



# COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

5-Star Excellence Chapter



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

ESTABLISHED 1970

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

October 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**President:**  
Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:  
& Membership:**  
Jeremy Baenen  
360-281-9998

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:  
& Programs**  
Yvette Brown-Wahler  
360-326-3346

**Secretary:**  
Rod Heidelberg  
360-607-6015

**Treasurer:**  
Ron Pastor  
360-882-1275

**Immediate Past  
President:**  
Dave Casteel  
360-834-2448

**Army Rep:**  
Jon Frederick  
360-576-9078

**Marine Rep:**  
Terry Babin  
360-608-7789

**Navy Rep:**  
Rich Wersinger  
360-901-1915

**Air Force Rep:**  
Jeremy Baenen  
360-281-9998

**Coast Guard Rep:**

**Public Health Rep:**  
Roger DeRoos  
360-835-5450

**Surviving Spouse  
Liaison:**  
Terry Whisenant  
360-576-7736

**Legislative Affairs:**  
Rod Williams  
360-891-5605

**Membership Services:**  
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 are enjoying the glorious fall weather! **Dave Casteel** and I attended the 2016 Chapter Leaders' Symposium in Las Vegas on September 22 – 24. It was really hot outside! So we stayed inside the cool Flamingo Hotel and attended the informative sessions that were led by MOAA leadership from Washington DC.

A recurring topic was how to attract younger chapter members. Of course, each chapter is unique based on its own community. Some of the chapters are near active duty posts and are engaged with those currently serving, and some chapters, like ours, are not. We are fortunate that the Vancouver community is veteran friendly, and we partner with organizations such as CMAC and ESGR.

Younger prospective members are technologically savvy. Sadly, I and many of our members are not. We must be visible on social media such as Facebook. How many of you have visited our Facebook page? Did you know we had a Facebook page? Really, it isn't all that hard to get a Facebook account, and you don't need to divulge much personal information either. You can use a made up name and birth date if you would like.

Speaking of technology, MOAA has done a stellar job of simplifying how we advocate on issues that our important to us as part of the greater military family. Please utilize the information



available to you on line at MOAA.org. I will take you step by step how to sign up for electronic MOAA Legislative updates and MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs updates, including the newsletter "The Affiliate".

[Continued on page 2]

**20 October  
Thursday  
Chapter Luncheon  
Ben's Bottle Shop  
8052 East Mill Plain Blvd  
Vancouver, WA  
RSVP 16 October  
Details on page 10**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued**

Go to MOAA.org. On the far right of the tool bar, log in. After you have logged in, on the far right of the tool bar, click on "Account". Scroll down to my subscriptions and notifications, click on this. A page will pop up, enter your email address, click submit. Your profile comes up. On this page you simply click on MOAA Legislative updates and MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs. Et voila! Technology can be a great tool, and the more you use, the less you will fear it.

There was a great deal of discussion about recruitment and retention at the 2016 Chapter Leaders' Symposium. The interactive groups shared ideas with chapter and national leaders. Different approaches on how to use the recruiting lists provided

by national MOAA were discussed, with one chapter recruiting chair stating he Googled prospects names to see if they were on Linked In. If so, he paired up a chapter member with similar interests and backgrounds to contact the prospect. Connecting new members with current members is a tool we use in our chapter when we have sponsors for our new members. We also talked about "elevator messages" to showcase MOAA's relevance in today's political setting.

Your Executive Board will continue to work so that our meetings are fun, informative, and relevant. Your input is always welcome. Remember, never stop serving!

**Evelyn Brady  
President**

**Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby**

It is that time of the year when I have the pleasure to introduce the Chapter's four 2016-17 school year scholarship recipients.

I had the opportunity to meet the Clark scholarship recipients on September 30th and they were impressive. Each has one other scholarship in addition to the chapter scholarships. Here are the recipients of all our scholarships for this school year.

**Clark College Scholarships**

<b>Student</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Scholarship Name</b>
Daniel Nehnevaj	Engineering	Colonel James Chriss
Abigail Bohn	Medical Radiography	Colonel Daniel Doty
Samantha Wendland	Engineering	Captain Robert Fenning

**WSU-Vancouver Scholarship**

<b>Student</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Scholarship Name</b>
Jason Langley	Unknown	Major James Allan

I look forward to introducing each of them to you at the annual Christmas Social on December 4th. See you then.



