



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

October 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:
Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865
**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**

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

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 Ellis
360-910-0625

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and enjoying the cool fall weather. We had a very nice BBQ and scholarship fundraiser at the Casteel home on September 8. The weather was perfect, our members gave generously, and a good time was had by all. Dave Casteel and I presented Rich Wersinger with the 5 Star Communication Award for our newsletter and our website. I know we wouldn't have such a professional newsletter without our terrific editor Rich.

Changes in Tricare are rapidly approaching. This can be a confusing issue and we need help understanding what the best option for each of us may be. Go to www.tricare.benefeds.com for the most up to date and comprehensive information. Note that if you are currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, you will not be automatically renewed or enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. You must enroll during open season, from November 12 to December 10. (See page 5 below for important details.) It may be prudent for you to discuss your options with the offices of your medical and dental providers to figure out which plan works for you.

It is time for everyone to get a flu shot. With a very few exceptions, it is safe for everyone from babies to centenarians. The vaccine is changed

every year to combat whatever flu is circulating this season. You can check on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for clear and concise information.



We have 4 new chapter members and we welcome them. **Kevin and Helen Sudbeck**, retired Navy, **Bill and Karen Wheeler**, retired Navy, **Phil and Debie Navin**, retired Army, and **Beverly Olson**, surviving spouse. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Marge Van Nus is recovering from some serious injuries she got in a fall. She was at Harbor View in Seattle but is making progress and hoping to be home soon. Well wishes can be sent to her home at 1521 NE 97th Ave, Vancouver 98664.

[Continued on page 2]

**18 October
Thursday
Luncheon
Touchmark
11:30 AM Meet
12:00 PM Lunch
Vancouver, WA
RSVP by 11 Oct
Details page 11**

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
Scholarship Corner	Page 4
TRDP to End	Page 5
Foundation Update	Page 6
5-Star Awards	Page 7
Congressional Contacts	Page 8
Legislative Affairs	Page 9
Chapter Calendar	Page 11

President's Message continued

Please mark your calendars for our fall events. Our Calendar on page 11 has all the details. Please let me or any board member know if you have any suggestions or ideas for our events. Remember that we have a donation box at each meeting for the Clark College Veterans Resource Center for non-perishable food items.

On December 2, we will have our annual holiday and scholarship party. We have secured the 40 et 8 Chateau for our party, but we must bring in our own food. We can have it catered, maybe by Olive Garden, or whatever the membership wants to do. The bar will be open.

As of this newsletter, our chapter does not have an active role in the Veterans Day events being planned by the Historic Trust. My understanding is that there is a parade on Saturday, November 10. See our Calendar on page 11 for details from the Historic Trust. This is an opportunity for us to sit back, relax, and enjoy the festivities.

Here's a thought for the day: What we see depends mainly on what we look for.

Never Stop Serving!

**Evelyn Brady
President**



Council President, Dave Casteel, presents 2017 Five Star Communications Award streamer medals to Columbia River Chapter President, Evelyn Brady, at our annual scholarship fund-raising barbecue.



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

Our Chapter Secretary, **Chris Rubadue**, coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

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. If you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify **Chris Rubadue**, our Chapter Secretary at (425) 269-1902 or clrubadue@comcast.net.



Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby

It is once again that time of year when I have the pleasure to introduce the Chapter's four 2018-19 school year Clark and WSU-Vancouver scholarship recipients.

I will get to meet the Clark scholarship recipients on October 19th and the WSU recipient on October 9th. Here are the recipients of all four scholarships for this school year.

CLARK COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeremy Reeves	Machining	Chriss Scholarship \$1,000
Brittany Ashworth	Nursing	Doty Scholarship \$1,000
Kodi Findlay	Nursing	Fenning Scholarship \$1,000

WSU-VANCOUVER SCHOLARSHIP

Temika Johnson	Anthropology	Allan Scholarship \$1,500
----------------	--------------	------------------------------

I look forward to introducing each of these recipients at the annual Christmas Social on December 2nd at the 40 et 8. I hope to see you there.

