

Presenting...



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oregon NEWS

Volume 82

March-April 2026

Number 2

Hello Department of Oregon members.

It has been almost a year since we moved from the Portland VFW office to our new location in Salem, Oregon. If you have a chance to stop by and see our new building, the address is 880 Liberty Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. We are more than happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have. If you have been on our department website, you may have noticed in the Members Only section there are some helpful links and information added to make it easier to locate training videos, forms, the Department Directory (which is very helpful when trying to track down a good email or phone number), and the Payment Portal (which covers most of the department programs such as advertising, awards, bonding, Buddy Poppy(R), commander, and auxiliary projects). Please log in and check the site out. This section is being updated by our Salem staff and webmaster, with input from all of the post and district members who send their reports to the department. (Thank you all for helping us keep track of our programs).

I want to thank all the VOD, PP, Smart/Maher teacher chairpersons for working with the Scholars App and training the post- and district chairpersons who were having difficulty entering their winners. Job well done!!! Every March, the Department of Oregon goes to Washington D.C. along with all the other departments in the United States to speak with our representatives about important issues for our veterans. We have 9 people signed up to go this year. We are going to all our representatives' offices and voicing our concerns. We will be highlighting the national priorities while in Washington D.C. It is always a great opportunity for us to witness the testimony of our National VFW Commander-in-Chief and hear their testimony. There will be divisional conferences while in Washington, D.C., sharing our ideas with the other departments and members. Thank you for what you do. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to serving and helping veterans. Generations must continue to serve together.

One last item: Remember to sign up for the VFW Day of Service being held in the month of May 2026.

Please go online and sign up to add your Day of Service event, and thank you for your service. <https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/>

Bert Little
State Commander



2025 Commander's Project – National Home Store

Join Oregon Commander Albert Little in supporting Oregon's goal of \$3,500 for the newly remodeled VFW National Home Store.

We're making progress—14% there!

\$475 of \$3,500 raised



Every dollar helps close the gap.

Funds raised will help purchase:

- Refrigerators, freezers, and coolers for fresh and frozen food
- Storage for dry goods and essential sundries
- An honor-system point-of-sale system, allowing residents to access the store with a swipe card and pay by credit or debit—even after hours

This project enhances the quality of life for residents by providing convenient access to essential items within their community.

Help us reach our goal and support those who call the VFW National Home their home.

Save the Date! The Oregon Convention is set for June 18–20, 2026, at the Salem Convention Center.

Watch VFWOR.org for details.

Don't miss your chance to support the event—secure your program ad or sponsorship today:

[purchase your convention book ads here at our Zeffy site](#)

FROM OUR LEADERS

Sr Vice Commander

For those that missed it, we had a grand time at the Seaside Convention Center honoring our Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year district winners. I would tell you who won, but that would take someone else's thunder. You will need to continue to read the newsletter to find out who won.

At the beginning of March, several members of our department are going to the state capital in Washington, DC, to visit our congressmen. They are there to voice our concerns on what they need to do to support our veterans that have served. We fulfilled our contract, now you need to uphold your end of the contract. Let's all help them get our point across by signing up for the Action Corps Newsletter and responding when there is a call to action alert. It takes all of us to make Congress listen. That is why membership is so important.

The year is half over and we need to finish this year strong, but we also need to start planning for next year. As we start to kick it into overdrive to finish the year; let's keep it going into the next year. We are already planning recruiting events at the state level, so I challenge you to look at the events in your local area. We just need to ask the question, "Are you a veteran, and are you a member of the VFW?" You don't know if you don't ask.

To start off next year strong, we will build on Commander Little's slogan, Train-Share-Communicate. We are looking at having three SOIs throughout the state to train our members who are unable to attend our conventions. I will be sending out some surveys to find out what our membership would like to see from the department. Something to remember: we work for you. Always remember our door is always open; we are here to help. Like you, we are constantly learning. Coming next month, you will be electing district officers. These are the people who will be representing you at the Council of Administration (C of A). These representatives take your concerns and questions to department, so we have a better understanding of how to serve you better. Then they take this information back to their district and share what they have learned with their posts.

They also vote on policies to guide the department throughout the year. Look in your email in the coming weeks; we are working hard on getting the hotels, restaurants and RV locations mapped out for our state convention in Salem, June 18-20. For those that would like to attend the outgoing C of A is June 17.

Joseph Steller
Sr Vice Commander
Department of Oregon, VFW



Pictures from this year event



Voice of Democracy

We have had another successful Voice of Democracy season and banquet, at least according to our VOD District winners. All 12 Districts had winners advance for Department judging. The Department winners were:

1st Place - Lexi Lei from Post 12140, District 15, winning \$1,000 from VFW and \$1,000 from our Auxiliary.

2nd Place – Marlie Carmack, Post 3440, Dist. 4; \$750 from VFW and \$800 from the Auxiliary.

3rd Place – Roy Jones, Post 922, Dist.8; \$500 from VFW and \$500 from Auxiliary.

4th Place – Thahseena Nguyen, Post 2666, Dist. 16; \$400 from VFW and \$300 from Auxiliary,

Our Department judges came up with a tie for 5th place: Maya Renteria Santos, Post 4108, Dist. 10 and Kara Regan, Post 3048, Dist. 6. They each received \$300 from VFW and \$200 from Auxiliary.

