

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Oregon

BE THE ONE

103rd Annual Convention
North Bend, Oregon
June 12th -15th, 2024

BOOK OF REPORTS

*Department President
Catherine Brockmann*

Department President | Catherine Brockmann

Let's celebrate making it through another year, and what a year it has been! I experienced first-hand how our family can pull together to make great things happen. Teamwork is the answer to having success.

As I travelled the state visiting units, I was able to see the commitment in members. Every Unit does something unique in their community, and they make a difference! It doesn't matter whether you have 15 members or 415 members, you can help a veteran, their family, the community, and our children by working the programs and showing we care.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year a wonderful experience. I have learned so many details I did not know before and am still learning with every day that passes. With the guidance and support of all members in this department, I feel I have had a very successful year. We may not have the highest membership numbers, nor the most volunteer hours, but I know that we have the biggest hearts and we get the job done!

We will continue to work our mission, love our veterans, and support our communities. Thank you all for a fabulous year! It's a year I will always treasure...

Department Vice President | Cindy Soria

I can't believe that our year is coming to a close. Where did the time go? It has been a great year working with President Catherine.

Our first DEC was in Klamath Falls in October. Saturday morning there was a Be The One walk. Due to morning meetings, I was unable to participate. In our Saturday afternoon meeting Connie Smith, our Girl State Chairman, talk about the program. She explained where she needs help in getting this program up and running. We are so grateful to have her bringing this program back. We are looking for a member to head the program next year as Connie will not be able to continue. Talk to President Catherine or myself if you are interested. Let's not let this program drop again.

In November I started planning President Catherine's Christmas Book. It was presented to her at our department Christmas party put on by Aloha Unit 104. It was a very nice gathering except for the rain.

January, we had our mid-year DEC on zoom. Most members like this as they don't have to drive in not so good conditions. At the end of January, it was time for me to submit my letter of intent to run for Department President.

In March I attended Round-Up in Prineville. Chicken Bingo was a blast as usual. At the auxiliary meeting I announced my candidacy for Department President and Dianne Standing announced her candidacy for Department Vice President. She will do an awesome job.

Then it was time to plan for the National President's visit. It was great having her here in Oregon. We met at N Eugene/Santa Clara #83 for greetings. Then it was off to Camp Alma escorted by the legion riders. President Lisa rides a motorcycle so this was a thrill for her.

We took a tour of the facility and then we were welcomed by the veterans who served a great lunch. From there we visited a military museum in Florence and participated in a "Be the One" walk at the pier. Then a fantastic dinner was on the schedule before heading to our hotel for the night. The next day we took a ride down the coast stopping for a tour on a coast guard cutter and lunch. Then it was onto the Roseburg VA. Traci at the VA facility gave us a full tour of the facility. We visited the Dementia and Hospice units. It was very special to show President Lisa the veterans I help each week.

Then we headed to Earle B Stewart Unit 16 for lunch. What a fantastic meal and great conversations. Once done there, we continued on to Cottage Grove for a brief visit at the veterans plaza. Our last stop was N Eugene /Santa Clara Unit 83 where we had a beautiful dinner. President Lisa spoke to us about "Be the One" and how important that is to her. She also talked about the decline in membership. As the evening came to a close it was time to bid her farewell as she flew out the next morning. Catherine did a fantastic job in planning her visit.

April was our spring DEC in John Day. I participated in the "Be The One" walk thru town. Getting the word out is very important and needed. For our training our office Assistant Dani put together an awesome presentation on the do's and don't's of membership. Thank you, Dani.

In May it was off to DNLC in Indianapolis. This training gives incoming presidents, secretaries and membership chairman the insight of what is involved when a department officer being.

After returning home it was time to plan for the Convention which is right around the corner. It is going to be crazy busy but fun.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Vice President another year. The experience, along with you the members, I will always be grateful to. I am so blessed to be part of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon.

God bless our veterans, their families, our members, and our country.

Department Chaplain | Gregoria Hernandez

Did not receive any prayer book entries. This year has been hard to be there for people as a spiritual guide for I needed guidance during these difficult times due to so many losses in my life. That only made me realize how much I needed my faith in God to help carry me through during these difficult times. Trying to be strong for others and myself was very hard. My mom used to say always pray to the Lord for he is always listening. So,

I say to all of you our beloved members to always pray to our precious Lord for continued guidance. We are always being graced by his love and his blessings for strength so we can be able to cope and continue this journey in our lives. Always praying for peace in our conflicting world we live in. For love and peace in our hearts and soul. For we know that can be very hard when we are struggling with so many things in life. At times we might think we are strong individuals but then life has a way of throwing big blows or putting obstacles in our paths like losing a loved one. That's when we find out how vulnerable we truly are. How hard it is to be strong, supportive, and still have faith that all will be well again in his glorious kingdom. That's when we realize how much our faith can carry us through. One day at a time that's all we can do try to help each other. Be there for and love one another. We all need someone at one point during our life's struggles. This year I want to extend all our condolences for the loss of all our precious members that have passed to the ever after. May their families rejoice in the knowledge that they are in heaven resting in peace and experiencing no more pain or suffering. For though we will miss them terribly for no longer being here with us. It is very hard to not be able to see their beautiful smiles hear their laughter listen to their voice. They will forever remain in our hearts, and in our mind for the love we shared is for eternity. May our Lord shine his grace upon all our members and all the upcoming officers for this coming year. May he bless them with the knowledge needed to be successful in their positions as officers. May they always remember to be respectful to each other to learn to work as a team for the betterment of our organization. Thank you all for your continued support as your Department Chaplain for the past two years. It is always a tremendous joy to see you all may God continue to bless you all.

Acting Department Historian | Catherine Brockmann

As I have no historian this year, here is a recap, by area, of what I have seen accomplished by our department. Well done everyone!! Just imagine if we actually reported all these things!

- 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
 - district meeting 50/50 raffle, ½ goes 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
 - Painting rocks to give to veterans, put out in communities, using 988 crisis line info on back
 - Flag etiquette classes at local library
 - Units held Americanism dinners to honor their police and firefighters of the year
 - Handing out flags at holiday parades
 - Dedication of a new Gold Star Memorial
 - Went into local school and promoted the essay contest; got a few participants
- 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/Christmas/Easter parties – handed out coloring books, bookmarks
- Shriner's Hospital donation
- Stuffed animals donated to local police officers for children when a stressful situation arises
- Community Service
 - Donations for senior center meals
 - Donations to Christy Young Memorial Fund to help the elderly in the community
 - Provided food/presents to local families in need
 - Office Appreciation – lunches provided to local police/sheriff offices
 - Provide boxes of goodies to Police for handing out to children in the community
 - Yard sale to raise funds for projects
- Education & Scholarship
 - \$1500 awarded in scholarships
 - Held a Poker Run to raise money for scholarships
- Junior Activities
 - Helped with special little gifts for 27 women veterans at the Lebanon Veterans Home Gift Shop, at an expense of \$150.
- Legislative
 - Shared a newsletter with all members concerning legislative alerts and signing up for them.
 - Helped 4 new members sign up for the action alerts
 - Had links for legislative alerts added to our Oregon website
 - Promote the ALA Legislative Facebook page
- National Security
 - Money for National Guard members in need (fuel to get home, groceries, housing needs)
 - Christmas presents for active-duty families
- 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
 - Coffee with a Veteran event at local home

District #1 President | Dianne Standing

Aloha #104-The Auxiliary April Wednesday night dinner, homemade sourdough pizza with salad, brought in \$343. We also helped with Legion Family Day on April 27th with over \$500 being raised. There were games for children and adults, food, and later in the evening there was a potluck and a live band for entertainment. A Girls State applicant was interviewed, and she even joined our Auxiliary! Installation of Officers occurred on May

4th, with a potluck following. There was a Mother's Day Tea held this year. It was well attended, everyone had a good time, and delicious food was served. On May 13th, the Unit made lunch for Officer Appreciation Day. The members arrived at the Post at 10 am to make wraps, and then the food was delivered to the local officers. We also had poppies at Safeway on May 18th, from 9am-6pm.