**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
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.

**Retired Uniformed Service Members--
TRDP (Dental) is ending—Your action
required** by Dave Casteel

TRDP-to-FEDVIP transition

First, some background. You may remember MOAA led the charge for years recommending the elimination of unnecessary duplication of health care and consolidation of military medical health care under one umbrella agency. The FY2017 NDAA did just this and made major changes to the military health care system. Chief among them, the reorganization (i.e., consolidation) of individual service's medical agencies under the Defense Health Agency (DHA). As of October 2018, DHA formally takes over all military medical facilities.

As a result, new plans and costs are now available for us to review as we come under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) January 1, 2019. Because of this, TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end on December 31, 2018. Retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP will be eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage, effective January 1, 2019.

One big change for TFL beneficiaries is you will no longer be automatically renewed in a plan for 2019.

You must enroll during the Federal Benefits Open Season **November 12–December 10, 2018.**

Vision coverage is available!

For the first time ever, vision coverage is available to you and your family members! Retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP, and who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, will be eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. Coverage is effective January 1, 2019, if you enroll during the Federal Benefits Open Season.

How to prepare

Visit <https://www.tricare.benefeds.com> to find out more information about this transition from TRDP to FEDVIP dental coverage and the FEDVIP vision coverage.

Research 2019 plans. Visit <https://bit.ly/2C1SZt8> for Plan details and premium rates for the 2019 plan year <https://bit.ly/2C1SZt8>. I put in my Zip code and found 10 dental plans and 8 vision plans.

You can also participate in a [TRICARE online webinar](#). Experts will hold a webinar focusing on different plans and the enrollment process on Nov 14. Sign up for updates on the TRICARE website to receive alerts of key dates.

Don't miss your opportunity to enroll!

If you'd like FEDVIP dental and/or vision coverage next year, effective January 1, 2019, you must enroll during the next Federal Benefits Open Season: **November 12–December 10, 2018**

Premium payment:

Once you enroll in FEDVIP, TRICARE will automatically set up an allotment with your pay provider to pay your premiums post-tax. In the event that you do not have enough available funds or allotments to cover the cost, they will default your payment method to a recurring electronic funds transfer (EFT), which we refer to as an automatic bank withdrawal (ABW).

Key dates

Don't forget! The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ends on December 31, 2018.

You must enroll during the Federal Benefits Open Season for FEDVIP dental and/or vision coverage in 2019.

Click or tap a date to add it to your calendar.



Oct. 2018

2019 FEDVIP plans and premiums
are available



Nov. 12–Dec. 10, 2018 (ET)

Federal Benefits Open Season



Jan. 1, 2019

2019 FEDVIP plan year begins

Foundation Update by Dave Casteel

Our chapter members continue to be amazing! Due to your generosity, we raised \$1,245.00 at the fall scholarship barbecue. As you probably know, we give three \$1,000 scholarships to veteran students at Clark college and one \$1,500 scholarship to a veteran student at WSU-Vancouver, for a total of \$4,500 each year.

If you are like my wife and me, we like to see firsthand where our donation is going. So, this is your chance--we encourage you to come and meet our scholarship recipients at our December 2nd Christmas Scholarship social at 40et8 (we miss you, so even if you haven't attended for a while, it's always great to chat with other military friends).

Stock market good to you in the last year? Want to make a difference and create a legacy in your name? We can create a named scholarship endowment in your name (or a loved one) at WSU-Vancouver for only \$25,000. Just let me know your wishes and we can make it happen!

A painless way to donate to the Foundation is to link us to your Fred Meyer rewards card so every time you shop and use your rewards card (or phone number), the CRMF Foundation receives a donation from Fred Meyer/Kroger paid out quarterly. Your friends and adult children can link to us also--ask them to. See page 4 of this October Newsletter or contact me if you need details how to do this.

Other veterans and organizations benefit from your donations also. Our Support The Troops fund helps Clark County Veterans Assistance Center, the Vancouver Fisher House, and Clark College Veterans Resource Center (VRC).

Regarding the VRC, you can help student veterans at Clark College by bringing nonperishable food items to chapter meetings for the Clark College Veterans Resource Center pantry (which the new manager, David Daly, and his wife, have been personally stocking for about 20+ veterans).

