



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

November 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:
Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998

**2nd Vice-President:
& Programs**
Yvette Brown-Wahler
360-326-3346

Secretary:
Rod Heidelberg
360-607-6015

Treasurer:
Ron Pastor
360-882-1275

**Immediate Past
President,
CRMF president:**
Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Army Rep:
Jon Frederick
360-576-1078

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

With the historic election of 2016 behind us, we will once again focus on issues that impact the lives of former, retired, and currently serving military members. Here in Southwest Washington, our members of Congress did not change. Therefore, we can continue to build on the relationships we have already established with Senator **Patty Murray** and Representative **Herrera Beutler** and their staffs. We take pride in the fact that MOAA is nonpartisan and partners with any and all members of Congress who support our interests.

On October 24th, I was honored to be in Washington DC to receive the 5 Star Award 2015 for our chapter. It is inspiring and humbling to meet and talk to the amazing men and women working at the national level for MOAA. I left there with a list of action items a mile long for our chapter.

November 5 started cold and very rainy. Of course. The Lough Legacy Veterans Parade at Fort Vancouver was that rainy Saturday. Jim and I attended the reception and program before the parade with many local elected officials and veterans. Our chapter's own Pearl Harbor survivor, CAPT **Ralph Laedtke** and his wife **Ferne**, were in attendance. The keynote speaker was CAPT **Greg**

Wooldridge, USN (Ret) and encouraged the audience to "Never stop serving".

We spent Veterans Day at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at a reception and celebration. Our



chapter was well represented with a dozen or so members and I appreciate their attendance. The speakers were well received and **Larry Smith** did an outstanding job as master of ceremonies. After the event, Jim and I drove to the American Legion Post 14 on St John's Road for our free lunch, only to find it had been free breakfast and we missed out!

Looking ahead, please plan to attend the annual membership meeting on January 21, 2017. It is a Saturday and will start at 10:30 am with brunch at 11:00 am.

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**4 December
Sunday
Holiday Party
Chateau 40 et 8 (Boxcar)
7607 NE 26th Ave
Vancouver, WA
RSVP 30 November
Details on page 10**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

Some of you may want to be a little more involved with our chapter, and we have opportunities to do just that. Our current Secretary, **Rod Heidelberg**, will end his term in January. He has done a great job and is very willing to help a new Secretary learn the ropes. **Ron Pastor** would like to step down as Treasurer. Just because he has done the job for about 50 years is not a good reason! Seriously, Ron has served several terms, done a great job, and is more than willing to assist a new Treasurer for several months. We are also looking for a Program Chairperson as **Yvette Brown-Wahler** is now the Chapter liaison to CMAC. We are proposing a few changes in our by-laws to be voted on in January. You will receive the proposed changes prior to the meeting.

Our annual Holiday Party is Sunday, December 4 at the 40 et 8 Chateau starting at 3:00 pm. We will have a nice dinner, the bar will be open, and I'm sure we will get lots of Scholarship and/or Support the Troops donations. Your executive board is planning a rip roaring time with a Gift Exchange. Bring a wrapped gift in order to participate, \$20 limit. This is an optional activity, but it is certain to be loads of fun. So bring a gift to get a gift.

Here's wishing you and yours a truly Happy Thanksgiving. We pray that our active service members stay safe and return home to their families soon.

Evelyn Brady
President



Armed Forces Reserve Center Veterans Day
Celebration, 11 November 2016
L-R: Ron Pastor, Frank Hill, Jim Brady



Armed Forces Reserve Center Veterans Day
Celebration, 11 November 2016
Chapter President Evelyn Brady

Membership Update by *Jeremy Baenen*

I am very happy to announce that we have added three new members to our roster in the last month!

Mike Mooney and his wife **Susan** have joined us. **Mike** retired from the Navy in December 2006 after serving for more than 21 years. He spent the majority of his service years as a naval aviator and now flies for FEDEX.

Additionally, **Chris Lehner** and his wife **Helen** have joined our team. **Chris** started out his military career in the Navy and then cross-trained into the USAF. **Chris** flew fighters in both the Navy and USAF before retiring in April of 2008. Currently **Chris** also flies for FEDEX. Both **Chris** and **Mike** have a real passion for light aircraft and there is a good chance that on a nice day you may see them flying around the local area.

Our most recent member is **Chris Rubadue**. **Chris** spent entered the USPHS in December of 1985 and spent 20 years there before retiring in December of 2005. She is quite active in the local community and we were quite fortunate to have her join us for our October luncheon.

Welcome all and 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 or call my cell 360-281-9998.

Jeremy Baenen
Membership Recruitment Committee

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.



Membership Services by Terry Babin

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Our Chapter Secretary Rod Heidelberg, (360) 607-6015 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.

Chapter Website Changes and CRMF Donation Comments *by Dave Casteel*

If you have not gone to our chapter website www.moacolumbiariver.org lately, I would encourage you to do so.

Probably the greatest improvement is the addition of a very user friendly interactive calendar. The calendar appears on each page after the home page. Dates with events will have a dot for each entry on that particular date. It allows you to clearly see all the dates in a month that have events. Unlike our old calendar, this Google calendar lets you navigate quickly and easily through the months. We have entered events on this calendar through June 2017. As you will note when you click on the dot, some dates have not been confirmed. As soon as any dates, venues and programs are finalized, we update the calendar.

