



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER

5-STAR EXCELLENCE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER



Legislative Reporting Newsletter Editor

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

ESTABLISHED 1970

January 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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360-666-8871

Happy New Year!

It appears that the Mayans were wrong (or, at least those who forecast the end of the world based on their calendar). Hope those who forecast the calamitous effects caused by a possible "fiscal cliff" are equally in error. By the time this is published we may have a better answer to the question. I'm sure you will read more about the current state of events in our award winning Legislative Affairs section of the newsletter.

With the New Year comes the perennial call for dues (pg. 16). Only \$15.00 unless you are an auxiliary member or are 90 or older. Life membership applies only to national MOAA membership--the chapter does not have a life membership provision. 'Nuff said.

We need your help with both scholarship donations (page 5) and Supporting Our Troops funds. Both are extremely worthy. Most of us spent the majority of our adult life in the military so it is only right to give back to our "own" whenever we can.

We invite you to join us at our annual business meeting which will be held in conjunction with the February luncheon on February 14th (bring your valentine). We will have officer elections and installations, the

treasurer's report on the state of our finances, and a vote on proposed changes to our by-laws (page 12), as well as other pertinent business.

2013 is bringing other changes from MOAA, most notably, the increased emphasis on chapter growth and retention as well as a planned national website overhaul to take advantage of the vast power of the internet and social media to help us all connect--thus the new name, "MOAA Connect." The new membership model starts January 1. We will provide information on "MOAA Connect" as we learn more details.

Other changes in 2013 (that we know of at this point) include TRICARE Pharmacy co-payment increases starting in 2013, and TRICARE Prime eligibility ending in our area.



[Continued on page 2]

24 January  
Joint  
OWC/Chapter  
Luncheon  
1200  
Touchmark at Fairway Village  
\$15 cash at the door  
RSVP NLT 21 Jan  
Nancy at 750-1355 or  
nancylbp@comcast.net  
Details on page 11

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued**

We are told there will be transition assistance provided for those losing TRICARE Prime when it ends March 31, but no details are available at this point.

Our chapter celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2013. Partially in recognition of the 40th anniversary, we have invited our national President, VADM Ryan to attend our celebration dinner event at the Heathman Lodge on Saturday, May 18. To pay tribute it would be nice to display some photographs taken during the last 40 years. If anyone has photographs they would like to share, we can have them safely copied and returned to you. If they are electronic you can send them to me at [shilohcamas@comcast.net](mailto:shilohcamas@comcast.net). More information about the event including reservations and cost will be forthcoming.

We are told that while our award-winning electronic newsletter is convenient and chock full of pertinent information, it sometimes does not get read or seen by the member's spouse (who, in our house keeps the social calendar). If your spouse would like their own copy of the electronic newsletter, please send his/her name and e-mail address to our chapter secretary, **John Donnelly**, at [donnellyj@comcast.net](mailto:donnellyj@comcast.net).

We lost some very active and charismatic members of our chapter in 2012. We will certainly miss them but we can relish our memories. On a lighter and final note, I look forward to working with each of you and getting to know you better in the coming year. Your participation in the chapter is essential to our continued vitality so I would like to hear your ideas.

**Dave Casteel**  
**President**

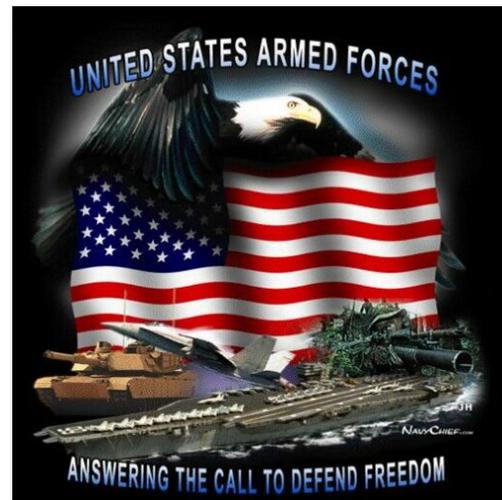
### **Newsletter Editor**

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

Chapter Secretary John Donnelly coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

### **Newsletter Distribution**

We continue to distribute our newsletter by e-mail, so if you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify our Chapter Secretary, John Donnelly, [donnellyj@comcast.net](mailto:donnellyj@comcast.net) or 360-904-8966



## **A TIME FOR CHAPTER CHANGE** *by Terry Babin*

**How do you put the “power” in MOAA’s “One Powerful Voice?”** Our national MOAA leadership now realizes that the power to influence legislation is more than large membership numbers. Real influential power is dependent on grass roots engagement and activism—those cards, e-mails, phone, and personal contacts by MOAA members and spouses to their elected representatives.

