

The Oregon



VFW NEWS



Volume 42

November - December 2011

Number 3

STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



BERT KEY
State Commander

Help those in need this holiday season

Comrades and Sisters, This is a very busy time of the year for us all. District Fall Meetings are completed and we can now concentrate on our individual home fronts.

After Veterans Day activities and celebrations we can turn to the many VFW programs we have to complete: Adopt-A-Family, Buddy Poppies, VOD/Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year and Community Thanksgiving Day Dinners, just to name a few.

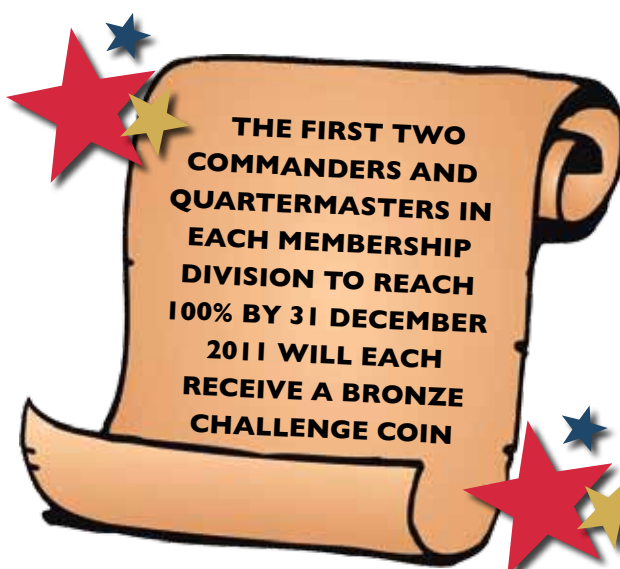
As we go to press, you are all busy getting your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year applications judged and prepared for advancement to the District level, and then on to the Department Chairperson. It looks to be a banner year for participation in these programs by our young people. I am anticipating a significant increase in numbers over past years in these programs. That increase can be directly attributed to all of the hard work and effort you all have put in making sure that the students got the information in time.

And then it will be on to Mid-Winter in February where we will present the students and teachers their awards. I would like to remind you to make your reservations for the Mid-Winter Dinner in Wilsonville on 11 February, to honor our young people (See the VOD registration form on page 2.) We owe it to them to have a good attendance. You will not be disappointed that you attended.

I want to wish you all happy times as we gear up for the upcoming holidays. It is a special time of year for families to come together, and rejoice in the spirit of giving and helping. It is a special time of year for helping our neighbors and friends. As we head into this joyous holiday period we have so much to be thankful for. We live in the greatest country in the world, with a quality of life that millions of people risk their lives to get to.

There are, however, many of our friends and relatives and Veterans who are in need. I call upon all of you Posts and Auxiliaries to be especially sensitive to the plight of our neighbors in need and sponsor programs designed to help ease the burden of those who are in need. Now, more than ever is a time for us all to come together as one VFW family and pledge ourselves to helping our fellow Veteran families. Do not forget our Veterans in the VA Hospitals. With the high unemployment many of our members are having a difficult time paying their membership dues. Consider using your Relief Funds for helping these members remain members. Let us leave no one behind. Please do what you can to help those in need have a better life in your communities.

Along with everything else we have to do, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza are just around the corner. I wish you all the Happiest of Holidays! Remember, THE KEY IS SERVICE!



Marine in Iraq expresses thanks to Vietnam Vets

Better support and treatment helps right wrongs of earlier era

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

We learned a lesson

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us.

Guilt in collective consciousness

After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late 1970s and on into the 80s, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So ... starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming ... instead of spitting on them.

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it.



Photo ©Enigma-Fotolia.com

Heros before us

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770s to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along.

I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis
Major Brian P. Brrenahan
United States Marine Corps.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oregon is doing great!



SONYA SALLEE
Auxiliary President

I want to thank every one of the members of this great organization; you are doing a great job working the programs and paying the money to the hospitals and National Home. You are doing great with the Cancer money and membership but at this writing more than half of the Auxiliaries have not sent a form into Paula Espeland for

the program reporting. As they say in my profession, "if you don't write about it, you didn't do it." So please send your reports into the program coordinator as soon as possible.

It is getting close to the holiday season and I hope that each one of you take the time to visit some of our older members that may not come to the meetings or socials and tell them that you care; go to their homes or retirement residences and visit them. Many of them have no family nearby and they would really appreciate a visit from some of you. Take another member and even one of your new members to visit. I am sure everyone will appreciate them.

While talking about the new members, I have heard a lot of the new members say things like, "Well they took me in but I go to the meetings and they don't tell me anything that

is going on." I hope that when you ask someone to become a member, please mentor them for a while. Call them and ask them to a meeting or social and have them sit by you so you can tell them what is happening in the meeting. If someone feels lost I am sure that they won't come back.

Please make your reservation for the Mid-Winter conference in Wilsonville this year. I am sure that the speeches will be great and I am always truly amazed at the future generation of our country. I would love to see as many of you there that can attend and you can also find out how we are doing in all of our programs so far this year. Please reserve your rooms and get your money in for the banquet as soon as possible.

I hope that everyone is having as an amazing time as I am having this year. I have met so many of my Auxiliary sisters and have seen some beautiful country on my travels. You have been more than gracious when I have been at your meeting and I feel like I am a member of each of your districts. Hope to see you around the rest of the year, start thinking about getting your reservations in for Convention, also.

I hope that you all have a great holiday season and all your wishes for the New Year come true. I hope you spend time with family and friends. Hope to see you again around the state.

Loyally,
Sonya Sallee
Department President

For the Record

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MESSAGE

I am receiving great reports. Keep them coming! It's great to see the significant involvement we provide for the good of others. We can proudly state that we honor the dead by serving the living.

Your reports are coming in, in all formats, from snail mail, to email, to hand delivery. Your community efforts are documented evidence of not for self but for country. Your reports are truly a reflection of the positive contribution veterans provide.

For those who are mailing in their reports, please note, my permanent duty station (address) has changed and mailed reports are being forwarded from my Portland address. The Department is in the process of updating the on-line downloadable form on the Department's website to my current address. Please send your new reports to Bert Logan, 3616 Wilshire Lane, Eugene, OR 97405.

My email address and telephone number is current. Be assured that your reports are reaching me and will be forwarded to National.

Respectfully, Bert R Logan III

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE MESSAGE

The Department appreciates your efforts and your perseverance in conducting your Posts, Districts, and Department within the by-laws and procedures that outline our organization's means of effectiveness. Keep up the good work. I want to run by how we effectively operate as a unit and not individually.

The presiding officer, i.e., the Commander, is the servant of the organization. All his/her acts at meetings and conventions must have the body's approval, unless a bylaw makes them independent. Presiding officers who are ignorant of parliamentary law or who defy the body's will or deny to the members the proper exercise of their rights causes discontent and disunity.

Leaders are not expected to know every by-law and procedure. No one is. But leaders are expected to be able to at least match the member's combined basic knowledge of them. Capable presiding officers make good meetings.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to serve your comrades. Few people will. I'm proud to serve with this great team of comrades that enable our Posts, Districts, and Department successful.

