

The USO Insider

A Note from the President

16 October 2006

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What a fantastic celebration we had at Ft. Lewis for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon !! It was a treat for me to meet a room full of dedicated USO volunteers, even if names and faces are still a bit of a blur. General Dubik's praise of the USO was well-deserved and should make you all proud. On behalf of our service members, he appreciated and acknowledged the many hours of service you have devoted to making the lives our troops better. And there were some stirring remarks about "your" Army as well. Congratulations to all and my heartfelt thanks to Joan Shalikashvili, Sylvia Key and the Committee who organized and conducted this event so masterfully.

Over the last month, preparations for our 40th Anniversary and the Red, White and Blue Gala have taken much of my attention. This festive dinner and auction fundraiser being held at the Fairmont Hotel on October 28 provides the resources to fund USO operations throughout the year. There are some opportunities for volunteers to assist in making this a memorable evening. My thanks to Carole Williams for pitching in as an Administration Volunteer working with Kelly on many important tasks leading up to this event.

Although the Gala, the SeaTac remodel and some Mobile Canteen planning are all important matters, I enjoyed setting them aside to join USO PSA Vice-Chair George Cargill and McChord USO Center Manager Tracye Kakely in hosting "First Mike" Gregoire for a tour of our McChord facilities recently. The Governor's husband is an Army veteran and has taken a leadership position in military matters within her administration. Accompanied by several officials including Director of Veterans Affairs John Lee, Mr. Gregoire learned about USO operations in McChord, support of deploying troops, distribution of USO care packages and plans for the USO Mobile Canteen. The group was impressed by the effort of the McChord USO team and gained new insights into USO working relationships at both the local and national level.

Tom



Director of Veterans Affairs John Lee (L) and "First Mike" review our care packages while visiting the McChord USO Center

McChord USO Center News

We have two new volunteers at McChord, Vicki and Warren Robbins. They are working the Wednesday morning 6am to noon shift. They have been here about three weeks, and are wonderful! Let us also thank Tommy Carson, Anne Shetlin, Dale Long, Don Booth, and Mary Seher as new McChord volunteers. Welcome everyone!!

The McChord USO has been in full swing with deployments. Let us thank the various donors who have contributed to the McChord USO: McChord AFB Commissary Vendors, AA Meats, Albertson's, Lakewood United, Jerry Ketner, Jane Mitchell, Mike and Georgia Kahler, Herb Schmeling, Bill Oplinger of the Disabled American Veterans of Tumwater, VFW #140, Harry Schreiber of the Federal Way Senior Center, Top Foods, Model "T" Ford Club, Gary Wilson for our Mountain Mist Water, Angela Swinehart for the produce, and the continuous support of the VFW #318, Western Donuts, and Rainier View Christian Church.

Tracye Kakely
McChord USO Manager

USO Mobile Canteen

Now that the USO Mobile Canteen is "street legal" in Washington, it's time to take this show on the road to support the troops in the field and provide more community visibility for the USO.

The Mobile Canteen made its first "deployment" on October 3rd for a Combined Federal Campaign Kick-Off and Recognition Breakfast at American Lake. Tim Lehnherr and Herb Schmeling were the 2-man team for this event since our operating policy requires a driver and spotter on all deployments. The Mobile Canteen will be rolling more frequently as we learn how to best take advantage of this new USO PSA capability. We are also beginning to reconfigure the interior so we can provide better service in the field.

We are building a pool of qualified volunteers to drive, spot and provide food or other services in future operations. Tim drove the rig back from Mississippi and has been our project lead. We need to build a core of drivers around him that we can list on our insurance policy and gas card for expected deployments ranging from the local area to Bangor, Whidbey, Everett and Yakima. Of course, we need non-driving team members also, so ***now is the time*** to get your name in the hat for a new brand of USO volunteerism. Contact Tracye at McChord, 253-589-8772, for more information.

SEATAC VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Wristband Donations

Procedure change: When you receive a donation for a wristband, please paper clip a note that details the date and amount to the wristband donation, and put it in the donation box. This will ensure that the funds are secure and will be counted and deposited regularly. Thanks in advance for following this new procedure!

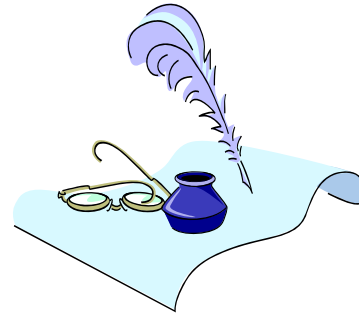
Port Security

Some of you may have seen or read about the lost CDs of information at the Port of Seattle. Some USO Volunteers information was included on these CDs. If your information was included, you would have already received a letter in the mail regarding this loss and what you can do to protect yourself. If you want more information on the loss, or want to check on the status of your name on the list, you can call the Port of Seattle at 1-888-902-7678.

"They stand on the wall for our freedom, we must honor them."

November Birthdays

Renate Higerson	November 1
Meleen Lavachek	November 3
Tom Anderson	November 7
Nola Strecker	November 18
Alan Hale	November 19
Karen Herrick	November 22
Rose Hall	November 26
Ann Schneider	November 27



Congratulations to Arlene and Sarge Carter who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on September 26.



We Need Your Help!

Our Wonderful Newsletter Volunteer is moving on, and we need a replacement. We also need help in the Regional Offices. If you'd like to help with the Volunteer Newsletter or in the USO Office, please give Kelly a call. 206-246-1908 ext. 1

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 28 October –
USO Gala, Fairmont
 Olympic Hotel

Saturday, December 2,
 2006 - **Volunteer Holiday
 Party**

COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

First time experience and I enjoyed my stay. The staff was awesome. Very helpful and friendly. The facility was clean. A very positive experience. Thank you.