The other District winners received \$100 from VFW and \$50 from the Auxiliary:

Zelda Hooker – Post 2448, Dist. 2

Talin Sarish – Post 4248, Dist. 3

Ryder Allen – Post 1383, Dist. 5

Amanda Etheridge – Post 2302, Dist. 7

Skyler Anderson – Post 3965, Dist. 13

Vera Kyei – Post 4227, Dist. 14

As our Department winner,

As our Department winner, Lexi will represent Oregon in the National VFW competition; winners will be announced at the Washington Conference in early March. She will also attend the Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Program in April.

During the evening pizza party Pam Seelye, the Auxiliary Scholarships Chair, mentioned that the students had come together as a group more than in any previous year. I looked at the students; in previous years two or three groups were at separate tables. This year all our students were together at one table. It gives me hope for the future.

Two additional items:

1. Department still needs financial donations to provide for the VOD & PP Scholarships and to pay the students' expenses for the banquet. A new program was introduced at our 2025 Department convention: Posts, and their local supporters, providing the highest donation amount will receive an award (based on Post membership size). This award is proposed as a pizza party at the Post meeting. All donations over \$100 will be recognized in the VOD banquet program.

Business/organizations donating \$500 will receive a Department plaque. Please get these donations in by early April so we may determine the winners before the Department convention.

2. We will provide SCHOLARS APP training at the Department convention. Please bring your LAPTOP for hands-on training!!

Bob Beck, Post 4039, Dept. of Oregon VOD Chair



Student Winners with Bob Beck and Aux Chair Pam Seelye

UPDATES

DEPARTMENT TREASURER

As of now, I can't accept any applications that don't have the 2026 date on the lower right corner of the form. Nothing but the new application can be used to process a new member whether they are a life member or an annual member and whether they are paying with cash, check, or credit card. If I get in any older application, I will be sending them back with a copy of the new application for you to fill out. You can take a copy of the application off MALTA to do the paperwork. The new applications are going well, and the processing of the applications are going faster so please, if you have any applications that haven't been processed, please get them in now.

I am now processing the October 1, 2025- December 31, 2025, audits at this time. If I don't get a copy of the December 31, 2025, bank statement with your audit, your audit isn't complete yet. The middle of next month if I don't have your audit or the bank statement, I will be sending a post card to the President to get the proper paperwork. I will not consider your audit complete until I get a copy of your current bank statement. I still have about 2 auxiliaries that haven't sent me a copy of the bank statement so please get those in soon.

I have found a lot of applications that are not filled out properly. Some of them don't even have the auxiliary that the applicant is going into or the important things on the service record. Please don't send the DD-214 to me but just make sure that you send the right information. If the application isn't filled out right, I will be sending it back to you for you to finish filling it out.

I am very sorry that the winners of the 50/50 drawing and the winners of the Veterans & Family Support raffles were not read at the dinner on Saturday night. I guess that doesn't get on the agenda so I am going to put all the winners in here and hopefully my article will be on both sites.

The 50/50 Ways & Means \$842.00 raffle went to Auxiliary #4248 of Portland. Congratulations and please buy more raffle tickets for the convention so that we can give more money next time.

The Veterans & Family Support baskets made \$1,005.00 for the program and I would like to thank everyone that participated. The winner of District 2 was Robin Stoner from Aux. \$5452 for \$100.00. District #4 Basket R&R by the Sea was won by Holly Hutchison from Aux. 4307 for \$120.00. District #6 Travel basket was won by Holly Hutchison from Aux. 4307 for \$150.00. District #8 Valentine Basket was won by Michael M. from Post #180 for \$120.00. District \$10 Basket was won by Danny Case Auxiliary #4248 for \$100.00.

District #13 basket was won by Wanda Michael from Aux. 4273 for \$115.00. District \$14 basket was won by Kristine from Post or Aux. \$3473 for \$110.00. District #15 the spring bird basket was won by Laurie Lukas from Aux. #2289 from Washington for \$100.00 and District #16 the German chocolate and coffee was won by Sonya Sallee #922 for \$90.00. Thank you for all that participated and remember we will have another one for the Scholarship program at Department Convention

Sonya Sallee
Dept. Treasurer/Membership



Jr. Vice Commander

The Week of February 15th: Key Developments
The week beginning February 15th proved to be eventful and impactful for veterans and their advocates.

Major Update from the VA

On February 19th, Doug Collins, VA Secretary, announced that the VA would immediately halt enforcement of the interim final rule titled "Evaluation Rating: Impact of Medication." This rule, which had been implemented without prior notice, required disability ratings to be calculated based on how well veterans functioned on medication, rather than focusing solely on their underlying medical conditions or injuries.

Advocacy Efforts and VFW Response

Also on February 19th, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sent a letter to the VA urging it to rescind the disability rating rule change. More information about this action can be found at vfw.org/media and events. Thanks to the combined efforts of the VFW and other veterans' organizations, the VA decided to "halt" the Evaluation Rating rule. However, it is important to note that the rule could be reinstated as it currently stands. The VFW remains prepared to collaborate with the VA to find a lasting solution. There is ongoing work required to fully rescind the rule change; VFW members are encouraged to submit comments to the Federal Register. The article mentioned above includes a link to Regulations.gov for submitting feedback.

