

Source

A Newsletter for the Patients, Volunteers & Staff of the VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and clinic

<http://www.visn20.med.va.gov/southern-oregon/index.asp>

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The VA SORCC, welcomes submission of articles of interest to our readers. The editor reserves the right to use and edit all contributed articles. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Administrative Boards, Editorial Staff, or Department of Veterans Affairs.

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A Message from the Director

Dear Fellow Employees, Volunteers, Veterans and Friends of VASORCC:

Proud American men and women are serving and sacrificing for freedom around the world as America’s military defends us against terrorism. Many of these veterans are coming to VA with special needs and challenges that require the hearts and hands of a new generation of VA volunteers.

White City VA SORCC invites citizens young and old to join us in honoring our veterans and learning more about the VA Volunteer Program during the National Salute to Veterans Week, February 11 – 15. Visit a Veteran at our facility and remind them that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

Every citizen can make a positive difference in the life of a Veteran. Visits from school children and other community groups do much to lift the spirits of our Veterans. We invite every member of our community to participate. Call the Voluntary Service office at 541-826-2111, ext. 3585 to schedule a visit and learn how to become a volunteer at the VA SORCC.

Max E. McIntosh, PhD, MBA
 Director

Calendar of Events

February '08	3 rd – 9 th	National Salute to Veterans Week* [@]
	4 th	VAVS Committee Meeting, 10 am, Activity Room
	6 th	Volunteer Awards Ceremony – Red Lion
	18 th	President's Day – CRD Office closed
March '08	17 th	VAVS Follow-up Meeting, 10 am Activity Room
April '08	18 th	Youth Volunteer Recognition Party (tentative)
	13 th – 19 th	National Volunteer Week
May '08	5 th	VAVS Committee Meeting, 10 am, Activity Room
	26 th	Memorial Day Ceremony, VA Cemetery* [@]
June '08	14 th	Flag Day Program
	17 th	VAVS Follow-up Meeting, 10 am Activity Room
July '08	4 th	Patients Fourth of July Picnic/Carnival* [@]
August '08	4 th	VAVS Committee Meeting, 10 am, Activity Room

NOTE: This is not an all-inclusive list. It is a general guideline to recurring events!

Hey! Did you know that in FY2007, our VA SORCC Volunteers served 69,773 hours? This equates to 33.5 full-time employees and is valued over \$1.3 million! Thanks Volunteers!

Crater Lake Students Visit Camp White Museum



On November 29 the VA SORCC hosted 60 students from Crater High School. Tom Marshall, CRD Specialist guided Mr. Bud LaFever and his high school history class on a tour of the Camp White Museum. After the tour the group met with Wes Magness, Recreation Therapist, and Wally Flores, ELP Staff, to unlock the secrets of Adventure Based Counseling activities (in a nutshell teamwork). The history students were highly motivated to learn about the sacrifices given by our Nation's veterans and equally impressed with the level of commitment to our veterans by staff members. The group expressed their gratitude for the hospitality they received and plan on future visits.

A Quilt For Every Veteran

The American Sewing Guild and many other organizations makes quilts each year for veterans. Alma Gates, President of the local chapter of the American Sewing Guild (ASG) and Fasturn Junction, the retail store of The Crowning Touch company, proudly announced the “Quilter’s Challenge” met its goal! Their target was to create a hand made quilt for each inpatient Veteran at the White City VA.

The community, both here and beyond Southern Oregon borders stepped up. First by one and two’s, then by the dozen quilts arrived. From Florida, Idaho, Texas, California and many cities with Oregon, quilts started to show up. Hundreds of quilters: groups, guilds, churches, schools and many first timers stepped up and crafted with love and thanks.

One must have witnessed the stacks of quilts to get a feel for the time and energy and effort that each quilt represents. Each quilt held a story within its fabric.

For example, one woman arrived with quilts. She heard of the quilt making effort and told how she took old military dungarees her son had worn in Vietnam. She had stored them all these years, and she took the pants and crafted quilts from them, quilts she gave to us to thank another veteran for their service.