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

**Membership Update** by *Jeremy Baenen*

While it has only been a short time since our last newsletter, we have added a new member to our chapter. I would like to welcome and introduce **Jim Faull** and his wife **Bonnie**. We met Jim at the Costco Heroes Night and I am proud to welcome him to the chapter. **Jim** is a national MOAA member and served in the Air Force from 1963 to 1994.

Thank you for you and your family's service to our country and welcome to the chapter! We are looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

If you would like to reach me, you can e-mail me at [Jeremy.Baenen@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremy.Baenen@gmail.com) or call my cell 360-281-9998.

**Jeremy Baenen**  
Membership Recruitment Committee



Board members welcome new members at Di Tazzo. L-R: Roger DeRoos, President Evelyn Brady, Jim Faulls, Yvette Brown-Wahler and Lee Loomis. Jim is retired Air Force. Lee is former Army and Air Force and retired Public Health Service.

**Chapter ~ Membership Eligibility**

Chapter membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased officers are also eligible to join.

**Columbia River Chapter ~ Affiliate**

Our chapter is an affiliate of the 390,000 member national MOAA which is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. MOAA and the chapter are nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter is an IRC 501(c)19 war veterans organization.



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## **Membership Services by Terry Babin**

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A few years ago the Constitution and By-Laws of the Columbia River Chapter was amended to establish the Membership Services Committee in place of the Personal Affairs Committee. The reason for the change was simple, but quite “out-of-the-box” for a MOAA chapter. Our Chapter had a committee to recruit new members and a committee to provide end of life planning and assistance, and nothing in between that was focused on individual membership needs. That has now changed.

One of the first initiatives for the Membership Services Committee was to establish a New Members’ orientation for the member and their spouse. This event, held twice a year, is a very low-key, casual social with the Chapter’s Executive Board and the spouses of the Board members. Purposes of this orientation include the opportunity for the Board to meet new members and vice versa, and support the new members and spouses in attaining a high level of “comfort” to participate in future Chapter activities. Next orientation is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in October.

The another initiative to help new members and their spouses enjoy the benefits of local chapter membership is the “Sponsors” program. The framework for this initiative was approved by the Executive Board last spring. The basics of the program are these: (1) Service Representatives assign a sponsor of the same uniformed service as the new member. (2) Sponsor assists the new member in the process of attending functions and being introduced to other Chapter members. (3) Sponsor provides information (provided in advance to the sponsor) to the new member about upcoming events, and Chapter programs and functions (e.g., legislative affairs, scholarship program, support the troops initiatives, etc.).

The Membership Services Committee’s first, and most successful thus far, initiative was the establishment of the “Keeping Connected” program. Basically the program is a semi-annual event when a team of volunteer callers (members or their spouses) phone, or e-mail, other members. The content of the calls generally covers the following: (1) Ensure we have the current contact information for the member,

and the member is receiving the newsletters and other notices from the Chapter. (2) Ask members if he, or she, have any suggestions for programs or improvements in the Chapter functions and operations. And (3) Say “hello” to our many members who, for various reasons, are unable to attend Chapter activities. Since this program began a little over two years ago, the Chapter callers and officers have acted on over 100 requests for information or assistance.

Personal Affairs remains a key component of Membership Services. The Committee provides essential checklists, and information and pamphlets from MOAA National, to assist families in end of life planning. Also, assistance is readily available in helping survivors navigate the seemingly overwhelming paperwork associated with the death of a MOAA member or spouse.

Membership Services also does other services and support for members, but you get the idea. Membership Services is about you. During this year’s review of submissions for Level of Excellence Awards at MOAA Headquarters, our Membership Services’ concept and functions were recognized as one of the “best practices” for other MOAA Chapters to consider. The Committee is still evolving and, hopefully, improving upon its services. If you have any ideas, let me know (360) 608-7789.

**Terry Babin**  
**Membership Committee Chairman**

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## **Newsletter Editor**

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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**

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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.

