



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

5-Star Excellence Chapter



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

November 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

1st Vice-President: & Membership:

2nd Vice-President: & Programs

Secretary:

Chris Rubadue
425-269-1902

Treasurer:

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360-910-0357

Immediate Past

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Army Rep:

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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

Wow! 2018 has flown by and this is our last newsletter until 2019. This is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished in 2018, as a chapter and individually. Do any of you remember what you set out to accomplish for this year? What were your thoughts in January?

Our chapter set the goal of 2017 Five Star Awards for Communication and for the Chapter. We did accomplish those, and I am very proud of us.

Dave Casteel and I represented the chapter at the annual MOAA Awards

Dinner on November 1 in Phoenix, AZ. Being there certainly energized me for the future of our chapter and national MOAA.

We will face some big challenges as a chapter in 2019. As I listened to the chapter reports at the Washington State Council of Chapters meeting in Phoenix, concerns about filling chapter officer positions and recruitment and retention of younger members are universal. One chapter has no president, and the other board members fill in for 2 months at a time. This doesn't bode well for that chapter. What about Columbia River Chapter? This could be us in January 2020, only one year away.

Younger people want to give back to the community in tangible ways. How can our chapter do that?

We are very good at raising

funds for our Scholarship and Support the Troops programs. But we are not so great at physically giving back, such as cooking and serving a meal at Fisher House.

Please think about something we can do to entice younger members to become involved.

Also, the CRC board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 0900. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This board is out of new and fresh ideas, so please help us think about a new approach to our chapter activities.

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2 December Sunday

Holiday Party

40 et 8 Chateau

3:00 PM Meet

4:00 PM Dinner

Vancouver, WA

RSVP by 29 November

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President's Message continued

We had a terrific luncheon on November 15. Thank you to our speaker, chapter member **Marv Serhan** for an interesting and thought-provoking presentation "Preservation of the Good Society and the Crisis of Memory".

Also, kudos to **Dan Sockle** for the job he did as program chair over 2018. He is stepping down to devote more time to his numerous causes.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 2 for our Holiday Party and Scholarship Fundraiser. We will have an opportunity to meet and mingle with our scholarship recipients, and donate once again to keep up our scholarship program.

The festivities start at 3:00 pm at the 40 et 8 Chateau on 78th St. An Olive Garden catered dinner will start at 4:00 pm and the bar will be open to purchase adult beverages. Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, January 19, 2019 for our annual meeting.

Looking ahead to next year, consider taking a position on the chapter executive board. We have openings for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, program chair, and membership recruitment chair. Additionally, we always welcome your help at community events such as Memorial Day.

Never stop serving!

**Evelyn Brady
President**



Our Chapter President, Evelyn, with Gen. John J. Sheehan, USMC (Ret) MOAA Chairman of the board at 1 November 2018 Awards Dinner, Phoenix, AZ.



Our Chapter President, Evelyn, with LtGen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) MOAA President and CEO at 1 November 2018 Awards Dinner, Phoenix, AZ.



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.



Marv Serhan, our speaker at the November 2018 luncheon being presented with a thank you gift.



15 November 2018: Chapter President Evelyn presents Judy Russel, Director of Clark County Veterans Assistance Center with a check for \$500.00 from the CRMF.

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
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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 NOW 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 this 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

We are indeed grateful for your on-going generosity to the Foundation. You will have another chance to make a generous free will offering to our scholarship fund at our December 2nd Christmas Scholarship Social at 40et8. You will also have a chance to meet our scholarship recipients and learn about their hopes and dreams that YOU help make possible.

As you read this, the Foundation has donated another \$500.00 to the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center to use where it is most needed. Their mission is to provide a welcome and safe environment to assist Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits, services, and resources to meet basic needs. They served 3,000 veterans in 2017.

The Foundation also donated a \$1,000.00 VISA gift card to the Vancouver Fisher House. The VISA card is tightly controlled and is used in emergencies. For example, families with veterans receiving care at the VA hospital in Portland may be unable to get on the last shuttle back to Vancouver due to afterhours medical care and have to take a taxi. Or, families may receive calls late at night or on weekends when the shuttle is no longer running to attend to their veteran who is experiencing problems. Or, there may be emergency food needs for families staying at Fisher House. Regardless of the emergency, the VISA cash card is a lifesaver for the staff and families at Fisher House. We also routinely donate kitchen needs (paper towels, K cups, Zip lock bags, etc.).

