



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

June 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Rod Williams
503-317-2273

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& Membership:
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360-608-7789

2nd Vice-President:

& Programs

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Jim Morse
360-433-5605

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612-743-3509

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360-721-0865

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Marine Rep:

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360-834-2448

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425-269-1902

Surviving Spouse

Liaison:

Leah Davis
310-491-8891

Legislative Affairs:

Buck Marr
757-636-8686

Membership Services:

Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Public Affairs:

John Donnelly
360-721-3792

Scholarship:

Chaplain:

Roster Manager:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

Summer is almost upon us! This may reach you already on your warm weather trips or spending time with kids or grandkids on their school breaks. I don't know about you, but I need a break.

The first half of 2023 has been very busy for the chapter. Our monthly membership meetings have grown back to pre-pandemic size. As covered in prior newsletters, we had some very interesting

presentations. In May, our membership services team of **Terry Babin** and **Leah Davis** gave a superb overview of how to be prepared for and what to do when the military spouse passes away. The 40 plus members present received some lessons learned and insights on best practices. They went over the several MOAA pamphlets on topics to help you through the planning and action steps. An important point they made was that your ability to access these excellent MOAA pamphlets depends on your level of MOAA membership. Life and premium members can access them from the website or request free hard copies be mailed to them. With the free basic membership, you can read them online but cannot download them.

The one area that hasn't gone as well as it should has been dues payments. You will see a chart from treasurer **Larry DeVries** showing we are behind in dues collection. See page

8, below. If you do not know if you sent in your dues contact Larry and he will look it up. This is important to our annual budget.

Our Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) has been very

productive thanks to those members who have donated for our community and veteran support activities and our Clark College and Washington University-Vancouver scholarships. **Dave Casteel**, President of the CRMF, provides a detailed update in this newsletter. On a related note, the chapter received confirmation from MOAA that we a community support grant to aid the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center with their September 2023 Veterans Stand Down. We will be supporting the lunch service which is a major draw to get veterans in need to participate.



[Continued on page 2]

Saturday, June 10th

Membership Meeting

Wine Tasting

Stavalaura Winery

1:00 pm

See Page 10 for details

Newsletter Highlights

President's Message	Page 1
Federal Legislative Update	Page 3
Legislative Contacts	Page 5
CRMF Update	Page 6
Surviving Spouses Liaison	Page 6
Personal Affairs Update	Page 8
Treasurer's Chart	Page 8
Chapter Calendar Events	Page 10
Personal Affairs End of Life Docs	Page 11

President's Message continued

The Veterans Stand Down brings community public services and assistance agencies together in one place for a day to help veterans and their families. It links at risk veterans with housing, health, employment services, and other community resource specialists with a goal of reintegrating such veterans into the community. Expect to hear more about this at we get closer to the day. We will be asking for volunteers to help set up, serve, and break down.

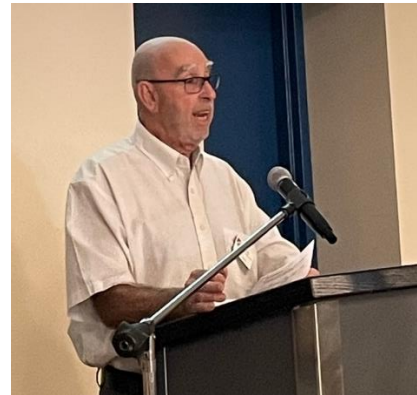
The chapter legislative affairs team has been busy at both national and state levels. **Dave Casteel**, as President of Washington State Council of Chapters, and Buck Marr took part in the MOAA Advocacy in Action in April. They provided a detailed update at the May membership meeting. Buck's latest article in the legislative section of this newsletter is a must read. You should also know, the "Respect for Grieving Military Families Act" (H.R.3232, S.1588) was recently introduced in both houses. This important legislation aims to prevent the Department of Defense from reclaiming the benefits of deceased military retirees while their families are still in mourning. Such an action could deplete bank accounts of any remaining funds, regardless of whether they were retirement payments or sourced from elsewhere. The bill proposes a gradual repayment over 12 months instead of a one-time withdrawal, also granting the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the overpayment. We urge members to express their views on this issue and encourage moving it forward through the legislative process.



