

# American Legion Auxiliary



Department of Oregon

2024-2025 Mid-Winter DEC  
Zoom Meeting  
January 18, 2025

*BOOK OF REPORTS*  
Department President  
Cindy Soria

## **Department President / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Happy New Year American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oregon. These last 5 months have been very busy, tiring but so enjoyable.

October 11 was our Fall DEC in Lebanon. The meeting was well attended. I introduced my project for this year. I am raising funds for the Roseburg VA Hospice and Alzheimer's units. I would like to purchase new books for their library, patio furniture or even take them out on an outing. On October 16th I was invited to Williams Unit 50 for their monthly meeting. On October 19th I was invited by LaPine Unit 45 to their Christmas Bazaar Fund Raiser. The unit provided wonderful accommodation in a beautiful cabin. Friday night I enjoyed a steak dinner and a great visit with the unit President and members. Saturday, I attended the Christmas Bazaar offering poppies and selling raffle tickets. A wonderful breakfast and lunch were served. There were a lot of local vendors. On the 26th I attended the district 4 meeting in Grants Pass.

November started off attending the Albany National Guard Christmas Gala. Then I received an invitation to ride in a float in the Albany Christmas Parade. Besides the cold and rain, it was a great time. Albany Unit served breakfast and lunch where I help serve. Next was shopping day for the Secret Santa gifts for the in-house veterans and their immediate family members at the Roseburg VA. The gifts were wrapped and taken to their rooms. On November 30th I attended the Portland VA Gift Shop Opening. That evening was the Department Christmas Party in McMinnville. There were approximately 50 members in attendance. It was a great time with great people.

The busy schedule continued in December. On December 4th I attended the Lebanon Veterans Home gift shop in which I wrapped gifts that the veterans picked out. I also really enjoyed visiting with some of the veterans. On December 7th I attended the Dalles Veterans Home Christmas Gift Shop. Once again wrapping gifts and taking with some special veterans. December 17th, I attended the District 8 Christmas Party at Unit 150.

I continue to travel to department twice a month and sometimes more I needed. Also, I volunteer 4 hours a week at the Roseburg VA in the dementia and Alzheimer's units. How it warms my heart to see the smiles when visiting these special veterans. Some never have visitors.

Let's make the next 6 months great by doing what we do best, taking care of our veterans.

May God Bless You All,

Cindy Soria  
Department President  
24-25

## **Department Vice President/ Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Greetings to all and Happy New Year

The last 6 months have gone by quickly and the holidays have passed, now we can get back to our normal schedules. I have seen and heard about all the wonderful things that the Units have been doing in the last few months and especially at Christmas time. We all love helping our Veterans and their families. This is what makes us who we are. Madam President and I stay in contact with one another, and we went to a Christmas Dinner at Oregon Trail together. It was nice spending time with the Auxiliary there and getting to know people from other Units. I hope to do more of this in the upcoming months.

The Christmas Party at McMinnville was nice and it was my pleasure to present Madam President with a Book of Christmas cards from all the Units. It was a lot of fun putting that book together because I love doing crafts. Thank you to all the Units that sent a card and donated it showed me how much you appreciate our Madam President.

As your Vice President my main role is to do membership and that report is in the book of Reports, I am also spending a lot of time going through the Constitution, Bylaw's, Standing Rules and Policies (a lot of reading) The American Legion Auxiliary has many programs and benefits.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Vice President and Membership chairman.

Blessings

## **Department Chaplain / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

### **Deceased member condolence cards sent**

Judy Rea (Unit 95/Dist 6) card sent Oct 15,2024  
Linda Bullock (Unit 1/Dist 8) no next of kin listed  
Lydia E Wilson (Unit 10/Dist 3) no next of kin listed  
Patricia Baggett (Unit 51/Dist 3) no next of kin listed  
Courtney Fricker (Unit 99/Dist 1) card sent Oct 30,2024  
Connie Mork (Unit 99/Dist 1) no next of kin listed  
Martha Lee Thatcher (Dept of Ohio President) card sent Dec 1,2024  
Erma Conzales (Unit 180/Dist 8) no next of kin listed  
Marjorie Conroy (Unit 150/Dist 10 card sent Dec 20,2024

### **Care Home/Hospital visitation**

Weekly visit of local care homes.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit a veteran's hospital in the Atlanta area in November. I let them know that I was the Dept of Oregon Chaplain. They were very welcoming and appreciated my visit.