The story of the set of quilts from a church in Oregon each made as a “prayer quilt” with hand written notes of thanks sewn into each one.

Medford National Guard volunteers also came forward to help by forming a small convoy to deliver over 500 quilts to our facility on December 15.

The 500 hand made quilts and blankets made in the course of just three months were provided as a gift, a thank you, and heirloom for those who served our country.

These quilts represented an approximate value of \$16,800 with an estimated 6,300 man and women hours of labor.

David Graham of Fasturn Junction estimates the dollar value of \$15,000 accounting for donated boxes of scraps and fabric, batting material from vendors and individuals from throughout the country, plus the time and sometimes personal money spent by local quilters, along with the donation of sewing-machine time at Fasturn Junction.

In its first year, this project spearheaded by Alma Gates of Jacksonville and the ladies of the community sewing group far exceeded expectations.

Sandi Benfield, 65, of Medford, made 25 quilts this year, becoming the top producer in the SORCC drive.

In addition to the quilts, veterans received packages at the Christmas party that included phone cards, socks and other personal items that will make a big difference during the holidays. These gifts were contributed by our VA SORCC volunteers and valued at \$6,000.

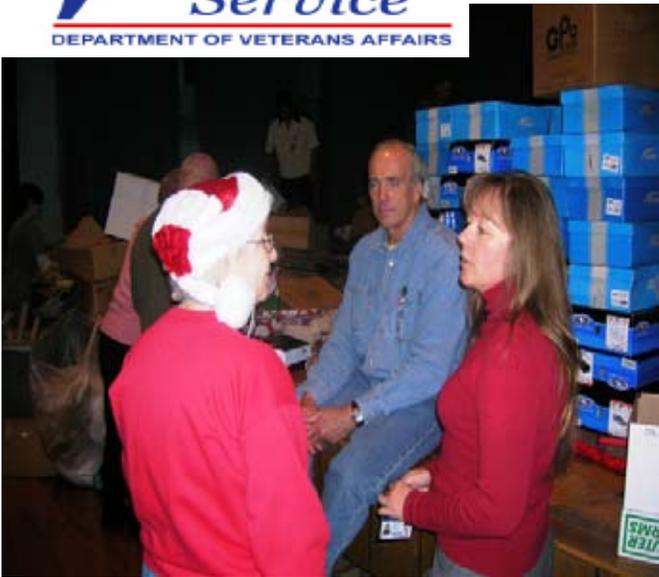
Mere words cannot adequately express the heartfelt appreciation of staff and patients for our volunteers and friends in the community for a wonderful Holiday Season!

Volunteers Unload Quilts



Above, children from the American Sewing Guild greeted every veteran with a “Thank You”. Above left, below left, below right, volunteers unload the blankets. Just in time for our patients’ Annual Holiday Gift Party.

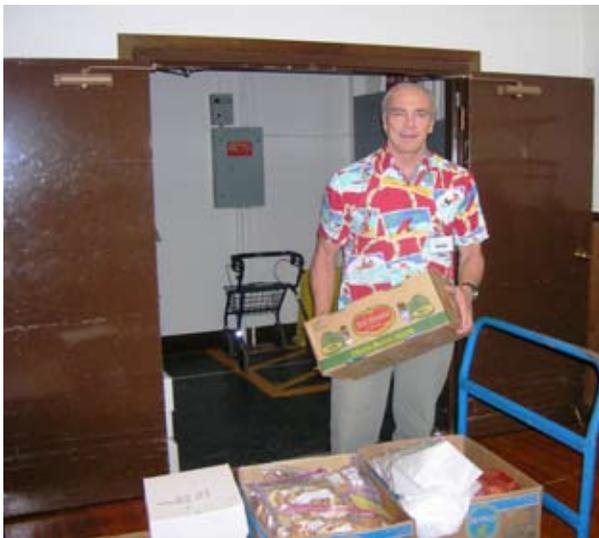
Preparing For Party And Gift Wrap



Patricia Wright, VFW Representative; Russ Cooper, Recreation Service, and Anna Diehl, Public Affairs.



