

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Oregon

BE THE ONE

2023-2024 Mid-Winter DEC
Zoom Meeting
January 20, 2024

BOOK OF REPORTS

Department President
Catherine Brockmann

Department President 2023-2024/ Catherine Brockmann

The last few months have continued the opportunity to be out across the state, meeting members, going to Posts I've never visited before, and even meeting national visitors. It's also been great because I've been able to talk about the ALA, why I belong, and recruit new members. We have to be able to step outside our comfort zone and talk to people we don't know.

Our Units are important to how we operate as a department, but don't lose sight that there is life beyond the Unit! Take the time to visit other Units in your district, and then branch out and visit other Units across the state. If you haven't taken the time, go to a district meeting and see what is happening. We need good people to step up and fill positions at levels above the Unit....could that be you? There are mentors available if you have an interest in any position.

Veterans Day weekend was a very moving time as I participated in different events in Eagle Point and Forest Grove. I was able to participate in a parade, feeling the love as people on the street waved and cheered as we passed them waving flags. I also helped support a table where we spoke to many veterans and family members concerning Be The One. It was very touching to hear the stories from those who served, and those who knew someone who had committed suicide. We can all help by listening and providing information to someone to get the help they need. I was also blessed to attend a recognition dinner where the focus was females. We heard from female veterans and what they encountered as they served, as well as female spouses, of males who served, and how their lives changed frequently with moving and raising children without their husbands available all the time. It is so important to listen as these people talk, to try and gain a better understanding of situations they faced, which makes them who they are today.

December saw more special events. I was able to attend the OVH The Dalles Christmas Gift Shop opening. What a fun experience. I've been to the Portland VA Gift Shop before, but this one is smaller, and I had more opportunities to talk to the veterans. As I was walking veterans around to see all the gifts available, I learned about the special people in their lives. It was fun to hear about the grandchildren, how old they were, what they liked, and then helping them find the perfect gift! An experience everyone can have if you volunteer at a gift shop during Christmas!

We also had the Department Christmas Party in December! It was a great time, with many members in attendance, close to 45. The gift exchange was entertaining, as usual, when gifts kept being stolen. The support of Aloha #104 was fabulous. They prepared the meal, served it, and then did all the cleanup. A huge thank you goes out to all who came, the unit for all they did, and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. We were able to raise \$500, between the meal and raffle, toward the President and Commander's Project.

Thank you for all you do for our organization. Remember to always be kind.

Department Vice President 2023-2024/ Cindy Soria

Happy New Year Members, I hope your Christmas and New Year Celebrations were filled with love from family and friends. As we start 2024, let's keep our vision helping veterans and their families our priority. We owe them for the sacrifices they made for us.

My husband Bob Soria and myself are now official representatives for the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon at the Roseburg VA. We will be running bingo, helping veterans in the physical therapy unit and the hospice unit. I have been working closely with Linda Liebenow helping the veterans at the Roseburg VA. In September I requested \$500 to purchase clothing and snack food for the Roseburg facility. They were very appreciative of the donations. The Roseburg VA had a Letters to Santa. A book was compiled of various gifts for the veterans at the facility to give to their family. Once the veteran chose the items they would like to give, the lists were sent to me. On December 9th Linda Liebenow and I shopped for gifts. On December 14th, my husband and I went to the Roseburg VA and wrapped the gifts to be given to the veterans. I was given \$1200 from the VA Roseburg budget. We used \$782.74 and returned \$417.26 to the department.

On the evening of December 9th Bob and I attended the department Christmas Party at Aloha 104. It was a great evening. I presented President Catherine with her Christmas book and your generous monetary gifts. A great meal was served, and a white elephant game was enjoyed by all.

President Catherine and I are having conference calls twice a month allowing us time to discuss things as needed. This has been very beneficial.

Another very important topic is our department leadership going forward. Vice-President is a very important and rewarding position. We are looking for members who are interested in moving up to this position. Traveling in this position is minimal. Besides helping the President, you would be the membership chairman. Membership requires about 2 hours a week. If you ever thought about moving up, contact President Catherine or myself.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I would love to hear from you, our members. God Bless our active military, veterans, members, and our beautiful United States of America.

Department Chaplain 2023-2024/ Gregoria Hernandez

Stevens-Chute Unit 4, President Yvonne Drury, reported that the Unit Chaplain provided a prayer for every monthly combined Post 4 and Unit 4 newsletter. Opening and closing prayers are given at every meeting.

Get well and sympathy cards are sent out as needed. Also, rides for medical appointments are available to members.

McMinnville Unit 21 Chaplain visits sick persons in hospital and in care facilities when she is able her husband accompanies her when she needs him to drive. Chaplain sends out cards when needed. Prayers are said at all meetings every month. Members keep praying for persons in need of our prayers for strength, health, and hope.

Chaplain Shirley Burkett said she and her husband continue to attend the Veteran meeting at Brookdale and informed everyone present that they were welcome to attend. The meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 10:00am. She also stated a condolence card had been sent to Past President Kathi Karnowski.

I want to thank you all for all the prayers we have shared all year. May we continue our prayer chain because we are in need of solace comfort and spiritual awareness always.

Acting Department Historian 2023-2024/ Catherine Brockmann

The year is going by so quickly! As I don't have an historian at this time, I have been following activities across the state. Keep posting things via social media....I'm watching to see all the great things being done! I have been providing reports to National as well, so they know we're working the programs and assisting where we can.

If you know your Unit has done other things not on this list, please feel free to let me know in an email, catherine.brockmann@yahoo.com. Pictures of events would also be fabulous. You can email them to me, that way I have the high-resolution version, and not the downgraded quality ones from social media.

