



OCF Langley photo



Ministry news, events, and resources
to keep you informed and...

CONNECTED

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**OCF's mission is to engage military leaders
in Biblical fellowship and growth to
equip them for Christlike service at the
intersection of faith, family, and profession.**

BY KAREN FLIEDNER

CONTENT SPECIALIST

Focus on members: Where do you see yourself in OCF?

What should be the focus of a nearly 78-year-old ministry to the military, against a backdrop of societal and cultural change, as well as a global pandemic? The answer to this question is one Council President COL Ric Schumacher, USA (Ret.), and OCF Executive Director couple Col Scott and Christie Fisher, USAF (Ret.), have prayerfully considered since assuming their respective roles on 1 June 2020.

As it turns out, the answer isn't a new one, and it can be found in OCF's founding document from 1943—Biblical Relationship. Scott says the renewed effort of OCF should be "to connect more deeply with our members and to facilitate two-way communication from and to them, so they

can effectively impact the military community as Christlike leaders."

Ric echoed that sentiment: "We needed to intensively focus on infrastructure during the capital campaign, and now we need the same intensive focus on our members."

The hope for widespread, reciprocal interactions among all OCF members is centered primarily on its local leaders, the boots-on-the-ground leaders in military communities who facilitate OCF small-group fellowships. This focus—specifically bolstering our support structure, training, and sustained relationship with them—is at the core of OCF's upcoming five-year plan, called Strategic Framework 2.0.

"This framework reflects the intense focus on connecting with

Story continues inside

Continued from the front

members in terms of short- and long-term efforts,” said Ric.

The ministry wants these lay leaders to feel that they are known, appreciated, and vital to its objective of a military community positively impacted by Christlike leaders.

“Without lay leaders stepping up, the mission of OCF fails,” said LTC Colin Wooten, USA (Ret.), Director of Field Operations. “OCF is member-led and minimal in staff by design. This is absolutely vital, because members are able to go throughout the military society where staff can’t go.”

“OCF’s mission and vision remain unchanged; OCF remains member-led, focused on our dual calling to the nation and our Lord, and committed to lifetime fellowship with one another,” said Scott.

Key to successfully casting a vision of OCFers who stay engaged with each other is “building an infrastructure for regional coordinators and area coordinators who ‘love on and shepherd’ the leaders of local OCF ministry,” Colin said.

In many ways, this is a revitalization of previous OCF “circuit riders” who operated in the Acts 15:36 model of visiting others to support and encourage them.

“The heart behind it is done in relationship. It’s not prescriptive, not orders, not a chain of command. It’s a ‘network of



Where do you see yourself serving in OCF?

Check out our growing list of opportunities to serve throughout OCF. As we have more chances to volunteer, we’ll add them to this list. Just visit: ocfusa.org/volunteer

shepherds,’” Colin said.

“As we develop this network of regional and area coordinators, we simultaneously desire to invest in our local leaders with intentional engagement that informs new local leaders about how OCF operates and can support them,” said Colin. “This will include methods that take advantage of multiple technologies available today, while also putting a premium on relationship.”

Ric points out two other contributing factors he feels will aid in achieving that

connectedness: the Integrated Faith Project and the OCF Directory. “The IFP coming fully online helps with enriching content and making it fully accessible from remote locations,” he said. “The work on making OCFers able to find each other virtually from all the places from where they are living will help with knowing who is in a general area.”

If we are to be truly Christlike leaders, Scott says OCF members “need to engage across the entirety of the military community, loving one another deeply as Christ loves us (1 John 4:7-21), acknowledging that Christ has knocked down the walls that divide us so that He might ‘reconcile us in one body...through the cross, thereby killing the hostility’ (Ephesians 2:13-16), and that He calls us to partake in His mission of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).”

As in the first century church, the need for laborers is abundant. Scott’s call in mobilizing the OCF membership is for all to “prayerfully consider how and where they see themselves in God’s kingdom work through OCF.”

“In order to tangibly strengthen our connectivity, we have an enormous need for members to step into the yoke with the Lord and one another. If you are willing to be spent for the Gospel, we have a myriad of areas where you can sign up to serve,” Scott said.

“OCF cannot accomplish the mission He has called us to without you.”

Ministry Events

Celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays at OCF’s Conference Centers

At Spring Canyon

Winter Sports Retreat takes place in two sessions, lasting one week each, over both the Christmas and New Year holidays. Winter sports, such as snow tubing, sledding, downhill and cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing, are unique elements of Spring Canyon’s WSR. Each week will feature a different speaker, and adults can expect dynamic seminars and small group sessions. Age-specific

programs for children, youth, and teens provide lasting memories and exciting experiences for the whole family. Additional daily childcare may also be available.

#1: December 19 - December 26

#2: December 27 - January 3

springcanyon.org/winter-sports-retreat/

At White Sulphur Springs

Experience for yourself why so many have made Winter Retreat part of their family’s holiday tradition. The quiet of the snow on the mountains, a table laden with good food, a warm hearth, the beauty of Heritage House illuminated in celebration of the season, life-changing connections with family and loved ones. Some special events at Winter Retreat include: Christmas

Communion Service, Manger Service with live Nativity, Caroling in the Cove, Skiing at local slopes, New Year’s Eve Communion Service, Candy-Making Classes, Ice Skating on the Pond, and more. Each retreat will be capped at 100 guests to allow for more room for social distancing—**sign up soon so you don’t miss your spot!** For dates, speakers, and more details, visit whitesulphursprings.org/winter-retreat.