Argonne #56-In April we started nominations for officers, may we voted and in June we will have our installation ceremony. Taco Tuesday both months brought in funds to put towards girl's state, we had one application from Sherwood high school. Trivia was held at the end of April. We also did a booth out front on national poppy day, in which we had applications for membership, pamphlets on all the activities and poppies to pass out for donations. We also "sell" the paper stop signs during Memorial Day weekend to remember veterans and help raise money for the auxiliary.

Banks #90-Our annual poppy presentation to the Banks 5th grade was held. Over 87 students attended with 8 of our Legion and Auxiliary members leading the presentation, poppy making, and inviting the students to make a poster. We received just under 30 posters and were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes plus certificates for all. Our local grocery store posted the winners and local businesses showcased the others. We also set out our poppy cans to most of our local businesses for donations. We will collect these around the 1st of June. The first weekend in May was our Taco Legion/Auxiliary member and family lunch where we provided the lunch and prizes. Door prizes and Bingo were entertainment.

We prepared for our Citizenship of the Year Award with the Banks Middle School. We worked with the teachers to choose the top girl and boy, talked with the parents, prepared our presentation, certificates and cash awards plus readied the bronze medals. The presentation will be at the Middle School graduation on June 13th.

We purchased 15 ceramic piggy banks to replace the older ones to collect money for the Child Welfare Foundation for the Legion's Community Bingo nights on Thursdays

Officers were installed and our delegate to the convention was chosen

Hillsboro- Unit 6 advertised our annual poppy donation Drive in our Legion family newsletter. Unfortunately, that did not give us any mail-in donations. Typically, in April, we mail the actual poppy letter and a poppy, but last year the post office returned all our letters for additional postage. We decided to go a different route this year by advertising it in our newsletter. Next year, we will go back to sending a letter, but without an actual poppy. Volunteer hours and mileage, as well as activities, were gathered from the members in the April and May meetings. Year-end program reports were completed and sent to Department Chairman. Unit members assisted with the hamburger/hotdog nights in April and May. We also had assistance from Unit 2 and 104 members. Our post had the Legion family fun day at the end of April, and it was a fun time had by all, even though the weather was cool. During the month of May, we focused on our poppy distributions within the community. Each weekend in May, unit members were at Ace Hardware in Hillsborough for three hours on Saturdays. We were very grateful for the participation of a few post members which helped us get more donations. Unit members assisted with the Memorial Day ceremony at the Pioneer cemetery in Hillsboro. We gave out poppies

to everyone who attended, and we helped place memorial poppy wreaths during the service.

Louis Larsen #68-Our Unit has been not only busy with serving our veterans but also with membership and other fun activities. We have been busy promoting the Poppy Poster contest and Americanism essay contest. We had a craft/workday to make poppies and corsages to sell on Memorial Day. One of our new members volunteered to be our poppy chairman We planned an informal party to celebrate the Posts 105th birthday by bringing finger foods and treats to their meeting for all to enjoy. Alice Redding, one of our dual members presented our commander Jerry Simmons with a special coin that he was proud to receive. We were involved with our local Feral cat Association in Clatskanie fundraising auction. We donated \$50 in gold dollar coins, a cat blanket and a huge 10lb Hersey candy bar. We have also been busy taking veterans to Dr. appointments and meals on wheels it seems on a weekly basis. Hours volunteered: 2232 Money spent by unit and personal: \$4805 Veterans served: 5230 It is with great pride that I submit these numbers of our service and money that we have graciously cared for our local veterans.

Tigard#158-During the months of April & May: Our Tigard Unit 158 members put in 700 hours volunteering at the Post, serving food & beverages and doing general clean-up both inside and around the grounds. Another 60 hours were spent helping the community food banks. Members spent another 40 hours preparing poppies for insertion in the Post newsletter and preparing the newsletter for mailing. Members spent 40 hours and raised \$600 serving the 2nd Saturday of the month's dinner. Reading scholarship applications, gathering Girl's state applications, interviewing Girls State applicants, and processing paperwork meant another 20 hours. Total of 860 hours

Washington#2- In April we had a Flag Etiquette Class at the Cornelius Library and will have one in June at the Elementary School in Forest Grove. We have Bunco every 3rd Saturday of the month. In May we stuffed envelopes with poppies to send out to all the members of the Legion and the Auxiliary. We had coffee with a Vet at Jennings's McCall with a very nice turn out. One of our oldest members in the Auxiliary is now at Jennings McCall and Dianne made a wreath for her out of poppies with a picture of us with Mona. We have Rock painting twice a month and we were at Safeway for the Memorial Day weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) The Legion and the Auxiliary did the memorial service at Forest View Cemetery on Monday.

Thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to serve as your Dept. Poppy Chairman and District 1 President. I have learned so much and I am sure that will continue in my journey with the American Legion Auxiliary.

District #2 President | Georgia Hernandez

Unit 20

The unit members have been busy doing fundraisers. They invited District 2 President Gregoria Hernandez to come visit at their fundraiser at Dallas pizza place. Glenna Secretary accompanied Gregoria. Pizza was great and great conversation with members as it was our first visit to the unit. We were invited to install new officers but couldn't do it

because we had installation at our own unit. They started out with a few glitches but are working through them.

Unit 21

May: We always start our year with a festive Cinco de Mayo dinner at the Post. It is always a great hit everyone loves the green enchiladas and the fresh salsa. Auxiliary members are a great team together. Every first Saturday of the month there is a cancer bingo and the proceeds go to our local cancer facility. Darla Gregory presented the Cancer Center at Willamette hospital a check of over \$1,800. Present were Gregoria Debra Rich and commander Juan. After that the Sons of The American legion Celebrate us for mother's Day. We get spoiled they serve all the Mothers free breakfast and give us a flower. National Poppy Day is always a very special day to Remember Honor all our fallen Heros. It is a start to a busy weekend we go and Hand out Poppies in memory of our departed Veterans. We distribute more poppies on Saturday over at Evergreen Aviation Museum. On Memorial Day we do an Honorary ride to several cemeteries and all the Legion family's say a Prayer or a Poem at each of the sites we visit Taps is also played at the end of the ceremony. We go to give thanks and show our gratitude in honor of all the men and women that gave their ultimate sacrifice. We gave out \$1,500 scholarship to Emma Lame We also gave \$250 scholarship for law enforcement career camp. Then volunteers helped with Juliet's house gala fundraiser. June: Father's Day Auxiliary gives free breakfast to all the fathers as appreciation for being such great dads Over 70 were served. Some of our axillary volunteered at the Oregon brews and BBQ, take a veteran fishing, at the Sheridan hometown days as well as Jack Bailey tribute teddy bears with donations. July: 4th of July BBQ it's always a big hit lots of fun and games. Auxiliary members help with the Korean breakfast. August: We volunteer at the veterans Open Golf there in McMinnville the planners for those were the Browns. We also help with the Riders scholarship run. And a few of us help at the harvest festival at the Yamhill County heritage museum. Sept: We had a chili cook off competition plus volunteering. During the Air Show in McMinnville, we also volunteer and set up a Poppy table. An Auxiliary teacher's scholarship fund was established for \$1,000. October Depot Bay raffle for 4 crab fishing Is donated by Gerald to the auxiliary and he himself takes them out. Volunteers printed tickets created Flyers and sold tickets. Out of that fundraiser \$3,000 were raised \$1,500 was donated to auxiliary scholarship \$750 to the American Legion Riders scholarship and \$750 to American Legion Post 21 . Unit 21 had an open house for auxiliary membership went well we got 4 new members. November Veteran's Day parade and dinner it Was a joint venture between auxiliary and sons of the American Legion 200 dinners were served. We also had a veteran's day coloring contest 5 schools participated cost was \$200.and during our dinner our veterans were the judges and they really enjoyed helping out and we were very grateful for their awesome help. For the red white and blue rabbit show some of our axillary volunteered to judge. December very busy with Christmas basket project we had 25 applications with 33 children's gifts were given to the children \$1016. Auxiliary members volunteered to go shopping for Items for the 100 stockings \$442. That are going to be given to veterans in our areas senior living facilities. Leftover food was donated to area food bank. We got together for a night of fun for white elephant game and there were more than 30 participants we had lots of laughter lots of good food ,lots of good Memories were made that night. January 2024 it's a quiet