**Where does grass roots involvement emanate within MOAA?** MOAA’s real strength—its power—comes from strong local chapters. Yet, the success of the national organization’s Give Me 10 program in growing the overall membership did not translate into national chapter growth and strength. Today, only about 1 in 6 MOAA members are also members in a local chapter. During the coming months the national organization will be rolling out a new approach to growing and strengthening its chapters.

**Is The Columbia River Chapter ready for this change in MOAA’s priorities?** In a phrase: “*not really.*” Just nine years ago our chapter went through a major reorganization and revitalization process. The results of that effort have served us well, and gained us national recognition year after year. Still, we must do better if we are to capitalize on the changes which are coming and overcome the challenges which are already undermining our past success. Accordingly, the Chapter’s Executive Board has reviewed ideas from, and best practices of, other chapters throughout MOAA’s Western Region.

**In a nutshell, what do we need to do?** There are five areas of organizational emphasis which have proven successful for recruitment, retention, and membership involvement in other Chapters. The underlying principle has been to recognize that “membership” has two main and distinct elements—recruitment and retention—and organize and act accordingly.

1. Establish a membership recruiting committee. This committee has several key functions: Use new recruiting resources provided by the national headquarters. Coordinate activities to promote the chapter with the Program and Public Affairs Committees. Train and support the chapter membership in easy recruiting techniques. Lead the

overall recruiting effort. Ensure a smooth transition for new members and spouses from the recruitment phase to the welcoming phase.

2. Establish a membership retention committee. This committee has three key functions: Create a process and activities to sponsor and welcome new members and spouses. Promote actions which help assimilate new members and spouses into the activities and socialization process within the chapter. Establish organizational mechanisms to keep “connected” with members, and keep members informed about chapter activities and initiatives.
3. Provide timely “sunshine” and casualty assistance services. Establish a strong functional alignment between retention and personal affairs functions and activities.
4. Ensure that the Program Committee serves as a principal advocate for a robust approach to programs, activities, and membership engagement and involvement. Establish means to collect member and spouse inputs for programs and activities of interest.
5. Create a better distribution of workload among elected and appointed chapter officers, and expand opportunities for membership and spouse involvement.

**What are the next steps?** The Executive Board has already adopted a general approach to implement reorganization. Several amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws are proposed to facilitate this change. You will be asked to approve these amendments at the Annual Meeting in February. You will also be asked to pass a motion for a one-year transition to the new structure. Upon approval, the Executive Board will begin implementing the plan and recruiting membership and spouse support for the committees. **We need more than votes—we need your involvement.**

**Terry Babin**  
**Personal Affairs**  
**(360) 608-7789**  
**[tbear06@comcast.net](mailto:tbear06@comcast.net)**



## 2013 Membership Campaign

by Ron Pastor

MOAA recruiting emphasis for 2013 has shifted from national membership to local chapter membership. The Give Me 10 program, which no longer exists, was hugely successful in recruiting national members, but not local chapter members. "Chapter Recruiting 2013" is designed to correct the imbalance. More information on this program will be forthcoming. In the interim, if you know of national members who are not members of our chapter, please refer them to me.

While the Give Me Ten program is now defunct, new recruits are always invited and there are changes to the national membership program that affects most current members. Three membership categories now exist with all of us fitting into one of them. The categories are Basic (which replaces complimentary), Premium (paid) and Life. Young members can sample MOAA by joining as Basic members. They can participate in advocacy efforts and use a limited number of association services at no fee. The full range of benefits will be reserved for dues-paying members, designated Premium. There are, of course, additional benefits to Life members, their spouses or widows, a category well worth looking into, not only for the benefits but the peace of mind.

We are pleased to welcome three new members and their wives to our chapter. They are all national members.

~ **Mark Wilton and his wife Ikuko.** Mark is a retired Army CW2. He is also retired from the Washington State Patrol Communications Division and still works at OHSU.

~ **Todd Hawkinson and his wife Peggy.** Todd is a retired Navy Commander. The Hawkinsons live in Bingen which is up the gorge, but hopefully, they'll be able to attend some of our gatherings.

~ **Stephen Fleischmann and his wife Joyce.** Steve is also a retired Navy Commander. He forwarded his membership application from Hong Kong where, unfortunately, their four year old grandson appears to be seriously ill. We sent them our prayers and best wishes for a good outcome.