The Power of Unified Advocacy

The events of this week highlight the strength and influence veterans possess when they unite and speak with one voice. The VFW exemplifies this unity and effectiveness. Members are strongly encouraged to join and actively participate in the VFW Action Corps, which continues to deliver meaningful results.

Anchors Aweigh – Eagle Strong
Greg Arnold, Jr. Vice Commander



🔔 Volunteer Needed – Facebook Page Manager
The VFW Department of Oregon is looking for a volunteer to help manage our Facebook page. Duties include posting updates, sharing events, and helping highlight the great work being done by our posts and auxiliaries across the state.
If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Commander Little / bdlittle1020@gmail.com.

UPDATES

Membership Committee

Department Membership Committee: Michelle Hurley (Chair), Daniel Helfrich (District 16), Ron Dove (District 14), and James Patrick (District 6). If you would like to join the membership committee, please reach out to your Post and/or District Commander and then notify Michelle at membership@vfwor.org.

Michelle was recently invited to Cottage Grove Post 3473 to conduct a training session on membership and recruitment. We had over 25 members present (including an auxiliary representative) with so many great questions and points of discussion brought up by the group. If your District or Post is struggling with membership retention or recruitment, please reach out for assistance. We plan to conduct this type of training via the Department's First Tuesday virtual training, so be on the lookout (sessions are recorded).

The Membership Committee is also hard at work planning and supporting Department-sponsored recruiting events for 2026. If you are interested in supporting any of the events listed, please reach out to the POC. We still need POCs for the air shows, so if you are interested, please contact Michelle at membership@vfwor.org

Department-sponsored events for 2026:

Central Oregon Sportsmen Show (Redmond) 5-8 Mar 2026.

POC's are Robert Cusick and Dennis Guthrie.

Hillsboro Air Show 15-17 May 2026.

Need a POC.

Yamhill County Fair (McMinnville) 29 Jul – 2 Aug 2026.

POC is Dan Helfrich.

McMinnville Air Show 14-16 Aug 2026.

Need a POC.

Oregon State Fair (Salem) 29 Aug – 7 Sep 2026.

POC is Michelle Hurley.

Rose City Comicon (Portland) 11-13 Sep 2026.

POC is Tony Barber.

Pendleton Roundup Cowboy Breakfast 16-19 Sep 2026.

POCs are Patrick Pointer and John Cook.

We look forward to serving you this year!

Michelle Hurley

Membership Committee Chair

ELECTION TIME

As a reminder, in accordance with section 217 of the Manual Procedure, Posts should be conducting officer nomination at this time (March), with elections for the 2026-27 term taking place during the month of April.

Please note that the Online Membership System (OMS) Election Report for the 2026-27 term will be open on April 1st. Posts are reminded to submit their election reports promptly once elections have been completed.

Timely reporting ensures smooth transitions and proper recognition of newly elected officers at every level. Thank you for your attention to this important part of our annual administrative process.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SERVICE BEYOND THE UNIFORM

Service Beyond the Uniform: Union County Veteran Honored for Heroic Rescue on I-84

BAKER COUNTY, OR – For Edward Tibbs, the instinct to protect and serve didn't end when he took off his military uniform.

At the most recent United in Service, Investing in Futures Scholarship Banquet, the Union County resident and active VFW member was officially recognized for his "brave and selfless" actions during a life-threatening traffic incident on Interstate 84. Tibbs was presented with the Critical Incident Support-of-the-Year award, a distinction usually reserved for public safety agencies, but given to Tibbs for his extraordinary civilian intervention.

A Mission of Mercy in the Snow

The incident occurred on the evening of December 18, 2025. While traveling eastbound near milepost 344, Tibbs came upon a harrowing scene: a crashed vehicle was blocking the fast lane on a blind corner with no shoulder. The driver was standing in the roadway as snow fell, invisible to oncoming traffic.

Drawing on his background of service, Tibbs positioned his own vehicle to shield the stranded driver and stepped into the freezing conditions to provide manual traffic control as cars rounded the corner at high speeds. He then used a tow strap to pull the disabled car to safety before quietly leaving the scene.

"Edward risked his life to provide traffic control," noted Billie-Jo Nickens, reading from the official Oregon State Police nomination during the ceremony. "This incident could have resulted in a secondary crash and would have been far more devastating if it was not for Edward's brave and selfless act. He did not ask for anything in return and left the scene".

The Deadly Reality of the Roadside

The award highlights a growing concern for Oregon safety officials. Data from 2019–2023 reveals that roadside incidents are a persistent systemic risk, with rear-end collisions accounting for 45 major crashes in that period.

Nationally, approximately 24 first responders lose their lives on interstate shoulders annually. According to AAA, shoulder crashes account for 12% of all interstate traffic fatalities, or roughly 600 deaths per year.

A Lifetime of Service

As a Veteran and a highly active member of his local VFW, Tibbs' actions that night reflect a career defined by looking out for others. The "United in Service, Invested in Futures" Committee noted that his background likely played a role in his calm, decisive response under pressure.

