



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668



ESTABLISHED 1970

October 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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360-882-1275

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360-260-9845

Treasurer:

Slats Wolfe  
360-574-6675

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Paul Crosby  
360-666-8871

I hope you all enjoyed the great summer weather this year and had some fun trips to visit friends and family. This was probably the driest summer since Grace and I moved here in 1992 and it was a challenge to keep the lawn green.

We had over 40 members brave the threatening weather for our potluck BBQ at our house on the 16th of September. After about 25 people crowded onto the

patio, the clouds got darker and small drops of rain started to descend on us. At 3 PM when we were ready to eat, I said Grace and asked the good Lord to part the clouds and let the sun shine in.

Five minutes later it did just that and it got so hot several people were asking me to pray for some shade. We also raised \$500 for our scholarship fund at the BBQ and we thank all of those who donated. The Bocce Tournament got on in earnest this year with a dozen different players who played until dusk.

Terry Babin had to seek a new partner as Marie Wolfe was out of town. Although Terry's game was still on this year, he was overcome by a pair of "beginners luck" players. The predominant players this year were Dave Casteel and Jan Fuquay who won the most games that afternoon. Jan Fuquay was uncanny at times. Besides some great lags real close to

the target ball, she would also blast any opponent's ball that was blocking her way. Thus, next year's defending champs will be Dave and Jan!!

We are going with a dinner meeting in October at Bill's Chicken & Steak House. This will give the students at the Skill Center another month of learning before we have our

first luncheon in November. Our program will be Judy Stewart from the Vancouver Police

Department who will talk to us about identity theft, scams and personal protection.

We will also be having another Support the Troops Campaign this year. We have learned that the number of troops from this area will be double that of last year at this time.

Support the Troops Campaign

2006 campaign kicks off. See our article on page 2. Donation Form on page 6

Upcoming Calendar Events

26 Oct.	Dinner at Bill's Chicken & Steak House Program: Judy Stewart – Community Policing Specialist Social 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Reservations: Slats Wolfe: 574-6675 <a href="mailto:slatsrie@comcast.net">slatsrie@comcast.net</a> RSVP: NLT 23 Oct 06
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For Complete Calendar: Turn to page 5

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued**

Thus we have a goal of raising \$5,000 this year. \$3,000 for telephone calling cards for the troops and \$2,000 for \$100 gift cards for the families. See the donation form attached to this newsletter and please respond promptly to our request.

We would like to have the funds in time to buy the calling and gift cards by the end of November. **This will allow the Wing Family Coordinators from each service to get the cards to the troops and their families by Christmas time. I thank you in advance for your continuing generosity!**

**Support The Troops Campaign**

As we head into the fall and Thanksgiving season it is time to remember the young men and women serving on the front lines of the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Support the Troops Committee as been in contact with the Wing Family Coordinators from the Army, Marines and Air Force. **We have learned that there are twice as many local troops deployed overseas this year as compared to last year.** The need for telephone calling cards for the troops overseas and gift cards for the families at home is still very real.

Last year we asked for a donation of \$25 from our members and we raised \$4,000, which bought 353 AT&T calling cards and fifteen \$100 gift cards. **We would like to set the goal at \$5,000 this year to meet the increased need. A donation of \$35-50 would enable us to make that goal.** We realize that not everyone can contribute at that rate and we ask those who can do more, to do so. **Remember that some of these troops are on their second and even third tours.** The strain on the troops and the families is tremendous.

**Any Theater Goers?**

The past couple of years of our MOAA members have been attending the Clark College Theater plays, usually three tables strong. Their upcoming Fall play is "Born Yesterday," but it does not appear to have a dinner show. **The Winter play is "The Will Rogers Follies" and the dinner performances are Feb 16/17 and Feb 23/24.** Subtitled "A Life in Revue," and told

**We still need some help with our Give Me Ten Campaign.** We all agree that we all know someone who is eligible to join MOAA and that the best way to get them to join is to talk to them personally, tell them how National MOAA is protecting their benefits, explain our local programs and invite them out to a meeting. **Now is the time to make the ask!** See the attached article on Give Me Ten for more details.