We could really use some help in identifying member prospects. You can reach me at 360-882-1275 or [pastormr1@msn.com](mailto:pastormr1@msn.com).

**Ron Pastor**

**360-882-1275**

**pastormr1@msn.com**

**Membership Chair**

## MOAA Recognized as "Most Influential" submitted by Rod Williams

([http://www.moaa.org/Main\\_Menu/Take\\_Action/Legislative\\_Update/2012\\_Legislative\\_Updates/html](http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Legislative_Update/2012_Legislative_Updates/html))

MOAA Government Relations Director **Col Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret**, was named one of the 100 most influential people in U.S. Defense in *Defense News and Military Times* inaugural list of influential players from the worlds of politics, the military, business, government and academia.

Strobridge was cited for his work in helping to shape legislation affecting issues of importance for military personnel and their families.

Defense News noted that, "No major personnel-related legislation has been enacted since 1994 without Strobridge's imprint...His views on a wide range of manpower programs and issues, from pay to retirement and health care benefits, are always highly sought by lawmakers."

"We are extremely pleased to see Steve get this recognition for his dedication and consistent commitment to high level advocacy for military personnel and their families. As The Military Coalition Co-Chairman, he has provided leadership in coordinating the collective efforts of member organizations to protect the interests of active duty, Guard/Reserve, retirees, veterans, families and their survivors," MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan said. "Steve has been a critical keystone in one of MOAA's most important strategies, which is demonstrating that legislators will respond to facts, rather than fiction and wishful thinking."

This great honor is also a testament to the grassroots advocacy of our membership. MOAA's government relations team wouldn't be nearly as successful without your constant support.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN** by Paul Crosby

**The Columbia River Chapter is starting a new fund-raising effort to increase chapter scholarship support for our four scholarships, three at Clark College and one at WSU-Vancouver.**

**The board recently increased the value of the four scholarships to \$1000 each** in response to the rising costs of tuition, one year now costs over \$5,000 at Clark and over \$11,000 at WSU-Vancouver.

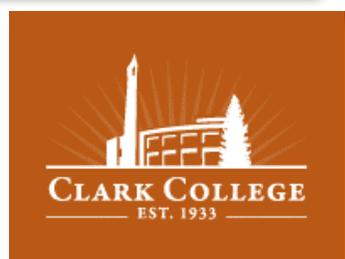
The chapter's Clark College endowment, managed by the Clark Foundation, currently pays out \$1500 each year towards these scholarships. We pay the other \$1,500 for the three scholarships. We do not have an endowment at WSU, thus we pay for the full \$1,000 scholarship each year. **This means our total out of pocket cost to the chapter for scholarships is \$2500 each year.**

**This is where each of you can help!** The chapter needs your support to accomplish two on-going goals to make our scholarships self-sustaining:

- The first is to increase our endowment at Clark to an amount that will support three \$1000 scholarships. **That amount is \$75,000. We need roughly \$30,000 more to achieve this goal.**

- The second is to start a new endowment at WSU-Vancouver. **The initial investment to start an endowment is \$25,000.**

**Naturally, these endowment initiatives won't happen overnight --- it will require a sustained effort over a number of years.** The amount members currently contribute through raffles, annual barbeque, and the Christmas Social is appreciated, but it is not enough to cover the additional \$2,500 needed for our scholarships each year. The long term answer is to make our endowments work for us.



**So how do you help?** Your Columbia River MOAA Chapter is a 501 (c) (19) nonprofit Veterans Organization under IR code. This means that donations to the chapter (not dues) are tax deductible. This includes your donations for Support the Troops, Scholarships, etc. You can donate by cash, check and even appreciated stock. You can also make a bequest to the Columbia River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America by remembering us in your will. Wouldn't it be great to have a scholarship named after you! You can have one of three scholarships named in your honor by giving a minimum of \$10,000.

**Immediately, you can best help by giving as much as you can to this annual campaign for scholarships.** See the form for dues and donations on page 16 and give generously. Your commitment can make the difference for a student just starting out! **Thank you for your generous support in the past. We have come a long way in just a short period of time. But we can do so much more!!**

**Paul Crosby  
Scholarship  
(360) 666-8871  
b66navigator@yahoo.com**

### ***TRICARE Requires Electronic Payment submitted by John Donnelly***

To avoid losing coverage, beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) who pay monthly premiums by check should have switched to an electronic form of payment before Jan. 1, 2013. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card, or by recurring electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a linked bank account. Beneficiaries can contact their regional contractor to set up automatic payments and obtain more information. Contact information for each region is available at the TRICARE Contacts webpage at <http://www.tricare.mil/contacts>. For more information about TRS or TRR, visit the TRICARE website at [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

For complete guides on TRICARE, visit the [Military.com TRICARE section](#).

