

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

Convention Proceedings
June 14-17, 2023 | North Bend, OR | The Mill Casino

Summary:

Governing Documents: changes were adopted as noted:

- Constitution
 - Article VI; Section 4 National Officers (housekeeping)
 - Article VII; Section 3 Department Convention

- Bylaws
 - Article III; Section 5 Duties of Officers (Secretary)
 - Article IV; Section 5 Department Executive Committee

- Standing Rules
 - B. Department Handbook, Convention Proceeding, and Policy Book (deleted)
This involved re-lettering of this document.
 - J. Department Convention; numbers 2, 3, and 4 (changes). 9d. Election Committee

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON
102nd Annual Convention
JUNE 14-17, 2023 | North Bend, OR The Mill Casino

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

4:00 PM Joint Opening of the 103rd American Legion and the 101st American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention

Joint Memorial Service of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion
Conducted by Department Chaplains, Steve Shollenburg and Gregoria Hernandez

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

8:30 AM VA&R Speakers – All Welcome

10:00 AM Poppy Painting Session

11:30 AM VA&R Luncheon

1:00 PM **OPENING OF AUXILIARY BUSINESS SESSION**

CALL TO ORDER: The 102nd Department Convention meeting was called to order by Department President, Debra Godwin. The convention body rose according to ritual. With the Colors in place, we rendered a hand salute to the Flag of our Country.

Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez, gave the opening prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful day, full of your glorious blessings. We ask for continual prayers for those who need, for they will be heard. As we come together today, and we learn from those who will share their knowledge through this American Legion Convention; for the betterment of serving our veterans, our communities, and all the programs that we support. Always be mindful, showing respect, love, and unity. In your precious name, Amen."

Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was led by Americanism Chairman, Cindy Soria.

Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary was led by Department Vice President Catherine Brockmann.

Call to Convention

Linda Liebenow, Hillsboro Unit 6, moved that we not read the Call to Convention as it has been distributed by email. The motion was seconded and passed.

Reading of the Convention Rules

Linda Liebenow, Hillsboro Unit 6, moved that we only read the rules the President has requested to be read, as all the rules have been distributed in the convention packets. The motion was seconded and passed.

Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye, read the following convention rules as requested by President Debra.

#4. The audience shall remain quiet and cell phones muted during the business of the convention.

#6. Only voting delegates at the convention may make a motion and address the Department Convention in debate. To address the convention, the legal delegate shall rise and (1) address the chair, and (2) wait to be recognized by the chair, and (3) upon being recognized by the chair shall state their name, the Unit name, and Unit number.

#7. Debate on any question is limited to two minutes for each delegate. No person shall speak on the same topic more than twice without the consent of the convention. No delegates may address the convention a second time on the same question until all delegates who wish to speak on the topic have spoken.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit 99: "Should we approach the podium and wait to be recognized or will there be a traveling microphone?"

President Debra: Please come to the podium, I think that will be easier.

Report from the Credentials Committee

Tracy Peets, Hillsboro Unit 6, Credentials Chair reported that we had a quorum.

Report from the Resolution Committee

President Debra: There are no resolutions other than Courtesy Resolutions and they will be read on Saturday.

First Constitution & Bylaws Changes, Pam Seelye, Parliamentarian

Good afternoon, everybody. Ok, we're going to get this over with quick and simple, right off the bat so we can have fun with awards. We will be reviewing the Constitution, ByLaws, and Standing Rules. I hope that everyone has looked these over. We will start with the

CONSTITUTION:

Housekeeping issues on page one; changing number, location, and date (as distributed).

Of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon, as amended and adopted at the 400th (change to) 102nd Department of Oregon Convention held in Aloha, Oregon, June 22, 23, 24, 25, 2022. (change to) North Bend, Oregon, June 14, 15, 16, 17, 2023.

ARTICLE VI | NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 4. It shall be the duty of each (change to) the National Executive Committee person to fulfill the responsibilities of the National Executive Committee, and to articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and to the Department.

ARTICLE VII | DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Section 3. Changes to the formula for delegate voting strength and the manner for casting votes may be determined only by a two-thirds vote of the Department delegates. Two delegates and two alternates for the charter, (add) and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by the Department Headquarters, thirty (change to) forty-five (45) days prior to the holding of the Department Convention. Each Unit shall have as many votes as it is entitled to delegates.

Parliamentarian Pam: We will vote on each document. At this time, Madame President, I move we accept the changes to the Constitution.

President Debra: We have a motion on the floor to approve the changes to the Constitution. All in favor, "aye," opposed, none, motion carried.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE III | DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 5. Department Secretary: (add) It shall be the duty of the Department Secretary to ensure the proceedings of the organization (remove) Department (add) Convention assembled, (remove) and of the Department Executive Committee are recorded, to keep all records of the organization, and to perform other duties as assigned...

ARTICLE IV | DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 5. Electronic Voting/Meeting (add): Between Department Executive Committee meetings, the Department President may bring motions before the Department Executive Committee for action through email, telephone conference calls, or alternative methods that will allow discussion and voting.

Department Executive Committee meetings may be by electronic means that will allow discussion and voting. When using electronic means voting must be by roll call vote. (add)

Pam Seelye, Parliamentarian: Madame President, I recommend that we adopt the changes to the Bylaws.

President Debra: It has been recommended to accept the documents as read. All in favor; "aye," opposed; none, motion carried.

STANDING RULES

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

~~B. DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK, CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS AND POLICY BOOK~~

~~1. The Department Handbook and Convention Proceedings shall be compiled with electronic copies to be distributed to the Units, Department Officers, District Presidents, Department Chairmen, and the Department Adjutant. (remove)~~

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit 99: I liked having the handbook, and since we are moving to an electronic format where this can be done, is it possible to compile it in one large document so someone can locate all of the documents in case they don't know which pieces they are looking for? For a new person, it might be the thing that helps them understand. Maybe a banner on the website, a table of contents? Department Handbook contained the convention proceedings, the roster, the governing documents, the trophies & awards requirements. I am asking for discussion, input, whatever.

There was discussion on the question by multiple persons to include a section on the website for new members, you can be an old member and look as well. Also, mailing upon request to members that don't have or know how to use a computer. Discussion digressed to specific documents requested for the website to include Department Cover Sheets for award submissions.

President Debra: The new website is up and running. All those documents are up on the website. We will return to the topic of the Department Handbook.

Parliamentarian Pam, returned to the changes to the Standing Rules:

~~C. B. (re-letter) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS~~

~~D. C. (re-letter) DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:~~

~~E. D. (re-letter) JUNIOR OFFICERS,~~

~~F. E. (re-letter) DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN;~~

~~G. F. (re-letter) ANNUAL REPORTS;~~

~~H. G. (re-letter) COMMITTEES;~~

~~I. H. (re-letter) UNIT INFORMATION;~~

~~11. Department Finance Committee | e. Dues Payment: This has been updated based on National's increase, there is no vote, this is updated, current information.~~

~~J. I. (re-letter) DISTRICT INFORMATION;~~

~~K. J. (re-letter) DEPARTMENT CONVENTION~~

~~2. Representation at the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates and two alternates for their charter and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by the Department 30 (change to) forty-five (45) days prior to the holding of the Department Convention. Each Unit shall have as many votes as it is entitled to delegates.~~

~~3. In addition to the above, the Department President, Department Vice President, each District President, National Executive Committee person, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, (add) Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Parliamentarian, Department Sgt-at-Arms, Department Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms, each Past Department President, and each Department Chairman in good standing with their Unit shall be delegates-at-large with vote to be exercised with their respective Unit. A delegate-at-large must be present to cast their own ballot.~~

~~4. Each delegate, alternate, (remove) and delegate-at-large shall pay the delegate fee set by American Legion Auxiliary.~~

~~9. d. Election Committee: The purpose of the Election Committee is oversee and tally the results of the written elections ballots for the election of officers. The committee is comprised of a judge to oversee and direct the District Vice-Presidents during the counting of the votes casted. Each candidate may have one representative present during the counting of the ballots. (add)~~

Discussion on rewording this section. Parliamentarian Pam restated the revision:

9d. Election Committee: The purpose of the Election Committee is to oversee and tally the results of the written elections ballots for the election of officers. The committee is comprised of an Election Chairman, who shall act as the judge to oversee and direct the District Vice-Presidents during the counting of the votes cast. Each candidate may have one representative present during the counting of the ballots, as an observer.

Discussion: Request for more definition on the term 'Judge.' Requested role of representative." Written elections with only more than one candidate, covered with document that states if only one ballot the vote will be by acclamation. Request to have discussion before voting in the event of a ballot vote with regard to role of representative, how to register an objection to the vote, how to secure the ballots for verification, and resolve all questions of the winner. Parliamentarian Pam noted that the how's of the Election Committee is not pertinent to this change as we are only discussing the committee added to the Department Convention.

