



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

4-Star Excellence Chapter



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

ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

October 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

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

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

Secretary: (acting)

Dave Casteel

Treasurer: (acting)

Rod Williams

**Immediate Past
President,**

Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865

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:

Buck Marr
757-636-8686

Membership Services:

Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Public Affairs:

John Donnelly
360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Paul Crosby
360-666-8871

Chaplain:

Roster Manager:



Posters extolling the stoic call for the British public to *Keep calm and carry on* during the mass air attacks on major cities and military sites across Great Britain during World War II is still good advice for us in 2020. No clear signs tell us when we will get control of COVID-19. The restrictions necessary to gain control of the virus may extend far into 2021 or beyond. Pandemic fatigue can add to the stress of isolation and minimal or remote direct contact with family and friends.

As in the late-night commercials, the announcer would plea, "Wait! There's more...." Add the stress of the November 3rd highly contested national and state election. Hopefully, everyone has voted or has a plan to get their ballot in on time. Regardless of the outcome (trying to remain apolitical) may it be peaceful. Again, "Wait! There's more...." The election will not end the demonstrations in our cities. That will take time and leadership action.

Life goes on and so does our Columbia River Chapter. In this shortened newsletter, Dave Casteel will share the superb results of our Give 50 for our Chapter's 50th Anniversary Appeal and Buck Marr will also share some good news on the MOAA

advocacy front. We now have a handle on how to conduct virtual membership meetings using the ZOOM platform. In the October 15th meeting Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor, gave a detailed overview of the process and answered questions from attendees. You should have received a separate email from us relating the information Greg shared with us. His bottom line was in Clark County and Washington all ballots will be counted and the system is secure.



**We cannot wait to
be with you all
soon!**

You should also have received an email invitation to the November 19, 2020, member meeting also on ZOOM beginning at 11 AM Pacific Time. Our guest presenter is Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), MOAA's program director for financial and benefits education/counseling. He will share some interesting information on **Avoiding Common Scam and Fraud Attempts**. I hope to see you there.

[Continued on page 2]

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
Recruiting for 3 Board Openings	Page 2
CRMF Update	Page 3
Congressional Contacts	Page 6

President's Message continued

MOAA Advocacy Gets Results

Buck Marr

MOAA's first strategic focus area is "advocacy." In every chapter newsletter, I highlight federal legislative topics which need our collective attention. Rarely do I detail successes beyond the big-ticket items of pay raises, health care etc. In this concise newsletter, I'd like to share with you an unheralded non-legislative success story which is a direct result of advocacy by MOAA and our partners with Service leaders.

On 15 October, Senior Army leaders announced big increases in investments in housing, child care and other quality of life improvements for soldiers and their families. At the recent Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting, the Army Secretary announced an additional \$2.8B investment in Army housing including a \$9B plan for barracks improvements. Additionally, the Army will increase the number of child development center employees by 7 percent while adding nine new child development centers. These initiatives will increase the number of available child care spaces by 5,000. The Army has also hired quality inspectors to improve household goods shipments. Advocacy shined a bright light on necessary quality of life improvements. Keep up the good work.

Be safe and please take care of each other until we can meet again. If you have not seen one of your chapter friends in a while, give him/her a call and check in. Pass along any member news or information where the chapter can assist to any of the chapter leaders listed on the front page. Never stop serving!

Rod Williams
President



Chapter Volunteers Needed

by Rod Williams

Presently we have **three openings** on the board:

Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

All our members have leadership experience and could capably fill any vacant roles.

Many of our spouses also bring skills and experience which make them excellent candidates. We encourage you to volunteer, too.

The frequently repeated idiom "it takes a village" is especially true about our chapter. It takes many hands to carry the load and not be a heavy burden on any one person.

- **Vice President** – can be tailored to fit any willing and able applicants to help us with programs, membership, recruiting, and advocacy activities.
- **Secretary** – some computer skills but does not have to an expert.
- **Treasurer** – does not require an accountant. Balancing and maintaining a checking account is the key skill.

