



# COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

5-Star Excellence Chapter



ESTABLISHED 1970

website: [www.moaacolumbiariver.org](http://www.moaacolumbiariver.org)

September 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**President:**  
Dave Casteel  
360-834-2448  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:**  
Evelyn Brady  
360-425-8056  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:**  
**& Programs**  
Marie Wolfe  
360-574-6675  
**Secretary:**  
Rod Heidelberg  
360-607-6015  
**Treasurer:**  
Ron Pastor  
360-882-1275  
**Immediate Past President:**  
Rod Williams  
360-891-5605  
**Army Rep:**  
Jon Frederick  
360-576-9078  
**Marine Rep:**  
Terry Babin  
360-608-7789  
**Navy Rep:**  
Rich Wersinger  
360-901-1915  
**Air Force Rep:**  
Beth Brown  
360-260-9845  
**Coast Guard Rep:**

**Public Health Rep:**  
Roger DeRoos  
360-835-5450  
**Auxiliary Rep:**  
Terry Whisenant  
360-576-7736  
**Legislative Affairs:**  
Rod Williams  
360-891-5605  
**Personal Affairs:**  
Terry Babin  
360-608-7789  
**Public Affairs:**  
John Donnelly  
360-904-8966  
**Scholarship:**  
Paul Crosby  
360-666-8871  
**Chaplain:**  
Rev Max Metcalf  
541-961-0869

I hope you and your families had a really great summer. No doubt about it, it was real summer weather. Now, if the weather will just hold until our September 13 barbecue at **John & Charlene's** it will be perfect. I'm looking forward to hearing about your adventures this summer--even if you just stayed home and tried to keep cool.

We received some excellent news this summer--MOAA again selected our chapter as a Five Star Level of Excellence Award winning chapter! This is our tenth consecutive award.

Congratulations to the board and all of you who make our chapter great. It will be my distinct honor to accept the award on your behalf in Orlando in October.

While we did not meet as a chapter over the summer, your board was busy. We hosted a booth at Costco on Heroes Night in June and held a one day long range planning session in July. We recruited two new chapter members at the Heroes Night: **Martin Burrows** and **Bruce Miller**. We hope you will be able to meet them soon. We held the planning session to discuss how we can continue to improve our chapter to offer our

members an even better chapter. Special thanks to **Terry Babin** for organizing and making all the arrangements and **Rodney Williams** for facilitating. In addition to the board,



thanks also goes to members **Marv Serhan, Larry Smith, and Dave Shoemaker** for attending and lending their strategic planning expertise.

The board will start taking up recommendations that came out of the planning session starting at our September board meeting. Remember, board meetings are open to all chapter members.

[Continued on page 2]

### 13 September Sunday Its BBQ Time!

At the Donnelly's  
6401 Highland Dr,  
Vancouver  
Gather at 3:00 pm  
Dinner at 4:00 pm  
**Scholarship Donations**  
**Details on page 10**

### Newsletter Highlights

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

We have a working breakfast at 0830 the second Thursday of each month at Elmer's Restaurant on 40th St, just East of Andresen. If you plan to attend, No RSVP is required, but helpful (so wait staff can set enough places). Just let me know.

Also at the September board meeting, we will review and finalize the by-laws for our newly created **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF)**--a public charity. This is the new 501(c)3 we are creating for our Scholarship and Support the Troops donations. While our chapter is currently a 501(c)19 War Veterans organization whose donations are tax deductible, this can change as our membership ages. So, the creation of our new Foundation will insure our members always have a separate 501(c)3 to make tax deductible charitable donations to (as well as bequests from their estates). We have filed with Washington State as a corporation and obtained an EIN from the IRS (47-4776049). The next steps are to register as a charitable organization with Washington State and then send in the formal application to the IRS. We will keep you apprised.

Legislatively, you will be asked to "keep hitting send" on your computer in response to MOAA Legislative Alerts this fall. As you can see from **Rodney Williams'** column, much is at stake. In addition, by the time you read this, the Secretary of Defense will have released his "Force of the Future" Initiative which will significantly reshape our military personnel system doing away with the current "up or out" promotion system. The new initiative is designed to appeal to the millennial generation. We have requested an appointment with Congresswoman **Jaime Herrera Beutler** to talk about the impact of these issues on our men and women in uniform before she returns to Washington D.C. September 7. If we are not able to meet personally with her we will certainly meet with her staff as well as **Senator Murray's** staff.

