

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Oregon



2024-2025 Fall DEC  
Lebanon, Oregon  
October 13, 2024

**BOOK OF REPORTS**

Department President  
Cindy Soria

## **Department President | Cindy Soria**

Hello Auxiliary Members:

First of all, I want to thank you for believing in me to be your President for the 24-25 year.

Since the convention I have been going to our department every other Monday to handle Auxiliary business. In July I was asked to attend the annual get-together at Stevens-Chute Unit 4 in Bend. A wonderful BBQ was served. After the meal I installed the incoming officers of unit 4.

In August I travelled to New Orleans for the national convention. Besides the humidity it was a great time. Our new National President Trish Ward brings excitement and enthusiasm to the new year. Mark your calendars that she will be visiting us April 27 – 30, 2025. Once we have a schedule in place, I will be sure that the information is sent out to the entire membership body.

September 20, 2025, I attended the Lebanon Veterans Home for their 10-year celebration. There was a tour of the facility, the Oregon Memorial Wall was on display, there was music in the courtyard, and a wonderful reception area with Hors D'Oeuvres and beverages. Residences also joined us. I had the honor of helping a veteran to his quad.

On September 24, 2025, I attended a zoom call for the Legislative team.

September 29, 2025, I attended the Gold Star Moms and Family Dedication Marker. I presented yellow roses to the families, Ginny Williams presented folders with letters of thanks and Commander Flynn gave out gold star coins. The Reynolds High School Army JROTC Cadets posted the colors, Mark Johnson LTC US Army retired led the Pledge of Allegiance and there were many other presenters. It was a once in a lifetime event. I would like to thank Ginny Williams and Bobbi Peebler for coming.

I continue to volunteer weekly at the Roseburg VA Alzheimer's and Hospice units.

I would love to come and visit your units/districts. Please complete the president's request visit form and send it to Danni in department so she can get you on my schedule. Looking forward to a great year for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oregon.

## **Department Vice President | Dianne Standing**

Greetings everyone,

As the new year begins, and everyone gets acquainted with their new roles in the American Legion Auxiliary, it is exciting and positive learning how to be your Dept. Vice President. Madam President and I stay in contact with one another, and we have meant together with the admin. Committee a couple of times. We did a training on August 3rd

for all committee chairmen. I had put together a couple of games then we got to work. There was a good turnout of people at the training.

As your Vice President my specific area of responsibility is membership, which you can read in The Book of Reports.

I have the opportunity of learning about the non-profit organization, the American Legion Auxiliary and its programs. I have some awesome mentors that I can ask questions, and they share ideas and plans so if I am elected Department President.

I am reading the Constitution, Bi laws, standing rules and Policy's to be more familiar with them. I have attended a finance committee meeting to see how they are run and what I might need to know in the future.

I am also considering Officer and chairman appointments for next year if elected.

As I have looked through the Unit guidebook I love the Mission Statement of the ALA:

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

I plan for the upcoming year to visit some Units and meet more of our members  
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings

### **Department Chaplain | Lori Vallery**

#### **Deceased member condolence cards sent on behalf of Department:**

Carole Hockenbarger (Unit 6/Dist. 1) – card sent June 18, 2024

Darla J Salo (Unit 12/Dist. 1) – card sent July 25, 2024

Katherine Morris (Past National President) - card sent Aug 13, 2024

Donna Ladd (Unit 43/Dist. 6) – card sent Sept 3, 2024

Samantha Carey (Unit 50/Dist. 4) – card sent Sept 9, 2024

Fran Carey (Unit 168/Dist. 1) – card sent Sept 9, 2024

Bev Christman (Unit 150/Dist. 8) – card sent Oct 1, 2024

Dolores Kirkland (Unit 150/Dist. 8) – card sent Oct 1, 2024

Care Home/Hospital Visitations:

July 24, 2024, Marquee Senior living center, Newberg Oregon – I visited with a 97-year-old Veteran.

A few of the local ladies sent him a care basket with food and activities. He shared extensively about his time in the army.

August 5, 2024, VA Hospital, Portland Oregon – I visited with two local Veterans. One was in the hospital for heart related issues, and the other for diabetic complications.

Chaplains Training course:

I have been given a Chaplains training course that I am sending out to all of the chaplains in the State. I feel that this will be a very valuable experience for our new chaplains, as well as our more “experienced” chaplains.

Chaplain Greetings:

Beginning September 28, 2024, I am sending weekly email greetings to our Department staff. My goal in doing this is to offer my support and encouragement to our Department of Oregon Leadership.

Beginning October 1, 2024, I am sending monthly email greetings to all District and Unit Presidents. My goal in doing this is to offer my support and encouragement to our District and Unit Presidents.

Beginning October 1, I am sending monthly email greetings to all District and Unit Chaplains. My goal in doing this is to offer my support and encouragement to our District and Unit Chaplains.

**Daily Prayer list:**

I have created a daily prayer list for myself with the names and positions of persons in leadership throughout our Department of Oregon.

It is my plan to request that any and all members send me any prayer request that they may have. I will of course add them to my daily list and follow up accordingly. I will also request from them the ability to share their requests with their Unit and District Chaplains.

In His service

**Department National Executive Committee person | Krisann Owens**

The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana August 24 to 29, 2024, with 7 members from Oregon attending.

National President Lisa Williamson was relaxed and had fun with her convention. Always kind and lighthearted she presided with strength but kept her sense of humor. Be the One was promoted everywhere and will continue to be the number one mission of The American Legion and the ALA supports them 100%.

There were nine resolutions with seven being adopted as changes to the National Constitution and Bylaws. We were all surprised at how quickly the resolutions were presented and either adopted or rejected.