### **Daily Prayer list**

I continue to use my daily prayer list to remember our Department/District and Unit officers.

### **Weekly Chaplains Greeting**

My weekly Chaplains greeting is sent to all Department officers, as well as the District Presidents. It is my small way of showing support and hopefully encouragement to our Department and District leadership.

### **Training**

In my role as District 2 Chaplain. I am facilitating a Chaplains training on February 1 at the District 2 meeting. It is my plan as Department Chaplain to send out copies of the training to each of the Dist Chaplains in the hope that they might use it as a jumping off point to create and facilitate training in their Districts.

Unit 95 in Lone, Ore (Dist 6) was the only Unit that submitted a mid-year report to me.

In His Service

Lori Vallery

Department of Oregon Chaplain

971-241-1073

lvallery1961@gmail.com

### **Department National Executive Committee / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Madam President,

As time flies by, I am reminded of friends who have passed on, the great old times we had. A photo album at a memorial service for a long-time member brought the past to the present. Pictures of my family participating in local events as Legion Family members when our daughter was 5 years old. Yes, I did have brown hair and Kevin actually had hair back then.

My mind went racing into the past. The women who shaped my auxiliary career. The first time serving as unit president, every meeting was a learning experience as my unit family was blunt especially when I would make the smallest of mistakes. They were the best of times. Now with the changes my unit has made by moving into the Elks Lodge we're still trying to find our groove.

We will because our foundation is strong with over 100 years of experience and traditions. All of this makes us who we are and the members past continue to teach us from their opportunities they didn't squander. Bring back our traditions. If you don't know what your unit did in the past, read your histories and your meeting minutes. Even if the project or event seems silly or too difficult, do it anyway. You might just have the best time ever. Look for the fun and you'll find it!

I'm pleased to say the national organization is staying within budget which was surprising as we are venturing into events and places. We have been invited to participate in the Inauguration by purchasing a table for \$12,500. Seems extravagant and it is but we will be reaching a new and different audience, plus the advertising. We will also continue to support Honor Flights.

My advice: look to the past as it will present opportunities for you today. Keep your books up to date and you should get a treasurer's report at each meeting. Have a budget and stick to it. Make sure all your documents are up to date. You cannot survive without them.

Krisann Owens  
NEC  
Department of Oregon

### **District #1 President / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

District 1 Units have spent the past months being busy bees!

Thank you to Tigard Unit 158 for hosting our mid-Winter meeting on January 11th. Our turnout was small and informative. Formal reporting was minimal and as District President, I will accept that was my fault. I completely lost sight of the current date; therefore, my report request and meeting reminder notice were delayed.

Many Units reported on their support of Christmas. We had Units that assisted with the Portland Gift Shop with volunteers, supplies of gift bags, snacks for the opening, and donations. One Unit worked in their community along with the KGW Toy Drive to ensure that the children had a Merry Christmas. One Unit supported Roseburg VAMC and their homeless program by putting up a giving tree in their community and were able to donate over 100 pairs of socks, flannel shirts, sweatpants & sweatshirts, jackets, stocking caps and more! Another Unit assisted with the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots program providing countless hours of toy collection across the county, toy sorting for the 12+ distribution communities, and delivery. This Unit also held a fund-raising dinner that provided \$900 to Toys for Tots and over \$300 with in-kind donations. There was also widespread support for our National Guard, some deployed and some not.