Our CRC team supported the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Vancouver serving hot coffee, cold water, and cookies for the work crews starting at 0800 and the large crowd attending the 1100 ceremony. From left to right is Dave Casteel, Rod Williams, Frank Hill, Larry DeVries, Jim Morse, Steve Fleischmann, and Roger Rosenberry.

Don't take your summer break before joining us at our annual wine tasting June 10, 2023, at the Stavalaura Vineyards and Winery as this has become our summer kick-off. It will be a more social than business meeting at a local winery owned by members of our chapter, **Joe and Beverly Leadingham** in Ridgefield. Visit their website ([Ridgefield Wineries | Stavalaura Vineyards and Winery | Clark County](https://www.ridgefieldwineries.com)) to learn their story. It is a small batch family owned and operated winery, so they do not have a full kitchen for catering. As we have done before on wine tasting ventures, we ask you to bring a "picnic lunch" for yourself. (**Joe and Beverly** suggested one of the Ridgefield businesses: Fuel Bistro & Wines, 109 S 65th Ave.)

Rod Williams
President



18 May 2023: Terry Babin, Membership Services, updated Chapter Members on how to best prepare and what to do when a member passes away.



18 May 2023: Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison, updated Chapter Members on how to best prepare and what to do when a spouse passes away.

Federal Legislative Update: by Buck Marr

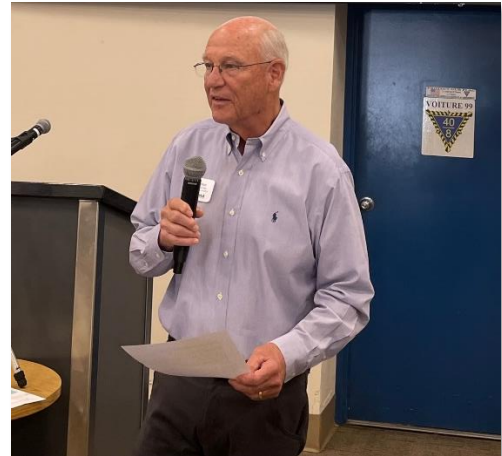
Lately, the U.S. form of governance resembles a Disney E-Ticket roller coaster ride. Finger pointing has evolved into a major league sport. But do not despair, with loud squabbling and frequent uncivil public pronouncements, our elected officials crafted legislation avoiding debt default and budgetary calamity well ahead of the August 2011 partisan wrangling which brought the country to the brink of default with a vote coming hours before the debt default deadline.

Raising the debt ceiling used to be a routine Congressional action. Dispensing with hyperbole, this recent impasse could be described as “politics as usual.” The vote which formerly was routine has now become an opportunity to include party priorities. And that brings us to a critical advocacy juncture. I daresay that most advocacy warriors had definite feelings about one side or another of the debt ceiling debate. Picking sides is common for this country, but doing so misses the point for MOAA-ites. Whatever the outcome of the debt debate, one thing is historically a sure thing; the debate and its outcome **WILL** affect legislation during the remainder of the 118th Congress. Bills will be influenced directly or indirectly by what happened with the debt ceiling agreement. Let’s be prepared by refreshing ourselves regarding a few MOAA endorsed advocacy opportunities.

H.R. 2537 BAH Restoration Act. (Strickland WA-10) An Advocates in Action issue proposing to reset the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%. It is receiving bipartisan support with 36 Democrat and 14 Republican cosponsors. S.4562 is the Senate companion bill introduced by Sen. Warnock in the 117th Congress.

TRICARE Pharmacy Network. MOAA advocates for language in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act directing the Defense Health Agency do an analysis of the impact on pharmacy access to vulnerable populations resulting from the cost-cutting measures which cut a large number of in network pharmacies.

S.344 & H.R. 1282 Major Richard Star Act. These Bills fell just short of passage in the 117th Congress. They propose concurrent receipt of retired pay and disability compensation for combat-disabled retirees with less than 20 years of service. 314 cosponsors in the House. S.344 is the Senate companion with 65 cosponsors.