If you shop at Fred Meyer you can use your Rewards Card to donate to the CRMF at NO COST to you. Once you register your Rewards Card and link it to our Foundation (i.e., Columbia River MOAA Foundation #81245), you are ready. 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 still earn your full normal rewards AND Fred Meyer will donate money to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) quarterly. What could be easier?

The Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is an IRS 501(c)3 public charity to which donations are tax deductible—including bequests, so please remember us in your will. Our Federal tax ID# is 47-

4776049. We are registered and incorporated with the Washington Secretary of State's office and our finances are audited annually and the results presented at our annual meeting in January each year.

For those of you who are new to the chapter, here is a little history. The Chapter is an IRS 501(c)19 war veterans nonprofit organization. We advocate to our legislators under the 501(c)19 umbrella, but are unable to accept tax-deductible donations as a 501(c)19. Therefore, we created the 501(c)3 Foundation as a subsidiary to accept your tax-deductible donations and to in-turn support local scholarships through our Scholarship Fund, or local veterans related needs through Support the Troops Fund.

Donations to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) can be made out to the Foundation (or simply just "CRMF") and mailed to our chapter's address: Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 1872 Vancouver, WA 98668, or just bring it to any monthly event.

If you have any specific questions please e-mail (shilohcamas@comcast.net) or call me at 360-834-2448.



Past Columbia River Chapter President, Dave Casteel, presents another \$1,000.00 check to Vancouver Fisher House Asst. Manager Dawn.



Scam Awareness

by Terry Babin

A recent article published in the Marine Corps' newsletter to retirees warned of a *Cancer Screening Kit* scam. This is a telephone scam. Callers have targeted Tricare enrollees in order try to sell these bogus kits. Usually the callers already have a considerable amount of personal identification information about the person being called—which conveys a false sense that the call is legitimate. These scam calls have primarily originated from a (516) 253-2565 number; although other numbers have been used.

The article stresses that Tricare does not call beneficiaries to offer or sell services. As in the case of probably all legitimate callers to you, personal identifiable information such as birth date, Social Security and Medicare numbers, bank account and credit card information should not be provided to the caller.

On the subject of Medicare, another current scam is based on the new Medicare cards/numbers. You are called to confirm that you have received your new card, and it is correct. The caller tries to obtain identity theft information by asking you to provide personal information, and threatening to cancel your health benefits if you do not provide the information so the caller can verify that you are the lawful recipient of the card. If you receive such a call, hang up and call 1-800-633-4227 to report the attempted scam.

A third scam which has been attempted on several of my acquaintances as well as myself this past year is the Microsoft Outlook E-mail scam. You are contacted by e-mail (looks like a legitimate e-mail/logo notice from Microsoft) that the Microsoft cyber security team has identified that your personal computer has been "hacked." You are provided an emergency number to call Microsoft ASAP before the hackers do irreparable damage and identity theft. If you call the number, you will be told information which makes the caller seem to be legitimate and knowledgeable about you and your computer. You will then be asked to go through specific steps to allow a Microsoft security technician to have access to your personal computer to inspect and repair the damage. DO NOT DO THIS. Microsoft Corporation does not initiate these kinds of notices.

What several experts have recommended is that when you receive unsolicited calls requesting personal and account information: You ask for the caller's name, title and department, and call back number. Tell the caller that you will call the company/organization the caller claims to represent to confirm the legitimacy of the call. The scam caller will almost certainly hang up at that point. If not, do your research to avoid being scammed before doing any call-back. Best advice I can give, when in doubt, trust your instincts, and error on the side of caution.

Terry Babin
Membership Services





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 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/	

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 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	Chris Corry Eff 1/14/19	Richard DeBolt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Larry Hoff Eff 1/14/19	Gina Mosbrucker Eff 1/14/19	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**

In the last newsletter, we welcomed the Autumn Season. This month we “welcomed” a new season: Election Season. In my youth, I loved riding the E-Ticket rides at Disneyland. Election Season is an E-Ticket ride and this year’s midterm elections were no exception. No legislative update could be complete without a look at some election outcomes and possible implications.

The most notable outcome is the swing of the House of Representatives from Republican control to Democrat leadership which could drive broad changes in policy and budget. There will be changes on the congressional committees where MOAA does most of its advocacy work.

Rep Adam Smith (D-WA), now minority leader of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) has formally announced his bid to run for Chairman of the HASC.

The current chairman, Rep Thornberry (R-TX) will most likely transition to Ranking Member. Smith, a defense budget hawk, has been very vocal about warning DoD to expect a “lean future” of smaller defense budgets.