- Be The One outreach
 - Booth at a balloon festival in the park
 - Table at Hillsboro Hops baseball games
 - Activation truck at The Grand Prix of Portland
- AEF
 - bottles & can money donated to AEF
- Americanism
 - Gave out Star-Spangled Kids kits to deserving Units working the program
 - Made blankets for Police officers to have for emergency situations
 - Flags put out on the highway for 4th of July and 9/11
- Children & Youth
 - Money to elementary schools for school supplies and lunches
 - Money donated for a boy to attend the Law Enforcement Career Camp
 - Working with an all-girl Boy Scout Troop
 - Made hats for school children
 - Halloween parties, gift bags, coloring books/crayons
 - Shriner's Hospital donation
- Community Service
 - Donations for senior center meals
 - Donations to Christy Young Memorial Fund to help the elderly in the community
- Education & Scholarship
 - \$1500 awarded in scholarships
- Legislative
 - Shared a newsletter with all members concerning legislative alerts and signing up for them.
 - Had links for legislative alerts added to our Oregon website
- National Security
 - Money for National Guard members in need (fuel to get home, groceries, housing needs)
- VA&R
 - Christmas Gift Shops happened at the Portland VA and the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles
 - Support provided to the Transplant Unit – food purchases made and delivered
 - Lunches for the homeless
 - Quilts made and taken to the VA
 - Booth at a local stand-down
 - Welcome home for Honor Flight
 - Coupons sent overseas to be used at commissaries

District #1 President 2023-2024 / Dianne Standing

District 1 meant on September 16 in Astoria and December 16 in Tigard. The topics we discussed were.

- Suicide prevention and Be the One
- Chain of command when there is a problem within your Units.
- Choosing responsible leaders in our Units.
- Yearly audits
- Membership and how it works.
- Wreaths across America
- One of our members stated that they have several members that are 50+ years, we discussed how we could honor those members.
- We have a new Chaplin, and she is such a blessing, Joanne Ostlund. We had some guest speakers:
 - Linda Liebenow, who spoke about the VA&R
 - Connie Smith, who spoke about Girls State
 - Sheri Russell, who spoke about Americanism.

We closed with something Krisann shared at DEC in Klamath Falls. How do you look at the American Legion Auxiliary?

- ✓ Duty of Obedience
- ✓ Ready and willing to follow the mission.
- ✓ Loyalty and do what is right we are all adults.
- ✓ Silence gives consent.
- ✓ Have fun and take care of our organization.

Aloha #104: In October we were still closed for part of the month due to our cooler repair. We held a tailgate party for re-opening and to kick off football. We hosted our annual Halloween Party for the kids on the 28th. We had games, art projects and snacks for the kids. For Auxiliary's Wednesday dinner special we cooked Shepard's Pie. Served approximately 35 meals. Total volunteer hours for October were 76 Hours.

Auxiliary Dinner this month was Hot Pastrami Sandwiches, and it was a HUGE hit. Everyone said how good they were. We held a free breakfast for Veterans-on-Veterans Day. Auxiliary held our annual Holiday Bazaar which went well. We also had a Harvest Dinner for our members. Total volunteer hours for November were 100 Hours. The Auxiliary Dinner this month was Chicken Pot Pie Casserole. We hosted a Christmas party for our members and a gift exchange, we had approximately 38 people participate in the gift exchange. We had a potluck as well that day. On the 23rd we held our children's Christmas Party. This was the best one yet, we had a Santa, Ms. Claus as well as an elf. We had a donation of toys that we were able to wrap and have Santa hand out to the kids. A member read The Night Before Christmas right before Santa entered the room. Lots of crafts and snacks and games for the kids to play. Fun was had by all. Total volunteer hours for December were the highest at 145 hours.

Argonne #56: In October we participated in the annual downtown trick or treat event the City of Sherwood puts on. On the second Tuesday we hosted a taco feed where all profits go towards our girl's state fund.

In November on Veterans Day our post hosted a Veterans Day spaghetti dinner free to veterans and their families. The ALA was responsible for cooking and serving dinner. The day before the City of Sherwood hosted the annual Veterans Day ceremony honoring veterans in our community. Auxiliary members were there passing out poppies and helping the Legion with their table.

In December we were getting ready for our annual Auxiliary giving tree. We helped 24 families, 83 children in total. We also partnered with Sherwood Elks who provided nonperishable and perishable foods to each family.

Banks #90: Most of this period focused on the celebration and sharing during the holidays. We continued to support the Post by hosting 1-2 of the weekly community Bingo nights per month and supplied two gift cards to use as holiday prizes. We decorated the Post for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and partnered with the Post for our annual Christmas Dinner both with food prep and in the purchase of multiple door prizes. We donated \$300 to the 3 local veteran homes/hospitals, money toward the Commander's/President's fund, and for the first time bought a wreath through the Wreaths Across America program. During the community's Christmas Light Parade, we took pictures of the Post carrying the flag and shared them with the Post. On the business side, we reviewed our 2024 activity calendar, acquired a new member, and officially submitted a change to our unit's name with the Department so that it matches the post.

Cannon Beach #168: This year we are continuing our 'Bake-less Bake Sale' fundraiser. It has proven to be more successful than the regular bake sale we had in conjunction with our summer Craft Faire. In addition, there is a small craft fair on the 3rd Saturday of each month through the winter. Our local artists are enjoying seeing the weekend visitors in an indoor setting. Our Craft Faire was a success this summer and we will be continuing with the Garage Sale and Craft Faire next year. No dates have been set yet. We are currently working on the Christmas Basket Program. We restarted our Sunday Breakfast in October, but due to a shortage of volunteers it will not be continued until January. Bunco has also been started up again.

Clatsop #12: Let me get started by saying that our court date has changed once again from December 26th until February 13th. October, we had a meatloaf dinner which went off without a hitch. November, we had a zoom VSO meeting which was rather interesting, quite a bit for local things to do. We also decorated the legion for Christmas. His sons had a veterans brunch which brought in a lot of veterans which was very nice I sat and visited with a few of them which set up to themselves that come to find out they are from one of our local rehab centers and it's a veterans only rehab center and come and find out there and dire need of things, clothes shoes games books etc. so we took up a donation and we took them \$350 for the \$25 gift cards and a bunch of clothing games and shoes and also books. As of such we have adopted them as our local family as it would be. So, we are there in any capacity that we were able to help. December, we had a craft bake sale and it went off very well. It was during bingo, and it was a hit so that's something we plan on doing more often. Our dinner for December was stew, it also went very well. Throughout the course of the year the auxiliary has been hosting quite a bit of the bingo games calling taking care of the money setting up what have you, so we've been getting a third of the money which is kind of nice to build up our cash flow again. Mikki took care of all the information that we needed for our insurance. It was sent in it was accepted they're reviewing it now. We should know soon whether they're going to reimburse us, so when that happens, I'll let you know. Memberships are a little bit better than they were last year I've got a little bit better handle on it. We have at least seven new members. We look forward to next year hopefully things will keep going as smooth as they are now that we kind of have a better idea what we're doing, and my letters should be coming monthly now Thank you very much You have a wonderful new year!

