



# 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)

April 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**President:**

Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865

**1st Vice-President:  
& Membership:**

**2nd Vice-President:  
& Programs**

**Dan Sockle**  
360-624-4478

**Secretary:**

Chris Rubadue  
425-269-1902

**Treasurer:**

Susan Ells  
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

Happy Spring! We made it through winter without any prolonged snow and ice events, unlike last winter.

The February and March chapter meetings were held in the Boxcar room of the 40 et 8 Chateau. We used Panera bread catering for the lunches, and most of the people there seemed to enjoy it. Please let **Dan Sockle** or me know if you like this more casual event.

Our guest speaker for March was **COL Terri Coles** who is the MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. Prior to the general meeting, the CRC Executive Board met with her and was briefed on the changes and goals for the coming year. She is knowledgeable, articulate, and best of all, she's a football fan! She is from Pennsylvania, so she was bragging about the Eagles being the world champions. But we let her have some lunch anyway.....

We are trying another different approach to a chapter meeting on Thursday, April 19. This will be a casual afternoon meeting without lunch. We will be meeting in the Boxcar from 2:30 to 4:30 pm and will have cookies, coffee, and water. Please feel free to bring your favorite cookies to share. Our speaker is **Andy Woodrow** from Battle Ground JROTC. Also on April 19, please plan to join our

chapter at Our Community Salutes to recognize high school students who are joining the military after graduation. It starts at 6:30 pm, however we will have table set up by 5:30 and will be providing juice. There is an ice cream social following at 8:00 pm. This is part of our chapter mission to support community events.



**Dick Ionata** has recently started some fairly aggressive cancer treatments. He and **Gert** welcome your phone calls at 360 687-6166. He has a positive outlook and I want him and **Gert** to know we have his six as he pushes

through this.

[Continued on page 2]

**19 April  
Thursday  
Chapter Meeting  
at 40 et 8 Chateau  
2:30 PM  
Vancouver, WA  
RSVP by 15 Apr  
Details page 11**

### Newsletter Highlights

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

**Dave Casteel** and **Buck Marr** are keeping us up to date on state and federal legislation of interest. Keep those cards and letters going to the members of Congress and WA legislature. Advocacy is our MOAA primary mission, and we must make our voices heard, loud and clear.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Membership Recruitment Chair are still available, so don't miss this exciting opportunity to be an active part of our 5 Star Chapter! Just let me know when you want to start.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon, and remember, Never Stop Serving.

**Evelyn Brady**  
**President**

### ***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.

### **Take a look at our new Marketing Idea!**

We now have pens with our Chapter information to hand out at our events!  
~ These are our new "Calling Cards."  
~ Carry one or two in case you meet a new potential Chapter member!  
~ Don't hesitate to grab a few at our next Chapter Meeting!



**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 Rich Wersinger, our Newsletter Editor.



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

On April 12th I will take checks to Clark College Foundation and WSU-Vancouver to provide funding support for our four chapter scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. These four scholarships are the Chriss, Doty, and Fenning scholarships at Clark College and the Allan scholarship at WSU. The three Clark scholarships are \$1,000 each and the WSU scholarship will be \$1,500.

You will remember that the chapter pays for the three Clark scholarships with a combination of funds from our Clark College Foundation endowment and the chapter's foundation scholarship fund. You will be pleased to know that the endowment payout continues to grow. The endowment value on December 31, 2015, was \$53,532 which increased to \$60,503 on December 31, 2016, and then \$66,069 on December 31, 2017. The payout has increased over the past four years from \$1,558 to \$1,612, to \$1,689, to the most recent \$1,800. This is good news because our scholarship contribution to Clark depends on the earnings from the endowment and it is smaller each year thanks to your generosity. This year I will take a \$1,200 check to Clark, down from the \$1,311 check last year. The check to WSU will be \$1,575 which covers the \$1,500 Allan scholarship plus a recently added \$75 service fee.

Even better news is that I will also take a \$5,520 check to the Clark Foundation which will be matched by a donor within the foundation. This \$11,040 addition to our endowment means that we will get even closer to self-sustainment. All of this would not be possible without the tremendous support of chapter members.

Thank you for your support.

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



### **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.

## ***Foundation Update by Dave Casteel***

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Thanks to all of you who responded so generously to President Brady's January letter asking for your support to help make the Clark College Foundation matching grant possible.

Due to your quick response and generosity, \$2,965.00 was donated to the foundation scholarship fund in response to her appeal. This means we are able to meet the amount of the full match offer of \$5,520 thereby doubling the amount going towards the MOAA endowment fund at Clark College. The good news is we still funded all three of our 2018 Clark College Scholarships, AND we only had to partially dip into our scholarship reserve fund which we expect (with your support) will be made whole again within one year.

