more than \$36 from your members.

National is looking to add a position for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Personally, I don't think that that is a beneficial use of the members monies. We will have to wait and see where that goes.

The Post-convention NEC was on Friday. They ratified appointments, reports from officers, report from the new National President, Vicky Koutz.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent Oregon. And I am glad that Krisann is feeling better.

An Executive Session is a closed session of the NEC. Our DEC is structured the same as the NEC. The membership at large is there to listen and hear what is happening but don't have the opportunity to ask questions. An Executive Session is about issues that could be inner conflict that National has been asked to assist with, any number of things. The session is then closed to anyone who is not part of the NEC.

Department President, Debra

Thank you to all the Finance Committee and our Treasurer, and everyone who had a hand in getting our budget in order. When you look at the National budget and some of the things that they spend money on, I have "Helen" in my blood, "what in the heck". When we were voting on the dues increase, there was a comment made that kind of stuck with me, "what is that Veteran worth to you, is that Veteran worth \$6 to you?" We only voted for the on time \$6 increase. It is our vote to make if there is a need for additional increases. We, as the membership, need to be able to speak two years down the road. When you think about the dues increase, think about how much the Veterans in your life mean to you.

Department President, Debra

We have visitors, Rob Liebenow, the Detachment Commander for the Sons of the American Legion and Marc Chaney, NEC for the Sons of the American Legion.

Rob Liebenow, I came to invade your meeting because your President didn't invade mine yesterday.

The main reason that I wanted to stop today is, you have seen Marc out here all weekend selling raffle

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tickets for this plaque. I have a special project this year, it needs to be OK'd by the DEC tomorrow. We are starting a Willy Williams, Sons of the American Legion, Scholarship. It will be available to all SAL members in good standing regardless of age. They could go to a community college, 4-year college or trade school. The drawing will be at convention so we will be selling tickets from now until convention. Marc assures me that if you bought a ticket yesterday, you did not buy the winning ticket, so you need to buy another ticket.

I don't know what your plans are for the mid-winter DEC, I know that the Legion is doing a combination vertical, in person. The SAL is holding an in person only at Milwaukie Post 180 on Saturday January 14. That evening we are having a special "Wild Willy Western Night". We will be putting on a dinner with smoked brisket, or chicken. The tickets are \$15 per sale or a combo for \$20. No host cocktails at 4:30pm and the program starts at 5:30pm. There will be raffles throughout the night, prizes, best western dress. Marc is doing anything he can to raise money.

One of the other main projects that I am doing this year is, yesterday we had a 50/50 for the Child Welfare Foundation which was very dear to Willy's heart. We raised \$100 yesterday for that.

I was hoping that Ginny would be here because I would like her to come as my special guest for the Wild Willy night, a free dinner for her and a guest. Marc has some flyers with an order form for the dinner that he will bring in and we will ask Cindy and Flynn to email it out to everyone.

Ginny came into the room. Rob asked her to be his special guest for the Wild Willy night.

The raffle on the plaque is going to the scholarship. This weekend we have raised over \$600. We are trying not to dip into our General Fund for the scholarship. We expect our Squadrons to hold fund raisers throughout the year and donate to this cause. Right now, we don't know how big of a scholarship we will give out, I think the initial one will be not less than \$1000 but depending on how the funds build up, that may vary year to year. I think that it will be something that will support itself through the Squadrons and donations.

President, Debra, I am going to go visit the Legion meeting so will turn the gavel over to Catherine Brockmann.

Reports from the District Presidents

District #8 President, Trudie McGriff. Her report was added to the Book of Reports

District #3 President, Bobbi Peebler, Timber City Unit #133 was asked to do a Deployment dinner for the 97th Army Reserve Deployment Ceremony and they need volunteers. It will be December 10th in Eugene. If you can volunteer contact Bobbi.

District #2 Vice President, Glenna Smith. Her report will be added to the Book of Reports

District #5 President, Ginny Williams, I have four Units that aren't communicating.

Ray Johnson Unit #44, we have received everything from them. I move that we close Ray Johnson Unit #44. Motion seconded. Discussion, none. All in favor of closing Ray Johnson Unit #44 say Aye, those opposed.

Motioned carried.

Eugene Green Unit #48. Have not received anything from them but I don't think that they really

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have anything. I can't get them to communicate with me at all. I move that we close Eugene Green Unit #48. Motion seconded. Discussion, none. All in favor of closing Eugene Green Unit #48 say Aye, those opposed.