Hillsboro #6: A member of Hillsboro Unit 6 helped man the Legion Family booth at Hillsboro's Saturday market the first Saturday in October alongside our Post's Vice Commander. Todd Russell. We also assist with Hamburger/Hot Dog nights at the post on the first Saturday of the month. Our poppy distributions

started October 20th and ran through November 11th at Ace Hardware in Hillsboro. Auxiliary and Legion Members both greeted the public and distributed poppies. Overall, we received \$628.54 donations over four weekends. We received more donations on days when a Legion member was present. November was a tough month for our Unit. We lost two active members, Debra Ashe, and Carole Hockenbarger, within a few weeks. Our Unit is deeply saddened at their passing. We draped our charter in both November and December to honor them and their service to veterans. Our Unit helped with the Early Bird dinner in November. Linda and Rob Liebenow cooked an excellent meal of honey-glazed chicken, orzo, and green beans. We also had brownie ice cream sundaes for dessert. Legion Family leadership served, and post members assisted in the cleanup. It was so much fun working as a Legion Family Team. For December, our Unit is also assisting with the annual Memorial Dinner. We won't be cooking this year, so our focus will be on prepping tables for dinner and doing cleanup following the meal.

Lois Larsen #68: As this year ends and 2024 is just a few weeks away our auxiliary members have been busy this past year would be an understatement. We have added 2 new members to our roster and many veterans have been served. The Auxiliary along with Piercing Arrow Private School students put out 2,279 flags the week of Veterans Day around Clatskanie, Oregon and ended at Copes Park to honor our veterans that were deceased and living! We were able to host our Veterans dinner in November with our District 1 President, Diane Standing and her Vice President, Sherri Russell in attendance. In my wildest dreams I never thought about getting a quit of honor from my commander and I was presented a quilt for my service to my veterans and my community. I was humbled but was so happy to receive such an honorable quilt. I am so proud of my members that cooked and served dinner to 75 veterans and their families. The students at Piercing Arrow Private School set up the hall and cleaned up after the evening came to an end. The Auxiliary honored our commander Jerry Simmons for his 10 plus years of service to our post. We also honored Ronald Mohning, 97 years old and a WWII veteran and 54-year member! It was a night of celebration for us all. We had only 2 fundraisers this year, but the outcome makes it worth all the hard work. We rent out tables at our holiday bazaar and have a bazaar just before Thanksgiving and the last one the 2nd weekend in December. We were able to have a Santa at both events which drew so many families with children. We ended our year with a member Margie Tuomi's retirement party and our Christmas party all in one. We had a gift exchange and goodies to eat. We sang some Christmas songs but of course we had to end with God Bless America. Our attendance at meetings isn't very many so we decided to change it up a bit and hold the first meeting of the new year during the day and hopefully will attract more members. I'm so proud of my unit and the veterans that they serve. They are an amazing group of ladies that are dedicated to serving our veterans. They go the extra mile every time they are given an opportunity to serve. In closing, I thank the ALA organization and God every day for this amazing privilege I must serve my community and serve my veterans. This wouldn't be possible if it weren't for this amazing organization and becoming an ALA member!

Seaside #99: September was our first meeting on the 21st according to ritual. All officers were present, unfortunately no members at large attended. We heard from President Beverly that she was disappointed that there were not any training/learning opportunities at the National Convention. This was a departure from previous conventions. Planning began for Poppy distribution at Safeway for November 9-11 at Safeway. Membership Chair, Beverly Neubecker reported processing renewals and new members. We had one member that reported volunteer hours for Community Service, as she attended the Seaside Chamber of Commerce meetings. We have many members volunteering in the Community. Our membership chair reported that we have transmitted 60 members to Depart Volunteer hours reported were 127.5 as follows: Community Service (72) with 7 members; VA&R (46.5) by 8 members; Legislative (9) by 2 members We distributed poppies, supported the Early Bird Dinner, and began preparations for Toys for Tots. December, we actively support Toys for Tots with many members

helping with toy collection throughout the county. Sorting and counting toys. Separating the toys for Jewel, Cannon Beach, Seaside, Warrenton, and Astoria/Knapapa.

Tigard #158: Tigard Unit 158 continues our regular duties: We serve dinner at the Post on the 2nd Saturday of each month (usually earning from \$350 to \$400) and help with yardwork at the Post on the last Sunday of each month. We have members assist the Legion in serving food & beverages at the Post 6 days per week and with the "Vittles for Veterans" program which gets surplus food from grocery stores to local pantries, shelters, and low-income multi-family housing 3 days per week. Members regularly donate their bottles & cans to our Bottle Drop account. In November we held a one-day Holiday Bazaar (earning around \$750) and provided volunteers for a day to assist with shopping & wrapping gifts plus donations of \$1,910 worth of gifts to the Portland VA Medical Center Christmas Gift Shop. In December members assisted the Legion with shopping for groceries and gift cards and with the assembly of Holiday Baskets for just under 100 low-income families plus several veterans living in subsidized housing. In November & December some of our members have been working to gather toiletries, underwear, socks, hats & packaged snacks to deliver to the Salvation Army's Veterans & Family Center in Beaverton.

Washington #2: In October, the Legion and the Auxiliary passed out candy, apples, painted rocks and coloring books at our annual Trick or Treat Day. In November we worked with the Legion at a Veterans Stand down in Hillsboro, Jennings McCall Assisted living, Veteran dinner at the Elks, Christmas party/Vendors with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and passed out military painted rocks at the VA Hospital in Portland. In December, we participated in the Christmas Parade, had a gift wrap day for our military family, took the gifts to our family and sent money in for Wreaths across America. We also participated in the wreath auction in Forest Grove.

