

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

FALL DEC

OCTOBER 10, 2021

ALOHA, 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.

**WELCOME**

Department President, Debra Godwin

It feels like it has been a year since we all met at Convention. The COVID is still amongst us as we march ahead. We all know we have Units and members still struggling with the mandates, and membership. Please make sure you are reaching out to them. We have positive news, business, and communication to get to. Let's get this meeting started!

**INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

Gea Clausier, Western Division Community Service

**INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Debra Godwin, Department President  
Cindy Soria, Department Vice President, Membership Chairman  
Linda Liebenow, Department Secretary  
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

**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, absent)
District #5	Ginny Williams	(Denise Mitchell, VP, absent)
District #6	Maggie LaMont	(Mary Ward, VP)
District #7	Vacant	
District #8	Trudie McGriff	(Barbara Sumner, VP, absent)
District #9	Frankie Trask (absent)	(Betty Adams, VP)
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)  
Angie McKinney, PDP (2015-2016)  
Helen Hisaw, PDP (2017-2018)  
Gea Clausier, PDP (2019-2020)

**INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Administrative	Jody Marsh, Chairman Helen Hisaw, Linda Liebenow, members
Americanism	Donna Hartwell
Audit	Vacant
Aux. Emergency Fund	Margie DeMoss (absent)
Chairman Coordinator	Karol Satterfield (absent)
Children & Youth	Angie McKinney
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 Suzanne Driver, members
Girls State Commission	Krisann Owens, Director Cindy Hillyard (absent), Gea Clausier, members
Junior Activities	Tawnya Lege (absent)
Leadership	Cyndi Dahl (absent)

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Legislative	Vacant
Membership	Cindy Soria
National Security	Trudie McGriff
Past President Parley	Kathi Karnowski (absent)
Poppy & Poppy Poster	Vacant
Public Relations	Yvonne Drury (absent)
VA&R	Marie Larson, Chairman Linda Liebenow, member
Portland VA Medical Center	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Linda Liebenow
Rose Court	Vacant
Transplant Unit	Becky Crosby (absent)
Roseburg VA Medical Center	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Carol Hunt (absent)
Oregon Veterans Home	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Geanne Horne
Lebanon Veterans Home	
Gift Shop Coordinator	Gwynne Parks-Waltenberg (absent)

Department, Debra Godwin,

You have received minutes of the Convention 2021 and Post DEC June 26, 2021. If there are no corrections and no objections the minutes of the previous meetings will stand approved as printed. The Convention minutes were approved, and the Post Convention DEC minutes were approved with housekeeping corrections.

### **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.

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.

### **RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

Consent was given to ratify Suzanne Hurd, Aloha Unit 104, as Assistant Sgt-at-Arms.

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Gea Clausier, National Western Division Community Service  
Donna Hartwell, Department Americanism Chairman  
Marie Larson, Department VA&R Chairman

**REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

**Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow**

District Presidents, as usual, in your binders you can take any of the information that you want. Please leave the dividers and the binders. There is a new Constitution and Bylaws, because of the changes to the Alternate NEC, and you have a copy of the bulletins that were mailed to the Units. In the Forms section, you have several different forms for your information in case your Units call and have questions. Remember that we have deadlines for a purpose, and we really need to stick to the deadlines. Do your best and if you have any problems, call Debra.

Department President Debra, and I might say, call your District President.

**Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw**

The Finance Committee is in preparation to perform the internal audit at Department with a great deal of assistance from the office administrator.

We have received donations listed below:

Personal donation, \$1000 for the 2022 President to attend National Convention and \$2000 to the General Fund

American Legion, \$500 for the National President to visit

Numerous donations have been received from Units and members as well. The donation line added to the expense report forms has proved to be very successful and we truly appreciated each and every one. In the future these donations, specific to a program or line item, will show in the Budget to Actual as a negative in the appropriate accounts until the money is used.

We have also received two \$500 and one \$1000 grant from Walmart that will be used for training. And thank you to those people who spent the time to get those grants.