Thanks for the outstanding service and hospitality. Hooah to the staff!!
 SFC Mitchell
 Korea

Thank you so much! What a blessing to have this safe haven. You go above and beyond to help in every way you can.
 Mrs. Cien
 Okinawa

This is great! Thank you for being here for all of us. ☺
 K. Malloy
 Sasebo, Japan

Thank you so very much for your service and willingness to make our lives more comfortable as we try to make yours.

I was truly grateful for the services provided by this organization. The staff was extremely courteous and attentive. I was very surprised.
 Kenneth L Daniel
 Osan AFB, Korea

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Thank Yous

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held at Ft. Lewis on September 26 and was a huge success. A good time was had by all. A big Thank You to Todd and Donna Rosenberg for their donation of 6 Husky Football tickets and 6 Mariners Baseball tickets. The winners of the Husky tickets were Lloyd Case, Michael Fisch and Elida Maduzia. Winners of the Mariner tickets were A. J. Bilderback, Verona Huff and Birgit Hunter.

Another big Thank You goes to Herb Bridge who donated sterling silver purse necklaces. The following volunteers were lucky winners of this drawing. Sally Adams, Michael Ballard, Bill Barker, Joice Bueling, Rodney Call, Don Dinsmore, Larry Doyle, John Gowdy, Diane Haines, Yvonne Hale, Priscilla Huber, Meleen Lavachek, Duncan Manning, Scott Norris, Margaret Ranes, Art Thompson, Jim Tryer, Debbie Ward and Carole Jo Williams.

The third drawing was donated by Patriots Landing in DuPont, WA which was dinner for four. The volunteers who were the lucky winners of this drawing were: Perry Christensen, Gail DeBolt, Andrew Dinsmore, Evalena Hatcher, Cheryl Jackson, Don Joss, Vic Kaufman, Ann Schneider, Solveig Steenerson and Ed Willert.

Congratulations to all the winners.

It was very nice to have the McChord Volunteers attend the luncheon.

Sylvia



Lt. Gen. Dubik Praised the USO as the 'heart of America' in its service to members of the military and their families



A free **USO Dance** will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2006 from 1 - 6 pm at the Everett Senior Activity Center. This will be a good old fashioned USO dance. They will have an 18-piece swing band (to get us "In The Mood"), plus refreshments. uniforms and vintage clothing from the 1940s on display In other wordsthe works!

Please mark your calendars and plan to drop by for an afternoon of music and memories from an era gone by.

The SeaTac USO will be involved with this event. If you would like to help, please let me know. We will have a table and will be serving doughnuts and coffee.

The address is:
Everett Senior Activity Center
3025 Lombard
Everett, WA 98201
Phone number: 425-257-8780

I hope some of our volunteers will be able to attend.

Sylvia

Sea-Tac Remodel Update

Harrah's Unity Grant Improves SeaTac USO Center Capabilities

The USO Puget Sound Area received a generous grant from Harrah's through the USO World Headquarters to improve our ability to serve military travelers in the SeaTac Center. Making this remodeling project happen is a team effort and included donated architectural planning by Collins-Woerman, close consultation with our landlords in the Port of Seattle as represented by Board Member Jeff Paradee, recommendations from Center Manager Sylvia Key with a committee of volunteers and some interim Project Management by Floyd "Mac" McDonald and Kelly Carey during a USO leadership transition.

Proposals were received based on architectural specifications and our construction permit was approved. The Port is responsible for relocating several doors and taking care of any possible asbestos. Our contractor is performing this work in phases so that service members and volunteers can continue to function with minimum mess and disruption. Here is our approach:

Phase 1 – Open a new TV room in the former storage area, cut a new door, relocate the TV into this area for less disruption of families or resting travelers, repaint walls and install lounge furniture. Gaming may also be moved to this area. Relocate and expand luggage storage room in the former office area – install shelving on three walls and relocate the Manager's Office door; use existing steel shelving for additional luggage space in the adjoining water storage room. Remove old carpets, install tile flooring and paint as needed. Relocate freezers and improve pantry – install new electrical circuits and relocate freezers to this convenient location, add metal bakery shelves in the former hall area for food storage, install a pantry door, then seal the rear doorways to return the former luggage/freezer room and back exit to the Port of Seattle.

Phase 2 – Relocate the bunk room door from the pantry area to the hallway across from the restroom and showers for more privacy, enclose glassed bunk room wall and add electrical circuits for vending machine, refrigerator, milk and microwave; use existing food service counters temporarily. Remove phone booths to leave a free standing partition in front of restrooms and make room for relocation of the vending machine, etc. along the bunk room wall.

Phase 3 – Replace old carpet and parquet flooring with new hardwood in the Manager's Office and throughout the entry, dining, lounge and hall areas as a minimum, relocate the check-in counter to the opposite wall outside pantry and provide some Center privacy from the corridor by using a free-standing screen bearing USO and service logos. We hope to have new furnishings and perhaps a game table to add in the lounge area. We may also relocate the computer room counter to the left wall of the lounge area for Internet access in this activity area using four additional desktops that were recently donated to the USO by Lockheed Martin.

Phase 4 will be started after we catch our breath, decide what we want our food service and storage cabinets to do along the bunk room wall and what other refinements are appropriate and affordable with additional funding.

We appreciate the financial support of Harrah's in making this project a reality for the many service members and their families that travel through SeaTac Airport. Their kindness has also improved the ability of our dedicated USO volunteers to meet needs of travelers with greater ease and efficiency.



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