

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Oregon



2024-2025 Spring DEC  
La Pine, Oregon  
April 13, 2025

*BOOK OF REPORTS*

Department President  
Cindy Soria

## **Department President | Cindy Soria**

It is hard to believe that we are already into April. Nice sunny days are right around the corner and a perfect time to talk to our friends, family, co-workers and community about the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon. We need them to be able to continue helping our veterans. Let's get the word out about who we are and what we do.

January 2025 started with a bang. On January 11<sup>th</sup> I attended District 9 meeting in Coos Bay. January 13<sup>th</sup>, I went up to the office in Wilsonville and also attended the convention committee meeting that evening. On January 18<sup>th</sup> our Zoom DEC. It had great participation from everyone. January 21, I attended the quarterly volunteer meeting at Roseburg VA. January 27<sup>th</sup> back on the road to Wilsonville to attend business in the office and attend the convention planning meeting that evening. The convention committee meets twice a month at the Black Bear Diner in Wilsonville. On January 28<sup>th</sup> I had a zoom call with the national legislative committee to prepare for my trip to Washington DC.

February did not slow down by all means. February 4<sup>th</sup> I was invited to Hillsboro Unit 6 for their monthly meeting. It was a great visit. The next day I headed up to visit Argonne Unit 56. They discussed the upcoming dinners they are planning. That is one group that works together to ensure their veterans are taken care of. It was back on the road the next morning heading to Milwaukee Unit 180. They too have a lot of activities coming up in the next month. It is so refreshing to see so many units that are doing so much for our veterans. On February 14<sup>th</sup> my husband and I handed out Valentine gifts to the Roseburg VA in house veterans. Their smiles say it all. Once again on February 17<sup>th</sup> it was back up to the office and then to the convention committee meeting. On February 19<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Williams unit 50 for the monthly dinner and meeting.

Then it was time to head to Washington DC for the DC Conference on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. What an experience. One of the guest speakers was Doug Collins Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Boy, does he have plans for making Veterans Affairs even better. On Tuesday we stormed the hill. This is when we meet with our Representatives and Congressman to let them know what our Oregon veterans need. Most visits were with their staff as they were not available.

Hello March. Yes, I said March. Where did February go. On March 1<sup>st</sup> I was invited to Bay Area #34 for their American Legion Birthday Dinner. It was a great evening besides the down pour of rain. March 15<sup>th</sup> was round-up in Prineville. It is always a great time. The nominations were announced for your next President, Vice President and NEC. Best of luck to all of you. March 19<sup>th</sup> was the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans celebration at the Douglass County Fairgrounds. There were over 200 veterans in attendance. To end March, I was at headquarters attending to business and the convention committee meeting that evening. The convention is coming along very well. Information is coming out soon.

I hope everyone is doing well. If I have not visited your unit and you would like for me to come, please contact Dani in department. My year is coming to an end soon and you are all so important to me so please let me know what I can do for you.

May God Bless You All,

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

Greetings to all and Happy Spring

This year has gone by so quickly and now we are looking at Spring. Thank you for all you do in the American Legion Auxiliary. This has been a learning year, a year of hearing about all the wonderful things that you have been doing to support and care for our Veterans. I had a chance to meet members from different Units and watch how we all work together as a team.

As your Vice President I am responsible for membership and you can read my report in the book of reports and of course still trying to learn our constitution Bi-laws and Standing rules. I never realized how many programs we offer.



I am excited about our National President coming to visit. I was sad that I missed Round Up this year so that I could throw my hat in to be a candidate for Department President next year, but very thankful for all the prayers, thoughts and condolences when my mom passed away. I am also very thankful that Helen (PDP) read my endorsement letter from my Unit to run as your Department President for 2025-2026.

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

Blessings

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

#### **Diseased member condolence cards sent on behalf of Dept.**

Next of kin: NK

• Name	Date of death	Card sent	Dist. #
• Rikka Tews	summer 2024	no NK address	6
• Judy Rea	8/4/2024	10/7/2024	6
• Linda Bullock	5/2024	no NK listed	8
• Lydia E. Wilson	6/16/2024	no NK listed	3
• Patricia Baggett	10/2024	no NK listed	3
• Courlyn Fricker	9/1/2024	11/2/2024	1
• Connie Mork	5/30/2024	no NK listed	
• Erima Gonzales	10/4/2024	no NK listed	8
• Marjorie Conroy	11/15/2024	12/18/2024	1

- Julie Strate 10/27/2024 no NK listed 2
- Sharon Wise 12/2/2024 1/30/2025 1

### **Care Home/Hospital/Ceremonies**

I was able to go and visit with four local Veterans at St. Vincent Hospital in the months of January and February. They each received a get-well card on behalf of the Department of Oregon Auxiliary.

I went with another Veteran to visit a local Veteran who had just been transferred to a rehabilitation facility in Newberg. He had to have four of his toes removed and was learning to walk with a prosthetic device in his shoe. We took him a tow truck as a silly way to lift his spirits. He thought it was very funny.

