

OHIO WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Stimulus Payments</i>	2
<i>Suicide Prevention Hotline</i>	2
<i>Women Veteran Program Managers</i>	2
<i>2009 Ohio Women Veterans Conference</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Update</i>	4
<i>Roster</i>	4



Letter from the Editor

Dear Woman Veteran,

Welcome to our newsletter!

With Memorial Day around the bend and the 4th of July soon to follow, I want to thank you all for your service and ask that you take a moment to remember those that are not with us anymore.

Take care and stay safe!

Your fellow veteran,
April Philiopoulos

MEET THE COMMITTEE

For you to get to know your officers, this issue will be the second issue introducing those elected. Following are interviews with the Parliament, Ellen Leidy..

Branch of Service: U.S. Marine Corps

Rank at Discharge: Cpl.—E-4

How are you involved with the military and veterans now? I Volunteer for the VA and I am involved in several Veteran Organizations including the Marine Corps League, Women Marines Association, American Legion and WAVES National.

Can you share a story from your time in the service? Having been in bed the day before our PFT (Physical Fitness Test) in boot camp, I ran the 600 and still beat most of the other members of my platoon. The Commanding Officer was watching while this was going on. After I finished, she said "Recruit, what is wrong with you?" I explained that I was sick the day before, so she told me to go back to bed for the rest of the day. I must have impressed her being sick and still being one of the first to finish. At my next duty station, the Commanding Officer was again watching us running our PFT. Her comment to me was, "You did that so well, you can do it for the IG next week". After that, I learned that it was not good to do your best running a PFT, especially when the CO is watching.

Family Life... I am retired from the Department of Defense after 28 years. I am married to Robert Leidy, have two children and one grandchild.

Contact Information: You may reach me at 330-603-0676 or by email at: leidyrn@aol.com.

...and the Secretary, April Philiopoulos.

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Rank at Discharge: Specialist

How are you involved with the military and veterans now? I work for the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs

Can you share a story from your time in the service? There are so many stories from boot camp I could share...it was an awesome experience. Probably my proudest moment was during our graduation ceremony and the most hard core female Drill Sgt (Sgt Banks) approached me while Lee Greenwood's 'God Bless the USA' was playing. She said she was proud of me and that I was the only soldier there that knew all the words to the song. She always called me 'Amazon of the Platoon'. At 5'10" I was by far the tallest female in our Company and taller than most of the guys. Wow do I miss it...

Family Life... I am married to Nick, a Navy veteran. We have a two year old son and we are HUGE Ohio State Hockey Fans! GO BUCKS!

Contact Information: You may reach me at 614-644-0898 or by email at: vaffairs@governor.ohio.gov.

RETIREES, DISABLED VETS STILL CAN FILE FOR 2008 STIMULUS PAYMENTS

Even though April 15 has passed, the Internal Revenue Service reminds retirees, disabled veterans and others who normally do not file a tax return that there is still time to submit a 2007 form to receive an economic stimulus payment.

People who have no tax filing requirement but have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income should file a simple Form 1040A. **Qualifying income** includes any combination of earned income, **nontaxable combat pay** as well as **certain payments from Social Security, Veterans Affairs** and Railroad Retirement. (from IR-2008-65, April 23, 2008)

Please contact your County Veterans Service Office for Assistance. If you need their contact information please contact the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs at 614-644-0898 or view the listing at http://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/county_veterans_service_offices.htm.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

**24- Hr Hotline – 1-800-273-TALK
(National Suicide Hotline Number)**

A Suicide Prevention coordinator in each VA Medical Center:

- Dayton VAMC / VISN Lead: Sandy Coleman, RN, 937-268-6511, ext 5596
- Chillicothe VAMC: Belinda "Jill" Carver, RN, 740-773-1141 ext 6704
- Cincinnati VAMC: Carol Jackson, LISW, 513-861-3100, ext 6900
- Cleveland VAMC: Kristi Sack, SW, 440-526-3030 ext 7815
- Columbus VAOPC: Bernard Williams, LISW, 614-257-5425

WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAM MANAGERS—OHIO'S VA MEDICAL CENTERS

Below are the contacts provided to us by the VA Women Veteran Program Managers as a resource to all of you. These ladies specialize in areas of concern specific to women veterans and are located at Ohio's VA Medical Centers (VAMC).

Columbus VAMC	Clary Garabis	614-257-5562
Cincinnati VAMC	Audricia Brooks	513-475-6984
Cleveland VAMC	Katherine Cooper-Collins	216-791-3800 ext 3724
Chillicothe VAMC	Bonnie Owen	740-773-1141 ext 6062
Dayton VAMC	Maritha Trass	937-268-6511 ext 1907



Ohio Women Veterans Conference 2009

Who: ALL WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY

What: A conference that is geared to meet the needs of women veterans by providing them information and resources, and honoring and recognizing them for their courageous service to our nation and for our freedoms.

When: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

Where: Aladdin Shrine Center
3850 Stelzer Road
Columbus, OH 43219

A nominal fee will be required to offset cost
Cost is \$5.00 please mail check payable to:

Marine Corps League Detachment 830
141 W. Main Street, Suite 300
Circleville, OH 43113
Please note on check: **Women Conf. 2009**

Registration starts at 8 a.m.
Event begins promptly at 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Registration Deadline: March 13, 2009

Reservations and Payment are required

On Line at: <http://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/>
Or fax to 740-474-4646

Please Print

First name: _____ MI: _____

Last name: _____

Age: _____ Branch of service: _____

Service entry date: _____ Discharge date: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Do you need a vegetarian meal? Yes No

Do you have any special needs? _____

Escorts will need to register and pay the \$5 fee

Please mail to: Marine Corps League Detachment 830

Attn: Rebecca Lee
141 W. Main Street, Suite 300
Circleville, OH 43113
740-474-3650

**Governor's Office of Veterans'
Affairs &
Governor's Advisory Committee
on Women Veterans**

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-644-0898
Fax: 614-728-9498
Email: vaffairs@governor.ohio.gov

[http://
veteransaffairs.ohio.gov
/](http://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/)

UPCOMING EVENTS— 2008

June 30th

All nomination packets are due for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

August 10th

Ohio State Fair—Veterans Day
Veterans have free admission

September 16th

Summit County Stand Down

October 21st

Franklin County Stand Down

November 7th

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame 2008 Induction Ceremony

April 4, 2009

Ohio Women Veterans Conference

*Please contact the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs for more details on these events
614-644-0898*

***IMPORTANT UPDATE
THE GREAT STATE OF OHIO***

On May 23rd, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed into law Amended Substitute Senate Bill 289. This creates an Ohio Department of Veterans Services with a Cabinet Level Director. The Department will go into effect 90 days after signing, on August 21st. This is VERY EXCITING NEWS!! If you are interested in reviewing this legislation or following any other veteran related legislation, please visit our website at <http://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/> and review the topic to the left titled 'Ohio Law'.

OHIO WOMEN VETERAN ROSTER

If you, or another Ohio Female Veteran you know, is not yet registered with us (or if you have a change to make to your information), please, fill out our registration form online at http://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/Women_Vets_Roster.htm so that we can provide you information.