

Fall
2024

Events

Halloween Social at Pelicans

Over two dozen members met at Pelicans for a ghoulishly good time of socializing and good food (without us having to do the dishes)! After a short meeting, we enjoyed each other's company and learned the average skeleton has 206 bones!

Veterans Day Parade

Midwest City will hold their annual Veterans Day Parade, and this year's theme is Military Women so, of course, the WVO will have a float. We couldn't say no when this year's Parade Marshall is Rita Aragon! The parade is Monday, Nov 11, at 1000. The grand stand will be on Douglas between 15th and the park. Email Pam if you'd like a seat on the float (limited seating). Hope to see you there!

HQOKWVO Annual Christmas Party!

If you missed the Halloween party, you have another chance to party with us! This year, we will celebrate the season on Sunday, Dec 8, at 1400 (2 pm). Phyllis has secured the clubhouse at The Grove - 425 SE 4th, Moore, OK 73160 off I-35 and 4th. There's parking just inside the gate and to the left and (pg 2)

What's Happening?



The purpose of this Organization is to provide an opportunity for locating, communicating, and associating with military women in Oklahoma of the various military services. The OKWVO may serve as a medium of exchange between women veterans and other veteran Organizations. To provide assistance, where needed, to Oklahoma women veterans.



Halloween Party!

HQOKWVO Annual Christmas Party! (cont from pg 1)

the clubhouse is catty-corner to it. You'll see us! There are limited spots in front of the building so let's save those for women who need help maneuvering or for dropping off items. We'll have our usual potluck and Dirty Santa (\$25 max), and adopt a woman in need. Keep an eye out for the email from Lorraine with details and to RSVP.

Contact Us

Oklahoma Women
Veterans Organization - HQ

PO Box 1094
Choctaw, OK 73120

405.340.1356

Email: Cadman6@cox.net

OKWVO.org

Fundraisers

OKWVO License Plate

Oklahoma has a Women Veteran license plate, and it's easy for you to get one, too. OKWVO receives \$20 from each plate, which is used to assist women in need, scholarships, and MWM. Just go online to Service Oklahoma at <https://oklahoma.gov/service.html> and search for specialty plates; we're listed under 'special interest plates' and will be on or around page 34 in the catalog. Or you can go straight to the form by going to: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/service-oklahoma/Documents/mv-forms/license-plate/710-A%20Pre-Numbered%20Fund%20Raising%20Plate.pdf>

Our code is WVA

Denim Shirts

Pam modeled a beautiful denim shirt with the OKWVO logo. Running will bring samples in each size to the February meeting for you to try on and order. There is a pocket on one side and you can have your name embroidered over the pocket if you'd like for a small additional charge. Come to the February meeting to try one on and place your order.

February Meeting

Our February 15 meeting will be back at the Sunnyslane Family Center, 3900 SE 29th St, Del City (near 29th & Sunnyslane). Meet and greet at 1000 and the meeting will begin at 1030. We will install the new officers and begin a new year. Bring yourself, bring a friend, and bring ideas of what you would like to do in 2025! This is your organization so it's important for you to let us know how you want us to proceed.

Happy Birthday Sisters!

November

Ruth Ann Tintsman

December

Judy Schlageter
Rita Aragon
Phyllis Dorough-Barker
Linda Powell
Diane Loser
Bev Moran
Sonja Hatfield
Evyonne "Running" King
Cynthia Gillion
Karen Kelly

Today's Joke

I remembered how hard basic training was for me. When my son went to basic, I worried how were they treating my baby! I asked my son, "How are you doing?"

He responded: "Gee mom, after being raised by you, this is a picnic!"

Fun Fact

Julia Childs is remembered most for gourmet cooking. However, during WWII, she tried to enlist in the Women's Army Corps (WACs). She was rejected because she was too tall at 6' 2".

Instead, she joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS - the precursor to the current CIA). She was assigned to the Emergency Sea Rescue Equipment Section to help develop her first recipe - shark repellent! The Navy used it on pilots' life vests and explosives (to deter sharks from setting off mines).

WVO Needs

Are you looking for a way to serve the organization? Here are some of the committees that need chairs and committee members. Please let me know if you would like to serve in one or more areas.

