

# **Celebrating Women's History Month with a few of Oregon's remarkable policing leaders**

## **A. Who inspired you, and why?**

After hearing an FBI agent speak during one of my high school classes, I was inspired to pursue criminal justice. During college, I had an amazing opportunity to do an internship with Shelia Lorange with Marion Co Sheriff's Office. She has been a lifetime career mentor and supporter for me. I watched her rise through the ranks during her career, ultimately retiring as a commander.

## **B. What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?**

Support, mentor, and encourage each other. It is our job to find each other's strengths and push each other to grow. Seek to challenge yourself. Also, find someone to mentor and find someone to be your mentor. It's important to have someone to give you advice and support.

## **C. What is one of the most rewarding and/or challenging aspects of your job?**

It's amazing to watch an agency and team grow. We've been through a lot of challenges in law enforcement in the last few years with an anti-law enforcement national narrative, all-time low staffing, changes in laws and legislation, lack of prosecution and jail space. All these things are challenges, but building off the veteran crew's strength and finding new recruits with strong character and work ethic and merging the two to build a strong team has been rewarding.

# **Chief Gwen Johns**

**Stayton Police Department**  
**OACP Member since January 2020**