"The thing about prevention is that we will never know what was prevented that night because of your bravery," Nickens told Tibbs. "We will never know whose lives you may have saved."

The communities and agencies represented by the United in Service, Invested in Futures Committee, extend their deepest thanks to Mr. Tibbs and all those who commit to the safety of our communities and their residents.

Honoring Excellence: The 2025 Award Winners

Tibbs was honored alongside a prestigious group of first responders and community partners who demonstrated excellence throughout the year.



WEBMASTER /EDITOR UPDATES & TRAINING

CELEBRATING 82 YEARS IN PRINT



Did you know our publication is celebrating its 82nd year in print? That’s more than eight decades of stories, service, and shared history!

When our new editor, Rosy Marcelino, recently asked how our volume and issue numbering system worked, we discovered something interesting—a few numbering mix-ups had slipped through over the years. Thanks to some dedicated archive digging by our Department Adjutant, Brandy Olmstead, we traced the first errors all the way back to 1976. After a bit of detective work, we’re proud to say this issue now reflects the correct volume and issue number.

Exploring the archives stirred up a wave of nostalgia, reminding us how rich our history truly is. With that in mind, we’re looking for a member who loves history and storytelling to write a recurring column featuring articles from our past. If that sounds like you, we’d love to hear from you!

Articles are due on the 24th of even months and can be submitted by email to the editor or online at vfwor.org (under news on the newsletter page).

We’ve always believed that working together makes us stronger—so keep asking questions, share your discoveries, and enjoy the rabbit holes you find along the way with other members. After all, every story helps our members connect.

Story By: Theresa Dearman
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Commander, Sgt. JN Holcomb Post
 Quartermaster-Adjutant, District 14
 Webmaster, Department of Oregon

Mark Your Calendar

2026

- Mar 27/28 - National President Lois Callahan visit - Redmond
- Apr 7 - Training Tuesday - check VFWOR.org for topic
- May 5 - Training Tuesday - check VFWOR.org for topic
- June 2 - Training Tuesday - check VFWOR.org for topic
- June 18-20 – State Convention – Salem, OR
- July 25 – 29 National Convention - Reno, Nevada
- September 24 – 27 Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- November 5 – 8 Western Conference - Phoenix, Arizona

2027

- February 27 – March 4 Washington Conference - Washington, DC
- July 31 – August 4 National Convention - Milwaukee, WI
- September 30 – October 3 Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

FROM YOUR EDITOR

VFW Newsletter Article Submission Guidelines

To help keep the newsletter organized and on schedule, please follow these simple guidelines when submitting articles. Submission Deadline 24th of even months . All articles must be submitted by the announced deadline for each issue. Late submissions may be held for the next edition.

Format Requirements

- Articles must be submitted in a Word document.
- Please send completed articles only. Drafts or partial write-ups may not be included.
- Suggested length: 150–400 words.

Photos

- If your article requires photos, please attach them in the email as separate image files (not embedded in the document).
- Include captions and names of people in the photos when possible.

Links and References

- If your article references an event, organization, or program, please include any relevant links.

Editing

Minor edits may be made for grammar, clarity, and formatting. Submissions may be shortened if space is limited.

Submit Articles To:

prefer metho is by email ,

Email:semperfigirl75@gmail.com or online at vfwor.org (under news on the newsletter page).

Newsletter Article Template:

Title of Article:

Author Name:

Post / district (if applicable):

Photo Information (if applicable):

Photo 1 caption:

Photo 2 caption:

Names of individuals in photos:

Relevant Links (if any):

Contact person for questions:

Thank you for helping make the newsletter informative and enjoyable for everyone!

Rosy Macias

USMC Veteran

Newsletter Editor



ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD

District	Post	VMS Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	Community Service	Day of Service Participation Date
2	1440	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	5/10/2026
2	2848	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	
2	2994	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
2	4362	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	5/2/2026
2	10580	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	5/2/2026
3	1325	Met	Pending - District	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	
3	4248	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
4	965	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
4	966	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	5/2/2026
4	2928	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
4	3182	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
4	3440	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	
4	4439	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	
4	6102	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
5	1383	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	5/16/2026
5	4070	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
6	3048	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
6	4060	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
6	4307	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
6	5452	Unmet	Pending - District	Pending - District	Unmet	Unmet	Met	5/16/2026
6	7847	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
7	1833	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	5/2/2026
7	2302	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
7	6881	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	
7	9670	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
8	922	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	
8	2471	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
8	3597	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
8	4567	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
10	1412	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
10	1643	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
10	4108	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	
10	7242	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
10	8138	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	
10	12141	Unmet	Pending - District	Pending - District	Met	Unmet	Met	
13	293	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	5/9/2026
13	2468	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
13	3232	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	
13	3473	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	

ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD

District	Post	VMS Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	Community Service	Day of Service Participation Date
13	3965	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
13	4039	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
13	4166	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
13	9448	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	5/4/2026
13	9745	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	
13	10639	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	
14	584	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	
14	661	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
14	732	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
14	3156	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
14	3203	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
14	3437	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
14	3957	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	5/2/2026
14	4065	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	
14	4227	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	
14	5638	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	5/2/2026
14	12214	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	5/2/2026
15	180	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	
15	1324	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	5/2/2026
15	3973	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
15	4273	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	
15	6057	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	5/9/2026
15	12140	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	5/21/2026
15	12211	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
16	2666	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	
16	3452	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	
16	4015	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	
16	4211	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	

All-American information is as of February 23, 2026.