We have great news regarding the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. We received our first quarterly payment of \$21.23. The first payout was small but we expect it to grow as more members have linked their Fred Meyer Rewards card to the Foundation. (Please see accompanying flyer on how to do this). Once you link your card, every time you shop, Fred Meyer donates a portion to the Foundation. What could be easier?

We also gave \$1,050 to the Clark College Foundation on February 8 for exclusive use of the Veterans Resource Center. The purpose is to assist acute urgent veterans needs to help them stay in school. Kelly Jones, VRC manager, will determine how the funds are best used.

The Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is an IRC 501(c)3 public charity to which donations are tax deductible—including bequests. Our Federal tax ID# is 47-4776049.

Please remember us in your will.

## ***Chapter Reimbursement of Member Expenses by Terry Babin***

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Have you incurred, or will possibly incur, expenses in support of the administration and operations of the Columbia River Chapter? How do you get such expenses authorized and reimbursed?

These questions have been difficult to answer in the past. The Chapter's 2017 Joint Audit of financial records and processes identified the need to have definitive guidance to help the Treasurer determine what expenses might qualify for reimbursement to Chapter members. During the February and March

2018 Chapter Executive Board meetings, a reimbursement policy was formulated and approved. Those deliberations resulted in the approval of the Policy Letter included in this Newsletter.

So basically, what is the policy?

- Usual and recurring administrative and activity/event expenses (e.g., Newsletter publication and distribution, etc.), which are included in the Chapter's approved annual budget, do not require further authorization for reimbursement.
- Member reimbursement for other budgeted expenses may be made for an amount up to \$100 per occurrence/event without further authorization; but, if the reimbursement request exceeds \$100, approval by the Executive Board is required.
- "Non-budgeted" expenses and reimbursement are more complicated, and the criteria is provided in the Policy Letter.

What actions should a member do to protect the member's eligibility for reimbursement?

- Give yourself enough time to:
  - ✓ Confirm with the Chapter Treasurer in advance of incurring the expense whether the expense is budgeted, and if authorization is required.
  - ✓ If authorization is required, submit to the Executive Board in person, or by e-mail via the Treasurer or any other Board member:
    - 1) The reason for the expense,
    - 2) Who will provide the product/service, and
    - 3) An estimate of the cost.
- Keep and submit copies of all applicable receipts with a written and signed statement of the purpose for the expense, who authorized and when (if authorization needed), and the amount of reimbursement the member is requesting.

**A Reminder:** The Executive Board meets the second Thursday of every month (except July and August). If authorization for reimbursement is needed before the next regularly convened Board meeting, you can call or send an e-mail to any Board member requesting that Board member poll the Executive Board by e-mail.

## **CHAPTER POLICY LETTER**

**Subject:** Reimbursement of Expenses

**Purpose:** Establish specific guidance on reimbursement to members for expenses incurred on behalf of the Columbia River Chapter (CRC) and its subsidiary, Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF).

**Applicability:** CRC and CRMF

**Background:** There is no published or otherwise specified guidance for reimbursing a member who incurs an “out-of-pocket” expense in support of Chapter operations and activities. Several CRC Treasurers have expressed uncertainty and concern about reimbursements to members. Because reimbursement to members is a potential area for waste, fraud, or abuse, the Final Audit Report of December 6, 2017 recommended that written policy or guidelines be established. Areas of concern consistently have been:

- Expenses not otherwise clearly covered by budget line-items and normal operations.
- Unusual expenses incurred without specific authorization by the Executive Board.
- Expenses which seem unusual either in terms of the nature of the expense, or the amount.

**Policy:** The following guidance covers the most likely “general” situations/circumstances from which a request by a Chapter member for reimbursement might arise. Nevertheless, the judgment of the Treasurer is the paramount factor in determining appropriate action to be taken including deferring payment until further guidance is received from the Chapter President or Executive Board.

1. Reimbursement for:

- a. Recurring budgeted activities and operations: “Usual” and “anticipated” expenses incurred for “normal” and “scheduled” Chapter activities and operations (e.g., publication and distribution of Newsletter, meal and gratuity expenses for Chapter meetings and Foundation fund-raising, etc.) may be reimbursed without additional authorization.
- b. Other budgeted activities and operations not meeting the general definition given in paragraph 1.a above (e.g., purchase of administrative supplies):
  - i. May be reimbursed up to a total of \$100.00 per event, single purchase, or other single occurrence without additional authorization by the CRC Executive Board.
  - ii. Requires CRC Executive Board authorization for reimbursement for expenses when the total sum of the reimbursement request exceeds \$100.00.
- c. Non-budgeted expenses:
  - i. May be reimbursed up to a total of \$100.00 per event, single purchase, or other single occurrence, without Executive Board authorization, but subject to satisfying both the following conditions:
    - ✓ A direct relationship can be shown to supporting the functions of the Chapter, the Foundation, or their appointed committees.
    - ✓ There was not sufficient time/opportunity to obtain advance approval from the CRC President or CRC Executive Board.
  - ii. Requires CRC Executive Board authorization for reimbursement for expenses when the total sum of the reimbursement request exceeds \$100.00.