(BTW, You can also “Like” us and Follow us on our “Columbia River Chapter—MOAA” Face Book page to see photos of current events and see information about the next upcoming event).

The **About Us** page on the website was updated to include more information about the **Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF)**. It gives you our Federal EIN, our Washington State UBI, and our State Charities registration numbers. It also gives you the address to mail your donation to.

As a reminder, the CRMF is an IRC 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity set up to accept your tax deductible donations. Our chapter president will be sending out a dues letter in January which will also offer you the opportunity to donate to the CRMF. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution prior to December 31 you can send it to our chapter PO Box (PO Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668) and our treasurer will give it to our CRMF treasurer. The CRMF can also accept bequests. If you prefer to send it to me as the CRMF President directly, please contact me and I will give you my mailing address. My e-mail is shilohcamas@comcast.net and my phone number is 360-834-2448.

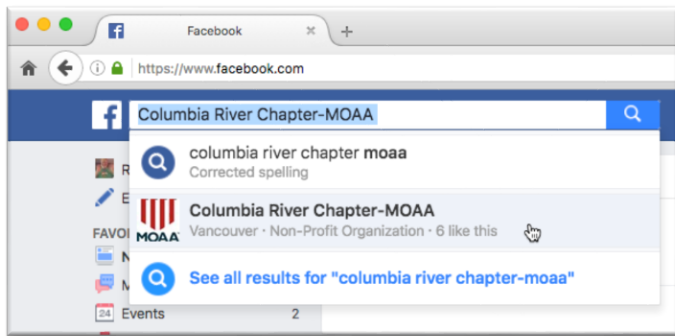
Calendar

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				•	•	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				•••		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				•		
27	28	29	30			

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.





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

Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler Washington's 3rd 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/>



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
Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email: https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me	

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: 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
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
Senator	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Don Benton 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Lynda Wilson 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Ed Orcutt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	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

Legislative Affairs: by Dave Casteel

Now that the General Election is over, what can we expect regarding legislative action on the FY 17 NDAA?

Good question. What we do know is that the 114th Congress just reconvened from about an eight week recess on November 13th and will go on recess again about the time you read this on November 18th (House) and 19th (Senate) until November 28th and 27th respectively. After that, they reconvene for about two weeks with a target adjournment date of December 16th for both chambers. It is doubtful that much meaningful legislation (other than to vote on appropriations legislation prior to December 9th — i.e., a new continuing resolution to fund the government) will get acted upon during the short periods they are in session.

Another continuing resolution going into 2017 is bad news for our national government and our military commanders! That could mean no budget until after the President's Budget comes out which is expected around mid March. We also know that Sequestration again rears its ugly head in the Spring.

I expect MOAA will be asking us to contact both US senators and our Congresswoman imploring them find a way to come together to pass a budget and not pass another continuing resolution as well as to discuss Sequestration and perhaps another issue. When we are asked, we all need to quickly respond. How to respond? Postcards, if provided, are excellent and pretty quick. E-mails are fast but don't convey quantity of responses as well as postcards do. Phone calls are both very fast and very effective.

I recommend using the MOAA toll free number (instead of your personal long distance account) so MOAA knows how many calls are made.

How to use the MOAA Capitol switchboard hotline:

1. Dial 866-272-6622 (free call)
2. When the Capitol operator answers, ask to be connected to Senator Murray's office.
3. When the Senator's receptionist answers the phone, give your name and city you live in.
4. Don't know what to say? Just read (or paraphrase) the MOAA message in the Legislative Alert (or on the postcard) to him or her.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 for Senator Cantwell, and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler (it gets easier with each call).
6. The receptionist will say thank you, tally the number of calls on an issue, and pass it to the respective Senator or Congresswoman.

Calling is simple, fast, and powerful. They feel if you take the time to personally call, the issue is very important.

**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 and signing up for updates that you are interesting in receiving.



2016 / 2017 CHAPTER CALENDAR

4 December
Sunday
Holiday Party
Chateau 40 et 8 (Boxcar) at 3:00 pm
See details below



8 December
Thursday
Chapter board meeting
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Chateau 40 Et 8 (Boxcar), 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665, USA
Members and surviving spouses welcome.

8 December
Thursday
CRMF Foundation board meeting
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Chateau 40 Et 8 (Boxcar), 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665, USA
Quarterly foundation meeting immediately after chapter board meeting.
Open to all members and surviving spouses

21 January
Saturday
Annual Business Meeting
Elections & By-Laws changes
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Club Green Meadows, 7703 NE 72nd Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661



21 January
Saturday
Annual CRMF Business meeting
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Club Green Meadows, 7703 NE 72nd Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661, USA
Starts immediately after Annual Chapter Meeting

Chapter Holiday Party

4 December 2016
Sunday

Chateau 40 et 8(Boxcar)

7607 Northeast 26th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98665

1500 - 1800

Cost: \$15 per person at the door for buffet
No host bar.

RSVP: (only Yes required)

Call or e-mail Ron Pastor NLT 30 November
882-1275 pastor2718@comcast.net

Program

Meet our Clark and WSU scholarship recipients.

Your freewill scholarship donations accepted.

Bring a wrapped gift for our gift exchange.
Optional, \$20.00 limit.