**Dave Casteel**  
**President**

### **Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby**

I had the pleasure of attending the Prairie Awards Night on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and presenting the MOAA Leadership Award to **Cadet 1LT McKenna Bufford**. At the time of the award ceremony, McKenna was the MWR Officer for the second semester of school year 2014-15. McKenna also received the Achievement Ribbon that is awarded to only 5% of the cadet corps.



The Prairie Awards Night was a precursor to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Prairie Air Force Junior ROTC program and the retirement of **MSGT Randy Martin** after 17 years with the program. It was a wonderful evening and I had the honor to be the guest speaker. Over 100 former cadets attended the event.

**Paul Crosby**  
**Scholarship**  
**360-666-8871**

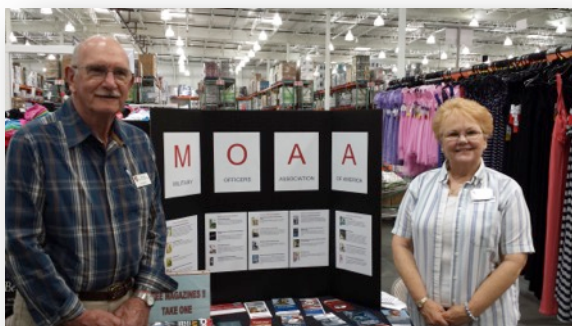


### ***Membership Update*** by Evelyn Brady

Columbia River Chapter of MOAA strives to support our local community by a high profile at civic events. It has proven to be good for our chapter as well.

At the Memorial Day event at Fort Vancouver, we met many veterans, and two of those have chosen to join our chapter. Please welcome **Don Olson** who is retired from ARNG, and **Ralph Laedtke** who is retired from the Navy. CAPT **Laedtke** had a remarkable career from 1939 to 1974 in the Medical Service Corps.

At the Heroes Night at Vancouver Costco in June, we met many interesting people who had served in the military. Please welcome new members **Martin Burrows** and **Bruce Miller**. **Martin** served in the Army for 10 years, and **Bruce** retired from the Air Force after 26 years.



We look forward to seeing you at the BBQ on September 13.

You can reach me at [evelynbrady@rocketmail.com](mailto:evelynbrady@rocketmail.com) or (360) 425-8056.

**Evelyn Brady**  
**Membership Recruitment Committee**

### ***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).

Our Chapter Secretary Rod Heidelberg, (360) 607-6015 [roderickjheidelberg@yahoo.com](mailto:roderickjheidelberg@yahoo.com) 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, Rod Heidelberg

### ***Tidbits From My Sojourn in May 2015*** by Marge Van Nus

Denmark, a beautiful country comprising about 406 islands (70 inhabited), has a rich history with evidence of human inhabitation dating from 12,000 BC. More about historic Denmark and my extraordinary journey, plus the Baltic cruise later---

During the SCD International Branch dancers tour of Denmark I "met" Hans Christian Anderson. "H.C.", as everyone calls him, is to the Danes what Robert Burns is to the Scots.

Born in 1805, his accomplishments not only include the 156 fairy tales, 14 novels and short stories, 50 dramatic works and approximately 1,000 poems/articles/biographies/and humorous pieces but ALSO numerous paper cutouts, drawings and paintings!! A remarkable person!

A mobile, which is a replica, of H.C. scissors cuttings is presently hanging in my kitchen window for all to see. My door is always open to anyone popping in for a cup of tea.



The photo is my meeting H.C. ;-)

**Marge Van Nus**  
**Former Auxiliary Rep**



## ***Space-A – Travel For Less, The Military Way*** by Allan E. Jeska

We who live in the Pacific Northwest are blessed with frequent military flights to many desirable destinations. My wife and I have flown to Japan, Iceland, Germany, Crete, Sicily, and Italy.