**John J. Donnelly**  
President

Our calling cards and gift cards can help them in their time of need. We will also be going outside our organization to solicit donations from other veterans organizations to help this year. **We have provided a tear out return form on the last page of this newsletter for your convenience in making a timely donation.** We would like to reach our goal of \$5,000 by the end of November so we can purchase the cards and turn them over to the troops for use during the Christmas season.

**Your generosity last year was overwhelming.** Please dig a little deeper this year and let's send our troops a clear message that we care and support their efforts 100%. **Remember, this year we are a 501©(3) Non-profit organization and your donation will be tax deductible.** For those who receive this newsletter by email, please scroll down to the last page and print out the donation return form. Thank you!

in the style of the Ziegfeld Follies, the original play won many Tony Awards. It should be humorous and have some great songs and dances.

**Those who might be interested in attending, please give John Donnelly a call or email him with your dates of preference for the play.** John will work with the College to secure tables for us.

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## Legislative Update by Ron Pastor

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**TRICARE/MEDICARE THREAT.** Congress recently returned from its August recess but only for a short while until it adjourns to focus on the upcoming elections when all of the House and a third of the Senate seats are up for grabs. Of immediate concern to the military and all citizens over 65 is legislation set to go into effect on January 1, 2007. Unless reversed, the law will decrease payments to physicians for Medicare and Tricare services by 5.1%. As all of us know, an increasing number of doctors are refusing to take new and even existing patients covered by these plans because of the payment rates. MOAA estimates these rates are 20% to 30% below other insurance allowances. MOAA along with the American Medical Association are appealing to Congress to reverse this legislation while there is still time.

**FY 2007 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL.** The bill, passed just hours before the fiscal year began on October 1<sup>st</sup>, contains numerous provisions of interest to retirees. Among the highlights:

--Bars DOD from increasing TRICARE Prime or Standard fees or pharmacy copays.

--Did not approve recommended provisions to implement 30 year paid-up SBP coverage immediately, end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP when military service caused the member's death and provide full, immediate concurrent receipt for disabled retirees designated "unemployable" by the VA.

**COLA FOR 2007.** Last year's COLA increase for military retirees was a substantial 4.1% mainly due to Hurricane Katrina's effect on fuel prices. The increase for next year figures to be lower. MOAA is estimating in the 3.4% to 3.6% range.

**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING.** As noted in the last newsletter, MOAA's voice in protecting our rights and benefits become louder with each new member. We have not yet reached our chapter goal of recruiting 10 new members this year. We will succeed only if each of us tries to recruit at least one new member. MOAA is open to all who have

served or are serving as an officer (warrants included) in any of the uniformed services, be it regular, reserved or guard. They can be active or retired. Let me review the benefits of joining now. Non-members can join National MOAA for two years at the price of one. An annual membership is \$24 but National is throwing in the second year free. They also will reimburse our chapter \$10 for each new member and we will return that \$10 to the new member. Therefore, **the cost of joining is \$14 for two years.** But that's not all. Our chapter also will give that new member an initial year's membership in our chapter at no cost. If we are successful in gaining 10 new members, National MOAA will reward us with \$100 to go towards our scholarship fund or Support the Troops program. As you can see, there are plenty of incentives for joining, both for the member and for the chapter. **But, we need your help!** You need not worry about the process. You make the sell; I'll do the paperwork. Contact me at 360-882-1275 or [pastormr1@msn.com](mailto:pastormr1@msn.com). Also, please consider a lifetime membership for yourself.



**Newsletter Distribution**

We are now distributing our newsletter by e-mail so if you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify our Chapter Secretary, Beth Brown, ebrownrn@pacifier.com

Even if you have an e-mail address but wish to continue receiving newsletters and postcards by regular mail may also notify Beth at ebrownrn@pacifier.com or 360-260-9845.

**Newsletter Editor**

Newsletter Editor: Rich Wersinger. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at rich@rjwconsulting.org.