I was very honored to be able to attend a quilt of valor ceremony in my hometown. Six local Veterans were being honored.

### **Chaplains Training**

I was excited to be able to give a Chaplains training at the Dist. 2 meeting. We had a great time discussing how much more the chaplain position can be, besides just giving an opening and closing prayer.

### **Daily Prayer List**

I continue to pray for each Unit and our District and department leadership daily.

In His service

### **Department NEC | Krisann Owens**

It's that time of year where choices are being made about the future of our department with those choosing to run for office. As we move forward, I am reminded of where I have been and the journey I had from my Unit, District, Department, to the National organization. Quite an adventure and many friends made along the way.

Recently I attended a funeral for a member of my Post which included a tribute to his late wife, a very dedicated long time Unit member. Placed on a counter for all to see were photo albums full of their family memories. I randomly chose an album to look at and I hit the jackpot, as it was full of memories of our Unit members who have long passed and a few still with us. They included pictures of my daughter at the age of 5 wanting to participate in everything. She's now 34. And Kevin and I were so young. Who were those two people!?

In that moment of seeing these dedicated, caring mentors and friends, the tears flowed for the tremendous loss in my heart but also the loss for my Unit because only two other people in my Unit remember them. The difference they could make today if they were still with us is immeasurable. All their hard work, the incredible amount of fun we had and the difference they made in our Unit and in my life. Learn from the past and remember "it's not so much the loss that's hard to deal with, it's the love they left behind". We all have made life-long friends in the ALA and the memories are priceless.

I've had some of the happiest times in my life in the ALA, and some of the saddest. Yes, misunderstandings happen, even with people you thought were your friends. If the situation is truly unfixable, don't dwell on it. Keep moving forward and don't let the negative bring you down to their level. Never let our members know you have a problem with someone. It's not their business. Stay positive in all situations. Surround yourself with people you can truly trust and choose advisors who have varied opinions, so your decisions are all encompassing.

Learn absolutely everything you can about the ALA and never say I don't know when asked a question. But rather, "let me get back to you as I want to check on something first". That will give you some time to get it right if you're not sure, or if really don't know. But make sure you do get back to that member. Don't drop it. Because it could come back to haunt you. It was important enough for them to ask the question and they deserve an answer.

Strong leadership skills are achieved through experience but also by listening and watching how people react to certain situations. Reading a room is a "thing" and very important when being a guest speaker. Your entire speech could change when you walk into the room, so be prepared.

Always smile, be nice and never let our members see you get rattled by a situation. Stand strong on the foundation of those who came before you. Be kind and listen, listen, listen. Don't think about the answer until you hear the whole question or about the entire situation. Then form an answer. It's easier to be the good guy and you will grow as a leader.

I've learned in moments of doubt that if someone decides to run for office at any level, they need to have an emotional connection with the ALA mission and our members, so your decisions are in the best interest of the organization, you have to be all in and connected. It's not about power, it's not about being in charge, it's not about control, and it's not about your membership or achievements in other organizations you belong to. They don't matter, as our members only care about the ALA and how you're going to make a difference.

I know this is not an NEC report but really some helpful hints and what running for office means to the members who depend on you to make the right decisions. What you learn is incredibly important to share by mentoring those who will choose this path in the future. Being available and staying involved is very rewarding. It is a humbling experience on all levels of the organization. It is a great responsibility that comes with personally quiet rewards.

I cannot guarantee that your journeys will be perfect, but I can guarantee you'll have the time of your life if you choose to run for office. Just remember it's not about you; it's about the American Legion Auxiliary. Put the members and the organization first and you won't regret a moment.

Leadership truly is a journey of the heart.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Madam President this concludes my “report”.

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

Our third meeting was held on Saturday, March 22, at Argonne (Sherwood) Post 56. We gathered for lunch at 11:30 and our meeting started at 1:00 PM. We had seven (7) Units represented with a total of 14 attendees. It was great to see the turnout from Argonne Unit (7), they had several newer members, seasoned members, and some in-between. Without a permanent Chaplain, I seek out a volunteer to offer prayer. I like to engage with someone different and come prepared with three invocations and three benedictions typed out so they can have a prepared prayer or speak from their heart. I have found this to be helpful in getting more positive responses from attendees that are not as comfortable with speaking in front of a group. We may actually have a first-time attendee willing to accept the appointment. 😊

There was an in-depth discussion/conversation on upcoming deadlines and activities.

