

Yer

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 21, 1940

Honorable Charles A. Sprague,
Governor of Oregon,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Governor Sprague:

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 wisely contemplates that the selective process shall be carried out by the States and the local communities. Historically and traditionally it is entirely fitting that the Chief Executive of each State be responsible for the Selective Service operations within his boundaries. I know that I can count on your fullest cooperation.

A favorable and intelligent public opinion, based on a just and impartial administration of this most important defense measure, can be more effective in securing proper and effective administration of the law than the penalties written into the statute.

I am asking each Governor to set up and supervise the Selective Service System within his State. As promptly as may be practicable, therefore, I should like to have the name of the individual you designate for appointment as State Executive for Selective Service. It is my thought that the State Executive would administer the operations within your State under your direction, but with the necessary assistance and supervision of the National Selective Service Administration. I appreciate also that your State has gone far in its planning for manpower procurement, and that your Adjutant General and State Staff are well organized to assist in carrying out the present requirements.

I request you to carry out the registration within your State and to call upon your local election officials and other patriotic citizens, to serve on the Registration Boards and in all other ways to assist in making the registration full and complete.

Enclosed is a copy of the Proclamation fixing Wednesday, October 16th, as the day for registration within the continental United States, and setting forth in a general way instructions

2

for registration. I hope you will find it desirable to issue a similar proclamation urging the fullest cooperation within your State. It should be made abundantly clear to the public that the act of registration consists in effect of merely listing the names and addresses of registrants.

After registration, the classification and selection of men will be handled by the Local Boards. It is all-important that the Local Boards be composed of men in whom the community has the greatest confidence. Membership on a Local Board should be considered a position of honor and trust. I feel certain that many thousands of our most able and patriotic citizens will offer their services for this duty.

I ask that you recommend to me with the greatest expedition the names of citizens whose loyalty, integrity and fair-mindedness are beyond question, for members of the Local Boards and Boards of Appeal, and for the offices of Government Appeal Agents and Examining Physicians. I ask that you yourself appoint the Advisory Boards for Registrants and the Medical Advisory Boards.

3

4

Since so many of our young men will be asked to devote a year of their lives to the service of their country, I feel certain that others of our citizens will wish to make their contribution to the national defense by devoting a part of their time to these various duties. It is not contemplated that compensation be paid, except for the necessary clerical assistance.

I suggest you make the fullest use of all State and local officers and employees. I believe you will find your State employment service and the public welfare agencies particularly helpful to the Local Boards.

The Congress has made its historic decision after careful consideration and full debate. The procurement and training of our manpower under proper administration, fairly and without fear or favor, is undoubtedly the most important single factor in our entire program of national defense. I ask your every help.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Gen.

September 25, 1940.

The Honorable
Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 21 accompanied by your proclamation designating October 16 as the date for the first registration under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

I assure you that I and the State and local officials of Oregon, and the public at large in this State, will cooperate fully with you and the Federal Government in the carrying out of the purposes of this Act in compliance with the recommendations of your letter and proclamation.

I have appointed Lt. Colonel Elmer V. Wooten, Inspector General of the Oregon National Guard, as State Executive for Selective Service. His address is State Office Building, Salem, Oregon.

I shall issue a proclamation urging full cooperation on the part of our people. I shall also recommend persons for appointment as members of Local Boards and Boards of Appeal and for such other offices as is requested.

In compliance with your request I shall appoint the Advisory Boards for Registrants and the Medical Advisory Boards.

I am confident that the loyal citizens of Oregon will render the necessary volunteer service to carry out speedily the registration and classification of the men affected by the Selective Service Act.

Awaiting your further commands, I have the honor to remain

Yours very truly,

1. General. The operation of the Selective Service Act centers in the Director of Selective Service appointed by and responsible to the President. Recently appointed but not confirmed by the Senate for this position is President Dykstra of the University of Wisconsin, and his executive assistant is Colonel Hershey, who has been familiar with plans for selective service by reason of heading a Joint Army and Navy War College Committee for Selective Service. In Oregon, responsibility is jointly upon the Governor and the Director of Selective Service for Oregon, Colonel Wooton of the Adjutant General's office. Except for professional assistance, the whole plan for selective service is operated by civilians. Registration of all males between the ages of 21 and 36 (with certain exceptions, such as personnel of the armed forces of the United States, including the Reserves) is to be handled through the county clerks with the exception of Multnomah County, where the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Bigelow, has appointed the sheriff, Mr. Pratt, to handle registration. Registration will be at the regular polling places on Wednesday, October 16. The personnel questionnaires will be given to the local Selective Service boards for classification, and this classification includes not only special skills of the registrants, but such matters as dependents and physical disabilities.