Tony Langella, Recreation Service



Russ Cooper, Recreation Service



Mae Quinn, VFWA and other volunteers set out food for the Patient Christmas party

VA SORCC volunteers representing the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary, American Legion and Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, The Young Marines, Military Order of the Cootie and Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Daughters of the American Revolution, student volunteers from the Eagle Point high School-At-The SORCC Program and various other volunteers ushered in the Holiday Season for our veteran-patients by providing a wide variety of holiday activities. The photos above represent a few of these events including the Patients Gift Shop, Patients Holiday Gift Party and Patients New Years Eve Party. For the Gift Shop held on November 30, volunteers and the VAVS (VA Voluntary Service) Committee with the help of Recreation Service and Community Resources/Public Affairs staff, set up a “shopping mall” in the Theatre. Patients then went shopping, free of charge, to

More Holiday Party Fun!

select gifts for family members. The volunteers and staff then holiday wrapped and brown wrapped for shipping hundreds of gifts. The gifts, wrapping materials and postage were all donated by our gracious volunteers! Festivities for the Patients Holiday Gift Party, held on December 15, included the hand-made quilts (story on page 3), entertainment, prize drawings, lots of delicious food and treats, and Holiday Gift Bags all of which was also donated by our wonderful volunteers!



Eagle Point High School students wrapping gifts.



Lee Anna Clayton and Emily Peters from Eagle Point High School give a helping hand.



A few of the volunteers who came out to help make the Holidays special.



Jeanette Gold and Ilene Kizer

Eagle Point High School Students Complete Personal Safety Skills

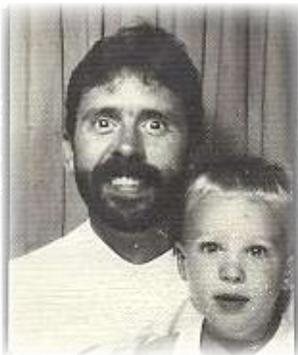


Officer Luz Peterson



Eagle Point High School Students

On November 1, 2007 Eagle Point High School students completed a course in Personal Safety Skills. This class was taught by Chief Andres E. Paperman and Officer Luz Peterson. The class consisted of four topics: VA SORCC Police Department, Potential for Violence, Assessing your Environment and Verbal Communication. The goal of the course is to learn how to protect yourself, escape from the situation and find help. All of the students passed a written exam and received a Certificate of Completion signed by Acting Chief Andy Paperman and Officer Luz Peterson. Thanks VAPD for supporting our student volunteers!



Who Am I? See page 9

What is Integrated Ethics Quality?

Leadership, Prevention, and Consultation

Ethics Leadership guides the organization's ethical environment and culture. Our leaders powerfully but nearly unnoticed, shape the ethical practices of the VA SORCC.

Preventive Ethics addresses ethical problems related to health care delivery and business processes. System issues may not be obvious or immediately visible but become apparent when looked for.

Ethics Case Consultation provides ethics analysis and recommendations about patient care that arise in the everyday practice of providing health care.

Annual Tree Lighting

VA SORCC Director, Dr. Max McIntosh, kicks off the Holidays by lighting the facility Holiday Tree during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Entertainment was provided by the students of Shady Point SDA Elementary School. On December 5 volunteers served refreshments. A visit by Saint Nick provided a photo opportunity for the “children”.



Director's Open House



Tom Marshall, CRD Specialist and his son, Jordan Marshall. If you have a, "Who Am I" photo you'd like to share, send it to The SOURCE Editor at (135)

Christmas Decoration Contest



“Most Outrageous” went to the Infirmary for their version of the Three Wise Men.



“Most Creative” by Day Treatment for the Polar Express.