1. Convention
  - a. Location and dates | 18-21 June at the Salem Convention Center
  - b. Advertising is a good way to bring information about your community & Legion Family to the entire Department. Maybe highlight an annual community event, like a “cruise-in,” or a Legion event, like the Albany Veterans Day parade.
  - c. Registration & Delegate Fees | With newer members in attendance, I took the opportunity to highlight the difference between the two:
    - i. delegate fees translate to the number of votes the Unit is entitled to cast at convention regardless of the number of members that attend) and registration; the fee associated with actually attending the convention, to help with costs associated with program books, badges, ribbons, etc. and
    - ii. delegates (general members) and delegates-at-large (members holding department chairs or offices, such as District VP, VA&R Chair, or Girls State Director). This fee is mandatory, naming the delegates is not required with payment.
    - iii. All fees must be paid by the deadline. No monies will be collected on site.
2. Poppy Distribution | All Units advised that it would be unlikely they could get additional ready-made poppies for distribution in May.
  - a. They were reminded that Poppy Kits were available from the Department. One Unit advised that they purchased a Poppy Kit and make poppies during their meeting, which is a great idea!
  - b. Units were encouraged to begin researching Emblem Sales and/or other Departments for costs and deadlines to ensure they have ample supplies in November.

3. Oregon Girls State | We are fortunate to have the Girls State Director in our District and although she attended the Legion District meeting, we were happy that her "Admin Assistant," Sheri Russell, was able to give us highlights!
  - a. Location and dates | 22-28 June at Oregon State University.
  - b. Events | Tuesday all citizens from Girls & Boys State would travel by bus to the State Capitol for a tour and to meet legislators and hear from guest speakers.
  - c. Spread the word | Applications and all pertinent information is available at <https://alaoregon.org/girls-state/>. Reach out to local schools, homeschoolers, and friends to find applicants.
  - d. Sponsorship | If you are having difficulty getting access to the schools or cannot find applicants, consider sponsoring a qualified potential citizen that does not have a Unit to sponsor them. Just let the Department know that you have the desire!
  - e. Deadlines | Notice the dates of our departments two biggest functions/productions. All deadlines must be adhered to for them to be successful.

Four (4) Units reported. One Unit provided the prior quarters minutes, and I receive most minutes from another Unit, so our Book of Reports represents six out of our 10 Units. Some gave details as to the number of veterans served, hours served, money spent/earned, etc., while others did not. I continue to be in awe of what was accomplished between December and February, a time of foul weather plus cold & flu season.

District 1 has internally reported the following statistics:

- \$997 in-kind donations for Christmas
- Donation of \$400 to National/Department
- 680 hours in community service
- 325 hours of fundraising
- 483 veterans served
- Cash & in-kind donations received by members, \$1,200
- 1,440 miles driven
- \$200 spent in National Security, serving 4 ORANG families, 13 children

Our District Caucus will be on Saturday, May 17th at Seaside Post 99. We welcome all candidates for Department Offices to come and meet our members and tell us about yourself!

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jody Marsh, President

## **District 2 President | Glena Smith**

Glena Smith as an auxiliary member makes the salad for our Friday night Rib Dinner. I work every Friday every week. I work seven (7) Hours on these nights.

On the second Friday of every month three (3) girls sign up for KP.

Then on the second Thursday six to seven auxiliary ladies sign up for the Free Veterans Luncheon to help cook, serve, and wait on them. We serve excellent lunches and pictures are taken by our historian. In January we served twenty-three (23) veterans. Some bring their wives. Our meals change every month.

In February we do the same Friday night rib night, the 7th, 14th, 21st, and the 28th. The second Thursday was on the 13th. Most people get there at 9:30 am to 1:00pm. Because of the snow we only had two servers and four VETS. A great lunch was served.

Here comes March. The Rib night dinner on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and the 28th. On Thursday we had another great Free Veterans lunch. We served White Bean Chicken Chili. We didn't have very much left. We had five workers. They were Bob Wilson, Sim Sears and her husband Gale Sears. We had a Total of thirty-three customers. We received a donation to help with the food Costs \$100.00. On March 15th we had our St. Paddy's Day Dinner. Corned beef, cabbage, carrot roll, and some excellent cake made by Debra Godwin. There were 11 helpers.

We have started our nominations. Right now, it is Debra nominated for President, Gregory Hernandez for Vice-President, Secretary Sim Sears, and Treasurer Becky Berweger.

We are having a Pendleton blanket raffle going on. The tickets are for \$5.00 per ticket, 300 tickets to be sold, and on June 13th, 2025, the drawing will be held.

Every year at about this time we have a Battle of the Branches. The first time was the Army. PIC was Cheryl Miller was the PIC. Glena Smith and Lori Vallery worked for her. We took in the money, which was only \$10.00 each Plate and a 50/50. We worked 4 and a half hours. Then on the 16th of March it was the Navy's turn. I worked doing the same, taking the money and a 50/50

On January the 18th we had our Zoom meeting at Unit 21 in McMinnville, Oregon. It wasn't too long, but I learned a lot.

Then I had a District 2 meeting at Canby, Oregon. There were several Units there. I gave the updates what Reports need to be done and what the dates are. I had Lori Vallery and Tamara Linde with me. They are very good at what they do and help me a lot.

I will be going to the DEC at LaPine on April 11th through the 13th. Can't wait to see everyone. I'm learning so many things to do.