Respectfully, Bert R Logan III

DEPT VOD CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Comrades and Ladies:

By the time you read this, all of the applications for Voice of Democracy should be in and are being judged or prepared to be judged. Remember there is a DEADLINE for getting your winners to the District Chairpersons so they can determine a District Winner. Your District Commanders have been provided with ALL the deadlines so, Post and District Chairs make sure you do your judging promptly and get the winner to the next level and then to State. The window to judge at the State level looks big but there are a couple of Holidays that take away the ability of getting the judges and to do a proper job.

It is not too early to make your reservations at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville for the Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Mid Winter Conference and the Voice of Democracy Banquet on 11 February 2012. Meal ticket applications for the lunch and banquet are located in this paper, so please use them as soon as possible.

The hotel reservations can be made by calling 503.682.2211 and asking for in-house reservations. (DO NOT USE the 800 number)

If you are comfortable with a computer, I would suggest using the online booking tool, here is the hotel link: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/wilsonville/pdxso/hoteldetail>

This link will take you to the online booking engine and below the check-in and check-out dates there will be an option "Have a Group Code" this group code is VOD. Once individuals have selected their dates and placed their given group code the group rate will pop up.

The hotel rooms along with lunch and banquet tickets help pay for the facilities to provide you with an exceptional meeting and banquet facility.

The Department appreciates all the donations you have sent for the Voice of Democracy, remember ALL of your DONATIONS go to the 16 District Winners at the Banquet. Please continue to send more donations to Department, as we have a ways to go before we reach our goal so we can maintain or surpass our present level of Scholarship money and be able to provide some to ALL 16 Finalists. This is for our YOUTH, whom we hope will continue to carry on the work for all Veterans through all the Veterans Service Organizations, especially the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Ron Jagodnik, Dept. VOD Chairman

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

As the present war winds down legislators are proposing a number of changes, specifically the "Quality of life" issues being considered. These include new out-of-pocket costs for TRI CARE FOR LIFE and changes in the military retirement system.

I have called ALL of the legislator's offices and could not get a definitive answer from any of them on how they were going to vote.

I would encourage everyone who is reading this article to call our legislators and tell them our concerns. Balancing the budget on the back of veterans has not worked in the past and will not work now. The CBO reported that changing the military retirement would not save money, but it would decimate the all-volunteer forces.

Only one percent of Americans have sacrificed by serving in the last ten years and to ask them to do more is unacceptable. Asking those who have given 20+ years of service to our country, to expect less back is unacceptable. The cost of this war will go on for many years with large numbers of warriors returning home with wounds both physical and psychological.

It is very important that WE the veterans of Oregon let our Legislators know how we feel. CALL NOW!

PHONE NUMBERS:

Ron Wyden: 202-224-5244 Jeff Merkley: 202-224-3753
Greg Walden: 202-225-6730
Earl Blumenauer: 202-225-4811 Peter Defazio: 202-225-6416
Kurt Schrader 202-225-5711

Dennis Guthrie, National Legislative Committee Member

DEPARTMENT SURGEON MESSAGE

While we all work on staying in good health, how many think about the health of your Post, District or Department. There are ways in which we can all help all levels of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States. One way is to keep our membership up to date and help by signing up new members. We all have a chance to speak to veterans that are eligible to join. Most of the time, you will not know they are eligible if you do not ask. It is important that we all try to get those eligible veterans to join us in the fight so do not leave any veteran behind.

If you are an annual member you can also help by simply paying your dues as soon as you get your first dues notice. This will save National from the cost printing and sending more. It also gets it out of the way so you do not have to try to come up with the money at the end of year when you have holiday and year end bills to pay.

Have you ever thought of becoming a Life Member? That would save the cost of sending out any dues notices for national and would also save the Post from trying to find you to try to get you to pay. Some have asked why should I become a life member. There are a number of good reasons for becoming a life member. You will save money in the long run. You also get ahead of any dues increases and you know that at some point annual and life membership will go up. Do you want all of the time and money spent on trying to get annual members to pay their dues or fight for veterans? If you are a Life Member, National does not have to send you a dues notice and the Post does not spend their time trying to catch up with you. It is always surprises me just how much time it takes to get members to pay their dues. If you are out of work or are in financial trouble the Post may be able to help. However the Post cannot afford to just pay everyone's dues, and they have to know that there is a need for help.

Some say that the only time I hear from anyone from the post is when they come to get the dues. How about how often have you contacted the Post? All Posts have a mailing address. Some Post have a phone number or they have someone in the Post with a phone. Most Posts also have someone with email. Communication is a two way street. Help by doing your part. If the Post does not know you are having a problem they for sure cannot be of any help. There are a growing number of posts with a web page to help you know what the Post has been or what they are working on now.

Life members are a big help to the whole Organization. And I would like to thank all those who are life members. As you may know the Post and the Department will get a payment back from National each year as long as you are alive. Did you know that you can now help your Post and Department even after you have passed, by becoming a Legacy Life Member? While this does come with a cost it is still cheap compared to some of the other service originations. There are three levels and each has a different annual endowment payment (now and after you pass) for the Post and for the Department. Each level of Legacy Life is the same price for all ages; but you have to be a Life member first. How do you want to be remembered?

Remember we still need your help at all levels of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is not only what can we do for you; but how can you be a part of the solution. For if we do not stand up for each Veteran who will?

George E. Carroll, Department Surgeon

Voice of Democracy Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, February 11, 2012 BANQUET TICKETS

TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 1, 2011

If you are on a special diet, please let Department know so we can notify the banquet service.

If you plan to sit as a group, all money and names must be sent in together.

ALL SEATS WILL BE RESERVED AND PAID FOR AT THE TIME OF ORDERING (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Tables seat 8. TICKET DEADLINE: Jan. 30, 2012

LUNCH:

BUFFET containing the following: Italian Lunch Buffet: Tossed green salad, Focaccia bread seasoned with fresh herbs, Mediterranean Chicken, Pasta, House Marinara or House Alfredo Sauce. - **\$15**

Each meal - lunch & dinner - includes coffee, water & Iced Tea

DINNER: (Choose one)

Pork Medallions - \$25.50

London Broil - \$25.50

Both include: Salad, dinner rolls & butter, seasonal steamed vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes, Chef's choice of dessert

Pork Medallions: \$25.50 Qty: _____

London Broil: \$25.50 Qty: _____

Lunch: \$15 Qty: _____

ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

Address _____

City _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Additional Name(s) _____

DISTRICT: _____ **POST:** _____

Please make checks payable to Department of Oregon VFW

Send to VFW DEPARTMENT OF OREGON, 12440 N.E. Halsey St., Portland, OR 97230

Deadline for ordering tickets is Jan. 30, 2012 - No refunds after this date.

PICK UP BANQUET TICKETS SATURDAY AT THE CONFERENCE.