Tracy Peets, Hillsboro Unit 6: I have a question on something that is not changing, I am asking for clarification. Is that something that I can do now or write it up and give it to you for next year? Regarding Delegates, I am confused as first time Credentials Chair, can we make a change to Department Convention, #5; 5. Each delegate, alternate, and delegate-at-large shall pay the registration fee set (when they decide to go, I was confused) by The American Legion Department Executive Committee for The American Legion and its Auxiliary Convention.

President Debra: The form from Department has the Delegate voting strength and registration. These are two separate things. The registration fee is set by The American Legion. The delegate voting fee strength is mandatory, each Unit must pay, even if no members attend the Convention. The registration fee is for those attending whether it is as a delegate, delegate-at-large or alternate delegate.

- L. **K.** (re-letter) RESOLUTIONS;
- M. **L.** (re-letter) ELECTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS;
- N. **M.** (re-letter) NATIONAL CONVENTION;
- O. **N.** (re-letter) NATIONAL CANDIDATES;
- P. **O.** (re-letter) SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS;

Parliamentarian Pam restated the revision: 9d. Election Committee: The purpose of the Election Committee is to oversee and tally the results of the written elections ballots for the election of officers. The committee is comprised of an Election Chairman who shall act as the judge and direct the District Vice-Presidents during the counting of the votes cast. Each candidate may have one representative present during the counting of the ballots, as an observer.

Parliamentarian Pam: Madame President, I recommend that we adopt the Standing Rules.

President Debra: It has been recommended to adopt the Standing Rules, as read with corrections. All in favor; "aye," opposed; none, motion carried.

Parliamentarian Pam: Thank you everybody I appreciate your input and your help.

Reports: Mission Outreach Programs:

President Debra: Mission Outreach programs are those that provide an opportunity to be visible in our communities; to foster awareness of who we are, what we do and why the amazing American Legion Auxiliary members matter.

I hope that all members remember that Convention is a time to reflect and celebrate our year. Convention is more about awards and appreciations. How many went to the Poppy painting class this morning? Wasn't that a blast, that was fun!

Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, Marie Larson, Portland Unit 1, Chair:

First off, I do want to thank all the Units that did submit their reports. There were some really good

reports out there, thank you. On to the awards: the first one is the Muriel E. Nothinger Memorial, awarded to Stevens-Chute Unit 4 [D5 cheer]; Cheryl Wilson Award, no entries; Clara Scott Award, no entries; Arlene Downing Past Department President Award, no entries; the Marge Kenobbie Memorial Award goes to La Grande Unit 43 [D6 cheer]; the Linda Liebenow, Past Department President Award is presented by Linda and awarded to Portland Unit 1 [D8 cheer]; the next is the Past Department President, Louise Carter Award for Service to Veterans goes to Steven-Chute Unit 4 [D5 cheer]; the Trudie McGriff Past Department President Service to Veterans Award goes to N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83 [D3 cheer]; the Angie McKinney Past Department President Service to Veterans Award is presented by Angie and goes to Steven-Chute Unit 4 [D5 cheer]; the Service to Veterans Hospital Award goes to La Grande Unit 43 [D6 cheer].

Poppy & Poppy Posters, Dianne Standing, Chair:

The first one is the Ellie Buell Past Department President Award with no narrative. I've been to so many units this year and heard all their stories about Poppies, and what they've done, how they go into a school, and I didn't get any narrative reports so there is no award for that one.

Jewel Babb Past Department President Memorial Award

Darlene McLaughlin Past Department President Memorial Award [10-100 members] goes to Washington Unit 2 [D1 cheer]; Florence Comber Past Department President [101-200 members] goes to La Grande Unit 43 [D6 cheer]; Judy Lloyd [201& up members] goes to Santiam Unit 51 [D3 cheer]; the all-around Poppy Award for doing the most Poppies goes to La Grande Unit 43 for raising \$5,270. The other Units in the top five were Santiam Unit 51 \$4,496; Washington Unit 2 \$3,983; Hillsboro Unit 6 \$3,306; and Albany Unit 10 \$2,308.

Poppy Display winner will be announced tomorrow, Friday, after the Poppy Hat parade.

For the Poppy Posters, we had 28 entries! I sent these five into the Western Division! Our winners are Class I, Hudson Firkins; Class II, Sophia Jones; Class III, Haley Hepler; Class IV, Alex Reed; Class V, Emma Dean; and Class VI, Iolaus Krotzer.

Americanism, Cindy Soria, Chair:

Good Afternoon Madame President, Officers, and Members. I received 22 Americanism Essays, and it was really awesome. It was really hard to pick, my husband and I and then I took them to work and one of the teachers helped me pick the five students that qualified. Lori Sherman will you please come and accept the awards for your students? They all came from Piercing Arrow Private School in Clatskanie: Class I, Jax Bennett; Class II, Madison Phrol; Class III, Sami Stebbins; Class IV, Emma Dean; Class V, Iolaus Krotzer. Harney County submitted a Class V entry; however, winners had already been submitted to National. There was no entry for Class VI. [D1 cheer]

There was no supplemental report received for the Maxine Bigalow award. The R. Marie Martin award had two submissions; it was hard to pick one. The award was presented by Past Department President Krisann Owens, to N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83 [D3 cheer], and Aurora Unit 110 received a certificate of recognition for their submission [D2 cheer].

Madame President, thank you for this appointment, I really enjoyed this program.

Children & Youth, Angie McKinney, Chair:

My report is in the book of reports. With Children and Youth, we celebrate our military children who are a special part of the Children & Youth program. See my shirt? These are dandelions which signify military children. They're like the dandelions, they blow with the wind, go different places. They go through so much when their parents deploy and missing so much from their lives. I'd like to take a few minutes to celebrate these special children and read the poem,

The Military Child Poem

My parent is proudly serving our country, In order to keep so many of us free.
There are a lot of sacrifices that they're making, And I know the risks that they're taking.

I know sometimes they have to go away, But I wish so bad for them to stay.
My heart aches when they are gone, And a part of me feels so withdrawn.

But I will always feel a sense of pride, No matter how many tears I have cried.
Even when they cannot be here, They will find a way to calm my fear.

I may be different when I see them again, Because I was so much younger then.
In such a short time a lot can change, When they return they may feel estranged.

I hope I grow up to be like them, Even if others will try to condemn.
They are serving and showing their might, So that I won't have to grow up to fight. - Jon M. Nelson

Now, on to the fun! Pam Seelye, Past Department President Award, no entry. Edith E. Brown Memorial Award, no entry. It's so sad, it's easy to do something. So many of our Units do so much. I see it in your reports, yet you do not submit a narrative or supplemental.

Cheryl Park, Past Department President award, (presented by Cheryl) is for the Unit with the best narrative report for their overall Children & Youth program. It must include the Unit name, number and name of the Unit President and the Unit Chairman. I received three entries, and I had three friends help me judge. There was a unanimous decision that the most outstanding report was from Aurora Unit 110, Pam Seelye, Chairman [D2 cheer]. Pam is also the Western Division Children & Youth Chairman. This report was also submitted to National for consideration for the best Unit Report for Children & Youth.

Pam Seelye: Aurora Unit 110 was able to award two Youth Hero Awards to two juniors at Southridge High School, in Beaverton. They came across an accident with a car on its roof. With bystanders around they stepped into action, got the baby out of the car seat, and into the mother's arms. In June, we were honored to present the Youth Hero Award to these two outstanding young men, and it was fantastic. Side note, I found out about it because a friend in Arkansas sent me a link on Facebook and said isn't this in Oregon? I also received communication from our National Vice President, Lisa Williamson, from Alaska. It was fun to tell the young men they were famous from Arkansas to Alaska! They were very humble, very appreciative; their principal was fantastic, and he had such great respect for his students. Keep your eyes open and look on Facebook. National will be continuing with the Youth Hero Award and the Youth Good Deed Award. These kids, need a pat on the back!

Angie McKinney: This concludes my report, Madame President thank you for this opportunity to serve as the Children & Youth Chairman. I really love this program.

Community Service, Margie DeMoss, Chair:

Thank you for the appointment, Madame President. I got nine reports from different units, I have a small token for each unit that reported: Unit 1, Unit 43, Unit 150, Unit 110, Unit 63, 104, and 106, the Sgt-at-Arms will pass them out.

Out of these nine (9) Units for Community Service, we had a total of 498 volunteers that gave 5,044 hours. Dollars donated to community service programs was \$17,342.64. The total money spent for community service programs was \$5,052.78 and total in kind donations was \$7,123.00.