Then on Thursday the 17th I have a chance to go to the Carltons Post #173 at 6:30pm. They are asking me to help them with impact Reports And Book of reports...?

CAUCUS is on May 3rd, 2025, for abominations at Newberg, Oregon. It will be held at the Senior Center. I don't have the address yet.

then on to the Convention Center in Salem. See everyone there.



This is Unit #173.

For January: 1/20/25, Flag retirement: canton removed from 3'x5' made in Oregon flags for sending to Stars for our Troops: P. O. Box 301, Troy, New York 12182.

1/25/25 to 1/31/25 There was a work Party. They painted the Legion Hall.

For February 2025, this unit had a chili feed at 10:00 serving by Legion/Auxiliary also a chili cookout with 14 contestants bringing them

Chili for tasting. Doors were opened from 1530-1900, held at the Legion Hall.

158 E. Main Street, Carlton. Chili was judged by a panel of three (3) judges

They were judged on appearance and flavor. Entrants' chili feed received

Three (3) chips allowing them to vote for their favorite contestants. Awards

Provided by the Legion. Sixty (60) meals were served plus chili from contestants.

For March 2025, this group decided to have a St. Patrick's Day dinner

That were served, corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread

And a dessert. The cost was \$15.00 per plate with doors open at 1400

To 1800 held at the Legion Hall. 158 E. Main, Carlton. Sixty (60) meals

served, bar was open to all but kids under the age of 21. Auxiliary

Created Four (4) Raffle Baskets.

### **District #3 President | Roberta "Bobbie" Peebler**

These units work for our Veterans, Veterans families and our communities

In December we had many Units that donated time and resources to make the Lebanon Veterans Home Gift shop successful.

All Units are in busy mode getting ready for Poppy month.

Unit#10 spends hours running the kitchen providing meals for our Veterans and to help with Post expenses. The Unit has two Bazaars each year, proceeds go to Veterans and Family's needs.

Unit #59 provides breakfast for many Veterans. Transportation for medical appointments, even pet sitting when needed. They are busy with many community activities and membership. At the Lebanon Veterans gift store five members helped with wrapping gifts, setting up and visiting with our Veterans.

Unit# 32 supports the post and gives it back to the community.

Unit # 184 supports the community, Children and Youth, Veterans and their families.

Many hours are spent making and Presenting Quilts for Quilts of Valor. They visit the Veterans homes, nursing homes, and even private homes of our Veterans to make sure we have not forgotten their sacrifices.

This Unit was the first goal Unit in the District and State.

Unit #116 makes meals for our Veterans and even delivers when they are not able to get out much.

Very active with community, Children and Youth projects.

Unit #51- Provides meals, collects cans and bottles for the Children and Youth programs, helping with Flag placement s for special days. Supporting the community. Helping our Veterans by sitting with them, driving them and just being there for what needs come up.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief, helping with FISH, and organizations that helps provide food and clothes to our community,

#### Unit #83

Once a month the Unit helps with the Vet Relief breakfast with all funds going to restricted account to be used for Veterans and Veterans families.

The Unit donated \$1325.00 to Department and National programs for VA&R.

In December their special guests for Pearl Harbor Day were Rosies and their Rosebuds and Thorns.

They put together 30 troop boxes with home-made cookies for the deployed military.

Purchased a total of 40 wreaths.

from Wreathes across America to place on Veterans graves in two cemeteries.

The Juniors put together small handmade Angels and stationary gifts for each of the 27 lady Veterans that reside at the Lebanon Veterans home.

For the holiday season the Unit received 12 Veteran families and 24 single Veterans living in transitional

Housing and at Camp Alma. The families received \$200.00 in gift cards and the Veterans \$50.00 each. These are the restricted funds raised from the monthly Relief break. Fish Fry for Community in February.

Egg Hunt was held in March. Because of Spring break, the attendance was smaller. Approx. 150 kids.

The Unit is hosting the National President in April with a visit to Unit, Tour Camp Alma with lunch with the Veterans. They will also prepare a dinner for Madame President on April 10th.

Thank you to all of the Units and members that volunteer You are all amazing.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Peebler

District 3 President

Department of Oregon

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

#### KLAMATH FALLS – UNIT # 8

This Unit has had to cancel its previous 2 meetings because of the amount of snow and the flu that has been going around. In March they had a meeting, but only a small number of members showed up. At the meeting they made plans for fundraisers to help with some remodeling that needs to be done to their American Legion building. The auxiliary members of unit 8 will put on a dinner April 19th, and each 3rd Thursday starting in June. In July they are cooking Italian Sausage Friday and Saturday of the

“Airshow” in Klamath Falls. Connie says they will be doing a lot of cooking. Unit 8 has reached almost 78% of their membership goals.