ATTENTION:

There was a mistake in the Banquet Ticket form previously printed. Please do not use forms from previous issues. If you have questions, call (503) 255-5808

USE THIS FORM TO ORDER TICKETS. THANK YOU!

Announcements

Submissions for the Nov - Dec issue are due by Dec. 27

Send LAVFW articles to Aux. Dept Sec'y by Dec. 21

VFW prefers to receive photos and articles by e-mail. Text should be unformatted and attached in a Word document; scans of photos (resolution of 300 dpi if possible) may be embedded in a Word document or sent as jpeg attachments. Original photos yield better output than photocopies of photos. Please avoid pdfs for text.

Please send your submissions to: cecampos63@aol.com



THE OREGON VFW

(USPS 600-100)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Portland, Oregon
Published in July, September, November, January, March and May

Official Publication
Veterans of Foreign Wars of Oregon
Office of Publication:
Department of Oregon, VFW, 12440 N.E. Halsey
Portland, Oregon 97230 Phone (503) 255-5808

Commander: Bert Key
Sr. Vice Commander: Lawrence Alexander
Jr. Vice Commander: Jason Carroll
Adjutant/Quartermaster: Roger Ege

EDITORIAL POLICY: All official expressions herein will be in conformity with the mandates of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Signed contributions from units within the Department of Oregon are invited. The Department of Oregon reserves the right to revise or reject any material submitted considered not in line with good business and subject to lower priority and space availability.

The deadline for receipt of copy and photographs for the Jan.-Feb. 2012 issue is Dec. 27.

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503-255-5808
cecampos63@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Members~included in dues
Auxiliary members~\$4 per year
Non-member~\$5 per year
CIRCULATION: 14,900 in Oregon

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____
Old Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Department, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

drive safely

Veterans Attend AARP Driver Safety Class

Free Course Offered in November

To recognize and thank Oregon Veterans for their service and dedication to our country, the AARP Driver Safety Program is proud to offer a FREE classroom course to all Veterans and dependents — regardless of age — from November 1 through November 30, 2011. The Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest course for drivers 50 and older. When you take our course, you'll learn valuable defensive driving skills and will get a refresher on the rules of the road. Plus, once you complete the course you could be eligible a discount on your auto insurance. Contact your insurance agent for more details. All military personnel and their dependents are invited to receive this national promotion.

Veterans include those who served on active duty or have served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, or Reserves. To receive the free classroom course, veterans or their spouses must provide some form of military identification, including but not limited to military ID, DD214, Military separation papers, Veterans organization membership card, dependent's ID, etc., to the instructor. This offer is only valid for the classroom courses that occur entirely within the month of November 2011.

Veterans or spouses DO NOT have to be members of any Veterans organization.

To locate a classroom course near you call 1-888-227-7669 or visit www.aarp.org/drive

Thank you,
Jimmie W. Jones
AARP DSP
541-730-6519
jjjones02@centurytel.net

A Broader GI Bill

Veterans pursuing an education under the GI Bill now have many more choices. Effective 1 October 2011, the GI Bill covers non-degree institutions like vocational and technical schools, flight schools and licensing and apprenticeship programs.

Veterans need to take care in selecting the institution in which to use their GI Bill education benefits. As a US Senate Committee warned in a recent report, many for-profit schools have dismal graduation rates and dubious curriculums.

When choosing an institution in which to use GI Bill benefits, veterans would be wise to start with the VA for guidance. Refer to www.gibill.va.gov and under Veterans Services click on "Choosing a School." For apprenticeship training opportunities in Oregon, a visit to the web site of the Apprenticeship Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries is advised. Go to www.oregon.gov/BOLI and click on "Apprenticeship Division."

An education pays, as illustrated by the following US Bureau of Labor statistics:

Unemployment in 2010	Median Weekly Earnings 2010
Bachelor's Degree - 5.4% unemployed	\$1,038
Associate's Degree - 7.0%	\$767
High School diploma - 10.3%	\$626
Less than High School - 14.9%	\$444

GI Bill education benefits are too valuable a resource not to be used.



In Memory

Doyle E. Souders, Past Department Commander 1967 - 1968
Passed away October 27, 2011 in Portland. Doyle was 88. He is survived by his wife Mary (A Past National President 1976 - 1977) Two Sons Doyle &

Jim, and their wives, six Grandchildren and seven Great Grand Children.

Services were held Monday October 31, with internment held at Willamette National Cemetery.

ROSTER CHANGES

State Judge Advocate/Community Service Chairman:

Bert Logan
36916 Wilshire Ln
Eugene, OR 987405
Email & Phone is the same

VFW Convention
Wade Woolard
PO Box 70382
Springfield, OR 97475-0100

Post 4116
Adjutant: Steven Robertson
PO Box 1686
Rogue River, OR 97537
Phone: 541-659-8184

Service Officer: James Poling
Po Box 1518
Rogue River, OR 97537

Post 4211
Meeting time: 7PM

Post 10626
Post has changed location and date of meeting:
Meeting 1st Thursday of Month
(Dayton's Old Fire Hall/ City Hall Annex)
408 Ferry St • Dayton, OR 97114

District 3
Quartermaster: Wayne Sharpe
5913 NE 87th
Vancouver, WA 98662

REQUEST FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES/PHONE NUMBERS

Attention: Members, Post Officers and Chairmen

Department needs to update the Database and needs your help. We need everyone to update your phone numbers and email address.

For those who would like to receive the VFW News electronically please check the box at the bottom and mail or E-mail to us, so we can get them in our database. E-mail your information to oregonvfwnews@aol.com or mail this form to:

VFW Department of Oregon
12440 NE Halsey St.
Portland, OR 97230

(Please print legibly)

Name: _____

Member #: _____

Post #: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

YES, I would like to receive *Oregon VFW News* electronically.



We Want Your Email & Phone Info

Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary Reports

CANCER AID & RESEARCH

HALFWAY TO A SHAVED HEAD!

WOW, LADIES! You have really "Stepped Up" to the challenge of raising \$50,000 for Cancer Aid & Research this year. As you are reading this, we are already halfway with donations totaling more than \$25,000! Because of your hard work and dedication to President Sonya's special program this year, we are moving right along to all our goals. And speaking of goals, Congratulations to the following Auxiliaries for reaching one or more of their big goals for the year:

Platinum Level Achieved

Gresham United #180
Linn #584
Columbia River #1909
Martin J. Ryan #2666
Kilchis Tillamook #2848
Dallas #3203
Springfield #3965

Step Up Challenge Achieved

Gresham United #180
Willamette #293
Columbia River #1909
Martin J. Ryan #2666
Kilchis Tillamook #2848
Springfield #3965
Molalla #3973

Numerous Auxiliaries are working their way up to reaching their Platinum Level or Step Up Challenge goals. Some are within less than \$100. Will your Auxiliary be next name added?

With that said, there are still approximately 20 Auxiliaries that haven't even sent in their \$2.00 per member yet. What are you waiting for? Your team needs you to participate so please get that money in.

