

2023-2024 VA&R BULLETIN

Linda Liebenow, Chairman

11505 SW Toulouse St.

Wilsonville, OR 97070

lindaliebenow@comcast.net

503-826-5877 (H)

**Year-end and Department Awards due to me by May 1st
National Awards due to me by May 15th (must include a cover
sheet)**

What is this program and why do we have it?

The Service to Veterans program (VA&R) promotes our mission to enhance the lives of U.S. Veterans, military, and their families. This was the main purpose in organizing our organization. Our activities should focus on the aspect.

What can we do?

- 1. Serve our Veterans/Active Duty/Reserve Military.**
 - A. Volunteer at a VA facility**
 - B. Participate in Quilts of Valor**
 - C. Provide care packages for deployed troops**
 - D. Help Veterans in their homes**
 - E. Welcome home events, parades**
 - F. Blessing Bags for police to hand out to homeless Veterans**
 - G. Buddy Bags for homeless Veterans transitioning to housing**
 - H. Stand Downs, watch for more information coming to your area**
 - I. Pocket Flags**
- 2. Provide services for Military Families**
 - A. The Oregon National Guard Military and Family Readiness (contact information in this bulletin)**
 - B. Adopt-A-Family**

- C. Childcare for military activities or for spouses of deployed troops
- D. Distribute Blue Star/ Gold Star banners
- E. Yard work for deployed military families

I will be asking for reports for the Book of Reports before DECs. Please have your year- end report and applications for Department awards to me on time
The VA hospitals are opening up after three long years. Contact your nearest hospital and see what you can do.

Gift Shops

The Christmas Gift Shops at the VA hospitals and the Veterans Homes will be up and running this year. More information about dates will come later. Plan to donate money or time to these projects.

Fisher House

We have had a Fisher House in the Portland area for about seven years. I recently got in touch with the Manager at Fisher House after delivering a check for them from the donation of the Fisher House Challenge coins and from a Unit that recently closed. They are partially funded by the government, but they have restrictions on how they can spend that money. If we donate money to Fisher House, it is better for them if we donate through The Friends of Fisher House Puget Sound. We can earmark the donation for the Portland/Vancouver house and the money will go directly to them. They will then be able to spend the money where they need it. They could use gift cards, Fred Meyer, Costco, Winco, Safeway, Amazon. Would a Unit like to provide a special meal for the residents at the house?

ALL MONETARY DONATIONS MUST BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT EARMARKED FOR THE PROJECT THAT YOU WANT.

MILITARY AND FAMILY READINESS

Lead Military and Family Readiness Specialist

Tara Howie

971-355-3070 (o)

541-321-3055 (c)

tara.j.howie.civ@army.mil

CLACKAMAS

Jill Behunin

971-355-1931 (o)

541-321-3053 (c)

jilletta.d.behunin.civ@army.mil

Rhande Shaw

971-355-1930 (o)

503-798-0114 (c)

rhande.e.shaw.civ@army.mil

ONTARIO

Stacey Vasquez

971-355-7560 (o)

971-719-3744 (c)

stacey.a.vasquez.civ@army.mil

MEDFORD

Anthony Barboza

971-355-8427 (o)

541-321-3051 (c)

anthony.w.barboza.civ@army.mil

LAGRANDE

Cathy Connor

971-355-7308 (o)

503-932-3264 (c)

catherine.j.connor2.civ@army.mil

BEND

Darlene Strupith

971-3558-7631 (o)

541-321-3050 (c)

darlene.o.strupith.civ@army.mil

SALEM

Grace Fox

971-355-3072 (o)

541-321-3052 (c)

grace.m.fox5.civ@army.mil

Meghan McIntire

971-355-3073 (o)

503-884-0130 (c)

meghan.e.mcintire.civ@army.mil

Stephanie Torres

971-355-3071 (o)

541-321-3056 (c)

stephanie.s.torrestorres2.civ@army.mil

SPRINGFIELD

Josh Jordon

971-355-5632 (o)

503-798-0283 (c)

joshua.e.jordon.civ@army.mil

2023-2024 YEAR-END REPORT

Due no later than May 1st

Unit Name and Number _____ District _____
VA&R Chairman and Phone # _____

Service for Veterans/Military

1. Total hours members volunteered _____
2. Total dollars spent _____
3. Number of Veterans/military assisted _____
4. Number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations _____
5. Value of in-kind donations received _____
(estimated cash value of non-cash donations from **NON-MEMBERS** of goods or services)

Does your Unit have VAVS volunteers? _____ How many _____ Hours _____

Does your Unit have new VAVS volunteers? _____ How many _____ Hours _____

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

V A & R Awards

Department Awards:

1. **Muriel E. Nothinger Memorial Award:**

To the Unit with 10-99 members reporting the most outstanding year-round "Service to Veterans" program.