The flights are readily announced now on Facebook. Just type in the base you are wanting to fly out of and they will give you the flights leaving in the next 72 hours, even perhaps the number of seats available. As this article is being written there is a flight to Nellis AFB (Las Vegas, NV) available with 60 seats.

Flights originate from Lewis/McChord AFB, NAS Whidbey Is., Gray Army Airfield, Fairchild AFB, and Oregon flight facilities in Salem and Portland ANG Base. POC's are: McChord (253-982-7268. Whidbey NAS (360) 257-2604. Fairchild: (509) 247-3406.

While you may often just show up and "hop" a flight, the usual routine is to sign-up about 60 days before you desire to fly using a site like: (unclebud.net) He has tons of info on his site for you to read and heed. Then watch for the 72-hr listing for the flight you desire on Facebook, or call the flight terminal to see if the flight is still going.

You may fly on assorted aircraft, depending on the service, but there is no cost, other than the usual fees/taxes for the TSA. Aircraft vary from large cargo planes to VIP aircraft and you should aim to travel with about 30 pounds of luggage. Flights from the Pacific Northwest tend to go to Dover, DE, Andrews AF, McGuire AFB, Ft. Campbell, KY, Jacksonville, FL, San Diego, CA, Travis AFB, CA, Ft. Hood, TX, Elmendorf AFB, AK, Yokota, JP, Ramstein, GE, and Hickam AFB, HI.

Reservists and Guardsmen, not on Active Status, may only fly in the U.S. to include HI, Puerto Rico, AK, and territories. Active and Retired personnel may fly worldwide, where allowed.

I always go to the base a day ahead, already having arranged quarters, and then check with the counter folks at the flight terminal about the flight and show time. Be prompt for the show time, report in, and wait to be called for the flight. Should the flight be overbooked, seats will be awarded by the oldest sign-up.

As you obtain your boarding pass, you may be able to order/pay for an inflight meal, which will be delivered to the aircraft for you. (For US Navy flights, you better grab a Subway sandwich.) Then you will go through a TSA-type screening and board the aircraft.

Be sure to have funds, credits cards, and a very flexible schedule in case there are no planes to get you back.

Please remember that Space-A flights are a privilege/benefit that you have earned and is only for those of us with the patience, daring, and the love of seeing our Country's military at work

As Nike has said: "Just do it!"

<http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/>

**LTC Allan E. Jeska, USAR (Ret)**  
**MOAA Life Member**  
**jeskaa1@juno.com**



## ***SUMMER MUSINGS of the Membership Services Committee Chairman by Terry Babin***

One of the advantages of the Columbia River Chapter's summer break is having the time to step back, and think about both the past months and the coming months as well. Another advantage is that there is plenty of time to procrastinate instead of writing an article for the first Chapter newsletter after the summer. Time for me to put the two together since my article is due today (and there are only a few hours left). The following is a summary of some topics that have been on my mind from time-to-time over the summer.

The President's message in the beginning of this Newsletter notes that our Executive Board held a Planning Conference in late July. The agenda was ambitious, and time constrained how much we could accomplish in 5 hours. Still, we were able to begin describing the foundation for future Chapter direction, priorities, and a robust set of activities.

- Our chief limitation during the Conference was the absence of adequate, current information about the interests of our membership. Compounding the challenge was the fact that we have such a large and uneven distribution of ages within the Chapter—and the consequential differences in interests, ability to participate, and “what excites” a member to be proactive and regularly involved in Chapter programs and events.
- There was some frustration that we did not have the information to confidently know what many of you expect and want out of your MOAA membership.
- Your input is very, very important to those of us trying to make membership in Columbia River Chapter a **quality** experience. Call, e-mail, or even write a short comment when you pay your Chapter dues—any information helps. Each Chapter officers' contact information is on the cover of the Newsletter.

What happened to the Keeping Connected Program?