The National Officers elected were:

- National President Trish Ward, Kansas
- National Vice President Pam Ray, Illinois
- National Chaplain Monique Babtiste, Louisiana
- National Historian Dara Oliver, Florida
- Western Division National Vice President Beverly Eads, Alaska

The dues increase has put us in the black. The ALA Foundation is \$28,000 in the black. The National Secretary and National Treasurer will not be attending the Inauguration.

There will be no more direct mailing fundraisers sent to our membership. The return on investment has been steadily decreasing over the last few years. Instead, we will be using the “Feathr” targeted mailing program. Which means they will target members who expressed an interest in certain programs etc., with 100% of profits returning to National Headquarters.

I can finally say that all departments that were on probation for various issues have been released from probation as they completed the lists necessary to operate as departments of the ALA. Yes, I served on one of the committees that interviewed members and researched the issues brought to National. I cannot go into details, but I will reiterate, make sure your documents are in order, have a budget and stick to it as much as possible and remember, those you elect must have the best interest of the organization and its members in mind. Being in a leadership role is not a dictatorship. You do not control the members or situations. Be thoughtful with your words, be kind always and lead by example.

There are a few things to remember: Come to your meetings prepared. Have the most current governing documents with you. Minutes and notes can be used in lawsuits. Executive Session minutes should only include motions with no discussion and limited access to such minutes.

Remember that “Silence gives consent”.

The National President wants a nationwide ALA national focus on helping reinvigorate our organization through membership — from the ground up.

Respectfully submitted,

### **District 1 President | Jody Marsh**

District 1 experienced a few bumps this summer with the departure of Vice President, Tracy Peets, due to more immediate obligations. She is a bright and shining light in this organization, District, and her Unit. We are patiently awaiting the time when she is able to return!

Our first meeting was held on Saturday, September 14, at Aloha Post 104. We gathered for lunch at 11:30 and our meeting started at 1:00 PM. We had six (6) Units represented with a total of 21 attendees. The best news is that we had six (six) members that were first time attendees! Woo-Hoo!!

The first order of business was to secure a Vice President. With so many new members present, there was discussion on the duties of the President and Vice President. It was explained that the duties of the VP are not difficult but can be time consuming; also, that it is a great learning experience and an opportunity to meet people and see how other Units operate. Not wanting to place pressure on anyone present, I requested that they consider the opportunity and to reach out if they were interested. Within days, I received an email from Mikkinsy Saling of Argonne Unit 56 (Sherwood) asking if the position was open as she would like to take it. YaHoo!! I am also working on filling the position of Secretary.

Membership was discussed and presented as “the lifeblood of the Auxiliary.” Special attention was placed on the positive.

Increasing membership is challenging and fun

Ask for their membership

Be sure to get contact information from the potential member & follow-up with invites to attend functions or assist with projects

Emphasize our good deeds for veterans, military members, youth, and communities when recruiting new members

We had an in-depth discussion on membership goals to include the difference between the goal or objective (4,800) vs. the numbers of anticipated actual members (3,900) used in our Department budget. With the number of new members attending the opportunity was taken to explain that our Department operating income is almost exclusively from membership. This includes salaries, taxes, insurance, office supplies and equipment. The generous donations received from individual members and Units are dedicated (designated) to specific programs and cannot be used on office or administrative expenses. A stroll down memory lane pointed out that expenses have been dramatically pared back in the past few years; some previously paid positions have transitioned to volunteer positions, and the Legion graciously removed the Auxiliary obligation for rent and utilities.

The amazing training provided at the convention was discussed, to include the presentation of Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate. A promise to forward his slide presentation will be completed soon.

Information on the BE THE ONE training was also provided. A discussion was had between this being an initiative (the power or opportunity to act or take charge before others do) and not a program (a set of related measures or activities with a particular long-term aim). Encouragement was given for all to do the training online at legion.org., with emphasis on the benefit of repeating the training as new facets and ideas will emerge with each time.

Eight (8) Units reported. Some gave details as to number of veterans served, hours served, money spent/earned, etc., while others did not. What I can say is that I am in awe of what was accomplished since the end of May, especially considering many of the Units do not meet over the summer.

The Units supported community events and festivals with breakfasts, parades, and Legion Family information booths.

Several fund-raising activities were held to include garage, rummage, and craft fairs. One even has a “bake-less” bake sale!

Many Units support their Legion family in bringing members together with pizza, tacos, hamburgers, etc. For some it generates income and others, aids in fostering relationships among the family members. They also participated in “projects” to improve their Posts.

Unfortunately, there were also memorials to support.

District 1 has internally reported the following statistics:

Poppy revenue of \$3,230.99

\$300 to three local veteran organizations

Donation of \$225 to National

389 hours in community service

325 hours in fundraising

480 veterans served

\$500 spent

295 hours volunteered

1500 hours for ALA & Post functions/activities

\$1,900 received for Veterans Fund and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital

Cash & inn-kind donations received by members, \$3,000

2,100 miles driven

\$400 spent in National Security, serving 41 ORANG soldiers, 39 adult family members, and 23 children

Attendance at the mobilization ceremony for the 2 Battalion 218 Field Artillery Unit (2-218th FA)

I am excited and honored to be the District President. It has been about 15 years since I last had the opportunity. So much has changed since then...plus it’s a completely different district! I cannot wait to learn from the Units & members of District 1!

I realized as I was driving home that I had forgotten to make introductions and extend the normal courtesies a District President should! To all in attendance, I apologize. I did not intend to slight anyone...I guess I’m a little rustier than I realized.

District 1 compiles a book of reports, and I would be happy to send this electronically to any chairmen or officers as requested.