**Save the Date! Join us June 18–20, 2026, at
 the Salem Convention Center for the Oregon
 Convention. More details coming soon at
[VFWOR.org!](http://VFWOR.org)**

MEMBERSHIP

Well done to all of our dedicated recruiters for supporting the growth and sustainability of our organization! Thank you for your ongoing leadership and commitment to our mission and for spreading the impact of our work to communities in need.

You are an inspiration and truly represent the best of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Thank you all for helping us grow our membership !

District	Post #	Recruiter	Members
2	10580	Claude Miller	9
13	3232	Gary W. Covert	6
15	12140	Anthony L. Barber	6
5	1383	Ronald E. Johnson	5
10	4108	Dennis G. Guthrie	4
15	180	Michael L. Martin	4

Congratulations to our top Posts for growing or maintaining your membership! We all know how hard you are working on recruiting and maintaining members.

Post #	Membership %	Current	Prior	City	Division
4065	109.52	23	21	Jefferson	11
10580	108.41	116	107	Warrenton	8
10639	107.69	14	13	Junction City	11
2848	104.93	85	81	Bay City Saint	9
1440	104.65	45	43	Helens	11
1383	104.21	544	522	Klamath Falls	3
4362	102.85	72	70	Scappoose	9
4439	102.70	38	37	Gold Beach	11
3452	102.32	264	258	Tualatin Lake	4
12140	101.68	121	119	Oswego	7
5638	101.51	67	66	Stayton	10
2994	100.00	31	31	Clatskanie	11
3156	100.00	24	24	Waldport	11
4070	100.00	53	53	Lakeview	10



DISTRICT CONVENTION NEWS

2025-2026 Spring Convention Schedule (as of 17 Mar)					
DIST.	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Dept Rep	REMARKS
2	May 9, 2026	12:30 PM	American Legion 960 960 NW 5th St Clatskanie, OR 97016	Sr Vice Greg Arnold	Bring your own lunch
3	Apr 25, 2026	10:00 AM	Post 4248 3281 SE Rivere Dr Milwaukie, OR 97267	Sr Vice Greg Arnold	Optional Zoom
4	Apr 25, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 3440 55352 Bates Rd Bandon, OR 97411	Judge Advocate Jim Horton	No Zoom scheduled Potluck at Noon
5	Apr 12, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 4070 1130 N 4th St Lakeview, OR 97630	Judge Advocate Jim Horton	Potluck at Noon
6	Apr 11, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 4060 518 N. Main St. Union, OR 97883	Sr Vice Greg Arnold	Optional Zoom Potluck at Noon
7	Apr 18, 2026	11:00 AM	Post 1833 241 East Barnett Road SUITE B Medford OR, 97501	Judge Advocate Jim Horton	Potluck at Noon
8	Apr 18, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 922 1221 SE Court Pl Pendleton, OR 97801	Commander Bert Little	Optional Zoom
10	Apr 11, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 12141 860 SW Madison St Madras, OR 97741	Judge Advocate Jim Horton	Potluck at Noon
13	Apr 18, 2026	10:00 AM	Post 4039 111 S 10th Cresswell, OR 97426	PDC Andrea Summerlin	Potluck at Noon
14	Apr 19, 2026	2:00 PM	Albany Post 584 1469 Timmer St SE Albany Or 97322	PDC Andrea Summerlin	Lunch at 1pm
15	May 9, 2026	9:00 AM	Post 12140 1180 Rosemont Rd West Linn, OR 97068	Jr. Vice Joe Steller	
16	Apr 18, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 3452 18820 SW Boones Ferry Rd Tualatin, OR 97062	Sr Vice Greg Arnold	Potluck at Noon

Commander Little encourages members to attend and engage with district meetings beyond their home district to strengthen connections and collaboration.