Several Units supported the Wreaths Across America program, although there are no specifics as to the complete number ordered or how many utilized the "give back" option for Department.

In December, Units also participated in Legion Family Christmas dinners, parades, and community dinners, etc.

November brought focus to membership efforts. Some Units held "Early Bird" dinners with their Post family. This tradition provides a free meal to paid-up members and those that pay their dues at the time. For the Units with Post homes that utilize key card entry, emphasis is

made in newsletters and bulletins that a 2025 membership card must be shown to receive the new key card.

One Unit reported assisting in the celebration of a WWII/Korean War Veteran's 100th birthday!

October was filled with Halloween fun and costume contests. This was also a month spent distributing donations for Christmas Gift Shops and making plans & budgets executed in December.

There are several Units in the process of updating their Constitution & Bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jody Marsh, President

#### **District # 4 / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Klamath falls – unit 8; this unit is one of our most active, but this quarter was a slow one for them. Their last meeting was in November and there is no report for this winter. I talked to connie, unit 8 president, they will resume meetings in February.

Medford – unit 15; this unit has been very active distributing poppies. The president, ruby Taylor, ordered a box of American legion poppies and the members have had several venues where they represented their unit and received donations for department and veterans. They presented grieving families thanksgiving baskets and a scrapbook of deceased legion veterans. Another activity has been ongoing, to give donated items for the homeless veterans at the v a dom. They have baked cookies to sell as a fundraiser for their unit. This Medford unit is excited about the possibility of becoming a family post. The legion has been reestablished with new officers and what looks like an active post. They hope sometime in the future to have their own building again, even though it may be a low rent building.

Williams – unit 50; our unit has been very active, as we are a “post family”. The auxiliary helps with bingo, potlucks and every activity the post has. One major project has been obtaining and placing a 105 howitzer on our grounds, near a highway for all to see. The unit has helped in the past by painting signs, work parties, potlucks, and we will be involved with the same for the coming dates. As for our unit fundraisers, our main one of the years is to make and sell wreaths at Christmas. Our president, mavis conner, attained a wreath maker and we had in place the bows and decorations to complete the beautiful wreaths. We spent a lot of time and money on this project, and it was very successful. On the 18th of December the post held its annual Christmas dinner and awards banquet. The unit worked many hours decorating and getting ready for this. Before the end of the year, a load of donations was taken to the v a dom. Our Williams unit is at 85.3% of the goal and we hope to reach 100% soon.

Malin – unit 84; no report.

District 4 report. The DEC in Lebanon was very informative and i passed on at the meeting some of the topics and dates like wreaths across America, what it was all about, what some of the other districts were doing, girls state, v a and r, etc. I've tried to explain why the contests for our unit membership goals are so important. Why new members are so important to the unit, to give their units a more active, and possibly younger, interested, eager members that want to

serve. Otherwise, without new members, people drop out and for one reason or another the unit can die. Two of our units are on the other side of the cascade mountains.

District 4 president, Patsy Sakraida.

### **District #5 President / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Hood River

Donated to The Dallas Veteran's Home. \$150.

Fish Food Bank. \$150.

The food bank serves over 6,000 family's a month

Meals on wheels. \$150.

For a small Unit they are doing very good

Crook County 29

Crook County committed a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating senior.

Our TAL Commander provided a "Be The One" training for our members, Providing handouts and information.

We hosted our annual Hot Dog and Bake sale in October. The members supply home baked goods. This is a 3-day event with a great deal from the grocery store, this is held in the parking lot of the store. The proceeds will be used for our scholarship program. This year's success event created over \$650.00 for our program.

In November the unit and Post worked together to host a parade and spaghetti dinner on Veterans Day. The parade was well attended, and we served over 140 Community members.

December was very busy for our unit. The American Legion Hosted their Annual Auction with help from the Auxiliary. All proceeds go to the next year for food and Gifts for our annual gift giving. This year's auction brought in over \$14,000.00.

