

**Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)
Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2024
40et8 Boxcar and VIA ZOOM**

Board of Directors present: Chairperson – Larry Smith, Vice Chairperson– Mike Burton; Director of Operations -Marlene Varga, Secretary – Stephanie Collazo-Serrano, Treasurer -Bruce Evans, Board Members- Teresa Wheeler (Excused), Rod Williams, Dan Sockle (Excused), Samantha Whitley [7]

Members at Large present: Patrick Locke (40et8), Curt Loop (CMAC), Ron Powers (Clark College), Ralph Walker (CMAC), June Lasch (Red Cross), Larry Clifton (40et8), Brian Andrus (Legion Services), Ron Brandon (Pointman), Donal Singelton (Buffalo Soldiers), Bill Crist (AUSA), Richard McHugh (CVI), Jay Williams (CMAC), Al Martinez (VA), Brad Aiello (CMAC), Eli Gonzalez (Clark College) Liz Wilson (Vancouver Comfort Keepers), Flynn Phillips (Post 74), Amanda McCullum (1st Choice), Launie O'Leary (CMAC), Terry Ogle (CMAC), Anne McEnerny-Ogle (City of Vancouver), Les Lomax (40et8), Tom Barton (Radio Club), Rachel Healea (1st Choice), Greg Gilbertson (VFW), Pat Spring (CMAC), Kathy Endicott (Columbia Ridge), Buck Marr (MOAA), Geri Stuart (Blue Star Mothers), Judith Johnson (CCVAC), Minh Pham (Vietnamese of Oregon), Bruce Maas (DAV), Tom Cates (PT Boats), [33]

Meeting called to order by Larry Smith

Pledge of Allegiance: Larry Smith

Words of Inspiration: Ron Powers/Ron Brandon

CMAC Upcoming Scheduled Events:

- Our Community Salutes, May 8th, Skyview High School, 6:30pm
- Memorial Day Ceremony, May 27th, Fort Vancouver, 11:00am

CMAC 2023 40 et 8 and ZOOM

Mar 8th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM
Mar 22nd 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM
Apr 5th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM
Apr 19th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

CMAC Summary

- Buck Marr went over the Our Community Salutes draft agenda. OCS will take place on May 8th at Skyview High School starting at 6:30pm. The event is to recognize the high school students that are entering the military and to let them and their families know that the community is here to support them. During the ceremony we will present the students with a coin, certificate, and flag. There will be a reception immediately following. Molecular Testing Labs will be this year's sponsor.
- Larry Clifton went over the draft agenda for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony that will take place on May 27th. Launie O'Leary and Aaron Ochoa will be co-event managers along with Larry Clifton. They will be reaching out to sub-committee members in the coming weeks to work together to plan the event.

Guest Speakers

- Elizabeth Wilson with Vancouver Comfort Keepers shared their organization partners with the VA, to bring in-home care services to veterans so they live safe, happy, and independent lives in their own homes. She shared many veterans are eligible for VA benefits that can help cover the expenses associated with in-home care services. Additionally, surviving spouses may qualify for respite care support. Services can include personal care, healthy meal preparation, grocery shopping, and companionship and housekeeping. For more information, please contact Elizabeth at (360) 687-0025.

Events/Announcements

- Red Cross is hosting free virtual resiliency workshops each Monday at 6:00pm during the month of March for service members, veterans, and their family members and caregivers. For more information, please contact Meghan Hahn with the Red Cross at [Meghan.hahn@redcross.org](mailto: Meghan.hahn@redcross.org).
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center is hosting a Veterans Hiring and Resource Fair on April 17th from 10am-1pm at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. For more information on how to register or are an employer or resource provider, please contact Sonja Wood at [wood.sonja.etc@gmail.com](mailto: wood.sonja.etc@gmail.com)
- The Blue Star Mothers of Oregon have been serving the military since 2008, recently helped the 142nd Airborne Div.at PANG with sixty-four care packages and have additional care packages they are putting together for our military. They have put together an Amazon wish list that you can find here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/16HHBGEZIYNRX?ref=list_d_wl_lfu_nav_2 . They would appreciate any help with getting the word out. If you are interested in donating to help with missing care package items, shipping, or would like more information, please visit their website at <https://bluestarmothersoforegon.org/> .
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) will be holding their Red, White, & Blue Gala at Ilani Casino on Tuesday, July 16th, 2024. More details of the event will be announced as the date gets closer.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CommunityMilitaryAppreciationCommittee/
Or visit us at our website at www.cmac11.com

If you would like to add your event to our Calendar of events, please email:
Stephanie Collazo, at CMAC11.Secretary@gmail.com

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