District #2 President 2023-2024 / Gregoria Hernandez

Unit 21: Christmas Basket Project is on the way several agencies have been contacted notifying them of the Auxiliary program. The local paper was contacted, and flyers are posted at the Legion. The Food/Toy barrels are ready for donations. The scouts brought the canned food they had collected, and Hutch's Adventures will be contributing fresh produce. Greens Creations Bring wreath forms, ribbon, Santa hats and décor. About 80 need to be stuffed so Veterans' Stocking shopping. Christmas Basket organizing day and Stocking Stuffing Toy shopping for Christmas baskets.

Big thank you.

- Carol Doege for knitting and donating 648 hats to veterans.
- Dianne Heaton and Lynn Slater for a "FANOMINAL" job on the Veterans Day coloring contest.
- Tracy Wittrock for her attendance to the meeting after a long time off. She expressed her delight with the Veterans Day Parade and the dinner. 200 dinners were served. 96 veterans enjoyed the meal for free.

Service Officer Carol Doege is staying connected with the various care facilities and at this time 80 or more Christmas stockings will be needed. Poppy Chair Report: She is working to see where we can do more distributing of poppies. Auxiliary Prime Rib night KP duty.

SAL Pearl Harbor Breakfast Auxiliary helped. Greens Creations Bring wreath forms, ribbon, Santa hats and décor. Toy shopping for Christmas baskets

Unit 89: Unit 89 has had 3 successful events since September. On Halloween he sponsored a stop on the Candy Trail (Mt Angel's trick or treat with downtown merchants). We set up in the Legion Hall parking lot, gave out treats and Americanism coloring books, stickers, and candy. We had nearly 80 trick

or treaters stop by. (Mind you we are about 6 blocks from "downtown", but many hit us up on their way downtown).

Then in November we had our Poinsettia/Christmas cactus fundraiser sale. We sold 30 plants of various sizes and netted \$286.35 thanks to a \$200 cash donation. Then right on the heels of that fundraiser we worked with the Post at their annual fundraiser (Turkey Shoot) where we sponsored a raffle and sold cookies. This was an inaugural year for this, and we were quite happy with the outcome. We had 2 nice baskets donated, several hats from Tiny's Tavern where the event was held, 10 pies and 2 gorgeous poinsettias donated. We ended up netting \$448. Next year we will have a raffle every half hour, and work on getting more items donated.

Finally, we are nearing the end of replacing the Free Little Library that we sponsor. Our old one had fallen into disrepair, and we hope to have the new one in place by year's end. Our goal is to have a variety of books on the bottom shelf and on the top shelf have items promoting Americanism.

District #3 President 2023-2024 / Roberta Peebler

District 3 held their last District meeting in Brownsville at Post 184.

All the units in District 3 have been busy and providing for our Veterans while working every day on membership. At the time of this report, we have one goal unit. Congratulations Travis Moothart Unit #184. I know the holidays have been a busy time for us, I had only two reports turned in for the Book of Reports. Albany Unit #10 and Brownsville Unit #184. Thank you.

ALBANY UNIT 10: Nine members volunteer to provide meals for 3-5 Veterans every day of the week, except for days the Post may be closed. Collectively they have over 1,147 hours in service to our Post. In September, the Unit members cooked and served the meal following the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony which takes place at the Linn County Courthouse.

Michelle Wilkinson contacted the local S.W.A.R.M. group from the local high schools. As a result, they hosted a fundraiser at the Post which helped them raise funds for their upcoming projects. Their supervisor made some awesome enchiladas which they sold "to go" and did well. We hope to do this with them again in the coming months. (est. 15 hours Children & Youth).

In November Michelle, Karen, and Mari assisted in putting together military wedding for a USMC boot. As a result, we gained a new member and the Post gained two.

Unit President Penny McCarthy, I was again requested to produce the parade certificates for the winning entries for the Veterans Day Parade.

Fall Sparkle Bazaar WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. In December we worked with our Post to provide Christmas gifts for Mercy House families, Sunrise Elementary Title 1 school and resident families in a local recovery program. This is a change from the past few years when the Post held a community wide toy handout at the Heritage Mall. This change has been well received. The Unit members are coordinating the event, and the Post is helping with funding from their Children's Christmas Fund.

Unit #184 Travis Moothart: Unit 184 is a very active Unit working alongside the Legion family and community. The sewing group and Quilts of Valor are active and have made many presentations. The quilts are beautiful. The Unit helped and worked at the community haunted house, prepared meals and worked at the museum. Helped with the Junior Parade in Brownsville. They are involved in many community projects.

Thank you to all the Unit members in District 3 for giving me encouragement and support this term.

District # 4 President 2023-2024 / Patsy Sakraida

Of the 6 Units in District 4, only 3 are now active. I am so proud of these Units and consider myself lucky to be a part of the work being done for the veterans and their families.

- Glenn Morrison #70 — Closed as of Fall DEC.
- Grants Pass #28 — Closed as of Fall DEC.
- Malin #84 — This Unit is pretty inactive, and I guess this has been the case for some time. I talked to Heidi Cottingham last month and she indicated that Jennifer Smith and herself are the only active members. Heidi has moved to Keno, which is 35 miles from Malin. At this time, Dec. 19th, 2023, there have not been any dues paid for 2024 by any of the 16 members of this Unit. By the way Heidi told me she is very interested in Girls State and youth so I hope she will stay active in some capacity.
- KLAMATH FALLS #8 — This is one of the very active Units and work with the Legion as a family. They work with the veterans, (walk-ins) and make them welcome. They serve them breakfast and lunch, and on Veteran's Day they served 75 to 90 vets FREE. The members lay wreaths at the Veteran's Memorial. This American Legion Post owns it's building, and the Auxiliary have helped with a lot of the remodeling, including a large sum of money donated to the Legion for a new roof. They hold fundraisers, including Pancake Breakfasts and Wine tasting to make money for the maintenance of the building. They have about 40 members and recently had 8 or 9 new members.
- MEDFORD #15 — This Unit meets in the VFW HALL and has not been very active this Winter. One of their big projects is to distribute to the Veterans on Easter, the socks, and undergarments that they have collected all year. They make and sell wreaths with the proceeds going to their Unit. Also, members make Christmas baskets that are taken to the National Guard Armory, for the military and their families.
- WILLIAMS #50 — My home Unit has been very active this month making and selling wreaths. The Legion Family; Sons and Auxiliary made about 50 or more wreaths and sold most of them the following week at 4 different venues around Murphy/Grants Pass area. While set up at each location we distributed Poppies and educated the public on the meaning of the Poppy and how it all came about. We held our Christmas Dinner and Awards Banquet the middle of December and honored the Veterans and the members who have worked so hard to make our Post a progressive, community serving entity. Jennifer Vetter, our Auxiliary President was voted "Firefighter of the Year" by the Legion and her name will be submitted to Department for 2024. She has worked so hard and wore many hats to gain this honor. Illinois Valley Fire Department recently awarded her Firefighter of the Year. She is also an EMT. We will begin, again, our first Saturday of the month "Bingo" for the community as a fundraiser. Our building has been renovated but there is still a lot to do. Although we have done a lot, we still need our kitchen to be a little more usable. At bingo we serve hamburger and hotdog meals, smoothies, and popcorn. Everyone loves it, but as I mentioned, the kitchen is a challenge. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, and we meet together as a family with potluck, announcements, and then the Auxiliary meets upstairs where we enjoy a large room newly renovated. Our Unit collects items for the Dom and takes them out to White City about every two months. For Halloween we bagged candy for the veterans and for "Trunk or Treat" at the Williams Fire Station.