Motion carried.

John Sloss, Unit #125. I am going over there next week; I have received nothing from them. I move that we close John Sloss Unit #125. Motioned seconded. Discussion.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99, have we sent letters out to all of the Units?

Yes.

All in favor of closing John Sloss Unit 125 say Aye, those opposed. Motion carried.

Mosier Unit #55, I have not sent letters to them. Cindy Hillyard has been working on this with me. She is still trying to get a hold of someone from the Unit. And I will get all of the Charters.

I move that we close Mosier Unit #55. Motion seconded. Discussion. All those in favor of closing Mosier Unit #55 say Aye, those opposed. Motion carried.

My heart is broken, I don't like having to close all these Units, but I don't know what else to do. I think that we all need to remember WHY we joined this organization.

Department President, Debra returns from her visit of the Legion DEC.

We have a visitor.

NEC Kevin Owens and Jim LaCoursiere who is the candidate for the office of National Commander for 2024-2025.

NEC Kevin Owens, Good Morning Ladies. It is a privilege to be here amongst you, you are so much more fun than over there (Legion DEC).

It is my great privilege and honor to introduce our guest from Connecticut. He is a past National Vice Commander, 2008-2009. He is a candidate for National Commander for 2024-2025, Jim LaCoursiere.

Jim LaCoursiere,

Good morning, Madame, President, Department Officers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary and guests. It is an honor and privilege to be here in the great state of Oregon. This is my first visit to the state, and it is beautiful.

I love the Auxiliary. My wife is very devoted to the American Legion Auxiliary as well. It is through her that I get to continue doing what I do.

As you are all aware, the National campaign slogan is "Be the One". You are a big part of that. Being that "voice" or even being that "ear" that the Veteran needs. But it also goes beyond the Veteran suicide. Be the One to work with the Buddy Checks, to check on your neighbor. I don't care what you do but be that one that somebody needs, personal contact, build that relationship. And it is through that my personal campaign for 2024-2025 is based on love. And the love I'm talking about is LUV that represents Loyalty, Unity, and Valor. To me, that is what this great organization is all about. Let us share with people.

I have 29 years invested in American Legion, 15 years invested in the Sons of the American Legion and a founding father of Legion Riders in the Department of Connecticut. I love what this great organization represents, and the Auxiliary is the backbone of this organization, all the great things that you do, all the networking that we do, the programs that we both work on, especially Children and Youth that is the future of this nation, our youth. All the different programs and the values of this organization. And for

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that I thank you. The one thing that I want to ask is to take all information that you are getting this weekend and share it, it doesn't do any good if it stays in these four walls. Information from the Department leadership should be filtered down to the Districts, and then to the Units. It is from the Units that we get out into the community, that is how we get the community to understand the value of this great organization. Please share the information, don't keep it to yourself.

God Bless you all. Thank You.

Report from District Presidents (cont.)

District #4 President, Cheryl Martin, we are in the process of closing Glenn Morrison Unit #70.

Right now, they have only one member that is involved and I will be talking to her about transferring her membership to either Grants Pass or Williams.

In Grant Pass Unit #28, as much as I have reached out to the members, they are not responding. We are not ready to close them but possibly. They have a lot of members, but no one wants to do anything.

District #9 President, Frankie Trask, Baird Heaton, Unit #152 has requested to turn in their Charter. We have letters sent out to the members with a choice of transferring either to Fallin Unit #123 or to Roseburg Unit #16. The lack of activity, their age, very small town, and COVID are some of the reasons for closing.

I move that we accept the Charter of Baird Heaton Unit #152. Motion was seconded.

Discussion, none. All in favor of closing Baird Heaton Unit #152 say Aye, opposed.

Motion carried.

Department President's Report, Debra Godwin

We have been working really hard on training events They have been very successful and some of the District Presidents have taken the information and shared them with their Unit members. That is what we want. Membership and training our membership is very near and dear to my heart. We don't have a budget for this so Deby Levy has been bring in items to raffle to cover what we have spent.