month. February donations from the auxiliary went to the Oregon traveling wall \$750 and to reestablishing Americanism programs the cost \$709. Debra's gun raffle for Oregon Department President project the proceeds were \$1270 and it was presented to our Department President Catherine and State commander Corey during DEC in John Day. March for the Americanism program we delivered 75 Pledge of Allegiance comic books and 75 our flag books to the Dayton elementary Because it was late in February they couldn't send in an Americanism essay. But they are going to incorporate it into their curriculum so they can do the Americanism essay for next year. Donations to Willamina Middle School for their outdoor school was \$500. Poppy table was set up at Evergreen aviation museum to distribute poppies during the travelling Vietnam Wall weekend. April Several of us joined in the celebration for Veteran Peggy Lutz 102nd birthday at the Evergreen Aviation Museum. It was awesome. We also continue to help with the celebration of life when needed. Work during Prime rib nights auxiliary helps at least twice a month or if needed more. We also help during the battle of the branches which is breakfast put on by all the military branches as fundraisers.

Unit 57

Registered members: 11, Active members: 4-5, Member participation: 2-8.Hours by division: Youth and Family-811.5 hrs, VA&R-428.45 hrs, Americanism-40 hrs, Community: 378 hrs, Youth and Family Supporting girl troop as Committee Chair (The post supports 4 scouting units). Homemade hats and blankets to hospitals for children. Recruiting for Oratorical, Girls and Boys State, (one of our members is a dual member and male and covers the schools from Dayton, McMinnville, Newberg, Dundee, both private and public schools.) Providing transportation to doctor's appointments in Portland and hospital visitations. VA&R Recycling cans for youth programs. Our 2nd Annual Veterans Day Celebration Involved a local church with their pastor and special music. Troop Our Scouting BSA girl troop helped with setup and take down, ushering and providing each veteran with a bag of homemade cooking. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets Delivered to the National Guard in McMinnville, as well as veterans and their families. Planning, shopping (multiple stores), staging, packing and delivering baskets. 10-14 baskets were delivered. 2-4 members were involved. Old Fashion Festival (July): Parade float: 4 members, 20hrs Set up, take down and staffing of Legion/Aux booth by 2-4 members for 4 days: 113hrs Post Picnic at Carlton (July), Carlton post was invited 8 members, 70hrs. 1st Annual District 2 Legion Family Picnic (Aug), 48 attended from 4 of 8 Units and 9 of 16 posts. 56hrs from 5 members of Unit and Post 57. Annual Post Potluck (Oct): 5 members, 56hrs. Thanksgiving (Nov): 10 baskets Cost \$2,081.20, Donated money: \$700.00, with the unit making up the rest (\$1,381.20) Fundraising and raffles, dinners by the Unit supported by the Post. 72hrs, not including the planning at meetings. Christmas (Dec): 14 baskets Cost \$2,796.57, Donations: personal \$449.18, Post \$250.00, VFW \$250.00 and Unit \$1847.39. 3 volunteers, 40.75hrs. Celebration of Life for an active post member (March): 3 Unit members and 2 Post members. Escort to Willamette: 5.75hrs, Potluck and Service hosted by the Unit/Post 57: 24.75hrs. Clean-up: 17.5hrs for a total of. 42. Hrs. Mike Craig was active in the post, never missed an escort to Willamette, quiet spoken. Service to veterans and the community. Americanism Newberg posts flags in and around Newberg on 11 military holidays. Flag line at the main flagpole

waving flags and cheering Legion Family and Service flags displayed on July 4 and Veterans Day. Memorial Day, we service 6 cemeteries honoring 1 veteran at each cemetery, flag line, veterans, scouts, honor guard, buglers (2 with echo-this year 3 buglers) and escort from the Legion Riders. Ceremony by Post/Aux 57, VFW Post 4025. Noon-Ceremony at Memorial Park, flag line, veterans/scouts, speeches, honored guests, community/veterans, laying of flowers by community. Community Service. Food-Meals on Wheels year-round, Newberg Old Fashion Festival, Chamber of Commerce. We are a small unit with limited funds. We are unable to provide scholarships. This year, I hope to be involved with Girls State. We have 1 girl attending from Newberg High School. We sponsored her (\$300) Individual contributions to VA&R Scouts Registration and Summer Camp. Our members have expressed an interest in helping at the VA during Christmas. Donation of \$200.00 to Veteran for Back rent (Unit/Post 57; post 21 and VFW Post 4015) contributed \$1,800.00 total.

Unit 75

We continue to have bingo, Lunches for homeless veterans it's done once a week. 9/11 we gathered to have a remembrance ceremony had several of our First responders present. We all talked about what we were doing on that tragic day. For Halloween we set out tables so children can come and trick or treat in a safe environment. Info from impact report members served 432, dollars spent 252, Gold Star wives of America \$200, youth activities \$100, other donations for children's programs 428 dollars. We were installed by District 2 President Gregoria.

Unit 89

Members served 201, dollars spent 599, other donations to children's \$600 hours volunteered 595. We continue to Put together and give backpacks to children with snacks plus other goodies Like hair ties hair brushes toothpaste toothbrushes items that they need.

Unit 110

Did not receive a book of reports but will put information from the impact report member served 536 dollar spent 1170 dollars for youth activities they spent \$721 poppy contributions 400 hours for girls state youth 12 hours children served 176 other donations for children program 503 dollars other hours 248 and dollars contributed 2215 dollars.

Unit 122

Year end report for VA&R volunteered hours 2,536 total dollars spent donated but didn't put the amount. Number of veterans and military assisted 300. Number of veterans in Community Schools presentation one scholarship. Value of in-kind donations to the VA gift shops white \$1,000. They still continue to do breakfast and other functions.

Unit 136

We still gather and sew quilts for Veterans hospital. There is a hotel where they have homeless veterans so we gather clothes and any items that they need while they live there. We also supply them with shampoos lotions toothbrushes etcetera.

Unit 173

All year they help the legion with putting out flags preparing meals giving out awards. We also put on a haunted Halloween inside their legion for safer environment for children. Installation was done by District 2 President Gregoria. We have more members attending our meetings.