Social Chair

Social Media Chair

Web Administrator

Newsletter Editor

Historian

History – The House that Wilma Built

Often at our WVO meetings, we ask if you're a member of the Military Women's Memorial (MWM) (formerly WIMSA). We ask because we feel it's important. It's so important that we voted to designate a portion of our license plate money to our Memorial. Did you notice the words "our Memorial?" Yes, that's why it's important. It's important because it's *our Memorial* – it's a living history of the women who served or currently serve our nation, and it needs to include you.

Even though the Memorial turns 27 this year, many women have never heard of it. I always tell people if you're going through the main gate of Arlington, look to the right and you'll see a large, white hemicycle. That is our Memorial, which you can enter through Arlington. Even if you've been to it before, you should always visit it when you're in D.C. because the displays change and are inspiring.

OKWVO members marched across the bridge to be a part of history 27 years ago as it was dedicated, and we've been a part of her history ever since. Some senators said women already had the Vietnam Women's Memorial, but BGen Wilma Vaught argued that a statue or monument was not enough; what was needed was a memorial with exhibits about the contributions of women in the armed forces. Because of her fortitude and determination, we have a Memorial...we have the house that Wilma built!

If you were fortunate enough to attend any of the 30+ Women Veterans Recognition Days (WVRD) held in Oklahoma, you had the opportunity to meet and hear BGen Vaught speak. She came to many of them because she knew how important the Oklahoma women veterans are to MWM.

If you're not a member, please register your service with MWM so others will know about you now and in the future. Historians use our first-person accounts to prove and learn things about the past that were left out of history books. Your story will help others know we were there when history happened.

To register or to learn more, please visit: <https://womensmemorial.org/>

Remembrance

We stood on these women's shoulders as they led the way. They were members who are loved and will always be missed.

Army

Hazel Mills

Navy

Evelyn Einfeldt
Gail Loula

AF

Marion Hedrick
Rebecca Lawrence
Charlotte Mansfield
Rosemary "Skip" McDonald
Loretta Rethard
Julie Schuman
Karen Waldron

Marines

Dorthay Bebout
Mary Glann
Pat Goss
Juanita Parsons
Betty Raines
Lucy Shank
Joan Willauer

Officer Elections

At the Oct meeting, Running, the election chairperson, read the names of those who have offered to serve as your officers for the next two years. Please support them as they work with you to make this organization meaningful to you and others.

President: Sonja Hatfield, USAF

I've been a WVO member for 14 years and the treasurer for 12 of those years. I said I'd never join a women's group because I hate the high school drama that brings, but this group was different. I enjoy helping other veterans and hearing the stories we all bring from our different experiences. I believe this is your organization, and I am just here to facilitate what you want it to be.

Vice President: Evyonne "Running" King, USAF

I have been a member of the WVO for over 20 years. I attended my first meeting after moving to OK when the current Treasurer had to step down. I raised my hand and was the Treasurer for many years until Sonja Hatfield volunteered to continue and give me a break. I worked many positions within the WVO, which I love doing when you work with wonderful ladies. Hick-ups and all, we are truly sisters/family. I love being part of a women's organization that cares and helps others; from helping financially to giving whatever support they need. I will strive even harder to be a VP our ladies can be proud of and assist my sister officers to accomplish WVO goals.

Secretary: Lorraine Caddy, USAF

I am a USAF Retired Chief Master Sgt (E-9). I've been a member of the Hq OKWVO for just over 20 years and have been your Secretary for the past 12 years. I thoroughly enjoy working with all of you and am looking forward to your suggestions for events over the next two years while in office. Let's make the next two years a time of fellowship among all our members and offering help when needed to our sisters in uniform.

Treasurer: *Pam Bloustine, USMC

*Pam has agreed to fill in as treasurer until someone volunteers to fill the position. Hint...hint!

So, what do you think?

This was just a quickly thrown together newsletter to see if you want one.

Do you want a newsletter? If so, how often? What would you like to see in it? What social media platforms do you use most often? Email Sonja your thoughts, ideas, and questions. Sonjasmail73110@yahoo.com