

The USO Insider

10 January 2007

A Note from the President

Happy New Year's 2007...

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For the year ahead, my hopes are that every military member we serve comes home safely and that everyone in the USO Puget Sound family – volunteers, board members, donors and staff – experience the satisfaction of jobs well done enriching the lives of our servicemen and women.

By this time next year, I expect that the SeaTac and McChord USO Centers will have been significantly upgraded in their capacity to support the troops and that the USO Mobile Canteen will have been fully integrated into our operations in the Puget Sound area. Working with the Board of Directors, an improved committee structure will be in place to provide the financial resources and committed leadership necessary to the vitality of our organization. We will also work to build greater regional awareness of the USO, the way we carry out our mission and our capabilities as a partner with military, community and business groups to benefit the quality of life for our service members. And I want us all to have fun in the process.

Thank you all for your dedicated service in 2006 and my best wishes for a healthy, happy 2007.

Tom Hinman CDR USN (Ret.)
President & Executive Director
USO Puget Sound Area



Long term McChord volunteer Ella Young joins Santa and his helpers from SAAF and Top Foods for Operation Santa II.

SeaTac & McChord Birthdays

January

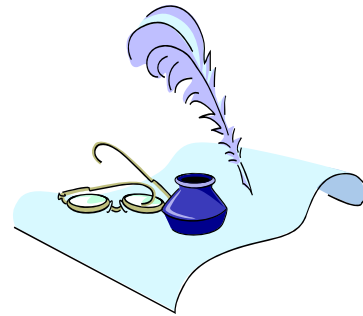
Dick Gates	January 01
Joan Jennings	January 02
Max Carpenter	January 04
Fred Behrmann	January 04
Loyd Case	January 06
Carole Jo Williams	January 06
Margie Lindberg	January 11
Diane Belanger	January 12
Bahdra Schuler	January 13
Doug Crowell	January 17
Deanna Yabe	January 17
Ed Willert	January 18
John Downs	January 19
Floyd Earl	January 23
Tracy Early	January 23
Marilyn Joyce	January 24
Tim Lehnherr	January 25
Allen J. Bilderback	January 25
Ann Harris	January 28
Sandy Stober	January 29
Linda Hagen	January 29



Please welcome the following new volunteers:

McChord

- Dave Cason (returning volunteer)
- Shizuko Costello (returning volunteer)
- Larry Finnegan
- Katheren Gomez
- Ann Harris
- Dale Long
- Rich Starks
- Barbara Perry
- Carolyn Mackay



COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

Thank you to the volunteers who sit here. We are grateful that the USO was here. We do not know the Seattle area ... Thank you for the food, the opportunity to take a shower and a nap. The soldiers do appreciate SeaTac for accommodating them!

Jim & Beth Cunningham, North Pole, AK

Thanks for your hard work! Very thankful for what you do!

PFC Jared Wyner, USMC Oorah!

As a retiring 1SG, I take great pleasure in thanking fellow volunteers. This is the second time that my wife and I have visited your USO branch. I noticed that you converted one room into a childrens' room and put up Christmas lights... a beautiful touch that only someone who cares could do. Again, thanks for your support. It was my honor to protect your rights and freedoms.

1SG Gene Baird

The USO has offered me nothing but great care and excellent service. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

PV2 Jonathan D. Freeman

“They stand on the wall for our freedom; we must honor them.”

SeaTac Center Updates

Our 2007 All USO Volunteer Christmas Party was a big success. We had a good turn out, with lots of great food. The Hanky Panky Band provided some swing music and Christmas Carols were sung. Lots of Volunteers participated in the White Elephant exchange. What great gifts! After several attempts by Sylvia to try and exchange with everyone, she ended up with some towels, cookies and a candle. Doris Spence was our MC for the gift drawings. Max Carpenter won the big prize, a night at the Clairon Hotel with Breakfast for two. Several bottles of wine were distributed in the drawing along with poinsettias,

In attendance were George Cargill, Chairman of the USOPSA Board, Tom Hinman, President/Executive Director and his wife Monica, as well as our Kelly Carey, Regional Office Manager.

Many Thanks to Art & Doris and Solveig & Frank for all their hard work in getting everything set up.

HAPPY NEW YEARS TO YOU ALL!