District #3 President | Roberta “Bobbie” Peebler

District 3 has 8 Units. Each of these Units has had a busy productive year. Our ALA members continue to be supportive of Veterans and military families in so many ways. Members volunteered at Veterans hospitals, nursing homes, wherever they were needed. Members supported veterans by providing transportation and food baskets during the holidays for those in need. Family dinners for the holidays at the Posts. Gift shops programs for veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Had fundraisers and Poppy drives.

Donated and volunteered at the local Stand Down

Volunteered and provided food for the memorials of our Veterans, families, and community.

Participated in Memorial Day events.

Sent care packages to active service members at Christmas. Stayed connected with our Veterans home to see if they had any needs or wants, we could help with. Had a Christmas gift shop for the Veterans. Quilts of Valor was busy making and presenting quilts to honor our Veterans.

A luncheon was provided for a troop that was being deployed. Ramps for easier access were built.

Our Units on the coast hosted the National President with tours of their cities. Be the One Walks hosted in each city.

Every Unit worked on membership. We completed the year with two goal Units. Travis Moothart Unit #184 -Brownsville and Florence Unit #59.

The members supported donations for the Portland Transplant Unit, Department Scholarship program .

We are also sending two girls to Girls State this year.

I could go on and on listing the accomplishments of each Unit.

I want to Thank each Unit for everything they do for our American Legion Auxiliary family.

District #4 President | Patsy Sakraida

#8 Klamath Falls – This Unit does so much for the community. They have taken 6 gallons of ice cream to the Senior Center every 2 months, dozens of cookies to each of the fire stations and the police department. Plans are underway for the Memorial Day breakfasts, and lunches for the Veterans and community. The veterans are served lunch almost, on a daily basis. This is in addition to the fund-raising events that happen with the Post Family. This unit also supports the Domiciliary in White City and travels the distance to take items for the veterans.

#15 Medford – In April the Unit collected with a “Sock Drive”, socks and underclothing that was sent over to the Dom. They continue to support the military at the Armory and the American Legion baseball team in Medford. The unit plans on having a table for Poppy donations and will be represented at all the functions this Memorial Day Weekend. This unit now has a “Poppy Lady” chairman that has been appointed recently.

#50 Williams – My home unit has swelled to 44 members, with transfers and new members, but even at that, our unit is unable to make goal. We sent Easter bags and other collected items to the Dom in April and continue to make and collect items for this worthy cause. Plans are being made for our annual Memorial Day festivities which includes; a ceremony with a rifle salute from our rifle team, then we travel down to 2 different cemeteries to place flags on the gravesites of every veteran that served our Country. After that everyone returns to the Post for a free community BBQ. Our Auxiliary ladies help the Post Family to prepare and put on these activities, as well as Bingo every first Saturday of the month. Also, at the “Boatnik” in Grants Pass, we will have our newly appointed “Poppy Lady” chairman, along with helpers in uniform, collecting donations for our Veterans, Military, and their families. During this summer, we plan on having a Bake Sale and Yard Sale in conjunction with our Post Family fund raisers. We share our Auxiliary room with AA once a week, and 2 of our ladies have started, last year, a Cub Scout pack and all is supported by the Post.

#84 Malin – This unit continues to be a surprise. For being a small unit they do so much. The president and “Girls State” chairman of the unit has prepared and distributed to several high schools, packets of information for Girls State candidates. They now have 2 girls that are signed up and some potential candidates that are a maybe, before the deadline. The costs for the girls are paid for by the Malin Unit. In addition to this the unit has awarded 2 scholarships to 2 other deserving youths. In August the Malin Post will host the next District 4 meeting. This will be for Legion, SAL and Auxiliary.

District #5 President | Ginny Williams

My report is incomplete because I received only one report. Thank you, Unit 4.

All of this is because of me, my moving has messed up my smooth life. However, I wouldn't change what I have done. I love my new home and am almost ready to start a whole new beginning. Not easy at my age.

Thank you District 5 for being in my corner and supporting me. So, let's all get on the road to a big successful year for the new beginning.

The sad part of my job is having to close a Unit, Unit #19 in The Dalles. The letters will go out after the Convention.

Thank you to all my friends in the ALA.

District #6 President | Maggie LaMont

As we come to the end of another year, most of the Units have been activity with their American Legion Auxiliary activities.

Listed below are the last Unit activities for the end of the year since the March 23rd District 6 meeting.

- Athena Unit #130 – I am playing phone tag with the President.
- Lone Unit #95 – They had nothing more to reported.
- George St. Denis #140 is inactive.
- Hermiston Unit #37 had no activities.
- La Grande Unit #43 – They had an Easter Dinner on March 30th; Poppy Days May 16, 17th, 18th, and 25th; and working on their June 1st golf tournament.
- Milton-Freewater Unit #24 – In May they had their annual yard sale to raise money for their scholarship fund.

My activities for the year were pretty limited while dealing with my husband's heal issues:

- Attended the DEC on October 29th in Klamath Falls.
- Attended the DEC Zoom meeting on January 20th
- Attended the District 6 meeting in Hermiston on March 23rd
- Held a Caucus meeting on April 13th in La Grande
- Attended the DEC meeting on April 21st in John Day
- Installed officers at La Grande Unit #43 on May 8th
- Installed officers at Milton-Freewater Unit #24 on May 14th

District #7 President | Vacant

District #8 President | Trudie McGriff

District 8 has had some challenges amongst out Units. Oregon Trail 150 established some very severe damage of their post. During our snow and ice storm caused their building so much damage they had to gut the store room, dinning room, bar area, and kitchen. This post members stepped up and put in thousands of hours cleaning removing all items they could save. Painted rooms not covered by insurance and was there everyday to be available to help however they can. Replacing everything in the kitchen and had to be present when all supplies were being delivered. One of the Units donated to help with their disaster. Food brought in to feed all the helpers. This was both Auxiliary and Post pitching in for all of this. Did they still do their donations for VA&R yes they did and such a wonderful job they do. District 8 is a team of some outstanding members that believe in family. They work hard on membership— VA&R for Portland VA the liver transplant the Dallas and Lebanon. I can say I'm very proud of these members. I say thank you for having me as your district president for this year and past. I am now stepping down to let others have this opportunity to make our district outstanding. Thank you all for you support and friendship.

District #9 President | Frankie Trask

It has been a busy year for our units. We have been working on our membership. We have been out and about for the poppy program. We have contributed so much time volunteering within our communities. We have performed our services at the cemeteries for Memorial Day. We have been looking forward to the Convention. Welcome to our area and have fun in District #9.

District #10 President | Linda Schmidt

Reflecting back on the American Legion Auxiliary's 2023-2024 year, I believe the Districts and Department of Oregon staff have a year's compiled history we can all yell out and say, "KUDOS to us!" My thanks and gratitude also to the units in District 10 for the resolute and outstanding group they are; there are none finer. Some months we think we have not been up to a lot, but year-end totals tell a different story. Although the District 10 Impact Report has been sent in, several Units are still busy having yard sales, fund raisers, and elections for the 2024-2025 year, and of course Poppy Days and Memorial Day events. What was reported on our Impact Report covered several activities, such as:

Americanism: 46 hours \$655 Units reported on Veterans Day activities, a Veterans Day School program, Americanism Essays, 'Our Community Flag' donation, Memorial Day events (7 cemeteries decorated in Harney County alone), July 4th events and donations, and a Gold Star Mothers' ceremony.

Aux. Emergency Fund: \$500 donation

Chaplain: Cemetery Chapel host during Memorial Day Weekend with maps, flags, poppies and assistance for visitors, cards sent to members and families throughout the year. 41 hours

Children & Youth: 394 hours \$3,331.65 1,998 served 38 volunteers
Units report Trunk or Treats, Lacrosse & Scout assistants and donations, 4-H donations, Young Life, Oratorical assistance, Little League donations, ESD School supplies, Police-School Safety program, Smart Reading Assistance, 4th grade dictionaries, other donations to schools and sports teams.