**Name Tags** by *Dave Casteel*

Thanks to our award winning Newsletter Editor, **Rich Wersinger**, we now have a convenient and inexpensive local source for name tags



I mention this because some members would like to wear their own name tag to our meetings instead of the name tags we hand out. Besides, if you have your own name tag you can wear it to public events like Memorial, Veterans, and POW-MIA Day activities. They are especially effective when you wear them to a town hall meeting to advocate for our troops.

The name tags are 1.5” by 3” and come with a pin on the back for \$5.75, or a standard magnet back for \$7.00 (extra strong magnet back is \$8.25), or choose a swivel clip for \$6.50.

The name of the company is Portland Badge Company. They are located at 8900 SW Burnham St, Ste E-14, Tigard, OR 97223. Phone 503-639-8459.

The easiest way to order is to go to their website at [www.portlandbadge.com](http://www.portlandbadge.com). Go to name badges and fill out the order form with your name and address. Use MOAA as the business name (this is what they have our badge design saved under). Change the badge size to 1.5” x 3” and if you want the stronger magnet backing, put this in the special remarks section. Call them if you have any questions. They are very responsive.

There is no minimum order amount, no set up fee, and no tax. I ordered seven badges for the board and I had them in my mail box two days later with no additional charge for postage.

**PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB** by *Terry Babin***(MOAA—Do not call me!)**

In a companion article in this Newsletter, titled “Membership Services,” the Columbia River Chapter’s “Keeping Connected” is briefly explained. In the past I have written several articles about this program. Still, there are some members who

apparently are unsure about why we call, and the purpose(s) of the calls.

Here is what the calls are not about. They are not about soliciting money for our charitable causes and scholarships. They are not about dues collections. They are not about “strong-arming” you into legislative advocacy or volunteering. The calls are made to help you keep in contact with us, and furnish the opportunity for you to offer ideas, suggestions, information, and requests.

Our Chapter is very fortunate to have a terrific, experienced team of callers to make these phone calls. Most of our callers have participated since the program’s beginning. Their call guidance is not intrusive—try twice to make contact by phone, then (if the call is not completed, or the member or their spouse does not return the call) try to send one e-mail.

There are many members who are not able to attend our regularly scheduled meetings and activities. This segment of our membership in particular can benefit from these calls. Overall, most members and spouses are very appreciative of our efforts—and particularly appreciate knowing that we have them in mind.

There are a few members, however, who apparently do not want these calls. Not a problem. Just let us know that you want to be placed on the “**Do Not Call**” list. You can be placed on that list by just e-mailing me ([tbear06@comcast.net](mailto:tbear06@comcast.net)) or call me at (360) 608-7789. You do not have to give me a reason, and I won’t try to dissuade you. Your choice, and we will respect that choice no questions asked.

If you do remain on the Call List, we try to have the same person call you each time. Also helpful to us is your courtesy in returning voicemails and e-mails from our callers. This way you show respect and consideration for the time and effort of our callers; and we know that you are well and that our contact information is correct.

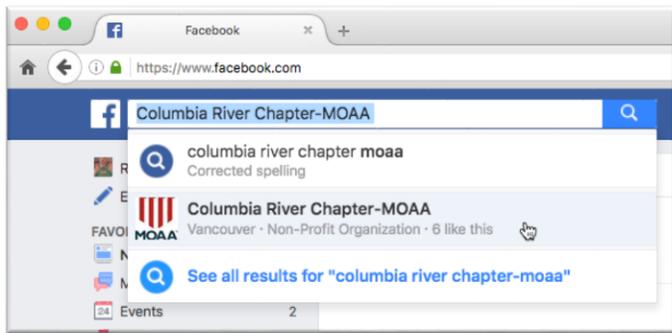
**Terry Babin**  
Membership Committee Chairman



**Facebook Update** by *Dave Casteel*

We learned at the MOAA Western Region Symposium that 14,000,000 people aged 55+ are active Face Book users. Are you one of them? I am. Why? I do it to keep up with current news from organizations that I want to follow.

Our chapter has a Face Book site. You can find it if you do a search for “Columbia River Chapter MOAA.”