We have been working on distribution of past “president project funds”

Presidents Projects Funds:

Krisann Owens, \$3743.85 to be distributed @ \$2743.85 to go to National President’s visit, \$1000 for Distinguished Guest Chairman so that she has a budget to work with while the National President is here.

Gea Clausier, \$683 was distributed to a veteran and her children that was referred to us by our Service Officer. That was a female Veteran helping a female Veteran.

Kathi Karnowski, \$5965.92 total with \$2982.96 to Veteran’s Legacy Camp and \$2982.96 to Divide Camp

We are happy that we were able to go back and take care of those funds and get them moved.

Any questions on the P&L or the budget. No questions

**Department Historian, Geanne Horne**

She had no additional remarks beyond her Book of Reports.

**National Executive Committeeperson, Krisann Owens**

National President Kathy Daudistel’s theme: “Honoring Tradition, Value Every Voice”

The ALA 100<sup>th</sup> National Convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona, August 28 to September2, 2021. Yes, it was hot and for the first time, no parade. COVID precautions were in effect, but we had the option of using a mask or not. We did have to wear a mask on the bus IF the bus driver was wearing one.

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It was amazing to see our fellow members and get those visits in that we've missed. There were hugs and a general vibe of happiness.

The unfortunate news during the pre-convention meeting was that 36 Departments had a total of 157 Charters cancelled. There were 9 new Charters granted since the February 2021 NEC meeting with 4 Charters being reinstated. As of February 2021, we had 7,937 active Units and as of August 2021, we have a total of 7,793 active Units.

Some statistics given were that only 60% of membership covers National's expenses, ALA National received a PPL loan and it is in the process of being forgiven by the government, so repayment is not required.

Donations received by the National Organization are 81% from members and 19% from people who believe in the mission.

Special Committee, Inclusion & Diversity has been renamed Equality, Inclusion & Diversity.

While reviewing documents, it was discovered that the Articles of Incorporation have not been reviewed since 1934. This is a priority to get updated.

We will also be addressing our policies, at the National level, for review.

There will be more online training and technical information coming soon, including Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion training.

A new marketing plan is being developed.

National wants to give us the opportunity to measure our success. This is important as the past two years have found most of our units floundering and some are still not meeting or working programs. We need to turn this around.

If you hold an Executive Session, it is to be considered HIGHLY confidential. That means, DO NOT TALK ABOUT IT WITH ANYONE.

Remember:

Silence gives consent

Duty of care: Be prepared

Duty of loyalty to ALA, to the Department

Duty of obedience-faith to our governing documents

Seek to understand each opinion

Be a mentor, but don't be afraid to be mentored

Operations Guide is only a guide, the Big Red Book, it is not the final word

Finally, there will be a proposed dues increase presented in 2022 to go into effect 2024 if approved. No numbers have been given at this time.

### **Department Presidents Report, Debra Godwin**

My year started out fast. Right after convention, I headed to Bend to tour with the National Commander, Bill Oxford, Department Commander, Don Weber, and many others. We visited the Bend Hero's Memorial and the Central Oregon Veteran's Village. Stevens-Chute, Unit 4 hosted my trip with a wonderful lunch after the tour. It was nice to just sit and talk to the members from Unit 4.

We held a chairmanship training class at Department in July. We had a great turnout with lots of learning and great questions. I ask my chairman, please use what you learned in that training. If you are still not understanding, reach out. The PDPs are there to help you and I will help the best that I can.

Off to Lebanon for Jim Willis' Celebration of Life, a very warm and welcoming, friendly Post and Unit.

The Auxiliary was hard at work preparing the lunch for after the service. It seems like wherever I go, I

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head for the kitchen! I know where my girls, or boys are going to be, they are going to be in the kitchen taking care of the food and making sure that everyone is fed.

Then it was off to National Convention, what a learning experience that was. I meet great people and learned what our organization does and the impact that we make to our Veterans, community and youth on a National level. There was a membership resolution introduced on the floor, it was tabled indefinitely. It was a resolution for adding all genders within two steps of relationship, so that we could have the younger boys in the Juniors. There was one member that spoke, and she said we can't have great granddaughters, so why would we want to change to add all genders. That made me stop and think about the resolution even more, because great granddaughters are important, too. I have a copy of the resolution if anyone wants to see it.

