



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

December 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:

Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

1st Vice-President:

& Membership:
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998

2nd Vice-President: & Programs

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Susan Ellis
360-910-0357

Immediate Past

President,
CRMF 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:

Chris Rubadue
425-269-1902

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

Roster Manager:

Mike Walker
503-933-7005

Happy Fall! I have read winter weather predictions that range from wetter and warmer to colder and drier than normal. So what's normal anymore? I am hoping for no ice.

The Veteran's Day event at Providence Academy was terrific, CMAC organized it beautifully, as always. Our chapter had a table and we had a good turnout of our members. We met **Jon Frederick's** new bride **Nancy** and are looking forward to getting to know her better. Congratulations to **Yvette Brown-Wahler** for being selected as co-Grand Marshall for the parade.

Looking ahead, on Sunday, December 3, we will have our holiday and scholarship party from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. The venue is now Club Green Meadows. Details are on the calendar page. Please make your plans to attend, it is a delight to meet our scholarship recipients and get to know them a little bit.

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, we will hold our annual business meeting. Meet and greet starts at 10:30am, brunch buffet at 11:00am, with business to follow. Please mark your new 2018 calendars as it is important for the health and wellbeing of our chapter that we have a good turnout of members, spouses, surviving spouses, interested

parties, cousins, long lost uncles, etc. We will be voting on two changes to the by-laws and installing the elected officers.

A big thank you to the chapter phone callers! The fall phone calls are

completed, and the recipients of the calls enjoy the contact and that the chapter wants to know how they are doing. The members have the same caller, so they get to know each other, and the callers don't have to make "cold calls". We also get suggestions for the Executive Board, and we will be discussing the results at our December board meeting. Please consider volunteering

to make phone calls twice a year. It is a nice way to touch base with all our members and requires only a few hours each time. Contact **Terry Babin** to volunteer at 360 608-7789.

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3 December

Sunday

Annual Holiday Party Program:

Honor Our Scholarship Recipients

Dinner Buffet at Club

Green Meadows

Vancouver, WA

RSVP 30 Nov

Details on page 10

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President's Message continued

Our chapter has many opportunities for you to serve on the Executive Board. Currently, the unfilled elected positions are First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary. The open appointed positions are Programs, Membership Recruitment, and Legislative Affairs Chairs. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. If you are thinking "What's in it for me?" consider this. You will be rewarded with the satisfaction of being part of an organization that is active and relevant in our community. Our members share the core value of "Never stop serving."

Don't let fear of the unknown stop you from volunteering. I was terrified of following **Dave Casteel** as chapter president, but I jumped in feet first anyway. The other board members have helped me tremendously, and Dave picked up a lot of my slack while I was learning the position. (He still does!) **Terry Babin** has given me guidance and gentle nudges when I need it to get me to act.

I hope to see you soon. Stay safe in our crazy Northwest weather.

**Evelyn Brady
President**



By-Law Proposed Changes Columbia River Chapter by Evelyn Brady

Article VIII – Officers

Section 1.

Currently: The elected officers shall be a President, a First (1st) Vice President, a Second (2nd) Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Elected officers must be a regular member in good standing or Surviving Spouse.

Proposed Change: The elected officers shall be a President, a First (1st) Vice President, a Second (2nd) Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Elected officers must be a regular member in good standing, member spouse, or Surviving Spouse.

Article IX - Chapter Executive Board

Section 1.

Currently: The Executive Board shall be composed of the five elected officers, the Immediate Past President, and the appointed officers.

Proposed Change: The Executive Board shall be composed of the five elected officers, the Immediate Past President, currently serving President of the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF), and the appointed officers.

These proposed changes will be voted on at the January 20, 2018 business meeting.

**Evelyn Brady
President**

Membership Update by Jeremy Baenen

We didn't recruit any new members since our October 2017 Chapter Newsletter. However, we wanted to remind our members how important it is to find opportunities to recruit new members!

Those who have spent any time with MOAA know the value of belonging to MOAA and our chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers may have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system. This year is the time for them to join our chapter to add their voice to the thousands of other MOAA members making a difference on the legislative front and in their communities.

Here are three good reasons for any officer to join MOAA today:

1. **Make yourself heard** – MOAA chapters provide critical grassroots support for national legislative agendas. Military benefits are under attack and MOAA stands up to preserve them.

