

VFW POST 4108 NEWSLETTER

May 2009



We would like to Thank the VFW 4108 Ladies Auxiliary and Post 4108 for doing such a beautiful memorial, celebration of life, and pot luck for my beloved wife, Boots Smallwood, loving Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. Also, to all the people who loved Boot:. I can't Thank you enough. Tom Smallwood and Family.

From the Commander...Jeff Casserly

Good day Post Members and Families,

Finally; spring, with its" extended daylight and the return of life to our beautiful Central Oregon area. We have another opportunity to plant and plan and enjoy the warmth and excitement of the seasons ahead.

May 2009 brings a time of recollection, patriotism and honor. We, the members of VFW Post 4108, increase our efforts to promote awareness of the challenges faced by our active military and the physical and emotional trauma sustained by combat veterans who have served their Country.

This month Americans will see us at community locations during the Memorial Day holiday: Offering Buddy Poppies, collecting donations, discussing our purpose as VFW members and presenting memorial services at our local cemeteries. We volunteer our time and energy for the benefit of our comrades, young and old; because we were there and because we care.

America offers her best to the world and as a result there is a price paid. Because of us the world has become a safer place not just for Americans, but for the entire world. We lead the way in peace and hopefully, in justified conflict. We will debate the politics of our leaders and their intentions, but I believe that all men and women who believe in truth and justice, no matter the nationality, when treated fairly and justly see that our intentions are honorable and directed for the benefit of all mankind.

Remember the purpose of Memorial Day. It is, and always will be a remembrance of brave and just individuals who faced their fears and the challenges of their time and marched forth to protect their loved ones and serve the goals and dreams of this great country we call the United States.

Volunteer this spring and throughout the year. Be kind to a Vet and thank them for their service. Share your knowledge of the VFW purpose.

Tell a friend, Do Good Work, Welcome Spring and Support your Post. Semper Fi. Jeff

From the Auxiliary President...Becky McDonald

Hello Everyone!

Well another year of elections is over. I would like to say congratulations to all who were re-elected and those who have a new position. I am grateful for my re-election for the next year.

I want us to think of ways to pull younger families in to our post. I know that Rick Brosey has our Web site up and running. Bravo! The entire Auxiliary has been coming up with ideas for the coming year so thanks for that.

Our Easter egg hunt was a BLAST and can't wait till next year. We had 614 eggs total, 88 prize eggs and 4 Golden eggs. All the eggs and prizes were donated. Thank you for your donations and to my Auxiliary members who helped makes this possible!

More thanks to my Auxiliary for attending the District meeting, helping in the kitchen for the Cookie COUP Auction and more than anything thank you for participating in Boot's Celebration of Life. Tom said it was wonderful.

I always am grateful to all of my Auxiliary members for all they do.

New members please attend our meetings so you can enjoy volunteering like we do.

I am wishing everyone good health and happiness with friends and families.

Sincerely, Becky McDonald

From Public Relations Officer....John Wrinkle

April 26, 2009

POST 4108 ACTION NEWS; Public Relations Officer John Wrinkle – 541-923-8591 (Home and Fax), 541-678-3895 (Cell), jwrinkle@bendbroadband.com.

The following are items of interest for your consideration:

1. April 4 the Ladies' Auxiliary held their first annual Easter egg hunt for families of veterans and active military. The kids had a great time collecting eggs, which were either filled with candy or prizes.
2. On April 18 the Ladies' Auxiliary held a memorial in honor of member Boots Smallwood, wife of Post member Tom Smallwood. The Ladies' Auxiliary performed a touching ceremony which was followed by a pot luck luncheon. Many family and friends came to honor Boots and share stories and memories. The 18th was also the date of one of our regular Saturday night dances, which Boots and Tom attended on a regular basis. The dance was dedicated to Boots and the band played one of her favorite songs in her memory. Boots' smile and good humor will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her.

Upcoming Events:

1. The monthly Post dances are May 2nd with Bobby and Lori and May 16th with Bob and Edi.
2. May 2: The Governor is coming to Bend High School at 2 pm to formally mobilize the National Guard. The public is invited. The Guard will be deployed to Fort Stewart in Georgia for training in June and will fly to their one year duty assignments in Iraq in August.
3. May 8: Oregon Military Family Appreciation Day from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Riverfront Plaza in Bend. The purpose of this event is for the community to show their support of families of military veterans and active military. The Men's and Ladies' Auxiliary will have a table there with information regarding VFW functions and activities and membership information. There will be activities for the kids, including a Road Tennis game provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary and a basketball tournament at the local Boys and Girls club. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
4. May 10: The Men's Auxiliary is hosting a Mother's Day Champagne Brunch from 11 am to 1 pm. Brunch will be buffet style with scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, hash brown potatoes, biscuits with gravy and fruit. Beverages include coffee, fruit juice, water and one complimentary glass of champagne. Cost is \$6 per person; Mothers eat for free. The Canteen has a signup sheet and we are looking forward to serving you on Mother's Day.
5. May 30: Discovery EXPO 2009 at the Deschutes County Fair Grounds – 0900-1400. This event was known as the Senior Fair and Health Expo. They are offering \$2 off the price of admission for Vets. There will be \$10 raffle tickets for sale; prizes include a stay at Eagle Crest and a rafting trip out of Maupin. Proceeds go for nursing home activities and meals-on-wheels.