Best Community Service Program Award for Units with 150 or less in membership, goes to N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83. There were no entries for the Mary Larsen, Past Department President Award or the Lois Peterson, Past Department President Award. [D3 cheer]

Education, Linda Liebenow

We did not have an Education and Scholarship chairman this year, but that doesn't mean that we weren't doing anything. We had some Units submitting reports.

Evelyn Ogilvie Past Department President Award presented to the Unit with the best overall Education/Scholarship program goes to Crook County Unit 29 [D5 cheer]. There was no entry for the Ellen Eivers Department Scholarship Award, which goes to the Unit that sponsored the Department scholarship applicant winner. We did have one entry for the Department Scholarship; however, it was disqualified because it did not meet the requirement.

McKenna Craft, sponsored by Canby Unit 122, was the Western Division winner of the National Spirit of Youth Award and was awarded a \$5,000.00 scholarship! [D2 cheer]

Juniors, Cheryl Park, Chair:

I had eight (8) Junior reports from the Units and of those eight, seven reported no activity. So that means we only had one Unit that reported activity. That doesn't mean the Units weren't out there doing things with their Juniors but if you were, you didn't report it. That doesn't help when it comes time to give out awards or do a report. If you have Juniors and you are working with them even if you don't have a chairman, but you have Juniors that are doing things, you should report that.

Of the reports received, there are 16 Junior members, but not all are active in their Units. The one Unit that reported activities has their Juniors very involved with their Legion family. One very small group of girls sent 39 Troop Boxes, donated school supplies, filled ditty bags for a stand down, raised \$100 for the Veteran Legacy Camp Alma, which was one of Past Department President Kathi's projects. And there were other activities. Our Juniors are not our future if we are not working with them and training them, helping them to grow in the organization. We don't need an active, functioning group to involve our Junior members. They can assist Units in so many ways. Always check your bulletins for suggestions because they are usually filled with ideas. \$576 from their treasury was donated. \$1500 in in-kind donations were given, and 82 volunteer hours were recorded for three active Juniors. You don't have to have a large group to produce great things. I want to thank N. Eugene/ Santa Clara Unit 83 for sharing the activities of their Junior members. You have a great, strong, even though small, group of girls working with you, and they are doing great things. I am hoping that next year that the Chairman will be able to give more to the program than I was able to give this year. We need involved Juniors to evolve into active Senior members and that doesn't happen automatically. Please be working with your Juniors, if you have them, in some capacity so that they will want to be involved in the organization as a Senior and want to come and participate with the Senior members. The way you get them to know the Senior members is to get them involved. Bring them to activities, bring them to convention, there are so many ways to get Junior members involved. If they get comfortable with the Senior members, they'll transition to that position easily. Thank you, Madame President.

There were no entries for the Cyndi Dahl Past Department President Award.

Legislative, Tracy Peets, Chair:

Madame President, Officers, and Unit members, first of all thank you! I don't have any awards; however, I did get reports. Although supplement reports are not expected. I do want to acknowledge that ten (10) units sent back information that six out of ten districts actually sent information, whether they did the program or not. And you don't know how much I appreciate that. I was told that I wasn't going to get any information on this, no one was really participating, but I was able to get 60 percent of the districts to provide information. [applause]

I also want to acknowledge a few other things: the Legislative Program is not grand, it's not really out there a lot. A lot of us do not know a lot about it, but I do want to say that our Department is actively participating in Legislative. For example, our own Department Vice President took the time during a training to explain the Legislative Action piece. She did not have to do that, yet she took the time to help everyone understand how to get the Legislative Alerts.

In addition, I also wanted to mention that our Unit members in their book of reports, I read them, and several Unit members were attending PACT ACT awareness sessions because part of the information that we need to get out to Legionnaires and veterans is going to come from the family members about the PACT ACT. The veteran is not going to listen, they're going to say, "I don't need it." It's up to us to say maybe you do. Take a look at it. Also, we had two call outs from our Department for Post members who were Legionaries of the Week in the weekly Legislative update, TWO, Cory Brockmann and Daniel Burks. Again, they are out there doing things and that is great! [applause]

During the Washington Conference we had two people from Oregon attend; Marie Larson and Linda Liebenow. They met with Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer. I want to thank them because that's getting our message out to our legislators, our senators, and our representatives on the federal level.

In closing, the American Legislative program is all about supporting the American Legion Legislative agenda. That's what we do as Auxiliary members. The number one way that we can support them is to go out and sign-up for the Calls to Action. It's super quick, just go to www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/register, simply give them your email and they will send action alerts. It takes two seconds to reply to the action alert and that goes directly to your representatives and your senators, and they can then know our voice. They can hear our voice. If I can ask for anything at all, take the time, sign up for the alerts, and take the two seconds to respond to the alert. If anybody wants help signing up on their smart phone, I am more than willing to do that. I think we have a voice; we just don't remember that we have a voice. Our Legionnaires, our veterans and even ourselves that are veterans are not going to ask for help and we are not going to be able to advocate for ourselves or our veterans. It's up to all of us to support that and be those cheerleaders that say "hey" we need to pay attention to these legislative issues. BE THE ONE, Buddy Checks, giving reciprocity in terms of dual disability and retirement pay, being able to get women veterans the care that they need, to be able to walk in. These are the priorities of our legislative focus, so that's where we get to help. Madame President, thank you.

National Security, Yvonne Drury, Chair:

I had a lot of reports for National Security this year. I also had put out a plea, first thing in the year, for you to send me the email of your President or Chairman because we get good information online once a month from the Division and National Chairman. I had five or six people that I was able to forward that information to. I am hoping that next year, that you will give me the email address so that the Units can get this valuable information. We need to talk to each other, that's how we make things happen.

The winner of the Phyllis Parent, Past Department President Award for the best all-around national security program is N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83 [D3 cheer].

Reports: Member Support Programs

President Debra: Member support programs are just that, programs that help support our members at every level; as a member, a Unit, District and Department.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) – Debra Ashe, Chairman

Chair Debra is unable to be here due to health issues, so Linda Liebenow will read her report. We have one award, Jaunetta Gunder Past Department President for the Unit submitting the best all-around narrative report on projects to raise funds....no entries. This doesn't mean you aren't doing anything; you're just not bragging about it. You need to make note of all these awards that have no entries and push that with your Unit next year.

Constitution & Bylaws – Pam Seelye, Chair

There are no awards for Constitution & Bylaws, but I want to say thank you to everyone that has sent into me in this year, 2022-2023, their Constitution and Bylaws that we have completed, and I have a certificate of appreciation for them. I do have a couple of Constitution and Bylaws that we are still working on revisions, hopefully, you'll get one of these certificates next year. Certificates awarded to: Washington Unit 2 [D1 cheer]; Canby Unit 122 [D2 cheer]; N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83 [D3 cheer]; Santiam Unit 51; [D3 cheer]; Travis Moothart Unit 184 [D3 cheer]; Williams Valley Unit 50 [D4 cheer]; Portland Unit 1 [D8 cheer]; Bay Area Unit 34 [D9 cheer]; and Harney County Unit 63 [D10].

Madame President, I thank you for this opportunity. This is a big job, it really is, and I appreciate everyone that works on these. Keep it updated because it is so much easier.

Daily Attendance Award: Albany Unit 10

Announcements: At 5:00 PM we have the Foundation Mix & Mingle. There will be a no-host bar, bean bag toss, silent auction to benefit The Oregon American Legion Foundation. Come and learn what the foundation does and how the ALA can assist. Remember to check in at credentials tomorrow, 8:00 AM. We will reconvene at 9:00 AM.

Closing prayer – Gregoria Hernandez, Chaplain

Thank you, Lord, for a great beginning to our convention. Always great to see everyone. Our time together is precious and memorable. Until we meet again tomorrow, please keep us safe, we pray in your Holy Name, Amen.

RECESS

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Call to Order – Debra Godwin, President

Invocation – Gregoria Hernandez, Department Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was led by Americanism Chairman, Cindy Soria.

Nomination & Elections of Candidates for Department Officers

President Debra: Nominations are now open for Department President.

Catherine Brockmann from Aloha Unit 104 was nominated, and her endorsement letter read.

President Debra: Are there further nominations for Department President? Hearing none, the chair declares the nominations closed and CATHERINE BROCKMANN is elected Department President by acclamation.

President Debra: Nominations are now open for the Office of Department Vice President.

Cindy Soria from Glenn Morris Unit 70 was nominated, and her endorsement letter read.

President Debra: Are there further Nominations for the Office of Department Vice President? Hearing none, the chair declares the nominations closed and CINDY SORIA is elected Department Vice President by acclamation.

President Debra: The Districts have put forth the following candidates for President and Vice President.

