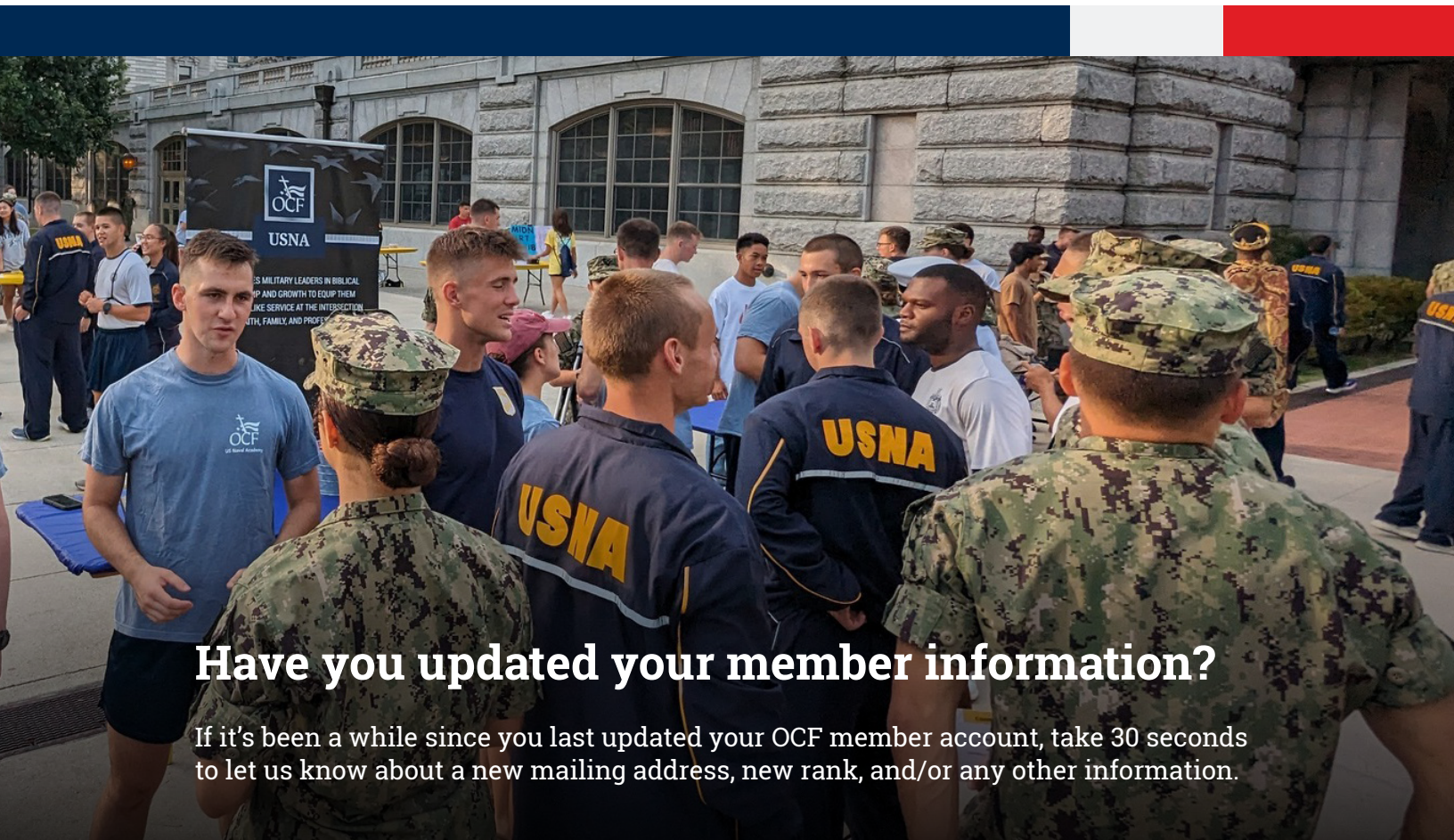




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Photo by Karen Fliedner

Over 140 OCF members, families, and ministry friends gathered 5 August to celebrate OCF's move from its 40-year residence in Denver to Colorado Springs.