Memstats

Post	Dist	%	Div	City	Needed for 101%
1440	2	109.30%	11	SAINT HELENS	
2848	2	106.17%	9	BAY CITY	
2994	2	100.00%	11	CLATSKANIE	
4362	2	104.28%	9	SCAPPOOSE	
10580	2	114.01%	8	WARRENTON	
District Totals	2	108.13%	6		
1325	3	79.27%	8	PORTLAND	24
4248	3	95.76%	4	PORTLAND	14
District Totals	3	90.83%	6		38
965	4	100%	11	COQUILLE	
966	4	97.01%	10	BROOKINGS	3
2928	4	84.21%	11	MYRTLE POINT	6
3182	4	94.28%	9	NORTH BEND	5
3440	4	98.20%	6	BANDON	5
4439	4	102.70%	11	GOLD BEACH	
6102	4	88.46%	11	POWERS	3
District Totals	4	95.97%	6		21
1383	5	107.66%	3	KLAMATH FALLS	
4070	5	100.00%	10	LAKEVIEW	1
District Totals	5	106.95%	6		
3048	6	96.80%	8	BAKER CITY	4
4060	6	88.33%	7	UNION	15
4307	6	98.26%	7	ENTERPRISE	3
5452	6	94.50%	8	ONTARIO	6
7847	6	98.27%	10	HALFWAY	2
District Totals	6	95%	6		30
1833	7	98.81%	4	MEDFORD	6
2302	7	84.00%	7	GRANTS PASS	21
6881	7	92.59%	10	SHADY COVE	5
9670	7	96.87%	11	JACKSONVILLE	1
District Totals	7	93.96%	6		33
922	8	97.51%	5	PENDLETON	7
2471	8	95%	11	THE DALLES	2
3597	8	93.33%	11	JOHN DAY	2
4567	8	90.90%	11	MILTON FREEWATER	2
District Totals	8	96.28%	6		14
1412	10	100.00%	8	PRINEVILLE	1
1643	10	98.78%	4	BEND	5
4108	10	92.20%	3	REDMOND	47
7242	10	94.73%	10	LA PINE	4
8138	10	102.08%	11	SISTERS	
12141	10	100.00%	10	MADRAS	1
District Totals	10	95.52%	5		58

Post	Dist	%	Div	City	Needed for 101%
293	13	74.38%	5	EUGENE	64
2468	13	92.01%	5	ROSEBURG	21
3232	13	100.77%	4	FLORENCE	1
3473	13	96.39%	8	COTTAGE GROVE	5
3965	13	94.61%	3	SPRINGFIELD	32
4039	13	91.35%	9	CRESWELL	8
4166	13	24%	11	MARCOLA	32
9448	13	96.99%	7	VENETA	5
9745	13	100.00%	7	WINSTON	1
10639	13	115.38%	11	JUNCTION CITY	
District Totals	13	91.36%	4		168
584	14	93.73%	3	ALBANY	27
661	14	97.04%	4	SALEM	12
732	14	84.21%	11	SILETZ	3
3156	14	100.00%	11	WALDPORT	0
3203	14	94.54%	8	DALLAS	7
3437	14	95.56%	6	SWEET HOME	9
3957	14	105.71%	11	MONROE	
4065	14	109.52%	11	JEFFERSON	
4227	14	80%	6	TOLEDO	32
5638	14	104.54%	10	STAYTON	
12214	14	92.59%	11	CORVALLIS	2
District Totals	14	94.31%	5		86
180	15	96.62%	5	GRESHAM	10
1324	15	93.42%	4	OREGON CITY	23
3973	15	60.39%	3	MOLALLA	164
4273	15	71.46%	3	SANDY	111
6057	15	98.33%	10	CANBY	2
12140	15	103.36%	7	LAKE OSWEGO	
12211	15	94%	11	HOOD RIVER	2
District Totals	15	80.84%	4		309
2666	16	95.21%	5	HILLSBORO	12
3452	16	103.10%	4	TUALATIN	
4015	16	93.81%	4	DAYTON	20
4211	16	89.55%	10	WILLAMINA	8
District Totals	16	96.78%	6		34
MAL		94.39%	1		136
State Totals		93.39%			868

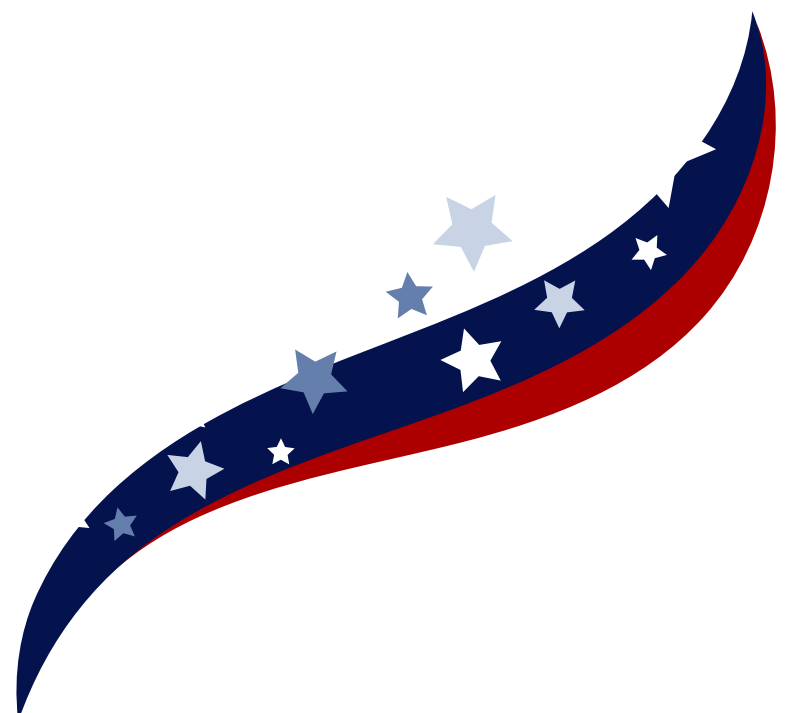
Keep going strong—you can do it! Reach out to Membership Chair Michelle Hurley or Dept. QM Brandy Olmstead for a list of unpaid relocated members now living in your zip code and help bring them back into the fold.