More events you might be interested in

The OCF website maintains a list of events at both conference centers and throughout the ministry. Get more info at: bit.ly/ocfevents

Ministry News

ROTC ministry update

LTC Greg and LTC Lucy Lane, USA (Ret.), Associate Field Staff reps for OCF's ROTC ministry since 2018, the first ROTC staff reps since Tom Hemingway in the 1990s, are stepping down from that position.

Lt Col Larry and Rita Sherbondy, USAF (Ret.), will join staff on 1 September to fill the Lanes' role. The Lanes will continue as OCF Area Coordinators for Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and lead the annual Eastern OCF ROTC retreat at White Sulphur Springs.

The growth of OCF ROTC ministry efforts at many venues, particularly in collaboration with sister ministries such as Valor and the Navigators, is pictured by the example of the extraordinary summer of ministry now wrapping up at the Army's Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox.

"We are in awe of what the Lord has done and how He has used Bob Deckard and his daughter Janell to oversee the volunteer efforts to run the cadet Bible studies," said Greg. "It has been so neat to see the Navigators ROTC staff, VALOR staff, and other volunteers help."

More than 3,200 cadets and cadre attended the Bible studies, with 29 praying to receive Christ.

Tami Waring joins staff



Tami Waring, a 1984 USAFA graduate who served on active duty for 5 years, began a new post in OCF on 1 June as Associate Field Staff for Women's Engagement. Active in OCF ministry from her days as a cadet, to serving with husband Hous in positions on the field staff and in the home office, her ministry for OCF women fills a critical need as identified by OCF's current priorities.

Ryan Wainwright joins staff



LTC Ryan Wainwright, USA (Ret.), recently retired from the military after 22 years of service, was selected to serve as OCF's Assistant Director of Field Operations. Introduced to OCF while a plebe at USMA, the 1999 graduate led an OCF ministry wherever the Army sent him. His addition to the operations team bolsters the ministry's goal of greater engagement with members and leaders according to FY22 priorities and the Strategic Framework 2.0.

Newport FS position

OCF is seeking to fill a new full-time Field Staff position at Newport, Rhode Island, with a desired start date summer 2022. Further information may be found at www.ocfusa.org/job-openings/ or by contacting marci.morris@ocfusa.org.

Council news

This coming November is the nomination period for Class of 2025 candidates who will run on the ballot for the February of 2022 Council elections. OCF regular members (present/former officers, officer candidates, cadets, and midshipmen) are eligible to participate. Each nominee must have an endorsement from at least three members.

Those elected will begin a three-year term on 1 June 2022. For more information, contact tori.mcdaniel@ocfusa.org or 1-800-424-1984.

OCF members who began service on OCF Council 1 June after being elected earlier this year are LTC Eric Gust, USA; ENS Brigit Jogan, USCG; Lt Col Scott Johnson, USAF; LTC J. Keith Purvis, USA (Ret.);

and LTC Joseph Rheney, USA (Ret.). Council members elected to extend their terms into the Class of 2024 are Col Dale Holland, USAF (Ret.), and LTC Ryan Strong, USA (Ret.).

The Council members are COL Paul (Ric) Schumacher, USA (Ret.)—President; LTC Stephen Schmidt, USA—Vice President; LT James Rader, USCG—Secretary; and COL Rob Jassey, USA (Ret.)—Treasurer.

Births, Weddings, Taps

WEDDINGS

Susanne Hartkop, married **LTC Mark Pappal, USA (Ret.)**, 21 July 2021. Their home is Manns Choice, PA.

TAPS

Reba Anderson, 3 July 2021, Shalimar, FL. She and her late husband **Andy** were original members of the volunteers program at WSS, dating back to 1983.

JoAnne Baldwin, 26 June 2021, wife of **LTC Russell Baldwin, USA (Ret.)**, Lansing, KS.

Lola Deckard, 22 April 2021, wife of **LTC Bob Deckard, USA (Ret.)**, Vine Grove, KY. Lola was a co-Bible study leader with Bob in connection with chapel activities for the Army's annual ROTC Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY.

(CH) LTC Robert Herndon, USA (Ret.), 8 March 2021, husband of **Lydia Herndon**, Peachtree City, GA.

Lt Col Eugene Miller, USAF (Ret.), 10 May 2021, husband of **LaVerne Miller**, Littleton, CO.

Fay Morgan, 25 March 2021, wife of **COL Al Morgan, USA (Ret.)**, Rapid City, SD.

Maj John Poole, USAF (Ret.), 16 November 2020, husband of **Susan Poole**, Foothill Ranch, CA.

Marjorie Zimmerman, 6 June 2021, wife of **Maj Carl Zimmerman, USAF (Ret.)**, Kirkwood, MO.

SEND US YOUR BWT

Births, Weddings, Taps are published as space allows. To submit a BWT, email karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org.



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Now playing on the podcast

Listen to these stories of military life in Season 2:

- > Chipu Chu: "I was broken. I needed a savior."
- > Becky Haggerty: "God, why don't you care?"
- > Rico Lane: "I just didn't have that loving relationship with a father."
- > Chris Thompson, Gold Star Mother: "God wants you to keep on living."
- > Aaron Zimmerman: Finding peace when our identity is in Christ
- > Lynda Johnson: "I no longer see myself as the star of my movie."
- > Grant Johnson: "Your identity is not wrapped up in the aircraft you're flying."
- > Hannah Johnson: "In order to glorify God, I have to have it all together."

Look for OCF Crosspoint wherever you listen to podcasts,
or subscribe online at ocfusa.org/subscribe.

