

Approved as corrected, June 15, 2024

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (DEC)
April 21, 2024, | John Day, OR**

Call to Order by President, Catherine Brockmann. With colors being in place, we saluted the flag.

Invocation by Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez.

“Heavenly Father, we come to you asking for your blessings and helping us as we gather together, we pray for guidance in matters at hand and ask that you bless us as we conduct our meeting. With the spirit of joy and enthusiasm, help us to work together and encourage each other for greater results. Bless our veterans with their needs for they sacrificed a lot for their country. So, please hear our prayers. In your name we pray, Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Yvonne Drury, National Security Chair and recited by all. The National Anthem was sung by all present.

Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary led by Pam Seelye, Parliamentarian.

POW/MIA, American Legion Resolution 288 recited by President Catherine.

The Spring DEC Meeting was declared regularly convened.

Roll Call of Officers, (present) Jody Marsh, Secretary:

President Catherine Brockmann, Vice President Cindy Soria, present; Secretary Jody Marsh, Past Department President (PDP) present; Treasurer, Helen Hisaw, PDP, present; Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez, present; Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye, Western Division Community Service Chair, and PDP, present; National Executive Committee person, Krisann Owens, PDP, present; Alternate NEC, Jody Marsh, present; Barbara Sumner, Sgt-At-Arms, present; Suzanne Hurd, Assistant Sgt-At-Arms, present.

District Presidents, as roll call is taken, please introduce your Vice Present if present: District 1, Dianne Standing, present; District 2, Gregoria Hernandez, present; District 3, Roberta “Bobbi” Peebler, present (Suzanne Driver, VP); District 4, Patsy Sakraida, present (Bonnie Smith, VP); District 5, Ginny Williams, PDP, is absent, Karen Banks, VP is present; District 6, Maggie LaMont, present (Mary Ward, VP); District 7, vacant; District 8, Not represented; District 9, Frankie Trask, present; District 10, Linda Schmidt, present .

Introduction of Past Department Presidents, Secretary Jody Marsh:

Krisann Owens 2018-2019 & 2003-2004; Cyndi Dahl 2008-2009, Jody Marsh 2011-2012, Pam Seelye 2012-2013; Linda Liebenow 2014-2015; Helen Hisaw 2017-2018, and Debra Godwin 2021-2023.

For those of you that didn’t meet her yesterday, our Administrative Assistant, Danielle “Danni” Gonzales is here.

Introduction of Department Chairmen and Committee Members, Secretary, Jody Marsh

Administrative Committee: Debra Godwin, Chairman; Helen Hisaw, member; Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cyndi Dahl; Constitution & Bylaws/Policies, Pam Seelye; Convention Chairman, Jody Marsh; Education & Scholarship, Suzanne Driver; Finance Committee: Helen Hisaw, Chairman, members, Maggie LaMont, Suzanne Driver, and Bobbie Peebler; Membership: Cindy Soria; National Security, Yvonne Drury; Poppies & Poppy Poster, Dianne Standing; Public Relations, Karen Banks; VA&R: Linda Liebenow, Chairman, Maggie LaMont, member; Portland VA Medical Center Gift Shop Coordinator, Linda Liebenow; and Roseburg VA Medical Center Representative, Cindy Soria. That concludes roll call.

Rules of the Department Executive Committee, Jody Marsh, Secretary

Article V, Section 2 of the Department Constitution

The Department Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Department President, Department Vice President, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, the District Presidents, National Executive Committeeperson, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt-at-Arms, Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms and Past Department Presidents with membership in the Department of Oregon.

Those members with the right to vote are the Department Vice President, National Executive Committeeperson and District Presidents with the Department President voting in case of a tie.

Minutes of previous D.E.C.:

President Catherine: You have received the minutes of the 2024 Mid-Winter DEC via Zoom. Are there any corrections, changes, comments? Hearing none, the minutes of this meeting will stand approved as printed. Thank you.

Reports from Department Officers

Secretary, Jody Marsh: None

Historian: President Catherine noted the position is vacant and requested that if you have pictures from the year, please email them to me or put them on a flash drive and give them to Department for me. I would love to see the pictures of things happening. When I'm visiting somewhere, I'm not taking selfies, so if there are pictures out there of me visiting or doing something, please send them to me.

Chaplain, Gregoria Hernandez: None

NEC, Krisann Owens:

My report is in the book of reports, and you can read it at your leisure. I've had a couple questions, and they are just protocol stuff, not that important, just fun stuff to know about the Auxiliary. When you are looking at somebody, your emblem should be over your heart and the only thing that can go above that is the American Flag. The other side is reserved for your name tag and it's there because when you shake someone's hand they can look right at your name tag and know who you are. That is the end of my report.