We came up with a fund raiser that will go to Membership Enhancement. Post #57 from Newberg is helping get that planned. It is going to be a Poker Run, a 2-day rally. June 3rd and 4th, 2023. The Riders from Post #57 have some great ideas. They will set up a route that will include the whole state. The proceeds from that will go to our budget for Membership Enhancement. When I become a PDP, I hope that the training continues. Have you enjoyed it, have you learned? (Yes, from audience)

I got a letter from J.W. from the Central Oregon Veterans Outreach Veterans Village, a thank you from the Board of Directors for supporting the Central Oregon Veterans Outreach Veterans Village. The hard work of the Auxiliary members to raise over \$11,000 is deeply, deeply appreciated. He had open heart surgery and is home but the family asked that he have time to recover a bit so I haven't called him yet but will soon.

We have been discussing a little bit about ALAMIS and how you only have "Read Only" access. We are also discussing the "Write" access. The person that has the "write" access can go in and update names, addresses, input new membership but not process. All processing will still have to be sent to Department. You can update solicitation preferences, perform more searches, membership activity, search for Units and get reports.

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I was newer to the organization when that was pulled back and I don't know if ALAMIS was new, and people weren't understanding it. We are offering that back (write access) to the Units, one member per Unit. We have forms for you to fill out. The "Read Only" is \$10 per year or "Write" for \$15 per year. You have to fill it out and return to Department if you want access to ALAMIS. It is a choice that you have, you don't have to do it.

There is a tutorial that you need to do before National will give you access to ALAMIS.

My question is if you have someone that doesn't know what they are doing and they make a mistake or they send an application through and that person is not eligible to be a member, what happens then?

Krisann Owens, NEC

They need to make sure that they are processing people correctly, you need to see a DD-214, you need to verify that they are eligible to be a member. It is not up to National to police everyone's membership, it is up to you to do that. If you allow people to join that are not eligible that is on you. So if they (National) finds that you didn't do your due diligence, and you have people that should not be members, that will fall back on you. So, you need proper training, if you have questions call, Department first. If you are not willing to do all of this, then don't get involved in this.

President, Debra

Do they have to have a debit or credit card?

Krisann, NEC

Yes. You have to have a debit card from your Unit that can be specific for this only.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit #99

It is a choice; a Unit can do it or not. Is it feasible for the Department to have two or three sample Unit to try it out and then get back to us and let us know how it worked.

President, Debra

Is this something that we need to vote on or just Units that want to volunteer. Bay Area Unit #34 and Washington #2 volunteered. All applications and renewals must be forwarded to Department. I am asking you two to come back to Winter DEC and give us an update.

Helen Hisaw, Crook County #29

Is there another fee for this kind of access to ALAMIS. I believe the fee is higher than \$15 to process membership.

President Debra,

We will let Cindy know that these two will be our guinea pigs and not to allow other Units to try it out until we hear back from these two Units. You must turn your application into Department so they can sign you up through National.

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Bobbie Peebler, District #3 President

I want to make sure that I am hearing everything right. There are three levels to ALAMIS, read only, read and write, and processing membership. You will need a strong membership chair to do this for your Unit.

Linda Schmidt, District #10 President

Do we still need to notify Cindy when we change addresses?

President Debra, Yes

If I have already paid \$10 for access and I want to up it, do I just send in another \$5?

President Debra, I don't know, we will need to ask Cindy.

President Debra

I got an email from Cindy about the website. The website is mobile compatible and responsive now. He has migrated some content to the live page. He has combined some of the tabs, so you won't have as many tabs. The home page will have a calendar and it is easy to use. It provides user options on how to search and view. He has created three of the six programs, Americanism, Children and Youth and the Poppy program are linked in from a sub menu dropdown. All the contact information will be there, and you can search for it on Google. It is really close to being done.

I went to District #2 first District meeting. Kim did a great job for her first District meeting. I was invited to LaGrande where I visited the Veterans housing. We visited with one of the Veterans living there. He showed us all over his tiny house, he was so proud. The Unit and Post worked so well the day that I was there, great decorations and great food. Thank you, Unit #43, for your hospitality, the invitation, it was fabulous. I felt like I was home.

I have a few invites coming up. The next one is Albany Unit #10, for dinner and the parade. I will be part of the parade in McMinnville on November 12 and have been asked to MC the ceremony at the end. Newberg Unit #57 has invited me for November 12 to be the guest speaker at a Veterans outreach there. December 20th I will be at Unit #150 for their Christmas dinner. December 17 I will be participating in Wreaths Across America. Last year was my first year doing that and I was amazed.