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT CANCER GRANTS! As of October 1, 2011, all cancer grants will now be \$550.00. There is no longer a three-tier determination regarding the amount. This change was passed at the National Council Meeting held in September. A big "Thank You" goes to our own National Council Member #17, Judy Jackson, for supporting this change. I have heard from a lot of Sisters that they have members in their Auxiliary who have cancer and for whatever reason have not put in for a cancer grant. Ladies, it our duty to make sure that our Sisters who have this dreaded disease realize that this is a GRANT and DOES NOT have to be paid back. It is a benefit they have earned for merely being a member for a year or more. Remember, the grant application can now be accessed online at www.ladiesauxvfw.org.

I have not seen many reports yet for those donating or participating in a Cancer Aid & Research project and I know you ladies are doing something....the donations are telling their own story. Please, please, please get those reports in as you do any project or make a donation.

I will be sending out a promotional packet to each Auxiliary within the next month relating to the education and awareness portion of the Cancer Aid & Research program. In the packet will be easy and simple ways for your Auxiliary to fulfill the education participation requirement needed for the Department to be 85%. This is probably the most important yet easily forgotten portion of the program.

As a wrap up to this article, I would like to share my goals for the rest of the year.

Dept. Silver Level Goal of \$31,205 by December 31, 2011.
Dept. Gold Level Goal of \$37,446 by February 28, 2012.
Dept. Platinum Level Goal of \$43,687 by April 30, 2012.
\$50,000 by Department Convention in June.

One Bald Head by the end of Department Convention!

With your help (and one good hairdresser with a hopefully steady hand) I know we can reach all of our goals!

~ Paula Bell, (AKA "Baldy") Cancer Aid & Research

LEGISLATIVE – STEPPING UP – LEAVING NO VETERAN BEHIND

Urge the President to restore POW/MIA Mission Funding. The VFW is absolutely against the Department of Defense plan to reduce POW/MIA Funding and personnel against the recommendations of the White House. The fullest possible accounting for our missing is a sacred obligation to our active military, to those who are missing and their families. There should be NO compromise to fulfill this mission. We need YOU to encourage your members to write to President Obama urging him to restore funding and personnel to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs and to protect the proposed budget of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Commission.

We must also heed the Legislative alerts put out by the VFW. Currently there is an alert on enrollment fees for TRICARE. What is it? Currently, the House has passed Defense Authorization which ties and increase in TRICARE enrollment fees to cost of living adjustments. Why don't we want this? The

VFW believes the government should bear the cost of health care for those who have given 20 or more years fighting for our nation. They also believe that the Department of Defense should look for the inefficiencies in TRICARE management. What can you do? Encourage your members to contact their Senators and urge them to pass legislation that blocks the Department of Defense authority to increase TRICARE fees as part of the Defense Authorizations bill. Don't forget to have friends, family, and neighbors contact their Senators, as well. We need more than just our voices to help get this Legislation blocked.

~ Marcia Read, Legislative Chairman

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN

Ladies, it is getting to be that time, we should be getting the essays from the schools now.

So make sure you report to the Post, all that you have done for the program.

Again all you have to report is how much money was given and how many participated.

We are here to help the Post, so let's make this a great year and show National how we all work together. Any donations from the Auxiliaries need to be sent to our Department Treasurer Judy Jackson. Please get these to her by January 15th at the latest. Ladies, thank you for your support.

Any Department VFW Auxiliary Chairmen that wants a table at Mid-winter please contact Ron Jagodnik at <mailto:deptvodchair@gmail.com>

~ Catherine Lindsay, VOD & PP Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

Sisters, you are making us so proud. As of this writing we are now at 87% and gaining every day. According to the Membership stats as of this writing, Oregon is now 4th in the nation in membership. I want to personally thank each of you for all the hard work you are putting in and I can see the 100% goal as a reality.

At the National Convention this year it was voted to raise the National per-capita to \$5.00 per member so it is to each Auxiliaries advantage to get your dues in to department before January when the new amount takes effect. Some Auxiliaries only need 2 or 3 to make them 100%, so please call these sisters and see if they need some help with their dues this year, which is what your relief fund is for.

We should all be thinking about recruiting new members and with Veterans Day coming up what better time to have a membership drive. When you set up your Buddy Poppy tables please have membership brochures and applications available. If you do not have these you can order the brochures and fact sheets from National or call me and I will get them to you. There is no cost for these. Remember to keep an application in your purse and be ready to sign up a new member.

Now is the time for the Membership STAMPEDE to begin and with all your help I know we can reach 100%.

~ Iona Kline, Membership Chairman

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

The holidays will soon be upon us. Now is the time to assist the families of our service personnel who will be gone. Work with a family readiness group who will be sending holiday cheer to our troops. Remember a little bit of home goes along ways.

V.F.W. Foundation helps with funds to help provide assistance with hardships to families- Might help with heating, a car repair or paying their rent. These are a one time grant of up to \$2,500.00, which will be paid to the creditor of the veteran. All five of the branches of the service of the military, Guard & Reserve are eligible for assistance.

Now is the time to start getting out and look for those who qualify for the Ladies Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship. One scholarship of \$1,000.00 is awarded to a recipient in each of our four (4) Conferences. Must be 18 yrs. or older, and applicants must be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, her spouse, son or daughter. Applications must be from the current year and can be downloaded from the Ladies Auxiliary Web site at www.ladiesauxvfw.org and must be received at the Ladies Auxiliary National Headquarters by Feb.15th, 2012.

Let us keep up the good work for our Department and the national programs. Please send in your reports as soon as possible so reports can be sent out in a timely fashion. Dept. chairmen must send in reports to their national chairmen. Don't forget "NOW IS THE TIME TO ROUND UP AMERICA'S HEROES AND SHOW THEM THAT WE CARE." Hoping everyone has a safe and joyous holiday season.

~ Rose-Marie Allyn, Veterans and Family Support Chairman



In Memory

Thank you for your service to our Veterans

Three Rivers Auxiliary #1324
Doreen Lamp

Ponderosa Pine Auxiliary #1643
Trudy Comford
Barbara Cox

Willard Anderson Auxiliary #2471
Eleanor Korak

Mt. Emily Auxiliary #2990
Sherry Rush

Anthony Lakes Auxiliary #3048
Catherine Howell
Ann Imsland
Elizabeth Strunk

Hutchinson Rempelos Auxiliary #3182
Margaret Leegard

Sutherlin Auxiliary #3970
Bertha Cussins

Creswell Auxiliary #4039
Catharyn Pilaczynski

Santiam Auxiliary #4065
Chriss Pilcher

Layne Clifton Auxiliary #4070
Patty Yaeger

Deschutes Auxiliary #4108
Janis Bolken
Jo Elvrum
Sandra Williams

Sandy Auxiliary #4273
Ellen Stewart
Janet Johnson

Eagle Cap Auxiliary #4307
Jan Bryant
Beverly Tippet

Ontario Auxiliary #5452
Norma Bailey
Elnora Reed
Irene Ireland
Frances Mullins

Eagle Point Auxiliary #6184
Ollie Dean Lanning

Halfway Auxiliary #7847
Shirley Dyke

Nestucca Valley Auxiliary #9611
Betty Pesterfield
Ethel Matson
Wilma Rowland

Auxiliary Roster Changes

District #16 President

Dana Chogyoji
519 S River St. Newberg, OR 97132
503-502-9550

Sweet Home Auxiliary #3437

President: Dawn Marie Rogers
1417 Westwood Lane Sweet Home, OR 97386
541-405-8680

Springfield Auxiliary #3965

Secretary: Barbara Harris
3325 Coburg Rd. Eugene, OR 97408
541-653-1761

George L. Wright Auxiliary #4015

Please remove Terry Cornwell as President.
New President to be announced next issue.