#### MEDFORD – UNIT # 15

Bonnie (D-4 VP) and Kathy visited 13 schools in the Medford area, and distributed Americanism information including Essay contest, Poppy Poster, and others. President Ruby said their unit will be fixing up 2 Easter Basket meals to be given out to veteran’s families. The baskets will include everything the recipient needs to fix a nice Easter dinner for the lucky ones that receive it. Medford Unit is at 89% of their goals.

#### WILLIAMS VALLEY – UNIT #50

After a successful fundraising campaign in December, this unit shared its success by giving the Legion a large check to help with the costs of the building and the placing of the 105 Howitzer on the Post grounds. They are a Post Family, and the Auxiliary ladies do so much to help their Veterans. This unit is always helping with the food sales, cashiering, kitchen help, and popcorn for the Bingo players. On meeting nights, they bring potluck dishes in addition to setting up and cleaning up. Some of the other activities include care packages to the DOM in White City (formerly Camp White). Members make Tie Blankets, knitted caps, and bring other items for the Vets. On the 1st week of May, the unit will be having a fundraiser. The sale will include baked goodies, flowerpots and baskets, craft boxes and other items.  
Continued....

This unit just missed reaching their 100% membership goal by the end of January. They did reach the goal in February.

On March 19th this unit had the honor of Cindy Soria visiting. What a great honor that was to have the Department of Oregon, Auxiliary President visit. She was accompanied by her husband, Bob Soria, who visited the Legion and SAL meeting at the same time. Bob holds office in the Department as well.

#### MALIN UNIT # 84

President Heidi and VP Jennifer have sent out Girls and Boys State packets to 15 schools in the Klamath Falls/ Malin area. These 2 ladies work hard to find applicants to send this summer to this program. Their unit sponsors the ones they find. Last year they sent 2 girls to Girls State. Heidi said they have a hard time finding applicants that are qualified for their unit’s Scholarship program, but this year they have 2 qualified applicants.

This unit is at 74% of their membership goal.

#### DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Here in Southern Oregon, we all have dealt with so much Influenza 4, and in February there was a lot of snow, even in the valleys. Because of this our district has been struggling with poor attendance at meetings and other activities.

Our district 4 will have its caucus meeting on April 26th, 2025, in Grants Pass at Post 28.

I am proud of district 4, not only for the hard-working ladies that comprise our units, but despite the setbacks we right now are 3rd in the State at almost 87%.

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

December was a very busy month 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 in their 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 gift 5 active military or veteran families, 6 National Guard Families (34 People) and 20 senior community members from the tree of joy. Total spent \$4,600.00 from last year's auction.

The Post Commander Alan Alderman, President Helen vice President Juli Alderman and 2-unit members attended a Christmas event for the families of the National Guard. There were several vendors with lots of information. Gifts and food were distributed. Unit #29 was there with gifts and food that was purchased for them as well as personal supplies. unit #4 was handing out Christmas cookie decorating kits.

Total Hours = 368 / Total Money = \$5,600.00 / People served = 251  
They also helped to host the district 5 Roundup In March, with Chicken Bingo and darts, etc. good food and a wonderful time.

Helen Hisaw  
Unit President  
Unit #29

Steven's-Chute Unit #4 highlighted a local teacher, Heather Korman, who Educates her students on the significance of poppies and patriotism. Korman, a third - grade teacher at Elk Meadow Elementary School, incorporates lessons Veterans Day and Memorial Day to teach her students about the historical importance of these Holidays and the value of military service. Her inspiration came from her grandfather, a World War II veteran. The Unit was impressed by her dedication to Teaching patriotism and remembrance, a Sentiment they found many times lacking in public schools.

United #4 submitted Heather's story to ALA National for publication, and they posted it as a Guest Blog on their web site. See Blog at : <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Oregon-unit-connects-with-local-who-educate> Heather commented, it was another great year For poppies, the kids and remembrance. Katie dropped off a bag of poppies and the kids wore them proudly. As I put up the art, I found so many sweetie messages in their poppies. Although war and battle are a hard concept for young people to understand the honoring and gratitude for our veterans was easy for them to grasp.

Unit #4 helped to provide a cookie decorating party for the kids, and Karen Banks stepped up to represent us and a man the event alone, handing out kits for kids. Karen alas shopped for contain, cookies, frosting sprinkles, etc and for the kits. Adjutant Sue Ann Montgomery says she does not bake, made a load of cookies in all the Christmas shapes.

Unit #4 members donated Christmas money and gift cards to the National Guard families totaling over \$1,500.

Unit VP Katie Terry once again spent hours preparing and delivering Christmas cards to veterans in Senior Living facilities. snow or rain could not prevent her rounds, as she personally delivered 266 Christmas Cards to Veterans in 14 facilities with the help of her grandson. The cards were well received at each facility and appreciated by veterans, a segment of our community that is many times forgotten during the holidays. Katie loves doing this and feel so fulfilled after they are all delivered.

unit #4 is happy to help host a Welcome Home for the Vietnam Veterans with a dinner and ceremony Saturday March 29 Sponsored by "Heart n' Home Hospice. Tickets were free for Vietnam veterans and 1 guest.