	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
District 1	Dianne Standing, Washington Unit 2	Sheri Russell, Washington Unit 2
District 2	Gregoria Hernandez, McMinnville Unit 21	Lori Vallery, Newberg Unit 57
District 3	Roberta "Bobbi" Peebler, Santiam Unit 51	Suzanne Driver, Santiam Unit 51
District 4		
District 5	Ginny Williams, Crook County Unit 29	Karen Banks, Stevens-Chute Unit 4
District 6	Maggie LaMont, La Grande Unit 43	Mary Ward, Milton-Freewater Unit 24
District 7		
District 8	Trudie McGriff, Portland Unit 1	Tawnya Lege, Milwaukie Unit 180
District 9	Frankie Trask, Bay Area Unit 34	
District 10	Linda Schmidt, Harney County Unit 63	Shirley Torrey, Harney County Unit 63

Are there further Nominations for the Offices of District President and Vice President? Hearing none, the chair declares the nominations closed and the members before you are elected District President and Vice President by acclamation.

Nominations for Delegates to National Convention

President Debra: We will open nominations for delegates to National Convention, which is 8/25 – 8/31/23 in North Carolina. Past National President Linda Boone and National Executive Committee person Krisann Owens are automatic delegates.

Parliamentarian Pam Seelye read Standing Rules M. National Convention.

President Debra: That leaves eight delegate spots, with two reserved for the outgoing and incoming Presidents. I will not be going, and Catherine is attending, so we have seven remaining nominees:

Linda Boone

Karen Banks

Sherri Russell

Krisann Owens
Catherine Brockmann
Beverly Neubecker

Jody Marsh
Geanne Horne
Gregoria Hernandez

Dianne Standing

President Debra: Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed. The Chair entertains a Motion that the Delegation Chairman be empowered to appoint members in good standing attending the National Convention, as Delegates or Alternates to complete the Delegation.

Krisann Owens, Bay Area 34: Madame President, I move that the Delegation Chairman be authorized to appoint members in good standing attending the National Convention as Delegates or Alternates to complete the Delegation. Motion was seconded and passed.

Rose Court - Geanne Horne, Chair

A brief recap of the event was provided as the report was not in the book of reports.

Leadership – Deby Levy, Chair, Helen Hisaw

Helen Hisaw, Crook County 29: We miss Deby. I do not have a lot of information. I cannot tell you how many entries were received. I just have the award to present. The Patty Cooper Past Department President Leadership Award goes to North Eugene/Santa Clara [District 3 Cheer].

Pam Seelye, Aurora Unit 110: Madame President, I think before we start with membership, we should have each District do their cheer and see what they sound like because Sons of The American Legion Commander, Rob Liebenow, said that he could not hear the Auxiliary on the Legion side of the hall.

President Debra issued a challenge and cheering commenced!

District Cheers:

1. We are District 1; we like to have fun! When we have a job to do, we will get it done!
2. Red, white, and blue, veterans, veterans, we love you!
3. District 3, District 3, freedom, freedom is not free!
4. District 4, District 4, we love our veterans to the core!
5. District 5, keep it alive, keep it alive, oh yeah!
6. District 6 far and wide, here we stand, full of pride!
7. Vacant
8. Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate? Veterans, veterans, veterans!
9. Kazoo blow (sounds like a raspberry).
10. Who loves their veterans? District 10! Who loves their country, say it again, District 10!

President Debra showed the convention body an amazing quilt, donated by District 10 President Linda Schmidt, and made by Louise Carter, Past Department President. "We all know and love her and keep her in our heart. We are going to auction this off and the high bid right now is \$100. If anyone wants to enter a bid, please do so. This quilt is being auctioned off for the President's Project. Cash or check will be accepted." President Debra announced the bidding will close at the end of today's business session.

Jody Marsh, Seaside Unit 99: I don't know if anyone heard Stephen Bates speak about the Vietnam Veterans (VV) Memorial Fund. He made some amazing statements like the state of Washington established their VV Memorial in their state capitol in the 1980's, and California dedicated their VV Memorial in the 1990's. And here's Oregon in 2023 trying to get our VV Memorial completed! They have the authorization and are 3.1 million away from funding the project to include groundbreaking. They participate in the Oregon can drop recycling, with a bar code for the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. You can recycle your bottles and cans and using their bar code, can donate to this worthwhile project. You can pick up a bag here and take it to your home or Unit. He was at the VA&R luncheon yesterday and they picked up all the soda cans and water bottles and filled a bag. Please consider at minimum, taking your empties to them in the foyer (by registration, vendors) and donating to this cause.

President Debra: Alice Redding, are you here? Could you please stand up? Does everyone remember Alice? She's turning 75 years young today [cheering, applause]. Can we sing Happy Birthday?" Membership sings! Alice announces that she is a dual member.

Membership – Catherine Brockmann, Department Vice President

All right! First things first, I really still want to make 100%, by July 4th. That's like two weeks, three weeks. You still have time to get membership in. We've got to do this! We just have to. So, let's get those into Department. Last few weeks I've been looking at the numbers and we have like one or two across the whole state? That's unfathomable to me if we are only getting one or two across the whole state. Reach out to those members that haven't renewed yet, get them to renew; come up with a reason to renew, invite them to an event, do your buddy checks. Find out why they're not coming in. Maybe there's a simple reason, like they need a ride now and then. Maybe you could be the one that helps them. Let's see what we can do for membership.

I have this incredible stack of awards to give out! I'm going to be the one that takes forever with awards. Let's start with the awards for the Units with the greatest numerical gain into Department by December 31st compared to December 31st of the previous year: Estelle Kroeger Memorial Membership Award for the Unit under 100 is Washington Unit 2 [D1 cheer]. Evelyn Ogilvie, Past Department President, Memorial Membership Award for the Unit over 100 is presented to Portland Unit1 [D8 cheer].

The next awards are for the Unit with the highest percentage gain in membership 30 days prior to convention: Bev Myers, Past Department President Membership Award (unit with membership of 10 -100) is presented to Williams Valley Unit 50, with a gain of 142.3% [D4 cheer]; Jody Marsh, Past Department President Membership Award (Unit with membership of 101 – 200) with 106.9%, is Crook County Unit 29 [D5 cheer]; Maxine Bigelow, Past National President, Membership Award (unit with membership of 200+), with 94.1%, Santiam Unit 51 [D3 cheer].

The Marlene Wettstein, Past Department President, membership award and it is for the District President with the highest number of Units making goal for the current year, 30 days prior to convention; this one goes to District 3, with four (4) goal units, Bobbie Peebler [D3 cheer]. Next, we have the Toni Epperson, Past Department President, membership award for the unit that enrolled the greatest percentage of new senior members based on the total membership into Department 30 days prior to convention; with 40%, this goes to Calvin Funk Unit32 [D3 cheer]. Bobbie Peebler, District 3 President: "This team from Calvin Funk was at six members most of last year and struggled, struggled and they have come along way."

Catherine Brockmann: And I am sad to say the last award, the Virginia Biddle, Past Department President, membership award where Units were supposed to send in their narrative for members with the longest continuous years membership, I received nothing. I know that we have members out there that have been members for a long time, lets recognize those members next year.

But I'm not done, the next stack...we are moving into the 100% Goal Family Award. So, this would mean your Legion, Auxiliary, and your Squadron for your family all made goal this year.

Geanne Horne Unit 71: "It means the Legion Post made goal and either a Unit or Squadron made goal." Chairman Catherine: "And I though it meant all three." Discussion focused on the fact that not all families have three entities.

Membership Chair Catherine: For these awards we are not going to require the District Presidents to deliver the awards. If the Unit is not in attendance, Department will mail these out. The ribbons were presented to the Units before the convention opened. The winners are Travis Moothart Unit184 out of Brownsville [D3 cheer]; Prairie City Unit 106; Sheridan Unit 75 [D2 cheer]; Williams Valley Unit 53 [D4 cheer]; Calvin Funk Unit 32 [D3 cheer]; Athena Unit 130 [D6 cheer]; Prineville (Crook County) Unit 29 [D5 cheer]; Hermiston Unit 37 [D6 cheer]; Bay Area Unit 34 [D9 cheer]; and Seaside Unit 99 [D1 cheer]. Thank you, Madame President, membership has been joyous this year, it has been entertaining, there was a lot I didn't understand and obviously, I am still learning. It's been good, thank you very much.

Public Relations - Yvonne Drury, Chairman

My report is in the book of reports. I received more reports than ever this year, thank you all. It was fun getting information. I realize that if you live in the smaller communities, you may get to enjoy a lot more public relations with your local media, not so in Bend. If you do have inroads with your media, stick with it, and be sure to turn in a report. This year the Lois West Memorial award for the best all-around public relations program goes to N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83 [D3 cheer]. Thank you, Madame President, for the honor to do this committee and this is my last time, good luck to the person next year.