18 May 2023: MGEN Buck Marr USAF (ret) updated Chapter Members on Federal legislative affairs.

Attached to May’s issue of The Military Officer are easy to detach and mail post cards to our two WA Senators and our District’s Representative. PLEASE sign them and mail them. They ask our legislators to support:

H.R. 1413 Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act of 2023 (McClain R-MI). This bill proposes the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). It preserves interment for veterans who will lose their eligibility if the planned reduction moves forward. This simply cannot happen to people who have built their end-of-life plans around an eligibility promise. This is a must piece of advocacy. 46 cosponsors evenly split between the parties.

S.495 Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act (Tester D-MT) Five Senate cosponsors including Murray. House companion H.R. 1815 (Slotkin D-MI) with eight cosponsors including Larsen (WA-2). Authorizes the VA to launch a pilot program to analyze the effectiveness of paying for assisted living services.

[Continued on page 3]



Federal Legislative Update continued

S.141 Elizabeth Dole Home Act and H.R. 542 House companion Bill (Tester D-MT and Moran R-KS). 18 Senate cosponsors and 48 House cosponsors including DelBene, Kilmer, Strickland, and Larsen from WA. To improve existing VA programs for home and community-based veteran services. S.622 Helping Heroes Act introduced by Sen Murray (WA) is very similar and worthy of your review.

Two final suggestions on important proposals for your review:

H.R. 1763 Military Family Nutrition Act (Panetta D-CA) with 21 cosponsors including Strickland, Rodgers, and Kilmer. Amends the Food and Nutrition Act (2008) to exclude housing allowances from income computation for purposes of determining SNAP eligibility.

H.R. 1764 Military Food Security Act (Panetta D-CA and Strickland D-WA) with 13 cosponsors including Rodgers from WA. It proposes to exclude housing allowances from gross household income for purposes of determining basic needs allowance eligibility.

The Bottom Line: Keep up your advocacy regardless of the debt ceiling solution.
Being well read and knowledgeable on the issues is not good enough anymore; we must be continually communicating with our national legislators to be effective advocates.

Buck Marr
Federal Legislative Affairs



Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<https://moaa.quorum.us/issueareas>

MOAA Capitol toll free hotline at 1-866-272-6622

White House

Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
TTY/TTD: 202-456-6213 E-mail: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Washington's 3rd Congressional District

<https://gluesenkamppez.house.gov/>

Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1431 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536	Vancouver, WA Office: 1053 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292
Contact Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez via email https://gluesenkamppez.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 <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/>

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

U.S. Senator Patty Murray <https://www.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/write-to-patty/		

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	Keven Waters 786-7994	Steph. McClintock 786-7850	Chris Corry 786-7810	Peter Abbamo 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Greg Cheney 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

Surviving Spouses, by Leah Davis,
Surviving Spouse Liaison

Attention: Surviving Spouses!

The information below was written by the Administrator of the “MOAA SURVIVING SPOUSES AND FRIENDS FACEBOOK GROUP. This applies to only those that are receiving the **Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**.

If you receive a new annuitant statement from DFAS with a change in the tax deduction.

PLEASE READ.

By Kathy Soliozy Prout

Because the WIDOWS TAX OFFSET has been eliminated, and Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) is taxable federally and in some states, Department of Finance and Assenting Services (DFAS) is automatically deducting taxes. If this withholding is incorrect, then do one of the below 3 items.

THE BACK OF THE LETTER STATES THAT IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE INFORMATION ON YOUR ANNUITY STATEMENT OR HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR ANNUITY, YOUR TAX WITHHOLDING, THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO DO IT.

1. Call DFAS 800-321-1080
2. Write to DFAS. instructions on the back of the letter
3. myPay. <https://myPay.dfas.mil>. Use your Login and password. If you have not set this up yet. Use your social security number and PIN.

Leah Davis
Surviving Spouse Liaison:
310-491-8891
leah@sanfill.com

Columbia River MOAA Foundation
(CRMF) by Dave Casteel CRMF President

Special thanks goes out to the 26 members who made a donation to either the Scholarship fund or the Support the Troops (STT) fund in response to the first-of-the-year dues letter. This broke down to \$1,895 for our scholarship fund and \$2,039 for our STT fund, for a total of \$3,934.