Beth continues to coordinate calendar inputs and newsletter distribution. Please see the following article, **Newsletter Secretary Resignation—Search for Successor**.

**Newsletter Secretary Resignation—Search for Successor**

Due to increasing vision problems I am unable to continue as your chapter Secretary. Therefore, we are in need of a successor Secretary to complete my term which ends in February 2008. It has been a privilege to be your Secretary and I plan to continue as an active member of the chapter. I am more than willing and available to work with the new Secretary to ease the transition. Please consider this as a rewarding opportunity and contact myself (360-260-9845) or John Donnelly (360-260-7284).

Rich Wersinger will continue as our newsletter editor.

Beth Brown, Secretary

**Congressional Contacts**

**Congressman Brian Baird**

**Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District**

<http://www.house.gov/baird/>

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1421 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	Vancouver, WA Office: O.O. Howard House 750 Anderson Street, Suite B Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292 Fax: (360) 695-6197
Contact Congressman Baird via email: <a href="http://www.house.gov/baird/IMA/email.shtml">http://www.house.gov/baird/IMA/email.shtml</a>	

**U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell**

<http://cantwell.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 717 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3441 202-228-0514 - FAX 202-224-8273 - TDD	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 360-696-7838 360-696-7844 – FAX
Contact Senator Cantwell Web page: <a href="http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/">http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/</a>	

**U.S. Senator Patty Murray** <http://murray.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798
Contact Senator Murray via email: <a href="http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm">http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm</a>	



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**CALENDAR**


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26 October: Dinner at Bill's Chicken & Steak House  
 Program: Judy Stewart – Community Policing Specialist  
 Social 6:00 PM – Dinner 7:00 PM  
 Reservations: Slats Wolfe: 574-6675 [slatsrie@comcast.net](mailto:slatsrie@comcast.net)

15 November: Lunch meeting at the Clark County Skills Center  
 11:30 AM Show – Noon Lunch  
 Note: This is Wednesday, rather than our usual Thursday meeting day.

10 December: **Christmas Party at the Wolfe's**  
 3403 NW 166<sup>th</sup> St, Ridgefield, WA  
 Social 6:00 PM – Dinner 7:00 PM  
 RSVP – 574-6675

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**October 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting**


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**Bill' Chicken & Steak House**  
**2200 St. Johns Blvd. Vancouver**

**Program:**

**Judy Stewart, Community Policing Specialist**  
 Vancouver Police Department

**Identity Theft, Spams and Personal Protection**

- ◆ Main Entrée Choices:
  - Chicken Cordon Bleu\*
    - \* Cordon Bleu orders require advance preparation and we need exact count in advance.
  - Grilled Alaskan Halibut
  - Grilled Top Sirloin Steak
- ◆ Served with fresh garden salad, choice of dressing, baked potato, vegetable, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage.
- ◆ Cost: \$21 per person (includes tax & gratuity)
- ◆ Social 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM
- ◆ RSVP – Slats Wolfe at 574-6675 or [slatsrie@comcast.net](mailto:slatsrie@comcast.net) by 23 October. Let Slats know if Cordon Bleu is your main entrée choice.

**Parking:**

Available on the West, East and North side of the restaurant. Main entrance is on St. Johns Street, but there is also a door to the banquet rooms on the North side of the building, off of 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

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**Volunteers and sponsors needed at McChord USO**


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Volunteers Needed The McChord USO is in need of volunteers looking for an opportunity to make a difference for deploying service members and their families.

The USO at McChord AFB is open 6 am - 6 pm, Monday through Saturday. In addition, they are available during major deployments and homecomings, providing volunteers who wish to be called as reserves the ability to help on a less restrictive schedule.

For information on becoming a volunteer at the McChord USO, contact Tracye Kakely at 253-589-8772.

Sponsors Needed The McChord USO is seeking the following sponsors to provide tax-deductible, in-kind services:

- Water Sponsor
- Coffee Sponsor
- Paper Products (plates, napkins, cups) sponsor

If your organization or business is interested in providing any of these items, please contact Tracye Kakely at 253-589-8772 for more information.