Yvonne Drury  
Unit President

Unit 45 LaPine  
Children and Youth  
The annual Bazaar and raffle produced \$1,000. So, Gilchrist and LaPine High Schools will donate \$500. Dollar Scholarships to each High School. Hours spent 10, cost \$0. The Auxiliary will present the checks at the Award Ceremony at each High School.

At this writing the Unit is actively involved in the Americanism Essay Contest. They provide each child a Certificate that participates in the essay. Hours 20, cost \$30. Plans are underway for the annual Easter party for the children, it is open to the public.

VA&R  
Community Outreach  
Several Auxiliary member volunteer at the food pantry here in town, to hand out food to the needy. This occurs on the 4th Friday of every month. Approximately 3-10 hours a month at \$0 Cost.

A Charity event held at the Legend Cider Company in LaPine was for a veteran who will be on the honor Flight this year. Several Auxiliary members created raffle basket and attended the event. Hours 4 Cost \$20.

A recently departed Legion member left behind a wife, daughter and grandson. One of our Auxiliary members kept a contact with the widow and offered Comfort. Hours 30 Cost \$0

Tam Martin  
Unit 45  
President

I want to thank District 5 member for all the wonderful support they give to our Veterans and their families, and what they do for the Community.

I love you all 🥰🥰❤️

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

Units # 130, 37, 43, and 24 submitted reports for the time period of January through April.

These units are doing well, they are all active with community service and with local veterans and their families.

Unit 140 is not an active unit, and no interaction has taken place.

Unit 95 lone has not responded to e-mails or phone calls to the president, Becky Rietmann or the Secretary, Maureen McElligott. I will continue with phone calls and e-mails to hopefully connect with either Becky or Maureen.

Most recent District meeting was March 15th hosted by Unit 37, Hermiston. We had the district President, Vice president, secretary, and 2 members present.

We discussed making sure all units sent Dues Data Forms to the department by April 1st. We discussed the importance of completing the 990-N form to the IRS by April 15th. It was stressed that completion of End of Year Numbers Report be completed and submitted by the due date of May 1st, to the District President and why those numbers are so important for our Department. Also discussed was the Secretary of State Annual Reporting form. There is one unit (37) having trouble with their Non-Profit status as past years forms were not submitted to the state or the IRS. The current President is working on this matter, and they hope it get it resolved soon.

District 6 Caucus is scheduled for April 26 hosting Auxiliary will be LaGrande #43.

District 6 President and Secretary attended the Oratorical Contest in Salem, OR. On March 22. One of the contestants is a District 6 High School student from Joseph, OR. Reports are included.

Respectfully,

### **District #8 President | Barb Sumner**

Hello everyone, boy this year has gone by fast. District eight has been busy with breakfast, Bingos and dinners. There were a couple St Patrick Day events. Once a month Veteran luncheon and dinner fix for Wyeast center for Veterans. Units are busy planning Easter activities. Also, Units are fundraising as District to help support the

liver and Kidney transplant center for Veterans and the Fisher house, Activities are planned to help fund the delegates to convention. I am so proud of my Units. They work so hard.

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

Bay Area #34 had the honor of having Department President Cindy Soria attend our Legion Birthday Dinner. We were honored to have Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt and Linda Schmidt as our guests. Bay Area held their annual Chili contest and the attendance was great. Currently, they are working on the Girls State Program. Earle B Stewart #16 is always volunteering in many ways to help our veterans either at the VA Hospital or various places. Fallin #123 will be hosting a dinner for the National President later this month.

For God & Country,

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

The units of District 10 are all working membership and the programs that work well in their areas; I have only heard from two of our four units at the time of this report, but I know they are on top of their programs that they always do at this time of the year such as Americanism and Children and Youth.

It has been a long cold winter and several areas in Harney-Grant-Malheur Counties are experiencing flooding. The Governor has declared Harney County an emergency flood area with many evacuation areas in the lower Burns areas.

Ellis Tracy Unit #77 located in John Day has just finished their Americanism Essay contests for 3rd through 6th grades. They had 27 entries; 12 winners were awarded \$10, \$15, and \$20. An appreciation dinner for these families will be held next month and winning essays will be read on the local radio station and showcased in the local paper.

Unit auxiliary members are clearing out years of Unit Minutes, records and financials stored in the John Day Post that have not been seen for a long time.

Harney County #63 (Burns/Hines) is continuing their monthly yard sales (our main source of income). New clothing and crocheted items were recently given to Roseburg and the Portland VAMC. Several donations have been made to the HUB (Sr. Center meal program), Elks, Save-A-Stray, the local Historical Society and Museum, the ALA National Foundation, Shriners, to mention a few. This Unit is a faithful member of the Harney County Chamber of Commerce, and their information is posted on the local Chamber's website.

Two of the local members have traveled hundreds of miles, one takes care of an older veteran, and another a single elderly lady, neither one having any family to help them. This has amounted to hundreds of miles, money and hours for the members.