## **TRICARE Benefit Remains Unchanged under new Contractor** submitted by John Donnelly

On Monday, 1 October 2012, most military working-age retirees saw a hefty 17 percent increase in what they annually pay for medical coverage under the military's top managed care plan.

Tricare, the military's health care program, was launched in 1993 and serves about 9.7 million active, reserve and Guard members, retirees and their family members. Until last fall, out-of-pocket costs for Tricare never had increased. But after years of Pentagon complaints and effective counter-lobbying by veterans' groups, the billowing cost of military health care – \$52.7 billion for the fiscal year about to end – gave birth to a compromise plan under which working-age retirees' Tricare Prime fees would rise between 3.9 percent and 17 percent.

The legislation also allowed for annual increases limited to the military cost-of-living adjustment. Co-payments for pharmacy drugs were increased by \$2 to \$3, depending on the drug.

Tricare Standard, the other option for working-age retirees, was not affected. Active-duty service members, mobilized reservists and Guardsmen and their families use Tricare Prime at no cost.

The 2011 increase for other Prime users only affected new enrollees; those already enrolled were exempted for a year. Now, they'll have to catch up. Individual working-age retirees – those who have yet to turn 65 – who enrolled prior to 2011 will see their annual fees rise from \$230 to \$269.28, while the family rate will rise from \$460 to \$538.56.



Newer enrollees, already paying more, will see smaller increases this year to get to the same rates. They will pay increases of \$9.28 and \$18.56, respectively.

"It's gonna be one size fits all," said Steve Strobridge, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, an influential voice within the halls of Congress that supported the plan. "And some people are saying, well, I got this huge increase, how come I got it? Well, it's because they got a good deal last year, and got grandfathered from any increase. So the people who get the biggest increase this year actually are the ones who are best off – because they were exempted from any increase last year that other people paid."

## **MWR Opportunity – North Bend, OR** submitted by Allan Jeska

Rich Wersinger received this by email recently:

Hi Rich...

I recently learned of a USCG Recreational House (address in Coos Bay, Oregon) that is available for MWR rental to military families and is located in the Coast Guard Housing Area in North Bend, OR.

We recently rented it with two other couples and found it to be very nice. It is roomy, has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Everything, but your groceries, is furnished, but it is just like home... you make the beds (lots of linens) and clean up after yourself, washing everything, folding it, and putting it back on the shelf for the next occupant. Reservations are required and military ID is required. Very good bargain, as an O-5, I paid \$40 per night.

The USCG MWR has other items for rental too... crab pots, boats, etc.

Some of our MOAA members might like to utilize this well earned military benefit.

If you go to:

<http://www.uscg.mil/mwr/lodging/NorthBendRecLodging.asp> you can get all the info for an newsletter article.

"You can travel for less, the military way."

Respectfully, LTC Allan E. Jeska  
U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)  
MOAA Life Member at Large

# Clark County Veterans Court Board

Po Box 61628 - Vancouver WA 98666

**Helping SW Washington Veterans**

Thursday Feb. 14, 2013 @ 5:30 pm - 9 pm @ Vancouver Elks  
11605 S.E. McGillivray Blvd Vancouver, WA 98683 (doors open at 5 pm with Ragtime piano)



# Valentine's Dinner with Elvis

**\$20 advance tickets, \$30 at the door**  
Purchase @[www.ClarkCountyVetsCourtBoard.org](http://www.ClarkCountyVetsCourtBoard.org),  
Beacock Music, Elks Lodge or (360) 256-0823

## Mark Stevenz - Tribute Artist

Special performances by Grammy Award winner Doug Smith and Judy Koch Smith,  
Ricky Lee Jackson and Shawna Quade, Col. Dan Kern, Art Miller, Petya Grozeva, Richie Olson  
The Young Marines and Miss Clark County's Outstanding Teen 2013 - Dayzsha Ab-Rahman