Vice President, Cindy Soria: Nothing to add to my report in the book of reports.

Treasurer, Helen Hisaw:

Good morning everybody. Thanks for being here, I appreciate it. There was a meeting on April 5th at Department to start preparations for the 2024-2025 proposed budget. I'd like to thank all those that participated. We had some extra people this time. Our VA&R Chair was there which was very helpful, and during that conversation the VA&R Chair brought to the attention of the committee that our Christmas Cheer fund program was only being used at one facility and would be better served to eliminate that particular category and move the funds to Christmas Gift Shop Nonspecific. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to remove Christmas Cheer from the list of donations and the money moved to Gift Shop Nonspecific as that would allow facilities to access these funds.

President Catherine: Is there any discussion on the recommendation? Hearing none, we will vote on the recommendation. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye [ayes], opposed, say nay [none]. The recommendation is accepted, thank you.

In the matter of unrestricted charter closings, we received \$10,935.89 from the closing of Grants Pass #28. A request was made by the closing Unit to donate part of this amount to the American Legion Baseball program in that area. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to donate \$500.00.

President Catherine: We have another recommendation and that is to donate \$500 from the unrestricted charter closing of Grants Pass to the American Legion Baseball program in that area. Is there any

discussion? All those in favor, please say aye [ayes], all those opposed [none]. The recommendation is accepted.

Thank you guys very much. Cindy, I will let you get me the information on where to get the donation made and what name you want it to be in.

As for the budget to actual, please note that on line 14, office supplies, the amount of \$359.97 of that amount was for the office chairs that we voted for at the last DEC. It looks like it's a little high, but actually that money was taken from the donations fund, so we didn't really run over budget. It just needs to be visible so you could see it. We did purchase three chairs; they are in place and were definitely very needed.

Our financial statement from Ameriprise as of March 31, 2024 is at \$268,586.91. Our original investment was \$255,500. That is an increase of \$13,086.91 overall.

Again, I'd like to take a minute and recognize the Finance Committee; Maggie LaMont, Suzanne Driver, and Bobbi Peebler who are always on top of it. They are a great committee to work with and very approachable if you have any questions. I appreciate their time and effort very much. Thank you, we will continue to strive and adhere to a balanced budget.

Executive Session

President Catherine: At this time, I will be calling for an Executive Session of the DEC. So, all members of the DEC will remain in the room. Those that are not members of the DEC I would ask that you please go outside for a few moments while we conduct confidential business.

The Executive Session was closed, and the rest of the members were admitted into the meeting hall.

A single rap of the gavel, and President Catherine returned to regular business.

Reports from District Presidents: None

President's Report, Catherine Brockmann: We've made it to the time of our year when we realize we're closer to the end, than the beginning. The year has been a journey, and I've enjoyed the people I've met and the places I've seen, which have been numerous this year.

As the Auxiliary, we support the aims and purposes of the American Legion. Have you ever been to one of the Oratorical contests that happen? They happen at the Post, the District, and then Department. These up-and-coming young people are amazing!! To watch them give their orations on the constitution gives hope that there are still young people out there who care and believe in the foundation of this country. There are other opportunities to see our young people in action... Girls State, Boys State, Law Enforcement Career Camp. I highly recommend attending any of these competitions, closing ceremonies, or other events. It will show that the ALA really does support the Legion and we care about our youth.

Just a short 10 days ago we were wrapping up our National President Visit. Madame President Lisa is an amazing person, and it showed in every discussion she had, whether it was with an active-duty member, a veteran, a member of the Legion family, or just someone from a community. I will tell you that the highlight of her trip happened on the first day, at N. Eugene/Santa Clara 83. There were 11 American Legion Riders there to escort us to Camp Alma, and then on to Florence. It was fun to watch Lisa's eyes light up, and she acted like a little kid in a candy store, when she saw all the motorcycles. She is an active rider; in case you didn't know that. What a great way to start the trip. I want to thank all those who took the time to come meet the National President, prepare the meals, provide gifts, and share your love of veterans with her. She could tell we love our veterans by all the things she saw and did while here.

As the sergeant-at-arms hands out the National President Pin to each of you, I would like you to know that I bring greetings to you from our National President, Lisa Williamson. The pin is very near and dear to her heart. You'll notice, it's shaped like a dog-tag, to honor to those who are currently serving. You'll also notice the ribbon in the design – it is the Suicide Awareness ribbon, which ties into the Be The One at the bottom, which is the focus of her year. In fact, it's the first time The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary,

and the Sons of the American Legion leadership, at the National level, are all focused on the same issue – at the same time - preventing military/veteran suicide. The 988 in the upper right corner is the phone number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Anyone can contact this number for support. So, when you wear this pin, wear it with pride, and remember the focus of Be The One.