2. Organization. After registration is completed the activities of the selective service center largely in the local board. There is one local board in each county of the state and where larger population demands there are more boards, as in Multnomah County, where there are 13 boards. The local boards are composed of three appointees of the President nominated by the Governor. Attached to each board is a physician and an attorney. The attorney is termed a Government Appeal Agent and his principal duty is to advise registrants as to their rights, such as the right of appeal and right of deferment. The local boards have all original jurisdiction and are not policy making in any sense, nor do they have powers of discretion. Where an issue

arises, the case is certified in writing to the proper board of appeal, which is a board of 5 members, mandatorily having a representative of agriculture, labor, and industry, and has appellate jurisdiction for all cases arising from local boards within the congressional district, which is the boundary of the appeal board's territorial jurisdiction. Similar to the congressional board of appeal are 10 medical advisory boards, composed of 7 members of the medical profession, including an internist, dentist, surgeon, radiographer, psychiatrist, etc. In order to assist registrants in filling out their applications and advising them generally there are 17 advisory boards for registrants. These are composed of the senior judge in each judicial district of the state, with an attorney appointed for each local board within the judicial district.

3. Expenses. All expenses in connection with the execution of the provisions of the Selective Service Act will be deferred by the federal government. Congressional and local boards will be permitted to employ such clerical assistance as is necessary, with standard rates of pay for the indicated positions. Members of boards and individuals acting in an advisory capacity, such as appeal agents and examining physicians, receive no compensation or defrayal of personal expenses. The acceptance of appointment will incur expenditure of considerable time by people assisting in the selective service work, and particularly does this apply to the local boards.

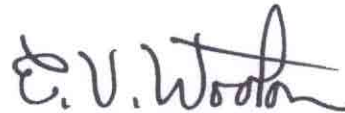
4. Letters to members of local boards, congressional boards, government appeal agents, etc., attached.

Salem, Oregon,
September 26, 1940.

Memorandum to:
Governor Sprague.

There are attached lists of the various boards required in the operation of the Selective Service Act showing composition, how appointed, and summary of duties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. V. Wooton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

E. V. Wooton,
Lt. Col., I.G.D.

LOCAL BOARDS

Composition - Three members.

Appointed by President on recommendation of Governor.

Duties - Classification and induction into service of registrants of their respective areas.

Number of Boards - Fifty-seven in State. A minimum of one per county and additional boards depending upon population.

Lists of individuals recommended for Local Board membership are being compiled and will be presented to the Governor September 26.

BOARDS OF APPEAL

Composition - One board of five members for each Congressional district.

Membership of the board to include representatives of -
Agriculture, labor, and industry.

Appointed by President upon recommendation of Governor.

Locations of boards - First District: Eugene.

Second District: Pendleton

Third District: Portland.

Jurisdiction - Each Board of Appeal shall have an appellate jurisdiction to review any decision concerning the classification of a registrant by any local board within its district and to affirm, modify, or review the same, providing an appeal has been filed with the local board. The Board of Appeal has no original jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENT APPEAL AGENTS

One for each local board.

Appointed by President upon recommendation of Governor.

Duties - To appeal from any deferred classification by a local board which in the opinion of the Appeal Agent should be reviewed by the Board of Appeal. To care for the interests of ignorant registrants and where the decision of the local board is against the interests of such persons and it appears that such persons, due to their own ignorance will not make appeals, to inform them of their rights and the method of entering appeals to the Board of Appeals. To impart to the local board any information which in the opinion of the Appeal Agent ought to be investigated. He is not the legal advisor of the local board.

Source from which recommendations can be obtained - It is suggested that an open letter to the State Bar Association be published advising its members of the opportunity for patriotic service as Government Appeal Agents.

EXAMINING PHYSICIANS

One for each local board.

Appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Governor.

Duties - To conduct physical examinations of registrants to determine physical qualifications for service after preliminary classification by local board.

Source from which recommendations can be obtained - State Health Officer, and officers of the State and County Medical Associations.

An open letter to the Medical Profession of the State advising of the opportunities for patriotic service as examining physicians might be advisable.

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARDS

Appointed by the Governor.

State plan contemplates ten Medical Advisory Boards as follows:

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Medical Advisory Board No. 1	Clackamas, Multnomah	Portland
Medical Advisory Board No. 2	Clatsop, Columbia	Astoria
Medical Advisory Board No. 3	Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill	McMinnville
Medical Advisory Board No. 4	Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk	Salem
Medical Advisory Board No. 5	Coos, Douglas, Lane	Eugene
Medical Advisory Board No. 6	Curry, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath	Medford
Medical Advisory Board No. 7	Crook, Deschutes, Lake	Bend
Medical Advisory Board No. 8	Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler	The Dalles
Medical Advisory Board No. 9	Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur	Baker
Medical Advisory Board No. 10	Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa	Pendleton

Composition of Boards - If practicable, to consist of the following:

- 1 Internist
- 1 Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist
- 1 Orthopedist
- 1 Surgeon
- 1 Psychiatrist
- 1 Radiographer
- 1 Dentist

ADVISORY BOARDS FOR REGISTRANTS

Appointed by the Governor.

Number of boards - One in each judicial district in the State.

Composition of boards - Each board to consist of the senior or presiding judge of the district and an additional member for each local board area in the district.

Associate members - Each local board area member to appoint the necessary number of associate members required for his area. No formal appointment of such associate members by the Governor is necessary. However, all members and associate members must before entering upon their duties take the prescribed oath.

Duties - To furnish advice and assistance to registrants in completing their questionnaires.