Reports from Chairman

Admin Committee, Jody Marsh, Chairman

The Admin Committee has been very busy since the close of Convention. Our focus has been on updating the employee job description, creating an employee evaluation document, and providing the employee evaluation. The good news is we are 95% there. The employee evaluation has been completed and given. A job description was developed by Admin and given to the employee to review. For a historical perspective, the Administrative Assistant was a part-time position and hired by our second attempt at an Executive Director and worked under the Office Manager. She was then offered a promotion to full-time as Administrative Assistant II with a raise. At that time, our focus was to get our financial procedures settled and a host of volunteers assisted with other aspects until our employee could assimilate other functions.

She has always been instructed to take on new responsibilities as she felt comfortable, and boy has she! Her input is invaluable! At this time the Admin Committee and employee will be working to finalize the position description.

Pending Approval

The committee of myself, Helen Hisaw, Deby Levy and President Debra was involved as a part of that, and Vice President Catherine has been involved in parts. We developed what we thought it was but knowing that we had given her instructions to take things on without really knowing what that was and then we gave her the opportunity to add to it and now we are going into the position of trying to put it all on one page and include the secretary. That was one of the reasons why I suggested that we table the secretary position because some of the things appear that they might overlap.

Americanism, Cindy Soria Chairman

This year my theme will be “Americanism and What it Means to You”. What it means to me is that flag. Our Veterans fought for us and our rights. We all need to get out and vote on November 8th. I’m not trying to push any kind of political agenda but that is part of being an American and honoring our Veterans. Also, explain it to our children. It is not being taught in the schools. There is the Star-Spangled Banner program, please take a look at it. It is on the National website. It gives you ideas of what to do with the children. If anyone is interested in talking to the schools, or doing a flag presentation, let me know and I will be happy to go with you to that school. Let me know what you are doing in your Unit and with your Post, Veterans Day is coming up. I’m looking forward to working with this program and getting things done. Let’s teach our children what it is all about.

Convention Committee, Jody Marsh, Chairman

The 2022 Department Convention hosted by Aloha Legion Family 104 was a great success. The Thursday Oregon American Legion Foundation Mixer is becoming a favorite among convention goers with food, silent auction, and the bragging rights of Corn Hole Champion.

As the members of Aloha Post 104 will testify, hosting a convention is hard work, can be stressful, fun, and profitable. Congratulations on their success! If your Legion family works well together, you are connected to your community, and are interested in hosting a Department Convention, we encourage you to speak with any member of the commission or the Aloha Legion Family.

The date and location of the 2023 Department Convention has changed.

The Commission would like to thank the McMinnville Legion family for their prompt start to planning and their willingness to see and acknowledge that it was not feasible for them to host the convention. It is unclear if it is a result of COVID recovery in the community or the change in McMinnville as a destination location with the growth in wineries and tours. No hotels were willing to offer blocks or work with us on affordable rates.

As Chair, (Jon Marsh speaking as the same message went to the Legion DEC) I would like to thank all commission members that have stepped up to ensure that the Department Convention will be able to happen.

Our convention will be earlier than normal in June. We will hear from the Chairs of Girls State and Boys State on the impact of this change on our premiere programs.

Department will be hosting this convention at the Mill Casino Hotel and RV Park in North Bend with the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 and concluding with the Victory Party on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Yes, we know that Sunday is Father’s Day and appreciate the flexibility and understanding of our Legion Family. Our traditional date was not available at the Mill.

The Convention Commission (Legion) has put forth a recommendation in their Code of Procedures to increase the registration fee from \$15 to \$20. It is never easy to raise fees and this decision was not made lightly.

Pending Approval

Convention details will be released at or near the Spring DEC. For now, be sure to mark your calendars and join us at the Mill Casino in North Bend, June 14-17.

Girls State, Deby Levy Chairman

As of right now, we do not have a commission for Girls State, and I cannot make decisions myself as Director. Those individuals that have said they would come back and help this next year, not all of them can get along and if some come back others won't. That is really sad that we can't work together for this program, but not only that, we do not have a facility. Western does not have room for us. They have 700 football players coming in and I guess that is where they are making their money. We have checked community colleges; we have checked private colleges. The Legion has gone to OSU, and they did look into it for us as well. OSU has dorm rooms, they have meeting rooms, they have the cafeteria space, however, we don't know food costs, we do not have meeting room costs, we do not have parking costs. The only thing that they do have is the dorm rooms, which is \$6 a day less than what we paid at Western. However, we do not have the facility or do we have the volunteers right now. We have talked about sending girls to Washington or Idaho, there is a possibility of sending our girls to other Departments to their programs. There is no commission, and I cannot make those decisions on my own. I have spoken to the Parliamentarian. I don't know where you want to go with this.