On this site we post the next upcoming event as well as infrequent selected activities. That way you don't have to look for your last newsletter in case you forgot to write down the date and location or can't check our website.

It's easy to set up an account. Go to Face Book on the internet and click on “create a new account.” Worried about disclosing personal indentifying information? Do what many of us do, select a date of birth that is not your actual DoB (including month, day, and year). I'm only about 36 on my social media accounts. You don't have to disclose your actual gender either if you don't want to. Use an e-mail account as your log on or user ID and pick a password you can remember.

Add Face Book to your smart phone and to get the update right away. It's free. Android users go to the “Google Play store” and Apple I phone users go to the “App store” on their phone. Click” install” then go to our site.

Challenged? Ask your kids, grand kids or bring your phone to one of our meetings and we can assist you.



Representative Herrera Beutler and Evelyn Brady at the Clark College STEM Building ribbon cutting on October 3, 2016.





## 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/>

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/>



<b>Washington, DC Office:</b> U.S. House of Representatives 1130 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	<b>Vancouver, WA Office:</b> 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>

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

<b>WASHINGTON, DC</b> 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3441 202-228-0514 - FAX 202-224-8273 - TDD	<b>SW WASHINGTON</b> The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 360-696-7838 360-696-7844 – FAX	<b>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON</b> 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/>

<b>WASHINGTON, DC</b> 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	<b>SW WASHINGTON</b> The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798	<b>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON</b> 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**  
More info at [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature)

**Legislative Affairs: by Dave Casteel****“If I don’t, Then Who Will?”**

Good News / Bad News.

The Good news is the government will stay open and won’t shut down until at least December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Bad news is that is our military (and government) will be operating under a Continuing Resolution for at least the first couple months of the new FY. With Legislators back in the States / districts until after the general election, nothing is happening on resolving the differences on the FY 17 NDAA. You have the ability to have your voice heard first hand if you attend a town hall and express your views on some of the NDAA issues like the proposed pay cap, BAH increases, force reductions etc. Remember, when in re-election mode, our elected officials are more receptive to your views.

As Evelyn mentioned, we attended the last MOAA Regional Symposium. Due to cost measures MOAA is no longer planning to conduct Symposiums every four years in regions around the country. Too bad. I thought this was an excellent event. Evelyn attended the President’s management track and I attended the Legislative (advocacy) track. The legislative track was conducted by Dan Merry, Col, USAF, Ret., and Phil Odom, Col, USAF, Ret. Dan is the new Vice President for Government Relations at MOAA and did an outstanding job. From the beginning of the four hour session, Dan made sure it was a two way dialogue exchanging ideas.

One of the items discussed that I found very enlightening, but probably not very surprising, was the number of times MOAA members sent correspondence to Congress by the method of correspondence they used. In 2014, members sent 400,000 e-mails (i.e., “click and send” in response to MOAA’s Legislative Alerts). Members also sent 300,000 post cards and 140,000 tear out letters from the Military Officer magazine. Very interestingly, only 10,000 calls were made using the MOAA Capitol Switchboard Hotline. I asked Dan if there was any way to learn how many e-mails come from a particular chapter so we know how effective our pleas

for support are. He said they would have to check to see if this is possible.

MOAA has 355,000 members as of August 2016. So, doing the math, it appears not everyone is hitting “send” to every MOAA legislative alert, but many more of you are sending in the post cards. Post cards are VERY effective. As Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF, Ret, MOAA President and CEO said, “The (congressional) staff weighs the trays of postcards.” He continued saying, “we saw trays and trays of them when we visited the Hill.” The good thing about postcards is they don’t get held up for screening like letters do so they go directly to your elected official.

We used to prepare postcards and offer them at the business lunches for members to sign and we mailed them all at the same time. If this is something you feel would be helpful to you, we can do it again on selected issues.