2. **Giving back to the community** – Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others and continuing to make "officership" service even though no longer wearing the uniform.

3. **Value added to chapter member lives** – Our chapter sponsors interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military and business leaders on issues important to our members.

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.

Newsletter Editor

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

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 Rich Wersinger, our Newsletter Editor.

Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby

It is that time of the year when I have the pleasure to introduce the Chapter's four 2017-18 school year Clark and WSU-Vancouver scholarship recipients.

I had the pleasure to meet the Clark scholarship recipients on October 4th, and the WSU recipient on October 10th.

Here are the recipients of all our scholarships for this school year.

Clark College Scholarships

Student	Major	Scholarship Name
Maria Schaljo	Computer Engineering	Colonel James Chriss
Ivory Wood	Early Childhood Ed	Colonel Daniel Doty
Caleb Parks	Computer Engineering	Captain Robert Fenning

WSU-Vancouver Scholarship

Student	Major	Scholarship Name
Matthew Carlisle	Neuroscience	Major James Allan

I look forward to introducing each of them to you at the annual Christmas Social on December 3rd. See you then.

Paul Crosby
Scholarship
360-666-8871



Chapter Name Tags by Dave Casteel

We have discontinued use of the large plastic name tags at our business meetings. Because some members have expressed they would like to wear their own name tag to our meetings and community events we have located an inexpensive source to obtain your own.

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 where them to a town hall meeting.

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 swivel clip for \$6.50.

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

You can call or order online at 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. Good idea to call them when you place your order.

There is no minimum order amount, no set up fee, and no tax. There is a charge for postage (of course, you could pick it up if you are in the Tigard area and save the postage).

If you have any problems, please let us know as well as telling us what the company's response is.



← 1" x 3" or **1.5" x 3"** Badge
with standard pin
\$5.75



1" x 3" or **1.5" x 3"** Badge →
with magnet \$7.00
(\$8.25 for extra strong magnet)



← 1" x 3" or **1.5" x 3"** Badge
with swivel clip
\$6.50

CRMF (Foundation) Update: *by Dave Casteel*

Since the last newsletter update in April, your Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) has been a diligent steward of your donations. The Foundation funded three \$1,000 scholarships at Clark College and one \$1,500.00 scholarship at WSU-V.

Members generously donated \$1,625.00 at the September social barbecue. We also ask for your free will donations at the annual Scholarship Christmas social to be held Sunday, December 3rd. If you are not able to attend and wish to make a scholarship designated donation before the end of the year you may do so by mailing it directly to our chapter (see address at end of article).

Our Support the Troops fund purchased an additional \$300.00 VISA gift card for the Vancouver Fisher House. This card is used by the Fisher House staff for emergency needs such as paying for a cab when a family member needs transportation to or from the Portland VA after the shuttle stops running. Another emergency use is to buy food for their guests--if no one has signed up on Meal Train to provide a meal. If you are interested in providing a meal (you do not have to prepare it yourself--you can purchase and deliver it) visit the Vancouver Fisher House Meal Train link at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mdv4d3/journal/>. You can call the Fisher House at 360-567-4647 to coordinate and ask any questions you might have.

Our Support the Troops fund also contributed \$500.00 to **SGT Tony MacDougall** to help with medical expenses due to his Grade-4 Glioblastoma brain tumor. We are sad to report that after three brain surgeries, young Tony lost his battle in early November. We are currently trying to ascertain whether his wife is experiencing large out of pocket final expenses (as you may recall, the VA did not deem these brain tumors to be service connected).

We are also reviewing a donation request to assist the needs of 600 veteran students attending Clark College. **SGM Kelly Jones, USA, Ret**, Clark College Veterans Resource Center Manager, who was the guest speaker at our November luncheon, told us of the many emergency needs students who are veterans at Clark have. Many of these veterans come off active duty and go straight to school. Their GI Bill benefits administered by the VA include tuition, BAH and small book stipend, but it arrives a month or more AFTER they incur large out of pocket expenses (such as fees, expensive text books, etc.) Often, just a little help can make a huge difference for these veterans. Some veterans need emergency assistance with rent and/or gas in order to stay in school.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, you can do so by making your check payable to "**Columbia River MOAA Foundation**" or simply "**CRMF**" and mail it to our chapter address at **P.O. Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668**. Of course, you will also be offered the opportunity to make donations to either or both (Scholarship or Support the Troops) funds when you reply to the January dues letter.