Then it was off to the PIR. We came together as a family from all over the state. We set up, manned, and tore down the booth each and every day! We met amazing Veterans and their families, signed up new members and educated the community about our programs and what we do. There were great conversations out there and we met wonderful Veterans. It was hot and it was long, but it was well worth it. And when we all loaded up in the van, at one time we had 14 or 15 people in there. And I don't fit well on people's laps. Once the van was loaded, we headed to the Aloha Post 104 for the Pit Crew dinner. What a friendly, welcome, and warm Post. And of course, when we arrived, I headed for the kitchen. And there, of course, was the Auxiliary hard at work. I need to thank 104 right now, you guys stepped up and took on this DEC and to perform the way that you have, it shows your dedication and your passion for who we are, and what we stand for. So, thank you immensely.

I signed my first Charter for a new Unit. I signed the Charter for Williams, Unit 50. They have 18 Charter members and 4 new Juniors. I can't wait to get the Charter back and present it to them.

I have upcoming scheduled visits. October 23, Linda and I are going to the District 7 meeting. District 7 doesn't have a District President and we want to go and see what is going on with the Auxiliary there and see if we can help in any way possible.

November 14, District 2 meeting

November 16, District 8 meeting

November 27, Department Christmas party at Unit 21 in McMinnville

December 1, Lebanon Veteran's home

December 10 and 11, Prineville Unit 29 to help with their auction and Christmas shopping

I have three chairmanship positions open, Legislative, Poppies, and Rose Court. If you know of anybody that would like one of these chairmanships, please let me know. But not just anybody, someone that will do the job.

The Nation President, Kathy Daudistel, will be visiting our great state May 16-18, 2022. We are working on that plan now. She focuses a lot on caregiving. When Kathy spoke at National Convention, it made me stop and think, there is a caregiver in each and every one of us. I didn't realize how much caregiving I did until I heard her speech. She is incredible and very down to earth, very personable. It will be a fabulous visit.

For membership goals this year we just increased 2, one for National and one for Department, from your ending number last year. Some didn't change. Department goal for 2022 is 4159, last year it was 4488. That is 329 members that we are planning to lose. Not planning but projected to lose. To me, that is way

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too many. So please reach out to your Units that aren't performing. If you need help reach out to PDPs, get what you need from them.

We talked about the Book of Reports yesterday in our Round Table, and thank you from all my District Presidents, there was only one District that we didn't get a report. We do good work, but it needs to be recorded in the Book of Reports. You took the roll and accepted it let's continue to make sure that it happens. Do your work. When we come together, it gives me that uplift that we need just to know that we are all here together and we're in the same boat. So please, chairman, do your job.

I had a few calls when I got here asking about the time of the meeting. You all received the official call to DEC, do we read those? Do we remember?

I want to talk about the chain of command. If someone calls me, I help. I don't think that you should call your District President, or Jody Marsh, Linda, or Helen, I just help. Reach out to your District President if you are a Unit member before you reach out to me. I am going to tell you that you need to contact your District President. If you say yes, I will run with you and help you fix whatever it is. We all need to know what is going on. So please follow the chain of command.

I received a plaque at National Convention. It is for Unit Member of the Year for 2021 and it goes to Barb Pawlik, Unit 83.

Questions for me?

Maggie LaMont, District 6 President, did our resolution about great granddaughters make it to National Convention?

President Debra, we were told before National Convention that it would not be brought up on the floor. That is why I am glad that the resolution for all genders didn't go.