## **District 2 President | Dana Speer**

No form available

No example given

Information gathered. Included visits who attended from District and activities

### **Unit 20 Carl B Fenton Dallas**

Conflict between past president and unit members including elections, constitution and bylaws. Last reviewed 2015. Hours on multiple days talking with past president, gathering information based on her complaints. Meeting with Post Legion Commander and Legion Riders. President intimidated by Riders in the Auxiliary. At the Post Riders meeting I was accompanied by the State Riders Director to investigate uniform, when to wear it; possible gang involvement, Highway 18, with a member transfer from Post 75. Failed takeover of Unit/Post 75 last year by Post riders in 75. Information researched with Post Adjutant/Auxiliary. Current President present at attempted takeover. Chaplin of POST 20 only member involved with Highway

Visits: 2 Dana and Glenna for formal; Dana for second

#### **Activities:**

1. Poppy Making. 450 made by Riders, Auxiliary members including a Junior, Legion. Poppy donation site Auxiliary and Riders were told not to attend, past president intimidated.
2. Honor Guard and flag line at celebration of life for long time
3. Auxiliary member. She passed in June. Report of Death still not filled out.
4. Booth at County Fair grounds. Garage sale items and recruitment.
5. Visitation with members representing the Auxiliary
6. Assisting an auxiliary member who asked for help from the unit. Ill and unable to work. Individual members helping providing food and gift cards for food, a card signed giving credit to the Unit for helping.
7. New President dealing with the past president refusing to sign over the checking account and turning over unit property. Bank refusing to transfer account. Account frozen by past president. One of the original signers must sign. Both original signers resigned from the unit. Notified of account transfer problem and incorrect EIN number. 990 forms not filed with IRS since 2002. Would research bank. Requested information from Pam Seele. She was able to answer 1 question and referred me to Helen Hisaw. Information given, requested copies of text messages and information. Discussed a plan. New President informed of plan and request for information. In 1 weeks' time from being notified of problem to discussing conversation with Helen Hisaw the new president was able to get control of the bank account by showing the bank the resignation letter of both signers, dated and signed matching the meeting minutes showing change of leadership I the unit. EIN number remains a problem. Contact information to new President for Helen Hisaw. Information concerning unit Auxiliary Riders. Fact gathering meeting scheduled for 2 hours lasting six hours. Second witness present. The problem in the unit comes from the past president not the 'Riders' Frequent talks with the 3 Riders during break times during Convention.



Encouraged to remain involved. Resolved issues within the unit. All 3 ladies hold positions since elections.

### **Unit 21 McMinnville**

Visits 1 Dana, Lori, Glenna

Guest speaker, Post Commander,

Planning for Scholarship Run for September 7 finalizing plant, report from the Riders with updates, confirmation of Auxiliary participation. Commander present during closed session. Asked to leave by Sargent of Arms reassured he would be escorted in when the closed session was over. Refused multiple times to leave when the President asked. I can be here if I want. Increased anger from those present. When the Commander did speak asking for help with poppy distribution at his booth, He explained that those who came would not sit on their butts and pick their nails. Anger increased. After the meeting the members present complained to Debra expressing their anger and the disrespect shown to the unit. Debra called me venting wanting advice. I offered to speak with the Commander as District President. Her response was that I was there as an observer only. I reminded her that I am also a Legionnaire and wife of the District Commander and an Auxiliary member, who would also be willing to help. "Happy to talk with him. Let me know!" Checked in with Debra to see how things were going. Problem solved inhouse with the Legion E board.

#### **Activities:**

1. Veterans Lunch second Thursday of the month. Numbers increasing.
2. Quilts for veterans at local retirement homes.
3. Multiple raffles last one was a crab excursion for 4.
4. Assist Legion Riders with Scholarship Poker Run
5. Assist Legion with raffles
6. Auxiliary Rider escorting the color guard at McMinnville Air Show
7. Visitation with veterans as able in care homes.

### **Unit 57 Lester c Rees Newberg**

Home unit of District President and Chaplin

#### **Activities:**

1. Unit Picnic T Carlton.
2. District Caucus Home of District Commander's Post
3. District Meeting home unit of District President
4. District 2 2nd Annual Legion Family Picnic. Raffle items from District to be donated to VAR. Individual units able to bring VAR projects
5. Teachers Grant \$500 to a Newberg Public School Teacher. Second place application was 1 point away from winning. Legion suggested a \$250 Grant be awarded by the Legion. 5 members of the judging committee Legion and Auxiliary with some dual members part of the group.
6. Recycling pop cans ongoing. Money to a joint youth fund.

### **Unit 75 Sheridan**

Visits official 1 all e board present, 2 unofficial. Unofficial visit observing how the Auxiliary works selling cards and running the snack bar for bingo. They have offered to allow us to work bingo as a fund raiser and in return receive income after bills paid. 80% to the District Family. Bingo is weekly. Lori Vallery and her husband. Second unofficial visit before bingo to deliver their packet from convention. Asking for officer's information. Only 1 member who does E mail with a broken computer. Dana. All communication to be hand delivered by Lori who has family in Sheridan. Contact number given by Department was a member of HIGHWAY 18. Not updated by unit after reorganization last year.

### **Activities**

1. Blood drive
2. Weekly bingo
3. 911 celebration honoring first responders. Fire and police from surrounding communities.
4. Sheridan Days
5. Visiting care centers. Bringing personal care products treats or needed items year round
6. Christmas gifts to veterans in the 3 care homes in their community
7. Veterans lunch weekly. Sack lunches to anyone who needs one throughout the day. Making sack lunches.
8. Cooling Station as directed by the city at the post. Set up and manning station 24 hours a day. Duty shared with Legion.
9. Assisting with food bank. Collecting and distributing food all year long.

Volunteer hours collected April-August

### **Unit 89 Mt Angel**

Visits-4

Raffle tickets/\$ turned in (Lori and Dana)

- Caucus recruitment (Dana and Lori)
- Packet after convention (Dana)
- Regular meeting (Dana, Glenna and Lori)

### **Activities**

1. July 4th parade
2. Quilt raffle
3. PVA
4. Patriotic cards
5. Mt Angel towers outreach/other retirement facilities with veterans. luncheon, raffle
6. Bingo
7. Coloring books-Americanism
8. Octoberfest

### **Unit 110 Aurora**

Visits-2

Recruitment for Caucus

Regular meeting

Assisted with Poppies-Walmart, Woodburn (helping hands Glena, Dana)

Dark during the summer.