This concludes my remarks. Thank you.

Reports from Chairmen

Administrative, Debra Goodwin, Chair:

We went through and updated some of the materials for our Admin Assistant. Her job offer letter we fixed (paid holidays) and had her resign. We updated the Employee Handbook which had not been reviewed since June 2017, at convention. Updates include the following recommendations from the committee:

1. Time off requests to Admin Committee, Department President, and Secretary
2. Paid Holidays (10): New Years Eve, New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving & the day after, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

President Catherine: There is a recommendation on the floor from the Admin Committee to accept the updated Employee Handbook with the date of April 21, 2024. Is there any discussion?

Debra Godwin: District 10 President Linda Schmidt questioned if it was appropriate to use the phrase, the largest women's patriotic service organization [Section 1, History, Goals & Culture]. This was discussed at the Admin meeting yesterday and took the following verbiage from the National website: "Founded in 1919 the American Legion Auxiliary is one of the largest veteran support organizations."

President Catherine: We have amended the recommendation to include the sentence (pg. 4), just read by Admin Chair, Debra Godwin. Is there any discussion by members of the DEC? Hearing none, all those in favor say "aye" [aye], all those opposed say "nay" [none]. The recommendation is accepted.

Admin reported on the need for the Admin Assistant to purge/organize the documents on the computer. At this point there are multiple copies of policies, bulletins, etc., going back at least 20 years. The Admin committee is recommending that this process be limited to a maximum of two (2) hours per week, as time permits.

President Catherine: There is a recommendation on the floor to allow the Admin Assistant to do versioning control on the files, so that we only have the most current, not spending more than two hours a week if she has time. Is there any discussion?

Lengthy discussion to ensure that the documents would not be permanently deleted but archived. Received update that the Legion is most likely going to move away from a server (due to equipment age and maintenance) and transfer to the Cloud. Discussion then focused on an external hard drive that will archive the historical documents off the computer and the Cloud which should make the computer work better and faster.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, requested clarification about how much to archive, in terms of years. She reminded us there is a document retention policy for Department to help with this process, to include some documents that will need to be retained permanently. Question posed as to if "we" wanted a printed file copy of permanent documents or a digital file. Helen also requested that Danni (Admin Asst) be given specific written instructions on what to keep and how to keep it: how many years do we keep; what does she do with what she does delete, can it be deleted off the computer, can reports be shredded, the mounds of paper in the vault (historical minutes and reports) – do these get scanned and save for historical records or are they to be shredded.

Admin Chair, Debra Godwin responded by confirming that Danni (Admin Asst) did indeed have the Retention Policy. Debra clarified that the Admin Committee is asking that a current working file be maintained, and then files for the older documents for historical purposes. An example was provided as a policy that gets updated with a current approval date has several versions in the computer and an older approved policy can be mistaken as THE current policy.

Jody Marsh, PDP, asked if an external hard drive is something that we would like to look into so that documents could be stored there while the discussion about which documents to keep, archive, or discard is being had.

Discussion on external hard drive ensued. A reminder was provided by District 10 President, Linda Schmidt, of the time the ALA received a ransom request for hijacked files and posed the question, would an external hard drive help protect us from that?

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer, explained that an external hard drive is plugged into the computer long enough to download the files from the computer and then it is unplugged. They are not expensive, and they hold a great deal of information because that is all they do, hold the information. An external hard drive to archive our information is an excellent idea.

President Catherine: There is a recommendation from the Admin Committee to clean up the files by dividing the documents into current and archive. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of cleaning up the files please signify by saying "nay" [nay], those opposed say "nay" [none]. That recommendation passes.

We have another recommendation.

Debra Godwin, Admin Chair: The Admin Committee recommends the purchase of an external hard drive for department to put all the old file on for the purpose of archiving them.

President Catherine: We now have a recommendation from the Admin Committee to purchase of an external hard drive to store all the archives on. Is there any further discussion?

Maggie LaMont, District 6 President, suggested that we may want more than just an external hard drive to store documents on. She proposed something that would allow us to back up our entire system, in case of a computer crash.

President Catherine: So, an evaluation will need to be made of all the information to be stored on the computer to see how large the external hard drive would need to be. Any other discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of purchasing an external hard drive please signify by saying "aye" [ayes], all those opposed say "nay" [none]. The recommendation is approved.

Helen Hisaw, Treasurer: A question from the Finance Committee, where are those funds going to come from? We have the funds, we have quite a bit in donated funds for the office, you have a copy of that list. We just want you to decide where the funds should come from.

Cyndi Dahl, PDP, stated the funds should come from office supplies, as there is money available in that category.