Some examples:

- Tuna packets or cans
- Chicken salad packets or cans
- Dry package soups like Dinty More
- Mac and cheese
- Hamburger helper (Dave buys hamburger that he brings in as needed)
- Rice-a-roni
- Canned veggies and soups
- Cereal cheerios, Kix, Chex, etc
- Pretzels sticks
- Dried fruit rolls
- Canned fruit mixes
- Crackers & chips
- Shelf stable or powdered milk
- Jams and jellies
- And of course, Peanut butter!
- Plus, just think any other nonperishables you ate while away at school...

* For those of you that might be new to the chapter, our Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is a public 501(c) 3 nonprofit registered with the IRS and the Washington Secretary of State (SOS). Please contact me or visit our website at (<http://www.moacolumbiariver.org>) for our IRS EIN and WA SOS charities registration and UBI information.



Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Contest

by Dave Casteel & Rich Wersinger

For 2017, our Chapter competed in this Award Contest in two categories; Print and E-Newsletters, and Websites. We are proud to announce our Chapter won 5-Star Awards in both categories!



President **Brady** said, “**Dave Casteel** and I presented **Rich Wersinger** with the 5 Star Communication Award for our newsletter and our website. [8 September 2018] I know we wouldn’t have such a professional newsletter without our terrific editor **Rich.**” Rich [Our Chapter] was the **ONLY** Five-Star award winner in Washington State. Congratulations Rich, and thanks for your great work.

Rich said, “I’m honored on behalf of our Chapter. Special credit must be given to everyone who contributes such informative and helpful articles for every issue.”

Each year, national MOAA holds the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Contest to identify councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community. MOAA affiliates compete in two categories of competition: print and e-newsletters and websites. A panel of judges score the submissions based on a set of subjective criteria, looking at both design and content.

Councils and chapters received extra credit for communication efforts that went above and beyond established standards. Our newsletter is considered a print newsletter.

In the Websites Category, affiliates that communicated with their members via email networks and social media channels received extra credit.

There are two award levels; Five-Star chapters are recognized for their exemplary communication efforts, and Four-Star chapters are recognized for their outstanding efforts.

Columbia River Chapter Award history:

2017	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2016	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2015	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2014	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2013	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2012	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	4
2011	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2010	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5
2009	WA01	Columbia River Chapter	5



Council President, Dave Casteel, presents 2017 Five Star Communications Awards to Rich Wersinger for Print Newsletter AND Chapter Website at annual Columbia River Chapter scholarship barbecue on 8 September 2018. Chapter President Evelyn Brady (R) nominated Rich.



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

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 3rd 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
---	---

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
---	---	--

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
--	--	---

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
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 Buck Marr***

Can you believe it? We have turned the calendar page from Summer to Autumn...where did the summer go? I hope all of you had a grand time whether it was traveling, boating, hiking, fishing, golfing or just catching some sun sipping a mint julep on your deck. In addition to turning the page to autumn, we have flipped the switch and turned up the intensity on the political "season."

From my porch at our cabin in Montana, I can hear the grumbling about political advertisements, the forest of political signs in the streets and the campaign phone calls. However, not all is bad. With the motivation of the upcoming mid-term elections, our Federal legislators have done a lot of work on annual bills which are rarely completed before the end of the fiscal year.

I'll give you an update on the major legislation status as well as a peek at some of the 'off the radar' issues percolating on the Hill.

As I write this, the lawmakers are in their last full week of hearings before the November elections. The House passed the 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill already passed in the Senate by a vote of 361-61. It is the first time in 10 years that lawmakers have passed the Defense Bill before the end of the current fiscal year. It authorizes the biggest active duty pay raise in nine years. Despite blasting the Bill as "ridiculous" on Sept 19th for including too much non-military money and no funds for his planned wall along the border with Mexico, the President indicated on September 26th that he will sign the bill and not force a government shutdown.

On Sept 21, the President signed the Department of Veterans Affairs FY19 budget into law. The VA got a funding increase of more than 6%. The big-ticket items in the \$200B+ bill are an overhaul of the electronic health records system and opioid abuse prevention. It also includes a big increase in funds tied to the VA Mission Act passed in early summer. This Act is supposed to greatly expand veterans' access to private health care.