### **National Western Division Community Service Chairman, Gea Clausier**

The National President, Kathy Daudistel, wanted to state that Community Service means taking care of people, not just Veterans, but all people. If you go on [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) website, there is a certificate that you can print out to give to anybody and everybody in your Unit that helps somebody. If you know of a youth in your neighborhood, your children or your grandchildren that are helping a neighbor, especially in this time of COVID and you just want to show them appreciation, you can give them a certificate. The certificate is a way for everyone to show appreciation. At the end of the year each Unit is going to select one person to forward to the District, the District will then choose one to send to Department and then Department will pick one which will be forwarded to me, as Western Division, then I will choose one to send to National. The certificate will have the Auxiliary name on it, so even if the person you give it to is not an Auxiliary member it will get our name out. When you present the certificate, take a picture of the presentation, and post it to the Community Service Facebook page, [alacommunityservice](https://www.facebook.com/alacommunityservice).

We will not have to do mid-year reports as long as we are posting to Facebook. That is what National wants to do this year, eliminate the reports and they want real time pictures. The posting will let other people know what you are doing and maybe they will want to try what you have done. It will end up snowballing, and that is what we are hoping for.

Because I am the Western Division Community Service chairman, I want Oregon to just blast that page. Let everyone know that we are here. The more you post the better Oregon looks.

It is not too late to post pictures of things that you did for 9/11. Don't forget that Veterans Day is coming up. Post those pictures! Just name the Unit so that everyone will know where it is coming from.

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National has done away with the program action plans. They are archived so if you feel a need to go back and look, they are there.

All of the National committees are trying to get rid of the paper and going to postings on Facebook. I am going to change hats. When I was at the Legion Fall meetings, I was talking to a man from New Mexico about grants for computers. I am going to put in a grant for computers for Posts that need them, and I would like to include the Auxiliary. So, to you District Presidents, I am asking you to find out which of your Units need a computer. I need you to let me know how many I will be asking Apple for. The stipulation is that Apple will want to train these people that are given the computer. They will be refurbished computers.

The Legion had training yesterday on Suicide Prevention, the National Commander's goal is to bring awareness to suicide by prevention. Unfortunately, the Auxiliary was not invited. I got upset and wanted to know why the Auxiliary was not invited. We need to know how to prevent suicide as well as the Legion. I now have the information so that we can have the same speaker come and speak to the Auxiliary about suicide prevention.

Geanne Horn, Department Historian, asked if the SAL could be included also.

Gea, yes.

The computers will be refurbished laptops.

### **Administrative Committee, Jody Marsh, Chairman**

The Admin committee met yesterday to talk and figure out what we need to do. We have identified some issues. Our staff (Cindy Hillyard) is doing awesome, she is doing so much for us. She is annoyingly accommodating. If you call her and need something, she will stop what she is doing and do what you need. We are encouraging her to take a break, to set aside time where she doesn't answer the phone. The distractions impact the financial report, the membership processing, deposits. We are asking for everyone's tolerance and patience if you get the answering machine. There will be a reason for it, there is only one of her.

We are still having issues with incomplete paperwork, membership applications that don't have a post signature on it, expense reports that aren't filled out correctly. It is not her job to correct these things, so we are encouraging her to send those things back. We all have the desire to want to be helpful. So, she just does it instead of putting it in the mail and sending it back. These things need to go back to the individual so that they understand that they are responsible for doing it right.

We, The Legion family, were able to help a woman Veteran thanks to Gea Clausier's Presidents Project and from personal donations from members of the Legion Foundation.

For those of you that live close to the Department office, it is great that you just pop in but if you have a list of things that you need, send an email first so that you can set up a time that is convenient for you to come in.

Maggie LaMont, District 6 President, can we set up a time, say after 3 pm, that she won't be available?

Jody, I think that would be hard because every day is different. Just leave a voice mail and she will call you back.

### **Convention, Jody Marsh Chairman**

We are excited at the prospect of having convention here at Aloha 104, however we are not entirely sure that that will happen. The issue is that it is difficult to get Posts and Units that talk to each other or that they have a big enough space. We have some people right now that think that it is doable and



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possible that maybe don't understand all the pieces that there are. We are trying to meet with all of them and get them all the information. I hope that all of you have patience. It might be here, and it might be at another casino. I know that you all don't like going to the casinos because it makes it a more expensive option.