Creswell Auxiliary #4039

Secretary: Deborah Wright
PO Box 858 Creswell, OR 97426
541-895-4024

Rogue River Auxiliary #4116

Auxiliary meeting time changed to 1pm

Blue Mountain Auxiliary #4567

President: Paulette Youngberg
541-314-3757

Secretary:

Courtney Waliser
1515 Olive St. Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-861-9028

VFW TAPS

DIST	POST	CITY	NAME	DIST	POST	CITY	NAME	DIST	POST	CITY	NAME
1	2848	Bay City	William R Schmedding	8	4750	Hermiston	George A Phillips	14	661	Salem	George R Olson Sr
2	1909	Rainier	Walter P Brawand	8	4943	Echo	Calvin A Smith	14	661	Salem	Walter J Larson
3	907	Portland	Orval J Herndon	9	2624	Newport	Robert Etherington	14	5638	Stayton	Rodney A Rosenow
3	1325	Portland	William A. Cauble	9	3232	Florence	Lewis W Hodges	15	1324	Oregon City	Philip Styles
3	1325	Portland	Loyde R Hastings	9	3232	Florence	Warren E Kelly	15	4173	Woodburn	Lawrence J Paradis
3	4248	Portland	Anthony B Buncum Jr	10	1412	Prineville	Maynard M. Hearn	15	4273	Sandy	Kenneth R Flath
3	4248	Portland	John E More	10	1412	Prineville	Floyd R Case	15	4273	Sandy	Victor B Ulmen
3	4248	Portland	Raymond J Vonk	10	1412	Prineville	Arthur R Johnson	15	4273	Sandy	Vincent Young
3	4248	Portland	Jasper D Johnson	10	1412	Prineville	John J Tully	16	3452	Tualatin	Clyde Sloan
4	3440	Bandon	Ernest A Luther	10	1643	Bend	Joe D Evans	16	4015	Newberg	Stanley K Suddarth
5	1383	Klamath Falls	Harry D Andersen	10	4108	Redmond	William M Shive	16	4015	Newberg	Marion Bench
5	1383	Klamath Falls	Frank A Hunter	10	4108	Redmond	Ernest J Spees	16	4211	Willamina	Dale N Lee
5	1383	Klamath Falls	Dwayne E Kester	10	4108	Redmond	Gerald E Hinckley	16	10626	McMinnville	Harold W Bushman Jr
6	5452	Ontario	Floyd A May	11	1479	Hood River	Joseph A Vital	16	10626	McMinnville	Irvin H Kessler
7	1833	Medford	John L Van Slack	11	2471	The Dalles	Dale L Houston	99	15038	Members- at- Large	Doyle Souders
7	2302	Grants Pass	Arthur F Jubera	12	2468	Roseburg	William J Holland	99	15038	Members- at- Large	George C Ruselli
7	4116	Rogue River	Dennis Gloyn	12	2468	Roseburg	Allen Z Sweely	99	15038	Members- at- Large	Edwin S Roe
7	4116	Rogue River	Alfred J Feder	12	5714	Canyonville	Raymond Zent	99	15038	Members- at- Large	Thomas W Morris
7	4116	Rogue River	Glenn E Partch	12	9745	Winston	Jess E Kerrick	99	15038	Members- at- Large	Paul G Bierschwale
7	4116	Rogue River	Austin Hyde	13	293	Eugene	Kenneth J. Hartman	99	15038	Members- at- Large	Lloyd R Davison
8	922	Pendleton	George F Anderson	13	293	Eugene	Sylvester J. Quam	99	15038	Members- at- Large	David J Raxter
				13	3473	Cottage Grove	Raymond L Powers				
				14	584	Albany	Ronald J. Naasko				

Department of Oregon Membership 2011 - 2012

Department Total				as of 10/26/2011				Department Percentage			
		2011	2012			2011	2012			2011	2012
		15,801	12,160							99.11%	76.96%
DISTRICT #1		2011	2012	DISTRICT #9		2011	2012	DISTRICT #13		2011	2012
732	Siletz	28*	20	2624	Newport	88	74	293	Eugene	358*	258
2848	Bay City	152	108	3156	Waldport	41	34	3473	Cottage Grove	121*	94
4227	Toledo	35	27	3232	Florence	228	193	3965	Springfield	641*	470
5653	Lincoln City	65	52	3594	Reedsport	59	42	4039	Creswell	67*	49
9611	Hebo	48*	40			416	343	4166	Marcola	20	20*
		328	247	DISTRICT #10		2011	2012	4738	Coburg	53*	38
				1412	Prineville	154*	119	9448	Veneta	72*	44
				1643	Bend	393*	278	10639	Junction City	42	33
				4108	Redmond	616*	486			1374*	1006
				4217	Warm Springs	35	34	DISTRICT #14		2011	2012
				7242	La Pine	70	55	584	Albany	448*	329
				8138	Sisters	35*	35*	661	Salem	336*	251
						1303*	1007	2105	Harrisburg	42	34
				DISTRICT #11		2011	2012	3203	Dallas	80*	46
				1479	Hood River	85	76	3437	Sweet Home	344*	233
				2471	The Dalles	94	68	3957	Monroe	39*	28
				10637	Tygh Valley	54	42	4065	Jefferson	43	41
						233	186	5638	Stayton	69*	59
				DISTRICT #12		2011	2012			1401*	1021
				2468	Roseburg	373	270	DISTRICT #15		2011	2012
				3970	Sutherlin	157	165	180	Gresham	184*	146
				5714	Canyonville	68	55	1324	Oregon City	238*	159
				7752	Myrtle Creek	57	47	3973	Molalla	361*	215
				9744	Riddle	50	45	4173	Woodburn	28	20
				9745	Winston	251*	192	4273	Sandy	496*	334
						956	774	6047	Canby	61*	40
										1368*	914
				DISTRICT #3		2011	2012	DISTRICT #16		2011	2012
				907	World War	38	33	2666	Hillsboro	154	134
				1325	Peninsula/Pep	155	134	3452	Tualatin	167	123
				1442	Jasper C Lent	203	155	4015	Newberg	267*	168
				4053	Gen Geo A White	89	80	4211	Willamina	107*	91
				4248	Sellwood Brk.	610*	474	4617	Beaverton	123	95
						1095	876	5233	Forest Grove	80	63
				DISTRICT #4		2011	2012	10626	McMinnville	254*	156
				965	Coquille	20	18			1152	830
				966	Brookings	87*	76	MEMBERS AT LARGE		2011	2012
				2928	Myrtle Point	46	43			1489	1144
				3182	North Bend	61	52				
				3440	Bandon	187	163				
				4439	Gold Beach	48	39				
				6102	Powers	48	36				
				7488	Empire	51	42				
						548	469				
				DISTRICT #5		2011	2012				
				1383	Klamath Falls	924*	772				
				4070	Lakeview	85	78				
				6147	Malin	14*	14*				
						1023*	864				
				DISTRICT #6		2011	2012				
				2990	La Grande	63	56				
				3048	Baker City	201	158				
				3749	Huntington	32	29				
				4060	Union	139	113				
				4307	Enterprise	208	176				
				5452	Ontario	193	176				
				7847	Halfway	90	68				
						926	776				
				DISTRICT #7		2011	2012				
				353	Ashland	29*	20				
				1833	Medford	402*	322				
				2302	Grants Pass	124	100				
				4116	Rogue River	286*	230				
				5726	Central Point	84	67				
				6184	Eagle Point	62	56				
				6881	Shady Cove	36*	29				
				9670	Jacksonville	13*	10				
						1036	834				
				DISTRICT #8		2011	2012				
				922	Pendleton	383*	310				
				3597	John Day	37*	30				
				4184	Heppner	41	35				
				567	Milton Freewater	64	36				
				4750	Hermiston	196	158				
				4943	Echo	35*	26				
						756	595				