DISTRICT #4 MEETING November 18TH, 2023: Only 2 of our Units were represented, but we had a very good organizational meeting. Bonnie Smith has agreed to be Chaplin, she is also District 4 Vice President. Ruby Starr has agreed to again be secretary and took notes for the meeting. Her mother, Ruby Taylor is President of Medford Unit #15 and gave a report on what they have been doing. Jenny Vetter, President of Unit #50, took time out of her busy schedule and gave a report on Williams

Auxiliary. Cindy Soria Dept. VP and Membership chair gave a report on the membership goals and how we stand in the state. This meeting was held at American Legion Post 28, in conjunction with the Legion Meeting, both at 1 pm. The next meeting will be on the ZOOM, on January 27th, 2024.

District #5 President 2023-2024 / Ginny Williams

District #6 President 2023-2024 / Maggie LaMount

I attended the meeting on 10/10 at Milton-Freewater Unit 24 to install their elected officers. I plan to do more visits in the spring.

Listed below are things the Units have been busy with since the fall DEC report. Units are meeting and planning events. Their Unit reports are:

- Athena Unit #130 - I talked with Unit President Linda Pickard. Athena says they are done with the Post remodel and ready to start having regular meetings. They are planning to do Wreath Across America for all Veterans in the local cemetery, they served breakfast for Hodaka Day. A motorcycle that was made with a joint Japanese effort started in Athena; members come from all over the world. They participated in the City Night Out Event. They are working on increasing their membership, which is difficult as they are in a small town. They gave a donation to the Walla Walla VA and provided household items to a Veteran.
- Ione Unit #95 – September - First meeting of new business year, Membership drive; October - Continue membership drive, Prepared for craft bazaar, Ordered poppies; November - Held annual Craft Bazaar, had turkey bingo as a fund raiser, had a Veterans' Day Program and burned worn out and damaged flags; December - At meeting tomorrow will plan for District 6 meeting on December 16, Will prepare Christmas gifts for 2 children from Ione and 2 children from Heppner, Will host District 6 December meeting and provide a luncheon meal
- George St. Denis Unit 140 – I have not been to catch up with her so far. I sent an email, texted, and called Marjorie Wanaka. I will send a letter in January.
- Hermiston Unit 37 - In October they had their annual yard sale, this year in the Ace parking lot. Many of the items were from Cathy Stolz's property along with donated items by members and other donors. They made over \$3200. (A few years ago, the treasurer let things slide and they lost their+ tax-exempt status, and it has been a bear getting it back. This week they heard from the man doing the work and he needs to know how many hours the officers spend per week working on their "stuff". The treasurer and President do the most and that may be an hour a week. They expect to have to pay about \$2000. Things fell apart when some officers suddenly quit, and Cathy became president.) In November they held the annual baked potato bar with approximately 35 in attendance. And on December 9th their Christmas Dinner will be held. (The President will not be in attendance and will be with the high school choirs and Eastern Oregon Chorale doing The Messiah rehearsal in Pendleton.) At each of their meetings they provide some sort of snack for the Legion. At their last meeting, a friend, Angelina Wicks, who has a son in the USMC, had contacted them and wanted to bring the snacks to show her appreciation. They were a delicious assortment of cookies and dipped pretzels.
- La Grande Unit 43 - Their Fall Bazaar, held October 28, 2023, had 433 hours donated by members, 643 miles driven by members, \$599 spent on supplies, and they took in \$355 for table rentals and \$710.11 on the bake sale and \$30 in donations for a total of \$1095.11. A Legionnaire member bought and cooked a Chicken Fried Chicken dinner on October 21st. With the Auxiliary help they made around \$800 with about 50 meals served. November 11th, they served around 80 Veterans and Legion Family members. The turnout was not as high as usual but were there to serve any that

came. The Post and Legion Family continues to struggle for volunteers, and they maintain a core group that keeps the doors open and activities going on. The yearly budget passed at the September meeting, so they were able to send donations out in October. The National Commander of The American Legion Daniel Seehafer, visited on October 16th, with the Department President and Commander in attendance. The Legion Family took them to dinner at a local restaurant. Legion Family members were able to hear Commander Seehafer speak at The Post. Their Unit is dark in January and February, and we do not have any plans for December.

- Milton-Freewater Unit 24 - They hosted the DAV district meeting. They participated in the Veterans Day parade giving Auxiliary handouts to try to get members, also flags, color books and comic books about the flag to the kids. They mailed Thank you cards to 25 veterans for Veterans Day.

Unit that are of concern are:

1. Athena Unit 130 is a concern as we have not been able to attend a Unit meeting for years. Now that construction remodel is complete, I plan to attend a meeting in the Spring.
2. Geo. St. Denis Unit 140 does not have 10 members, and no correspondence has been received.