Please join us 10:30 AM January 20th for our annual Chapter and Foundation meetings brunch at Club Green Meadows where a complete financial recap of the Foundation's 2017 income and expenses will be presented.

Dave Casteel
CRMF President





How to Earn Cash \$\$\$ Rewards for Yourself AND the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) While Shopping at Fred Meyer

1. Go to www.fredmeyer.com
2. Select the Rewards tab and scroll down to Fred Meyer Community Rewards
3. Scroll down to (and click on) “re-enroll or link your Rewards Card now”
4. Sign into your account using the user name and password you setup when you received your Rewards Card (or click “forgot password”).
5. A screen will appear entitled “Find Your Organization.” In the box that asks you to enter “your organization’s number or at least 3 letters of the organizations name,” enter “Columbia River MOAA Foundation” then click search
6. When the search finds the Columbia River MOAA Foundation simply click on the O in front of Columbia River MOAA Foundation #81245
7. Then click “enroll”
8. Use your phone number as your alternate ID when you check out and YOU and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation BOTH receive cash rewards.

Don’t have a Fred Meyer Rewards card? Go to any Fred Meyer Customer Service Counter and sign up. Then link your Rewards card on your phone or PC.

It’s quick and easy. The **best part is YOU AND the Columbia River MOAA Foundation** will both earn \$\$\$ when you tell the clerk your Rewards (phone) number at check out. You will earn your full normal rewards AND Fred Meyer will donate money to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) quarterly.





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/>

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	

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: 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	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Richard DeBolt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike 786-7812	Gina McCabe 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 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

Federal Legislative Update:

by Dave Casteel

You may be wondering what your retired pay and/or disability income will look like in 2018. The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for the 2017 fiscal year is 2.0 percent. This means retired and disability pay will be increased by 2.0 percent starting January 2018. In other words, you will see a \$20 increase (before taxes) for every \$1,000 of retired/disability pay received. The final COLA is determined by comparing the average CPI of the final three months of the fiscal year to the same quarter of the prior year. This is good news after years of little or no increases.

On another note, the government is only funded through December 8th—just weeks away. So, this means the ugly specter of sequestration is rearing its head again as we are looking at yet another continuing resolution to fund the government because Congress can't reform the budget process to do away with arbitrary budget caps.

The statutory caps set by the Budget Control Act are reduced by about \$90 billion annually through the enforcement mechanism known as sequestration. A return of sequestration would be catastrophic--resulting in more grounded aircraft, insufficient spare parts, ammunition, fuel, and lack of trained troops. You only have to read the increasing number of lives and aircraft lost to see the devastating effects of sequestration.

If you read the House and Senate Armed Services Committee assessments, you will see they both agree that our military is at the cusp of being unable to defend our democracy. Continuing resolutions must end, and sequestration must be thwarted.

We urge you to contact all three of your federal elected representatives to implore them to find bipartisan ways to end continuing resolutions and fully fund the needs of our military. Call them on the MOAA toll free hotline at 866-272-6622 or send them a MOAA suggested e-mail that you can find under the “Take Action” tab at www.moaa.org.

Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs



2017/2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

3 December
Sunday

Holiday Party with Scholarship Recipients**Venue:** Club Green Meadows (CGM)**Dinner & Festivities:** 3-6 PM

Details below



20 January
2018
Saturday

Annual Chapter Business Meeting**Venue:** Club Green Meadows (CGM)**Meet & Greet:** 1030**Buffet:** 1100

Followed by our Chapter Business Meeting

**Chapter Holiday Party**

3 December 2017
Sunday

Club Green Meadows

7703 NE 72nd Avenue,
Vancouver, WA 98661

Begin Socializing 1500**Scholarship Recipients & Families Intros** at 1600**Holiday Buffet** at 1630

Holiday Buffet features turkey, ham and all the
fixings!

Program: Greet our Scholarship winners & their
families, and have a great time!

Cost: \$ 28.00 Per person, pay-as-you-go bar for
holiday cheer libations.

RSVP:

To Ron Pastor by Thursday, November 30.

Call 360-882-1275

or e-mail pastor2718@comcast.net.



Columbia River Chapter
MOAA
P.O. Box 1872
Vancouver, WA 98668