#### **Activities**

1. Fundraising
2. Four of July breakfast, all you can eat, prior/during the July 4th parade.

### **Unit 122 Canby**

Visits-3

Recruiting for Caucus (Lori, Dana)

Regular meeting (Lori, Dana, Glena)

Poppy distribution, Canby Thriftway (Dana)

1. Shoe boxes for Christmas-wrapped
2. Hamburger Night every week
3. Scholarships
4. Girls State-1 girl sent
5. Spaghetti feed, VA&R fundraiser
  - a. Assisted with all, 1 week donated to Aux funds to youth family non-profits.

### **Unit 136 Salem**

Visitations-1 (Dana)

#### **Activities**

1. Hosting quilts of Valor for 2 Legion Members.
2. Dark June-August
3. Scheduled meeting visitation next month (October)

### **District 3 President | Bobbi Peebler**

I received a report from two members from **Unit 51-Lebanon**

Poppies- 36 hrs, 35 miles

Flags delivered to cemeteries-2 hrs 25 miles

Flags posted - 2 volunteers, 12 hrs, 40 miles

Two volunteers- various community events- 40.5 hrs, over 500 miles.

### **Unit #83-Eugene Santa Clara**

This Unit continues the Veteran Relief Breakfasts once a month. All funds go to the restricted account for use only to Veterans and their families.

In May they had a Mother's Day breakfast hosted by the Legionnaires and Sons. Total 10 Volunteer with 4 hrs ea and raised \$910.00.

Poppies were distributed, 20 volunteers, 40 Hrs and raised \$1600.00.

Four volunteers @ 4 hrs placed flags on Memorial Day.

Eight volunteers @ 4 hrs ea. hosted a Flag retirement ceremony.

In June the 2nd annual Women Veterans Day was celebrated.

The Unit volunteers at the FIS fry with 18 volunteers for 72 hrs. They also hosted a Fish fry for a local Relay for Life team.

The Chicken BBQ in July had 11 volunteers for a total of 45 hrs. Proceeds for the Auxiliary was \$1070.

In July was the annual yard sale. 31 volunteers, 101 hours. \$1710.00 was raised. \$350.00 was donated to building fund and the rest was split with the Riders.

They had two Community outdoor concerts. The July concert had 22 volunteers for a total of 100 hrs. \$800.00 was raised for the building fund.

The concert in August had 17 volunteers ,77 hours. \$5568.00 was raised for the building fund.

In August the First Annual Hot August Rides Poker Run had 10 volunteers, 50 hrs. \$4006.00 was raised for Post operating fun's.

What a busy summer the Families had in Eugene.

### **Unit 59- Florence**

5 members were at the Memorial Day Service.one Auxiliary memory was honored with reading Flanders Field.

One member attended Flag Day.

Three Unit members attended a memorial service for one of our Veterans. Cookies were provided...

In August attended a Memorial Service in Clackamas at Reserves Base Camp. Mike was a State Trooper and a reservist. He was a week away from being deployed. One member spent 3 hrs weeding his yard before he passes.

Prepared food for t h e Family picnic.

Preparing lunch for a Vietnam Veteran twice a month. Errand for Veterans to Newport, Lincoln City, and Eugene.

Two members take Veterans to Dr appointments in Eugene.

One member volunteers every week at Food Share.

As busy as this Auxiliary team is cookies are always baked and ready when needed.

### **District 4 President | Patsy Sakraida**

Our district 4 meeting was held in Malin on August 1 0th. The Post and Unit treated the officers of the district to a wonderful lunch and a good time for everyone to visit and get to know each other. Because of the heat and smoke we enjoyed being indoors for the meetings where it was cool and nice. During our meeting, the MALIN UNIT # 84: held fundraisers like, 50-50, items for sale, and also gifts given out as a door prize. This Unit has been active not only with fundraisers but also with Girls State in which they sent 3 girls and had available for 2 youths to the Scholarship program. They plan on a big raffle in the Spring, and this will be a major fundraiser. They sent care packages overseas and had Christmas ornaments painted and shipped.

**KLAMATH FALLS UNIT #8:** The president, Connie, gave a good talk during our District meeting, on what they have been doing to raise funds and how each of the Units can do the same. For one of their fundraisers, they held a wine-tasting evening with homemade

Hors D' oeuvres. The Unit takes ice cream and cookies to: Fire dept., police station, city and county employees, etc. during the year. Every third Thursday they sell hot dogs and hamburgers.

**MEDFORD UNIT #15:** The president, Ruby, spoke about supporting the Medford Mustangs baseball. The Unit did not hold meetings all Summer, so we don't have any more to report.

**WILLIAMS UNIT #50:** Our Unit has been very busy all Summer with Bingo the first Saturday of every month, work parties and other clean up activities for events at our Post. We participated in the 4th of July Parade and helped with funerals in which we served food and anyway we could to help our veterans. One of our ladies sends out birthday cards to our veterans. Another Unit member gathers and takes to the VA, items that are donated. For Halloween we will fill little bags with candy to be taken. Our Unit will also fill bags for the kids at "TRUNK OR TREAT". We share our Meeting room with AA, weekly, and also, with our Post's Cub Scout troop. We plan this Fall/Winter to again plan on wreath sales. At this time a tentative date will be to make the wreaths at the end of November and sell the wreaths at a wine-tasting event in December.

**DISTRICT 4 MEETING:** I've reiterated the importance of practicing the "3 R's"; RECRUIT, RENEW, REJOIN. The Lifeblood of each Unit and the importance of keeping their membership up. The new 2025 cards should not be given out until the dues are paid. I've given out the new Volunteer hours forms and the very helpful 2nd sheet that gave us a lot of information on what we can provide.

