

OCTOBER 2023

It's October already?!!! The time has just flown by so quickly. October in Central Oregon is typically a mixed bag of chilly rainy days and stunningly gorgeous sunny, warm fall days. Today is one of those days. It is a beautiful, warm, 70 plus degrees outside right now and there is not a cloud in the sky.

I spent this morning catching up on some important paperwork. I have received a bunch of Veterans and Family Support reports from you all and I finally have some spare time to sit and read them all. Great work that you are all doing across the state. I am so proud of you all. I am sad that I have heard from some Auxiliaries, but I am hopeful that they are so busy that they haven't had a chance to send their reports yet.

This month I would like to talk to you all about the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Service Officers. The National Service Officers was created to help veterans, service members and their families navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Filing a claim with the VA can be a daunting task with all the red tape and forms to fill out. The Veterans Service Officers are there to help with all that. They work tirelessly for no charge to help you file a claim but to also deal with red tape and appeal decisions. They are there for service members as they transition out of the service but into civilian life as well.

With the passing of the PACT Act, the Veterans Service Officers are helping veterans file their claims to get the compensation that they deserve. It is very important work that they do free of charge.

Do you know who the VFW National Veterans Service Officer is for our state? You should know and you should keep his contact information at your fingertips so that you can pass it along to a veteran, service member or their family members if they need it.

Our state of Oregon VFW National Service Officer is **David Lowe**. His contact information is as follows:

Address: 100 SW Main

Suite 200

Portland, OR 97204

Phone number: 503-412-4757

Email address: vfw.vbaport.va.gov

You and your Auxiliary can help support the VFW National Service Officers by donating to them through our Department Treasurer, Sonya Sallee. Simply send a check to Sonya and put NVS in the memo line so that she knows it is for the National Service Officers.

The support that the National Service Officers give to service members, veterans and their families is free, so let's support them in their vital work.

Don't forget to send me all your Veterans and Family Support reports. I love seeing all that you do to help our veterans and their families. You all are amazing.

Loyally,