Community Service: 3,398 hours \$7,280 One of our larger activities in our smaller Units. Trees of Joy donations, yard sales, Senior Center SHIBA Counseling, several Acts of Kindness for neighbors and those needing assistance, Human Trafficking events, Christmas Bazaar, donations to OPB, Save-A-Stray, Shriner's, Relief Fund, Harney Hub meals, Chamber of Commerce membership, Hunger Bags, recycling, City project funds, Christie Young Memorial Fund, and First Responders donations, to name a few.

National Security: \$575 donations

Poppies: \$1,122.57 raised

Public Relations: Two units use the services of local newspapers and radio stations. One recent submission to the Auxiliary National magazine regarding Trafficking.

Scholarships: \$500 given locally and \$500 donated to Department

VA&R: 3,533 hours \$10,608 In-Kind-Unit-Personal 165 volunteers 583 served Veterans Day dinners/lunches, donations to the Lebanon and The Dalles Veteran Homes, the Roseburg and Portland VA Hospitals and Christmas Gift Shops, Liver & Transplant Unit, SORCC, Check-a-Month, assistance for local veterans, veterans Christmas dinners, veterans Yoga programs, Christmas gift bags for local veterans, and donations to the Boise VAMC to name a few.

Remarks by ALA Department President Nota Francis 1942-1943: "I have memories to treasure, all unknown a year ago; like sparkling gems of pleasure which forever I may know. Here at the end of another year with it's twelve months almost o'er, I have much I shall remember and I'm richer than before."

Administrative Chairman | Debra Godwin

We started the year off hiring A new Admin Assistant, and the learning started. Posting the position, interviews, then the decision was made to bring Dani aboard. And what a great asset she has become for our department. We learned that some of the employee documents were outdated or didn't match.

We worked hard and learned a lot while working on updating and rewriting the documents. There are many working parts to our organization, and it takes a team to keep us moving on the correct path. It was an honor to serve as your Admin Chair during the 2023-2024 year.

Americanism Chairman | Sheri Russell

The Department of Oregon had about 30% of our Units complete reports but I know that all of them say the Pledge of Allegiance at all of their meetings.

As the chairman I had some money that my dad had left me so I put together 5 full star-spangled kits in addition to the one we received from national. I had to mail several of them as they were too far away for me to travel but I tried to present them in person and help them determine how best to use the supplies. All of them were very excited with this program.

Madame President, Catherine Brockman, had me do training at one of our DEC's and I also did training at each district meeting. I am not able to attend convention this year so Catherine is doing a slide show with narration at the Americanism lunch. Our department is hoping to have a slide show going during the entire convention.

For the essay contest we spoke with, emailed, and dropped the information off at our local schools. I coached units to look on the internet for who to contact at local schools. Unfortunately, we only had a few schools participate. We have chosen our winners and they will be getting their certificates soon. We also posted the information on our Facebook page as well as had information available at several local libraries.

Multiple units do flag retirement ceremonies with their Boy Scout troops where the public is invited to attend.

All units participate in local 4th of July parades and hand out flags. About 50% of our units hand out coloring books, comic books, flags, flag pins and key chains for Halloween. I would say that 90% of our unit members have flags that they fly at home. I know that Washington Unit 2 and Hillsboro Unit 6 hand out flags to anyone wanting to fly a flag for suggested donations. Our feeling is that we would rather see an American flag flying than not, so do not charge for them. Most people do give donations.

I am so proud of how many of our units step up and support their Posts in their Americanism programs. Multiple unit members help with judging the oratorical contest. Several units hold Americanism dinners to honor their police and firefighters of the year, have the kids they sponsor for Boys and Girls State speak about their experience. One unit/post sponsor 3 baseball teams and had their coaches talk about how rewarding this is for them.

Multiple units did flag etiquette presentations. One unit has a lumber company who donates lumber that high school woodworking students make flag holders from. The high school students then present these to the elementary students at an assembly. Our unit decided to do something different as the schools would not respond to us. We partnered with a local library and did a flag etiquette class for both adults and kids and used our star-spangled kids kits to make goodie bags for the kids.

The star-spangled kids' kits were used for Halloween, flag etiquette classes, Christmas, at parades, booths at local farmers markets, essay contests and oratorical contests.

We have multiple units sponsoring students for Girls State and are looking forward to having this program again this year in the beautiful state of Oregon.

All of our member vote and talk to kids about this as well.

I thank you for allowing me to be the Americanism Chair for the Department of Oregon. It has been a pleasure working with our units and this is something I am very passionate about. I would love to continue as the chair but unfortunately due to health issues, I am not able to.

AUX. Emergency Fund Chairman | Cyndi Dahl

Thank you, Madam President Katherine, for the pleasure of being the chairman for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

It was a pleasure reading the reports that were submitted.

Some Units give a budgeted donation.

One Unit collects pocket change at their meetings.

Another does training so members know what the program is about and how to access it.

Another Unit holds a monthly garage sale with proceeds being divided with The Legion and funds raised going to support all the programs including AEF.

Congratulations goes to **Margie DeMoss** of North Eugene Santa Clara Unit for the best written report.

She covered the importance of the program and sends the brochure to all new members in their welcome packet.

They applied and received a grant for a member that was in an accident. It helped pay for rent and utilities. She was most grateful.

It is important to let the Unit members know what, who, when and how to access the Emergency Funds Share with your members.

Children & Youth Chairman | Angelina McKinney

This year we had 10 Units report on Children & Youth activities and 2 Units with no activities for about 18% of our Units reporting.

We had various things done for our youth. One Unit gave 16 dictionaries to their local school to third graders in need for a value of \$260.00.

We had Unit restart their Children & Youth program after several years of no activity They collected 35 stuffed animals and divided them between their local police and fire department and presented them at their annual awards dinner for the Fireman and Policeman of the Year. They had 9 knitted hats that were donated to a local school to be given to children that needed warm winter gear. They had a member work with SMART Reading at their local school working with 2 students for a ½ hour each on every Wednesday that school was in session, giving a total of 21 voluntary hours. They did a Easter Egg Hunt for their community and decorated over 2,900 eggs. They did a Christmas Giving Tree and stockings that they donated to the Rockin Room for children with cancer at their local hospital. They activities.

One Unit did a toy drive for their local military facility Camp Withycomb for the children of deployed military. They gave \$10,891.00 worth of toys, clothing, jewelry and baby needs to support this program. They had 50 volunteers giving 50 hours and served over 250 children. They raised the money for this project from their members and through

donations of goods from to make this program a success. The Camp excited with this donation they invited members to come and see how appreciated they were for their effort.

We had a Unit who gave a YOUTH HERO AWARD to a 11-year boy in their community. The young man has difficulties walking so with the help of people carrying up into the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area he was able to use his drone to locate the items the lost hiker had and eventually the body of the lost hiker. This allowed the family to have \$1,000.00 in gift cards for Christmas. They served 50 children with this project and had 20 volunteer hours.

Another Unit gathered Personal Care Items and took them to their local low-income school to provide free of charge to students feminine products, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste. They also went to their community library and did a Harvest Festival along with a Trick or Treaters. Instead of candy they gave out paperback and hardback books and let the children choose the books they wanted instead of candy. The children came in costumes and they had games for them to play and prizes for them to win. They also gave out 120 flags to 2nd graders with wooden stands. They presented flags to their local charter school to 58 students. They collected 20 new stuffed animals and gave them to their local police department and 2 area fire departments to comfort children going through hard times in their lives. They donated \$280.00 to help purchase new wrestling uniforms to replace their current uniforms are over 20 years old. They had 6 volunteers hours, serving 176 children.