President Debra: Next, we will move on to the reports of Officers. National Executive Committee person, Krisann Owens will be up first. Can I have a Sgt-at-Arms please? Catherine, can you step in and take over at the podium?

Vice President Catherine “dings” the assembly to their feet as President Debra leaves the convention to visit the Legion. A chorus of “The Old Gray Mare” is sung.

Vice President Catherine: “I need an Assistant Sgt-at-Arms to the Podium please. For those who have been to convention and those that have not been to convention, now is the time we normally pass the hat for donations for the President. For the job she did this year, so at this time Assistant Sgt-At-Arms, Suzanne Hurd, will collect your gifts. While that’s happening, we will move on to the next item.”

Report of Officers:

National Executive Committee - Krisann Owens: Thank you, okay, settle in, relax. I’m going to try and beat Cheryl Park for the shortest report. Madame President, my report is in the book of reports. And you may read it at your leisure. But I digress a bit, there is a lot of good information in there, take it to your Units. We do not want to get into the kind of trouble that is moving around the United States.”

From the floor, could you just touch on that a little?

Krisann Owens: I will say what I can. I can tell you it’s important to have a budget, it is important to have people watching your accounts, a committee of people who have nothing to do with finance. They are members, they can even be your neighbors, but they have to be able to look at all of the books, when they are asked for. These are not your secret books so if you have a treasurer that is very protective of the books, she is going to have to release control. We are a nonprofit organization; anyone can ask to look at our books and we have to show them and that goes right down to the Unit level. Keep that in mind and I hope we don’t have any problems where the books are being held really tight because they are not the property of the treasurer. Keep all your documents in order, be sure your EIN numbers are correct. If you have an issue with those, contact Cindy in the office.

Please let’s not have any issue with Poppy funds, you know that the money is restricted that you receive from folks when you are distributing them and 40% is supposed to go to Department. Please make sure you are checking that part and your budget separates the funds (restricted and general).

We are down to so few Units now, when I was President the first time, we had over 12,000 members. We really need to work on membership and in the meantime, you have to keep the new members a base to work from. Keep your documents and records as the base for newer members that pick up the baton. We need to keep our Districts and this Department together. We’ve had too much embezzlement going on, not here, around the country it happens every day. Some haven’t been caught yet, they are pretty good but when they’re caught, they suspend the whole Department. Because it usually has a trickle affect around the state. It can even be Department. Everyone needs to watch and be mindful of that, be mindful of each other, look out for each other. Just as you would with family; be kind to one another. Kindness will get you really far, especially if someone is holding on tight to reports or paperwork that is valuable to the Unit needs.

It is our responsibility to look out for ourselves, our Unit, and protect the organization. People have lost that last part along the way. We are responsible for this organization. We don’t embarrass it, we don’t embezzle from it, or give wrong information. Things are changing, my Unit is growing, we have two new members here. One was a member in Klamath Falls, Becky and she has said she will be our Vice President; and Ann has stepped up and she is going to take over Girls State, she also works on the

bulletin for us. As Unit President, I taught them everything, we took care of the business and moved on to learning about the organization and how things work. They all seemed excited as I was able to fill all the officers which is a first in many years. It's out there, it works, as long as you follow the rules. People look at that, if you are just floating around willy, nilly, their time is best suited somewhere else. Let's get it together and keep it together because we have a lot still to give this world. We are not done yet. That's all I can tell you.

Linda Liebenow, Hillsboro Unit 6: I have a question about the poppies. Are we responsible for other people who order poppies through Emblem Sales who don't do the right thing with the money they get from those poppies? Does that reflect bad on the Department? They're ordering poppies from other Departments or Emblem Sales and I'm not talking about just the 40% due back to our Department, are they keeping those funds restricted to Veterans and their families like they are supposed to do? And if they don't are we responsible for that?

Krisann Owens, NEC: All we can do is continue to remind people of what the process is.

Linda Liebenow: Should we distribute the information, spread the knowledge to our Posts and Squadrons, that sometimes don't know? Some may know and choose to disregard it. So, I don't know, maybe we should send out that information to the Legion Posts, Squadrons, and Chapters.

Back and forth discussion about poppy collections that are used to pay bills, etc.

Krisann Owens: If you read my report, all these things are lined out, it's just housekeeping. What we are responsible for and what we need to do. Once you start getting things kind of organized in your Unit, things really go well and we always outshine the Legion when it comes to volunteering and what not, but this is another way to do it because I always here from our Legionnaire that you guys have a budget and I reply that's true but what you are asking is not in it. They have a budget too but theirs is kind of fluid and goes where they want it to. But we stick to ours, the structure is important.

Discussion about the Book of Reports: they were not included in the convention packets and not emailed out prior. Will ensure it is compiled and sent out after convention.

Vice President Catherine calls the convention to their feet as President Debra returns to the Auxiliary Convention. Seats the convention body and welcomes Madame President back.

President Debra: "Thank you Madame Soon-to-Be President."

Vice President Catherine: "We want to show our gratitude for everything that you have done for us this year. Thank you." Hands over the collection and the gavel to President Debra. [Standing ovation, applause]

Helen Hisaw, Crook County 29: Madame President, the little bag that you just received was donated for this purpose by Pam Seelye when I was President. As Presidents outgoing, we pass the bag on. Make sure it comes back next year so that we can pass it again.

President Debra: "Do I have to? This is a cute little bag. Thank you, guys!"

Department Historian, Geanne Horne

Madame President, convention body, I did not get my report in the book of reports, I was working for the other side. I know there are many of you out there doing stuff and not sharing it with us here. I'm just as guilty. I promise by the Fall she will have her history. I know we should not be ashamed or afraid to report whether we did nothing or a little something, because a little something goes a long way. So, with that said, the Linda Boone, Past National President award had three entries; La Grande #43, Bend #4, and Santa Clara #83. It truly came down to errors in the reports that split the hairs. With that said, our winner of the best Unit History narrative is Stevens-Chute, Bend Unit 4 [D5 cheer]. For the Gen Horne Memory Book award received two entries; La Grande Unit 43 and McMinnville Unit 21. The decision came down to one had submitted their history with it, so they received the 10 bonus points. With that

said, the winner is La Grande Unit 43 [D6 cheer]. Please pick up your books in the back of the room. Thank you again Madame President, that concludes my report. Thank you for the appointment, it has been my pleasure. Unit 21, I will bring your book back.

Department Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez:

"Hello, being this was my first year as Chaplain, I didn't know I needed to do a report at the end, so I wrote it last night and will turn it in Monday because it is handwritten. First, I would like to say to all of you that have lost members, our condolences to you, because our members become our family as we spend a lot of time together. I know when we have lost family, friends and loved ones, that we need to keep going on with the knowledge that we will be reunited. So, cry if we must, miss them we will, but please cherish their loving memory.

This year I've got eight (8) Chaplain questionnaires sent to me but none of them had a narrative or supplemental report, so I was not able to give the award. But I really appreciate everything that everyone is doing. Everyone is sending out cards, whether they are get well cards, sympathy cards, thinking of you cards, just letting them know we care; going to the care homes, visiting our veterans, praying with our veterans, doing the Four Chaplains Ceremony, sending money to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Visiting the shut-ins, a tree planted in honor of someone. We all have been busy, it just needs to be sent so you can be recognized for your hard work and lessons that you are giving, giving smiles, keeping their spirits up, or encouragement. Let's keep doing all that, for next year, let's remember to send in whatever small contribution you make spreading faith.

I received one prayer book but there I also could not give an award because it missed a few required items. It was a great book and received from Portland Unit 1. I will let you know what it needed so next year it will pass. I had a talk with Angie McKinney and Cheryl Park, and they enlightened me as to what I was supposed to know in the beginning but now I know it at the end. This is good because then I can let all the Units in District 2 know what they need to do for the prayer book, history book, all those things. A lot of the information is not on the narrative. That's why some entries don't pass.

I would like to say congratulations to all the officers may God bless your year to come with knowledge, health, love, respect for each other. Madame President, thank you for the appointment. I have been really rewarded with this position, spending time with you. Thank you again."

President Debra: "It has been an honor to have you on the team."

Maggie LaMont, District 6, La Grande Unit 43: When we have our memorial service, we used to get a copy of the booklet that contained all our deceased members. I always liked to see and review it. I didn't know where I could get or see that. Can that be sent out via Constant Contact?"

President Debra: "Maggie, we will get one sent out."

Department Vice President, Catherine Brockmann: "My report is in the book of reports."

President Debra called for the Poppy Hat Parade and requested everyone with a hat to line up in the back of the room. She also commented on the fun and flow of the convention. We are going to the other side, the dark side...

President Debra turned the gavel over to Department Vice President, Catherine Brockmann. Department President Debra left the stage to participate in the Poppy Hat Parade. The parade went around the Auxiliary meeting room, through the Mill Casino and over to the Legion side.