Because many of you gave generously (and some annually) last fall, we were able to support both our \$1,500 (plus \$75 admin fee) annual WSU-V scholarship AND pay two year’s (\$4,160) towards fully endowing the **Colonel Paul S. and Ivadell M. Crosby** Columbia River MOAA Foundation Scholarship. This leaves us with only one payment of \$2,080 remaining next year to fully endow the WSUV scholarship! Our Clark endowment distribution again covered our three \$1,000 scholarships there. As tuition continues to rise, we plan to reevaluate the Clark scholarship amounts and consider adjusting them upward, especially since our endowment there has been covering our costs the last two years.

We made several donations this spring from our STT fund. One was to the Clark College Veterans Center for Excellence in the amount of \$500 during the Penguin GIVE appeal. This was especially beneficial to our veterans there since the gift was matched 100%! Under **Megan Anderson’s** guidance, as the Veteran’s Educational Planner (the Center’s lead person), they will use the fund to assist student veterans as needed. Some of the needs include textbooks, childcare cost reimbursement (so they can attend class), food, gas, etcetera—all critical needs to enable our veterans to pursue a degree. As you may know, even if they are receiving educational funds from a GI bill, the funds don’t cover all their costs, and the funds notoriously lag the time when payments are due to the college.

[Continued on page 7]

CRMF Update continued

Another STT fund donation we made this spring was \$500 in the form of an Amazon gift card to Vancouver Fisher House. While they still do not have a full-time manager on board (as of early May), the assistant and acting manager, **Dawn Schultz**, who has been there since the Fisher House opened seven years ago, said this would be the most helpful since there are no administrative fees to the card and it can be used to order meals for guests, among other necessities. It is always a pleasure working with Dawn—she has a heart of gold.

We also donated \$500 to the Transplant lodge on the Vancouver VA campus in the form of a VISA gift card, which they said would best help with their needs. They use the card for things such as transportation to and from the Portland VA hospital when the shuttle is no longer running (after hours and on weekends), Uber to/from PDX, purchasing food for use in the veterans' communal kitchen, etcetera. We will miss working with **Michelle Swanson** who has moved on to another position. She was always so cheerful and very thankful for our gifts.

In May we paid \$500 towards the repair of a broken garage door (and with **Terry Babin's** help, we collaborated with the Marine Corps League who paid the remainder of the bill) of an 88 ½ year old Marine corps veteran who was stationed at Camp Lejeune in the 1950s. We were successful in getting him moved to a contract VA hospice facility in Camas at the end of May. The new location is a much shorter drive for his wife. Although very frail, she is still able to drive to sit with him every day. (Side note. He was not enrolled VA healthcare, so it took two full months to get him approved for VA hospice and the move. We learned that although VA has a hospice facility on the Vancouver campus, patients can only be sent there if they come directly from the VA hospital in Portland!).

In July, we will again be making an annual \$750 donation from our STT fund to the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) as an Bronze level supporter. As you may know, they disburse Clark County funds to veterans, but the requirements for fund eligibility are extremely strict and restrictive which means most homeless veterans do not qualify. Using donations such as ours, the CCVAC can provide daily sack meals for breakfast and lunch and for other items such as socks, underwear, women's items, sleeping bags, tarps, etcetera that are not available using county funds. Their major expense is the annual Stand Down (**September 29th this year**) made possible by private and corporate donations. Last year it cost \$30,000! The chapter will help by purchasing food and serving meals at this year's Stand Down using MOAA Community Grant funds. Please SAVE the DATE.

One of our ongoing challenges is keeping the relationships renewed and learning of new needs whether at the Fisher House, the Transplant lodge, CCVAC, our veterans centers on Clark College or WSU-V, or just helping individual veterans.

What we are able to do for veterans in our community is directly due to YOUR continuing generosity. Thank YOU for allowing us to help fellow veterans using your generous donations.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact **Dave Casteel** at 360-834-2448, shilocamas@comcast.net or CRMFpresident@comcast.net, or **Frank Hill** at 360-241-8252, hillhouse2@comcast.net.

The Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is an IRC 501(c)3 public charity to which donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 47-4776049. As always, we recommend you consult your attorney or tax professional regarding your specific situation.

**Personal Affairs Presentation 18 May
Postscripts**

by Terry Babin Personal Affairs Representative

Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Representative, and I appreciate the interest and large attendance at the May 18th Chapter meeting’s Personal Affairs presentation.

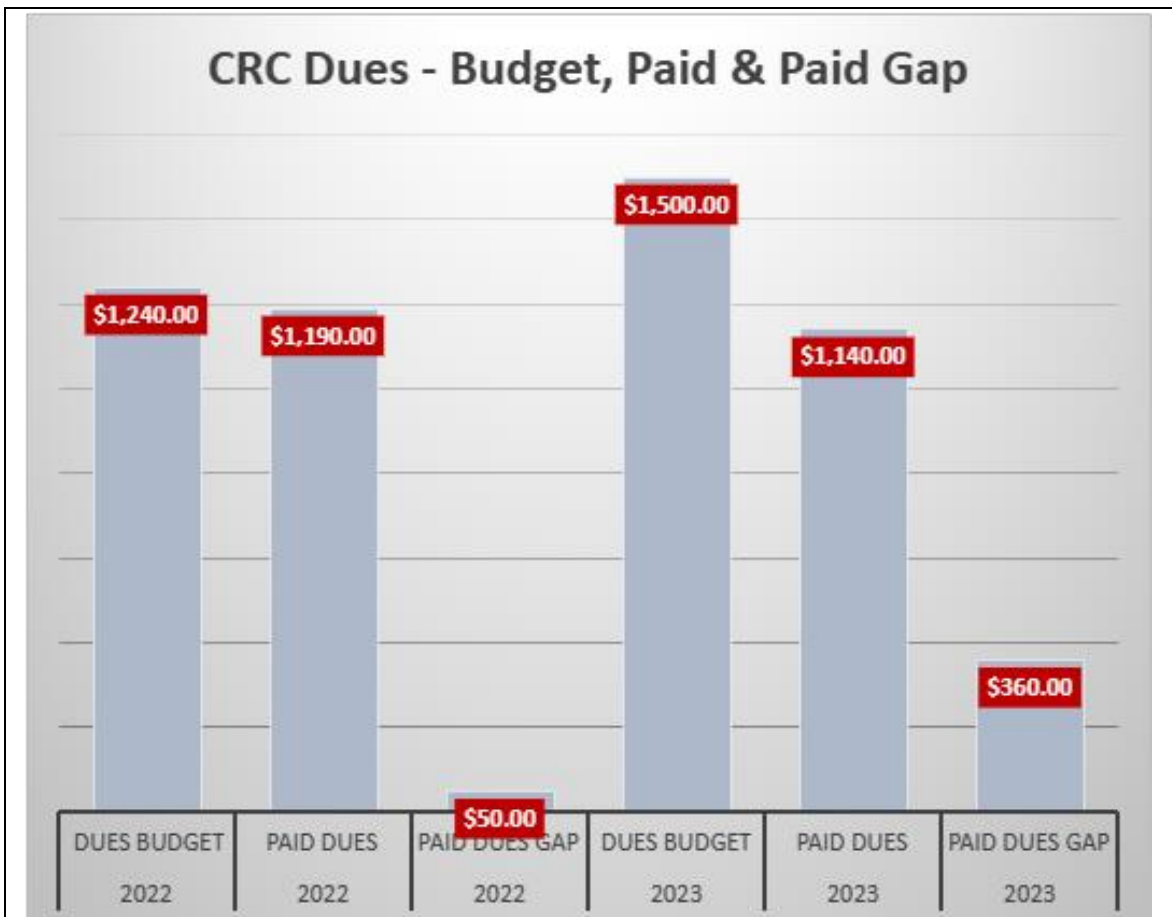
One subtopic not covered during the presentation was recommendations on attachments to your written end of life and disposition of remains instructions:

- Include a copy of the Columbia River Chapter’s Checklist for death of a member or surviving spouse. Both checklists have been updated and are provided starting on pg. 11 below in this Newsletter, following the Calendar.