President, Debra

How many of you have actually been to Girls State to volunteer? I am not knowledgeable about Girls State, and I don't understand a lot of it. I'm not a political person and would rather work with the Veterans. What she has done to just try to get the Girls State program stated again, with COVID, nobody will help. So, if we are going to have a premier program like Girls State, then the membership needs to step up. Krisann, Linda Schmidt, and Deby ran it last year and Deby and Linda stepped up at the end because no one would step up. This is a program that is super important to our youth. I'll go. The biggest problem is finding somewhere to have it, the budget is another problem. We didn't get the Blount Foundation grant this year. How many of you are able to get in the schools to talk about Girls State? So today before we leave, we need to decide what to do. Do we want to send our girls away, or do we want to have a program within our state and be proud of that program?

If we send our girls to another state, then we do we have Girls Nation representatives?

Krisann Owens, NEC

The year that we sent girls to the program in Delaware, virtually, they selected girls for Girls Nation from each of the states that attended. The girls that were selected wouldn't respond to me, so I don't know if they went to Girls Nation or not.

Dianne Standing, District 1 President

What happened to the boys and girls doing it together?

Deby Levy,

The Legion and Auxiliary would both have to have a resolution to merge them. We can share resources, we can do projects together, we cannot change the name.

Krisann Owens, NEC

Kevin Owens the NEC for the Legion talked to National Boys State Director, and they don't really care what we do within the state, we can't change the name, the boys and girls can have their sessions together. Everyone is leaning towards these programs being one program. The Department of California has to, by California law, have a joint program. So, all of our departments are having to face these mergers, it is coming as an official thing, but it will just take a little bit of time. We can have them

Pending Approval

together, again, together we're stronger, we have more kids, they are getting more out of the program by being together. They are together at school. But we have to have a venue before we can have a program and we need to know the costs. I wish that I could say that I would be on the commission, but my leg is still messed up and I don't know how much longer before it will be better.

Bobbie Peebler, District #3 President

Have reached out to church camps?

Dianne Standing, District #1 President

I have a Unit member that would like to help revitalize this and she will get members to work it. She is willing to be on the commission.

President, Debra, I will chat with you, Lori, when we are done.

Have we forgotten why we belong to the American Legion Auxiliary? Have we forgotten why we joined the American Legion Auxiliary? I joined because of my father and learned about the Veterans and how much they need us. If I can make an impact myself, I'm not here because I have a badge on, I'm here because I want to be. I feel like we are losing it and I think that Team Oregon is better than that. We have a lot of pride in our bodies and hearts, and I think that we need to rebuild that. We have to work together to make the program work.

Ginny Williams, District #5 President

I would love to help with Girls State. It's a big job, I was there seven years. Geanne Horne gave me a note that says that she would be willing to help.

Linda Liebenow, Department Secretary

I would suggest that we go ahead and try to find a facility and get the expenses down. If we can't get that information together by Mid-winter DEC, I think that it is too late to get the information to the Units and for the Units to be able to do anything. I would like to see us go forward and try to find a facility, expenses involved and then make a decision. And we need to have a Commission.

Lori Sherman, Unit #68

I have reached out to Camp Rilea and they are willing to have Girls State. They have Boys State going there.

President Debra, Boys State is not going to Camp Rilea because they don't have food available.

Lori, I have food trucks. I have done a lot of work on this. I am willing to work with those that have already volunteered.

President, Debra

I will get with you (Lori Sherman) and Ginny Williams, Geanne Horne, Shari Russel, Karol Satterfield, Pam Seelye, and Linda Liebenow. So, I have people that are interested and thank you for stepping up to the plate.

Gregoria Hernandez, Department Chaplain

I don't know a lot about Girls State, could we get a training so that we can get more involved in it. I am willing to volunteer. Training would get us going in the right direction and get knowledge from those that already know.

Deby Levy, Girls State Director

I agree with Linda, and I think that we will look for a facility and see if we can find something before the Mid-winter DEC. It is up to the President to appoint her commission because I can't make these decisions on my own.