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2. Chapter members incurring expenses which might qualify for reimbursement from the CRC are responsible for insuring that the expense is indeed reimbursable.
  - a. When possible, the Chapter member should seek guidance/approval in advance by:
    - i. Notifying the CRC Executive Board in advance of incurring the expense to include reason for expense, who will provide the product/service, and estimate of total cost.
    - ii. Or, if expense must be incurred before the next scheduled Board meeting, contact the Chapter Treasurer or President for assistance/advice.
  - b. A request for reimbursement must
    - i. Include the receipt(s), with any other documentation verifying authorization and purpose for the expense, attached with the receipts.
    - ii. Be received by the Chapter Treasurer within two (2) months from the date the expense is incurred.
3. The Chapter Treasurer will:
  - a. Make payment within 31 days from the date when the following confirmation steps are completed:
    - i. Expense documentation is complete.
    - ii. Authorization is verified when required.
    - iii. There are no other issues or factors which might require delay of payment.
  - b. Notify the following persons as soon as possible, when an expense cannot be reimbursed, or reimbursement is delayed beyond 31 days:
    - i. The Chapter member when an expense cannot be reimbursed, or reimbursement is delayed, and the reason for the delay, when of any steps in paragraph 3.a are incomplete or pending.
    - ii. The Chapter President, and the Executive Board (if applicable and appropriate), when reimbursement is delayed because one or more of the steps in paragraph 3.a has not been completed.
  - c. Monitor expenses incurred by budget line-item, and notify the CRC Executive Board if expenses being incurred might cause the respective budgeted line-item to be exceeded before the end of the budgeted year.
4. All requests for reimbursement for expenses incurred by the CRC and CRMF Treasurers shall be:
  - a. Reviewed by the Chapter President.
  - b. Paid by check signed by the Chapter President for the amount approved.
5. The Chapter President has the authority to make a reimbursement authorization when expediency is in the best interests of the Chapter. The President is, however, responsible for notifying the Chapter Treasurer and other members of the Executive Board of the action taken, and its estimated cost, as soon as possible thereafter.

**Approval:** Concurrence given March 8, 2018 by the Executive Board, Columbia River Chapter, MOAA, and approved by:

**Evelyn Brady**  
**President**



## 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)

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/>

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

<http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/>



Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1107 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	Vancouver, WA Office: O.O. Howard House 750 Anderson Street, Suite B Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292 Fax: (360) 695-6197
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Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email:  
<https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/>

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

WASHINGTON, DC 511 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3441 202-228-0514 - FAX 202-224-8273 - TDD	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 360-696-7838 360-696-7844 - FAX	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 915 Second Avenue Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174. 206-220-6400 206-220-6404 - FAX
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Contact Senator Cantwell via email: <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email/form>

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

WASHINGTON, DC 154 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 2988 Jackson Federal Building 915 Second Avenue Seattle, WA 98174 Phone: (206) 553-5545 Toll Free: (866) 481-9186 Fax: (206) 553-0891
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Contact Senator Murray via email: <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

## 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)

## ***Federal Legislative Update:*** ***by Buck Marr***

As March comes to an end, does the phrase “Ground Hog Day” pop into anybody’s mind when thinking about Federal legislation? On March 23, we concluded the Nation’s 5th continuing resolution for FY 2018. Sadly, continuing resolutions have become the norm. It could be worse; between FY77 and FY15, Congress only passed all 12 appropriations bills on time four times. Between 1980 and 2013, there have been eight U.S. Government shutdowns. And, “drum roll,” in 2001 there were 21 continuing resolutions. Now you should feel better about this year...not.

The omnibus spending bill was passed 24 hours before the continuing resolution expired. The \$1.3Trillion, 2323 page bill was passed just after midnight on 23 March. It funds the government until 1 October. The vote on the bill was delayed many hours by two Senators. One to “highlight his issue concerns” and the second because he objected to the proposed name of a wilderness area in his state. You just can’t make this stuff up!!

The six month delay in funding government operations in FY18 has created the requirement for loosening execution rules and spreading the appropriation over two years. A precedent in itself.

However, MOAA’s major issues were addressed: 2.4% currently serving pay raise, establish the SSIA as a permanent feature for surviving spouses, avoid disproportionate TRICARE fee increases, defeating a cut to the housing allowance and gaining authorization for 20,000 more troops. And, of course, sequestration caps were waived.