American Logistics Association Representatives offload their large annual donation to SeaTac Center volunteers Frank & Solveig Steenerson and Center manager Sylvia Key. In addition to their large in-kind donation, the American Logistics Association donated \$1,000 to the USO.

Attention All SeaTac Center Volunteers:

Port of Seattle Badges will no longer be required for SeaTac Center Volunteers effective March 1st, 2007. If your badge is expired, or will expire soon, please do not renew your badge. ***All Port of Seattle Badges for volunteers should be returned to Sylvia by 3/1/07.*** You must keep and maintain your USO badge. Please speak to Sylvia if you have any questions or concerns on this matter. We are considering improving our USO badges to include a picture - if you have the capability to help with this project, please let us know!

Other SeaTac News...

Our sympathy goes out to Mike Gazarek and his family on the passing of his Mother. She was laid to rest on January 11, 2007.

We would also like to wish the very best to Mike Gazarek on his upcoming surgery. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you Mike. He will be entering Swedish Hospital (Downtown) on Tuesday, January 16.

Good News on Mike Ballard: Mike Ballard, who volunteers on the 4-8am shift on Thursday mornings, has been in Highline Medical Center for over a month. He went in for a surgery that at first went well but developed into an infection that got into his blood system. He spent some time in a coma and was given less than 10% chance of recovery. He has come out of the coma and is doing well. He is currently at Riverton Rehabilitation. He lost quite a bit of weight in the process and will probably be at Riverton for a month to 45 days. He is grateful for all the thoughts and prayers that have been sent his way. We will be glad to have Mike back as a volunteer.

McChord & Mobile Canteen Updates

McChord Volunteer Christmas Party:

The McChord USO Volunteers enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Celebration on December 14th. Gifts were exchanged, a lot of food was consumed, and there was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!

Programs and Events:

Dec 6th-McChord USO partnered with the University Primary Latchkey program to provide personalized placemats for American Lake residents for their Christmas Dinner. Approximately 15 people were served.

Dec 8th-The McChord USO participated in the McChord Christkindlmarkt and sold USO Bears and Support our Troops wristbands. Approximately \$171.00 was raised through sales.

Dec 14th-Tracye Kakely, McChord USO Center Manager, did another call in to KLAY Radio to discuss the USO, it's accomplishments, and future plans.

Dec 15th-The McChord USO partnered with a local Albertsons to have fresh baked chocolate chip cookies baked for Madigan hospital. Approximately 50 bags of cookies were delivered.

Dec 16th-The McChord USO again partnered with SAAF and Harborstone Credit Union for another Operation Santa. Approximately 40 boxes of food was donated to support families on McChord AFB and Fort Lewis. USO Bears and Support our Troops wristbands were sold raising over \$700.00 in cash donations.

Dec 20th-The McChord USO helped support the Fort Lewis Fisher House for their Christmas Party. Ten children and their families were delighted with gifts, pizza and cookies for their special celebration.

Volunteer Assistance Request

Would you like to be a driver for the Mobile Canteen and/or help with Mobile Deployments? Please contact our McChord Center Manager Tracye at 253-589-8772, or tracye@usopsa.org

Are you good with computers and/or filing? The Regional Offices could use your help! Please give Kelly a call at 206-246-1908 ext 1 or email her at kelly@usopsa.org

Ode to The USO Santa

A true story as told to T. Hinman

'Twas the Night Before Christmas at the USO Center
When who did we see but Santa Claus enter.

He had an ID and was off for a flight
By the time he checked out, 'twas a magical night.

Five small kids in a family were waiting to leave
On a long trip to Florida, that Christmas Eve.

Sylvia said, "it's time for a party" and gave them a grin
"Dad, pick each a toy out from the Tots bin within"

While wrapping the gifts to put under the tree,
She looked up with a shock, for whom did she see.

A red-shirted man, with a red had to match,
Walked in our front door as she finished the batch.

His full beard was white as the new-fallen snow,
And his eyes were a-twinkle, like Santa, y'know.

So Sylvia said, "You've answered my prayer,
For a St. Nick to cheer up the family in there."

He got his hand stamped after logging his name,
And he got all geared up for a moment of fame.

There were hand-made cookies and glasses of milk,
And the kids each got gifts, it went smooth as silk.

When you think of the center on that Christmas Night
For one family, at least, their trip started right.

So thanks now to Sylvia, and the USO crew,
To volunteers all, for the work that you do.

That family said, as they left for their flight,
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