The Auxiliary provided an enchilada dinner previous to the auction. The Auxiliary went shopping on December 15th, we were able to give 5 active military or veteran families and National Guard families (34 people) and 20 senior community members.

Total spent \$4,000.00 from last year's auction.

Total hours - 368

Total Money - \$5,600.00

People served - 251

Unit 45 LaPine

October Trick or Treat

Over 100 children were greeted by the Auxiliary in town instead of hosting it at the Post. All candy was donated so our cost was \$0. Hours spent 15. We all felt it was a success.

The annual Holiday Bazaar produced \$1,000.00 so a Gilchrist and LaPine senior can apply for a \$500.00 scholarship each. Hours 80, cost \$25.00.

V A and R

Wreaths Across America

The Auxiliary was very busy implementing this event on December 14th, 2024.

This was our first time hosting it. We have a strong leadership team who was involved in the event at other locations. We are expanding the ceremony to include roll call, we currently have over 200 names. Hours - 100.

A (Be The One) presentation was put on by the Alan Alderman District 5 Commander,

K-9 for warriors Charity event held Friday October 25th. With the Post family We raised \$1,009. It was a great success. Hours 40 cost \$0.

A small group of ladies from Binding Alligants Quilt of Valor of Central Oregon, the unit president is a member, and another member have joined some sewing days. About 20 hours building quilt blocks.

Several Auxiliary ladies volunteer at the food pantry to dispense food for the needy.

About 3 to 10 hours a month.

unit 4. Stevens-Chute

Season's Greetings everyone!

please stop by on December 18th at 2pm for a causal afternoon conversation And Togetherness

By: District 5 President, Ginny Williams

### **District #8 President / Mid- Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Hello, First I want to thank all the ladies from all three of my Units for helping out at the VA hospital. Great support and you are the best. In November, Unit 180 did breakfasts, bingo, and dinners. Unit 180 had a Thanksgiving dinner for their members and nonmembers. Great food!!! Santa helpers were very busy in December. Unit 180 had breakfast, dinners, and dances in December also. They put on a Christmas party for children, where 140 kids came. They ended the year with a New Years party

Unit 150 has been busy with breakfast, and dinners. Santa's helpers have been collecting toys all year long for Camp Withycombe. They delivered over \$11,000 toys. WOW!! Just WOW. I'm so proud of them.

Unit 1 had breakfasts, dinners, luncheons for veterans, card bunto, Bunco, and Special Christmas Bingo. They had a special Christmas party for 8 Active servicemen's families. The children got to see Santa, got gifts and the families got food boxes. Everyone had a great time. Unit 1 ended the year with a New Years party also.

By: District 8 President, Barb Sumner



## **District #10 President / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

### **Harney County #63:**

Post Monthly Yard Sales – 5 members, 64 hours, \$130 in-kind provided by Auxiliary members for volunteers' lunches. This is our main source of funds for our American Legion Family projects.

Trunk or Treat – One ALA and one TAL member participated. 6 hours. Treat Bags contained patriotic toys, puzzles, pencils, and candy. In-kind donations \$215.

Veterans Day Dinner co-hosted by ELKS. Auxiliary provided table decorations and displayed their Wall of Honor, which they add to as more pictures/information are given them by the community. 106 served.

Legion Family Christmas prime-rib dinner. In-kind raffle gifts \$210, consisting of 2 door wreaths, fun gifts and several table decorations. A volunteer Christmas Tree ornament exchange took place. 12 Auxiliary members provided side dishes \$242. Prep, decorating, tear down = 35 hours. 42 attended.

Acts of Kindness: Two disabled individuals are helped continually with groceries, doctor appointments, laundry, cleaning, yard work, etc. 145 hours, 390 miles, \$274.10 in-kind support.

Children & Youth: Lacrosse teams – 2 hours. School fund raiser – 6 hours. Seniors – 30 hours serving food.

Community Service: Local Pow Wow and Senior Center – 32 hours.