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

CONNECTED

FALL 2023

CONNECTED TEAM

Publisher Officers' Christian Fellowship
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Col Chet Arnold, USMC (Ret.), Deputy Executive Director
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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
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

To the casual observer, the picnic scene on the neatly manicured grounds of the David C Cook building in Colorado Springs, Colo., was not unlike other summer weekend gatherings taking place across the country.

The 140 or so people from multiple generations and services who were clustered around tables underneath tents on 5 August were looking forward to the opportunities there for warm fellowship while dining on savory smoked barbecue with all the sides, fixings, and desserts.

However, this year's annual Colorado Springs OCF community-area

picnic was more than just a gathering for food and fellowship; it was also a celebration of OCF's move from its 40-year residence outside Denver to its new location in Colorado Springs.

What does the relocation of OCF's ministry support center in May mean for OCF and its ministry looking ahead? It was a question that ministry leaders addressed during the open house remarks by casting a vision of the anticipated prospects for God's kingdom work through OCF.

Scott Fisher, OCF CEO/Executive Director, said the move from the Englewood location, where the OCF home office had been for over half of

Story continues inside

OCF’s 80-year history, was not a decision taken lightly.

“After much prayer and counsel, we genuinely believe the God who appoints the times and boundaries of nations has guided OCF to Colorado Springs in this season for His purposes, some of which we acknowledge we still don’t fully comprehend,” said Scott, also quoting Isaiah 43:19: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” By His grace and power, this can be a pivotal milestone in the life of OCF, enabling our home office to become a vital hub of ministry operations.”

OCF Council president Dale Holland added: “What an amazing thing to have a place here to build relationships and help officers integrate their faith and profession,” noting that the office move places OCF in the heart of one of the nation’s most concentrated and diverse military communities.

A point that Scott reiterated in more detail: “With approximately 90,000 veterans, 40,000 active duty members, one of the greatest concentrations of OCF members in the nation, and over 200 Christian ministries, we can’t wait to see how God will work in the military community through this move for His glory!”

Those sentiments deeply resonated with Tom Falconer, OCF’s Colorado Springs Area Coordinator and ardent OCF ROTC ministry local leader who organized the picnic, an event that is one of a trio that the community enjoys for fellowship at-large. (The other two are Aspentime (September), led by Steve and Miriam Shambach, and the Chaplains Family Retreat (May), led by Arnie and Lois Ahnfeldt, which both take place at OCF’s Spring Canyon Conference Center.)

“That OCF has relocated as ministry hub and not only as a ministry support center is where I get excited,” said Tom. “This is a great opportunity to get together as members, local leaders, and ministry leaders to pray about, cast seeds, stir interest, and talk to more of the people on how to minister to the military society.”

One need not look further than OCF



Photo by Karen Fliedner

OCF CEO/Executive Director Scott Fisher addresses the crowd at the Open House and Picnic at OCF’s new location in Colorado Springs on 5 August.



Photo by Josh Jackson

A view from inside the new OCF work space located in the David C Cook building.

at the U. S. Air Force Academy for inspiration for the harvest that could come out of partnership possibilities as OCF desires a broader reach into the entire military community.

“The move of the Home Office to Colorado Springs allows my lay-staff volunteers and cadets to connect with and see more directly OCF’s overall mission,” said Paul Homan, OCF at USAFA field staff representative. “We’ve already been able to hold men’s Bible studies in the OCF

space in DCC, which provides a central location in town for members of my team to meet as several work at Peterson SFB.”

Tom called the event “a God thing” in how it all came together. Obtaining tables and chairs for the picnic and the logistics of loading, transporting, and unloading them was termed by. New Life Church lent the tables and chairs to OCF for use, and for use the next day by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society—all transported by the latter’s truck. The

An important note about our 800 phone number

OCF’s 800-424-1984 phone number is no longer operational. If you need to reach us by phone, please call 303-761-1984.