- Download (or otherwise obtain) a copy of the [Veteran Administration’s Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#) (VA Form 40-1330), and complete blocks # 1-6, 8-10A, and 11A-18. This will help the next of kin know what you want on your headstone or marker even if a private headstone or marker is purchased.
- Include a list of “Gifts of Tangible Personal Property,” when applicable, such as memorabilia and personal items (jewelry, furnishings, collections, etc.).

Also provided starting on pg. 11 below in this Newsletter, following the Calendar is a copy of the “Personal Affairs Documentation Tips” handed out to the Chapter meeting attendees.

Treasurer’s Report: Chapter Member Dues Status *by Larry DeVries*



CRC paid dues for 2023 is below 2022 levels. We raised the 2023 budget expectation as we targeted members in arrears for dues. Less than half of registered CRC members have paid 2023 dues.

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, Space 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 more than 350,000 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, **Jim Morse**, coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution. You can contact him at 360-433-5605 or email him at jlmorse77@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Rich Wersinger**. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at editor@moaacolumbiariver.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 **Jim Morse**, our Chapter Secretary at 360-433-5605 or jlmorse77@gmail.com.



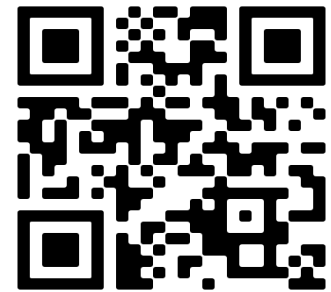
Columbia River Chapter Membership 2023 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
June 10 th Saturday	Membership Meeting	Wine Tasting at Stavalaura Winery. 1 PM 29503 NW 41 st Ave, Ridgefield WA. Details below.
June 24 th Saturday	Heroes Night	Pearson Air Field Hangar, 3 – 7 PM
September 10 th Sunday	Membership Meeting	Annual Fall Scholarship Social and Fundraiser BBQ 1 – 4 PM at home of Dave Stuebe, 2480 N. L St Washougal WA

As we have done before on wine tasting ventures, we ask you to bring a "picnic lunch" for yourself. (Joe and Beverly suggested one of the Ridgefield businesses: Fuel Bistro & Wines, 109 S 65th Ave.)

- **Where:** Stavalaura Vineyard and Winery, 29503 NW 41st Ave, Ridgefield WA 98642
- **When:** Saturday 10 June 2023, from 1300 to 1500 hours (some may stay longer)
- **Price:** No host. Wine tasting fee and wine by the bottle
- **RSVP:** email how many in your party to Larry DeVries at larrydev1@earthlink.net or call at 612-743-3509.

CRC Newsletter Schedule	
First week of month	
February	November
April	December
June	
September	



Jump to Our Chapter Website



Personal Affairs Presentation 18 May Handouts

by Terry Babin Personal Affairs Representative and Leah Davis Surviving Spouse Liaison

PERSONAL AFFAIRS DOCUMENTATION TIPS

Make sure you have and quickly available the following:

- Columbia River Chapter and MOAA, Checklists.
- Any applicable Power of Attorney (e.g., Health Care Power of Attorney).
- Any Living Will or Advance Medical Directive.
- Any organ donor information and instructions.
- Health and Long-Term Care insurance policies.
- All DD Form-214s for both regular and reserve service encompassing All service time.
- Funeral and interment instructions and prepaid services.
- Location of Last Will and Testament.
- All marriage certificates, divorce or death decrees, and birth and death certificates for prior marriages of both member and current spouse.
- Birth and death certificates (and adoption papers) if applicable for children.
- Life insurance policies.