279 hours given at the Senior Center helping with Medicare assistance and new enrollment periods.

### **Ontario Unit #67:**

Selling raffle tickets for a donated crocheted Afghan in red, white and blue.

Held a pizza party at a meeting and put together Veterans Parade and Halloween goodies. 12 volunteers, 36 hours.

Finish work for Veterans Parade and Trunk or Treat. 13 volunteers, 26 hours.

Bi-monthly veterans' dinner 3:00-7:00 pm. Hamburgers, hot dogs, 38 attended, 5 volunteers, 20 hours.

Legion Family Trunk or Treat: Pulled pork, rolls, coleslaw and chips 3-5 PM for volunteers. Trunk or Treat 6-8ish PM. Gave out candy, 200 books donated by library, 25 coats and 450 hats, 30 scarves/neck warmers. The Legion Family consisted of 20 workers, 12 were Auxiliary with 60 volunteer hours and \$300 in-kind donations. Approximately 700 parents/children attended.

Veterans Parade: Brunch attended by 10 members, followed with assembly to put banners on parade vehicles. 11 members, 22 hours. Parade: 10 members, 20 hours.

Vet Yoga hour: 6 people attended

Veterans Day: Ceremony (9 attended) and lunch (57 attended). Chicken noodle soup and ham/Swiss butter roll sandwiches. 7 volunteers, 21 hours.

Legion Family Christmas Dinner: 56 attended. 13 volunteers set up, cooked and cleaned up. Auction raised \$140. The auxiliary donated ham, vegetables and rolls to a family in need, \$25; \$100 presented to First Responders (Police and Fire Department). In-kind donations to the Auxiliary totaled \$220.

**Prairie Unit #106:**

Prepared and served veterans and families during funeral dinners. 75 hours.

Made and placed memorial grave crosses, decorated with poppies made by one of the Unit members. 80 hours. (not reported on last report).

Direct veteran projects through Elks. 15 hours.

Participation in School Smart Reading program. 7 hours.

*“Volunteers do not necessarily always have the time,  
They just have the heart.”*

By Linda Schmidt / District 10 President 2024-2025

**Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Madam President.

As the devastation in California, the veterans and their families need all the help they can get. I'm sure there are American Auxiliary members asking for AEF grants.

AEF is a national program. Our donations don't just stay in Oregon. They help others in the country.

Please continue to donate to AEF.

We can help them with our help, prayers.

By: Cyndi Dahl, AEF Chairman

**Girls State Chairman / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2025**

Girls State Chairman | Karla Thaler A successful return to Oregon Girls State led by outgoing Chairman Connie Smith with 32 exceptional young women took place at Oregon State University June 23-29, 2024. Thank you, Connie, for your undying service and dedication to this program and the Auxiliary. My experiences volunteering that week led me to choose a greater involvement, national training and ultimately appointment as your new Chairman at the last DEC.

Oregon State University has once again been secured as the location for 2025 Oregon Girls State to be held the week of June 22-28. It will again be held in conjunction with Boys State sharing several joint guest presentations. A grant request has been submitted to allow a trip to the State Capitol; more on that later. We are hoping to increase participation to at least 50 young women this year. Recruiting to high schools will begin soon. One of my primary goals is to ensure that our Girls State citizens know that the Auxiliary Girls State Program is equal to the Legion Boys State Program and not feel like they are a tag-along afterthought. Success depends on effective planning and participation. Last year's volunteers came primarily from one post - my own Washington Post 2 in Forest Grove. This is an excellent leadership program for young women looking to take their place in society. It is also an opportunity for you to grow as well and contribute to this program. Consider volunteering some of your time next summer for the greater good.

By: Karla Thaler ogskarlat@gmail.com / Dept. of Oregon Girls state Chairman 2024-2025

### **Membership Chairman/ Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2024**

Greetings to everyone

This has been an exciting year for me, watching the numbers each week go up.