District #7 President 2023-2024 / Vacant

District #8 President 2023-2024/ Trudie McGriff

The units in our district have been quite busy. This quarter we have done the following:

- Working on membership numbers (they are doing a great job!),
- Post breakfasts,
- Visiting people in assisted living,
- Post dinners,
- Post maintenance (time as well as donations),
- 150's annual garage sale,
- Donate gifts to families at Camp Withycombe and the Air National Guard base,
- Help set up the VA Gift Shop,
- Shopping for gifts for various donations,
- Donate socks to Fort Kennedy,
- Hosted a Meet & Greet,
- Weekly meals,
- Oktoberfest event,
- Y East Transitional Center dinners,
- Kid's parties (Halloween & Christmas),
- Various monetary donations for Veterans and Boy Scouts, among others,
- Monthly luncheon for Vietnam/POW veterans.

District #9 President 2023-2024 / Frankie Trask

District #10 President 2023-2024 / Linda Schmidt

Units have been working at getting their membership trucks loaded but have had a few shorter deliveries lately, partly due to weather conditions....and perhaps a little "let's wait until after the busy holiday season." 😊

- Ellis Tracy #77 (John Day)- reports supporting the local law enforcement's school safety program again this year. They gave to the Tree of Joy and Home Health Hospice. Through their Christie Young

Memorial fund, and using the Post Home as a collection center, they collected baskets and food for the elderly. They purchased military placemats which they donated to the Senior Center for their two days of sponsored Veteran Day luncheons. Christmas Gift bags were given to four veterans at their Valley View Care facility. With the passing of long-time Unit President Ruth Harris, they have been reorganizing the Unit; several items have been lost or misplaced with Ruth's passing.

- Harney County Unit #63 (Burns)- participated in a Halloween Trunk or Treat at the Elks, as well as other youth programs such as Lacrosse, Scouts, and Young Life to name a few. 534 hours and \$3,475 were reported for Community Service projects such as monthly Post yard sales, Tree of Joy, acts of kindness for elderly, Hunger Bags, Save-a-Stray, Shriner's, Jewish Relief Fund, and other organizations. VA&R programs included items totaling over \$2,000 being sent to the White City SORCC. Lap robes were given to the Portland Gift Shop. A Veterans Day schools' program was attended, and a co-hosted Veterans Day dinner was later held at the Elks. The Unit also co-hosted a Christmas party/dinner for veterans and families at the Chamber Community Rooms. We were honored to have District 10 Commander Jim Jerome and wife Irene attend.

- Ontario Unit #67 -held a Trunk or Treat with over 400 children and parents attending. Candy, books, hats, and coats were given out and a dinner was held in appreciation for the volunteers. They helped plan and participated in the Veterans Day Parade, passing out goody bags on the parade route. Treats were made and presented to the First Responders to give children and the homeless. A winter coat was presented to a veteran in need. Members co-hosted a Christmas Dinner for all veterans, First Responders, and families. \$500 was presented in appreciation to the Police, Firemen, and the local service officer. I was fortunate to be able to attend this event. The Unit also participates in monthly Hall Association meetings and a Veterans Yoga Program. Prairie #106 -reported Children & Youth activities such as their weekly readings with the local school students under the Smart Reading program. They also presented all their 3rd grade students with their own personal dictionaries, an event they do annually. Unit members report attending a Veterans Day program at the Elks and hosting a free luncheon afterwards for all veterans and their families. They also hosted their yearly 'Christmas on the Prairie' event where they sell homemade items and also rent out tables for other participating vendors. It is a huge success every year.

We may be small units, but I am so proud of all of us for what we can accomplish, no matter how small. As William Burke once said, "*Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.*" You rock District 10 members!

Americanism Chairman 2023-2024 / Sheri Russell

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I have received reports from 6 units in the state of Oregon. One unit I could put together some of what they did from their Facebook page.

Washington Unit 2 - We say the Pledge of Allegiance at all meetings, we host rock painting parties several times/months, such as American flags, patriotic images, and phrases. We participated in the Hillsboro July 4th parade and handed out flags along with coloring books. Our post/unit/boy scout troop placed all the flags for the 9/11 ceremony. We had a flag burning ceremony with our scout troop. On 10/28, we passed our American flag key chains, America the Beautiful coloring books, legion comic books and flag stickers for Halloween. On 10/25 we had an open house and gave out America the Beautiful coloring books to kids and we had a float decorated with American flags, etc. for the Forest Grove light parade on 12/2. We received a Star-Spangled Kids kit.

Steven-Chute Unit 4 - Practice respect for the flag at all meetings/gatherings

Hillsboro Unit 6 – Helped with American Legion baseball tournaments, handed out small flags to kids and regular flags to any adult asking for one at the Hillsboro Saturday Market, performed a flag retirement. Ceremony at a local nursing home. They are receiving a Star-Spangled kids kit from me.

Clatsop Unit 12 – had nothing to report.

Louise Larsen Unit 68 - Had private school students color place mats for veterans' dinner with patriotic drawings. I did not get a report but was at this dinner and wanted to give them credit.

Mt. Angel, Unit 89 - The first unit to accept my Star-Spangled Kids kit challenge. Did a candy crawl for Halloween and passed out the Halloween coloring books along with an American flag key chain and sticker along with candy.

Carlton Unit 173 - Replaced their flags at their post. Posted the flags around town for all the holidays. I followed them on Facebook and got this information.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman 2023 -2024 / Cyndi Dahl

Chairmanship Coordinator Chairman 2023 -2024 / Karol Satterfield

Children & Youth Chairman 2023-204 / Angie McKinney

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We had several Units hold Tailgate Trick or Treat parties for Halloween which went really well. Oregon had several Units hold Breakfast with Santa in their Post homes. One Unit had 30 children from Military deployed families for a special lunch with Santa and had their pictures taken with Santa and received gifts as each Unit member shopped for a different child to make sure they got what they wanted from a wishing tree they had set up.

A few Units used Juniors to help distribute Wreaths Across America to honor our military who had passed away.

One Unit collected over \$10,740.00 worth of toys, clothing, jewelry, and other needed items for the children of the deployed military at our local Camp Withycombe. They got to be there as the items were distributed to the families and see the excitement on the faces of the loved ones. It was a very rewarding experience to see how happy we had made these families. They had up their donations by almost \$4,000 over last year.

Several Units threw Christmas parties for their Units children and invited other Units to bring their youth over to take part in the fun and get a chance to sit on Santa's lap.

