



# 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)

January 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### President:

Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865

### 1st Vice-President:

**& Membership:**  
Jeremy Baenen  
360-281-9998

### 2nd Vice-President:

**& Programs**  
**Dan Sockle**  
360-624-4478

### Secretary:

Chris Rubadue  
425-269-1902

### 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

### 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  
360-721-3792

### Scholarship:

Paul Crosby  
360-666-8871

### Chaplain:

Rev Max Metcalf  
541-961-0869

### Roster Manager:

Mike Walker  
503-933-7005

Here it is Sunday morning, January 21, and I have writer's block. Yesterday was our Chapter annual business meeting and I thought it was terrific. We heard reports from the boards of both the Columbia River Chapter and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation. For a small chapter, we really accomplish a lot! The CRMF is doing exciting things with Scholarships and Support the Troops. The Chapter continues our missions of community involvement and advocacy and it's all done with the volunteer time and effort of our talented members. **Chaplain Max Metcalf** did a great job with the invocation and blessing with relevant readings and prayers.

2018 is shaping up to be another good year for our Chapter. We are pleased to welcome **Chris Rubadue** to the Executive Board as our Secretary, and **Dan Sockle** as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Program Chair. **Susan Ellis** was also officially sworn in as Treasurer and she had already done a great job since she was appointed in 2017. I was sworn in for my second 2 year term as President, so start thinking about who the next President will be. January 2020 will be here in no time.

For those of you who weren't able to attend yesterday, I reported that I had nominated **Dave Casteel** for the Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative

Chair Award. He was one the four finalists! Kudos to Dave.

Please put our meetings on your calendars. Our April 19 meeting is going to be at the 40 et 8 Chateau from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Note the

late start time, it's a trial format. We won't have lunch, but will have coffee and cookies. We will have a speaker and take care of business as we would at a luncheon meeting. It will be quite casual and there will be no charge for this meeting. You can let us know if you

enjoy this format. Any suggestions for meeting venues, speakers and format are welcome.

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**15 February**  
**Thursday**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
**at 40 et 8 Chateau**  
**11:30 am**  
Vancouver, WA  
RSVP by 12 Feb  
Details page 14

### Newsletter Highlights

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### **President's Message continued**

There are many opportunities to support our Chapter. Please plan to attend one of our meetings or other events during 2018. I don't guarantee you will enjoy yourself, but odds are you will. You will interact with our other smart, warm, and funny members. The calendar of events is on the last page of the newsletter and on our website. Hope to see you soon.

Never Stop Serving!

**Evelyn Brady  
President**



Chaplain Max Metcalf offering the invocation.



CRC Officers taking their oaths. Left to right Susan Ellis, Evelyn Brady, Dan Sockle, and Chris Rubadue.

### ***Fisher House Donations:***

***by Paul Crosby***

Recently there have been questions about how to make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Fisher House. Since I had this same question, I contacted **Shaun Benson** who is the Chief, Voluntary Service, Portland VA Health Care System. The Fisher House in Vancouver is referred to as the Portland Fisher House and falls under the purview of the Portland VA. **Shaun** is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Here are the steps he suggests:

1. Make out your check to Portland VA Health Care System
2. Put Fisher House in the memo line
3. Mail the check to  
Portland VA Health Care System  
ATTN; Voluntary Service, P4VOL  
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road  
Portland, OR 97239

The VA Voluntary Service office and all donations received fall under the VA's government 501C3 equivalent and you will receive a thank you letter and a tax donation letter with their tax ID.



## ***Membership Update*** by *Jeremy Baenen*

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](mailto: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](mailto:rich@rjwconsulting.org).

Our Chapter Secretary, Chris Rubadue, 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 Rich Wersinger, our Newsletter Editor.



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

2017 was another very good year for the chapter's scholarship program with four outstanding scholarship recipients and as we head into 2018 we have an opportunity to make the program even stronger with a matching funds opportunity at the Clark College Foundation.