Colorado-Wyoming chapter’s volunteer was invited to the picnic, where “he got to see and experience Christian community in action,” said Tom. “He commented several times on how nice it was, and how respectful everybody was, particularly the youth and kids.”

Tom praised the support and help of many, including Mike and Laura Brock—who brought an OCF-shared smoker from Leavenworth—Bruce Verde, David Warner, Riley Dabbs, four volunteers from New Life Church’s military ministry, and members of the ROTC Bible study that Tom hosts.

“After the picnic, it was those graduates who broke down and loaded tables and chairs onto the truck and dealt with cleanup as grape-sized hail [pelted the area],” he said.

Pointing out that the ministry is “not about holding up the OCF banner but rather the banner of Jesus Christ,” Scott encouraged all picnic goers that the coming together as OCF members is “ultimately about life change.” The charge he gave to all, especially the youth, was of “going out to be the light of Christ.”

“The world out there needs you. God wants to use you. He has gifted you to contribute to the building up of His kingdom.”

On 31 August, Karen Fliedner retired from OCF after nearly 17 years of impeccable service to our Lord and the military community. During her time at OCF, Karen served as Managing Editor for Command magazine, assisted the Resource Development and Member Services teams, served as Communications Specialist for the Communications team, and worked in several other roles. Of particular note is her dedication to OCF’s Prayer Ministry, where she has faithfully served by sending out the monthly Power in Prayer, leading a Monday night virtual prayer meeting, and engaging with numerous OCF members in prayer over the telephone, via email, or in person. Her dedication to OCF’s Mission and Vision and tireless service to its members will forever be appreciated. If you would like to send a note of thanks to Karen, reach out to her at KAFliedner@hotmail.com.

Prayer first: Putting OCF’s Pray-Discover-Obey model into practice in your life

By Josh Jackson, Director of Communications

Proverbs 16:3 says to “commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” This is God’s invitation for us to transfer our ideas, plans, and wants to Him so that He can make our plans firm.

This is also the essence of OCF’s Pray-Discover-Obey model, which emphasizes prayer first, planning second, and obedient action third.

But PDO is not a “secret process unique to OCF,” as OCF CEO/Executive Director Scott Fisher points out. In fact, it came into OCF when we were called Officers’ Christian Union, and at that time PDO was known as Pray & Plan.

“PDO is simply the model we see demonstrated in Scripture. When we look in Scripture at the times God used someone to do something we would consider extraordinary, the event is prefaced by God speaking to the individual, and after the person heard what He said, they obeyed,” said Scott. “Then, God brought the extraordinary into their ordinary lives. He wants to do the same in my life...in your life.”

While OCF small groups and local leaders are often encouraged to use a PDO at various times, such as determining details about starting a new group or when to split into another group, PDO is an extremely useful framework for walking an individual, couple, or family through prayerful, deliberate consideration before they take action.

For Hous Waring and his family, they conducted a PDO every January 1 while their kids were at home.

“The whole family knew we were going to do it, and it was something that was looked forward to because it was an opportunity for everyone to come with expectations, to pitch them to the family, to see if that was something that would stick in a sense, and something we would prioritize or do.”

For example, spiritual growth and hospitality were often PDO topics for the Waring family each new year.

“Are we going to memorize verses this year? Are we going to do that at the table together? Is everybody going to do it on their own?” said Hous, who is OCF’s Central Regional Coordinator. “How do we open up our meal table more? We had so much buy-in from the family because our children got to tell us what they were thinking and what was important.”

Scott added that while we can, and should, enter into a PDO when seeking guidance or direction on a particular subject, we also see in Scripture the components of a PDO are actually vital to maintaining daily, healthy fellowship with God.

“The PDO framework enables us in practical steps to abide in Him (John 15:5) and to renew our minds so that we may discern what is the will of God (Romans 12:2),” he said. “We pray (acknowledging from the beginning our dependence upon God, that we are inadequate apart from Him for any good work, and that often His ways are not our ways), we discover (through studying the Word, more prayer, the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the counsel of others) and then we submit and obey.”