Pending Approval

Membership, Catherine Brockmann, Chairman

I want to say, "Well Done" . We went up another 5% on this report. We are at 39.5%. Oregon is in third place in the Western Division. We are higher than the average for the Division. The Western Division is fourth out of five Divisions. That means that we have to continue doing what we are doing, continue to get those members to renew, get the membership sent in, get the applications filled out correctly. If you have doubts if the application is filled out correctly, ask someone to look it over before you send it in. If you get an application that is not filled out correctly, give it back to the person and get the information that you need before you send it in.

So, as we look at this report, we now have three Units that have made Goal, Vale #96, Travis Moothart #184, and Carl Douglas #74. And they made it before the November 11 Target date, so they get bonus points. It's looking like most Units are sending in membership, I did contact some District Presidents that have Units with no membership turned in. Some of the smaller Units like to wait until the last minute and then send them all in at once. There are some Units that are struggling, I would like to know, I would like to help. If you need assistance in your District, please let me know. I tried three years in a row to help Clatsop with no success but if they need help, I will go there again. Jody said that she would go with. They don't hold meetings, they don't work a program, and as of Department Convention, that is a requirement to be a Unit. They raise money from their Bingo, and they do help Veterans, but they don't work a specific program. We were trying to get them to have a meeting before their Bingo session, but that hasn't worked. There is a lot of conflict that we have to deal with at that Unit. We need to figure out how to help and get past the conflicts in Units, not just Clatsop. I gave you all stress balls, there are days when you need them.

Any question on membership? Let's keep moving forward, I'd like to see membership turned in weekly from each Unit. If you are having a revitalization or membership drive, please keep me informed, let me know, I would love to come help and meet more members. Let me know what is happening in your Districts. We will make this work. I would love to reach goal again this year, get two in a row. At National Convention we got to sit near the front, you could see the people on stage.

VA&R, Linda Liebenow, member

During convention people were throwing out different facilities that were out there to help Veterans, so Marie started to compile a list of the different facilities, which is listed in her Book of Reports. These are different places for us to help our Veterans. The list isn't complete, so if you know of ones that can be added to the list, be sure and let Marie know. We are trying to get a program in all areas of the state. As far as the Gift Shops are going, it is a "no" for Portland gift shop this year, I have not heard anything from Roseburg, Oregon Veterans Home is a no go. At this point, the Veterans home in Lebanon is going to have one. So hopefully they will all stay healthy down there and they let us in.

Jody Marsh, Seaside #99

Linda, at our District meeting you were hoping that we could start working on a needs list for the hospitals, is there any information to share?

Linda, not at this time. At that time, we were told that Portland was accepting lap robes and they were asking for hotel size samples. Several years ago, the Portland VA started buying the comfort items instead of having the Units donate them. But now, like everyone else, they are having supply issues, so they were asking for even the hotel size. Then a Unit contacted the VA about dropping off lap robes and they were told that they weren't taking them. The VAVS is having a meeting in November so maybe after that meeting Marie will have more information. We did get a request from the Chief of Voluntary

Pending Approval

Services at Roseburg for coats and shoes, so Marie will be working on that. At the Portland VA, we are going to try to do the gift cards that we have done the last two years in place of the gift shop. It doesn't give you the warm and fuzzy feeling that you get at the gift shop, but it is helping our Veterans.

President, Debra, are there any other chairman that would like to report?

Communications

None

Unfinished Business

We already touched base on the website.

New Business

Linda Schmidt, District #10 President

As the new web site is being built, can we still find all the recent stuff on the old website?

President, Debra, yes you can find some things, but I don't know how recent it is. The old website is still up.

Upcoming Events

Department Blood Drive Friday, November 11 from 10am-3pm at Hilton Garden

Veterans Day, Friday November 11, Department closed

Department Christmas Party, Saturday, December 3, at Post #21

Lebanon Gift Shop Opening, Tuesday, December 6, 9am-4pm

Mid-winter DEC will be January 14, 2023 via ZOOM information to come

A challenge for Deby, my Leadership Chairman, some kind of activity that we can all do virtual.

If you are not getting emails from Department, check your junk box. Let Cindy know because people get dropped off of Constant Contact.

We thank you all for coming and showing you care about your Units, District and Department.

Is there any further business to come before this meeting?

Krisann Owens, PDP

Asked all the PDPs to come to the front of the room.

Madame President, as the most senior Past Department President, we would like to congratulate you on well-run DEC.

And the Past Department Presidents have a presentation.

A new, updated Preamble for the Department office

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

Pending Approval

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.

Adjourned