



# Officer's Call

Newsletter No. 2, 2008

## READER'S SURVEY

Thank you to all of the members who responded to the request for comments that was included in our first Email Newsletter... judging by the comments, the concept was an overwhelming success. Many respondent's stated that they prefer to keep up to date through Email and Web sites... thus, the *Officer's Call* will be sent to every member who has listed an internet address. The newsletter, as well as the SITREP, will also be posted at [www.comoaa.com](http://www.comoaa.com) or [www.comoaa.org](http://www.comoaa.org) so you can access the latest information at any time. We hope this will improve information for our membership, and will add value to your participation in COMOAA!



## Meet the Legion! Joint Meeting between Post 4 and COMOAA... March 13<sup>th</sup>

In an effort to 'get to know' the other Veteran's Organizations in our area, COMOAA is scheduling periodic joint meetings with them. Our first joint meeting will be with Stevens-Chute Post 4 of the American Legion on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. at the **Elks Lodge, 63120 Boyd Acres Rd., Bend, OR 97701** (Just north of Empire Blvd. and just east of Hwy. 97)

Dinner will be a 'potluck', so bring a main entrée, side dish, or dessert of your choosing. Sugar free items needed, too.

As an added incentive, the dinner speaker will be the brewmaster from Deschutes Brewing... and *rumor has it* that some "beer tasting" opportunities may follow! Please mark your calendar, pick your recipe, and let John Parks know that you and your guest will attend: [parks89@hotmail.com](mailto:parks89@hotmail.com) Tel:330-5021. See you there!



## JROTC at Redmond

(We're Almost There....)

Central Oregon will soon welcome its fifth JROTC detachment, as Redmond High School will announce shortly the addition of a Marine Corps sponsored detachment, thus joining LaPine, Mountain View, Crook County and Madras units. We welcome this 'character building' enhancement to the local high school curriculum and will adjust our scholarship fund to support the effort!

In addition, Col(Ret) Mike Brock reports that two local students have been selected for entry to the US Naval Academy this fall: congratulations to Sam Hartley and Graham Miller!

## Caring For Troops

Caring for Troops could use your help at their next 'Pack Out' scheduled for February 9 at 1000, Sage Insurance Bldg., 365 NW Revere Ave. (near the north Albertson's). About 65 packages need to be readied for this month's mail. **Packing day is March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Our soldiers will greatly appreciate donations of specific items such as - DVD's, bicycle gloves, AA batteries, jerky, wool gloves, hand warmers and, most importantly, letters of support. There are multiple drop sites around Central Oregon.

## Do we have your Bio yet?

**Fellow COMOAA members would like to know if you might have something in common with their personal histories. Be sure to log onto our website and add your key assignments, overseas tours or favorite duty station to your membership listing... just click on Member's Area, and look for the Bio Form (fill it in and click the Submit Bio form), a 'book' icon will be placed next to your name in the roster, and your Bio will be available!**

## The Robert Maxwell Scholarship

The scholarship letter requesting applications will be sent out in early February. Since this is the fourth year of our Robert Maxwell rotating award, this year 's focus is Crook County High School. Redmond JROTC will start up this year and will have a chance to host the scholarship award at the end of the next academic year.

For those who do not recall, this here is how it has gone. We received a gracious monetary award from Mike Donohue in the amount of \$1000 for the past 3 years. The BOD decided that each year we would name the winner at succeeding schools, the Robert Maxwell Scholarship Award winner. The rotation started with Mountain View, then La Pine, then Madras and this year should be CCHS. One of the reasons we did this was to allow each school the opportunity to host Mr. Maxwell at the awards ceremonies. So far this has worked out very well.

Dave Blahnik is the Scholarship Committee Chair, and appreciates your donations, bequests and 50/50 drawing participation. Corporate and foundation sponsorship is needed if we are to continue to expand our scholarship program.

# Central Oregon Veteran's Council

## Tri-State Women Veterans Conference Slated for April 18-19

**SALEM** -- Female veterans from every branch of military service and of all ages and backgrounds will converge on the new Pendleton Convention Center for the first ever Tri-State Women Veterans' Conference, April 18-19.

Co-sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), the conference is for female veterans from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It will serve as both an educational tool and a celebration of the service and sacrifices of women veterans throughout history.

A variety of workshops dealing with veterans' benefits, entitlements, women's health issues and employment/job-seeking tips will be offered. COMOAA is providing our Service Flags to honor all servicewomen.

Jim Willis, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a U.S. Air Force veteran, said the conference is a unique opportunity to bring these women together and for building camaraderie among these veterans of all eras. "Many women veterans are unaware of the benefits they earned as a result of their service. It is a vital forum for providing important veterans' benefit information. The previous conferences held in 2004 and 2006 in Oregon resulted in women veterans receiving thousands of dollars in disability compensation and other benefits," Willis said.

Several dynamic speakers will be featured including the conference's keynote speaker, Bob Welch, author of *American Nightingale—the story of Frances Slanger, Forgotten Heroine of Normandy*.

There is no charge to attend the conference however, pre-registration is required. The deadline to pre-register is **March 14**.

Conference check-in will begin on-site at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 18. The event will be Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of their DD Form 214 or other proof of military service with them to the conference.

For more information about the conference or to register you may visit the ODVA website at [www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc.shtml) or call toll-free within Oregon 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2264 or 2090. Women veterans in Washington should call 360-725-2157, and in Idaho, 208-334-1245.

The Pendleton Convention Center is located at 1601 Westgate, take exit 207 off Interstate 84. Their phone number is 1-800-863-9358 or 541-276-6569 or you can visit their website at <http://www.pendleton.or.us/PCC/PCC/pcc%20enter%20page.htm>.