President Catherine: Thank you Cyndi, duly noted, research will have to be done to see how large of one we will need, which will then determine the cost, which then further discussion will have to happen where that amount of money will come from if there is not enough in office supplies for the entire purchase.

Membership, Cindy Soria: Here is a visual of our traffic jam on I-5 (poster board with trucks, held up for all to see). As you can see we have a lot of trucks in Salem. What can we do to get those trucks out of Salem and on their way to Wilsonville? They are waiting for their load (membership) to get on the road. I just wanted to give you a visual of what our membership is looking like right now. We're a little behind right now, as you all know. We have a lot of Units that are so close to 100% and I know it's the same old story, make phone calls. District Presidents, call your Units and ask them, what can I do to help with your membership? We have five (5) goal Units for the whole state. If you remember two years ago we had a 100% Department [applause]. There is still time to do that, we still have two months. Let's try to get our membership in. The membership report is being passed out now. I really don't have a lot to say except, let's get out there, talk to your Units, let me know what you need (District President's) to help with

membership. It's going to take us contacting those Units to encourage and see what we can do to get them to goal.

Linda Libenow, PDP, asked about the Units in District 7 where there is no District President; who is helping those Units? Neither one of them has even ten (10) members.

Cindy Soria, Membership: Good question and do you know what, that's something that I should do then as the Department membership person. I'll give them a call and see what I can do.

I don't have more to say other than we can do it! We can achieve 100%, we can get membership in! I did have a call with Western Division a few days ago and nationally, membership is down 11,000. We can't let it go any lower. We have to do our part, at least here in Oregon to stop that slide. Thank you so much for what you are doing, I do appreciate it! I am only a phone call away if you want to chat about anything.

National Security Chair, Yvonne Drury: I now have received 13 year-end reports, up from three (3) after yesterday's training!

I wanted to remind you that the National & Western Division Chair send really good information all year long that we like to forward to the Units. Thank you to Danni and Madame President for helping me to get that accomplished. I feel like for all committees/programs, we have been more informed this year, than we have in the past.

I still would like to be on anybody's Post/Unit Newsletter email list. Sometimes, I can get all kinds of information on what you're doing that you don't bother to send me a report on. And I will call you. I will be doing this job next year, hopefully, so I encourage you all to get me on your email list.

Next I am going to give an after action attendee report from the National Legislative Conference I attended in Washington, DC, February 26-27. There were nine (9) of us from Oregon, eight (8) from the Legion and me. This being my first National Conference I was very impressed by their thorough organization that allowed me to understand what was being presented and what my responsibilities were, and where to go and how to get there.

I thought I was going to be assigned to National Security, but no, I was assigned to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. I was ready to learn something new! Prior to attending this conference, I had limited knowledge of these programs they discussed. They are programs that are available to our military personnel and our veterans to help them acclimate back into their real lives. Microsoft SkillsBridge and Career Skills program is something available to active duty people transitioning within six (6) months, also National Guard, reservists, and veterans. This program offers career skills and transition support. Originally, an in-person program, it has transitioned into a 17-week virtual program at no cost to veterans and they have 1,000 companies hiring from this program. They can apply at <https://military.microsoft.com/mssa>.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has a tuition assistance program for non-traditional students that are active duty, veterans. It is generally unknown program that is 90 percent virtual (online) that avoids taking costs from the GI Bill. They have also provided educational programs for non-traditional students, active duty military, and veterans. It is geared to filling severe shortages in industries such as space, cyber, and air traffic control. I think we all really aware of the air traffic control issues and have been for a long time. But yet, we have a lot of cyber things happening to us and we need to have people trained in this area.

Active duty personnel can work on their associate degree in the military. They did admit though the servicemember in for 2-4 years would not likely finish, yet the one in for 6-7 would most likely be able to complete their degree. It's geared for them to do it in a longer period of time. However, training programs are also available to ready veterans for work certifications, not just degrees. The trucking industry is a good example. They need drivers, not just long haul, think about companies in town; Amazon, UPS, FedEx. There is a task force movement working to connect public and private partnerships and provide workers for shortages in national security areas.

BE THE ONE training program was a biggie for all of us. Its developed and led by Columbia University, and I'm so happy we're going to hear at convention, trains lay people to communicate effectively with people who may be at risk of hurting themselves. Sometimes, something as little as a conversation letting a person know you are concerned with their well-being can make a difference and save a life. If you even say, "gosh, you don't look so good today, how are you doing?," you can kind of gear from there what the person's state of mind is. A disturbing statistic is that the veteran suicide rate is more than double of the general population, and I think we were all aware of that.