Men's Auxiliary President Pinky Christopher 541-923-3133; Meeting Date 3rd Thursday of Each Month At 7:00 pm. (submitted by Instituting Officer John Wrinkle)

This is our first newsletter item! We have submitted our charter for 36 members. We are now awaiting approval. This can take 40+ days to receive. These are exciting times for us:

- Learning how to conduct our meetings according to the by-laws.
- We have elected officers and their names will be provided at the end of this article.
- Two committees have been formed: (1) Horseshoe Pit chaired by Terry Landon; and (2) Rafting Trip fund raiser chaired by George Ellis 541-647-8645.
- Hosting our first Mother's Day Champagne Brunch on May 10 @ 11 am to 1 pm. Please see the public relations article for details.
- Setting up an informational table with the Ladies' Auxiliary at the Oregon Military Family Appreciation Day on May 8 from 6 to 8pm at the Riverfront Plaza in Bend.

Elected Officers and Guard are:

President Gerald 'Pinky' Christopher; Senior Vice President Jay Foltz; Junior Vice President Doyle Cain; Secretary Marc Brosy; Treasurer Wade McDonald; Chaplain Tim Olson; Trustee 3yr Calvin Carter; Trustee 2yr Mitch Lewis; Trustee 1yr Terry Landon; and Guard Michael Kirwan.

From Dennis and Dianne Guthrie

Membership:

Each year and each month the officers at State & Post level bring up membership as being very important to our veteran's organization. We help local veterans and their families when they are in a crisis situation. We also help get legislation passed at the State & National level that help veterans.

Last year we had 625 members. We brought in 30 new members. Still we only have 25 to 30 coming to our monthly meetings and doing most of the work around our community. What we ask of those who are unable to participate with our fund raisers, work parties, or assisting veterans in need, is to pay your dues. **It really does help!**

Johnny Cash Fund Raiser

Our "Tribute to the Life & Legend of Johnny Cash" will be over by the time you get this Newsletter. The question was asked as to why the price went up. We only have a few fund raisers each year. The Post spends a lot of money to put one of these on. There are also hundreds of hours put into the planning of these events. We need and must gain as much as possible from each event just to cover our expenses and earn enough funds to make it worthwhile. We try to bring some really good entertainers for you and the community to enjoy. We have 200+ troops leaving Central Oregon and we are preparing to help the families who are

staying behind. We also have young and older vets that have lost their jobs, their homes, and need some help. All this comes from our fund raisers. We have no other income for these programs. **Please help us help them.**

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped on the Johnny Cash Event. I will post a complete list of everyone's names next month.

Memorial Day Weekend

Buddy Poppies will be distributed at Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer's, and Albertson's on Friday 5/22, Sat 5/23, and Sun 5/24. **We need volunteers!** You can choose a shift from 10 AM to 1 PM or 1 PM to 4 PM. You will be handing out Poppies as a gift and taking donations. This year we will be working with our JROTC cadets. It is really great to see these young people out and helping. Sign up at the Canteen or call 548-6990.

Memorial Day Services

Terrebonne Cemetery – 9 AM
Redmond Cemetery – 11 AM
Bend Cemetery – 1 PM

Note: Grave markers will be available at the Redmond Cemetery for ladies that were Auxiliary members. They will be at the south end of the center of the cemetery. (between the two streets in the cemetery). You may take one and place it on your loved one's grave.

Caring For Troops

Remember to donate items for "Caring for Troops". All items donated can be left at the Canteen and must be marked "Caring For Troops". Questions? Dianne Guthrie 548-6990.

I want to thank the people that have been donating to "Caring for Troops". I wish I knew their names but they have been the silent donors. If you would please leave a name and phone # I would like to thank you.

A list of the items needed is posted on the cork board just outside the Canteen door. You are welcome to take one.

Veterans & Family Support

This past month we had a young veteran and his family in need. We were able to work with the Bend Post and Auxiliary and our Post & Auxiliary in order to come up with dollars needed to help pay rent. Between a deployment on the horizon for the veteran and lost jobs their situation was critical. Our soldiers need to be able to focus on their jobs in the military and not worry about home situations.

Need information regarding our programs? Do you know someone that needs help?

Call Dennis or Dianne Guthrie
548-6990

From the Auxiliary Chaplain-Bernis Lee

On April 8TH "BOOTS" SMALLWOOD PASSED AWAY AFTER A BRAVE AND GALLANT BATTLE OF CANCER. HER JOURNEY ON EARTH WAS DONE. NOW SHE IS IN THE ARMS OF THE LORD, WE WILL MISS HER SMILING FACE 😊.

OUR SISTER CAROL OLANO PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 18TH. A GRAVESIDE SERVICE WAS HELD AT THE REDMOND CEMETERY ON APRIL 25TH. MANY OF HER AUXILIARY SISTERS WERE THERE TO LAY A CARNATION IN RESPECT AND REMEBRANCE OF HER FINE SERVICE TO VETERANS AND TO SEND HER ON HER WAY TO JOIN HER HUSBAND, DAN. THEY ARE REUNITED IN THE CARE OF THE LORD.

SPRING IS HERE THANK GOODNESS, AT LEAST FOR A FEW DAYS. TAKE CARE, STAY WELL, AND ALWAYS PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THE LESS FORTUNATE. BERNIS LEE "CHAPLAIN"

From the Canteen-Jan Nolan

Well, it's a quiet month in the Canteen so if anyone needs to rent the hall let us know. Wedding, receptions, any type of banquets, retirement parties or you name it. Don't forget dancing on the 2nd and the 16th of May.

The Men's Auxiliary will be putting on a Mother's Day Brunch from 11:00 o'clock to 1:00 o'clock on Mother's Day. Please sign up for that in the Canteen. Potluck at 6:00pm and Pinochle at 6:30pm on Friday the 22nd.

Monday night dinner on the 4th will be Spaghetti, salad, French bread and dessert for \$6.50. Monday night dinner on the 18th will be Ham dinner with Mac and Cheese, salad and dessert for \$6.50. Come on in and enjoy yourself.

Thank You--Jan, Kellie, Paula, Shawna and Shanon