

OHIO WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Woman Veteran,

Welcome to our newsletter!

Many changes are happening with our new Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the advisory committee. Please visit our website to stay in the loop!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones. May you stay safe & healthy!

Your fellow veteran,
April Philopoulos

MEET THE COMMITTEE

For you to get to know your officers, this issue will be the third issue introducing those elected. Following are interviews with the Treasurer, Karen Kish...

Branch of Service: U.S. Army/Ohio Army National Guard

Rank: Sergeant First Class/E-7

How are you involved with the military & veterans now? I work for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services as an Executive Assistant and the Coordinator for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. One of my assigned duties is the State Women Veterans Coordinator where I work directly with the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. The mission of the committee is to "locate, educate and advocate for all women veterans who served in the United States military." One of our tools to locate a women veteran is through our Ohio Women Veterans Roster. If you know of a women veteran in your community please have them go to <http://dvs.ohio.gov/tabid/87/Default.aspx> or call the number below and have them sign up. Registering on the roster enables our office to communicate on information or events impacting women veterans.

As the Coordinator for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame I am blessed to have the opportunity to meet extraordinary veterans from around Ohio who are inducted into to this elite class. The inductees continue to serve their community, state and nation in areas of civic, professional, advocacy, and military environs with notable contributions after honorable military service. If you know of a veteran that continues to give of themselves and who never seeks recognition, why not nominate this veteran for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame? For further information please visit the web site at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/VeteransHallofFame/tabid/57/Default.aspx> or call 614-752-8941.

Can you share a story from your time in the service? Growing up we all make decisions and the best one next to marrying my husband was joining the active Army and the Ohio Army National Guard. I have so many great stories of my time serving on active duty and with the Ohio Army National Guard. My military career started with basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, to my first duty station at Ft. Lewis, Washington. I reenlisted for another three years to serve overseas in Germany. After leaving active duty I missed the military and joined the Ohio Army National Guard where I served another 18 wonderful years. I retired as a Sergeant First Class with 24 years of total military service.

Family Life... I've lived in Ohio all my life except for my 6 years of active duty. I met my wonderful husband while serving in the Ohio Army National Guard and have been married for over 18 years.

Contact Info: Please feel free to call me at 614-752-8941 or by email at Karen.kish@dvs.ohio.gov

MEET THE COMMITTEE...CONTINUED...

...and the Historian, Karen Griffith..

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Rank at Discharge: E-4

How are you involved with the military and veterans now? I work as a Veterans Intensive Services Coordinator with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. In this position I provide intensive services to veterans with special employment and training needs who are unable to obtain employment through typical means. I also facilitate Ohio Transition Assistance Program employment skills workshops and provide briefs to National Guard and Reserve units as a member of the Serving Warriors at Transition team. I am a lifetime member of AMVETS and the DAV.

Can you share a story from your time in the service? I have so many fond memories that it is hard to share a specific "story". I practically grew up on a Naval Base because my Dad was a Chief Photographer in the Navy and I got to be a tag-along on many occasions. I loved all the pomp and circumstance... and, still do! I guess one of the funniest things that ever happened during my time in service was when I was trying to comp out of Basic Electricity & Electronics School in Orlando, FL. I was in my Class A Uniform, in which, the skirt only had a small pocket on the waistband of the inside front, right panel. The testing was quite lengthy and a TI-30 calculator was essential. For fear of having the calculator die during testing, I had placed a spare 9-V battery in that pocket, along with enough change to buy a soda. Sometime during the exam, one of the quarters in that pocket managed to cross both the negative and positive terminal; which completed the circuit and enabled the battery's current to flow. I never knew what hit me. It was as if my right hip was on fire! I bolted out of my seat, yelling out-loud in disbelief of what I was feeling and reached into my pocket to pull out whatever it was that was causing such grief. Needless to say, I caused quite a raucous and learned a valuable lesson in electronics that day!

Family Life... Married to a former U.S. Navy Submariner, Dennis, who works as an IT Director/Network Administrator for Southern State Community College; and have a 17 yr. old son, Kyle, who is a senior in High School and seriously considering one of the military academies and/or college. We have property in Southern Ohio, where we enjoy having horses, rescue dogs and going sailing at every opportunity.

Contact Information: You may reach me at Karen.Griffith@jfs.ohio.gov.

...and the Chaplain, Ardis Howell.

Branch of Service: U.S. Marine Corps

Contact Information: arsann2@aol.com

IMPORTANT UPDATE—THE GREAT STATE OF OHIO

August 21st our office formerly became part of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and our Advisory Committee is now the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. Other state offices that now fall under the Department are the Ohio Veterans Homes (Sandusky & Georgetown) and the State Approving Agency. As our office and the Department proceeds with multiple changes, we will work diligently to keep you all informed. Please keep an eye on our website (www.dvs.ohio.gov) for updates and also to find Director Bill Hartnett's bio. If you have general concerns, input or ideas please send them on to us at ohiojets@dvs.ohio.gov.



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 to re-serve your seat. You can fax completed flyer to 740-474-4646 and mail payment to the below address

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

**Ohio Department of veterans
Services &
ODVS Advisory Committee on
Women Veterans**

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Email: ohiovets@dvs.ohio.gov
877-OHIOVET

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

UPCOMING EVENTS– 2008

November 7, 2008

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame 2008 Induction Ceremony—Reception begins at 2 p.m. with the Induction Ceremony starting at 3 p.m. @ Franklin County Veterans Memorial, 300 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Twenty of Ohio's Veterans will be inducted as the Class of 2008. Please visit the Hall of Fame website at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/VeteransHallofFame/tabid/57/Default.aspx> or call our office with any questions at 614-752-8941. This event will be historical with the largest number of female veterans inducted in a single class...including our own Vice-Chair Elva Pounders! Please attend and congratulate our fellow veterans!!

April 4, 2009

Ohio Women Veterans Conference

*Please contact the Ohio Department of Veterans Services for more details on these events
614-644-0898*

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 found online at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/tabid/87/Default.aspx> and mail or fax it to our offices. You can also email your information / change to us at ohiovets@dvs.ohio.gov.