Training includes discussion on how (and I have to say, before I saw this I was afraid to say that word out loud, I didn't want to throw somebody over the hill, you know, that's not the truth) to identify risk factors, and warning signs; helps you understand the types of suicidal thoughts and four behaviors that help define an imminent risk so that you know you may need to ask for additional help (medical or mental health professional); how to help a person secure weapons, you know many people have them in their homes, are they lying on the dresser or locked up, help them get it to a more secure place so it can't be a five (5) minute thought, oh, I'm going to do this. Suicide by gun has a 90 per cent mortality rate, much higher than other means they may think of.

Another thing they pointed out is that traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can reduce the ability to avoid impulsivity. I don't know if anyone in your family has had a traumatic brain injury, my grandson did when he was 14-years old, he's now 23 and we see the effects of that. Maybe he was always impulsive, but maybe he wasn't, we don't know.

They also highlighted that social media causes a person to tune-out, go to their phone, and be more isolated. So, take a break from the phone for a week. Go out and do something else, see what the impact is.

Childhood trauma really affects how people deal with adult situations. Studies are showing that soldiers that suffered abuse or other trauma growing up are much less able to deal with the trauma of a deployment; two guys that experience the exact same thing react completely differently and impacts their life differently.

Dialing 988 is a good thing, I am loving the National President's pin.

I was going to recommend that we bring the training to Oregon, but we are already there with it being presented at our Department Convention.

On day two, we went to the conference on Capitol Hill. I was privileged to be on a team with Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt and District 9 Commander Eric Stalling. Our grass root's goal was to encourage the legislature to support the 13 issues on The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, second session. That document is available to you on the American Legion website, <https://www.legion.org/legislative/agenda>. It is a really good run down on those 13 issues, that we are trying to get legislative support on. They are coving such issues as suicide prevention and mental health, VA healthcare modernization, National Guard & Reserve GI Bill parody, military's quality of life, pay for Coast Guard during government shutdowns, access to healthcare for overseas military and families, improving the military assistance transition program (TAP).

All in all, this conference showed me the focus and power of The American Legion and the Auxiliary in supporting our military and veterans. I thank the National American Legion Auxiliary for this opportunity.

Poppy & Poppy Poster Chair, Dianne Standing:

I have done Poppies for the last three (3) years, and it has been my passion and my pleasure, and I thank you for putting me in this position.

This year I've had a lot of calls and questions on participating in Poppy Distribution at the Lincoln City Outlet Mall. I am sorry to say that the mall has new ownership and are no longer doing the program. I did leave my business card and asked them to call me if they should change their mind. 😊

Also, we did a Poppy Proclamation in the city of Forest Grove and will give it to the Mayor on May 13th, and she'll read the proclamation and it will be Poppy Day in the City of Forest Grove.

Convention Committee Chair, Jody Marsh

We are really excited to be going to the Mill Casino again. I know that for a lot of people it's a long drive, all of us are experiencing long drives this year. I will tell you it will be at the Mill Casino next year. They signed a three year agreement; the benefit is that we are able to lock in dates and things like that. I can tell you, there are no local Post and Legion families that are able or willing to host a convention. From one of its really convenient to have everything in one place, you can just go upstairs and change and not drive your car someplace else. There are pluses and minuses with everything.

The Legion is actually going to be meeting Wednesday day for their Committee on Committee meetings and such. Wednesday night is the Joint Opening Ceremony that we normally do. I would highly encourage EVERYBODY to be on site on Thursday morning, 9 AM. We will having a joint session with The American Legion. There will be a presentation by the National Judge Advocate, Mark Seavey who is their legal counsel. He is also legal counsel for the American Legion Auxiliary. He's going to talk to us about issues/items that are appropriate for all of us. How we need to do the business, why this is

important, this is what Posts and Units should look like when they are working together...I don't know exactly what he will present, I do know that it will be information that will be helpful to the Auxiliary as well.

Following that will be the 90-minute BE THE ONE training. It involves a pre-assessment, post assessment, as Yvonne was describing, there will be hands on training, some role playing. For anyone that accesses the Legion online or has a spouse that receives the national Legion magazine in the mail, there is a great article on the BE THE ONE training; why this program was chosen, how it works. It will allow you to familiarize yourself with it. I am tickled pink we are having this opportunity.

Our business session will begin Thursday afternoon at 1:00, following the VA&R lunch. We are also encouraging everyone to attend the lunches and the banquet. We are trying very hard to keep the prices reasonable. Last night's prime rib dinner for \$20 was amazing, that's not going to happen at the Mill Casino. I will tell you that the food at the Mill is superb. We are going to try and keep lunch in the \$20 dollar range and trying to keep the banquet below \$50, Having put on a convention in La Grande, I'm pretty excited to pay any amount of money knowing that I'm not going to be up till midnight doing dishes.