HOW TO PRINT A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

To print one or more pages of this edition of Oregon VFW News, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat and in the Print Dialogue box, specify which page(s) you want to print. The default size is 11" x 17" paper.

To print on 8.5" x 11" paper, choose 'Shrink to printable area' or 'Scale to Fit'.

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the Oregon VFW News printed on 11" x 17" paper, email QM@vfwor.org to get on the mailing list. The cost is \$15 per year for a black & white copy, or \$20 per year for color. We are working on a link from the website as well.



UPDATES

COOTIES



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
MILITARY ORDER OF THE
COOTIE & AUXILIARY**



MOC & MOCA HOG RAFFLE

DRAWING WILL BE HELD

APRIL 25, 2026

TICKETS ARE:

- 1 FOR \$2
- 3 FOR \$5
- 7 FOR \$10
- 15 FOR \$20



FIRST PLACE PRIZE

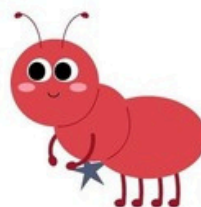
1/2 OF BUTCHURED HOG

**2ND & 3RD
1/4 OF A BUTCHURED HOG**

**TIMBER TOPPERS #12
VFW POST 584
1469 Timber St. SE, Albany**

GOT QUESTIONS? EMAIL:

**MCARR97@GMAIL.COM
OR
MCCAULEY@MBOL.US**



COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENTS JOINT PROJECT

VFW Dept. of Oregon
2025-26 Commander Bert Little and President Denise Keeton
Special Project: Guitars 4 Vets

- Guitars 4 Vets is a music therapy program that helps veterans cope with PTSD and other challenges by providing free guitar lessons and instruments, promoting emotional well-being through the power of music. Why it matters:
- Music enables expression beyond words, helping veterans process trauma & reconnect with emotions.
 - Studies highlight music's role in reducing anxiety, improving mood, and combating PTSD.
 - Many veterans find isolation after service; G4V replaces that with meaningful connections and shared experiences.

Bert and Denise have set a goal to raise \$5,000 in support of the Guitars 4 Vets program at the VFW National Home. This program is specifically designed for veterans only.

Your support can help bring music and healing to those who have served.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$5000
DONATE HERE

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Michael Malish National Home Committee Chair



Sponsored by the VFW Dept. of Oregon and its Auxiliary
Take a virtual tour of the Oregon house at the VFW National Home!

Built in 1957
1,620 Square Feet
3 Bed, 1.5 Bath

2026-27
Department
Commander's
and Auxiliary
President's
Programs
Bike Raffle



TAPS—IN MEMORIAM

This page is to honor our American military veterans who have gone on before us. While history may overlook many of the brave Deeds of our gallant servicemen and servicewomen, their memory will ever live in the hearts and minds of freedom-loving people of the great nation of the United States of America.

READ each name with pride and thanks, for they answered the call to duty, and now the honor and glory is theirs. They gave their all for us, and They are not forgotten! Taps are sounding.

