

## “BOOK OF REPORTS”

### 8<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter Report - 2024

The District Posts have been very busy helping veterans and active military families. Christmas gifts, cash and food were handed out to families during the holidays. The 8<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference was well attended in Chewelah and the feedback was very positive. We are looking forward to our Spring Conference that's being held at the Spokane Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana Ave, on March 16.

We are starting a new Post in Deer Park and they will charter an Auxiliary Unit as well. Many of the members are going to be VFW members who want to have an American Legion Post in their building. I am surprised at the number of existing American Legion members who want to transfer to this new Post.

Odessa Post 105 has reorganized and has added new members. They have a new commander and adjutant who are very active and want the Post to succeed. They have a new meeting place and are having monthly meetings again. They went from me receiving their mail; having no officers; the Secretary of State had suspended their corporation and the bank had frozen their bank account. This is a very big success story for the district and it proves that we can revitalize a struggling Post. They have met their goal and exceeded over 100% membership by December 31.

Rockford Post 165 voted last year to turn in their charter. Their ceremonial rifles have been returned to the army and the members are transferring to Posts of their choosing. I located 11 rifles at the home of a person who was not an American Legion member and 1 in the Rockford City Museum. The District Vice Commander and I are in the process of turning in their charter because they could not find members to take the leadership positions. The membership had decreased to less than 10 and they had failed for many years to have monthly meetings. They gave their Post building to the City of Rockford over 10 years ago. This Post was being kept alive by past District Commanders who were transferring members from Post 110.

I am working closely with the seven Squadrons of Sons of the American Legion in the District. My main focus is to include the Squadrons in all the American Legion Post's activities. They are working hard to increase their membership numbers and to become better known in their communities. I am a dual member of the AL and the Sons so I have a vested interest in their success.

I am impressed with the American Legion Riders groups in the district because they are very active in their communities and they represent the American Legion name in a very positive way.

We have 100 membership recruitment posters out in the district. They are 11" x 17" in size. All of the Posts have placed them in locations where veterans will see them.

My main objective as District Commander has been to open up the lines of communication within the district. The Vice Commander and I are emailing and calling Post commanders and adjutants. We are available when questions arise and we are there to support the Posts.

Darrel Maddux, 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander