



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 2024

President's Message

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360-721-3792

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Our Summer ends and weather has transitioned quickly to Autumn. The change brings damper days but also the gorgeous landscape colors.

Supporting our Veterans as weather changes, our Chapter continues to assist in both funding and volunteering to assist the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC). Recently, a "Stand-down" was hosted at the Vancouver Armed Forces Reserve Center.

A full range of free services was provided for hundreds of appreciative Veterans by organizations volunteering their expertise in haircuts, refurbished bicycles, counseling and medical services to include their pets. The experience always reinforces our motto to "never stop serving". Thanks to our Chapter volunteers!



Fortunate to have dry weather, the annual Scholarship Fund Benefit Barbecue was hosted in the backyard of my residence. In addition to the welcomed donations, the annual BBQ is an important opportunity for Chapter socializing, including meeting Chapter members and spouses not previously meet in person. The freshly caught Columbia River Salmon was popular but in unfortunate short supply

early in the annual fishing season. Fajitas and margaritas complimented the menu with generous portions of entries brought by the membership. A wonderful day of camaraderie and friendship. [Continued on page 2]

Thursday, Nov 21st
Membership Luncheon
Cascadia Tech Center
Vancouver, WA
11:30 am
Please RSVP by 17 Nov
See Page 10 for details



Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

Our CRC monthly luncheon recently featured the timely presentation of our Clark County Auditor, Greg Kimsey, focusing on the complete process to ensure election integrity.

Just weeks later, our local election process was challenged by an incendiary device (a fire bomb) damaging and/or destroying hundreds of ballots in an Official Drop Box in East Vancouver. This event, and a similar event in Portland, brought our local community into national attention. For those of us that have served our Nation, "free and fair elections" is recognized as a benchmark of our democracy.

Looking forward, upcoming CRC luncheons include a presentation on identity and cyber security (our November Thanksgiving meeting) and a visit by MOAA National (our December Christmas meeting). Jack Holland was scheduled to present his fascinating account of his US Navy combat aviator experience during the Vietnam War. This included Jack's entertaining interaction with the Bob Hope USO Show on board Jack's Aircraft Carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin. However, Jack returned from his recent European vacation to encounter a phenomenon, requiring bed rest and reduced activities. We all wish Jack a speedy recovery and look forward to rescheduling his personalized presentation. Your dedicated Executive staff quickly substituted a County Sheriff's presentation on the timely subject of electronic fraud that has recently significantly impacted several of our CRC members.

Looking on to December, Frank "Tank" Michael, will be visiting from MOAA National. Frank has a luncheon presentation and will also meet separately with your Executive staff. Also featured at our Christmas luncheon will be the introduction of our local Scholarship Recipients.

And a reminder of Veterans Day (11 November) events at Fort Vancouver. Our Chapter will man a booth inside the Pearson Field aircraft museum hanger. The day includes a parade and free access to Fort Vancouver historic sites. This is one of two annual events focused on bringing our Community together at historic Fort Vancouver.

Lastly many thanks to the combined efforts of our dedicated members to assist all veterans, serving armed forces members, spouses and also our remarkable community.

Never stop serving!

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry

President, Columbia River Chapter of MOAA

Cell: (360) 831 5706

Website: moaacolumbiariver.org

PS: Save the date--our upcoming Christmas Scholarship Social will be on Sunday, 8 Dec 2024, from 1500 to 1800 hours, at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Vancouver. This is a complete meal with a choice of three pasta dishes, salad, dessert, and gratuity for approximately \$35. We'll meet our scholarship winners and hear a few words from a visitor from National MOAA.

For more details see, page 11.



Federal Legislative Update:
by Bob McFarlin

We will provide an update in our December 2024 Newsletter.



Washington State Legislative Affairs
by Dave Casteel

We will provide an update in our December 2024 Newsletter.





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/>

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 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	



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

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

I can't believe the leaves are already turning and falling and we are on to planning to meet our scholarship recipients at our December 8th Christmas Scholarship Social.

Speaking of which, I had the opportunity to meet



Dave and Simon at WSU-V Reception

our WSU-V recipient, **Simon Kirpa** and his wife **Rhiannon** (and their precious three-month-old little girl—she will be all of four months

old when you get to meet her in December)! **Simon** received the Clark College President's Award to WSU-V and now has received our scholarship at WSU-V. **Simon** was a combat army medic and served 11 months in Iraq in that capacity. He's now pursuing his BSN while working at Avamere Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation in Portland.

By the time you read this, I will have met our three Clark College scholarship recipients, **Donald "Ray" Jackson**, **Gabriela Jecan**, and **Eric Morton**, at the Clark College Scholarship Reception and learned a little about them and their studies. All three plan to attend our December meeting at the Old Spaghetti Factory so you can meet them as well.

Reflecting on our scholarships, we were the first scholarship donor at WSU-V in the 1993-94 school year (the Col James Allen scholarship). Our then \$600 scholarship amounted to about 30% of annual tuition. Today, our \$1,500 scholarship amounts to about 14% of a year's tuition. As our endowment balance grows, we hope to increase our WSU-V scholarship.

These scholarships are only made possible by the generosity of our members. We thank you and we know our recipients do as well.

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. We encourage you to consult with a tax advisor for complete information about the tax deductibility of your gift.



DID YOU KNOW THE DOD HAS A NEW UPDATED MILITARY ID CARD?,

by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card



The Department of Defense transitioned from its legacy paper-based Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card to a more secure, next

generation USID card.

The Next Generation USID card incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud and is printed on a plastic card stock.

Initial issuance of the Next Generation USID card began on July 31, 2020, at select DoD ID card facilities, with phased implementation at all DoD ID card facilities, and completed in December 2020.

USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases.

The Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card.

Legacy USID cards remain valid through their expiration date, however, individuals with an indefinite (INDEF) expiration date on their legacy USID card may replace those ID cards with a Next Generation USID card.

USID cards may now be renewed online. Please see the [online USID card renewal page](#) for more information.

The above information was gathered from the <https://cac.mil> website

NOTE: Uniformed Service widowed spouses are also encouraged to renew their ID's.

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

MOAA Columbia River Chapter Name Badges by Rich Wersinger

At our fantastic Annual BBQ at our President's home, some of us were asking about obtaining MOAA Columbia River Chapter name badges.

Recently, I identified a local source for our name badges. I easily ordered and received my name badge, below.



You may order yours through Aloha Badges in Portland, Oregon, formerly known as Portland Badge Company. <https://alohabadges.com/>

To easily order your badge, you may contact them by email badges@alohabadges.com or by phone, (503) 430-0234

They already have our MOAA logo on file, so there is no setup fee.

Make sure you specify the "registered mark" logo, with rounded corners. Also that you are with the Columbia River Chapter. Although my badge looks beige in the photo, it's actually white.

Prices: for 3x1.5 inch: \$6.75.

You may specify fasteners. I ordered magnets, works fine for me.

Fasteners/Backers

Magnets	\$1.25 ea.
Pins	\$0.50 ea.
Swivel Clip	\$1.25 ea.
Extra Strong Magnets	\$2.50 ea.

After you order, they will send a photo of your badge. After you are happy with the proof, they will mail the badge and invoice you for payment.

If you need any assistance with your badge don't hesitate to call on me,
Rich Wersinger, editor@columbiariver.org or phone/text, 360-901-1915.

**Clark County Veterans
Assistance Center
Annual Stand Down for Vets
27 September 2024**

By John Donnelly



Every September we are amazed at the Community support for our Veterans displayed at the Stand Down at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. The Clark County Veterans Assistance Center organizes the event and our MOAA chapter donates funds to the event and our volunteers help to welcome the veterans as they arrive and direct them to the services that are available.



The CCVAC had three shuttle buses picking up veterans from all around town in the morning and bringing them back in the afternoon with their new supplies. Smokin Frank's provided BBQ all afternoon to a very appreciative crowd!



"Mike the Bike" spends all year refurbishing bikes and provides them free to non-profit Organizations. This year he had nine bikes to give away at the Stand Down. Here is Dave and Bob trying to fit one of the bikes into a veteran's small car.





One of the many services offered to Vets are massages and haircuts. Virginia entertains the vets waiting in line for a massage by dancing to the band's music and Leah manages the waiting line for haircuts with a smile.



Out in the parking lot, the Humane Society is set up to check the vets pets and provide any needed shots.

Out back the vets can also obtain free dog and cat food for their pets!



Vets have access to clothing, blankets, shoes, health and dental info, jobs, mental health and many other community resources to meet their needs. Our homeless vets get a large duffel bag to carry everything in. A band provides music all day long.



Our hats are off to CCVAC for another well organized event and all the community services and veterans organizations who make it happen!

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.



Jump to Our Chapter Website



Columbia River Chapter Membership 2024-2025 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
21 November Thursday	Membership Meeting	Speaker: Vancouver Sheriff's Office, Detective Jon Shields , about Email & Medicare Fraud. Location: Cascadia Tech Center at 11:30 am
8 December Sunday	Holiday Party	Speaker: Capt. Frank J. Michael , USN (Ret), MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs Location: Old Spaghetti Factory, Vancouver, WA Please see page 11 for important details. RSVP
16 January 2025 Thursday	Membership Meeting	Vancouver Authority "Waterfront Happenings" Location: Cascadia Tech Center at 11:30 am

November Membership Meeting

This month's Columbia River Chapter of MOAA membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 21 November starting 11:30 am at the Cascadia Tech Center, 12200 NE 28th St, Vancouver WA.

A Vancouver Sheriff's Office Detective, **Jon Shields**, of the Major Crimes Unit, will talk to us about phone and email fraud and provide tips to avoid such fraud. He also will discuss Medicare fraud / scams. There will be a Q&A period included.

Luncheon will include a Thanksgiving theme main course, salad, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages--for \$25 per person. Bring a bottle of wine or a book to donate for the raffle.

Please RSVP by **17 November** to Larry at 612.743.3509 or larrydev1@earthlink.net



See you there!

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





YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE MOAA COLUMBIA CHAPTER
HOLIDAY
SCHOLARSHIP SOCIAL CELEBRATION



WHEN: DECEMBER 8th, 2024 @ 3pm
WHERE: OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY
730 SE 160th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98684
PROGRAM: David Casteel, CRMF President, presents Scholarship Awards to Clark College & WSU-V recipients
followed by:
Capt. Frank Michael, USN (Ret) MOAA National Headquarters, Senior Director for Councils and Chapters
PLEASE RSVP TO: Larry DeVries **not later than Dec 2nd @**
larrydev1@earthlink.net or 612-743-3509

MENU CHOICES: Price \$35.00 per person

PLEASE choose one of the following:

- A. **Baked Lasagna:** With layers of noodles, Marinara sauce, ground beef and pork, and four delicious cheeses.
- B. **Fettuccine Alfredo:** Fettuccine noodles in a butter cream sauce with shredded Romano cheese.
- C. **Chicken Marsala:** A freshly seasoned breast of tender chicken with a Mushroom and Marsala Wine Sauce.
Served alongside spaghetti with Mizithra Cheese & Browned Butter.
- D. If you have a dietary restriction, please let it be known to your server when you arrive the night of the event.

All include: A Crisp Salad, hot fresh baked bread, and their signature spumoni ice cream for desert is included.