### **Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw**

Department President, Debra spoke a little bit about Department chairmanships and needing people to fulfill those roles and do those jobs. I start running questions through my head, why don't people want to do those chairmanships? They think they can't afford it, your chairmanship can be done and done well electronically, so the cost shouldn't deter you. You have such an opportunity to come in at the Department level and learn so much.

I was a pretty active Unit member at Crook County but there was a lot of stuff going on at my Unit at that point in time where it wasn't comfortable. There was bickering among the members. I thought to myself, I will help them get through Round-up and then I think I'm done. All I see is the picture of my Unit, I'm not seeing the bigger picture. This just isn't how I want to spend my time. I walked outside at Round-up and Linda Liebenow was incoming Department President and she asked me if I would take a chairmanship. And I thought, why not, maybe she sees something in me that I don't. I had been referred to her by someone else. I thought that I would take a leap of faith and take a shot at it. Before that I was ready to walk away from the Auxiliary at that point. Because all I could see was my little, tiny picture. So, I took that chairmanship, and I had a thousand questions, lots of help from the PDPs, lots of help from Linda and I worked through it. That was the best thing I have ever done. Obviously, I didn't walk away from the Auxiliary because you guys have been putting up with me ever since. But it sure opened my eyes to the impact that we make on the world and on the state of Oregon. So, if you are just not sure, take a chance, you will receive an opportunity unlike anything that your Unit has to offer you. That is my story, that's why I'm still here.

### **Americanism Chairman, Donna Hartwell**

When we did our training for Department chairmanships, I came up with a plan and I should have announced it. I will be collecting a dollar from everyone who doesn't have a flag pin on. The money will go to the President's Project.

### **Department Historian, Geanne Horne**

Would you please tell us again the chairmanships that you have open?

### **Department President, Debra**

I have Legislative, Poppies, and Rose Court that are open.

### **Department Historian, Geanne Horne**

I would love to fill the position of Rose Court.

### **Department President, Debra**

I have a story that I would like to tell, that is kind of like Helen's. When I joined Unit 21, it was peer pressure, we need you Debra, come on, join, lala, lala, lala. I finally broke down and joined and went to my first convention. It was the most dramatic, negative, drama filled convention that I think could have

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ever happened in the world. I am sitting there at convention with my Unit at the back of the room because our membership wasn't so hot, "going what in the heck am I doing here", "why am I involved in this organization"? This is not what it should be. So, I went back to my Unit, and we worked hard to get our Unit up and running. I started to work out in the field with the Veterans. I, also, was going to leave the American Legion Auxiliary. We started working our mission, I put that drama behind me and continued and learned. Linda Liebenow came to me and asked me to run. My first thought was time, money, and a car. That was deterring me from coming up in Department. I had a very frustrating day and Rob and Linda had just been to the Post for dinner. Driving home that night, I said, God give me a sign. I want to go up, I want to be a bigger part and play a bigger role within the organization so that I could touch more lives. On the way home, God showed me a sign and I was able to buy a brand-new car. (Audience, tell them how) That night I had to physically remove a female from the bar out to the parking lot and lock the door, it was a horrible night. Driving home I stopped at the store and bought a soda and an 8-spot Keno ticket. Got in my car and drove home, walked in the door, and saw that the Keno jackpot was at zero. I thought, you dirty rotten rascal, you never give me a chance to play. I pulled my ticket out and I had hit the 8-spot and won \$47,000. That was the sign from God that I needed to be where I am in this organization. I went the next morning immediately to the Lottery to pick up my check and bought my car. I paid cash for my car so that I could move up. Don't let financial burdens stop you. I have to work full time, but I am going to make every effort that I can to push that to the back because my main focus is the American Legion Auxiliary. And that is just how much I love this organization. So, please ladies, don't be afraid, there are ways that we can help you get to where you want to go. Don't be afraid to step up.

We talked about the grants from Walmart, and Helen Hisaw and Suzanne Driver had a good idea that we get a team together to go out and reach Districts and Units that might need some help. And we have the funds to do that. What we would prefer is that a team of two would go and you can room together, to teach membership. I am looking for folks to help with that, if you want to help with that, make sure you know how to correctly fill out the applications and transmittals. I have currently, Trudy McGriff, Ginny Williams and Krisann Owens that are willing to do that. Jody Marsh, Linda Liebenow, Helen Hisaw volunteered. The thing that I ask from the District Presidents, we are going to rely on you as to where we need to go. If you would be the one that would communicate that to us so we can get out there to teach. Let your officers know and we will get the help where it needs to go.