## Event Sponsors:



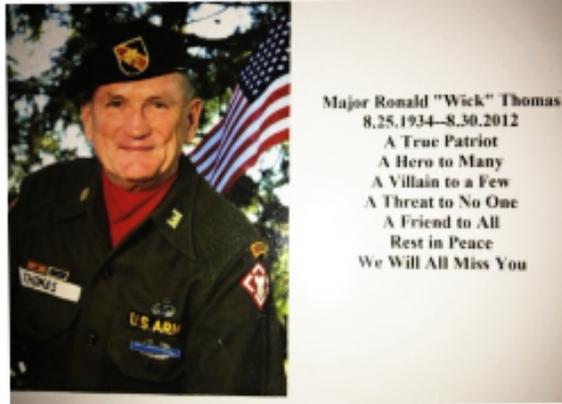
WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
Leading with the planet



Artwork provided by Ziico Inc. - visit [ZiicoSite.com](http://ZiicoSite.com)

## In Memoriam

### Ron (Wick) Thomas, Major, USA



### Matilda (Tillie) Baran

18 December 1916 - 13 December 2012



Tillie was within a week of reaching her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday and two weeks away from another Christmas.

But we believe Tillie could not wait any longer to be reunited with her loving husband, Al, who was waiting for her up in heaven. Al and Tillie were charter members of our MOAA Columbia River Chapter and we never had a more kinder and gentler couple in our history. We will miss them both! But we are sure that they are together again walking hand in hand in heaven just as Al promised!

**"... and when our time on earth is through, in heaven too, you will have my hand." *The Promise***

## Legislative Contacts

### MOAA Legislative Action Center

<http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/>

**MOAA Capitol toll free hotline** at 1-866-272-6622

### White House

Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461 E-mail: [comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)

### Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

<http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/>

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1130 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
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Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email:  
<https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

The U.S. Government's Portal: <http://www.usa.gov/>  
U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>  
U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>



### U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell <http://cantwell.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 511 Dirksen 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	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 915 Second Avenue Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174. 206-220-6400 206-220-6404 - FAX
Contact Senator Cantwell via email: <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	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 2988 Jackson Federal Building 915 Second Avenue Seattle, WA 98174 Phone: (206) 553-5545 Toll Free: (866) 481-9186 Fax: (206) 553-0891
Contact Senator Murray via email: <a href="http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm">http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm</a>		

## Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 15
Senator	Annette Cleveland 786-7330	Don Benton 786-7632	Ann Rivers 771-8133	Curtis King 509-952-4667
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Monica Stonier 786-7121	Brandon Vick 786-7634	Norm Johnson (509) 452-1328
Representative, Position 2	Jim Moeller 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike * 786-7791	David Taylor 786-7874

Note: All phone numbers are 360 area code, except where otherwise noted. Toll free **1-800-562-6000**  
\* Party Caucus Phone Number until Official Swearing-in. More info at [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature)

***Federal Legislative Affairs: submitted by Rod Williams***

Hopefully everyone has watched closely as Congress took us closer to the fiscal cliff. By the time you read this we will know if they led us over the cliff or not. Either way this has become one of the least respected and least liked Congress' in our history. If you felt forgotten by the vast majority of your elected representatives, you have good cause. The goal of making the "other team" fail appeared to have taken over. However, we can point to some successes where our representatives have heard our voices and listened to our message.

In late rounds, House and Senate conferees included MOAA sponsored provisions in the FY2013 defense authorization bill that will: increase military pay by 1.7%, protect against massive increases in TRICARE pharmacy copay by increased use of mail order pharmacy refills, eliminate a BRAC-style military retirement commission but not take retirement reform off the table, and address a long-standing concurrent receipt glitch. The negotiations also saw some restrictions on force reductions, increases in mental health programs and a pilot program for autism treatment. It even included a provision to "acknowledge military healthcare is a benefit earned in recognition of retired members' and families' service and sacrifice." I encourage you to visit the MOAA Website at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) to read more about the provisions that were passed by Congress and the potential impact it will have on all of us. MOAA National Office can be credited with spearheading the fight for a balanced outcome, but much of the credit goes to all the MOAA members who communicated their thoughts to representatives by direct contact, letters, email and phone. Thanks to each of you who contributed.

As I write this, Congress and the White House are struggling to find a last minute deal to avoid taking us over the fiscal cliff. Compromise does not appear to be an alternative for either party. The likelihood a response will be successful is low while the likelihood that all taxpayers will be impacted is high. The news services are even talking about how some opportunist within the Washington DC beltway are looking at how they can use this failure to make

themselves look good by making the other side look worse. You will be impacted regardless of your party, your left or right leanings or what percentage of income earners you fall within. It appears some higher income earners (the dividing line has not been settled) will pay more income tax. We all should expect to see the individual federal cost burden to increase along with state and local costs.