The process has had only minor changes. The chapter pays for the three Clark scholarships with a combination of funds from the Clark College Foundation endowment and the chapter's scholarship fund. We pay for the WSU Allan scholarship with \$1500 from the chapter's scholarship funds. The two changes are both with WSU-Vancouver. The first is that we must commit to the Allan scholarship by January 31st. We previously made our commitment when we gave WSU our check in April. The second change is that WSU now charges a 5% fee to process the scholarship. This fee is consistent with the fee charged at other universities and community colleges, but is new to WSU. It will add \$75 to the cost of the Allan scholarship.

Chapter members had the opportunity to meet our 2017-2018 scholarship recipients at our annual Christmas Social on December 3rd. These very impressive scholarship recipients were:

Chriss – Maria Schaljo

Doty – Ivory Wood

Fenning – Caleb Parks

Allan – Matthew Carlisle

While we are talking about recipients, the chapter board approved a change to the scholarship criteria. The four criteria are:

1. 2.5 GPA
2. U. S. Citizen
3. First preference will be given to retired military personnel or honorably discharged military veterans. Second preference will be given to children of former, active, or retired military personnel. This is a change from honorably discharged or retired veterans, children of former, active, or retired officers, or active or retired officers, or active or retired enlisted military personnel.
4. Must attend a chapter meeting/dinner.

**Note:** The change to #three was intended to do two things; Give a preference to veterans, and to clarify/simplify. The changes will apply to both Clark and WSU and will begin with the 2018-19 school year.

Last spring, I talked to the Director of Scholarships at the Clark College Foundation. Her name is **Shirley Schwartz**. I asked if there would be any matching grants available to our chapter during 2017. In December she told us that \$5520 would be available to match. The board approved the match in the January 14, 2018 meeting, and the Chapter Board and Foundation Board will now have to decide how to pay for the match and the scholarships.

In December 2016 the endowment paid \$1612 toward our three Clark scholarships, and the endowment had a year-end value of \$60,503.23. The preliminary value of the endowment at the end of 2017 is over \$65,000, but no payout number yet. The match will allow us to increase the endowment and thus the payout on our way to self-sustainment.

Thank you for your generosity. Any suggestions to improve the chapter's scholarship program are welcome, please let me know your ideas.

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





## ***Annual 2017 Annual Reports Summaries***

### ***Chapter Treasurer's Report by Susan Ellis***

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#### **2017 TRANSACTION REPORT**

Presented by **Susan Ellis** - Treasurer

The Total Projected Revenue for 2017 was \$7,050.00  
(Dues, Meals, Raffle and MOAA National)

Actual Revenue was \$6,364.00

The Total % of Projected Revenue versus Actual was 90%

The Total Projected Expense Disbursements for 2017 was \$5,922.00  
(Meals, Newsletter, Admin, and filing fees)

Actual Expense was \$5,443.48 The Total % of Projected Expense versus Actual was 92%

The starting balance for 2017 is \$2,272.00

Our ending balance for 2017 is \$3,192.52 That is about \$1,000.00 increase

We are starting the New Year with \$3,192.52 and we are projecting the same Revenue and Expenses as last year



### ***MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE by Terry Babin***

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#### **COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

**Committee Mission:** Develop and support activities which encourage active participation and long-term membership in the Chapter.

**Responsibility:** Establish and maintain a program for welcoming new members and their spouses.

1. New Member Orientations with a brunch hosted by the Executive Board were held during February and August 2017.
2. The Chapter's New Member Sponsor Program was implemented during 2017 with mixed results:
  - Program Objectives:
    - Introduce a new member to other Chapter members.
    - Help the new member become familiar with the primary functions of the Chapter.
    - Encourage participation in Chapter activities and events.
    - Build a relationship with the new member and the Chapter which encourages long-term retention and involvement.

- While every new member did have a sponsor assigned, there were problems:
  - Serviced Representatives either were not available at times, or already were sponsoring two or more new members.
  - General procedures were not followed after initial contact.
- Program will be evaluated and possible changes made during 2018.