Girls State announcements have been made in the Burns Times-Herald newspaper and notices given to Burns High, Crane High and home-schooled students.

Recently, I was fortunate to travel to Nyssa for the District 10 Oratorical contest and then to Salem for the Department Oratorical. We are proud to have the winner from Vale who will be going on to National. Our District 10 Caucus will be held Saturday, May 10, at the All-Veterans Hall in Ontario at 10:00 a.m., MST.

***“Everyone is important according to their own uniqueness; never look down on anyone unless you are admiring their shoes.”***

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

During December and January, we conducted a test for Danni Gonsales, our Administrative Assistant, to work from home on Fridays. It was a success, so in February we made it permanent until further notice.

Danni is available Monday through Friday, but the office is only open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Monday the office is open by appointment only and on Fridays, Danni will be working from home.

#### **Hours of operation:**

Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Monday the office is open by appointment only, 8am through 4:30pm

Tuesday through Thursday the office is open, 8am through 4:30pm

Friday you can reach Danni by phone, 8am through 4:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Administrative Committee  
Linda Liebenow, Chairman  
Helen Hisaw, Member

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

I am looking forward to receiving Unit Reports and hearing about all the good work our Units do for our children.

April is the month of the Military Child. If your Unit has Juniors and or Youth and are interested in holding a Military Childs Table Setting Ceremony the full Ceremony is available on [ALAforveterans.org](http://ALAforveterans.org) and looks easy to follow.

Purple up on April 15th, Day of The Military Child

And always remember Kids of deployed are Heros 2.

Children and Youth Chaiman  
Genene DeMoss



### **Education & Scholarship Chairman | Karol Satterfield**

There were 14 applications received for the Children of Warriors, 1 was judged outstanding and forwarded to Western Division and National for consideration for Oregon's choice. 1 for Non-Traditional but sadly, it did not meet all the criteria to be judged. Received none for the Department scholarships.

Karol Satterfield, Ed./Scholarship, Department Chairman

### **Girls State Director | Karla Thaler**

We have secured Oregon State University for Girls State June 22-28

We've sent letters with brochures to each of last years girls with Brochures.

We have 7 girls coming back this year as Junior Counselors and have had zoom meetings to discuss what we've planned for this year.

Recently I toured Linfield College for a possible move next year but I think OSU is a better fit and cheaper.

We have contacted the Speakers and are waiting for confirmation for two of them. The other two are confirmed.

Just working on getting more girls signed up

Karla Thaler  
Director of Girls State

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

Greetings to everyone

This year is going by so quickly but first I would like to thank the Department and Auxiliary for all the prayers, thoughts and condolences I received when my mom passed away. It spoke to my heart.

Membership has done well we are at 81% but I like to focus on the positive like we have 8 Units that have reached 100% or more. We have 14 Units that are in the 90% range, let's not give up we can do it. I pulled all the reports since I have been out and it seems like all our numbers are going up, there are a few that have stayed the same. Spring has sprung up and this can be a new beginning for all of us. Rejuvenate Let's think about what we can do for our members and spread the news about what we do for our Veterans because we care. Are we communicating with the community, engaging our members and hearing all the voices that should be heard. Let's keep our eyes open for new members, sending out the message that our Veterans need them.

The Western Division is in first place, because "The West is the Best" we did not meet the 85% goal so let's go for the next goal 95% by May 23,2025. We are at 81% so we will need 506 members to renew or join. Let's see what we can do!

I have loved working on the theme with Bee's because if they do not work together as a team they will not survive. We are all team members and each one of us has a talent to give but when we all work together, we are mighty and when we love what we are doing it makes it easier to work together because we have the same goals, to help and serve our Veterans.

Stay engaged with current members to retain them and reclaim former members. Thank you for all you do!

Blessings

Dianne Standing

Department Membership Chairman

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

Our National Chairman Diana Sirovina would like more Units to promote the Little Miss Poppy Program. If Units are unable to find a Junior Auxiliary Member some Units have started a Poppy Ambassador Program with a young Member of the SAL, there is no costume, and the Unit can provide a hat or tiara and/or a sash if desired. A few things to consider might be no requirements for scrapbook, etc. I saw firsthand just how well Little Miss Poppy was recognized at a Public Event, she wore a beautiful red gown with a red Tiara and carried a Poppy basket full of Poppies passing them out and took in \$110.00 in donations.

Also remember to wear a Poppy and celebrate National Poppy Day 5/23/25

Units have been getting permission to set up a display table at local libraries to educate their communities about the Poppy Program.

Everyone loves a good friendly competition and setting up teams would be a fun way to energize members passing out Poppies.

