

**Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)
Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2024
40et8 Boxcar and VIA ZOOM**

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

Members at Large present: Patrick Locke (40et8). Curt Loop (CMAC), Ron Powers (Clark College), Ralph Walker (CMAC), June Lasch (Red Cross), Ron Brandon (Pointman), Richard McHugh (CVI), Flynn Phillips (Post 74), Amanda McCullum (1st Choice), Launie O’Leary (CMAC), Tom Barton (Radio Club), Greg Gilbertson (VFW), Pat Spring (CMAC), Ralph Harris (DAV), Megan Anderson (Clark College), Kristine O’Brien (VA), Geri Stuart (Blue Star Mothers), Judith Johnson (CCVAC), Myrna Leija (CMAC), Robert Stuart (CMAC), Greg Gilbertson (CMAC), Michael Eschete (CMAC), Linda Humason (CMAC), Harry Humason (CMAC), Steven Stanley (Young Marines), Ray Heller (CMAC), David Snyder (CMAC), Bill Hauser (Marine Corps League), [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 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

- Rod Williams went over the Our Community Salutes draft agenda. OCS will take place on May 8th at Skyview High School starting at 6:30pm. Buck and Rod met with the school and completed the walk-through. They are connecting with recruiters to get the names of all the students that will be attending. 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. Former Sargeant Vanessa Munson will be the keynote speaker. There will be a reception directly following the event. This is a public event, and members are encouraged to invite their families, neighbors, and organizations to attend the event.
- Launie O’Leary shared Larry Clifton is stepping down as co-event manager for Memorial Day. Launie will work with Marlene and Aaron Ochoa with NPS to help coordinate the event that will take place on May 27th at 11am. They will be reaching out to sub-committee members in the coming weeks to work together to plan the event.

Events/Announcements

- The Pact Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Starting March 5th, the VA is expanding VA health care to millions of Veterans—years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. If you would like more information or would like to apply or see if you are eligible, please contact your local Veterans Service Officer or visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/> or call [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) for more information.
- 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 . 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.
- 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
- 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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