Our final Unit went to local thrift stores shopping for clothing for their Children & Youth project which they gave to the Abuse Women Shelter in their area to provide school clothes for the children. Their annual picnic raised money for school supplies. They gave \$800.00 in school supplies. They gave to Child Welfare, Children & Youth Direct Aid, Children's Miracle Network and Direct Aid for military families. They gave donations to help provide 300 sack lunches to children in need. They have continued their Trunk or Treat for Halloween. They gave 100 pounds of candy, Auxiliary coloring books, small prizes and served over 300 children with the help of the Post, Unit, Legion Riders and the SAL. They gave toys to the Marine Toys for Tots program and \$200.00 in gift cards. They held an Easter Egg Hunt and decorated over 2,500 eggs with candy and prizes. They had over 150 children attend this year. They donated \$345.00 in Direct Aid to Children & Youth Abused Womens and Youth Shelter and \$100.00 in cash and \$2,500.00 in clothing, school supplies and \$300.00 in cash, \$500.00 in supplies, clothing and books. They gave \$200.00 in shoes to Foster Kids, \$800.00 in stuffed animals and toys . They gave \$895.00 in donations and \$4,600.00 in In Kind donations. They served 1,000 children and gave 995 volunteer hours with 90 volunteers.

So as you can see our Units in Oregon that did re report have been observing the goals of the Children and Youth program. They are striving to serve our children in every way they can. They have given financially to Child Welfare \$175.00. Our Units gave \$19,081.00 in In Kind donations and \$12,000.00 in cash donations. They had a total of 200 volunteers giving 1,500 hours and serving over 1,615 children in their communities. I want to thank everyone for all the hard work they put in to make this program a success for the children in our great state.

Community Service Chairman | Margie DeMoss

Reports from Units reported a variety of activities supporting our communities, including rock painting for Organ Donations and Unit 2 reported a Family Fun Day with a community silent auction, corn hole, dunk tank and live music, and they donated 50 safety vests to their local police. Units 83 and 6 reported distributing poppies in their communities.

Unit 83 held their annual Post Beautification project. A display of love in their home, and Pride in being part of the community. They also held a Summer Concert partnered with Post 83, Riders and SAL on June 10th to help raise funds for an ADA compliant new building so they can do even more for Veterans and their community, and it was very successful.

For Memorial Day, a Memorial Service was held at American Legion Post 83 with the Post and Auxiliary Chaplains. A Poppy Wreath was placed in their Memorial Garden.

On June 14th Units attended or assisted with ceremonies. Unit 83 reported they assisted with a Community Flag Retirement Ceremony and a lesson on proper Flag etiquette was given. They had a local Scout Troop present the colors and they blew Taps. They have been presenting the ceremony for over 35 years and they now retire over 400 flags annually. They also started something new this year, by offering their community the option of flying their Memorial Flag for their loved one on the Post Flag Pole. Honoring their service with their name and branch of service on the reader board for 30 days before it is retired.

Unit 83 held a Community Chicken BBQ in July and a Drive Through Fish Fry on the last Friday each month, donating to various local community programs. One of the programs chosen the month of July was a Relay For Life Team.

In August Unit 110 held their annual Aurora Colony Breakfast in conjunction with Aurora Colony Days. They reported the community really turns out and supports this event

In September, Units 2 and 83 reported attending Community 911 Candle light Ceremonies. Unit 2 members placed Flags on Veteran graves. Unit 83 even helped and participated in a Community Car Show event Hot Rods for Heroes with food, live music and prizes.

Units reported sending school supplies to local schools

In October, Unit 83 reported a Community Trunk Or Treat on Halloween. Cars were decorated and the adults were in costumes. The children could safely grab a bag of treats from the trunks of the cars. Unit 2 donated apples, coloring books and comic books to the Forest Grove Candy Crawl.

For November, there were Veterans Day Events to attend. Units 4 and 12 participated as entries in Veterans Day Parades. Unit 2 placed Flags on Veterans Graves. A Unit handed out painted Painted Rocks to Veterans. Units participated in Veterans Day Parades.

Unit 83 reported that their Post installed a new 2 sided digital reader board, and after I attended the Post meeting with a speaker Genene DeMoss to talk about the Be the One program, they added the Be The One crises phone number to the scroll.

Unit 83 sent 32 boxes for deployed military, including 160 dozen cookies. People from the community reached out wanting to help on their Facebook Page. They also added 'Thank You For Your Service' cards from the Junior Auxiliary.

Unit 2 held an open House for their community handing out candy canes, coloring books and they did Mr. and Mrs. Santa photos.

Unit 83 Juniors signed 150 Christmas Cards for the residents of the Lebanon Veterans Home and made 27 Angels for the women who live there.

Units held Easter Egg hunts. Unit 83 reported a Community Easter Egg hunt with 2000 eggs filled with candy, stickers and prize tickets. They had about 250 children attend from the community. When the kids get a prize ticket in an egg, they bring them to the prize table within their age group area and redeem the ticket for any prize they want. Each child looking and hoping to find the one Golden Egg in each group for a bigger prize. Another Unit assembled 80 Easter Baskets that were given to residents at an Assisted Living Residence.

Unit 63 reported one of their members is a spokes woman for Human Trafficking and spends a lot of her time raising awareness, working through the radio, churches and other avenues, as well as the "In Our Backyard" organization in Bend. She is currently preparing for the 5-K run to raise awareness. Just recently she sent an article to the National American Legion Auxiliary Magazine in the hopes of getting it published in the near future. Unit 63 hosted a dinner with the Post with the B.P.O.E. at the Elks by providing all the desserts and table decorations; the Legion puts on the program. Over the years, it has grown into a well-attended program.

Unit 110 reported they adopted the Emerald Garden Assisted Living facility in Woodburn OR. They made favors for the residents once a month for the whole year. Each month was different, February the made Valentines Day cards, April was Easter eggs filled with candy. They did every month ending with December by giving a bag full of goodies and a poem recipe around how to use the goodies.

Unit 4 hosted 3 blood drives during the year

Units 6 and 83 participated in Stand Downs in their communities

Our Units in Oregon also reported that they proudly wore their Auxiliary pins and accessories.

Total volunteers that helped with Community Service: 497

Total Hours volunteered for Community Service: 6322

Total money donated to Community Service Projects from Units: \$15.998

Total money spent for Community Service projects by Units: \$5670.00

Total In Kind Donations given to local Community Service projects: \$ 17,288.00

Constitution and By-Laws Chairman | Pam Seelye

Keeping your governing documents current can be a thankless job but it is a particularly important job. Our documents must say what we do, and we must do what they say. Times change, circumstances change. Our documents must change with them. I wish to commend you on the job you are doing. Our documents are living documents, ones that can change every few years. If you continue to review them on a regular basis the job is not so challenging.

I personally want to thank you for reviewing your documents and submitting them to me. You have done a terrific job.

Education & Scholarship Chairman | Suzanne Driver

There were 15 applications for the Children of Warrior Scholarship and 1 for our Department of Oregon Scholarship. All were good and our team had a hard time selecting one to forward to the Western Division. Oregon's application from Jace Stringer, Kalamath Falls was selected and won the National award. The Department of Oregon Scholarship winner is Ivy Ritter from Pilot Rock.