. We have 2 Units that has reached 100%:

- Travis Moothart #184/106%
- Ontario #67/112%

We have 13 Units that have reached 75% or higher:

- Francis M Yost #59/95%
- Carlton Memorial #173/95%
- Washington #2/88%
- Chris Schultz #71/87%
- N Eug/Santa Clara #83/85%
- Williams #50/85%
- Mt Angel #89/83%
- Lone #95/81%
- Earl B Stewart #16/79%
- Argonne #56/78%
- Hood River #22/77%
- Medford #15/76%
- Aurora #110/75%

In terms of National the Western division is in 3rd place, and the Department of Oregon is at 66%. My theme with the honeybee's is Teamwork. We have made 100% before and we can do it again. The holidays have passed and 2025 is here, let's work toward our next goals. There are a few Units listed above that are really close to 100%. The West is the best because we will never give up and we all work as a team. Let's continue the good work and get out into our communities to help and care for our Veterans. This is what we do best!

“Believe you can, and your halfway there”

Dianne Standing  
Dept. of Oregon Membership Chairman 2024-2025

**National Security Chairman / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2024-2025**

LA GRANDE UNIT 43

Our unit is adopting 2 National Guard families for Christmas. We will deliver a certificate for a Christmas dinner from Safeway and a gift card from Walmart so they can shop for needed items and presents. A family of 5 will receive \$800 and the family of 3 will receive \$500. Both families have a child with medical conditions.

We continue to support The NG with gift cards from Safeway. Friday December 6th, we will take another \$500 in gift cards along with the adopted family gifts.

Our unit has made our active military a priority.

Kathi Karnowski

WASHINGTON UNIT 2

Our post and unit had a sendoff for our Forest Grove National Guard in September and we have made 248 cards to send to them overseas.

Sheri Russell

OREGON TRAIL UNIT 150

Post 150 is supporting Camp Withycombe's (National Guard) toy drive as other Posts in the area are. The Unit takes the lead in this, but there are donations from Unit, Post, SAL and Riders.

We have Unit members who start shopping right after Christmas every year.

Currently - in actual value we have \$11,002 in donations which we will be delivering on December 12 to Camp Withycombe. They have almost 300 currently deployed.

This is the biggest fundraiser that we do every year. We also do support requests for emergency funding from Camp Withycombe and give out at least \$100 per request. Our District 8 President reports those numbers for us.

EARL B STEWART UNIT 16

Carol Hunt is FRG for National Guard Charlie Company 186th out of Roseburg OR and their new point of contact.

We are having a Christmas Party for children - December 7, at Noon the National Guard on General Ave. in Roseburg. Strictly for children - hot dogs, chips, a hot chocolate bar, gifts for kids, Santa, since it is Drill Week I have hats for Elves to help with this event - we plan to hold an event for Deployed and non-Deployed Guard each month until they come home - would love to exchange any ideas, help, whatever.

STEVENS-CHUTE UNIT 4, BEND

Army National Guard Family Readiness Specialist is planning a Christmas event for the Central Oregon Army National Guard personnel and families on December 21, 2024.

Unit 4 has volunteered to help put on a cookie decorating party for the kids, to keep them entertained while their folks get help and information for the holidays. We are providing homemade or store-bought cookies appropriate for decorating, as well as frosting, sprinkles, and other decorator items so the kids can be creative.

Together with Post 4, we are also donating \$1,300 in gift cards to be distributed to the families as needed for Christmas.

Ongoing, we have funds for emergencies that can be requested as needed by the Family Readiness Specialist.

Yvonne Drury, President

#### SHERWOOD UNIT 56

Every year (3 years now) Unit 56 Sherwood provides toys and food boxes for families at Camp Withycombe, most having a loved one deployed. We also help families in our direct and neighboring communities who need assistance during the holidays. We have a few members who volunteer at the Portland VA gift shop during their holiday shopping/giving event.