Reports of Administrative Committees:

Finance - Helen Hisaw, Treasurer:

First thing I'd like to do is introduce my Finance Committee, will you join me up here please? We don't have Suzanne Driver; she went next door. I just wanted to make sure that we are showing gratitude to this group. It consists of three members, and they do all the deciding, and they do it wonderfully. They are responsive, they take their responsibility very seriously and I couldn't do my job without the

commitment I have from my committee. It doesn't matter, they can be out of state, it could be a weekend, an evening. These guys are on top of it. I would like it if you would give them a big round of applause. [clapping] It's just been an amazing committee to work with, I just really appreciate them.

All of the Department purchases have been completed. The new computer, the website, thanks to the donations made by individuals and Units has helped us immensely. We have installed and been using the new desktop computer since January. The new website is up and running. It took a great deal longer than anticipated and we had some things to tweak, but we now have the ability to do that, and it is in our possession. Now we have a couple of members to upload documents and get them up quicker, keep a closer eye on it and have it run more efficiently. We thank President Debra for taking hold of that and getting it done. He did very good work, the website is beautiful, but it did take him quite a bit longer than he originally quoted.

With all of that done, we used, all the donations specifically donated to technology. We are in fact over by \$1,136.37. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to use the remaining balance from the General Fund donations, meaning you made a donation and were not specific to technology. There is over \$3,500 in those donations as well. The Finance Committee makes the recommendation to move the amount of \$1,136.37 from the General Fund donations.

Vice President Catherine restated the recommendation from the Finance Committee and asked for discussion.

Mary Emmerich, Aloha Unit 104: if you're pulling these funds, where are they from, I don't understand exactly. You're pulling them from the General Donation to where?

Helen Hisaw: To cover the remaining technology expenses. There is a list in your packet, and I apologize if it is confusing. You should have received one list that was broken out; on the one side is a list of all the donations we received for technology improvements and on the right side is a list of donations that we received just for the General Fund; they were not designated for technology. They were donations to cover General Fund expenses.

Vice President Catherine: Is there any other discussion? We will bring this to a vote then. All in favor of moving the money from the General Fund to the Technology Fund please say "aye," those opposed, [no response], motion passed.

Helen Hisaw continues: The donations this year were incredible. You guys are absolutely amazing. It was awesome. Just a quick interruption, this is the third member of our incredible Finance Committee, Suzanne Driver. Can you guys come back? Here is Maggie Lamont and Bobbie Peebler. Again, I couldn't do this job without them, you are amazing.

Tracy Peets, Hillsboro Unit 6: We rallied around with technology last year, what would you like the membership to rally around this year from a donation perspective?

Helen Hisaw: Thank you, Tracy, great question. As it is right now, I will have a lengthy chat with our incoming President. I will put it out there just as quick as I learn what her priority is. Cindy is elated with all the stuff that she has, she now has the scanner, the new website, she's got a lot of what she needs. I will have the conversation with Catherine and let you know as soon as possible. Last year we were also taking donations to rally around training our membership. The total balance left from the donations from all of you is \$851.50, that is for training purposes. Whether we do them at DEC's or wherever, that will help with that.

The Finance Committee did do one audit for a Unit at the request of their President and ours. Just a reminder that we are here to help if needed. You just need to contact the President and go through that way. Any Unit Officer can request us to come in and do an audit, but it has to be a Unit Officer and it must go through our Department President.

With the notification that our Girls State storage unit will increase from \$156 per month to \$178 per month and the need to provide storage for the OHV The Dalles Christmas Gift Shop stuff, we changed storage units. The Unit has been cleaned out and all of the items in place in the storage unit. Another big round of applause to Rob & Linda Liebenow for all that labor [applause]. I talked with Cindy, I let her decide how to make these payments, because it's split right in half. She's going to make two payments every time, one from Restricted, memo for OVH Program, and one from the General Fund for the Girls State storage. Two payments at a time for each entity for six months. As a reminder, about six months ago we opened a new account with a new bank for the Restricted Funds, Umpqua Bank. The total amount for each program will be \$1068.00, by splitting it in half. This is an annual total. Per year.

All of the VA&R Funds are now at Umpqua Bank, all of the VA&R funds are tracked on a separate page with the exception of scholarship funds. If you look at the last page where the VA&R funds are broken out into columns, you will still see the scholarship funds there. It does not relate to the grand total. The grand total matches the bank account. We chose not to move Scholarship with the VA&R Funds. So next year when we get rolling on the budget, then you will see that scholarship funds moved there (general fund). So, we will start tracking it on the budget with our regular (General) bank account and funding. For right now, you can see the grand total on the last page.

Our investments at Ameriprise have a slight increase this month of \$457.79, per the May statement. Overall, our total investment started at \$255,500. Our account took a pretty big dip, like everyone else in the world and it has steadily climbed back up with the exception the month of May. We now have a total at \$242,139.94, so we are at a total loss of \$13,360 from our initial investment. We went up before we went down. At the Spring DEC our loss was at \$12,902.27, and previous to that it was \$23,753.90. We are climbing back up, it will be slow, it may take a couple steps to get there, but it's going back in a good direction. They look at our account every three (3) months to make sure that we are in a low-risk category and that all the stuff we have in place is working in our favor, but a lot of companies only do that once a year or if you call and bug them. He does it every three months and then reports to me if he sees something that needs to change.

Geanne Horne, Chris Schultz Unit 71: Should this be a different line, Girls State carried over to.
Helen Hisaw: With the new budget it will be. Those funds are carried over from 2022. And then after we start the new budget, those will be left over from 2023 and will be looked at again for 2024. It's on the last page is the left over Girls State Funds so they were left over from 2022. When we end this budget at the end of July and start the new budget that will switch to leftover from 2023, moving on. Does anybody else have any questions?

Cascinda Kollas Unit 90: On the VA&R page, why are we in the stock market and not getting things like annuities, or something that isn't volatile?

Helen Hisaw: Good question. A year and a half ago at a Spring or Fall DEC, the Auxiliary voted to invest in the stock market. At that time CDs were not paying anything and the stock market was trading decent water. If that needs to change or something else needs to be looked at, that needs to be requested and we can do that. We are always willing to look. If you have any ideas or information, send it to us and we are open to investigating. Originally, when we moved, it was because CDs were paying .0000% so we had a lot sitting there not earning anything. If you have some good ideas, let us know. Real quick on the VA&R our restricted income at the last DEC we had \$142 incoming from Poppies (I can't explain) the font on that square had gotten out of whack and so it said that for actual for 2022 was \$142.00. I fixed the font, and that actual is \$14,422.81; income from 40% poppy proceeds. I just wanted to answer that question. I want to thank you very much for this appointment, I appreciate it. It's fun. Are there any more questions? I love it when you guys ask questions, by the way. Thank you.

Vice President Catherine brings the convention to their feet for the return of President Debra and returns the gavel.

President Debra: That did not go as well as we planned. Right after lunch, we're going to line up, put on our Poppy Hats, and let the Legion know that we will be coming back over to do it again. The Auxiliary is very proud of what we stand for and our Poppy's.

[Recess for lunch, back here after the Americanism lunch, 1:15 PM]

Convention Reconvenes

President Debra: Did everyone have a good lunch? Response from membership. Just a quick announcement, tomorrow when we start and we go over to do the installation, we all need to come back to this room to close our convention. So, make sure after installation you all come back here to close our convention, and then we will go into our Post Convention DEC with our newly elected President, Catherine Brockmann.

Continuation of Report of Administrative Committees

Admin Committee, Jody Marsh: Welcome back from lunch, what I'd like to do is give you a little history of the committee. The Administrative Committee was formed in 2017 as the Department was transitioning from a full-time Department Secretary to an Executive Director. At that time, the Executive Director would be responsible for the department office (Secretary duties) and any staff, that we chose to hire at a later date. The Administrative Committee would act as Human Resources to the Executive Director. The Committee was formed for the following purposes:
(1) to oversee Department Staff, and hiring staff; (2) Website Consulting, what should and should not go on website; (3) to work with the Finance Committee on recommendations about additional equipment that would need to be purchased; (4) to provide Performance Evaluations and performance plans for office staff; (5) to select and prepare Interviewing Committee for hiring new staff. [that was all done at the 2018 Convention]

In the months and years following, the Department had two Executive Directors and one Office Manager. It was a disaster. The DEC voted to eliminate the management position and increase the duties, title, and pay of the Administrative Assistant. [2019 Fall DEC].

The committee has had two Chairs, Linda Boone being the first. Members have included Krisann Owens (2 years), Linda Liebenow (2 years), Deby Levy (1 year), Helen Hisaw (4 years), and me (6 years). I want to acknowledge everyone, every one of you that has served on this committee. It has had its ups and downs and has forged through new and often time difficult questions, discussions, decisions, and determinations.