President Catherine also has this really cool idea. I just want to bring it up and talk about it now...all of us, or a lot of us, have been in this organization for a long time. We have lots of trinkets and military things, bags that we've picked up or gotten at National convention, things that we don't use but we have. What she would like for us to do is a little spring cleaning, I'm not looking for dirty things, or really used stuff. I have assorted rubber bracelets and military or Department pins, portfolios that you've gotten...Bring them and share them with some one that might be able to use them. It's like spring cleaning for (ALA) organizational or military things. Did I describe that accurately?

Debra Godwin, PDP, asked about any items left over at the end of convention and it was suggested that the items could be taken by Crook County Unit 29 for the grab bags they do as a fund raiser each year at their Spring District Meeting, also known as Round-Up.

This is just an opportunity to redistribute our collections. I know that I have a few red blazers that no longer fit, I only wear them a few times a year. Maybe it could be used by someone that doesn't have one.

Don't forget your district baskets because we are going to be doing that. There will be the TOALF (Foundation) Mixer, they are working on that, changing it up a little. We are excited! When asked how many people were going to the Mill, there were a number of hands in the air. Tell all your Units that it's going to be a lot of fun!

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chair, Cyndi Dahl

I would like to encourage all the District Presidents to convey to your Units the need for the AEF report for the end of the year. I have received two. And please have them send a supplemental report. And that concludes my report.

Communications, Jody Marsh, Secretary:

We do have upcoming deadlines, and all the convention information will be coming out, so check your emails. Does everybody here, not just those in the front, receive emails from the office? The informational emails. If you would like to make sure you get them, email Danni at alamembership@orala.org, or give her your email address. Then you will get all this lovely information that we all talk about. Some of it you will use, some of it you won't, but you can't say you didn't know.

Unfinished Business:

Grants Pass

President Catherine: I have Grants Pass closing in unfinished business. I realize that Helen said how much we had gotten from the closing, but I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to Cindy because she is the one that spearheaded getting the bank the information that they needed and the death certificate. There were so many hoops to jump through to get that Unit closed because all the members on the bank account passed away before they closed the accounts and that's a royal pain. And Cindy took care of all that!

I would like to ask the Education and Scholarship Chair to come forward and give us a report please.

Education & Scholarship Chair, Suzanne Driver:

Thank you Madam President for asking me to do this job. When I started, I was really confused, after contacting a previous Chair and having a few conversations, I went forward. I sent an email blast out to

all the Units and asked them to please promote the program , encourage applications and submit them to me. I received four applications from National and the deadline was the first of March, which was a weekend, and thought wow, I'm done now, I know who I'm going to submit. I came back on Monday morning, and I had nine additional applications. I ended up with 15 applications for the Children of Warriors and one (1) for the Department of Oregon. The Committee had a majority for one application, and a runner up. I reached out to the Western Division Chair to see if we could submit two and she suggested that I send both applications and she would select the one to forward. The committee declined that option and sent one (1) application forward.

I received an email that Oregon, Arizona, and California each had their applications sent on to National. And only Oregon received the winner for Children of Warriors. I have his application her with me, his name is Jace Stringer from Klamath Falls. He is only one of two or three males that sent applications in. The thing that really pushed him over the top for us was the essay he wrote for BE THE ONE. It is absolutely awesome. Would you like for me to read it? [President Catherine said yes, please]

“As a person who has experienced many forms of trauma throughout my life I'm keenly aware of the relationship between past trauma and mental health disorders. Being a servicemember brings its own unique stressors and potential exposure to traumatic events. But equally as importantly, research has shown that enlisted personnel in the military are at a higher risk of developing disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Before they can even enlist, due to a high number of adverse childhood experiences, a large majority of enlisted personnel are exposed to. Often, trauma can be passed on generationally, which is often seen as service members put at an even higher need for mental health support. In addition to these risk factors, enlisted personnel are often at a disadvantage educationally as many attain a high school diploma and do not continue their education to further develop the resiliency and critical thinking skills. Both of which are essential in managing and maintaining healthy mental health levels.

In my own personal friend group, I have experienced supporting peers going through adverse mental health situations. I have chosen to Be The One for them by sharing my own experiences and talking openly about mental health struggles and share what I have done to help cope, persevere, and come out a stronger person. I, along with my close friends have rallied around the person struggling creating a weight training group in my garage to help support each of those struggling, as exercise is a positive way to work through mental health conditions and regularly helps that person know they are not alone.