I personally like to use the MOAA Toll Free Capitol Switchboard Hotline (866-272-6622) and have used it several times. When the Capitol Operator answers all you do is ask for your Senator’s or Representative’s office and when a person answers, you tell them your name, what organization you are with, and why you are calling. Afterwards, they thank you and say they will pass your message to the Senator / Representative. I plan to use it to call Senator Murray’s DC office to thank her for her support of wounded veterans since she just received The Military Coalition’s (TMC) highest award for this on September 22. MOAA co-chairs the TMC which represents 5.5 million members. I will also call her local office at 696-7797 to do the same. While we ask our elected officials to support our views on issues we also need to remember to contact them and thank them when they do.

[Continued on page 9]

**Legislative Affairs continued**

A comment that was made at the MOAA Regional Symposium was, that on the Hill (i.e., in Congress) “The truth doesn’t matter, perception does!” The truth is what Congress perceives it to be on issues. So, if DoD makes an erroneous statement or uses facts that are cherry picked to fit their side, and that statement goes unchallenged or uncorrected, then DoD’s statement is perceived to be the absolute truth. This is where MOAA and you come in. It is up to us to make sure our legislators hear the real facts, especially as they impact our members of the armed force and their families. Remember—when you served, you were not allowed to voice an opinion to Congress on these issues. That is why we exist as an organization—to advocate for those who serve.

The quotation at the beginning of the article, hits this nail squarely on the head. If each of us does not advocate, then who will? Numbers matter—YOU matter. Be polite, be appreciative, and be persistent.

Keep writing your Senators and Representative. It is not only your right to do so, but a duty we who have already served owe those who are serving now.

**Dave Casteel**  
**Legislative Affairs**

**Washington State Legislative Affairs**  
**Update: by Dave Casteel**

The Washington State Legislature will officially convene January 9, 2017 and adjourn April 21, 2017.

The Legislature meets annually on the second Monday in January. In odd-numbered years, such as 2017, the Legislature meets for 105 days to write a two-year state budget and pass laws. In even-numbered years, they meet for 60 days to make adjustments to the two-year budget and pass laws

Opening day is largely ceremonial, but legislators do meet in caucus. New members get sworn in, and some work will take place in committee work sessions later in the afternoon.

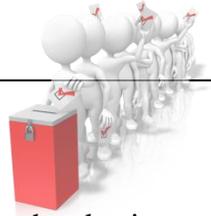
The first week covers a lot of basics and logistics. Committee chairs tell members how the committee is run and go through proper procedures. There will be a number of committee meetings, and there might be some floor sessions on bills.

Your Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) will meet weekly on Fridays when the Legislature is in session to monitor and respond to proposed bills affecting military, veterans, and their families. Once Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) starts monitoring these bills I will receive weekly updates. You can receive the same updates by going to [www.WDVA@LISTSERV.WA.GOV](mailto:www.WDVA@LISTSERV.WA.GOV) and signing up for updates that you are interesting in receiving.



## 2016 CHAPTER CALENDAR

20 October  
Thursday  
**Luncheon**  
***Ben's Bottle Shop***  
***Specialty Beers, Tap Room and Pub Food.***  
Our guest speaker will be Clark County Auditor **Greg Kimsey**. He will discuss the election process (timely, don't ya think?).  
**See details below.**



17 November  
Thursday  
**Luncheon**  
**Clark County Skills Center 11:30 am**  
Speaker: Colonel **Adam Sitler, USAF**  
Vice Commander, 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at PANG



4 December  
Sunday  
**Holiday Party**  
**Chateau 40 et 8 at 3:00 pm**



### Chapter Luncheon

20 October 2016  
Thursday

#### ***Ben's Bottle Shop***

***Specialty Beers, Tap Room and Pub Food***  
***Home to 24 rotating taps, hundreds of bottles***  
***(beer, wines, sakes, meads & ciders)***  
***and awesome food!***

8052 East Mill Plain Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98664

1130 Gather, Luncheon at 1200

\$15 PP all inclusive

Make your own sandwich  
Deli Bar: ham, turkey,  
roast beef, swiss & cheddar,  
potato salad & kettle salt &  
pepper chips!

**RSVP:** 16 October  
Call or e-mail Ron Pastor  
882-1275 [pastor2718@comcast.net](mailto:pastor2718@comcast.net)

**Program:**  
Election Process  
Speaker: Clark County Auditor **Greg Kimsey**