We have had one Unit who was awarded a Youth Hero Award which I have reported on and had posted to our Facebook page. We have two other Units that are working on awarding this award. They are asking if submitting for either the Youth Hero or the Good Deeds Award that you do it electronically. This is the last year that they will accept mailed in applications as everything will be going electronic next year.

As you can see, Oregon has a running start on doing various things to support the youth in need in our great state of Oregon.

National is asking that you send pictures of what you are doing for Children & Youth. If you use your phone for these pictures, please use the choice actual size so they can get a good clear picture. Please let me know if you do anything special with the children in your area so I can report it on the National Facebook page as they are looking for things to be reported to keep the page current.

Community Service Chairman 2023 -2024 / Margie DeMoss

Education & Scholarship Chairman 2023-2024/ Suzanne Driver

Contact information: 541 979-2326 Cell/541-926-5567 Home / Beaver1940@aol.com

The Education and Scholarship Bulletin for 2023-2024 was sent to all Units in Oregon. The bulletin highlights information about Scholarships, Literacy, Give 10 to Education, and other programs supported by the Auxiliary. e.g., Veterans in the Classroom, Educating the Children of the men and women of the National Guard, and Supporting American Legion Education Programs.

Mid-Year reports were received from one unit in Oregon. Contact was made with their local schools to see what would be needed for this year's scholarship program would be needed. Information on The Children of Warriors Scholarship Program was also provided. Last year's award recipient was submitted or verified registration information and a check has been issued for one-third of the amount of the award.

This unit purchased and distributed school supplies to the local schools and groups serving children in their community.

Girls State Chairman 2023-2024 / Connie R. Smith

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Hello ALA Members. Thank you for your hard work to help re-establish and plan for a successful 2024 Girls State Session. I am working hard to provide your unit's candidates with a memorable and educational week of fun, camaraderie with other girls from the entire state as we learn together how to be an active civic-minded citizen. We hope to instill a love for the American system of Oregon government.

Girls State will be held in conjunction with Oregon Boys State on the campus of Oregon State University, June 23 through June 29, 2024. The leaders of the Boys State session and I have been busy planning for a great week for both sessions. We will be headquartered in Sackett Hall, with nearby accommodations for guest speakers and our newly elected GS Governor Inauguration I Saturday, June 29th.

I have toured the campus accommodations, and we will have dining hall and other facilities close by. Fred Broadwater and I are inviting city mayors, county commissioners from throughout the state to give our citizen, boys and girls, an overview of how our state officials operate in their official capacities. We are also inviting Ms. Kotek, Oregon Governor, and Ms. Griffin-Valade, Secretary of State to give a keynote speech.

All necessary documentation will be available to your Unit Girls State Chairmen on the Oregon ALA website as well as provided by email from the office in Wilsonville. Please call me with any questions or if I can help with your successful 2024 recruitment of citizens.

Junior Activities Chairman 2023-2024 / Vacant

Leadership Chairman 2023-2024/ Vacant

Legislative Chairman 2023-2024/ Tracy Peets

Contact information: 541-778-0115 / tracy.peets@att.net

- Attended one national Legislative Zoom Meeting – Oct 12. Vol Hours: 1
- Responded to four calls to action from American Legion Grassroots Legislative Action Center. Vol Hours: 0.75
 - Pay our Troops (in event of government shutdown)
 - Afghan Adjustment Act
 - Love Lives On: Gold Star Spouses
 - GUARD Act (Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act)
- Received following responses from Oregon Legislators:
 - Senator Merkley – five
 - Senator Wyden – two
 - Representative Bonamici – six
 - Representative Chavez-DeRemer – two
- Signed up and are receiving newsletters from Senator Merkley and Representative Chavez-DeRemer.
- Requested Department send out one Legislative Bulletin to membership in late September and shared a legislative newsletter from Central Division Chair, Cathie Goth.
- Total hours spent on legislative activities across units reporting: 4.0 hours.

Mid-Year Reports from Units

- I received four reports Units with two indicating they had no report. Much thanks for letting me know.
- Washington Post 2 has a new legislative chair, Juanita Lint, and they have eight-unit members signed up for Voter Voice and they are responding to call for action. In addition, Juanita went to the State Capital to listen to State Legislators.

Membership Chairman 2023-2024/ Cindy Soria

Contact information: 541-787-0462 / soriacynthi56@gmail.com

Hello ALA Truckers

We are halfway through our year. It has been rough roads on the interstate. Our cargo is not getting loaded as quickly as we need. We only had 1 eligible 100% unit and that is Travis Moothart Unit 184!!! Congratulations! Job Well Done!!! \$100 is on its way. District President Bobbi Peebler will receive a \$25 Gift Card to emblem sales. We had 8 units that made the 75%+ incentive. Congratulations to Washington Unit 2. You are amazing. Your \$50 is on its way.

-District Presidents what can we do to get renewals paid and new members. This organization cannot survive without our members. Our veterans count on us to be there for them. Over the next few weeks, I will be contacting you to see how I can help with these units. I need your feedback on what the issues are. I know we all are concerned about membership. I appreciate all of what you are doing, and I want to help.

Our next incentive goals are as follows:

- Units making 100% by May 31, 2024, will be in a drawing for \$100. The District President of the winning unit will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales.
- Units signing up 10 new members by May 31, 2024, will be entered into a drawing for \$75. The District President of that unit will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales.
- The District President with 100% District goal and the highest percentage by May 31, 2024, will receive a \$50 gift card to Emblem Sales.
- The District President with 100% District goal and second highest percentage by May 31, 2024, will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales.

Let's load our trucks and convoy up the interstate to 100% Membership.

National Security 2023-2024 / Yvonne Drury

Poppies & Posters Chairman 2023-2024 /Dianne Standing

Contact information: 508-688-4068 / diann2911@hotmail.com

Greetings to everyone and Happy New Year 2024! This year has brought me great pleasure working with the poppy program again. We are still reaching out to our Veterans here in Forest Grove painting rocks to distribute to them. We want to continue encouraging them and providing for their needs. This is a passion we all share and that is why we are all here. How many of us made decorations over the holidays out of poppies, how many of us contributed to any of the Veteran Homes, maybe there were a few that made Poppy Cards for our Veterans in nursing homes. There were a few that had cans and poppies at local businesses.

