



**Columbia River Chapter
Columbia River MOAA Foundation
Annual Meeting
February 16, 2023**



Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Lunch

CRC business meeting - Rod

CRMF business meeting - Dave





The Pledge of Allegiance

**I pledge allegiance
to the Flag
of the United States
of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.**

CRC Business Meeting

- President -- Rod Williams
- Proposed Revision of CRC Constitution and By-laws – Rod Williams
- Treasurer Report – Larry DeVries
- Legislative Advocacy Committee – Buck Marr and Dave Casteel
- Member Services Committee – Terry Babin
- Surviving Spouse – Leah Davis
- Programs and Events Calendar – Rod Williams

President's Report

- Our chapter continues to be strong
- Repeat MOAA 5-star award winning chapter
- Repeat MOAA communication award for newsletter and Website
- Succession planning is critical concern for chapter health and longevity
- Recruitment has improved since COVID-19
- Increasing MOAA and CRC brand visibility in the community
- CMAC partnership
- Addressing specific member groups: Travel Forum, Officers Wives Club



President's Report

❑ Application for MOAA Community Support Grant in progress

- Focused on vets with food insecurity
- Must be submitted by February 28, 2023
- Project team: Dave Casteel, Buck Marr, Rod Williams, Terry Babin
- CCVAC annual Stand Down in September 2023
- Proposing \$5,000 grant to be coupled with our planned annual gifts to CCVAC and chapter volunteer support
- Buck now on CCVAC board



President's Report

Executive board vacancies

- President (2024)
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Committee members for Personal Affairs, Scholarship



Revision of CRC Constitution and By-laws

Prior approved changes to CRC by-laws include:

- A set of changes approved by vote of chapter members at the January 2020 membership meeting prior and recorded in minutes.
- By oversight in part due to the COVID pandemic these were not published after approval and are contained in this version.

Revision of CRC Constitution and By-laws

Proposed changes to CRC by-laws requiring vote of approval include:

- In appropriate sections, change of the number of U.S. uniform services to eight to include the Space Force.
- In one instance correct name to “Executive Board”.
- Add in appropriate sections that elected and appointed officers may also be a member spouse.



Revision of CRC Constitution and By-laws

- ❑ **List of changes** (* = preapproved changes from 2020):
 - Art IV, Sec 1 and 2. Addition of Space Force
 - Art VI, Sec 1. Change “Board of Directors” to “Executive Board”
 - Art VII, Sec 1. Insert “and may be a member spouse,”
 - *Art VII, Sec 8. Delete entire section and replace with new language clarifying the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer
 - Art VII, Sec 9. Addition of Space Force
 - *Art XII. Delete entire article and sections and replace with new language clarifying chapter financial accountability



CRC Treasurer Report

Larry DeVries



Treasurer Summary Report

The chapter is solid financially:

▪ Beginning balance for 2022	\$4,205.84
▪ Ending balance for 2022	\$4,708.21
▪ Projected revenue for 2023	\$6,595.00
▪ Projected expenses for 2023	\$6,136.00
▪ Projected EOY 2023 balance	\$5,167.21

Notes:

- Revenue dependent of dues received
- CRMF reported separately





Legislative Update

Buck Marr
Dave Casteel



Great News

The Widow's tax is gone!

Inequity confirmed 2007!

SBP-DIC RIP 2023



FY23 National Defense Authorization Act

Good News

- Signed into law Dec 23, 2022**
- TRICARE Improvements:**
 - Specialty care, dental plans, behavior health availability
 - Dental plan options from two to four
 - Behavioral health availability and auditing
- Military Medical billet cuts (18K) halted for five years**
 - Extensive analysis and reports
- 4.6% pay raise, reduce commissary prices, expand basic needs allowance**
- Remove housing allowance from subsistence allowance**
- Improve spouse employment opportunity & childcare**



Not so good news-Be watchful!

In the name of debt relief:

CBO proposal #1-Tricare for Life for Medicare beneficiaries

- Significant changes-enrollment fees/deductibles/cost sharing
- Up to \$4,675 cost sharing per year—annual increase

CBO proposal #2-Cost of Living Allowance

- Change how to compute the allowance from CPI to Chained CPI
- Different baskets of commodities---Chained equals less COLA
- Fall behind true cost of living.
- Proposed in 2013---MOAA led opposition and won

No legislative proposals-----YET

MOAA organizing resistance early on just in case



JOB ONE—THE RICHARD STAR ACT

- Introduced in the 117th Congress—S. 344/H.R. 1482**
- Would allow military retirees with:**
 - Less than 20 years service and at least 50% disabled to retire
 - Full disability and retirement pay – eliminate concurrent receipt
- 117th Congress-67 Senate co-sponsors and 336 House co-sponsors**
 - Did not pass for cost reasons
- Four sponsors ready to propose bill this month in 118th Congress**
 - Co-sponsors do not carry over
- Need 290 House co-sponsors before any other legislation**
- Forwards automatically to House Consensus Calendar on March 1**
 - Early consideration ahead of other House bills
- Encourage everybody you know to contact their Representative**