2. **Linda Liebenow Award:**

To the Unit with 100-160 members reporting the most outstanding year-round "Service to Veterans" program.

3. **Cheryl Wilson Award:**

To the Unit with 161-250 members reporting the most outstanding year-round "Service to Veterans" program.

4. **Clara Scott Award:**

To the Unit with 251 or more members reporting the most outstanding year-round "Service to Veterans" program.

The Department VA&R chairperson and selected judges will determine the above winners.

5. **Arlene Downing Veterans Award:**

To the Unit scoring the most points in the following categories (show your scoring)

- Hours volunteered in a VA facility after orientation training = 20 points max (1 point for every 10 hours)
- Gifts for local disabled Veterans = 10 points max (1 point for each \$10.00)
- Articles for recreational or occupational therapy = 10 points max (1 point for each \$10.00)
- Material contributions to VA Hospitals = 20 points max (1 point for each \$10.00)
- Gifts for Christmas Gift Shops = 10 points max (1 point for every \$10.00)
- Monetary donations donated to Department for the VA&R fund = 10 points max (1 point for every \$10.00)
- Round trip mileage to the nearest VA facility = 10 points max (1 point for every 10 miles)
- Sponsor a special event for VA facility = 10 points max (5 points for each sponsored event)
- The Department VA&R chairperson and selected judges will determine the winner.

6. **Marge Kenobbie Memorial Award:**

Awarded to the Unit submitting the best narrative (supplemental) report to include:

- Service and/or funds given to the VA Transplant housing Unit.
- Community awareness of Veterans.
- Outlining your Unit's projects and activities.
- Report must include Unit name and number, name of the Unit President and VA&R Chairman.
- The Department VA&R chairperson and selected judges will determine the winner.

SERVICE TO VETERANS' AWARDS: (formerly Field and Home Service)

7. PDP Louise Carter Service to Veterans Award for Service:

Awarded to the Unit submitting the best narrative (supplemental) report on service to Veterans based on the following criteria:

- Service hours including time spent sewing, knitting, cooking, shopping for materials and making gifts for the Veterans use (including gifts forwarded to the VA Veterans Facilities).
- Material contributions sent to VA facilities, such as ditty bags, cards, comfort items, etc.
- The report shall be in story form, type written report of the work their Unit has done.
- To include the Unit name, number, Unit President, and VA&R Chairperson's name.
- The report to be signed by the Unit VA&R chairperson and the Unit President.

8. PDP Trudie McGriff Service to Veterans Award:

To the Unit reporting the most outstanding Service to VA facilities, their community and education on Veteran's needs. The narrative (supplemental) report to include:

- Cash sent to Department for Christmas Cheer and Check-a-month.
- Number of gifts and value sent to Gift Shops.
- Veteran contact in our communities (how many? Number of Veterans assisted? Value of materials and cash donated?)
- Contact in nursing homes and care facilities (how many? Number of Veterans assisted? Value of materials and cash donated?)
- Holiday baskets delivered and their value.
- Did you provide any education in your community on Veteran's needs?
- Report to include the Unit name, number, Unit President, and VA&R Chairperson's names.
- The Department VA&R chairperson and selected judges will determine the winner.

9. PDP Angellina McKinney Service to Veterans Award:

Awarded to the Unit submitting the best narrative (supplemental) report to include:

- Special emphasis on training and partnering with Legionnaires in Service to Veterans.
- What projects did you do together (how many? Number of Veterans assisted? Value of materials and cash donated?)
- Report to include the Unit name, number, Unit President, and VA&R Chairperson's names.
- The Department VA&R chairperson and selected judges will determine the winner.

10. Service to Veterans Hospital Award:

Awarded to the Unit with the best narrative (supplemental) report on service to Veterans in hospitals and VA homes. Report to include:

- All money and materials contributed the VA Hospital, CA Clinics, and The Dalles and Lebanon Veterans Homes.
- Based on the Unit contributing the most on a per capita (percentage) thus, giving each Unit as equal opportunity to win this award.
- The percentage will be based on the Unit membership on record at the Department Office, as of May 1st each year. (Example: if a Unit donates \$3,000.00, it will be divided by the number of members on record as of May 1st. The Unit with the highest per capita contribution will win this award.)
- VA&R chairperson will obtain these figures from Department and then, with selected judges, determine the winner.