Jody Marsh, PDP, Seaside Unit 99

Is it only membership training that the money is going for?

Department President, Debra

Currently, because at this time, we have had such a rough patch of membership coming into the office that I think that is where we need to focus. We need training all over our organization in all areas but let's get the membership done correctly first.

**Vice President and Membership Chairman, Cindy Soria**

(She enters to the sound of a racetrack announcer, waving a black and white checkered flag, dressed in a racing suit)

If the District Presidents did not bring their helmets (hats) then you have to pay the Sgt-at-arms \$5 that will go to the General Fund.

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I am excited about this year. I have always loved to go to races, especially now that the Legion has the Indy car. So, this is just perfect.

When I call your name, I would like that District President to go and take the number off the table. Trudie McGriff, please get #9. These are representing position that each District is in at this time. Ginny Williams, please get #8. Linda Schmidt, please get #6. Bobbie Pebbler, #5 please. Gregoria Hernandez, #4. Betty Adams, you have #3.

We have a special guest.

### **Department Commander, Don Weber**

It is an honor to be here. You look like you are having a lot more fun and a lot better food than we have, too. We don't have any of the goodies or any of the fun. The Auxiliary has always meant so much to me and has done so many things for the Legion overall. I just wanted to stop by and thank you for what you do. Since convention this year, I have had the opportunity to attend the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony at Warm Springs, predominantly sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and I attended the Post 90 parade in Banks.

And the event for us this year, the PIR. The American Legion booth was right next to the walkway that goes over the top of the race way to get to the pits. So, virtually everyone that attended that event, had to walk right by our booth. The entire weekend, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we had members of the Legion family there to talk to people. The impact that we were able to make to the community was just phenomenal.

This morning, I heard about one event that I didn't know previously. Many of you know Cory Brockmann has been making bracelets for Suicide Prevention Awareness and he met someone out at the raceway that had lost their son previously and giving them one of the bracelets meant so much to them that they asked for more to hand out at their booth. So, the impact that we have on our community is just absolutely phenomenal. And it is because of the support that we have from the entire family. You guys are doing a great job. If there is anything that we can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask. There is no way that we can repay all that you have already done but if there is, please let us know. Thank you.

### **Department Vice President and Membership Chairman, Cindy Soria (cont.)**

Maggie LaMont, would you please get #2. Donna Hartwell and Catherine Brockmann please come forward. You know that you can tell when your car is struggling, it might have a flat tire. I am presenting the flat tire award to the District in last place but I trust that that car will get fixed. Catherine Brockmann, District 1, was presented a deflated pool toy in the shape of a flat tire. Donna, District 4, you are currently in first place.

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing.

Department President, Debra, the best part of National Convention was when Washington had to hand me a check because we were ahead of them in membership. And we are going to do it this year, too.

**Department Education and Scholarship Chairman, Edna Redhead** was unable to be here because of health reasons.

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### **Department Americanism Chairman, Donna Hartwell**

The Americanism committee will not be asking for mid-year reporting but asking for all Units to share their story and pictures of the events as they happen. Send these to the Western Division chairman and cc National Americanism chairman. I would like to have mid-year impact numbers. Donna read the meaning of Americanism according to Wikipedia.

Star Spangled Children was recently added to the Americanism program. Americanism will also focus on patriotism throughout the year which includes the flag and other aspects of the Americanism program. The information is all on the website, [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

Remember, I will be asking for everyone to wear a flag pin and if you don't have one on, there will be a one dollar fine that will go to the President's Project.

The Americanism Essay contest is also on the website.

### **Department VA&R Chairman, Marie Larson**

I am trying to catch on to the duties of Department VA&R Chairman. I am looking forward to hearing from Units with what you are doing for your Veterans. My bulletin and questionnaire have been mailed out to the Units.