Your voice must be heard to keep the military community of active and retired families from being the easy, silent target for an unfair level of benefit cuts and cost increases that have to be part of any grand bargain to fix our countries financial situation. Take action, be heard.

Feel free to call John at 360-573-2940, e-mail at [hershberger6047@comcast.net](mailto:hershberger6047@comcast.net); or Rod at 360-891-5605, email at [rodwill50@hotmail.com](mailto:rodwill50@hotmail.com) if you have any question or recommendations about any federal or state legislative issues.

**John Hershberger**  
**Legislative Affairs**  
**Rod Williams**  
**Legislative Affairs Editor**



**2013 CHAPTER CALENDAR****2013**

24 January **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Officer Wives Club/Chapter Luncheon**  
 Luncheon 1200 \$15.00/person/reservation requested.  
 ~ PROGRAM: Judge Zimmerman with Veterans Court will provide entertainment.  
 ~ Location: Fairway Village 2911 SE Village Loop Vancouver, WA 98683  
**See details Below! Please RSVP NLT 21 Jan** to Nancy: nancylbp@comcast.net 360-750-1335

14 February  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday **Luncheon at the Clark County Skills Center**  
 1130 Gather Luncheon 1200 \$15.00/person/reservation requested.  
 ~ PROGRAM: Annual Business Meeting with Installation of Officers, Annual Financial Report and Proposed Amendments to Chapter's Constitution and By-Laws.

14 March  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday **Luncheon at the Clark County Skills Center**  
 1130 Gather Luncheon 1200 \$15.00/person/reservation requested.  
 ~ PROGRAM: Introduction to Social Media.  
 ~ Speaker: Darleen Stickle

20 April **Brunch at Club Green Meadows (Saturday)**  
 1100 Gather Luncheon 1130 \$15.00/person/reservation requested.  
 ~ PROGRAM: Changes in Medicare.

18 May **Dinner at Heathman Lodge, Vancouver (Saturday)**  
 ~ Speaker: Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan, Jr., USN, President, MOAA.  
 ~ Details: TBD

Please pay with CASH as we don't accept checks or credit cards. THANKS!!!  
There will be lots of door prizes!

**OWC & MOAA 13th Annual Joint Luncheon**

The Vancouver Military Officer's Wives' Club (OWC)

Takes great pleasure in once again inviting MOAA members to join us for lunch

Date: Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 at NoonPlace: Touchmark (formerly Waterford) at Fairway Village  
 2911 SE Village Loop  
 Vancouver, WA 98683SPEAKER: Judge Zimmerman of Veteran's Court who will be bringing people to entertain us!  
 The cost is \$15.00 per person all-inclusive, collected at the door.Please let us know your choice:**\*\*Grilled Swordfish or \*\*Beef Wellington or \*\*Stuffed Roasted Acorn Squash****Entrees served with Rice Pilaf and Sautéed French Green Beans****\*\* Dessert: Apple Pie with Ice Cream****\*\* Beverages: water, coffee, ice tea, variety of Pepsi products**

RSVP by Monday January 21st with your choice from the menu.

To: [nancylbp@comcast.net](mailto:nancylbp@comcast.net)

360-750-1335

**\*\*Please feel free to invite your friends along. Just let us know the total number in your party. Also, please let us know if you can't make it after RSVP-ing.\*\***

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

All voting members of the Columbia River Chapter, Military Officers Association of America are hereby notified in accordance with Article XV of the following proposed amendments to our Chapter's Constitution and By-Laws. The proposed amendments will be placed before the Chapter for a vote at the regularly scheduled annual business meeting in February 2013. A two-thirds vote of the required quorum is necessary to approve each amendment.

Our current Constitution and By-Laws was passed almost eight years ago. For the most part, the Articles have worked well for governing the Chapter. Many of the changes proposed are minor updates and edits. Other proposed amendments reflect experience gained by the Executive Board regarding the need for more flexibility or clarification. Also driving several amendments is a change granting Auxiliary members certain voting rights at the national level, and providing consistency between our by-laws and the national policy. Most of the other significant changes proposed are the result of the Executive Board's deliberations over the past several months regarding Chapter organization, assignments for elected and appointed officers, and committee functions. The companion article in this newsletter—"A Time for Chapter Change"—describes the results of the Board's review.

Proposed amendments are listed by Article and Section number. Proposed changes in the text are underlined for identification purposes only. There are no amendments proposed for the Preamble, and Articles I, III, IV, XI, XII, XIII, XV, and XVI.