Ten units sent reports and the following was reported:

Donations: National Scholarships was \$150.00 and Department Scholarships \$150.00

All reporting units had contact with their local schools, private and home-schools with information on available scholarships.

One Unit Scholarship for \$250.00 was awarded.

Literacy Program:

They served 3 schools and 510 students giving 70 hours and \$800.00. Volunteers participated in the Smart Reading and "Give 10 to Education" programs.

Veterans in the Classroom:

Program served 2 schools with 75 students giving 8 hours.

American Legion Education:

Programs was supported with 6 hours helping 5 students with Oratorical Contests and others were supporting Flag Day. One unit played video on flag etiquette from the Legion. There is another presentation for second graders later this month. They also painted rocks for veterans and talked about "Be The One"

Units keep contact with the National Guard Outreach Program.

Thank you to all that provided information for this report. Your support for our students for information on Scholarships and those needed supplies is appreciated. Keep up the great work educating our young about our great nation.

Girls State Chairman | Connie Smith

We're back!!! 2024 Oregon Girls State is set to begin this year's session at Oregon State University with registration and opening ceremony June 23. We will meet in conjunction with Oregon Boys State. Many events during the week, such as keynote speakers and training sessions will be held with Boys State citizens.

We will welcome city mayors, fire chiefs, ROTC trainers and retired teachers sharing their experiences in their civic lives. We will welcome 30+ citizens at a joint Opening Ceremony. We will have a talent show and inauguration of our 2025 Governor. We welcome parents and families to attend. Wednesday afternoon we have a Legion, Auxiliary and potential new members to a reception in Sackett Hall planned. Please consider joining us.

I appreciate my appointment as director. I will continue to assist in future sessions of this important program.

Acting Leadership Chairman | Catherine Brockmann

The year started with the President giving training at the Post-Convention DEC meeting. She shared information concerning department positions, as well as chairmen, so each person would know what they needed to be aware of to be prepared for a successful year. The information included writing reports, showing up to meetings, and getting out into the state to help Units with our programs.

DEC meetings included a 2-hour training block on Saturday afternoon. Topics covered included Girls State, membership, and national security. We had different people provide the training each time, as it's always more interesting to the general members if they get to see others providing training. We also use this as a technique to show that anyone is able to help provide training, they just need confidence in the topic.

A consistence message that was shared throughout the year was that training does not have to be done by Department every time. There are members within units and districts that have the skills and abilities to provide local training, at no-cost, and at a convenient

time. We know our members have the knowledge, and we want to encourage them to share that knowledge so others will help with the tasks.

We included the lunch & learn information in our monthly newsletter so more members would be aware of opportunities to learn. They should have also gotten notification when that webinar was available in the Academy, so we're hoping that would also entice them to go to the Academy.

Our ALA membership is always invited to attend the Oregon Legion College, which is hosted by Oregon TAL. The training this year was held for one day, and was an opportunity to learn about the programs of the American Legion. We promoted attending via email blasts. We had a breakout session, with just the ALA, during which, the President spoke to officer descriptions, using the Unit Guide Book, and then played a trivia game to reinforce basic information. It was a wonderful breakout session with 10 people in attendance. After the training, the trivia questions/answers were emailed to all who attended so they could use them with their units to help spread knowledge.

Our NEC, Krisann Owens, took the time at a DEC to share training she received at one of the national meetings. She covered: Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, Duty of Obedience, silence gives consent, and remember to have fun but take care of this organization at the same time. This gets better, because one of our District Presidents then shared the information with their district! This is the sharing of knowledge we've been looking for in our department.

It has been a year of learning in our department. We had first-time chairmen, first-time district presidents, and units with new leadership, which means stepping up our mentor game has been vital. We do not have the resources at department to have everyone call there to get answers, so we're working to have Units ask within, then go to their District President, and then the District President will go to Department if more clarity is needed. By doing this, the District President is aware of what sort of training needs exist within their district. This is a work-in-progress, but it's encouraging to see it starting to happen more often.

Legislative Chairman | Tracy Peets

Submitted to Western Division Chair, Eva Wallace:

During the course of the year, I attended each quarter's legislative zoom calls and they were all very informative. This year's Western Division Chair, Eva Wallace, was super communicative, and the National Chairman, Donna Dillard, attend each quarterly call. She also provided valuable information that was then emailed to everyone after the calls.

In the fall, I revised and published the 2023-24 Legislative Committee bulletin to Department for distribution to Units. This helped remind Units of the actions they can take to work the Legislative program. I received mid-year reports from units and am just now starting to receive year-end reports. Most of the actions being conducted by

individual members are answering calls to action from the Grassroots center and receiving newsletters from their national, state, and local elected officials. Most units report having at least one member subscribing to the Auxiliary's Legislative Facebook page. They then share information within their Units. One Unit also focused on encouraging Legion Family members to vote in upcoming elections, especially the upcoming Presidential election in November. She said it may be far away, but now is the time to educate yourself on key policy differences between the candidates especially related to veteran issues and care.

I also shared two Legislative Committee items via an email blast from Department:

- Shared Central Division's Legislative Newsletter. This newsletter encouraged members to sign up for legislative alerts so they can make their voices heard about paying our troops in the event of the looming government shutdown.
- Shared 118th Congress 2nd Session Legislative Agenda. Included a link to review the agenda on The American Legion Legislative Site.

Our National Security Chair Yvonne Drury attended the Washington Conference this year. The Oregon Delegation, including Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt, met with Senator Jeff Merkley and aides of Representatives Val Hoyle and Cliff Bentz. After Yvonne returned from the conference, she wrote up the entire legislative agenda for the 118th congress, 2nd session in her Legion Family Newsletter. Several Department Members subscribe to Stevens-Cute Post/Unit 4's newsletter, so her message was spread far and wide.

Additional information shared as remarks at the Department of Oregon Convention:

Wanted to share some stats related to our Units' legislative activities.

- Eight Units sent in a report or an email regarding the Legislative program in their Units. Thank you!
- Legislative-Related contacts made by Unit members: **Great job!!**
 - 59 US Senators
 - 54 US Representatives
 - 60 State Officials
 - 5 Local Officials
- Three personal visits where made during Washington Conference.
- Total of 18 hours were reported across the Units for the Legislative program.

Membership Chairman | Cindy Soria

ALA Drivers

I can't believe our year is coming to a close, but membership still has until the end of July so let's keep trucking up to Wilsonville. I received 1 report. These reports are so important. Talk to your members and encourage them to tell their story.

Congratulations to 7 goal units. They are Travis Moothart #184, Washington #2, Ontario #67, Frances M Yost #59, Argonne #56, Carlton Memorial #173 and McMinnville #21. Great Job!

I was on 3 zoom calls with western division membership. It was great to talk with departments in our division. Hearing their success stories on membership and also hearing their struggles. We all face the same issues. Western Division still holds first place in national.

I worked on contacting members of unit 114 to see if they would like to be transferred to a active unit and following on members that have not paid for the 24 year. Unfortunately, there was no feedback.

I hope you all enjoyed the Truckin theme. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your membership chairman.

God bless our veterans, members and our country.

National Security Chairman | Yvonne Drury

Thanks to a webinar presented by our National ALA National Security Chair, Department of Oregon President asked me to give a class at our April 2024, DEC meeting, to enlighten most of our Units as to the difference between the two programs. I used the closing minutes of the class to have the attendees fill out the year-end questionnaire and additional questions suggested by the National Chair.

Following the class, the members then understood the difference, and realized that, due to prior misconceptions, they had been doing the National Security program all along without knowing it!