11-1-2025 to 2-23-2026

Post	First Name	MI	Last Name	Post	First Name	MI	Last Name	Post	First Name	MI	Last Name	Post	First Name	MI	Last Name
MAL	Loyd	A	Aichele	10580	Anton	A	Dziewiontkoski	6881	Curtis	D	Kinney	MAL	Jim	A	Pratt
1643	Falvie	B	Anderson	1383	Donald	L	Ebsen	7847	Harvey	A	Kinsey	3965	Virgil	L	Ragsdale
MAL	Clyde		Ashton	584	Dale	A	Edwards	4273	William	C	Kitchen	4108	Eldon	F	Ridgeway
MAL	Donald	R	Baker	MAL	Charles		Eisenhard	MAL	Robert	M	Koller	4227	Samsudin		Rijken
4248	Frank	W	Barrett	4015	Gary	R	Eveland	2928	Robert	P	Kritcher	MAL	Donald	E	Roady
MAL	Roland	D	Benson	MAL	Melvin	L	Fessler	661	Robert	W	Kuenzli	MAL	William		Robbins
1833	William	E	Bent	MAL	Richard	J	Flavin	3232	Patrick	P	La Nasa	4015	Robert	E	Roggers
922	Myron	J	Berg	5452	William	A	Free	4108	Arthur	R	Larsen	9745	Richard	V	Rowley
3965	Eric	O	Bergland	MAL	Henry	A	Fryer	180	Robert	A	Lashbrook	3182	Curtis	W	Russell
1383	Robert	A	Bergman	MAL	Theodore	J	Gamma	4307	Robert	W	Lathrop	15038	Juan	D	Santos
MAL	Gerald	D	Black	MAL	Robert	E	Garcia	9745	Floyd	L	Laughrun	661	Loyd	W	Saul
922	Robert	C	Briggs	4248	Robert	J	Gauthier	9745	Joseph	A	Laurance	4070	Walter	R	Scholer
MAL	Joseph	W	Buckhalter	4108	Donald	R	Gearke	5452	Ivan	D	Ledbetter	MAL	Remie	L	Shiley
3048	Herbert	D	Burton	9745	Russell	L	Gillespie	4248	Robert	D	Long	584	Charles	M	Shull
1833	Robert Leo		Burton	MAL	Merlin	R	Goin	8138	John	A	Lovgren	MAL	Osby		Simmons
1383	Harry	T	Bushnell	4307	Robert	D	Graffi	4015	Benjamin		Martin	4060	Dale	C	Simpson
1383	Conrad	N	Caillouette	1833	Melvin	D	Graham	MAL	Herschel	D	Mc Curry	MAL	Gene	F	Smith
1412	Donald	P	Cawley	584	Calvin	G	Grater	584	Richard	C	Mc Kee	2471	David	E	Staehnke
1643	Carl	R	Champ	4227	Joseph	H	Hale	3965	William	S	Mc Morrine	4070	Thomas	F	Stewart
3440	Hardy		Christensen	3232	James	L	Hall	3048	Kenton	J	Mc Pheron	3048	Allen	W	Stinnett
584	Richard	L	Cobb	4248	Barry	M	Hamilton	MAL	Oscar		Medrano	MAL	Larry	L	Strong
922	Arthur	R	Coffman	1383	Jim	E	Hardin	2302	James	F	Mersino	3232	Lyle	E	Studer
MAL	Warren		Collins	MAL	David	A	Henderson	4108	Albert	D	Miller	293	Rolly	E	Sullivan
4015	Richard	D	Comes	4307	William	A	Hix	584	Harold	L	Mills	3437	James	L	Tinnin
MAL	Leonard		Comstock	4273	James	R	Hogan	4273	Jimmie	S	Minnick	3473	David	W	Tooker
3182	Claire	M	Cooper	4015	Peter	J	Horvath	3182	Donald	L	Morris	3437	Roy	E	Vallad
1383	Roger	W	Costello	6881	Vernon	E	House	6057	Edward	J	Murphy	MAL	William	B	Van Hom
2468	John	T	Couch	2848	Carey	J	Huckaba	2848	Charles	E	Naha	3452	Dudley	W	Werschkul
4070	Warren	G	Crandall	8138	John	W	James	3973	William	A	Noe	3965	Elbert	C	Whitaker
293	Robert	D	Culver	1643	Joseph	C	Janssens	4307	Clarence	L	Norton	1324	Roger	H	Whitney
922	Fred	D	Davenport	2468	Richard	C	John	4108	William	N	O'Brien	MAL	Felix	D	Wilcuxen
3965	Herman		Davis	4015	Jesse	H	Johnson	3048	Richard	F	Ottman	3437	John	E	Wilkins
661	Richard	W	Devilliers	4060	Thomas	C	Jones	9745	James	M	Owen	5452	Alfred	J	Wilson
3597	Daron	M	Dierks	4248	Voras	P	Jones	3973	Edward	C	Pawl	3965	Dennis	D	Yitalo
MAL	Margaret	E	Disbrow	4211	Emmett	O	Judd	2468	Arthur	H	Perry	4227	James	D	Young
3440	Robert	J	Duanne	661	Verland	R	Kelly	1383	Emmer	W	Plowman	4039	George	S	Zakian
3182	Robert	L	Dugas	1383	William	F	Kelly	4307	Verl	S	Powers				

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our Comrades.

In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen

The VFW Core Values:

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

We want to hear from you!

We're working to improve our VFW newsletter and make sure it includes the information you care about most. Please take a couple of minutes to complete our short survey and share your thoughts—what you like, what you don't, and what you'd like to see more of.

Your feedback will directly shape future issues.

[**click here for the NEWSLETTER SURVEY**](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

— *Connect. Learn. Support.* —



We've gathered flyers for several upcoming events hosted by local Veteran organizations and community partners. These events are opportunities to build relationships, learn about resources, and strengthen the bonds that make our Post thrive.



**ROBERT
IRVINE
FOUNDATION**



FOUNDED BY  USAA®

Presents



With **BREAKING BREAD HEROES**

We invite Veterans and their spouses to join us for a Robert Irvine Foundation Breaking Bread with Heroes event. This event features local resources information as well as VA benefits, mental health services, employment support, and special PRESENTATION on how to put together a helpful "Bad Day Plan" for moments when things feel tough.

APRIL 11, 2026 / 11:00AM-2:00PM

Hosted by VFW Marion Post 661
630 Hood St. NE Salem OR, 97301



The event is **FREE** and there will be a delicious and healthy lunch served after the presentation so we ask for everyone to please register.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT ROSY AT ROSA.MACIAS@VA.GOV



Have an Event to Share?

✉ If you know of an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, please send the details to:

✉ semperfigirl75@gmail.com

We'll make sure it's included in the next newsletter edition.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and continuing to build a strong, welcoming VFW community together.



WELCOME HOME

🇺🇸 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 🇺🇸

Monday, March 30, 2026
11:00 a.m.



ODVA Main Floor Auditorium
700 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301



Honoring the Service.
Remembering the Sacrifice.

Saying What Should Have Always Been Said.



Join us as the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs hosts a special ceremony recognizing the courage, resilience, and dedication of our Vietnam Veterans.

Vietnam Veterans and community members are encouraged to attend and help spread the word so we can ensure as many Vietnam Veterans as possible are recognized and honored.

For More Information

Call: 971-388-9886