Other important issues have been addressed lately which fly under the radar when compared to the defense and veterans' affairs bills.

For example, predatory payday loan shops and unethical car dealers are back in the news. More than a decade ago, Congress passed the Military Lending Act to protect active-duty members and their families from these predators and their interest rates of 300% and higher.

Now, the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau suggests his people have been overly aggressive in their oversight of these lenders and that he intends to relax his bureau's oversight. MOAA and other military service organizations state that this puts our forces back in jeopardy of financial ruin at the hands of these unethical dealers while also compromising mission effectiveness because their financial status could force loss of security clearances and/or eligibility for continued service.

Another important under the radar issue being dealt with in the defense budget bill is the military death gratuity. This gratuity is paid to servicemembers' beneficiaries when they die while on active service when the death was duty related. The gratuity covers immediate financial needs of the beneficiaries. During past government shutdowns, this payment has been delayed. The proposal in the budget bill will allow the Department of Defense to continue to pay the gratuity without delay.

A third serious and controversial issue in the Congress is a bill extending VA benefits to thousands of U.S. Navy veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange while serving off the Vietnam coast. The estimated cost of extending VA benefits to these veterans is \$5.5B to U.S. taxpayers.

[Continued on page 10]



Federal Legislative Update continued

Needless to say, this is been hotly debated in D.C. The head of the VA suggests that current science does not support the argument that Navy veterans were exposed to Agent Orange. But, veteran groups including MOAA are strongly supporting the Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act which would extend VA benefits to tens of thousands of US Navy veterans who were potentially exposed to Agent Orange while serving off the coast of Vietnam. The bill is the latest glimmer of hope for veterans who have fought for decades to receive the benefit, and would finally recognize their exposure to the toxic herbicide. The

issue is covered very well in the 20 September MOAA Newsletter. MOAA and The Military Coalition strongly support the inclusion of the blue water veterans. I encourage all of you to continue to advocate for these deserving combatants.

Have a great "Election Season."

Buck Marr
Federal Legislative Affairs



2018 – 2019 CHAPTER CALENDAR



18 October Thursday **Chapter Luncheon**
Venue: Touchmark **Guest Speaker:** Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor to talk about 2018 General Elections
Meet & Greet: 11:30 am
Lunch: 12:00 pm
See Details Below!



6 November Tuesday **General Election**
In Clark County, Washington your ballot must be:
• Postmarked no later than Election Day; or
• Returned to a [designated ballot drop box](#) by 8 pm on Election Day; or
• Returned in person to the Elections Office by 8 pm on Election Day.

10 November Saturday **Veterans Day Parade** – Put on by the Historic Trust.
9:30 am Ceremony in the Providence Academy Ballroom.
11:00 am This year, the parade begins at the east end of Officers Row at East Reserve Street. It will head west along Evergreen Blvd, past Officers Row and Providence Academy into downtown Vancouver.
See the Historic Trust [website](#) for details.



15 November Thursday **Chapter Luncheon**
Venue: Cascadia Technical Academy Marv Serhan will be our speaker
Meet & Greet: 11:30 am
Lunch: 12:00 pm We will have a raffle & donation box for CCVRC



2 December Sunday **Holiday Party and Meet and Greet Scholarship Recipients.**
Plan on: 3:00 to 6:00pm. **Details** 40et8 Chateau



19 January 2019 **Annual Business Meeting**
Presumably at the Club Green Meadows
Saturday

Chapter Luncheon
18 October 2018 Thursday
Touchmark (Formerly Waterford)
2911 SE Village Loop
Vancouver, WA 98683

Gather at 11:30
Lunch at 12:00, **program** to follow

We will have a raffle and a donation box for CCVRC

Program: Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor to talk about electoral process and the 2018 General Elections

Cost: TBA and announced in RSVP e-mail

Remember to bring **NON** perishable food items for the Veterans Resource Center pantry at Clark College

RSVP: To Dan Sockle by 11 October
Call 360-573-7210
or e-mail dsocket@gmail.com

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