The following example of a dysfunctional legislative budget process is not intended to cast dispersions on the legislators but points out the incredible necessity of each of us to remain aware of what is happening and to stay heavily engaged in the advocacy activity right up to the last day. Example:

In the spending draft bill, three important VA initiatives were included: an expansion of the Choice Act authorization for veterans to seek health care in their community, increased support for veteran caregivers and a review of VA infrastructure with an eye toward closing unnecessary facilities. MOAA and five other VSO’s had assisted both the Chairman and the Ranking Minority member of the House Veteran Affairs Committee to get these provisions into the spending bill. All looked good until about 12 hours before the final vote when the House and Senate minority leaders decided to pull their support. The stated reason was that there wasn’t a funding source which produced a risk that the VA would use their baseline funds for the initiatives thereby eroding financing for VA core programs. A spurious argument at best which cloaks the obvious real reason related to DACA vs Border Wall sparring. It is difficult to accept the lack of funding argument when the spending bill exceeded the President’s request by \$15.5B and a budget line item for Aircraft Procurement exceeded the Services request by \$9.5B. Interestingly, while these three important provisions were omitted, a little known provision to provide mental health services to “less than honorable” discharged veterans was included in the final Bill.

What’s the point? Why would I go into this dialogue? Because it makes very evident the need for all of us to remain cognizant of the key issues and communicate frequently with our elected representatives. It makes a difference to us and as importantly, to younger generations of veterans.

Our heritage is that each emerging generation stands on the shoulders of previous generations. We are the “previous” generation. We cannot shrink from our advocacy role.

**Buck Marr**  
**Federal Legislative Affairs**



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

The Washington State Legislature adjourned on time on March 8, 2018. Below is a list of veterans related bills that passed and were signed by the Governor out of the approximately 75 that were introduced. Your Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) actively advocated for most all of the 75 during session.

**Veteran / Military Bills Passed as of March 27, 2018**

Bill #	Brief Description
HB 1056	Concerning consumer protections for military service members on active duty.
E2SHB 2009	Providing higher education support for gold star families.
2SHB 2269	Concerning tax relief for adaptive automotive equipment for veterans and service members with disabilities.
SHB 2342	Establishing a donation program for resident disabled veterans to receive hunting and fishing licenses.
HB 2582	Concerning the department of veterans affairs.
ESHB 2701	Addressing the definition of veteran.
HB 2851	Clarifying the calculation of military leave for officers and employees that work shifts spanning more than one calendar day.
SSB 5746	Concerning the association of Washington generals.
SSB 6012	Concerning requirements for the issuance of a driver's license that includes a veteran designation.
SSB 6514	Concerning suicide prevention and behavioral health in higher education, with enhanced services to student veterans.
SR 8728	Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Veteran's Day.

As you read this, I will be heading for Washington DC to Storm the Hill with other Council Presidents. We will be advocating for two primary issues: (1) fully funding the **military pay raise** in the FY19 Defense Authorization as called for by law in the ECI at 2.6 percent. (2) Support of **Chapter 61 Retirees** who were unable to serve a full career due to their illness or injury. You can help by: (1) sending in the MOAA provided letters and postcards, (2) sending e-mails from in the Legislative Alerts on these subjects and calling your elected officials this week, and (3) using the MOAA Capitol switchboard Toll-free Hotline (866) 272-6622.

**Dave Casteel**  
**Washington State Legislative Affairs**

## 2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

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19 April Thursday	<b>April Chapter Meeting</b> <b>Venue:</b> Boxcar at 40 et 8 Chateau <b>Meet &amp; Snacks Social:</b> 2:30 - 4:30 PM <b>Program:</b> at 3:00 pm Speaker Andy Woodrow from the Battle Ground JROTC
19 April Thursday	<b>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Our Community Salutes</b> at Skyview High School in Vancouver. This is to honor high school seniors from many schools who have committed to the military right after graduation. MOAA will have table and your support at this event is greatly appreciated. Let's have a strong presence there.
17 May Thursday	<b>Dinner meeting,</b> Venue TBD <b>Dan Kern</b> from the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center will be our speaker.
28 May Monday	<b>Memorial Day Event,</b> details to follow.
9 June Saturday	<b>Chapter Social Event:</b> Save the Date!

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### April Chapter Meeting

19 April 2018  
Thursday

#### Boxcar

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

**Begin Socializing** 2:30 pm  
Coffee & Cookies

**Program:** Guest Speaker: Andrew Woodrow of the Battle Ground JROTC

**Cost:** No cost

#### RSVP:

To Dan Sockle by Sunday, 15 April.  
Call 360-624-4478  
or e-mail [dsocket@gmail.com](mailto:dsocket@gmail.com)



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