Review and ensure the following are also available:

- Beneficiary designations are current—particularly old insurance policies (e.g., Army & Air Force Mutual Aid Association).
- Documentation for disposition of property outside the probate process.
- All titles (e.g., home, secondary properties, vehicles, boats, etc.)
- Documentation of disability determinations by Service and/or Veterans Administrations.
- Copies of Service Record and medical/dental records.
- Documentation for Trusts (e.g., Revocable Living Trust)
- Passwords and safe deposit box information and keys.
- Information on all savings and checkbook accounts.
- Information on all Individual Retirement Accounts, brokerage accounts, and other financial assets
- Information on “*Survivor Contingency Bank Account.*”
- SBP information.
- Copy of latest “Retiree Account Statement” form DFAS-CL 7220/148.

Other:

- Pre-paid reservations, memberships, etc. _____
- Airline and other miles/credits, etc. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA
RECOMMENDED INITIAL STEPS WHEN A RETIRED SERVICE
MEMBER DIES

- Assemble the following documents (Note # 1):
 - All DD Form 214s (or PHS Form 1867)
 - Proof of status as Primary Next of Kin
 - Deceased spouse's funeral and burial instructions
 - Documentation of pre-paid funeral and burial services
- Contact a funeral home (or similar services' such as a crematorium) to begin planning final services/interment (Note # 2).
- Ensure sufficient deposit to cover 3-months' expenses are in the "personal account" for the next of kin or family representative (Note # 3).
- Notify the principal government agencies paying monthly retirement and disability pay within 24 hours of death (Note # 4).
- Report the death to all other government agencies paying retirement and disability benefits (Note # 4).
- Notify one of the Chapter officers to begin Personal Affairs assistance (Note # 5).
- Gather important information and documents (Note # 1).
- Call to start insurance and other claims processing (Note # 6).
- Notify other account agencies (Note # 7).
- Arrange for professional help, if needed, to settle estate and other financial and legal matters.
- Review your own legal documents for possible revisions or amendments (Will, power of attorney, insurance policies, medical directives, etc.).
- Update dependent's military identification card and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) (Note # 8).

REMARKS, NOTES, AND CONTACTS

Remarks:

- ❖ Additional information is available on the Chapter's website under the Personal Affairs tab at: <https://moaacolumbiariver.org>.
- ❖ *The Chapter's Personal Affairs representative's contact information is listed on the front page of the Chapter Newsletter. Listed as either Membership Services or Personal Affairs—this information is also provided on the Chapter's website.*

Notes and Contacts:

1: *If possible, store where easily accessible and secure all essential documents that are foreseen to be needed in the first 48 hours after death by the primary next of kin (or family/legal representative). See Note # 7 for further information.*

2: *The best source to determine final arrangements is the deceased's own Instructions.*

- *If using a provider for final services, determine what is included such as notification to the Social Security Administration, arranging interment at a private or military cemetery, with military honors if desired, and ordering death certificates and a government-furnished headstone.*
- *The funeral home or other providers do not provide notification to government agencies paying monthly retired and disability pay.*

3: *A personal (not joint) account in the name of the primary next of kin should already be set up with checks and/or a debit card. Move funds before the death notice.*

4:

AGENCY	PHONE	WEBSITE	REMARKS
Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS)	1-800-321-1080	www.dfas.mil	
Pay & Personnel Center (USCG, NOAA, USPHS)	1-866-772-8724		
Office of Personnel Management	1-888-767-6738		
Social Security Administration (SSA)	1-800-772-1213	www.ssa.gov	
Veterans Administration (VA)	1-800-827-1000	www.va.gov	

5:

MOAA	PHONE	WEBSITE	REMARKS
Chapter Personal Affairs Representative			
Chapter Surviving Spouse Representative			
Chapter Secretary			
Chapter President			
National Headquarters	1-800-234-6622	www.moaa.org	

6: *Priority should be life insurance and financial institutions which provide quick access to funds. Also:*

- *Notification to DFAS (see Note # 4) automatically initiates applications for any unpaid retirement and the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) if the deceased retiree elected to participate in the Plan. The retiree's current year "Retiree Account Statement," DFAS-CL 7220/148, list the coverage for the SBP and the arrears of pay beneficiary(ies).*
- *Arrangements for an appointment with the Veterans Services Office (VSO) for advice and application assistance for possible VA benefits should be made regardless of whether or not the deceased was drawing VA benefits before death.*

ACTIVITY	PHONE	WEBSITE
Veterans Services Officers (VSO) of the VFW	1-360-693-7030	vfwwancouvervso@gmail.com

Notes and Contacts: (continued)

7: The Columbia River Chapter's website, www.moaacolumbiariver.org at the Personal Affairs tab, provides further information, additional checklist details, and recommendations to assemble and organize Personal Affairs records and documents.