Form #2	WINTER DISTRICT MEETING 2012 (As of 31 Oct 11)				
DIST.	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OFFICERS	REMARKS
1	NO DATES FURNISHED				
2	21 January	1PM	Post 10580 Warrenton Hwy 101 Cullaby Lake- Warrenton Grange	Larry Alexander	Potluck NOON
3	15 January	1PM	Post 1442 3405 SE 82nd Ave, Portland	George Carroll	NO POTLUCK
4	29 January	1PM	Host 7488 Empire @ Post 3440 Bandon 55352 Bates Rd, Bandon	Bert Key	Potluck NOON
5	14 January	1PM	Post 1383 Kalamath Falls 515 KLAMATH AVE	Harley Youngblood	Potluck NOON
6	NO DATES FURNISHED				
7	20 February	11AM	Post 2302 Grants Pass Redwood Grange 1830 Redwood Ave	Larry Alexander	Potluck NOON
8	NO DATES FURNISHED				
9	NO DATES FURNISHED				
10	4 February	1PM	Post 1412 Prineville Veterans Hall 405 N Main St, Prineville	Bert Logan	Potluck Noon
11	14 January	1PM	Post 2471 The Dalles Nat'l Guard Armory 713 Webber St SOI 9:30-11:30 AM	Jason Carroll	NO POTLUCK
12	15 January	1PM	Post 9744 Riddle Riddle Comm. Ctr 123 Parkside	Bert Key	Dinner \$10.00 4:30PM
13	14 January	1PM	Post 293 Eugene Vet Memorial Bldg 1626 Willamete, Eugene	Bert Key	Potluck NOON
14	15 January	2PM	Post 661 Salem 630 Hood St	Jason Carroll	Potluck 1PM
15	25 February	1PM	Post 3973 Molalla 127 Grange Ave	Bert Logan	Potluck NOON
16	22 January	2PM	Post 2666 Hillsboro (POST ONLY) 310 SW Walnut	Jason Carroll	Hamburgers \$5.00 1PM

Meetings, etc.

RECRUITERS

As of 12 Oct 2011

Dist.	Post #	Recruiter	Members
15	3973	Jason Carroll	25
5	1383	Michael J. Reynolds	21
15	3973	George E. Carroll	21
2	1909	Claude Miller	20
15	3973	Ronald W. Jagodnik	20
3	4248	Thomas R. Mc Neal	10
10	1643	Robert W. Cusick	9
8	922	John L. Cook	8
15	3973	Rodney W. Wymore	8
10	4108	John R. Wrinkle	7
13	3965	Lee R. Emert	7
11	10637	Gary D. Pitman	6
7	4116	Charles A. Prudhon	5
15	4273	Bert W. Key	5
16	10626	Juan M. Palacios	5
3	4248	Dale N. Guldenzopf	4
4	966	Frederick L. Bremer	4
13	4039	Rick L. Higgins	4
13	9448	Richard L. Pierce	4
14	584	Robert W. Gore	4
14	3437	James D. Allyn	4
15	3973	Jason F. Griswold	4
16	10626	Cheryl E. Campos	4
3	4248	Scott A. Yarger	3
5	1383	Duane G. Whitehead	3
8	922	Richard E. Halverson	3
10	4108	Dennis G. Guthrie	3
12	2468	Michael D. Eakin	3
12	3970	Gilbert R. Daniels	3
16	2666	William G. Leach	3
2	1909	Harold H. Lawler	2
2	1909	Roger A. Ege	2
3	1325	Bruce W. Hall	2
3	4248	Al E. Marino	2
4	3440	George E. Trott	2
7	2302	Glenn D. German	2
8	922	Fred W. Bradbury	2
9	3232	Robert V. Mc Guire	2
10	1412	David Schwab	2
10	1412	Garet A. Soules	2
10	4108	William E. Pieters	2
10	8138	C. Patrick Bowe	2
10	8138	John O. Miller	2
13	3965	Ronald E. Havener	2
13	4039	Jurgen K. Ramil	2
13	9448	Thomas G. Laing	2
14	584	Glen W. Baker	2
14	661	Kerry A. Wymetalek	2
15	180	Franklin R. West	2
15	180	Robert L. Doods	2
15	1324	James G. McDonald	2
15	1324	Steve K. Santiago	2
15	4273	Merle D. Stewart	2
15	4273	Terry E. Boyer	2
15	6057	John R. Lance	2
16	2666	Carl G. Anderson	2
16	4617	Carl E. Bronson	2
16	5233	Kurt J. Carlsen	2

VFW prevails in court, word "God" no longer banned Houston National Cemetery will not interfere with religious expression during burial services

The Veterans of Foreign Wars declared victory in a Federal Lawsuit (Rainey v VA) filed over allegations of religious hostility and unlawful censorship by the VA and its director of the Houston National Cemetery.

Federal District Judge Lynn N. Hughes signed a consent decree ordering the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to lift the ban on prayer and the word "God" at national cemeteries, to revoke national policies hostile to religion, and to reopen the Chapel which identity was previously changed to "meeting facility" at the Houston National Cemetery.

Texas-based Liberty Institute filed suit on behalf of the VFW over allegations of religious hostility and unlawful censorship by the VA and its director of the Houston National Cemetery. Officials told the VFW they could not have prayer during the burial services of veterans unless the family requested it specifically in writing and submitted the prayer to VA officials for pre-approval.

"The VFW is grateful that the government has restored the basic tenets recognized in the U.S. Constitution - which guarantees fundamental rights of religious expression and freedom of speech - to patriotic Americans who sacrifice everything to defend it," said VFW National Commander Richard DeNoyer. "This is indeed a victory."