Please make sure you have ordered your poppies; this should have been done in the fall. Contact me if you have any questions about where to order.

In the reports that I received, many of you passed out Poppies on Veterans Day, Poppies are in some of your own local businesses, schools, and farmer markets. Let's educate our townspeople and our children in the schools about what it means and what it stands for. Make sure that the people who are helping you know how you appreciate them.

January is here and it is time to contact the schools about the Poppy Poster Contest. We would also like to have a Little Miss Poppy this year. She needs to be a junior member and age 6-12. I have a zoom meeting January 18, 2024, with National, I will let you know if any of the rules have been changed. At the end of January, I will send out a copy of all the rules. I will also send out the form to follow if you would like to make A Proclamation for your town signed by your mayor to make May 31st Officially Poppy Day. I need all the Poppy Posters turned into me by April 15, 2024.

National Poppy Day is May 24th, it is always the Friday before Memorial Day. This is a very busy weekend for most of us. This is a time to have fun, work with the Legionnaires, and get to know our Veterans by listening to their stories. Always be polite and greet them with kindness, you never know

what kind of day they have had. Keep track of all your donations throughout the year and remember that 40% goes to the Department of Oregon. The year end report will be due to me June 1, 2024.

The last few years we have had the opportunity to work with Lincoln City Outlet Mall. I will be contacting Sharyn this month to get this started earlier so that many more Units would have the opportunity to work with her. It's great, everything is furnished, and you get to keep all the donations for your Unit.

Attention District Presidents:

I would like to put out a challenge for all Units that would put on a Poppy Fashion Show and send me pictures, it is hard trying to visit all the Districts, so I am depending on the District Presidents to help me out here. We all have poppy dresses, scarves, purses, hats, and shirts. Have fun with this and you will receive a special recognition at the convention.

Madam President thank you again for this appointment to serve as you Poppy Chairman.

Public Relations Chairman 2023-2024 / Karen Banks

Contact information 541-383-4246 / k.banks0603@protonmail.com

There were only 5 units reporting for Mid-Year Public Relations:

- Unit #43- LaGrande: Unit #43 is seen in the community and when we do events, we wear branded clothing, besides banners and such. We have a Facebook page we maintain and share events, not just ours, but for others in the community. We are mainly active helping The National Guard People, but we will help children and veterans in the community. We constantly try and make contacts to better our work in our area. We still get confused with The VFW and have to correct that. We are also mistaken for The American Legion and referred to as a Post, not Unit. We keep trying.

Our volunteers are bare bones, so that stops a lot of activity in our community.

- Unit #45 – LaPine: In July, the Auxiliary helped staff tables at the Frontier Days for 3 days in LaPine. We handed out applications, answers questions and had poppy donations. Then in October our annual Holiday Bazaar invited vendors and the public. We used social media and put posters up in Bend and Lapine. It set the tone for the holiday season but also illustrates to our community the wonderful things the auxiliary offers. Most of the Auxiliary officers were at the event and we talked to many people.

Looking to the future, I believe the Girls State initiative will be our gateway back into the schools and educate what the Auxiliary stands for.

- Unit 2 – Washington: Unit 2 has a Facebook page that we post on regularly. They also post on the national Facebook pages as well. They have had multiple functions where they print flyers, post on the community page as well as using the reader board at the local senior center. They also us the Chamber of Commerce in their Friday flash to advertise.

- Unit #4 – Bend: We encourage our members to be visible and wear their banded clothing when they represent ALA at community events. We maintain a media contacts list and contact them to come to our events and interview out members to explain the event, for instance, poppy distribution on Memorial Day weekend.

We find getting media coverage difficult in our area, but we continue to contact them.

- Unit #6 – Hillsboro: Unit 6 has been busy being visible in their community with large banners at local farmers market, during holiday parades and the North Plains Garlic Festival. They advertise on several websites including Facebook and Next Door when they have a bazaar or special event where the

public is invited. They share a booth with the Legion Family at the local farmers market from May – October distributing flags, poppies, and information about their programs. They have several Auxiliary volunteers who work the booth at farmers markets and the Garlic Festival that is held August working with the Legion family. They have volunteers that ride floats in the parades with Post members.

VA&R Committee Chairman 2023-2024 / Linda Liebenow

Contact Information 503-826-5877 / lindaliebenow@comcast.net

I hope that you all saw the email blast on the differences between National Security and VA&R. If the Veteran is STILL serving, it is National Security. If the Veteran SERVED, it is VA&R. I hope this helps.

We were lucky to be able to have the Christmas Gifts Shops in person this year. They were held at Lebanon Veterans Home, Oregon Veterans Home, Roseburg VA, and Portland VA. The Units all do a wonderful job supporting all of the gift shops.

If your Unit has members that love to shop, consider having them buy gifts for the Portland VA Christmas Gift Shop instead of sending in money. There are many good prices throughout the year that they could take advantage of. GOOD ITEMS would be small appliances, men's sleep pants (sizes M-4x), men's flannel shirts (sizes M-4x), bath towel sets, kitchen towel sets, women's bath sets (body wash and shampoo), men's bath sets, men's tools. These are a few suggestions. And if you have members that love to knit or crochet, they love the Afghans.

We were also able to personally hand out 99 filled Christmas stockings (Christmas Cheer) to the Veterans in the wards at the Portland VA.

Portland VA is always in need of Bereavement quilts. These must be made with batting and can be hand tied. The size is 5'x7' or 6'x7'. And they would like the fabric to be red, white, and blue.

We continue to have a member that helps out the Liver and Kidney Transplant Unit by buying some food for the patients and their caregivers. This is a year-round project. Thank you to all the Units that support this project.

Unit 2 in Forest Grove was able to go to the Portland VA hospital in November and personally hand out their hand painted Poppy rocks. They distributed 310 poppy rocks to the Veterans that were there. We have our Hospital Representative, Cindy Soria, established at the Roseburg VA. She buys clothing and food supplies for their clothing room whenever needed. She also bought the gifts for the "Letters to Santa" which is their Christmas gift shop.

These are only the projects that I know we are doing, I'm sure there are many more. I would love to hear what your Unit is doing, please email me.

---- THE END ----