#### HILLSBORO UNIT 6

Hillsboro Unit #6 has six members signing cards for a National Guard group from Forest Grove area that were headed to Syria over the holidays. So we would only have one-half hour total. Think we signed maybe 6 cards. They were part of the bunch that Forest Grove (Washington #2 ALA) was sending out.

Those are the only hours we have for National Security at this time.

For God and Country,

Yvonne Drury, Chairman

Department of Oregon National Security

#### **Public Relations Chairman / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2024-2025**

The year has flown by and already starting the last half of 2024-25 year.

I know that all the units have been busy working on their programs and helping veterans in their areas.

#### La Grande Unite #43:

Held their annual golf tournament in June and wore their branded clothing.

Held a bazaar on October 5th and wore their branded clothing if they had them. Publicity was used for this event. Veterans Day the unit held a lunch after the Veterans Day Parade for the veterans. They are also members of the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

#### LaPine Unit #45:

Unit 45 has had successful events for far. They use Facebook as their primary marketing tool along with flyers posted around town.

1. The annual Holiday Crafters Bazaar and High School Scholarship Raffle was held in October. Facebook, Flyers (see attached), and expanded road signs were used.
2. A Joint event benefiting K9s for Warriors was held in October. Again, Facebook was used. A Legion member took flyers to over 20 businesses in La Pine and discussed posting them in their business.
3. Wreaths Across American was held December 14 for the first time with Unit 45. La Pine now joins the WAA list of official locations on their website. The mayor elect of La Pine spoke, which was a learning opportunity for her to know more about us.
4. Week of December 16, President Tamm and Treasurer Esther met with the LaPine Memory Care facility to hand out stockings. They wore their badges.

In all events, Unit 45 Officers wore their auxiliary shirts and name badges. Badges are also worn when they do inners inside Post 45.

#### Forest Grove Unit 2:

Unit 2 has had a busy 6 months. They do not have a unit meeting in July or August but do have regular activities that keep them busy.

1. They get together to paint rocks. Have bunco gatherings for the community and exceed their membership goal.
2. The coordinated a Memorial celebration at one of the local cemeteries.
3. The distributed poppies during Memorial Day weekends and raised nearly \$3000!
4. Sent representatives to State Convention and Girls State.
5. Had a joint event with the Legion Post 2 and 6 in the July 4th Parade.
6. Held a Family Fun Day September 7.
7. November, they made up 200 stockings for Christmas Cheer.
8. Members participated in the VA giftshop ribbon cutting.
9. Donated to two VA families for Christmas.

Note: I was unable to copy the photos that were sent with this report.

#### Stevens-Chute Unit #4:

Members are encouraged to wear branded clothing at all events where they are representing the Unit.

1. Enjoyed some media coverage when we met a veteran travelling the length of US Hwy 20 promoting the Legion's "Be The One" suicide prevention mission. With flags, banners, caps, and branded clothing we made a great presence to veterans and public passersby.
2. We participated Memorial Day Weekend distributing Poppies. Always have a fun time.
3. We joined the Post and participated in Bend's local Veterans Day Parade. Rode in a van so the older folks could participate and hung both Legions and ALAs banners on the sides of the van.

4. The National Guard in Bend asked us to purchase gifts cards and make cookie kits for the local Guard unit as they are being deployed. We gave \$1500 in gift cards and made 24 dozen sugar cookies and made 73 kits with frosting and sprinkles for the kids to take home and decorate.

Note: Took lots of photos but not able to share.

All in all, it looks like the units are helping their veterans locally and statewide. Keep up the great work.

Karen Banks, Public Relations  
Department of Oregon American Legion Auxiliary

### **VA&R Committee Chairman / Mid-Winter DEC Jan 2023-2024**

As usual, the Units have been busy helping our Veterans and their families. But this time of year, the biggest projects were the Christmas Gift Shops held throughout the state. Thank you to everyone that helped make that happen with time, money or gifts.