“Most Traditional” by Outpatient Clinical Support for the Christmas Traditional Scene.

VA SORCC Thanks The Shakespeare

Shakespeare Festival
In Ashland
Presents:
WELCOME HOME JENNY SUTTER
The play is about a disabled veteran returning from Iraq

To show gratitude to veterans past and present; veterans and one guest will be admitted free.

Performances will be
1PM and 8PM Tue – Sun

Feb 19, 2008 - Jun 20, 2008

Call for reservations or information
(541) 482-2111



Dan Stephen (left) Volunteer Van Driver at the VA SORCC, presented Shakespeare representatives Amy Richard and Eddie Wallace of Media and Communications with our traditional pizza paddle to thank the Shakespeare Festival for supporting the VA SORCC. Their compassion has made it possible for our veterans to attend the 2007 Festival Season!

Have You Been To The VA SORCC Library Lately?

The Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics on-site Library has been in operation since 1949. Once occupying two full wings, it now nests in one of the lower south wings. The Library is a hub of information and an area often overlooked in resourcefulness, for both staff and patients. Striving to continuously update material and technology is a goal that Library staff devotes time and energy towards. In house books, periodicals, articles, videos and audios provide a constant stream of valuable feedback on topics of choice. Library personnel, including in-patient workers and volunteers, pride themselves in helping to assist in searching and hunting down that difficult bit of information that is desired.

There are three main sections to the SORCC Library. The front half is dedicated to patients, consisting of shelves upon shelves of fiction, non-fiction, mystery and various other books, including a reference section near the main desk with a audio book section, local and statewide news papers and periodicals. Another part of this forward section to the library is an extensive VCR and DVD collection with more than 3000 titles that are available for patients to view and/or check out.

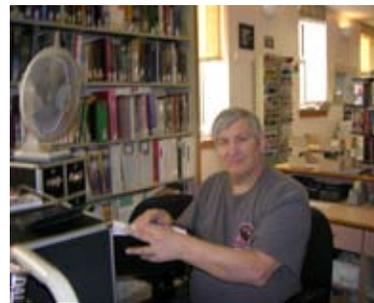
The back half of the library is dedicated to SORCC staff and medical personnel. Consisting of books, magazines, journals, satellite programs, audio, video and numerous articles, the medical library is frequently updating materials to keep staff well informed of recent advancements, discoveries and case studies.

The third section of the library is the computer center, a favorite location of patients. The computer room provides a place for down time as well as a source of communication and information. Strict guidelines and rules are posted and enforced to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all staff and patients. There is an abundance of software available for use and training and computer classes are available on a regular basis.

The Library depends upon a yearly budget and much appreciated donations from the local community. The SORCC Library is indeed an integral part of the SORCC. The doors are open seven days a week, Monday –Friday 8am to 9pm Saturday 9am to 9pm and Sunday and Holidays from 1pm to 9pm. Equipped with copy machines, faxes and mountains of information, the Library is eager and able to meet the needs of those seeking knowledge.



Bruce Viar, Satellite Coordinator
and Robert Hall, Library Coordinator



Tim Moomey, IT Worker



Abel Mendoza and Lawrence Free enjoy
reading the paper at the library

OEF-OIF Veterans

“Our Turn to Serve You”

The VA's OEF-OIF Program provides exclusive personal service to veterans returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other “hostile fire” areas.



Keith A. Welsh, LCSW
OEF-OIF Program Manager
541-826-2111 x3230
541-531-3274 (cell)



Billy Haden, MSW
OEF-OIF Case Manager
541-826-2111 x3798
541-778-8336 (cell)



Cynthia Houston
Transition Patient Advocate
541-440-1000 x40175
541-261-4108 (cell)

Please call one of the individuals above to learn more about the OEF-OIF Program and the benefits & services available to you through the Department of Veterans Affairs



Department of Veterans Affairs
Southern Oregon Rehabilitation
Center & Clinics



Employee News

Prepared by: Susan Black-Huff, HR Specialist

January 2008

WELCOME ABOARD:

Director Staff: Roy Horne, Associate Director

Business Management Office: Maria Parmer, Program Support MCCF; Monica Mortimer-Lamb, Supervisory Program Specialist, MCCF; Kerry Paperman, Supervisory Program Specialist, FEE; Erin Rice, Program Support Clerk, MCCF; Brandy Hall, Program Support Clerk, MCCF

Clinical Support: Debra Sitter, LPN

Facilities Management: David Schellinger, Energy Engineer; Robert Hicks, Budget & Fiscal Clerk; Bryan Bender, Electrical Worker; Tom McGahn, Painter

Medical Services: Dr. Richard James, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery; Suzanne Nielsen, Orthopedic Technician

Nutrition & Food Service: Cheryl Gray, FSW; Corena Bennett, FSW; Stacey Harvey, FSW; Teresa Morrison, FSW

Police Service: Richard Britton, Security Assistant

Residential Care: Mitch Ryan, Social Services Assistant; Jeffery Potts, Social Services Assistant

MOVING ON:

Director Staff/Outcomes: Dr. Charles Holmgren, Health System Specialist, Salem VAMC in Salem, VA

Mental Health Product Line: Dr. Kay Young, Psychiatrist Charlie Norwood VAMC Augusta, GA

MOVING AROUND:

Business Management Office: Nancy Jackson-Gardner, Promotion – Program Support Clerk, MCCF

Clinical Support: Denise Malvini, Reassignment – Occupational Health Nurse

Case Management/Residential Care: Andrea Cordova, Promotion – Secretary

RETIREEES:

Acquisitions: Kathy Baughman, Contract Specialist

Case Management: Betty Palko-Stockton, Psychological Technician

Facilities Management: Len Starr, Maintenance Supervisor.

Welcome! Associate Director Roy Horne



Roy Horne is a native of Earlsboro, Oklahoma and spent his childhood traveling the world as part of a U S Army family and graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice and Distinguished Military Graduate. Following graduation, he entered the US Army, for the second time, attending the Army Medical Department's Officers Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Roy Horne entered the U.S. Army in August 1980 and spent the next five years as a young enlisted man in various assignments with the 2nd Infantry Division, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), and the 504th Military Intelligence Battalion. In 1985 he applied for and was accepted to the University of TX; at El Paso with a

Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship graduating in May 1988. He served in various command and staff positions with the 3d ACR, Fort Bliss, Texas; 85th Medical Evacuation Battalion, Fort Lewis, WA; Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, CO; Eighth Army Headquarters, Seoul, Korea; 10th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Carson, CO; The US Army World Class Athlete Program, Fort Carson, CO, and Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, KS.

Roy served combat tours as the Treatment Platoon Leader, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d ACR during Operation Desert Storm and Executive Officer, 172nd Medical Logistics Battalion in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In August 2004 Roy began his VA career with the Denver Distribution Center, now known as the Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center, in Denver, CO. He spent short stints in Denver and Muskogee, OK, as the Chief of Acquisition and Materials Management before arriving in Asheville, NC in June 2005 as the Chief of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids. Roy began his tour as the Associate Director with the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics in January 2008.

Roy is married to his high school sweetheart of 27 years. His oldest child, daughter Terra Leanne, will be promoted to the rank of Captain in May 2008, in the Army Medical Department's Veterinary Corp with her first duty station being Fort Campbell, KY. His middle child, son Gaelen Royce, is a Junior at the University of Louisville, and his youngest child, daughter Kaitlen Marie is a Junior in high school.

The Benefit of a Cracked Pot. A Folk Tale.

A house servant had two large pots, which hung from each end of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot would be only half full. The other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

For two years the servant delivered each day only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable over accomplishing only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked pot spoke to the servant one day by the stream, "I'm ashamed of myself and I want to apologize to you." "What are you ashamed of?" asked the bearer. "For these past two years I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you don't get full value from your work."