- The two call series made by our Chapter's volunteer phone callers generated 86 action items in 2014. There were only two items the Chapter officers were either not able to act upon, or not able to complete. Most items were administrative, but many were requests for information and assistance.
- Beginning in early 2015, MOAA's National Office placed new emphasis on Chapter membership and accuracy of the rosters. A combination of taking time to reconcile the many lists and formats, and my own personal business and travels, resulted in many delays on my part.
- The good news is that we will soon be reaching out to all of you again. What will be calling about? We always try to keep the call items to a minimum, but three things will most likely comprise the next call series:
  1. Confirm that you are receiving the Chapter's Newsletter
  2. Ask if there is any change to your phone, address, and e-mail contact information, or other information you would like to have passed to the Chapter officers.
  3. Ask if, from your perspective, there is something more you would like to have the Chapter do (either individually, or as a group).
- Who are the Chapter's callers? Past volunteers who we hope will assist us again are Marie Wolfe, Rodney Williams, Paul and Ivadell Crosby, John Hill, Rich Wersinger, Bob Cross, Marlene Laurie, Peggy Pastor, Joel Scott, Nancy Fritz, and Jim Morse.
- Helping us this fall as additional callers are Dan Sockle and Jon Frederick.
- Always looking for more callers either as a primary or alternate. Usually doesn't take much time (Your list will usually be kept to a dozen or less members with three or less call items per member.).

[Continued on page 6]

**SUMMER MUSINGS, Membership  
Services continued**

Several items are important to mention about Personal Affairs:

- Not sure what happened to the survivors' checklists on our Chapter website (I suspect those Chinese, North Korean, and Russian hackers—but can't prove it). I will get together with those who know more about these things than I do to get the guidance and checklist back on the site. Meanwhile, call or e-mail me for copies if you need them ASAP—(360) 608-7789 or [tbear06@comcast.net](mailto:tbear06@comcast.net).
- Make sure your survivors (next of kin or personal representative) know about any disability pay you are receiving—particularly from the VA. Have the necessary documentation, which verifies your eligibility included with your other personal affairs documents. Also, if they are kept in an envelope/folder, clearly mark a title for the contents on the exterior for ease of finding.
- All reports of death for NOAA, PHS, and USCG now go to the same place:

Commanding Officer  
USCG Pay & Personnel Center  
444 SE Quincy Street  
Topeka, KS 66683-3591  
1-800-772-8724

**Terry Babin**  
**Membership Services Committee Chairman**  
(360) 608-7789  
[tbear06@comcast.net](mailto:tbear06@comcast.net)

***Changes Coming to TRICARE  
Pharmacy Benefit*** *shared by Rod Williams*

Starting October 1, 2015, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy.

Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

Read the full article here

[<http://www.tricare.mil/rxnewrules090115> ].

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at  
[www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions)

[<http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions> ].

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[www.twitter.com/tricare](http://www.twitter.com/tricare)

[<http://www.twitter.com/tricare>] and

[www.plus.google.com/+TRICARE](http://www.plus.google.com/+TRICARE)

[<http://www.plus.google.com/+TRICARE> ].





The Community Military Appreciation  
Committee (CMAC) invites you to:

## **National POW/MIA Recognition Day Observance**

***Saturday, September 19, 2015***

***9:45 a.m. reception • 11:00 a.m. program***



*Please join us in honoring  
and remembering those who  
were prisoners of war (POW)  
and those who are missing in  
action (MIA), as well as their  
families.*

### **LOCATION:**

***Armed Forces Reserve Center  
15005 NE 65th Street***

#### **From I-205 North or South:**

Take exit 30, take ramp right for WA-500 East  
Keep right onto NE Fourth Plain Blvd  
Turn right onto NE 152nd Avenue  
Turn right onto NE 65th Street

Sponsored by:



**Memorial Plaza bricks still available!  
Contact Bob Bean at 360-903-2340**







## 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
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Contact Senator Cantwell via email: <http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>

### 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
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Contact Senator Murray via email: <http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

## Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 14	District 20
<b>Senator</b>	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Don Benton 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
<b>Representative, Position 1</b>	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Lynda Wilson 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Ed Orcutt 786-7990
<b>Representative, Position 2</b>	Jim Moeller 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike 786-7812	Gina McCabe 786-7856	Richard DeBolt 786-7896

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)



**Legislative Affairs: by Rod Williams**

Congress returns for summer break on September 8<sup>th</sup> with only eight legislative days to avoid another shutdown. All the media focus on pre-election activities has kept that time bomb off the front page and some in Congress are hoping it stays that way. We cannot afford to let that happen as the military budget remains a huge target for cuts.