A job description/ policy for this committee, was distributed for a vote at the Spring 2023 DEC, which was tabled. As a committee, we acknowledge and appreciate the effort, however, the policy was constructed without any input from the people that have been on the committee. A revised policy has previously been distributed by Department and will be voted on at the Post Convention DEC. To every member out here in the audience; as with all policies – be they new or proposed changes, budgets, or proposed changes to our governing documents, read what comes out from Department. I know the emails can be overwhelming. Talk with your District President and ask questions, ask them to voice your questions or concerns at the DEC. Meaning, unlike here, you cannot just jump up and ask questions or speak on a topic, that must come through your District President, unless you have a voice on the floor and that would be an Officer or a Past Department President.

Hats off to the members of this year's committee, Helen Hisaw and Deby Levy, who is not here. I want to thank you for always being there to discuss and debate, because we do that, and for stepping in and stepping up when needed, whether I asked or not.

President Debra, my thanks to you for allowing me to continue as Chair these past two years. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have done so. I would also like to acknowledge the Past Department Presidents that afforded me the same gift, Krisann Owens, and Gea Clausier. Thank you very much!

President Debra: I would like to have a presentation of our new officers for the 2023-2024 year: Catherine Brockmann, Department President; Cindy Soria, Department Vice President; Krisann Owens, National Executive Committee; and Jody Marsh, Alternate National Executive Committee. I present them to you; we have a lot of new faces this year...

Newly elected President, Catherine Brockmann: Hello all, thank you for a great year as the Vice President. You helped give me confidence that this next year will be okay; that if I mess up, you'll just tell me, and we'll move on. I'm not perfect, I know that, so, I am truly blessed that you did elect me as your President and I look forward to working with you and helping to make our Department what it needs to be. Trying to get new members, trying to have happy members, members that want to do things for veterans to show that our veterans, our Children & Youth, our Communities, they all matter to us. That is why we are here, and we want to work together. Teamwork is very, very important. I don't want to go on for a long time...I'm terrified, I'm at a loss for words, I don't like public speaking, this is kind of a scary thing, it's a lot of responsibility, be kind, be gentle, say words in a kind and loving matter, even if it's a tough subject. Try not to criticize, you can give constructive criticism without criticizing, just be kind in using your words, whatever the situation is, and we'll all work through it.

Newly elected Vice President, Cindy Soria: I want to thank you all! [tears]

President Debra: We have confidence in you!

Cindy Soria: I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity once again. I am so looking forward to serving you as Vice President. As you know, membership is really in my heart! This organization cannot function without our members, and I feel we can all do it. We can do 100% again! I have a goal to get everyone engaged and I'm excited about it. I'm going to surprise you with my plan. If you need anything, call me. I am more than happy to work with Units and help you! Any time, I'm just a phone call away, let's just do this together. We can! I am looking forward to working with Catherine.

Re-elected NEC, Krisann Owens: Just to clarify a few things, I know that some of you have heard this before, some of you haven't, [a show of hands for first timers], the National Executive Committee person is complicated. I am the liaison from National to this Department, to the state. It is my job to tell everyone what's going on that might affect Department or your Units. Anything that is necessary. I serve on the Board of Directors for the Organization, so, nothing gets passed or implemented without the say so of the Board of Directors. There are representatives from every State or Country because we do the outlying Departments and Units. Most of the time, things are pretty quiet. That's the way we like them. This organization is running fairly well at the National level and it's running smoothly at the Department of Oregon. Your money and the dues that you pay to the organization are being well cared for. They don't just willy, nilly, spend money, like some folks in the past have thought. There's a lot of thought and research that goes into everything that they purchase or think will be beneficial to the organization. Before any of that happens, there is a lot of research on it. I am honored to represent the Department of Oregon and I am also honored to represent the National organization. I appreciate you electing me as the National Executive Committee person for the Department of Oregon these past few years. And thank you also electing Jody Marsh as Alternate NEC for another two years.

Re-elected Alternate NEC, Jody Marsh: My job is to have her back. My job is to keep aware of everything that's going on and to step in when she needs to be out. I would like to say that Krisann is very well respected within the National organization, and she has been on several sub and ad-hoc committees, and it was really enlightening to have her almost lose her leg last year and to go to National Convention and take her place and understand how well she is respected as well as the Department of Oregon. Krisann and I sort of share one brain, so she (I know this sounds shocking) thinks it, and I say it.

President Debra: That is all we have for today.

Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye: I just wanted to clarify, to those of you that have been to several conventions, you may have noticed that we did not do roll call and delegate counts prior to elections. We didn't forget; the reason was we were waiting to see if anyone would be nominated from the floor and then need to do a ballot. That did not happen. Then we waited to see if we needed to vote on our delegates to National Convention, and as you know we got our eight (8) delegates. It's a very time-

consuming process and if it's not needed, there is no sense to do that. So, I just want to clarify that we did not miss that, we did that intentionally to see if it was needed. I hope that everyone understands. We were prepared to do that, but it was not necessary, and we are trying to save time, be less structured, yet ready if necessary.

Poppy Display Winner, Dianne Standing: We had two displays for judging. I appointed two judges. The winner is this one [held up for winner to identify], but there is no name on it ...Yvonne Drury, Stevens-Chute Bend Unit 4. I also wanted to give Cindy Soria, Glenn Morrison Unit 70, a certificate since it is very pretty!

Introduction of Pages, President Debra: Can Cheryl Park come forward, or stand up for introduction? She is the page for District 8. And then we have Roman Trask, the young man that is always willing and able to help, he is in the SAL meeting right now, he was a Department Page this year. And we have Liesl Belda as Page for District 5.

President Debra: The quilt (donated for President's project), are there any more bids? Winner is Linda Hellickson.

Daily Attendance Award:

Secretary Linda: For those of you that have been to a few conventions; it's not a convention unless you have the rattle of the tin, and the poker chips.

President Debra: Winner is Seaside Unit 99, with all delegates present.

After we recess today, we will try the Poppy Hat Parade again for the Legion and also the Sons, so line up at the back of the room.

Announcements

The banquet is tonight at 6:30, social hour begins at 5:30. Do not leave any personal items behind in this room.

Session is in recess until 8:00 AM.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

8:00 AM **RECONVENE BUSINESS SESSION**

Call to Order - Debra Godwin, Department President

Invocation – Gregoria Hernandez, Department Chaplain

Almighty God, we are always thanking you for our daily blessings which are in abundance. And for the great meetings that we have had this weekend. May we bring reflection and wisdom to our meetings. Use our expertise in judgement, Lord, and help us direct our contributions, teach us to be great listeners and may we always have in mind Your will, for the well-being and the future of our organization, American Legion Auxiliary. Please Lord, we pray for all veterans, keep them in our hearts, in Your precious name, Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance – Cindy Soria, Americanism Chairman

Department Commander, Larry Wittmayer joined the meeting and offered the following remarks: "I would like to thank all of you for everything you do. I would like to apologize also, I guess in my 20 years in the Navy and retired as a Chief, I've got a commanding voice and sometimes I've been told I should have been a radio announcer. I sometimes come off pretty gruff and I guess that's what happened the other day, so, you have my apologies. I hope that the rest of your meetings are successful. Thank you"

Report of the Resolution Committee:

Lori Vallery presented the following **Courtesy Resolution-Department President**

Submitted by: Convention Resolution Committee

WHEREAS the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon has been led this year by Debra Godwin as Department President and

WHEREAS the Department President was required to spend many hours assisting with administrative management challenges for the second year, and

WHEREAS she continued to visit as many Units and Districts as time allowed, and

WHEREAS she was committed to providing training workshops throughout the year, for Unit members, and held eight in conjunction with DEC meetings, and

WHEREAS President Debra accomplished all this through many personal struggles, the loss of a sibling, the separation from her partner in crime, Steve, for cancer treatment, and the health of her daughter, and

WHEREAS she had Department Chaplain, Steve Shollenburg's enduring support of her dedication therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon express its appreciation to Department President, Debra Godwin, thru adoption of this resolution by a standing ovation.

[applauses, whoops, hollers]

Department President's Unit Activity Awards, President Debra Godwin

The Nancy Kirkpatrick, Past Department President award goes to N. Eugene/Santa Clara Unit 83. There were two submissions, one was disqualified as it contained events covering a span of two years. No other Unit Activity narratives were submitted.

District President's Award, President Debra Godwin

The Susie Dannen LaVoie Memorial award, no submission.