**Responsibility: Support a system to keep contact with members—designated as the “Keeping Connected” system.**

1. Phone calls to Chapter members made during April and October.
2. Used e-mail follow-up when unable to make phone contact.
3. Thirty-seven (37) Action Items were identified during the two phone call series, and action was taken and completed by Chapter officers.
4. Continue to need two additional members or spouses to be “back –up” callers when primary callers are unable to participate in a particular call series.

**Responsibility: Provide personal affairs services.**

1. Provided casualty assistance for one (1) family of a deceased member including coordination of funeral and military honors
2. Provided special assistance to resolve VA care issues for one (1) member.
3. Assisted a Surviving Spouse to resolve a VA furnished headstone issue at a local U.S. Army-administered cemetery
4. Sent sympathy and “get well” cards to ten (10) members and spouses.
5. Provided personal affairs planning pamphlets, checklists, documentation assistance, and other support for eleven (11) members and their families.
6. Made four (4) hospital/care facility visits to seriously ill members, and about 15 other welfare calls.

**Responsibility: Coordinate with Membership and Program Committees.**

1. Membership Committee Coordination: Continued coordination to ensure timely assignment of sponsors for new members.
2. Program Committee Coordination: Participated regularly in planning Chapter programs.

**Special Committee Activity: Surviving Spouse Information Sheet.**

The Committee Chairman and the Surviving Spouse Representative co-authored an Information Sheet to help surviving spouses, and other family members, navigate the challenges arising from the loss of a member. A copy of that paper is attached to this report. The information includes:

- A description of the role, and help available from, the Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative.
- Time-sensitive actions the surviving spouse (or family) need to take.
- Chapter resources available.
- MOAA membership as a Surviving spouse.

Submitted by: Terry Babin, Chairman Membership Services Committee on January 20, 2018

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**COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA**  
**INFORMATION for SURVIVING SPOUSES**

**Who Is a MOAA Surviving Spouse:**

A “surviving spouse” is the widow or widower of a Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) member. There is no distinction made between spouses who were married during the MOAA member’s active or reserve service, and those spouses who married the service member after release from active duty or retirement. All surviving spouses are welcomed, and encouraged to participate in the Columbia River Chapter, MOAA, operations and activities.

**The Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative:**

The Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative is your key “go to” person. The Representative will help connect you with other Chapter officers and supporting resources. The Representative is also a voting member of the Chapter’s Executive Board in order to ensure that surviving spouses’ interests and concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

Some surviving spouses have not previously been active in the Chapter. The Surviving Spouse Representative is your personal advisor and friend to help introduce you to other members, and make it easy to participate to the extent you are able.

**Why the Following Information Is Important:**

The loss of a loved one can create difficult challenges for the surviving spouse. The process of settling personal affairs is complicated by the additional decisions and government-generated paperwork involved in the case of the death of a member, retired member, or veteran of the uniformed services. Columbia River Chapter representatives can usually provide information and assistance to help in your transition to a new phase of your life.

**What You Need to Do When a MOAA Member Spouse Dies:**

Chapter assistance should be requested as soon as possible after the death of a MOAA member. You, or a family or legal representative, should contact either the Chapter’s Chairman, Membership Services Committee (MSC), or the Chapter’s Surviving Spouse Representative. The phone numbers are listed on the front page of the Chapter’s Newsletter, and also provided on the Chapter’s web site ([www.moaacolumbiariver.org](http://www.moaacolumbiariver.org)).

The funeral director usually makes the arrangements for any military honors and internment (including at government-operated cemeteries). You may, however, contact the Chapter’s MSC Chairman if you have questions about your government-furnished options before making a decision.

The Chapter web site includes a checklist for survivors about time-sensitive actions which need to be done following the death of a member. A Personal Affairs representative from the MSC can help you or your family representative complete the actions listed on the checklist—particularly those actions which require completion of government benefits’ forms and coordination with government agencies.