Year-end questionnaire responses:

Do you have a military installation nearby?	YES – 12 Units	NO – 7 Units
Do you work with FRG at the installation?	YES – 10 Units	NO – 8 Units
Do you have contact info for the FRG rep?	YES – 13 Units	NO – 4 Units
Did you Unit give monetary or other support to a military family?	YES – 13 Units	NO – 6 Units
Did you hold a Welcome Home event?	YES – 4 Units	NO – 14 Units

As to the four questions posed by National ALA:

How have you supported military service members and their families?

How have you collaborated with other like-minded organizations that also support them?

How have you raised awareness of POW/MIA's and work by DPAA to search for MIA's?

How have you supported those families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice?

Portland Unit 1: (see attached report)

Washington Unit 2:

We work with FRG to determine needs. We adopted a family for Christmas and provided gifts and food.

A member volunteers to help bind quilts for Quilts of Valor, and the Unit donates money to USO.

We brought back information from the National Convention to our Unit members, and donated money to a program that helps find and recover POW/MIA's.

We donated money to have wreaths placed at the National Cemetery.

The Unit paints colorful, one-of-a-kind rocks, some decorated with encouraging words or phrases, others painted with intricate designs or laden with cheerful stickers. These have been used to send support to a military base in Washington State, along with Be The One information, following a suicide.

Stevens-Chute Unit 4:

Gave 50 backpacks for National Guard kids, and \$1,000 in Christmas gift cards for families.

Work with Central Oregon Veterans Outreach and FRG on a case-by-case basis to help Guard members and families in need.

Had Derek Abbey of Project Recover speak to our Post and Auxiliary, followed by donations from Unit and members.

Work with Bend Heroes Foundation to honor Gold Star Family events.

Hillsboro Unit 6: No chairman, nor do they work the program.

Medford Unit 15:

Supported National Guard Armory and Camp Withycombe with Easter baskets for the whole family, back to school backpacks, and huge Christmas baskets which include food, crafts, toys, linens, etc.

McMinnville Unit 21:

Gave Christmas gifts for children and food baskets, gifts, dinners, lap robes.

Work with Quilts of Valor.

Escorted a fallen soldier, helped organize and provide monetary assistance to bring the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Crook County Unit 29:

Gas cards, family Christmas gifts and food for 3 families with 8 children.

Provide monetary help to other like-minded organizations supporting military families.

LaGrande Unit 43:

Supplied \$2,000 in Safeway gift cards to our FRG to hand out in emergencies and gave \$500 to a National Guard member to be able to drive to an out-of-state family funeral service.

Williams Valley Unit 50:

We have raised awareness for POW/MIAs with a Facebook article and pictures.

Lebanon Unit 51:

Donated food and provided transportation for military families. Lunches and Halloween and Christmas parties for children.

POW/MIA chair and table set up for all events.

Gold Star family visiting, transportation, help with chores, yard work, home repairs.

Lester C. Rees Unit 57:

Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets for active duty at McMinnville Armory.

No support for Gold Star families, don't know ho

Harney County Unit 63:

Donated \$500 to active-duty young man buying first home.

Ellis Tracy Unit 77:

Programs and monetary help for parents and families, food baskets, Christmas gifts, school supplies.

Support Gold Star families by decorating graves, giving food baskets, monetary prizes for children's participation. Newspaper articles for recognition.

Aloha Unit 104:

Sent a box of coupons to Guam valued at \$89,660. Co-hosted a Christmas banquet with gifts for children of the 141st Battalion being re-deployed in 2024.

2 members made quilt squares for Quilts of Valor seen at a quilt show in Hillsboro.

Haven't done any awareness events, but always honor the empty chair at our meetings.

Haven't participated because we are unaware of any Gold Star families at our Post.

Aurora Unit 110: Do not work the program.

Fallon Unit 123: Do not work the program.

Oregon Trail Unit 150:

Shopped and gathered Christmas toys and gifts for the children of deployed soldiers. Held fundraisers with raffles at every meeting to support different causes. Spent 50 hours and \$10,890 for the Christmas gifts and to give aid as needed for rent, bills and medicine to Camp Withycombe, Fort Kennedy, and Portland VA Hospital.

Held open houses at Post on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day for active military and veterans.

I will chair this committee again in the 2024-2025 year, and I am excited to see the work being done to support our military personnel and their families, at home or abroad. As a Department with many small, rural Units, they can do much to let our military families know we support them.

Thank you to our Western Division and National Chairs whose input and dedication to our National Security program makes our job easier.

Poppy Chairman | Dianne Standing – Pending

Public Relations Chairman | Karen Banks

Department of Oregon American Legion Auxiliary is made up of 41 units. I believe that each unit works their individual programs at different times. Not all units are as active as others.

Units participate in Poppy days in May. Unit #6 Hillsboro work the program year-round. They participate in the local Farmers Market, giving away flags, handing out poppies and information on flag etiquette. They have a craft bazaar in December. Each time they are out in the community they are branded and have banners identify who they are.

Units wear branded shirts while they are out working their programs. Several units send out newsletters out to members. These are in conjunction with their Posts. Some units have a community presence by having fund raisers open to the community. North Eugene Santa Clara Unit #83 hold a grab-n-go fish fry that embraces the community as well as being a fundraiser for the unit.

Some units also have radio stations that promote their monthly activities open to the public, flag retirement ceremonies, BBQ Christmas Tree sales and special fundraisers. Other units distribute PSA's. Harney Co #10 has had 5 mentions in the local paper about meetings, Girls State and local radio and John Day radio on human trafficking.

We were honored to host the American Legion Auxiliary National President.

Excerpt from the News Review: "Lisa Williamson, the American Legion Auxiliary National President, is visiting Oregon and will be in Roseburg on Wednesday.

Williamson will have a meet and greet lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Earle B. Stewart No. 16 American Legion post at 406 SE Oak St. in Roseburg. Williamson's visit to Oregon will bring her to Florence, Coos Bay, Cottage Grove and Eugene. She is originally from Fairbanks, Alaska, and was elected to the position during the national convention in August 2023."

VA&R Committee Chairman | Linda Liebenow

This year we learned the difference between National Security and VA&R. We will continue to educate members of the difference.

Still serving is National Security

Served is VA&R

We need to toot our own horn! We do wonderful things for our Veterans, and we need to brag about it.

In 2023 we were able to host the Rose Festival Court at the Portland VA

We were able to fold Christmas gift shops at four facilities in Oregon.

We established hospital Reps in two of the VA facilities.

We participated in the National Salute to Veterans and the Vietnam Commemorative 50th Pinning Ceremony

We continue to support the Liver and Kidney Transplant Unit with food donations.

We supported Stand Downs in two different counties.

We participated in Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day parades and events.
Adopted Veteran families for Christmas and helped Veterans when they needed help with utility bills, rent or car insurance.

As always, we are sewing for our Veterans making neck pillows, afghans, and Bereavement Quilts,

Support transitional housing for our Veterans.

Earned \$400 for the Department President's Project, David's Chair, by participating in the Wreaths Across America \$5 give back program.

We donated 5,902 hours

Spent \$44,825

Served 3,881 Veterans

In kind donations of \$15,504

GREAT JOB!!!

I have tried to emphasize new things this year. They aren't really new just outside the hospitals. They are Quilts of Valor, Wreaths Across America, and Fisher House. I hope that the Units will continue to support these organizations.

We need to work on updating our needs list for the individual facilities and I would like to see us update our awards list and tweak them to include more awards for National Security.

Thank you to everyone for a great job supporting our Veterans. That is why we are here.