OREGON VETERANS/MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT LIST

❖ These are some ideas:

Camp Alma

Veterans Legacy Oregon
P O Box 11226
Eugene OR 97440
541-914-0885
contact@veteranslegacyoregon.or

Veterans Legacy's mission is to provide a safe, secure place in a rural setting for local veterans encountering homelessness, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse disorders to live and work as they begin the journey back to successfully reintegrate into the community. Veterans Legacy has renovated the former work camp to provide rehabilitative and mental health services to homeless Veterans. On their website is a list of projects, large and small, that might be of particular interest. Veterans Legacy would be glad to earmark individual funding to these various needs. As they welcome more Veterans, more projects will be in the works. They welcome any donations for all projects.

The Salvation Army Veterans and Family Center

14825 SW Farmington Road
Beaverton OR 97007
503-239-1259
veterans.salvationarmy.org
Contact: Major Rhonda Lloyd – Rhonda.lloyd@usw.salvationarmy.org

The Salvation Army Veterans and Family Center is a transitional housing center that provides a therapeutic environment for 50 Veterans and their families daily. Through intensive case management and collaboration with the Veterans Administration, clients are provided with the tools necessary to become self-sufficient. They accept donations of money, goods, and clothing. According to their website their critical need now is for hygiene kits.

Fort Kennedy

7600 SE Johnson Creek Boulevard
Portland OR 97206
503-765-2661
fortkennedy.org
volunteer@fortkennedy.org
Follow them on Facebook – facebook.com/FortKennedy

Their mission:

“Our direction is to enable all Veterans to move forward in their lives after military service. We will strive to provide transitional housing, plus shelter for homeless service men and woman. To Ensure all Veterans receive the support through employment, family counseling, and help with benefits. We

will work with all Veteran agencies in the community, we will achieve a much-needed hand up, not a handout for our homeless Veterans."

They take clothing, food, hygiene items and send them back out into the Veteran community.

Do Good Multnomah

7809 NE Everett St

Portland OR 97213

Website: dogoodmultnomah.org

Do Good Multnomah is a non-profit organization that partners with the community to provide permanent supportive housing and low-barrier emergency shelter to houseless Veterans in Portland, Oregon. They emphasize relationship-building, one-on-one engagement, supportive services, and direct community participation, changing the way we serve houseless Veterans.

Do Good Multnomah provides over 500 shelter beds in 24/7 facilities, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and housing assistance for houseless Veterans. There are a lot of needs that arise while serving the populations with whom we work, and it would be impossible to do the work we do without the support of our amazing community and people like you!

There is a list of current needs on their website.

Current Do Good Shelters:

WyEast Shelter

1415 SE 122nd Ave

Portland OR 97233

Downtown Shelter

550 NW 6th Ave

Portland OR 97209

Pomeroy Place

18670 SW Blanton St

Aloha OR 97078

General Information: 503-654-1007 EXT. 100

NHA's most recent project, Pomeroy Place, was built specifically to respond to the need for more affordable housing for extremely low-income veterans and their families.

Completed in the winter of 2017, Pomeroy Place provides 20 units of new, safe, affordable housing for Washington County veterans and their families.

Central Oregon Veterans Village

C/O Bend Heroes Foundation

1900 NE 3rd St. Suite 106 #205

Bend, OR 97701

centraloregonveteransvillage.org

The Central Oregon Veterans Village is a community of transitional shelters designed to provide shelter and services for homeless veterans.

The project is a Joint Venture between the **Bend Heroes Foundation** and **Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO)**. It is being managed as a public-private partnership with the City of Bend, Deschutes County, and the State of Oregon.

The Village became fully operational on Veterans Day 2021. It is being modeled after a successful program in Clackamas County. The Village has 15 shelters and a community building with kitchen, dining, case management offices, laundry, restrooms, and showers.

Divide Camp

(Now known as Cross the Divide)

603 N Main St

Joseph OR 97846

dividecamp.org

“Honoring Service; Building Hope”

It now serves to house Veterans who come to Wallowa County to participate in Cross the Divide activities – primarily hunting and fishing.

Clackamas County Veterans Village

16575 SE 115th Ave

Clackamas OR 97015

503-80-4832

The purpose of this project is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary shelter for our veterans. Helping people live independent, productive lives benefits the community. The Veterans Village is partnered with Do Good Multnomah and Clackamas County.