The National Headquarters of MOAA (1-(800)-234-6622) should also be notified by you or your legal representative as soon as possible after the death of a MOAA spouse. The member’s membership number can be found on the address label of MOAA’s *Military Officer* magazine. If you desire that the notice of passing be included in the next edition of the *Military Officer*, then the call must be made by the primary next-of-kin.

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**INFORMATION for SURVIVING SPOUSES (continued)****MOAA and You:**

MOAA has long-recognized that survivors of active, reserve, retired, and veterans of the uniformed Services may be entitled to certain benefits and privileges earned by the service member's service and sacrifices. MOAA is dedicated to preserving and improving the legislation governing those benefits and privileges, and helping those eligible receive their full entitlement. Our local Chapter can also be part of your social and support community.

**Chapter Resources to Support Survivors:**

The Chapter's award-winning Newsletter, which is published about 6 times per year, is a compilation of a variety of news and information of interest to military members and spouses as well as the schedule and instructions for participating in upcoming Chapter functions. You can receive the Newsletter either via e-mail or postal service by communicating your preference to the Chapter Secretary directly, or also through the Surviving Spouse Representative, or Chairman of the MSC. You will find additional information about the Chapter on the Chapter's web site.

Semi-annually you will receive a phone call from a Chapter representative as part of the Chapter's "*Keeping Connected*" program. This call is made to ensure that you are receiving the Newsletter, ask if there are any questions or issues that need Chapter officers' assistance, say "hello—we are thinking of you," and update your contact information. When possible, you will have the same person calling you each time. The calls will not be made for the purpose of any solicitation. Please notify the Chairman of the MSC if you have not received a call by each June and November, or you do not want to be called.

The Chapter activities offer you an opportunity to get out and socialize with others who might share some of your interests, and have common experiences. Chapter meetings and events, except the Annual Meeting each January, are focused on programs and social engagement rather than the conduct of Chapter business. Chapter business is conducted at the Executive Board meetings usually held the second Thursday of each month (except July and August). Surviving spouses may attend the Board meetings, but do not have a vote in these proceedings.

**Your MOAA Membership as a Surviving Spouse:**

If your deceased spouse was a national MOAA "Life Member," that life membership transfers to you at no cost as the surviving spouse upon notification of the death to the national headquarters of MOAA.

If the deceased member was not a "Life Member," a representative of the national headquarters staff can briefly explain options for national MOAA membership as a surviving spouse. Options include Life Membership, Premium Membership at a discounted annual cost, and ***no cost*** Basic Membership. Our Chapter requests and encourages you to have a national membership—even if at the Basic and free membership level.

Within the Columbia River Chapter, surviving spouses have full membership rights including the right to vote, hold office, and participate in all activities and events. There are no annual Chapter dues; however, you are encouraged when able to be involved in the scholarship and charitable activities of the Chapter's tax-exempt *Columbia River MOAA Fund*.

**Chapter Expectations of You as a MOAA Surviving Spouse:** We hope that you will:

1. Maintain your national MOAA membership.
2. Keep us informed about any changes to your mailing and e-mail addresses, and phone number(s).
3. Participate in Chapter functions and charities to the extent you are able and comfortable.



## ***2017 JOINT AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS by Terry Babin***

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of the 2017 JOINT AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS

**Purpose:** The results of the Joint Audit of the Columbia River Chapter (CRC) and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) were presented at the Annual Meeting of the CRC and CRMF.

**Audit:**

- Audit Date: November 9, 2017.
- Audit Period: November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017.

**Audit Areas:**

- ✓ Documentation
- ✓ Budgeting
- ✓ Income & Receipts
- ✓ Expenses & Expenditures
- ✓ Petty Cash
- ✓ Chapter Assets
- ✓ Internal Controls
- ✓ Administrative & Processes

**Prior Year Recommendations:**

1. Action was taken by various officers and the Executive Board of the CRC on all recommendations from the prior year's audit except defining what constitutes a Chapter "asset," and the inventory of those assets.
  - The By-Laws specify that the *responsibility* in this functional area belongs to the office of the Chapter Secretary. The position was vacant for most of the audit period.
  - An inventory was conducted by the Chapter President, but this inventory was completed after the period audited.
2. Action was taken by the officers of the CRMF on all recommendations from the prior year's audit.