There are written procedures and years of documented practice for both the Secretary and Treasurer roles. If you think you can help, contact me, Rod Williams (503) 317-2273 or rodwill50@hotmail.com

We need you!



CRMF September 2020 Update

by Dave Casteel

Dave Casteel (shilohcamas@comcast.net or CRMFPresident@comcast.net)

As your CRMF President, I am pleased to announce that member response to our Give 50 for our Chapter’s 50th Anniversary Appeal was a great success—response was excellent!

Thanks to the generosity of 38 donors (including one via a Qualified Charitable Distribution from their RMD) we raised \$4,000 to date for scholarships from this appeal (plus \$150 for STT). This appeal was designed to gap the shortfall that would have been created by not having the in-person BBQ. Without the appeal, we would have had to dip further into our limited reserves. After the appeal, we feel more confident going forward due to member generosity.

The men and women who receive our scholarships are very grateful for the support from our chapter which YOU help make possible. It is our hope that we can meet these recipients in-person in December to learn of their dreams--that is, if COVID restrictions are eased sufficiently.

We thank the members listed below who supported this appeal including some who made their donations as a memorial gift.

NEW WAY TO DONATE! We are now able to offer you the ability to donate securities directly to the CRMF through our new organizational Vanguard Brokerage Account. Security concerns prevent me from including the Vanguard account number in this newsletter, so if you are interested please e-mail me at CRMFPresident@comcast.net or call me at 360-834-2448 for instructions. While Vanguard does NOT charge the CRMF any fees, donors would have to check with the financial institution at which their securities are held to determine whether they charge fees for the transaction.

Going to sell some stocks before year end? Then consider donating some to the CRMF. Benefits of donating securities directly to a 501(c)3 like the CRMF: Charitable gifts of appreciated securities held for at least one year offer special tax advantages. Donors can receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift while avoiding capital gains tax on the

appreciation. As always, we encourage you to check with your tax advisor concerning your particular situation.

This is an alphabetical list of those who donated to our Give 50 for our 50th Appeal: (If I missed anyone or you find an error please let me know so I can correct it in the next newsletter)

Name	In Memory of
Anonymous (9)	
Myrtle M Adams	William Adams
Terry & Virginia Babin	Billy Maxwell Babin
Marlin & Betsy Brinkley	
Dave & Marilyn Casteel	
Bobbie & Teresa Clark	
Sally & David Cowles	
Roger & Kay DeRoos	
John & Charlene Donnelly	
Jim Faull	
Frank & Sondra Hill	
John Hill	
Dick & Gert Ionata	
Allan Jeska	
Roy Korkalo	
Marlene Laurie	Al Laurie
Lee & Sharon Loomis	
Buck & Sherry Marr	Bob Cross
Bob McFarlin	
Bob McNeal	
Rosemary Parker	BG Gilbert G. Parker
Ron & Peggy Pastor	Wendy Pastor
Larry & Nancy Patella	Dorothy Penfield & Olga Taylor
Charles & Janet Shaul	Peter Shaul

Larry & Patty Smith	
Mike & Diana Thomas	John E Thomas
Marge Van Nus	Frederick Van Nus
Terry Whisenant	LtCol James H Whisenant, Sr
Rod & Pat Williams	
Andy & Angie Woodrow	

In other matters, regarding the CARES \$300 “above the line” donation credit for donations to a 501(c)3 for those taxpayers who NOT itemize, it appears the IRS has ruled the credit is \$300 per return.

I really hope to see all of you again very soon.

Dave Casteel



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 coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

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

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 **Rod Williams**, our Chapter President at 503-317-2273 or rodwill50@hotmail.com.





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	Chris Corry 786-7810	Richard DeBolt 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Larry Hoff 786-7812	Gina Mosbrucker 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 786-7990

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