Also, I gave a report on the "STAND DOWN" at the Domiciliary in White City, held on July 24th. My husband and I served our veterans by greeting them at the entrance and signing them up, One of the questions we were to ask is if they were "Homeless"? If they answered yes, they were given information that would help them find food, shelter, medical services etc. depending on their need and if they would accept help. Many of the veterans were in transitional housing, some were waiting for a temporary home, others were worried about losing their temporary housing. Final tallies showed that 25 received assistance for housing. One veteran received housing and a job the same day. Many of the 208 veterans that came were wanting help with VA SERVICES, LEGAL SERVICES, DMV, IRS and many others were helped by those and the 56 vendors that were present. There were 4 judges, the county DA, and lawyers on site, 29 cases went before the court and 20 were resolved. Fifty veterans were signed in to the VA program for medical help. Sixty-one signed up for work, 3 got jobs right away. Fifteen veterans received help getting their medals.

Many of the veterans were bussed in from Grants Pass area, free of charge. When they got to Medford, they were put on a special bus that took them to the VA center. The homeless veterans were bussed to a special place and received whatever help they needed. All of the veterans and workers received free passes for food, but the need was so great and so many people that the food ran out, but not before the veterans were taken care of.

It was great to be able to help these veterans and to do our small part in making their lives better. We always tried to remember to thank each one for their service. Some of the veterans that were homeless had to bring their wagons or shopping carts. The carts were piled high with sleeping bags, pillows, and their personal items. One old veteran kept us company for a while in the lobby entrance, and he wanted all of us to share in the music he loved from his cell phone. The phone had seen better days, but he played his music very loud for all to hear, it was a kick.

This annual event is planned for next April at the Armory in Medford. It had been an annual event before Covid 3 years ago, and hopefully will again be there for our veterans.

The next DISTRICT 4 MEETING will be held in Grants Pass on October 26th at Post #28.

### **District 5 President | Ginny Williams**

unit #4

The annual picnic was held with the ALA and Legion Post. Our honored guest was our Department President "Cindy Soria" and our officers were installed.

Karen Banks and daughter donated a Diamond Poppy Picture to our unit for a fund raiser. Our Unit will be selling tickets, and the drawing will be next summer 2025 at our annual picnic. I (Ginny) have seen it and it is Beautiful.

Unit President Yvonne is a 100 + Women

Who Care, it is a non-profit organization That gives quarterly to deserving non- Profit organizations serving our community and 3 members donated \$250. Dollars after Yvonne did a presentation about our ALA Mission.

Post & Unit 4 was along Hwy 20 at a viewpoint, and gave support to Lt. Cdr. Robert Hess on his drive from Newport to Boston, MA promoting The Legion's "Be The One" veterans suicide prevention campaign. He was delighted and surprised to see us at Viewpoint.

We are working with Bend Armony, Army National Guard Family assistance director. Unit 4 gave 26 backpacks for use of National Guard kids going back to school.

Our meeting times will change this month (October) location is still VFW Post 1643 at 1503 North East 4th St Bend, Oregon, new day 3rd Wednesday of the month, time 2 pm.

Unit # 45

Has been working on a Budget Committee and has begun to predict their financial health in an organized Fashion. The ALA laptop's software was updated with Microsoft and external back-up to support this activity.

The Unit By Laws committee reviewed our By Laws and Standing Rules, no changes needed and sent a letter to the Department Chairman.

Hot August Nights, with Poodle Skirts for the officers and root beer floats produced some funds for the ALA general fund.

A Taco Tuesday was successful for our Girls State Program.

The Fish Friday has begun again and was a success along with other yummy meals to help our Veterans.

A garage sale in July gave us some funds.

We donated some money to the high School Cheer Leading Team dinner.

We donated to the local school supply for kids thru Mid Oregon Credit Union. We are continuing to fill blue bags with bottles and cans to drop off for the State Veterans Memorial Project.

We are having a Crafters Bazar in October that funds the LaPine and Gilchrist High Schools Scholarships programs.

The Unit is Co-Sponsoring K9's for Warriors with The Post Honor Guard in late October

The Department President will visit us  
On October 18th and 19th.

Wreaths Across America will be December 14th, this is our 1st year organizing it.

Unit #29

A was June brought Installation and information from Convention.

Annual audit performed and book all in order.

The American Legion Family completed some work on the Post including clean up and new stove and floors for the kitchen area.

We awarded \$1,000.00 dollars scholarship to a graduating senior At Crook County High School. The award was given to Ivy River at the Awards Ceremony on June6th. We also recognized the Scholarship recipient for Department, Amanda McNary

July found us celebrating our Independence Day and more cleaning and updating to our Post.

August brought a lot of discussion for fund raising Unit level to support our programs. Crook County Unit #29 hosted a BBQ and Hole Tournament

Preparation was started to support the Post Commander who hosted a "Membership Appreciation Day" in September, lots of fun by all.

Crook County Unit #29 hosted a "Be The Ove training on September 22nd. The training was provided by Commander Alan.

We are starting preparations for our Hot Dog feed to be held in October.

Hours - 350

Total money - \$1,000.00

People - 65

### **District 6 President | Mary Ward**

#### **Athena #130:**

Does not meet in the summer months but does a few activities.

The Aux. puts out flags on the city streets for the 4th of July. They had a couple of fund raisers during the summer, A Pancake Breakfast for the HODACK Motorcycle Club and a Community Night Out Street Fair serving Pulled Pork Dinners.

George St. Denis #140 No Communication.

#### **Hermiston#37**

Does have meetings over the summer months but do engage in some activities. They did assist the post with a booth at the Umatilla County Fair, helping to pass out brochures, applications for membership, and shared information regarding veterans' services. They have also started work on their annual Poppy Drive.

#### **lone #95**

Meetings are not held over the summer months, but they are very busy.