#### **CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPS**

**The Veterans Home in The Dalles**, was held December 7th and 9th, with 35 volunteers working 180 hours to help 76 Veterans shop for themselves and family members. They drove 4012 miles to accomplish this. The gifts were all wrapped and given back to the Veteran or mailed to family members. They used \$2252 from the Department funds.

If you have Unit members that like to shop, here are some good gifts to purchase. Please try for a \$15-\$25 value, fleece throws(50x60), men's and women's slippers (size med-2x for men and small-large for women), socks, tools and bath sets for both women and men. If the Units can support the gift shop by shopping it really takes some of the pressure off of the ones that organize the gift shop. Thank you, Geanne Horne for your dedication to our Veterans and making this possible.

**The Veterans Home in Lebanon**, was held December 4, 2024, with 16 volunteers working 64 hours helping 75 Veterans shop for themselves and family members. The gifts were all wrapped before giving them back to the Veteran. They received \$970 in donations and spent \$1000 out of the Department funds. Thank you, Karol Satterfield and your volunteers. Good Job!!

**Portland VA** was held November 30 and December 2 through 5, 2024 with 44 volunteers from Units, Posts, and SAL Squadrons working 430 hours to help 294 Veterans shop for themselves and family members. The gifts were all wrapped before they were given back to the Veteran or mailed. They received \$19,002 in donations and spent \$2271 of Department funds.

If you have Unit members that love to shop, the Portland gift shop would love for you to spend your Unit money on buying gifts rather than sending money. The gift shop committee has to go out and shop every night after spending all day at the gift shop. There will be sales going on at this time of year. Good gifts would be in the \$15-25 value range. Examples would be, flannel

shirts (large to 2x), pajama bottoms (large to 2x) men's or women's, tools, fleece throws (50x60) and small appliances. And they love the handmade Afghans 50x60.

The Portland VA Christmas Gift Shop has a committee that includes Marie Larson, Brenda Flemming-Wilkes, Barb Sumner and Linda Liebenow. The shop would not go on without all of the hours that all of these ladies put in and the great volunteers. Thank you. Great Job.

**Roseburg VA Letters to Santa.** The gift shop is a little different at Roseburg VA. Most of the Veterans there are in different living facilities. The Veterans are given a catalog to shop from that has selected gifts available. Then the different organizations get the name of the Veterans and then they shop for the gifts that they have picked out. The gifts are then wrapped and given back to the Veteran. This year we helped 12 Veterans with 30 family members spending \$700 and 10 hours. Our own Department President Cindy Soria is the one that did all of that this year. Thank you. Great Job

**White City,** we don't have a hospital Rep at White City, but we still help out with money for their Christmas Gift Shop and their Christmas party for the Veterans.

#### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

We had another successful year with 42 wreaths bought with the \$5 Give Back Program. The money raised from this went to the President's Project. It is easy to buy through our Department of Oregon website with Wreaths Across America. Think about doing this next year, you will still pay the same for the wreaths but for each wreath ordered, \$5 goes back to us.

#### THIS AND THAT

We also spent \$365 buying clothing and food for the Roseburg Clothing Room.

Units donated money to PAVE who train support dogs for Veterans.

All of the things that the Units do every month.

#### HIDDEN GEMS

This time I have three Hidden Gems.

Banks Unit 90 wanted to do something different this year for our Veterans. They set up a giving tree with clothing items that our Veterans need. In two weeks, they collected over 150 clothing items! All of the clothing was taken to Roseburg VA for their clothing room. Great Job!

My second and third Hidden Gem is Washington Unit 2, better known as Forest Grove and Carl B. Fenton Unit 20. These two Units handmade 180 Christmas stockings to be used at Portland VA for the VAVS Christmas Cheer. Thank you so much. They were all beautiful. Great Job!

I am so proud to be your VA&R Chairman and get to report all the great things that our Units do for our Veterans every day. Some of the things we do are so natural to us that we forget to report them!

Linda Liebenow

VA&R Chairman