### **THINGS POPPY FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR**

Honor Flight Guardian Fees

ASYMCA Food Pantries

Groceries or gas cards for Veterans in need

Items of necessity for homeless Veterans or hospitalized service members

Poppy Kits or supplies for Poppy distribution

### **THINGS POPPY FUNDS CANNOT BE USED FOR**

Investments, including Certificates of Deposit

Deceased Veterans or families of deceased Veterans

ALA Girls State or ALA Girls Nation Fees

Commercial property improvements, including Legion Posts and home

Items of improvements that will also be used by non-Veterans

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Poppy Posters due to Department Chairman by 4/15/25  
Yearend reports due to Department Chairman by 5/1/25  
National Poppy Day 5/23/25

Respectfully Submitted  
Poppy Chairman, Margie Demoss  
[Margies2email@gmail.com](mailto:Margies2email@gmail.com)

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

### **Annual Reporting:**

Time is getting to the end of the year. I must report to National by May 15. At that light, I will need each unit to send me their year in report no later than May 1.

### **Important dates:**

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child.

April 15: Purple Up for the Military Child Day-wear purple to show your support.

Acknowledge your junior members.

May is poppy month. Have you planned your poppy distribution yet? Don't forget to wear your branding and educate those who visit your table about the importance of the poppy.

In March you should have celebrated your Vietnam Veterans. Did you have an event to honor those in your community?

### **Give Credit Where Credit is Due**

- Acknowledge achievements: Give a shout out to those who have had big achievements in your unit.
- Recognize contributions: Recognize contributions made by your unit members whether inside the organization or out.
- Credit efforts: Give credit where due.
- Honor accomplishments: Honor accomplishments appropriately. The National website provides templates for various topics to download.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Banks, Public Relations  
Department of Oregon American Legion Auxiliary

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

The end of the year is almost here. Do you remember all of the things that you did for VA&R since May of 2024? It is a big job to keep it all recorded, sometimes we don't even think about what we are doing because it is such an automatic thing. But reporting is important, this is one way that we keep our non-profit status. The Units report to

Department and then Department combines all of those reports and sends it to our National organization. National reports it to Congress.

Here are some of the things that I know that have been done in the last few months. Maybe this will help you remember some of the things that your Units have done.

### **Veterans' Affair Facilities**

Here are some of the things that the VA&R has done with the money that the Units send into Department. Thank you to all the Units that contribute.

Portland VA- coffee supplies. They are back to having coffee available in the clinics.

This is one of the things that was discontinued during COVID

Roseburg VA- we bought clothing for the clothing room

White City- we don't have a Rep in White City, but we are in contact with them to see what they need. The last request was for hygiene supplies

**What the Units are doing**, these are only the few things that I know of

Providing Veterans lunches at their Posts

Dinners for the Veterans in transitional housing units

Welcome Home celebrations

Salute to Veterans

Legion Birthday dinners

I was privileged recently to be part of a presentation of a Pendleton blanket to Syd Carter, Past Department Commander. The Pendleton company is making a blanket that they call "A Grateful Nation". First Vice Commander, Renee Ohler, has taken this up and presented several blankets to worthy Veterans. The blanket has service ribbons on one side and stars representing the 50 states plus Washington D.C. and the U.S. Territories on the other side. It was a wonderful time to honor one of our Veterans. Syd was very grateful for the honor; he was cracking jokes along with his tears.

Wreaths Across America

We are all set up for the \$5 give back for Wreaths Across America day, December 13, 2025. Please be sure to use the code OR0090P so that the Department of Oregon gets \$5 for every wreath you order. It does not cost you anymore. The money will be used for whatever the Department President specifies.

Mid-Willamette Family YMCA Veterans Housing

I just heard about this from District 3 President, Bobbie Peebler. It will be affordable housing in Albany for Veterans who fit within the 60% average median income. There will be 38 apartments. The groundbreaking is planned for the summer of 2025. Bobbie and I will be meeting with them to see what the American Legion Auxiliary can do to help.

### **Honor Flights**

We have 4 Honor Flights in Oregon that serve different areas of our state.

Honor Flight of Northwest Oregon (Multnomah, Washington, Clatsop, Clackamas)

Honor Flight of Central Oregon (Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook)

South Willamette Valley Honor Flight (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn)

Honor Flight of Oregon (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Coos, Curry, Klamath)

There are many ways that you can donate to these. You can sponsor the box lunches, wreaths that they place on monuments, flags from the Capitol that are given to the Veteran, snacks or water.

I have a Fred Meyer rewards card and through that I was able to go to the Community Rewards section and sign up for 1% of what I spend at Fred Meyer will go to Honor Flight of Northwest Oregon. It was easy and did not cost me a thing.

### **Rose Court Visit**

We are getting ready for the Rose Court visit this year. During the Rose Festival in Portland, the Rose Court Princesses go to the Portland VA hospital and present roses to the Veterans. Before they do that, The American Legion Auxiliary has a reception for them with finger food and they introduce themselves and present a short skit. We usually give them a bag containing a flag pin, a snack and a bottle of water to take with them. The roses are usually donated from one of our Units.

Linda Liebenow,  
VA&R Chairman