June: Sponsor Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at the conclusion of the school year.

They award scholarships to a graduating senior from Lone High School and Heppner High School in conjunction with Post #95. The Auxiliary shares the cost of the scholarships, which is \$500.00 for both. In addition the Aux. presents a scholarship to a student at lone High School for another \$500.00

The Aux. paid to have the lone Legion Hall floor professionally sanded and refinished for a cost of \$1200.00.

July: Hosted Bingo on the 4th of July for the Legion Hall Maintenance Fund.

Report is pending.

#### **Milton-Freewater #24**

Does not have meetings over the summer months. Scholarships were given to 5 graduating students from the local High School in the amount of \$250.00 each. The stars were cut from the City of Milton-Freewater's decommissioned American flags along with those of community businesses and the public at large. \$100.00 was donated to a community fundraiser called Crop Walk which raises funds to purchase food and water for 3 rd. world countries and 25% of all proceeds stay in Milton-Freewater for our local food pantry.



**LaGrande #43:**

La Grande Unit #43 District 6 report for September 21 , 2024

We had our golf tournament on June 1, 2024, and had 19 teams, netting over \$12,000 for everything. We don't do much in the summer months, as people are on vacation. Our unit continues to host the third Tuesday of the month for burgers. Along with burger night and dinners, we sell 50/50 tickets as a fundraiser. One member is a caller for Bingo and works 3 or 4 times a month, with 4 to 5 hours per shift.

Our Audit was conducted in July, and it checked out okay. We did our budget for the coming year and presented it at our August meeting for the first time and presented it at the September meeting and 'voted. It passed and we will be sending out our yearly donations. We have a Lasagna dinner on September 28h, our annual Bazaar on October 5th and a Chicken Fried Chicken dinner on October 26th. It is getting harder and harder to get volunteers and we all are having issues with getting older.

Volunteer hours from April 15th until now:181

Mileage: 1060

Dollars donated and in kind: \$300, decorations, donations, etc.

Gift cards to National Guard Armory: \$1000

Snacks for the VA Clinic: \$623.15 since July 1, 2024

Community Service: \$500 for meals and meals on wheels at the Senior Center

**District 8 President | Barb Sumner**

Hello from District #8, we have been busy after the convention. Unit 150 Oregon Trail has been very busy putting their Post back together. During the ice storm last January, they had water pipes that froze over and broke. Leaving water all over the inside. They had to tear up all the carpet, the wooden floors and the walls had to be torn apart. Thousands of hours went into this endeavor. Most of the work was done by members themselves. My hat's off to them. They had a reopening of the Post on July 5th. Over 135 people attended the event. In September they started to have breakfast again on the first Sunday and dinners on the third Friday of the month.

Unit 180 Milwaukie is also busy. In August they had a Post picnic with good food and games. September started their meetings on the first Thursday at 6:30pm. They have Bingo on Sundays starting at 2:00 pm. Hamburgers on Monday nights. Tuesdays they have tacos. They currently are having a raffle for meat package.

Unit #1 Portland had a potluck gathering for the 4th of July. In August, we had a special card bingo night. We also had a Post cleanup day. In September we started our breakfasts back up on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. There is a pool/billiards tournament every Tuesday night. We have bingo on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm. We also started our Card Bingo downstairs back up on September 13th and is every other Friday. And of course, our Veterans luncheon is on the 4th Friday of every month at 11:30 am.

That's all from District 8

### **District 9 President | Frankie Trask**

Fall Greetings,

Earle B. Stuart #16 (Roseburg) has been very busy. They have attended fairs, assisting veterans every chance they get. They even provide transportation to the veterans to go to the Portland VA center. They provide blankets and other items throughout the year also. One member crocheted over 140 lap robes last year alone. Keep up the good work.

Bay Area #34 held their summer picnic, and it was very well attended.

Currently, these units are working on membership and are planning future events.

### **District 10 President | Linda Schmidt**

Harney County Unit #63 (Burns): Donations or supplies were made to the Kiwanis Fireworks Display, Scout Flag Placement Program, AEF Fund, ESD (Education School District) covering several schools – some being one-room schools, ALA Foundation, and several state and local organizations. Memorial Day flags were placed at six cemeteries, some very remote but with at least one veteran burial there. Members volunteered at the fireworks booth, the scouts, lacrosse teams, as a SHIBA counselor for the Senior Center, four members marched with the Legionnaires in the Fair parade carrying flags, and several members co-hosted a Legion Family booth at the fair for 4 days with over \$700 of supplies such as wrapped water bottles, pocket flags, prayer soldiers, stick flags, children's grab bags, Pledge of Allegiance comic books, Auxiliary brochures/information and much more, two members also served on other fair/rodeo programs. Two articles were placed in the local paper, Girls State (one girl attended) and President Lilly wrote an article about Human Trafficking awareness. Monthly yard sales are still being held at the Post home, our main source of fund-raising. Crocheted items are ready to send out including 1 Afghan, 2 lap robes and 15 scarf/hat sets.

Ontario Unit #67: Ontario reports Memorial Day flags and events were done on Saturday morning and Monday evening. They had a Community Night Out for First Responders and also provided trinkets and books to the children present. They held a large three-day yard sale and are in the process of selling raffle tickets with the American Legion Family for a donated blanket and also a rifle/grocery fundraiser. They participate in monthly and bi-monthly Veteran Appreciation Dinners, Veterans Yoga Programs and attend their Hall Association Meetings with other veterans' groups. Future events are being planned.

Ellis Tracy Unit #77 (John Day): The Unit is striving to reorganize after having lost two of their mainstay members over the last year, President Ruth Harris and Secretary Sherry Feiger. Meetings are being held and the Unit is working on finding someone willing to step up into the President's position.

Poppy wreaths and flags were laid at four different areas over Memorial Day. \$125 was given to the Police Department for their School Safety Program. Americanism Essays plans are being scheduled.