I have become an advocate for sharing mental health needs openly with trusted people to help destigmatize the experiences. I will also choose to Be The One for anyone in need of mental health support. In addition to non-military related to traumatic experiences in my life, I also deal with often times not being able to PCS with my mom and stepdad in order to ensure the continuity of care for my mental needs, as well maintaining some normality in my education. This brings about often undiscussed stressors of military families, often have to live primarily without a primary parent always being physically present.

I think I can be a strong support for younger military families who have similar experiences to help ease the load on military children and families by sharing my experiences of how I have coped in a healthy manner with these situations and be a sounding board for other families.

I spend my summers heavily involved in military events at whichever military base my stepdad and mom are stationed. This summer I participated in my stepdad's "Get to Know Your Military" community event at Joint Base Lewis McChord, which was an event that invited existing military members and their families as well as the community to come out for a day of fun and informative sessions to learn about parts of the military they may not be as well informed on. Events such as these would be an excellent opportunity for family members such as myself to Be The One for other peers that have gone through similar or even more stressful experiences. As a military family member to open up the opportunity for peer to peer supporting and encourage other peers they come across throughout their travels in the military. Military child peer support groups in schools with the aim to Be The One may be an additional way to Be The One for military communities. Brining natural peer support into the military community may help reduce adverse childhood experiences for military children to help the generational transfer of trauma and teach healthy coping skills from a young age that van modeled for other military children. Often, military children follow in their parents' footsteps and also enlist or commission into the military.

I will tell you that the 15 that applied there were some that were really good. I am only sorry that we could only send one. My request would be that we encourage applicants to apply for all available scholarships, not just the big ones with limited winners. A lot of little scholarships help. Thank you very much.

President Catherine: I do have one question for you, has anyone spoken to him about becoming a Sons member?

Suzanne Diver, Chair: He could be a Legion member because he enlisted under his grandfather. (???)

President Catherine: I have one more item before we move on to New Business. I need the Convention Chair to come up and clarify some information.

Jody Marsh, Convention Chair: The convention is the 12th-15th of June at the Mill Casino. If your Unit is going to bring their flags, then they need to bring people to carry their flags. At the opening ceremony, if you are a goal unit, those units have the opportunity to bring their unit banner (flag) in when announced. Be sure the flag bearers are aware they need to wear blue/black bottoms and a white shirt/blouse. I've had a request from the Sgt-at-Arms, we all love the District Baskets, and they do wonderful things, the money goes to the Department President's project, which this year she is sharing with the Department Commander, they have a joint project which is the tow and go for Davids Chair. The basket sizes are getting big, can we not maybe put them in a wagon, or an antique bookcase, something like that? Something manageable? No bigger than a laundry basket was a suggestion. Something like that would be easy for the winner to take home.

President Catherine: On the other side of that, the Legion is on the side that we were last year, and we are on the smaller side. There's not going to room to spread them out across the room. If we keep them smaller, they can fit on the designated tables, and it will go well. We will live with whatever we have if you've already gotten it. The others, if you have gotten it yet, try to keep it a little smaller. Thank you.

Is there any other unfinished business?

New Business:

Consent Agenda, Parliamentarian Pam Seelye:

I thought at our Fall DEC we had gone through all our policies, and I was wrong. Our very diligent office personnel discovered in her computer, 20 some more that we need to do. I put the phone down and cried. My goal was to have all the policies done so that we could move on to a getting a regular review schedule set up.

You should have received several policies in the Constant Contact that went out. We have a consent agenda for those of you, just a refresher. A consent agenda allows us to vote on a block of items. Does anyone have a policy they would like pulled out to discuss, clarification, anything like that at this time?

Most of them are being deleted, if you want a quick overview: Audit and Tax Filing, the Finance Committee wants to update that by starting over; Cavalcade of Memories, we no longer have that chairmanship so it's going to be deleted; Conflict of Interest Policy & Procedure, I just combined them; Constitution & Bylaws; there are some deletions and few additions, housekeeping type things on that one; First Vice President, we already have a Vice President Policy so this will be deleted (it will be archived in case we want to bring it forward); Second Vice President, we no longer have a 2nd VP so this will be deleted; Distinguished Guest Chair, added "read all chairman policy"; Jr. Past President, we updated this to be gender neutral, same thing with the National Executive Committee Woman; Trophies & Awards, we deleted a lot of stuff because we don't have trophies anymore.

Not hearing anyone wanting to pull anything out, Madam President I would offer that we put the packet to a vote or recommend.

President Catherine, So we have the consent agenda with all the changes that Pam discussed, is there any further discussion?

Maggie LaMont, District 6 President: My suggestion would be, when we delete a position, we automatically delete the policy so that we don't have to review it. If we don't have an Audit Committee, maybe table/retire the policy, and revisit it if the committee comes into being in the future.