► Find more information about OCF’s Pray-Discover-Obey model online at ocfusa.org/pdo.

Summary of Spring 2023 OCF Council Meeting

The weekend after we all celebrated Easter, your OCF Council and several staff members gathered at White Sulphur Springs for the Spring Council Meeting. Our theme verse for this meeting was centered around Proverbs 1:5: "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance."

The first morning of our meeting, we set aside time to pray for specific ministries within OCF, the challenges they face, and the individuals faithfully serving our Lord in those capacities through the Pray-Discover-Obey format.

The rest of that day was spent engaging with staff members throughout a series of briefs on the FY23 Ministry Update and Priorities and the FY23 Finance Update. Scott Fisher, OCF CEO/Executive Director, briefed us on budget challenges faced over the past year and the resultant adjustments made, and then introduced new lines of effort to enhance fundraising. We also were briefed on the FY24 Budget, which was approved, and reviewed FY24 Ministry Priorities.

We also passed a motion to finalize the relocation of the OCF Home Office to Colorado Springs, CO. This was not a decision made lightly, but after consideration over an extended period of time it became prayerfully clear that this move was the next right step for OCF.

We concluded this meeting with a time small group fellowship and prayer, focused on future opportunities for OCF to further carry out the will of our Lord within the military community.

—LTJG Brigit Jogan, USCG

CLASS OF 2026 ELECTION RESULTS

New council members who started a three-year term on 1 June are: Lt Col Rob Crespo, USAF, COL Dave Guida, USA, COL Rob Jassey, USA (Ret), Brig Gen Jeff Hurlbert, USAF, LTJG Abby Rouser, USN, LCDR Lars Tormey, USCG, Lt Col Steve Wade, USAF (Ret.). OCF Council officers are: Col Dale Holland (Ret.), USAF—President; Lt Col Rob Crespo, USAF—Vice President; LTJG Brigit Jogan, USCG—Secretary, and COL Rob Jassey, USA (Ret.)—Treasurer.

Council elections start in November

The OCF Council Class of 2027 elections will take place this November. All regular members (present/former officers, officer candidates, midshipmen and cadets) are eligible to vote in the month-long election. Those elected to the 2027 Council class by OCF members will serve a 3-year term starting 1 June 2024, with onboarding beginning in January 2024. Candidate information will be available at our election website on 1 November when voting goes live. **For more information, contact brigit.jogan@ocfusa.org or 303-761-1984.**

OCF Ministry News

New hires

Effective 1 June, **Chet Arnold** assumed the duties of Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer at OCF. Chet steps into the role vacated by Chris Blake, who is the new OCF Southeast Regional Coordinator. For the past nine years, he and his wife, Michelle, have served as the OCF Field Staff in Pensacola, Fla., to include serving as the Regional Coordinators of the Southeast Coastal Region. Chet and Michelle enjoy welcoming young officers and their families into their home for Bible studies, pre-marital and marriage counseling, and discipleship. They look forward to continuing to serve with OCF in this new role.

Reach Chet at chet.arnold@ocfusa.org



Kandy Brashear joined OCF on 5 July as the Ministry Support Administrator, replacing Laurie Remington, who left OCF in May. Kandy brings her vocational history of Police, Fire, EMS telecommunications, Spiritual Growth Development in the church setting, and Hospice Chaplaincy to the OCF team. Her affinity for the Armed Forces comes from her spouses' service in the USAF and two of their six children's active and veteran status from the United States Army.

Reach Kandy at kandy.brashear@ocfusa.org



Sandy McCarthy joined the OCF Home Office team on 1 August as the Accounting Specialist, replacing Russ Smith, who left OCF in June. She is prior Air Force ATC, a fourth-generation native of Colorado, and number 10 of 11 children. Five members within her family served in the military, and her son and daughter-in-law both served recently in the Army National Guard. She loved serving her country and is embracing her new position to serve the Lord and the OCF community.