The servant said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." As they went up the hill, the cracked pot noticed the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path. When they reached the house, the servant said to the pot, "Did you notice the flowers grew only on your side of the path, not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantages of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table."

Is there a moral to this story? The crack in the pot was not mended but its spirit was, when it realized that God can use the flawed one to brighten the world as well as the perfect. Most of the people we met today will be flawed, yet our spirit may be nourished during that encounter, just as theirs may be watered by us. However, if like the cracked pot we focus only on our flaw, then we will fail to see the flowers that we help to grow.

Today, may God use you as a valentine to bringing joy and color into the life of another!

Chaplain Bell

Chaplain's Corner

Day Treatment Program Annual Party

With the media full of stories about global warming and endangered species, it is heartening to know that a local Elk herd is thriving and sharing the warmth of their hearts with the veterans at the SORCC Day Treatment Program (DTP). The Ashland Elks and Friends have hosted an annual holiday party at SORCC for approximately 12 years. Their 2007 celebration was an special gala event. Santa's sleigh was loaded so full it took a record 42 Elks and Friends to haul it into the station theater on December 13. Sixty-two DTP veterans were honored and treated royally for the afternoon. Thanks to Wendy Hicks, the women veterans prepared for the event by getting a Mary Kay makeover by volunteers from Mary Kay.

The gift of music was one of the first holiday party events. The "IN-2-IT" jazz trio (Dennis Freese, Al Burman, and Doctor Steve) played a couple of delightful sets inspiring some enthusiastic dancing by volunteers and veterans. Meanwhile other guests enjoyed the music while engaging in table games and stimulating conversations.

A Christmas sing-along was hosted by Donna Sabin while the trusty sidekick Santa (Debbie Hatfield) made a list and checked it twice to determine which veterans were singing naughty or nice. SORCC's own Carol Berger called out the clues for the Christmas Card Bingo. The competition was so great that everyone won a canteen book. Ah yes, Habit 4 of the 7 Effective Habits: Think Win-Win.

Then there was the feast: 120 lbs. lasagna (meat or veggie), 18 lbs salad, 160 pieces garlic bread, 16 pies, 15 dozen sugar cookies, and undisclosed amounts of finger food

veggies, and candies prepared and catered by Roosters Restaurant and boxes of fruit from Harry and David's Bear Creek.

When it was time to unload Santa's sleigh, each veteran received a sweatshirt, package of socks, scarf, and a phone card followed by a trip to the 50ft. gift table to pick out another from the huge selection of items and to the table stacked with books from the Book Nook.

A fantastic time was had by all but one thing was missing. Rhonda Brustol, one of the prime planners of the event backed Dr. Moore into a corner and instructed him to reserve the theatre for the December 12, 2008 holiday party. Way to go, Rhonda!

And from the bottom of our hearts, thank you to all the Elks and Friends who celebrated with us and all the others who weren't able to be here but worked throughout the year to make this celebration a reality.



Mary Kay representative, patients and staff



Gordon Pritchett, Patient Advocate

Can help you with: Compliments, complaints or unmet needs. If you have SORCC policies and procedures questions not answered elsewhere come see me, I have an open door policy. My hours are:

6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Monday—Thursday
 Building 202, Room 103
 Ext. 3657

To submit articles, editorials, letters or story ideas for possible inclusion, please contact Rhonda Haney at:

541-830-7585 or via email:
 Rhonda.Haney@va.gov



NAME : _____ LAST FOUR : _____

Bowl	Candles
Candlesticks	Card
China	Condiments
Courses	Creamer
Cruet	Cups
Damask	Dips
Dishes	Drink
Elegant	Etiquette
Favors	Flowers
Forks	Formal
Fruit	Glass
Goblets	Holder
Knives	Lace
Leaf	Linen
Mats	Meal
Meat	Menu
Motif	Napkins
Pepper	Pitcher
Plate	Platter