

**SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS**

September 30, 2025
11:30 AM

Hearing Room C

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. James Manning Jr., Chair
Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Sen. Mark Meek
Sen. Khanh Pham
Sen. David Brock Smith

MEMBER(S) VISITING: Rep. Rick Lewis
Rep. Alek Skarlatos

STAFF PRESENT: Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst
Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Diana Sanchez Ramirez, Committee Assistant

EXHIBITS: Exhibits from this meeting are available [here](#)

MEASURES/ISSUES: Adoption of Committee Rules – Organizational Meeting
Oregon National Guard: Benefits Update – Informational Meeting
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Update – Informational Meeting
Together with Veterans NW – Informational Meeting
Oregon Department of Emergency Management Update – Informational Meeting
Oregon Health Authority’s Roles in Pandemic and Emergencies – Informational Meeting
Struggle Well – Helping Firefighters Turn Trauma into Growth – Informational Meeting
American Legion Post 83: ADA Accessible Building – Informational Meeting
National Medal of Honor Highway Across the USA on U.S. Highway 20 – Informational Meeting

00:00:04 Meeting Called to Order
00:00:05 Chair Manning Jr.

00:00:41 [Adoption of Committee Rules - Organizational Meeting](#)
00:00:42 Chair Manning Jr.

- 00:00:44 MOTION: SEN. BROCK SMITH MOVES ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES
- 00:01:05 VOTE: 4-0-1
AYE: MEEK, PHAM, BROCK SMITH, MANNING JR.
EXCUSED: THATCHER
- 00:01:25 **Oregon National Guard: Benefits Update - Informational Meeting**
- 00:01:26 Chair Manning Jr.
- 00:01:32 Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst
- 00:01:50 Brigadier General Gronewold, Oregon Adjutant General
- 00:07:27 Sen. Meek
- 00:10:09 Russell W. Gibson, Government and Legislative Affairs Director, Oregon National Guard
- 00:12:41 Sen. Pham
- 00:18:41 Sen. Brock Smith
- 00:21:22 **Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Update - Informational Meeting**
- 00:21:23 Chair Manning Jr.
- 00:21:42 Nakeia Daniels, Dr., Director, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
- 00:30:16 Sen. Brock Smith
- 00:34:12 **Together with Veterans NW - Informational Meeting**
- 00:34:13 Chair Manning Jr.
- 00:34:25 Sean Davis, Creative Director, Rogue Cell
- 00:35:00 Brad Pietzyk, Executive Director, Rogue Cell
- 00:44:45 Sen. Meek
- 00:45:23 Sen. Pham
- 00:45:51 **Oregon Department of Emergency Management Update - Informational Meeting**
- 00:45:52 Chair Manning Jr.
- 00:46:07 Erin McMahon, Director, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
- 00:55:20 Sen. Meek
- 00:58:02 Sen. Pham
- 01:04:40 Vice-Chair Thatcher
- 01:10:03 **Oregon Health Authority's Roles in Pandemics and Emergencies - Informational Meeting**
- 01:10:04 Chair Manning Jr.
- 01:10:20 Collette Young, PHD, Center Administrator for the Center for Public Health
- 01:23:14 Sen. Pham
- 01:25:33 **Struggle Well - Helping Firefighters Turn Trauma into Growth - Informational Meeting**
- 01:25:34 Chair Manning Jr.
- 01:26:40 Deric Weiss, Chief, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

01:28:55 Patrick Fale, Chief, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

01:35:30 **American Legion Post 83: ADA Accessible Building - Informational Meeting**

01:35:31 Chair Manning Jr.

01:36:46 Philip Highwood, Treasure, American Legion 83

01:37:39 Monica Carlsen, Chair, American Legion 83

01:37:50 John Hampton, past commander, American Legion 83

01:53:01 **National Medal of Honor Highway Across the USA on U.S. Highway 20 - Informational Meeting**

01:53:02 Chair Manning Jr.

01:53:54 Dick Tobiason, LTC US Army, Ret., Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation

02:14:41 Meeting Adjourned