Do not forget the sequestration axe created by the Budget Control Act (BCA) will fall if the arbitrary caps on the budget are not met. Defense leaders consider sequestration to be one of the biggest threats to national security. It would require DoD to cut \$20 billion from its already shrunk annual budget next year. Expect the people side of the budget to take the biggest hits.

The battle over whether or not to cap the active duty pay raise was a big part of the failure of Congress to complete its annual defense bill before the August break. Active duty pay raises are designed to keep pay comparable and competitive with wage growth in the private sector. Pay raises for the active force are based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI), a metric calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that measures private sector wage growth. Earlier this year, House lawmakers agreed to authorize a full active duty pay raise of 2.3 percent; however, Senate lawmakers want to cap the pay raise at 1.3 percent. If active duty pay is capped, this would be the third year of pay caps below private sector wage growth and continue eroding pay and benefits for service members and their families.

TRICARE remains a target rich environment for those in the budget cutting business. In a recent article MOAA Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), described the situation eloquently. He said, "TRICARE beneficiaries are doing more than their fair share to decrease military personnel costs. Last year alone, beneficiaries were responsible for 80 percent of the savings achieved by

the Defense Health Agency (DHA). Singling out beneficiaries instead of cutting costs within the DoD continues to be the fiscal answer for the Pentagon and for some members of Congress, who are poised to increase TRICARE fees in this year's defense bill."

Col Hayden went on to describe how over the past five years, military beneficiaries have shouldered the majority of DoD's cost cutting initiatives, such as:

- **TRICARE fee increases:** Since 2011, TRICARE Prime annual fees and copays have increased 20 percent.
- **Pharmacy copay increases:** Pharmacy copays vary by class, but beneficiaries now pay 60 percent more for their medicine than they did in 2011.
- **Home Delivery Program:** In 2013, Congress forced TRICARE for Life beneficiaries to refill most maintenance medications by mail order. Imposition of this mandate restricted choice for beneficiaries and reaped huge savings for DoD. Home delivery saved DoD \$215 million in 2014 alone. In October, the Home Delivery Program expands to active duty family members and retirees under age 65.
- **Reduction in TRICARE Prime Service Areas:** In 2013, changes to regional TRICARE contracts reduced Prime Service Areas to a 40-mile radius from Military Treatment Facilities.

As always, I encourage you to stay informed and act. Go to the "Take Action" tab at [WWW.MOAA.ORG](http://WWW.MOAA.ORG) and send an email to our two Senators and our Representative.

**Rod Williams**  
Chapter Legislative Chair



**2015 CHAPTER CALENDAR**

13 September **Its BBQ Time! At the Donnelly's**  
 Sunday 6401 Highland Dr, Vancouver  
 Afternoon Gather at 3:00 pm  
 Dinner at 4:00 pm  
 Details Below!



15 October **Luncheon Meeting at the Clark County Skills Center**  
 Thursday **Program:** What Civil Air Patrol Does for the USAF and You--the Taxpayer  
**Speaker:** Dave Shoemaker and Major Bob Weyant

19 November **Luncheon Meeting at the Clark County Skills Center.**  
 Thursday **Program:** America's "Jihad" – Our Struggle With Jihadists, the Far Left, the Far Right and  
 Other Extremists Around the Globe Since 9/11.  
**Speaker:** Dan Sockle, CW3, USA

6 December **Holiday Christmas Party honoring scholarship recipients**  
 Sunday **Details:** Buffet Dinner at the 40 et 8 Chateau

### **Its BBQ Time!** **Sunday, 13 September 2015**

**The Donnelly's**  
 6401 Highland Drive  
 Vancouver, WA 98661

1500 Gather  
 1600 Dinner  
 1700 Bocce Games

**NO RSVP:** Be there or be square!

### **Menu**

Marinated Chicken thighs  
 and smoked pork.

Beverages provided by club!

You bring your best salad, side dish or dessert!!

Plus your donation for the Scholarship Fund.