If you want a copy of the Chapter's by-laws for your own review prior to the meeting, contact Terry Babin at [tbear06@comcast.net](mailto:tbear06@comcast.net) or (360) 608-7789.

**ARTICLE II—PURPOSES**

Insert "veterans" as follows:

*...protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard personnel and veterans of the uniformed services...*

This addition recognizes that we are already very engaged as a Chapter in supporting veterans.

**ARTICLE V—VOTING**

- Delete the last sentence regarding voting ineligibility, and amend Section 2 to read:

*Regular members in good standing and Auxiliary members who have national membership and who are present at a convened meeting of the Chapter shall be entitled to vote.*

This change will grant voting rights to Auxiliary members consistent with the voting status now afforded Auxiliary members by the national organization.

- Add new Section 5:

**Section 5.** Honorary members and Auxiliary members not a member of the national organization are not eligible to vote.

The last sentence of the original Section 2 is moved to this new section, and revised to be consistent with the preceding proposed amendment.

#### **ARTICLE VI—DUES**

Insert “*and regular members 90 years of age and over,*” in the last sentence of Section 2:

*Auxiliary and Honorary members, and regular members 90 years of age are exempt from annual dues.*

This amendment recognizes long-time members for their extended service and support.

#### **ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS**

Insert “*, e-mailed, or sent by other electronic means*” following the word “mailed” throughout this Article.

Reflects the fact that most members now receive Chapter information and notices by e-mail, not by postal services.

#### **ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS:**

- Amend the last sentence of Section 1 to read:

*Elected officers must qualify as a voting member in accordance with Article V.*

This change grants to Auxiliary members the right to hold Chapter office consistent with the other changes in status and rights.

- Amend Section 3 by adding the following at the end of the last sentence:

...within any six (6) year period except as otherwise provided by Sections 4 and 6 of this Article.

This amend is proposed for consistency and clarification of exceptions should the Immediate Past President need to preside in accordance with the succession plan.

- Amend Section 4 to read as follows:

**Section 4.** The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall fill a vacancy in the office of the President automatically until the next election cycle held in conjunction with the annual meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President has the option to either fill the now vacated 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position; or remain as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President must decide and inform the Executive Board prior to the next Board or Chapter meeting—whichever occurs first. Remaining vacancies, except the office of President, shall be filled as the Executive Board decides subject to concurrence by the membership at the next regularly convened Chapter meeting.

This revision provides greater flexibility in managing unexpected vacancies for the top three elected positions in the Chapter, and expediting action in case of vacancies in any elected position. Also adds the requirement for membership ratification in exchange for the Board's expanded power.

- Insert the following as the second to last sentence in Section 6 adding the Immediate Past President to the order of precedence for presiding when the Chapter President is absent or temporarily disabled.

If the President and both Vice Presidents are unable to temporarily perform the duties of the President, the Immediate Past President shall perform the duties of President.

This amendment strengthens the succession order, and gives us more depth for continuity and leadership.

- Insert the word “standing” before ...Committee Chairpersons in the first sentence of Section 9:

This insertion clarifies that chairpersons of temporary special committees are not members, by virtue of their position on a special committee, to be members of the Executive Board as defined in Article IX.

- Amend the fourth sentence of Section 9 regarding appointed positions to delete "...subject to the approval of the Chapter Executive Board, shall make the appointments within sixty (60) days after the annual meeting or" The fourth sentence will read:

*"The President shall make the appointment when a vacancy occurs.*

This change simplifies requirements and the process for filling vacancies in appointed positions.

- Add Section 10:

*"Section 10. When either an elected or appointed officer of the Chapter is unable to attend five (5) consecutive regularly scheduled Chapter and Executive Board meetings, in any combination, the President will submit for the Executive Board's approval a report and recommendation whether to consider the position vacant. Upon the determination by the Executive Board that a position is vacant, actions in accordance with these By-laws will be taken to fill the vacancy."*

This addition provides a process for addressing officer "inactivity" in a timely manner while providing flexibility in reaching a resolution.

#### **ARTICLE IX—CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Amend Section 2 to read:

*"Section 2. A member of the Chapter Executive Board who is eligible to vote on regular Chapter business in accordance Article V. Section 2 also has a vote on the Executive Board. Any member of the Board who holds more than one position on the Board has only one vote per motion."*

This revision updates and clarifies the voting status of Board members on matters before the Board.