State Legislative Affairs Update

Dave Casteel



State Legislative Update

Washington Legislature

- Feb 17 first legislative cutoff date
- 31 veterans-related bills pending (a/o Feb 10)
- VLC monitors and testifies on bills

State Legislative Update

Key Bills this term

- SHB 1009 Military Spouse Employment
- HB 1355 Property Tax Exemption
- HB 1134 988 System
- Note. You can comment on ANY bill at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills>





Membership Services

Terry Babin



CRC & CRMF AUDITS of JANUARY 9, 2023

INTERNAL AUDITS—PURPOSE:

- Add value and improve an organization's operations.
- Brings a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of processes for:
 - Risk management
 - Controls
 - Governance

PERIOD AUDITED: 1 October 2019 through 30 September



CRC & CRMF AUDITS of JANUARY 9, 2023

AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

- Determine if there are any indications of waste, fraud, abuse, or fiduciary misconduct in high-risk financial areas.
- Evaluate if the records and procedures supporting the audit trail, internal controls, and overall financial management and accounting functions of the Chapter and its Foundation to resume normal operations in the post-pandemic period.

AUDIT TEAM:

- Appointed by the Chapter President
- Terry Babin, Dave Shoemaker, Ron Pastor



CRC & CRMF AUDITS of JANUARY 9, 2023

☐ COMMENTS:

- Treasurers Larry DeVries and Frank Hill have been superb in performing their duties:
 - Attentiveness to detail.
 - Proactive in developing processes and record-keeping tools to ensure visibility of transactions and document the audit trail.
 - Vigilant in ensuring that the state of records overall is the best yet during the years the audits have been conducted.
- CRC President Rod Williams commended for ensuring that the Chapter financial activities and records were maintained during the period when the Treasurer's position was vacant.



CRC & CRMF AUDITS of JANUARY 9, 2023

❑ OVERALL FINDINGS:

- 1. The Chapter and its Foundation have been well-served during the pandemic by the two Presidents and their Treasurers.*
- 2. Both the Chapter and the Foundation are ready to resume normal business.*



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

❑ **MISSION OBJECTIVES:**

1. Establish and maintain a program for welcoming new members and their spouses.
2. Support a system to keep contact with members.
3. Provide Personal Affairs (PA) services.
4. Coordinate with Membership and Program Committees
5. Support other activities which in turn support the mission.



KEEPING CONNECTED PROGRAM

- ❑ **Focus:** Maintaining contact with members—particularly those who are unable to attend regularly scheduled meetings and events:
 - Keeping members informed.
 - Checking on welfare and needs.
 - Answering questions.
 - Keeping contact information updated.
 - Receiving member concerns and input to the Executive Board.

- ❑ **Call Team:**
 - Rod Williams, Buck Marr, Holly Mangum, Roger DeRoos, Dan Sockle, Beverly Olson
 - + Leah Davis, + Dick Ionata



KEEPING CONNECTED PROGRAM

Milestone:

- Next phone call series will be April 2023—Our 10th Anniversary of the Keeping Connected Program
- Charter members: Marlene Laurie, Jim Morse, and Rich Wersinger—estimate each have made no less than 275-member phone calls during this period.

Current Need: 2 Alternate callers





Surviving Spouse Liaison

Leah Davis



Surviving Spouse Program

Leah Davis

- My story of what led me here
- Surviving Spouse Benefit Information
- VA & VSO
- Officer's Wives





2023 CRC Programs and Events

Rod Williams



2023 Programs

- ❑ January 19 – MOAA Speaker on TriCare
- ❑ February 16 – Annual Business Meeting
- ❑ March 20 – I-5 Bridge Replacement Update
- ❑ April -- Dick Ionata on B-52 History and Future at Touchmark
- ❑ May 18 – Review of Personal Affairs Checklist and Support
- ❑ May 24 – Our Community Salutes
- ❑ May 29 – Memorial Day ceremony at Ft Vancouver Barracks



2023 Programs

- June – Social gathering (Wine Tasting)
- June 24 – Heroes Night at Pearson Airfield Hangar
- July and August – No events planned
- September – Annual Fall Scholarship Social and Fundraiser
- September – CCVAC Stand Down
- September 11 – Patriots Day Ceremony
- September 15 – POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony
- October – An Oktoberfest Social – lederhosen optional.



2023 Programs

- ❑ November – Traditional Thanksgiving mess supporting Vancouver School District Culinary Program at Cascadia Tech Academy
- ❑ November 11 – Veterans Day Parade and Open House at Fort Vancouver
- ❑ December – Annual Christmas Scholarship Social Fundraiser. Meet the scholarship winners.