Pam Seeyle: These will be archived, and we can bring them back if necessary. When I say delete it won't disappear forever, we can review and update when necessary. This will leave us with current policies and archived policies.

President Catherine: Thank you, that made perfect sense. I don't think that anyone disagreed with you on that.

We do have the policies, no one wants any policy pulled, no further discussion. No?

All those in favor of the consent agenda, approving all the changes that are listed in the documents you have received signify by saying "aye" [aye]. All those opposed, "nay" [none]. Thank you, everything has been passed.

The next thing on the agenda is a topic that is for information for everyone. There are no finite details on it yet. The Legion will be migrating to the Cloud:

The current server maintenance agreement will expire in May. What that means is that if it crashes or does something unbecoming after May, there is no way to get it fixed.

They are looking at two options; getting a new service or migrating to the Cloud. A new server would cost roughly \$8,000+. They are not asking us for help financially with any of this, I am just giving you details. Migrating to the Cloud will not cost as much as a new server, and the monthly fees are slightly less as well. That's why their looking at moving to the Cloud.

Their IT committee is working on a proposal. The TAL will be discussing the financial impact at this DEC and will be moving money accordingly to be able to fund the migration.

Migration normally takes 24-48 hours. Unknown how long this one would take until they get started and see how much information is to be transferred. The plan would be to start on a Friday and hopefully by Monday the files would be useable again, so the employees of the office are not impacted/ All information will be transferred: TAL/ALA/SAL.

When the migration is scheduled to happen, everyone with access to the server will be notified.

In the last few months, the server has died a couple of times (and come back) so there is a lot of concern that it will die and not come back. They are looking at getting this done as soon as they can figure out the finances to make it happen. They are looking at going with the same company, Axiom, but it would be Cloud instead of server. Axiom knows what we have, how it works, and how its organized.

A benefit of going to the Cloud is you can grant permission for different things, and you can limit permission for different things like files, folder, etc. The thought is that in the future we would be able to have designated areas set up where Chairmen can have reports sent into their folder, then they know the reports are there and they are digital. Same for District Presidents when you ask for reports they can drop right into your folder. It should simplify life, going to the Cloud, I'm not saying its perfect, I personally don't like the Cloud. It's a good thing because it's more secure, easier to maintain. I just wanted you to know that this is expected to happen, and we'll be informed when it does.

One more new business that I would like to point out. I would like to say a gigantic thank you to Debra for running a raffle that raised \$1,270 for the President and Commanders project. It was very exciting to get the check last night at the dinner. I believe that we are over \$5,000 on our side and they money on their side yet. It's a good thing, a very good thing. Thank you.

Does anyone have any other new business they would like to bring before the DEC?

Linda Schmidt: Do we know anything about Girls State?

President catherine: Connie Smith was called unexpectedly out of state due to conditions beyond her control. We are working on Girls State and what I can relay to you is we are receiving applications at

Units, Danielle has received one at Department from the applicant, one completed app at Department. I know that several Units have some and the numbers are coming up. May 15th is the deadline for getting them into Department. It would be great if you want to help in some way contact Connie Smith because there are positions that need to be filled. Don't forget the application to be a volunteer that went out via email. The more the merrier there

Upcoming Events:

April 27: American Legion Family Fun Day

June 12-15: Department Convention at the Mill Casino

June 23-29: Girls State, Oregon State University

President Catherine: I would like to thank Ellis Tracy Unit Treasurer, Joyce Nadine for the hospitality; coffee and great cookies provided. Thank you!!! [applause]. We appreciate you being here.

President Catherine: We thank you all for coming and showing you care by representing your Unit and you as a member. This is a great turnout, this fabulous! Thank you all for coming.

Debra Godwin, PDP: [acting as voice for Lori Vallery of Unit 57] Requesting that there be no flashing lights or anything like that be used to decorate for convention because she does have a disorder that set her into seizures.

Is there any further business to come before this meeting?

Krisann Owens, PDP: Madam President on behalf of the Past Department Presidents we would like to congratulate you on a very excellent, well done, Department Executive Committee meeting. And I say that as the senior PDP.

Closing prayer, Department Chaplain Gregoria Hernandez:

Gracious Lord we thank you for all of us being able to get here safely and for having a great weekend with all these people that showed up. Thank you again for the beautiful day. The meal we received. and everybody's good wishes for everyone to be safe going back home. Always keeping in prayer all those people in need for illness, homeless, strength and faith because faith will get us through it. In your precious name, Amen.

President Catherine: Till we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the Community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom, Loyalty, and Democracy.

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

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Executive Board, Department of Oregon, adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Transcribed and submitted by Jody Marsh, Secretary