Prairie Unit #106: Prairie City will be starting their volunteer program with the Smart Reading Program this month. Dictionaries are being ordered for all 3rd grade students. Plans are being made for their annual Christmas on The Prairie fund-raiser.

Our next District 10 meeting will be Saturday, November 9, 10:00 in Prairie City at the City Water Works building. Lunch will be at noon at the Legion Post.

We all make a difference, every day. Never underestimate your impact on someone or something.

*"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."*

*-Helen Keller*

### **Administrative Chairman | Linda Liebenow**

The Admin Committee, myself and members Helen Hisaw and Tracy Peets, meet via zoom to discuss the upcoming performance elevation of our employee, Danni Gonzales. We are very pleased with her performance. She came to us a little more than a year ago knowing nothing about our organization. She has listened to our suggestions and has self-educated herself. She is organized and has done much to straighten up the office area. She is a great addition to our organization.

Her evaluation was presented to her on August 16, 2024, and was accepted. Unfortunately, we were unable to offer her a raise at that time. She received one in April at the recommendation of the Finance committee.

### **Americanism Chairman | Stephanie Varela**

The big push this year from National this year is to get back into the schools. It was suggested that we work with the SAL and TAL to get Star Spangled Kids kits put together and work with schools in your area and your junior members. These kits can be a great way to teach kids the importance of Americanism.

The topic for this year's Americanism Essay contest is "What does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?". Essays are due to me before March 15th. Please make sure they are legible.

I am adding an additional category this year to include the Veterans in our lives. A great idea would be to have one of the veterans write their essay and then read it to the kids after they have submitted their essay and received their Star-Spangled Kids kit.

Make sure to take pictures of any activities that you have done and send them over to me so I can get them posted on the National Americanism Facebook page.

Here is to a great year. Please reach out with any questions.

### **Children & Youth Chairman | Genene DeMoss**

Hello everyone,

My name is Genene, and I am looking forward to learning more about this chairmanship and seeing what all the Units do this year.

Please make sure you are keeping track of school supplies donated and with the holidays quickly approaching I am looking forward to hearing about all you do for children of veterans and the community this season.

Please remember the youth hero and good deed awards, I am looking for any nominations this year from your community.

### **Community Service Chairman | Angie McKinney**

I'm excited to be to be working with all of you this year doing Community Service in our areas of the state. Working together we can accomplish many things for our veterans and their families and the people where we live.

Our main emphasis they want work on is "Leading The Way" and the Veterans Fund through the ALA Foundation as our main points this year. Join the excitement of the ALA Challenge Card Deck. You may order yours through National. Cards can be ordered at: ALA Challenge Card Deck ALAforveterans. I know if we work together, we will be successful.

Be sure and join the Facebook page for Community Service and post special things you are doing in your community. Let's make this a special year working in our communities.

### **Constitution & By Laws Chairman | Pam Seelye**

If you have not reviewed your governing documents in the last two years this would be a good time to do so. Review them to make sure you are doing what they say, if not then you need to adjust them to reflect what you as a unit are doing. If you review your documentation on a regular basis then it is not such a daunting job.

A reminder that when you do update your documentation send a copy to me so that I can review it and if needed make any suggestions. Once they are completed, they will be signed and sent back to you so that they become your current documents. A copy will be made and filed at Department Headquarters.

If you have no changes then just send a letter or email stating that your documents have been reviewed and there are no changes. Date it and sign it.

A BIG thank you to those units that have reviewed their governing documents. It is appreciated

### **Membership Chairman | Dianne Standing**

Greetings to everyone

As your Dept. Membership Chairman, I am going into this year with positive thoughts and ideas of making our goals. As a Dept. we are at 15.264%. I have looked at the numbers every week and we as a Dept are going up each week and this is great! This time last year we were at 612 members and as of September 25th we are at 624 so we are 12 ahead of what we did last year. Let's keep going and getting those renewals and those new members. I know as a Dept. we can do this!

In terms of National, the Southern Division is in 1st place and the Western Division is in 2nd place. I am shooting to get further up the line in the Western Division, we are #7 I would like to see us pass the following states in our Division (New Mexico, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona and California)

The goals for Oregon have been set and we have had increased numbers every week. Let's continue the good work and get out into our communities to encourage our Veterans and get more people involved in our great organization. Our Unit in Forest Grove participates in almost every community outreach and this past weekend we did the Corn Roast. We got 2 new members just by talking about our Veterans and what we do. We need to reach out to people and tell them who we are and what we do.

I hope you are enjoying my theme "Honeybees", and it is so amazing how they work as a team, I just had to share it with you. The incentives have also been sent out to you and the first one is December 31st.

**ATTENTION ALL UNITS LETS GO FOR THAT 100% AND 75% DRAWING**  
**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS OF THE WINNING UNIT GETS A GIFTCARD**  
**DON'T FORGET SIGN UP 5 NEW MEMBERS DRAWING**  
**YOU CAN DO THIS BECAUSE**  
**"THE WEST IS THE BEST"**

### **National Security Chairman | Yvonne Drury**

Here in Oregon, we are doing a better job of understanding whom we serve within the National Security program: active military and their families and POW/MIA recognition and support of their repatriation.

National Preparedness has also always been a part of the National Security committee, but the focus has been updated in recent years to emphasize our National Preparedness in relation to natural disasters, including hurricanes, power outages, severe weather and flooding, for example.

To get ready information for any of these types of disasters, the National ALA website includes a link to the US Government site: [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). This site gives us tips and contact information needed when disasters strike. September marks National Preparedness Month, and the [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) site contains a link to “National Preparedness Month” in its header. We’ve missed September, but any time is appropriate to help your community. The site includes a toolkit, social media graphics, Congressional Co-Chairs and quotes, preparedness graphics and a “Start a Conversation Fact Sheet”. There are also PSA videos and links to more information. They have done a lot of work for us...we just need to look it up and get started.