Reach Sandy at accountspayable@ocfusa.org





LISTEN

THE LATEST ON OCF CROSSPOINT

SEASON 4, EPISODES 1-6

CAPT Brent & Nicole Breining, USN (Ret.), Dr. Joy Skarka, and Dr. John Thorington on problematic sexual behaviors, pornography, betrayal trauma, and more

SEASON 4, EPISODE 7

Col Tim Hale, USAF (Ret.), on establishing foundations of resilience

Search for “OCF Crosspoint” on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts.



GET INVOLVED

We've teamed up with the Church Shop to open **an online OCF store, now open and ready for orders.** With items ranging from apparel to drinkware to stickers that represent OCF, Spring Canyon, and White Sulphur Springs, this store is your one-stop shop for ministry merchandise. Place your order at:

thechurch.shop/store/ocfusa



ATTEND

AT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

21 December - 2 January:
Winter Retreats #1, #2, #3

> whitesulphursprings.org/events

AT SPRING CANYON

19 December - 3 January:
Winter Retreats #1, #2, #3

> springcanyon.org/events

WSS rededicates renovated Harrison House

After embarking on fundraising and renovation efforts of its 1887 Harrison House facility last spring, the White Sulphur Springs team rededicated the building on 30 July.

Comments from OCF Executive Director/CEO Scott Fisher, historian Cliff Saxton, first WSS Center Director Couple Ray & Helen Johnson, and others throughout the ceremony and subsequent banquet spoke to the long history and ministry impact of the building both before and after OCF purchased Harrison House and surrounding property in 1973.

“Eternally thankful,” said one guest. “We have so many memories here, and we are so excited that another generation will get to experience the Harrison House.”

Harrison House now stands ready to welcome guests for generations to come, with the following renovations completed: new electric system; new plumbing system; new heating/AC system; elevator added; 3 new guest rooms added; new staff apartment added; bunkhouse for EXSEL added; dining room expanded; 4 new bathrooms added; handicap access to all floors, including the Johnson Room; fresh carpet/flooring and paint; and updated lighting. Funding also enabled the completion of a new maintenance facility and a bathhouse for WSS' Camp Caleb youth program.

Since Our Last Issue

March 2023: Cadets and midshipmen spent their spring breaks enjoying fellowship, learning from mentors, and volunteering at White Sulphur Springs and Spring Canyon Conference Centers. USMA cadets spent their spring break serving

in the Dominican Republic in partnership with The Centurion Project, YWAM, and SCORE.

April 2023: Local leaders, area coordinators, and others participated in the annual OCF Local Leader Conference, hosted at both OCF conference centers with plenary sessions shared virtually for the first time with OCFers around the world.

June 2023: In partnership with Valor, Navigators, and chaplains, OCF hosted Bible studies once again this summer for Army ROTC cadets undergoing field training at Ft. Knox, Ky. Total cadet attendance between June and August totaled 681, indicating an above-average interest in spiritual growth among those who will soon lead our nation's soldiers, 30 cadets indicated a first-time commitment to trust in and follow Jesus Christ, and 553 requested information about ROTC ministries back on their home campuses.

August 2023: White Sulphur Springs and Spring Canyon concluded eight weeks of speaker, adventure, and youth programs, hosting hundreds from across the military community. Follow them on social media to keep up with their ministry efforts.

Upcoming ROTC retreats

Check out the OCF ROTC Ministry page for existing ROTC fellowships, resources to help you start an ROTC fellowship at your campus, and info about several upcoming ROTC Regional Retreats: ocfusa.org/rotc/

→ **Northeast Academies and ROTC Retreat (NEAR-R),**

2-4 Feb., Speculator, NY

→ **Eastern ROTC Retreat,**

2-4 Feb., White Sulphur Springs Conference Center

→ **Rocky Mountain ROTC Retreat,** 16-18 Feb., Spring Canyon Conference Center

→ **Midwest ROTC Retreat,** 16-18 Feb., Story City, IA