Prior to the election, Smith listed his priorities as conducting more vigorous oversight of the Trump Administration particularly in the area of special operations and defense spending. He agrees with prioritizing space as a military domain but says the Pentagon does not need a new and costly bureaucracy that would come with creating a separate Space Command. He also indicates he would work to roll back the President’s plans to expand and modernize the nuclear arsenal. He advocates greater transparency in national security matters. He opposes drawing on military funds to build parts of the border wall.

In another other key HASC move, the Military Personnel Subcommittee will likely be led by Jackie Speier (D-CA) with Walter Jones (R-N.C.) as ranking member. Rep Speier is recognized as a strong opponent of government inefficiency and waste.

Rep. Takano (D-CA) is the leading candidate to chair the all-important House Veterans’ Affairs

Committee with Rep. Roe (R-GA) as the Ranking Member. In September, Takano promised to make reforms to the Veterans Health Administration and reject Republicans calls to privatize health care through enactment of the freshly minted VA Mission Act. The big issue involving this new law is how much care should the private sector provide for VA work. Conservatives see increased private care access as giving veterans more choice in their medical care. Liberals see it as syphoning off federal money to outside companies.

The issue of private sector care is likely to dominate much of the conversation in the coming months with the issues of VA electronic records modernization, staffing and agent orange exposure benefits for the Blue Water veterans also sparking lively debate.

Since Republicans retain control of the Senate, we probably won’t see any leadership changes on the Armed Services or Veterans’ Affairs Committees. However, MOAA is closely monitoring the results of the Florida Senate vote recount. As you know, the incumbent is Sen. Nelson. He is the MOAA’s Senate champion for legislation to eliminate the widows’ tax. However, he trails Gov Scott going into the recount. Should the results hold, MOAA will have to reconsider its legislative agenda for survivor issues in the next Congress.

For the next couple of months, we have a “lame duck” Congress. Lawmakers return to the Hill on 20 Nov to take up unfinished business on government appropriations. Seven funding bills are riding on a continuing resolution through Dec 7. It appears that the legislators are eager to pass the funding bills. The stumbling block between passage and a government shutdown appears to be the President’s position on funding for “The Wall.”

You will want to closely follow the lead up to the next annual defense budget. In the face of a 17% 2018 increase in the federal deficit, the President’s announcement to cut 5% from all Federal Departments teamed with Rep. Smith’s stated public intentions to rein in excess and wasteful defense spending should make for high drama.

[Continued on page 10]

Federal Legislative Update continued

And, just to spice up the debate is the congressional requirement to take action in FY2020 to deal with the mandated sequestration cuts required under the 2011 Budget Control Act. Without further legislative action by Congress, these reductions could significantly impact the FY2020 defense budget. After two years of growth in the defense budget, we will re-enter a period of cutbacks. What's the point here? Historically, reductions involve military pay and benefits. According to MOAA, the Employment Cost Index (ECI) will suggest a big military pay increase for 2020. The anticipated budget cuts will likely mean the actual raise could come in well below the ECI. Personnel

housing allowances will probably come under fire again. And, of course, increased TRICARE fees are in the crossfire for all beneficiaries.

MOAA members need to stay abreast of developments and stay engaged as the President's FY2020 budget takes shape and goes to the Congress in February. We all need to prepare for a strong advocacy push to protect hard earned benefits and programs.

Buck Marr
Federal Legislative Affairs



NEVER STOP
SERVING

2018 – 2019 CHAPTER CALENDAR

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

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



**COLUMBIA RIVER
 CHAPTER
 CHRISTMAS
 GATHERING AND
 SCHOLARSHIP EVENT**

**MENU****CHICKEN PARMIGIANA****OR****LASAGNA CLASSICO****OR****5 CHEESE ZITA AL FORNO****OR****CREATE YOUR OWN PASTA STATION****Pastas, Sauces, Toppings and Sides****Included in the Holiday Meal****Salad, Breadsticks, Iced Tea, Coffee****Dolcini Deserts in Assorted Flavors****No-Host Full Bar Available****COST: \$18 Per Person****DATE: December 2nd, 2018****1500-1800 hrs - Dinner at 1600 hrs****LOCATION: 40 et 8 CHATEAU****7607 NE 26th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98665**

Please RSVP Susan Ellis at: sdellis1973@gmail.com or (360) 910-0357
NLT Thursday 29 November

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