8: Timely updating your DEERS enrollment information for TRICARE medical and pharmacy coverage is essential to avoid disruption of these benefits. Concurrently, the Surviving Spouse needs to have the Department of Defense dependent's ID card reissued. Usually, the DEERS update and new ID card require an appointment to do both at the same time.

ACTIVITY	PHONE	ADDRESS
Armed Forces Reserve Center	1-719-366-5403	Vancouver: 15005 NE 65 th Street
Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)	1-800-538-9552	

[Please Notify the Chapter's Membership Services Chairman if there is a change in listed phone numbers or websites]

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER, MOAA
RECOMMENDED INITIAL STEPS WHEN A SURVIVING SPOUSE
DIES

- Assemble the following documents (Note # 1):
 - Proof of status as the person to direct the disposition of remains.
 - Deceased's funeral and burial instructions
 - Documentation of pre-paid funeral and burial services
- Contact a funeral home (or similar services' such as a crematorium) to begin planning final services/interment (Note # 2).
- Ensure sufficient deposit to cover 3-months' expenses are in the "personal account" for the next of kin or family representative (Note # 3).
- Notify the principal government agencies paying monthly retirement and disability pay within 24 hours of death (Note # 4).
- Report the death to all other government agencies paying retirement and disability benefits (Note # 4).
- Notify one of the Chapter officers to begin Personal Affairs assistance (Note # 5).
- Gather important information and documents (Note # 1).
- Call to start insurance and other claims processing (Note # 6).
- Notify other account agencies (Note # 6).
- Arrange for professional help, if needed, to settle estate and other financial and legal matters.
- Return the Department of Defense military identification card and notify the Defense Enrollment

REMARKS, NOTES, AND CONTACTS

Remarks:

- ❖ Additional information is available on the Chapter's website under the Personal Affairs tab at: <https://moaacolumbiariver.org>.
- ❖ *The Chapter's Personal Affairs representative's contact information is listed on the front page of the Chapter Newsletter. Listed as either Membership Services or Personal Affairs—this information is also provided on the Chapter's website.*

Notes and Contacts:

1: *If possible, store where easily accessible and secure all essential documents that are foreseen to be needed in the first 48 hours after death by the primary next of kin (or family/legal representative). See Note # 7 for further information.*

2: *The best source to determine final arrangements is the deceased's own Instructions.*

- *If using a provider for final services, determine what is included such as notification to the Social Security Administration, arranging interment at a private or military cemetery, ordering death certificates.*
- *If a government-furnished headstone/marker is already in place, the additional inscription is coordinated with the cemetery.*
- *The funeral home or other providers do not provide notification to government agencies paying monthly retired and disability pay.*

Notes and Contacts (continued):

3: A personal (not joint) account in the name of the next of kin (or other family representative) should be considered with checks and/or a debit card. Move funds before the death notice.

4:

AGENCY	PHONE	WEBSITE	REMARKS
Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS)	1-800-321-1080	www.dfas.mil	
Pay & Personnel Center (USCG, NOAA, USPHS)	1-866-772-8724		
Office of Personnel Management	1-888-767-6738		
Social Security Administration (SSA)	1-800-772-1213	www.ssa.gov	
Veterans Administration (VA)	1-800-827-1000	www.va.gov	

5:

MOAA	PHONE	WEBSITE	REMARKS
Chapter Personal Affairs Representative			
Chapter Surviving Spouse Representative			
Chapter Secretary			
Chapter President			
National Headquarters	1-800-234-6622	www.moaa.org	

6: The Columbia River Chapter's website, www.moaacolumbiariver.org at the Personal Affairs tab, provides further information, additional checklist details, and recommendations to assemble and organize Personal Affairs records and documents.

7: Military ID cards can be returned to any military activity. DEERS disenrollment can be initiated telephonically.

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