- Amend Section 6 regarding the mandatory quorum for the Executive Board to conduct business to read:

*"At least six voting members of the Executive Board, of which at least two (2) must be elected officers, shall constitute a quorum at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Immediate Past President shall be considered an "elected officer" for the purpose of determining a quorum."*

Since almost all of the regular business of the Chapter is conducted by the Board, there must be a balance between ensuring there is adequate representation of possible differing viewpoints while also getting essential business done in a timely manner. Based on past experiences of position vacancies and absences, the current Executive Board members recommend the changes to the number of elected officers required to be present and the definition of which positions are defined as "elected" officers.

#### **ARTICLE X—COMMITTEES**

- Amend Section 1 to read:

*"Section 1. The President shall appoint the chairperson for each of the standing committees, and may establish and appoint the chairperson for temporary special committees when needed."*

This revision simplifies the process for appointing committee chairpersons and establishing special committees. Also adds flexibility for exercising the Chapter President's prerogatives.

- Deleted the present Section 2 in its entirety, and add a new Section 2 as follows:

**“Section 2. The standing committees of the Chapter shall include Programs’, Membership, Retention and Personal Affairs, Scholarship, Public Affairs, and Legislative Affairs.**

**Section 2.a The President shall assign one Vice President to the Membership Committee as an ex officio member and the other Vice President to the Programs’ Committee as an ex officio member. Each Vice President shall serve as an advisor to the chairperson and the respective committee to which assigned.**

**Section 2.b The Public Affairs Committee shall have a representative serving on the Programs’ and Membership Committees.**

**Section 2.c The Immediate Past President, the Service Representatives, and the Auxiliary Representative shall serve on the Retention and Personal Affairs Committee.**

**Section 2.d Committees, including the committee chairpersons, will be comprised of as many members from the Chapter’s general membership as needed to ensure a broad cross-section of interests and views in sufficient numbers for the respective committees to adequately perform their responsibilities and tasks. All members of the Chapter and their spouses, regardless of status, may serve on committees and may also serve as a committee chairperson. Voting eligibility is still governed by the provisions of Article V and Section 2 of Article IX.**

**Section 2.e Subject to the approval of the Executive Board, any standing committee may be comprised of two or more subcommittees if determined to be in the best interest of the Chapter in efficiently and effectively performing committee tasks. The committee chairperson is authorized, with the concurrence of the Chapter President, to appoint the subcommittee chairperson.**

**Section 2.f Elected officers other than the President may serve as a standing committee chairperson for one standing committee. No chairperson for a standing committee may serve as chairperson for a second standing committee, but may also serve concurrently as a chairperson for a special committee. Elected and appointed officers may serve as a committee member on as many committees as needed commensurate with, and not detracting from, their regular primary duties on the Board.”**

This amendment is contingent upon the Chapter’s membership approving the general reorganization and reallocation of tasks for the Chapter’s the standing committee organization. If the reorganization and reallocation are approved, this revision of Section 2 will codify the new organizational framework.

- Insert “, e-mailed, or sent by other electronic means” following the word “mailed” in section 3.c.

Reflects the fact that most members now receive Chapter information and notices by e-mail, not by postal services.

#### **ARTICLE XIV THE FLAG**

Amend the Article XIV title document by inserting a space between the words “THE” and “FLAG”

#### **“ARTICLE XIV—THE FLAG”**

Correction made for a typographical error in the original document.

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## 2013 MOAA Columbia River Chapter Dues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed:

Chapter Dues (\$15/year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund Donation (See enclosed letter on new chapter  
Scholarship Campaign to create self sufficient endowments at  
Clark College and WSU-Vancouver.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Support the Troops Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (Make all checks out to MOAA Columbia River Ch.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check for dues/donations to:

MOAA – Columbia River Chapter

PO Box 1872

Vancouver, WA 98668

**NOTE: New 2012 members under the “Give Me Ten” Program do not pay 2013 dues!**

**NOTE: Chapter dues are due at the beginning of the year. We pay per capita dues to the State Council by the end of January. Thus, your early payment helps. Thank You!**

Contact Information (for questions):

Treasurer: **Larry Sickles** 892-2638 or [llsickles@comcast.net](mailto:llsickles@comcast.net) (3 year dues status questions)

Membership, large donations, and bequest information: **Dave Casteel** 834-2448 or [shilohcamas@comcast.net](mailto:shilohcamas@comcast.net)

### *IRS Statement*

***The Columbia River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is a 501 (c) 19 veterans’ organization under IR code. As such, donations (NOT dues) are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you have questions please consult your financial advisor***