

Department Presidents Message for July 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

If you missed the Department Convention you missed out on a great time. We had fantastic weather and a lot of fun with our National Representative, National Sr. Vice President, Donna Mills. What a super sweet, fun and intelligent lady!

This year our slogan is, "Together, honoring the past while embracing the future". Take a second to think about what I mean by that and how it applies to you and your Auxiliary. Are we honoring our long-time members? Are we embracing our new members? Honoring our past applies to our Auxiliary traditions, but are we mentoring our new members about those traditions or are we just saying, "oh we always do it that way".

I also want to challenge you to think about your why. Why did you join the Auxiliary? But further, why do you stay? It is important that we think about that and how it applies to our new members. Was there a special member that took you under their wing and mentored you and made you feel welcome and mentored you about what was going on in the meeting and why? Please remember how you felt as a new member and endeavor to be a welcoming mentor to someone new.

In case you haven't figured it out yet, this year we are focusing on growing our membership and mentoring everyone, new members and long-time members alike. I strongly encourage you to attend one of the upcoming Training Academies. You will not be disappointed. We will not be standing up front and droning on and on about our programs. Yes, the chairman will be available for questions, and they will have information about the program focus for the year. But this year our focus is on training. Yep, that is right. It's all about mentoring. This is for you, the membership. New members and long-time members alike and what you want to learn about. We will have separate classes for Secretaries and Treasurers. There will be diverse topics that we will be discussing and answering all your questions. Is there a specific topic that you would like to learn about? Shoot me an email and let us know.

Here is a list of the Training Academies with the date and place for you:

Aug. 15th Redmond, at the Art Horsell Deschutes Post 4108
491 SW Veterans Way Redmond, OR

Aug. 22nd Albany, at VFW Post 584
1469 Timber St. SE Albany, OR

Aug. 29th Roseburg, at Westside Christian Church
2712 W Harvard Ave Roseburg, OR

Meetings will begin at 9 am. and lunch will be available.

Membership this year will have a bunch of prizes and contests. There is a \$100 check up for grabs to the District that recruits the most new members. Additionally, we have a \$50 check and plaque to award to this year's top recruiter at the Department Convention in June 2027. Not to mention all the other smaller prizes for recruiters. I think best of all is the challenge that I issued to the Department Commander. If the Auxiliary side recruits more new members than the Post side, the Department Commander will have to wear a replica of a child's old fashion sailor suit to the banquet at the convention in June. Please, take pity on me and recruit, recruit, recruit. I really don't want to be the one to have to wear the sailor suit.

That is all for now. I look forward to seeing you all at one of the Training Academies and when I travel the state to come say hello to your Auxiliaries. As always, I am here for you. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Loyally,
Department of Oregon President
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Remember, work hard, play hard.