**Audit Objectives and Findings:**

1. Ensure essential documentation for registering with Federal and State agencies, to include certification of non-profit status, is complete and current. Documentation was complete and current for both the CRC and the CRMF.
2. Review the adequacy of the audit trails for income and expenses, as well as internal controls, are sufficient to support an external (e.g., IRS) audit. Records and documentation of income/receipts, deposits, and expenditures for the CRC and CRMF were complete and accurate including transactions for the transfer of donations from the CRC to the CRMF.

4. Determine any areas of weakness, or areas requiring further examination/discussion, with respect to processes, procedures, and overall management of assets and finances.
  - Four (4) recommendations were made for the CRC:
    - Establish written policy and guidelines for reimbursement of expenses by Chapter members.
    - Establish for the “record” the purpose and amount of Petty Cash.
    - Prepare the necessary guidelines and minimum values for accounting of Chapter assets, and comply with Article VIII, Section 7, of the Chapter By-Laws regarding Chapter assets and inventories. [Repeat Recommendation]
    - Review policy (pros and cons) of single check-signing authority.
  - There were no recommendations for the CRMF.
5. Make a risk assessment of potential for waste, fraud, or abuse.
  - Treasurers for both the CRC (Susan Ellis) and CRMF (Frank Hill) are very diligent in not only performing their duties, but doing so in a timely manner.
  - Procedures put in place by the Treasurer of the CRMF, and being put in place by the Treasurer of the CRC, provide a very comprehensive and strong accounting system for both organizations.
  - Overall, the risk for waste, fraud, abuse, and error is low in both the CRC and CRMF.

### Other Remarks:

- 1 The work done by the former CRC Treasurer, Ron Pastor, to take action on the previous audit recommendations helped in the achievement of significant improvements in the financial records and financial management tools of the Chapter.
- 2 A special thank you to Christine Rubadue and Robert McFarlin for volunteering to be part of the Audit Team for the second straight year.

Submitted by: Terry Babin on January 20, 2018





**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](http://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](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)

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

<http://herrerabeutler.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
Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email: <a href="https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>	

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/>

<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
Contact Senator Cantwell via email: <a href="http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/">http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/</a>		

### U.S. Senator Patty Murray <http://murray.senate.gov/>

<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
Contact Senator Murray via email: <a href="http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm">http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm</a>		

## Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 14	District 20
<b>Senator</b>	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
<b>Representative, Position 1</b>	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Richard DeBolt 786-7990
<b>Representative, Position 2</b>	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](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature)

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

I have the pleasure of serving you as a voting member on the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) in Olympia representing nearly 12,000 Washington State MOAA members.

The VLC meets every Friday in Olympia while the state legislature is in session. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) hosts our meetings and supports us with veterans related bill information and updates. The VLC is comprised of representatives from 16 national Federally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations plus a few Members-at-Large.

This year's 60-day session (counting weekends) started on January 8th and ends on March 8<sup>th</sup> (unless the governor calls the legislature back for special sessions). By comparison, last year's 105-day session did not end until in July.

The VLC reviews and monitors veterans-related bills before the Legislature. This year there are 65 such bills ranging from issues such as temporarily excusing military members from short term contracts (e.g., cell phone, cable television, etc.) due to deployments to Discover passes for disabled veterans and reciprocity agreements of these passes with Oregon. When a veterans-related bill has a public hearing, a VLC member goes to the hearing and testifies in favor of the legislation we support. The list changes each week as bills go through the legislative process. You can go to the [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) site and request a weekly list.

Each year, the VLC hosts a reception for state legislators (Senators and Representatives) and their Legislative Assistants in the Columbia Room of the Washington State Legislative building on the first Friday of session. At this reception, members and their staffs stop in to grab a sandwich or just to chat about veterans-related issues. Given this year's short session, many legislators were booked into nearly back to back meetings. However, a goodly number were able to stop by. From our three local districts, Connor Haggerty, LA to Rep Vicki Kraft, was able to attend and chat.