"We are thankful that after almost five months of litigation, the government is finally doing the right thing by entering

into a consent decree and ending religious hostility at the Houston National Cemetery," said Jeff Mateer, general counsel for Liberty Institute. "The decree not only impacts religious freedoms in Houston, but at all VA cemeteries nationwide because the government has agreed to modify two national policies hostile to religion."

The order also requires the VA to change its national policies regarding volunteer honor guards. These changes will now allow the reading of "Thirteen Fold" Flag Recitations unless the deceased veteran's family requests otherwise, volunteer honor guards to provide their own texts of recitations to the funeral homes for the funeral homes to offer those options to the deceased veteran's survivor(s) for consideration, and the VFW honor guards to work independently with funeral homes to coordinate provision of volunteer services at the committal services scheduled at the cemetery without interference from the government.

"I am glad to see the VA overturn these policies, which will allow us to perform the entire VFW burial ritual," said Inge Conley, Commander of VFW District 4 in Houston and the VFW entity that initiated the lawsuit. "We should be able to include prayers, mentions of God, and the phrase, 'May God grant you, grace, mercy and peace,' to grieving families laying American soldiers to rest."



RV RESERVATIONS are available at 2012 Convention site in North Bend/ Coos Bay, Mill Casino

Convention Dates: 6 June to 10 June 2012

Call The Mill Casino at 541-756-8800 or 800-953-4800 for RV Reservations AND Room Reservations.

We have obtained 10 spaces earmarked especially for our Convention next June. Let them know you are with the VFW to get the special rate (around \$23 plus tax).

Hotel Rooms are available, King or Double Queen, \$80 plus tax. Same numbers as above.

Let them know you are with the VFW, and don't wait until the last minute, past experience we fill our quota of rooms in late April, early May timeframe, so call early. Rooms are only blocked at our rate until 28 May 2012.

MEAL PROGRAM

Order forms are in the paper and online at our website, <http://vfworegon.org>

If you want to sit as a group, need to submit forms together. Any questions or problems, please contact Wade Woolard, 541-852-7239 or Jacque Hobwood, 541-726-5883.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR CONVENTION MATERIALS

(Meal Requests and Convention Book Ads):
Wade Woolard
PO Box 70382
Springfield, OR 97475-0100

2012 VFW CONVENTION MEAL PROGRAM

The Mill Casino, North Bend, OR - June 7, 8, 9, 2012

The Convention Meal Program for 2012 will cost \$76.00 (Exception: 40 & over cost is \$74.00) for one banquet meal and three lunches. REMEMBER, this includes the 18% gratuity charged by our host facility. Individual prices will be \$18.00 for lunch and \$28.00 for the banquet. Meal request order forms will be available at Schools of Instruction, in the VFW paper and on the Department of Oregon website: vfworegon.org

Meal tickets will be available for pick-up during registration at Convention.

BANQUET MENU: (Lunch each day, Thursday - Saturday, will be Chef's Choice.)
(1) Breast of Chicken - Italian style or (2) Roast Beef
All entrees served with: Steamed green beans with caramelized onions, Tortellini with Pesto Cream Sauce, Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter, Coffee/Decaf/Hot or Iced Tea, Strawberry Cheesecake

Individual prices for meals will be: Lunch - \$18 and Banquet - \$28
PDC/PDP Breakfast = \$13.00. **40/Over Lunch = \$15.00 The above prices include the 18% gratuity charged by the Mill Casino.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING BY MAIL: MAY 23, 2012. No tickets will be sold via mail after this date.
If you are on a special diet, please let Wade Woolard know so we can notify banquet services.
If you plan to sit as a group at the Banquet, all monies and names must be sent in together.

SEND IN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

Indicate how many: **CHICKEN** _____ **ROAST BEEF** _____ **LUNCH** _____

40&Over _____ (Auxiliary members who have been members for 40 years or more)

PDC/PDP Breakfast _____ **Enclosed: \$** _____

(Regular Meal Package \$76.00 -- Meal Package with 40 & Over Lunch \$74.00)

NAME _____ **PHONE#** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

ADDITIONAL NAMES _____

DISTRICT # _____ **POST/AUX #** _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VFW CONVENTION AND SEND TO:
Wade Woolard, PO BOX 70382, EUGENE OR 97401
If there are any problems or special conditions, please contact Wade Woolard at 541-852-7239 or email wade39@clear.net



Holiday Inn
Portland South, Wilsonville



Proud Host Hotel
2012 VFW Voice of Democracy
February 10-12, 2012

\$79 Rate (10% tax)

Holiday Inn Portland South is conveniently located off I-5 near I-205 in Wilsonville, Oregon. Reservations can be made by calling (503) 682-2211 and asking for VFW Voice of Democracy

The Holiday Inn Portland South Hotel & Conference Center offers a newly renovated venue

Amenities Include: Local Attractions:
Full Service Restaurant & lounge Woodburn Outlet Mall
Garlic Onion & Irving's Sports Lounge Langdon Farm Golf Course
room service & live entertainment Bridgeport Village Shopping Mall
Free Wireless Internet Bullwinkle's Family Fun Center

25425 SW 95th Avenue, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070
p: 503.682.2211 www.hiportlandsouth.com

Looking Back • Looking Ahead

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER MESSAGE



It's All about the Details

Comrades,
We are now into the second Quarter of the 2011-2012 administrative year, there are a couple of items that need to be addressed here, and the first one is that there are still Posts and Districts that have not renewed their Quartermaster's Bond. Quarterly Audits have been coming in, many with errors, math being the major item, but there are a few that come in without signatures of the Commander or, in some cases, the Trustees. The Quarterly Audits are not just a "make work" item, they are to protect your Post or District funds and at the same time protect your Quartermaster.

By **ROGER EGE**
Adjutant/Quartermaster

In all of the Post and District packets this year a schedule of events with "Due dates" for Programs and Reports was included. There was one sheet for the Commander and one for the Quartermasters to use. Speaking of deadlines, there is one fast approaching and that is annual memberships which will expire on December 31, 2011, so if you have not paid your 2012 dues, they all become past due on January 1, 2012.

The reason I am including the information on dues in this article is because a portion of your dues is what helps make the Department's Budget balance each year. Another reason is that the National organization previously sent out up to six dues reminders each year, but now they only send out three and two of those have already been sent out, with the third one scheduled to be mailed in November. If you haven't renewed your dues for 2012 please do so now; this way you remain "a member in good standing."

I want to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, along with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

My wish for the coming year is to see the Department of Oregon again be an "All American Department" in 2012.

Roger A. Ege, Adjutant/Quartermaster

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Keeping Membership Strong

By **LARRY ALEXANDER**
Senior Vice Commander

Fall is here, leaves are falling, football is in full swing (pro and college), MLB just completed the most exciting World Series in many years, and retired snowbirds are preparing to motor south.