There will be no Portland VA Christmas Gift Shop this year, due to the current COVID situation. Linda Liebenow has talked with VA Voluntary Services who will take care of contacting Veterans and getting their information to us. The committee will meet and again this year send out 100, \$50 gift cards. We are looking at doing this the week of Thanksgiving.

Geanne Horne has also informed us that the Oregon Veteran's Home in The Dalles will not be holding their Christmas Gift Shop this year.

Our Division Chair April Sinclair is asking members to share your stories and photos of your events as they happen within your Unit and/or District. Please send them to me so I can forward them to her and post them on Facebook.

I am looking forward to working with everyone. I'm new at this and I need to hear from everyone so that I can get my reports out.

Geanne heard from the Oregon Veterans Home since her report, and they asked for candy bars and soda.

Department President, Debra, is there any other chairs that would like to report?

District 10 President, Linda Schmidt wanted to know what is going on with Roseburg gift shop.

VA&R Chairman, Marie Larson, we went down to Roseburg two weeks ago, they will be holding a gift shop with the use of a Wish Book with limited contact.

### **Communications, none**

Cindy Soria, Membership Chairman.

Madame President looked at all the District Presidents cars and chose the ones that she thought were best. They will each receive a small prize. Third Place goes to District 5, Ginny Williams. Second Place goes to District 10, Linda Schmidt, and First Place goes to District 4, Donna Hartwell.

### **Old Business, none**

## Pending Approval

**New Business**, none

### Upcoming Events

Veteran's Day, November 11

Department Christmas Party, November 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30, Post 21. When I get more information from Commander Weber, I will let everyone know.

Department Blood Drive, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 12-5pm

Gift Shop Openings were covered in the VA&R report

Mid-winter DEC will be Sunday, January 9, 2021. It will be a Zoom meeting and more information will come out later

Spring DEC has not been determined

Geanne Horne, Department Historian. Do I need to be ratified as a new chairman and is there any paperwork so that I can learn what I am to do?

Department President Debra, we will do that at the next DEC.

Does anyone else have something to bring before the DEC.

Donna Hartwell, District 6 President. The Western Division Americanism Chairman is putting on the web site all the days to fly the flag.

Jody Marsh, PDP, asked Donna the title of the Americanism Essay.

Donna Hartwell, it is "How can we support families who provide care to their Veteran"

Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow, I need a copy of everyone's floor remarks for the minutes.

Jody Marsh, PDP

I have a challenge regarding the Americanism Essay. I would like to challenge the senior membership to write an essay. I think that it is important for us to know how the program works and what is involved with the kids. Turn in your essay at the Unit level, the Unit pass them up to their District President. The District President will pick three from their District and send those to the Department Chairman, Donna. We will get a team of people and pick first, second and third. I will provide the prize. Cutoff date is January 15, 2022. We will announce the winners at the Spring DEC.

Catherine Brockmann, District 1 President asked if there is a word limit?

Jody, it will be 450-500 words which is the 11-12 grade level requirements.

Department President, Debra asked Angie McKinney if she could give us an update on the Chaplain awards for 2020-2021 since she was not able to be at convention

Angie McKinney, PDP, there were no entries for any of the Chaplain awards last year. I only received 10 reports, it was a very poor turn out. There were very few prayers for the Department President's Prayer Book.

## Pending Approval

Department Membership Chairman, Cindy Soria

At our Zoom meeting, when it is membership time, please wear your helmets. Even though we won't be in person, we can still see your faces. Take your place numbers home.

Krisann Owens, PDP, as the Senior PDP, led all of the PDPs in congratulating Debra on a great weekend and a great DEC and we all look forward to what is coming in the future.

Department President, Debra

We thank you all for coming and showing you care by representing your Unit and you as a member. We especially want to thank Aloha Post and Unit 104 for hosting a great DEC. I know I love coming here and feel welcome. The first time I came here and walked in the door, it was like a feeling of home. I haven't been to a Post or Unit yet that hasn't had a feeling of home.

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.

Adjourned 10:40am

Pending Approval