I had the good fortune to chat with Secretary of State Kim Wyman (her husband is a retired Army Ranger) and the State Treasurer, Duane Davidson, at the reception. You can view a one-minute photo recap of the reception on [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov). To view it, click on the You Tube icon on the top right of the WDVA home screen.

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



## **Federal Legislative Update:** *by Dave Casteel*

A three-day government shutdown again points out the problems Congress is having coming to meaningful agreement or compromise. The shutdown ended with a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the government until February 8—another can kicked down the proverbial road!

Probably the biggest insult of a shutdown is to families who lose a loved one serving during the shutdown when mortuary affairs and casualty services are closed. This happened in 2013 and again during this shutdown. It is not their fault Congress is not doing its job and they happened to die then. Their families should not be the ones that suffer financially.

Solving the government shutdown with a CR, as you all know, creates another huge problem for military commanders to fully and properly execute their missions.

What are we to do? 1) Use the MOAA toll free Capitol Hotline 866-890-6622 to let Senators Murray and Cantwell as well as Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler know that our national security interests require a FY budget agreement, not another CR. 2) Subscribe to MOAA's Legislative Alerts so you can simply hit "click and send" e-mails to Congress requesting action.

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





## 2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

15 February Thursday	<b>February Chapter Meeting</b> <b>Venue:</b> 40 et 8 Chateau <b>Catered Lunch:</b> 11:30 am <b>Program:</b> Guest Speaker: FBI Special Agent Michael Rollins
15 March Thursday	<b>March Chapter Meeting</b> <b>Venue:</b> To Be Announced <b>Catered Lunch:</b> 11:30 am <b>Program:</b> Guest Speaker: Andy Woodrow, Battle Ground High School ROTC
19 April Thursday	<b>April Chapter Meeting</b> <b>Venue:</b> 40 et 8 Chateau <b>Meet &amp; Snacks Social:</b> 1:30 - 3:30 PM <b>Program:</b> Speaker to be Announced

### February Chapter Meeting

15 February 2018  
Thursday

**40 et 8 Chateau**  
7607 NE 26th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98665

**Begin Socializing** 11:30 am

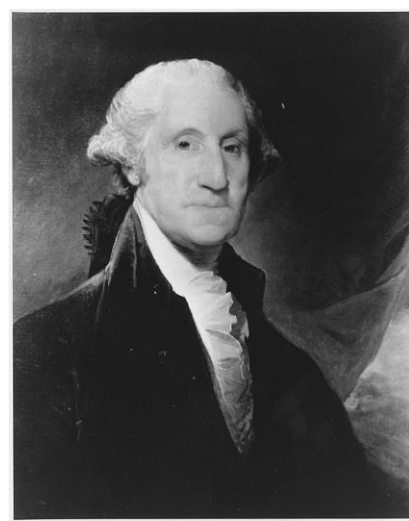
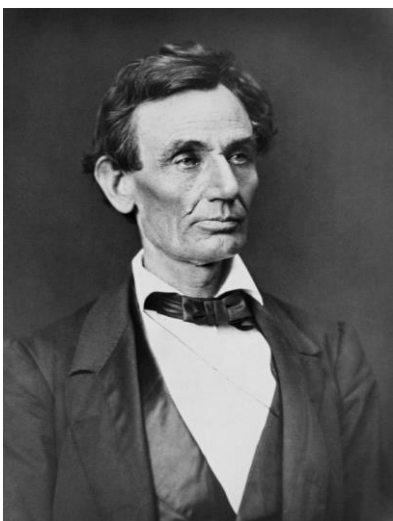
**Catered Luncheon**  
From Panera Bread

**Program:** Guest Speaker: FBI Special Agent Michael Rollins

**Cost:** \$12.00

#### RSVP:

To Dan Sockle by Monday, 12 February.  
Call 360-624-4478  
or e-mail [dsocket@gmail.com](mailto:dsocket@gmail.com)



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