Here in Oregon the VFW is one-third of the way through the "new year" of another energized, hardworking Commander. Many good Schools of Instruction have been completed and great series of Recruiting Classes. Most programs are doing great, yet Membership is lagging by almost 600 from last year. With new recruiting even with last year's, this means our Continuous Members are slow in paying dues this year. 2012 dues are payable now. If you wait until December 31st to pay, on January 1 you are delinquent. Your Life Insurance and other member benefits are no longer in effect. For those members interested in keeping our Posts and numbers strong so that we can continue to support our communities and hold ground on veteran entitlements, now is the time to contact the unpaid members and collect their dues. If they are having economic hardships, the Post should be there to help them. "Veterans helping Veterans" ~ what a concept.

Look forward to meeting and visiting with many of you at District Meetings and Department Mid-Winter. Here's wishing all pleasant and memorable holidays, may your life be one of giving and receiving, thus, totally fulfilled.

"Service is the Key"
Larry Alexander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Policy and Procedure Clarification

By **JASON D. CARROLL**
Jr. Vice Commander

The work of our Veterans Service Officers is essential for us to perform the mission and purpose of the VFW. The Department Service Officer and his staff are highly trained and must complete an extensive accreditation process. VFW Post Service Officers are not accredited by the VA. And as a consequence, their ability to assist veterans and other claimants

prepare claims for submission to the VA is limited. The National Veterans Advisory Committee approved some changes to the National Veterans Service Policy and Procedure that clarify what Post Service Officers must do and explains their limitations. The changes are summarized as follows: Post Service Officers must have access to a current edition of the VFW Guide for Post Service Officers and shall perform duties in accordance with instructions contained therein.

The primary task of a Post Service Officer (PSO) is to provide information concerning Federal, state and local benefits for veterans, their families and survivors. In this capacity, PSO's may provide applications or other forms to claimants; when requested, the PSO may help a claimant complete a form by acting as a recorder.

PSO's must be under the general supervision of the Department Service Officer (DSO) and shall transmit without delay all correspondence, applications, evidence, etc., in connection with benefit claims and other matters, to the DSO. *All material submitted in relationship to a claim must be either forwarded to the DSO or returned to the claimant. Under no circumstances should the PSO retain any personally identifiable information concerning the claimant or the claimants' family.*

When acting as a recorder, the PSO is simply transcribing information provided by the claimant. At no time should the PSO make suggestions on how to frame information to make it appear more favorable or less harmful to the claimant.

Under no circumstances should a PSO counsel a claimant on their individual claim. While a PSO provides information concerning various governmental benefit programs, he/she should not offer any guidance or opinion as to the individual claim itself.

Post Service Officers are encouraged to be the local source of information on benefits for veterans and their families and to assist in the initial step of claim preparation within the approved guidelines.

Our Department Service Office continues to be underfunded and donations from Posts and individuals have been critical in the past two years. For every dollar invested in our Department Service Office, over \$300 in earned benefits are being obtained by veterans assisted by the Service Office. As you plan Buddy Poppy distribution on and around Veterans Day please consider dedicating a portion of those proceeds to the Department Service Office.

Protecting America for over 100 years

Yes, I am an American War Veteran and I want to continue my Legacy of Service to America.
Please fill out the form below and mail to VFW Department of Oregon - 12440 NE Halsey Street - Portland, OR 97230-1927

VFW Membership Application

Name: _____ email: _____
First Middle Last (Suffix - Sr., Jr., etc.)

Contact Address: _____
City State Zip

Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) Phone: _____

Military Service: Army Air Force Coast Guard Navy Marines
 Current Status: Active Duty Veteran National Guard/Reserve

I served in:
 Pre-World War I World War II WW II Occupation 1945-55 (Europe, Korea, Japan) 1945-90 (Berlin)
 Korean War 1950-54 Korea 1955- Vietnam 1958-75 Expeditionary Operations 1958-2003 (Thailand, Grenada, Libya, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, etc.)
 Desert Shield/Storm Bosnia/Kosovo 1995- Global War on Terrorism - Expeditionary 2001- Afghanistan 2001- Iraq 2003-

Qualified recipient of: Imminent Danger/Hostile Fire Pay SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol - Period Covered: _____ (Required for applicants with no other qualifying service)

I would like to join the Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars as a Annual Member (\$35.00) Life Member* Life 12 Mo. Installment plan*

***Life Membership Fee Schedule - Installment plan requires a \$35.00 initial payment**

Attained age on 12/31	One Time Payment	Life 12 Month Payment Plan
Through age 30	\$425.00	\$40.39
31 - 40	\$410.00	\$39.02
41 - 50	\$375.00	\$35.84
51 - 60	\$335.00	\$32.20
61 - 70	\$290.00	\$28.11
71 - 80	\$225.00	\$22.20
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20

Installment Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either 11 monthly installments after an initial payment of \$35.00. The member/applicant will be issued a "Provisional Life" membership card and can elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The monthly fee (shown in the payment schedule above) includes a \$1.75 monthly service fee. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement. No refund of any portion of current year annual dues will be made. A "Payoff amount" will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full at anytime during the installment plan, thereby avoiding additional service fees. If the member pays off early, no additional monies will be collected.

I attest by forwarding this application that I am a citizen of the United States, that I qualify for the VFW and that my Campaign Service was honorable, and that I have never been discharged under other than honorable conditions or I am still serving honorably in the armed forces of the United States of America. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to verify my entitlement to membership in the VFW and that if no proof can be found or provided that I am subject to discharge from the VFW without refund.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Include membership payment by check or money order (Do not send cash) or pay by credit card.
 Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ \$ _____

Mail to: VFW Department of Oregon, 12440 NE Halsey St. Portland, OR 97230 For Questions?: (503) 255-5808

How VFW serves America

Lobbying for veterans & military Providing disaster relief Community volunteerism Funding college scholarships Phone cards for troops
 Supporting youth groups Emergency financial assistance to troops in need Supporting memorials Assisting veterans with earned entitlements



OREGON WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE 2012

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

The Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs will host the Oregon Women Veterans Conference 2012. Women Veterans from throughout Oregon are invited to attend free of charge with lunch provided, as well. A variety of workshops on veterans'

benefits/entitlements, women's health issues and employment/job seeking tips will take place both days. Since they do not receive any government funds organizers have been fundraising and seeking sponsorship. By raising \$30,000 this way they won't have to charge the women anything for this conference.

We are looking for help to raise enough money to be a "Platinum Sponsor." This will get the VFW name out there, let these women know we are out there and that we want them in our post families. We need to raise \$5,000 or more to do this. Please contact your posts and districts and ask them to donate to this program. You can send all donations to VFW Department of Oregon HQ.

Mark your calendars, ladies, and spread the word. March 30-31 2012 will be the 3rd Women Veterans Conference. This is for "ALL Women Veterans" It will be held at the Salem Conference Center 200 Commercial Street SE Salem, Oregon. There is no cost to the veteran for participation and a free lunch. So far it looks like they will have workshops available on Women's Health and VA Benefits.

You can register and get more details on line at the ODVA's website: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc.shtml>

Get registered ~ we hope to see everyone there!

Thank you for your support, Cheryl Campos