Member of the Year Award, President Debra called on Helen Hisaw, Crook County 29, to read the submission:

This is the story of one of our member's incredible passion that impacts all of us, you could say it is a national security issue, affecting anyone and everyone. An active member, she has held the positions of Vice President and Sergeant-at-Arms in her Unit. She has been involved in several American Legion Auxiliary programs, but in one she has truly opened the eyes of so many to an issue which is extremely important for the safety and well-being of all of us.

This strong, resilient, and remarkable lady is a survivor of human trafficking, a world most of us have little to no understanding of. She has put her story out publicly for all to hear, be educated by and learn the signs to look for. Even for those who think they may be knowledgeable from reading or seeing something on television, she widens your mindset, and you realize you really knew next to nothing about this world. The injustice, the pain, the wrongness, and yes, the horror of it.

In our community, she has given several training courses at churches, community centers, the police, and other first responders. She has also travelled to other Oregon communities, as well as into Idaho and California.

Known now as a Survivor Leader, she works with the non-profit organization in Bend known as 'In Our Backyard' which links arms across America in the fight against human trafficking. She tells attendees at her sessions, "One thing traffickers do not want is for any survivors to talk. The more people hear, the more aware and safer they become."

The 'In Our Backyard' team call her 'the ambassador.' Trafficked for three years, she was then taken 'on the run' for the greater part of the next three decades. Back then, in the 70's, there was little to no protection for them. They were and still are a high-commodity item for traffickers and can live the exhausting 'hunt-run-hide' syndrome.

She is now giving several live radio talk shows and podcasts in her hometown. The Emergency Management team, after hearing her broadcast, contacted 'In Our Backyard' for their stickers which are placed in convenient stores and bathrooms, and their watchlists and information for cashier and others awareness. She has also been on the radio in a neighboring town, which after hearing her broadcast,

'The Heart of (that) County Association' contacted her about partnering with them in their program at their domestic violence and sexual assault crisis center.

In the fall, she will also be the main speaker at 'In Our Backyards' annual Fall Festival Gala and Fundraiser in Bend. This gala will be titled "Survivor Artists," herself being an avid painter. One of her series of paintings is called 'The Spirit of Women.'

She is extremely excited about a new project coming up. Along with seven other survivors, all with different trafficked experiences, they will be recording their stories in West Linn, along with a training session inserted from the head of 'In Our Backyard.' Using their first names only, these tapes are scheduled to go to 80% of U.S. prisons.

This month she is also hosting a 'Freedom 5K' to support 'In Our Backyard' at the fairgrounds in her hometown. The event is called 'Lace Up to End Human Trafficking.' No doubt it will be a great success. Her future plans are to offer art classes, write a book, and hopefully an article for the American Legion Family magazines. She fears for homeless veterans, both male and female, who are being trafficked or in danger of it.

We are so proud of her dedication and bravery. Even though you are a survivor, you face long-term life effects of PTSD and mental, physical and nerve damage from the abuse. The nation is blessed to have people such as her to stand up, face the monsters, and educate us all. She encourages us all to become the watchers, notice off happenings, and report, report, report.

This member is Lilly Lawson, Harney County Unit 63, District 10.

Presentation of the pages by President Debra for recognition: Cheryl Park, Liesl Belda, and Roman Trask.

Discussion on membership recruitment: Kathi Karnowski, La Grande Unit 43: All of you know me and that I am straight forward. You understand that I am vanilla, not Neapolitan. I do membership for our Unit, and they call me 'Chatty Kathi'" and my husband tells me I talk too much, but I'm here to tell you recruitment is the thing that we all know will keep us alive and we need younger members. There was a young gal sitting next to me gambling, having a beer, we were talking, having a great time. I tell her what I'm here for and she pops up, I was a Junior member here at Bay Area 34. I was the Poppy Girl for this Unit! As we are talking, she found me on Facebook. What I'm saying is I recruit no matter where I am or what I'm doing. For some people, if you are in a dress, it turns them off. Some people are here in jeans, it turns them off. There is a member out there waiting, no matter what they are wearing, no matter what age, color, whatever, you have to just be nice, be kind as we've heard this week. I wanted you to know that one of our gals gave a potential member my phone number. She asked, has she called you? You know she won't. I told her no and explained that she probably would not as 99% of the time people tell you they want to join or will join, and they don't. But there is always that one time you get a person to step up and say here's my money and application. No matter where you are be it the Elks, a restaurant, when you're wearing our brand, just talk to them, be nice. Be yourself, and always be aware of what you are doing when you are wearing the logo. Thank you.

Cyndi Dahl, Past Department President, Unit 56 Argonne: I am also here to talk about recruiting. When I was membership chairman my husband was adjutant for the Post. When the new member cards were processed, we mailed a note inviting the wives and daughters to join. This is old school recruiting.

President Debra detailed the American Legion Riders 'Teddy Bear' ride.

Linda Schmidt, Harney County Unit 63 provided additional details about Lilly Lawson and her story. There was a question and answer period. Linda also indicated that Lilly may be coming to a Department Executive Committee meeting.

President Debra: Please return to this meeting room immediately following the Joint Installation to close our Department Convention.

Joint Installation of Department Officers for 2023-2024

Installing Officers Kevin Owens, The American Legion National Executive Committee person and Krisann Owens, American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee person, and Sons of the American

Legion Detachment Commander Rob Liebenow administered the oaths of office and pledge of service to their respective Officers before the membership.

Convention reconvened after Joint Installation by President Debra.

President Debra calls on District Page Liesl to draw for the District Baskets raffle:

District 1: Penny McCarthy, Albany Unit 10; District 2: Suzanne Hurd, Aloha Unit 104;

District 3: Margie DeMoss, N. Eugene/Santa Clara, Unit 83; District 4: Pam Martin, Williams Valley Unit 50; District 5: Barb Sumner, Portland Unit 1; District 6: Blue ticket 4629841;

District 8: Linda Holman (Cindy Soria to deliver); District 9: Anton, Bay Area Post 34; District 10: Bob Huff, Medford Post 15.

Approximate total raised for President Debra's project is \$1,592.

President's Report:

I'm a member first, always! That is my motto, and always will be, wherever I'm at. My heart is with the American Legion Auxiliary. From my first visit to the Central Oregon Veterans Village; to taking home an American Hero's lost Purple Heart; to birthday dinners, speaking engagements, trying fried chicken for the first time in my life, a rock house opening ceremony from a very small mighty Unit, showing two National Presidents our great state, and our members, will be forever tucked away in my heart. Meeting our membership throughout our state was the most important part of my two years. To be out there and seeing just how hard you all work to help our veterans, communities, and members will never be forgotten, and will always be deeply appreciated.

What an honor to have served as your Department President from 2021-2023. I have learned a ton. I have grown a lot. I've had my spankings. I've had my praises. Membership, reaching membership goals for National and achieving 100% for the first time in over 30 years. What an accomplishment. [applause] There are so many things that in the last two years that have been accomplished. This last year has been tough for me...[crying] with illness in my family, but I made a commitment as your President, and I came through. I visited, I traveled, I put over 40,000 miles on the car. When they needed me, I went. [applause] We made some changes in the last two years, some good, some not so good. But what we do what is best for our organization. And without my Officers and my PDPs, I probably would not have made it. So, to each and every one of you, thank you. [applause] I couldn't wait to take the banner down and bring it to Catherine so she could hang it on the wall. And Catherine, please take care of our organization...Once I got here and I saw my family, just like every DEC, you will be in my heart forever. Thank you for the most amazing two years of my life, I will never forget. [standing ovation]

Unfinished Business:

Presentation of gratitude and gifts to President Debra from the membership.

New Business: None

Announcements:

Post DEC will begin at 1:30 PM, promptly in this room.

Victory Party will begin at 4:00 PM at the Coos Bay Elks on Central Avenue - All are Welcome to attend.

Daily Attendance Prize – Harney County Unit 63 with all delegates present.

Krisann Owens called all PDPs to rise. "As the Senior most Department President, and I would like to include Patty Cooper as I've spoken with her a lot in the past few weeks; Madame President, what can we say, two years in a row! Fantastic job, you've inspired all of us, you have great enthusiasm and it's catching, and it was a good thing to catch. And even through the challenges of coming out of COVID and all the things that we've faced, you're still bubbly and having a great time. We should take note of how you have handled yourself in a professional manner, always caring about the next member, caring about how the organization looks, and for that to happen is just very genuine and we respect all that you've

done, and we cannot wait to include you into the Past Department President's. Thank you for a job well done, Madame President!

President Debra: "I present to you your new Department President, Catherine Brockmann."

Gregoria Hernandez from Unit 21 and Lori Vallery from Unit 57 present the Department President Banner to Suzanne Hurd and Mary Emmerich from Aloha Unit 104.

President Debra: "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."

Please render a hand Salute to the Flag of our Country.

The 2022-2023 Officers exit the dais.

President Debra: "I now declare this Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon Adjourned."

Sine Die