The National and Western Division National Security Chairs send good information throughout the year that I would like to forward to the Units. I will continue to disperse that information to our Oregon Units as it comes in, via our Department email blasts.

Please also read the Department of Oregon National Security 2024 Bulletin for easy ideas to implement this year and increase the public awareness of your presence in the community.

Be sure to send me an email message (doing the program or not) in time for yearend reports and add me to your Post/Unit newsletter email list (you’ve already done the work...tell us about it!)

Call or email me anytime...I’m here to help.

For God and Country,

*PS If you haven’t personally signed up to the member portal of National ALA site: [legion-aux.org](https://legion-aux.org), do so right away. The answers to your questions on any of our ALA programs and committees are right there!*

### **Poppies Chairman | Margie DeMoss**

Hi everyone,

I received my first newsletter from our Western Division Chairman Lorna Ledoschuk. This year she would like us to educate your communities on the history and significance of the Poppy. This can be attained using Poppy bookmarks and coloring books, available at [alaforveterans.org](https://alaforveterans.org). Taking Poppies to schools, and she is looking forward

Poopy Poster participants, and is asking Units to promote the Little Miss Poppy. If anyone needs more information, please let me know.

In the spirit of Service, not self

### **Public Relations Chairman | Karen Banks**

Things to remember while promoting the American Legion Auxiliary:

- Spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary: A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.
- Encourage ALA members to be visible in their communities through valuable, distinct branding.
- Share the latest news from ALA volunteer national leadership and ALA National Headquarters.

Make a Difference Day is celebrated annually on the fourth Saturday of October, on October 26 this year. If you have ever wondered if your actions can make a difference, the answer is yes! And if you have wondered where to start, the answer is Make a Difference Day. Come together to volunteer, raise funds, offer support, and learn about the most urgent needs in your neighborhood. You can start by cleaning your own backyard (literally and figuratively) because volunteering is all about becoming the change you wish to see in the world.

Plan your event now to show your community that your unit can Make A Difference.

Submitted Respectfully,

### **VA & R Chairman | Linda Liebenow**

All of our Units are doing great things, and I would like to hear about them. I can only report what I know about, so sorry if I missed something great.

Some of the things that have been happening lately are:

#### **Stand Downs**

We have had several Stand Downs throughout the state in the last few weeks. At the Roseburg Stand Down we had 2 Auxiliary members spend the day there doing whatever they needed. At the Eugene Stand Down, Unit 83 helped with table set up, table decorations, fruit baskets and, again, doing whatever needed to be done.

#### **World War II Memorial**

I was honored to attend the Memorial service of the WWII veteran, Private William Ezra Calkins whose remains were just brought home for burial after 82 years. He died on August 22, 1925. It was a very moving ceremony with history about the Veteran

and his service to our country. He served with Company B, 31st Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II.

### **Oregon Veterans Home, Lebanon**

The Veterans Home had a 10-year Anniversary Celebration on September 20, 2024. They provided tours of the facility, refreshments with Birthday cake, a slide show and live entertainment. They honored some of the individuals and organizations that have been there to help make the facility a success. They also recognized the employees that have been there since they opened.

### **Christmas Gift Shops**

The time is coming for the Christmas Gifts Shops at the different facilities.

The Oregon Veterans Home, The Dallas

Opening December 7, 2024 at 10am, shopping that day until 3pm and then again on December 10th from 10am and until all is done. If you would like to help, contact Geanne Horne.

Portland VA

The dates are different this year so make a note.

Decembers 7, 2024 we will be having inpatient shopping only

December 9-12, 2024, we will have shopping for inpatient and outpatient from 10am to 4pm

Roseburg VA

We will be helping with Letters to Santa again this year. Dates to be announced later.

The Oregon Veterans Home, Lebanon

We will be doing something this year. Plans are still being made

White City VA

Last year we sent money to help with the Christmas Gift Shop and a Veterans holiday party. We will be doing the same this year.

Members are always asking for a list of good gift items to send to the Christmas Gift Shops. Here are some suggestions:

All gifts must be **NEW**. We ask that they are a \$10 to \$15 value.

The Oregon Veterans Home, The Dallas

Good items,

Throw blankets, at least 60"; women's bath sets; men's grooming sets; small tools; candy, including sugar-free; cookie tins; travel pillows; wallets; beard trimmers; watches, both ladies and men's; head lights for reading; party games, card shufflers with batteries.

Portland VA

Good items

Small kitchen appliances; men's flannel shirts, sizes M-4X; small tools; bath towel sets (towel and wash cloth); bath sets, men's and women's; toys, footballs, basketballs, baseballs, soccer balls, 4-square balls; men's flannel p.j. bottoms; boxed candy; meat/cheese/cracker sets; knit or crochet Afghans 4'x6'.

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

The deadline for guaranteed delivery of wreaths for our Region is November 29, 2024.



Wreaths Across America Day is December 14, 2024

Go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/ OR0090P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0090P) for orders. That puts you on our American Legion Auxiliary page for the \$5 give back.

(it is OR zero, zero, 9, zero P)

### **ADDITION**

I should have included this in the list of Veteran transitional housing in the bulletin.

Veterans Village in LaGrande

10 tiny homes available to Veterans classified as homeless and available for Vash Voucher subsidized housing. Unit 43 supplies household items for those moving in if needed. Post 43 offers a free Post membership in the American Legion.

### **“HIDDEN GEM”**

With the help of District 3 President, Bobbi Peebler, I was made aware of a “hidden gem”.

Unit 184, Travis Moothart in Brownsville has been very busy. With the guidance of Judy Clay, the Unit Secretary and help of community members they have presented **820** Quilt of Valor since 2014! 470 of them have been presented to residents of the Oregon Veterans Home, Lebanon. What a great accomplishment. Thank you so much for all that you have done for our Veterans.