



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

February 2025

President's Message

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360-831-5706

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Greetings to all with the first 2025 Newsletter for our MOAA Columbia River Chapter (CRC) as our calendar takes shape. Programs continue to be planned, coordinated and implemented that are both informative and entertaining.

This month, the annual Business Meeting will be augmented by showing 8MM movies now digitized that were taken by **Jack Holland**, Commander, US Navy Retired, as an A-4 Combat Attack Pilot during the Vietnam War. A selection of his vintage films with narrative includes actual film footage while stationed on the USS Ticonderoga operating in the Gulf of Tonkin. With the Business Meeting to follow, **Jack's** vintage historical videos will be presented in conjunction with the meal service. We can appreciate **Jack's** diligence in providing entertainment while also sharing his

unique first-hand look of Naval Aviation history.

The 2025 Business Meeting, required to be held annually early in the New Year, takes an important look at where the Chapter has been and where we want to be going.

It's an opportunity to go a little deeper into what your dedicated staff are doing while gaining insight into the Chapter's finance and administrative activities.

This meeting will include short reports on Chapter budgets, legislative affairs, membership services, public affairs, and surviving spouse issues, as well as our student scholarship and other veteran aid programs. An overview of planned chapter membership activities for this new year will be discussed.

A key issue to be considered at the meeting: The Board of Directors of the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) and the Executive Board of the Columbia River Chapter (CRC) of MOAA have approved revisions to the CRMF By-Laws (regarding scholarships) and will present the revised By-Laws for your approval at this meeting.

Thursday, Feb 20th
Annual Business Meeting
Cascadia Culinary Academy
Vancouver, WA
11:30 am
Please RSVP by 18 Feb
See Page 8 for details

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message continued

We have many dedicated contributors to our success due to our combined volunteer efforts. We maintain a close relationship to our community, all things related to military service (from recruitment to retirement) and to the larger MOAA at State and National Levels. Everyone, I believe benefits by a deeper understanding of the functions of our Executive Board Members and Committees who keep CRC running smoothly.

Important also at the Business Meeting is your stake in our Chapter with opportunities for future improvements.

Our National Motto is "never stop serving" and I add my localized motto "If we all do a little, nobody has to do too much". With that in mind, I am looking forward to seeing you on Thursday the 20th of February as well as the other future CRC events.

Roger "Ramjet" Rosenberry

Never stop serving!



Federal Legislative Update:

We will provide our Federal Legislative update during our February 20th Annual Business Meeting.

Washington State Legislative Update:
by Dave Casteel

As of January 30, 2025, there are 26 military/veterans related bills that have been introduced (or re-introduced from last year) during this 105 (consecutive) day session. More bills will likely be introduced. Some of these will miss mandatory cutoff dates and go away.

Last year, was a good year with 12 or 13 bills being signed into law by the governor. The bills became law because concerned veterans advocated for their passage. You can advocate for the bills you support by contacting the state legislators representing your district at <https://leg.wa.gov/> and commenting on the bill. (Note, our Legislative Contacts page in this newsletter has been updated with the names and contact information of the 2025-26 state legislators).

The list is too large to print in the newsletter, but you can find it here (and updated weekly each Friday the legislature is in session) at: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/laws-legislation/legislative-updates>





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	Paul Harris 786-7632	Adrian Cortes 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	Gloria 786-7810	Peter Abbamo 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	David Stuebe 786-7976	Johm Ley 786-7812	Deb Manjarrez 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

Overview of Reference Information About Adult Immunizations

CAPT Roger L DeRoos (USPHS Ret.) MPH, PhD.

Toby Clairmont BSN, CEM.

The purpose of this article is to provide access to information so that you can assess your own immunization status and make informed decisions in consultation with your healthcare provider. It is not meant to provide specific recommendations for individuals. The first link below provides an overview of adult immunizations.

Consider a scenario where you anticipate a routine annual medical exam. You want to give some thought to questions you wish to ask during the exam. Hopefully some of the reference material in links below will help you formulate your questions. Before you begin, it might be helpful to have a list of your current immunizations in hand.

The following link lists immunizations for adults, with some breakdown by age group. We suggest you scroll down through the entire document for an overview before selecting other links along the way.

Take some time to review the table near the bottom of that page. Tap on the link for a specific vaccine on the left-hand side of the table and see what displays. Also check the footnotes, e.g. TDAP.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/adult-easyread.html>

Then we would suggest scrolling up to the blue shaded area near the top, left side.

The blue shaded area begins with "Download the Schedule"; a two-page PDF of the table you previously observed. A printout might serve as a useful reminder list for discussion with your health care provider.

The "Adult Vaccine Assessment Tool" will yield some important information related to vaccine resources for pregnant women.

Some of you may have seen the recent article on The Columbian about reemergence of Whooping Cough in Washington and our own Clark County community (see following link).

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/oct/17/how-bad-is-was-whooping-cough-outbreak-clark-county-has-the-most-cases-at-318/>

After reading, you may be prompted to look up your own immunization status and read a little more about which vaccine applies. More detail is provided in the "Vaccine Information Statement" (VIS) for TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis).

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/tdap.pdf>

You can also view other VISs by selecting the following link.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

Hopefully the information presented above will help you determine what applies to your own needs.

Finally, we realize how important travel is to many of you, so we decided to end with a link which specifically addresses this subject; "need travel vaccines, plan ahead." Happy Travels!

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-vaccines>



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

Thanks to our generous members, 2024 was a very good year. The CRMF donated over \$11,000 from the Scholarship and Support the Troops funds.

We continued to sponsor three scholarships of \$1,250 each at Clark College and one \$1,500 scholarship at WSU-V. All four scholarship recipients are veterans and all four attended our Christmas scholarship social at the Old Spaghetti Factory in December.

The CRMF made donations totaling \$2,000 to the Clark College Endowment fund balance which were matched. Even better, we paid off our Colonel Paul and Ivadell Crosby Columbia River MOAA Gift Use Agreement (GUA) at WSU-V two years early thereby endowing the GUA at WSU-V!.

Our Support the Troops fund supported youth and veterans. We gave \$250 to both Battle Ground and Prairie High School AFJROTC units. We also donated a little more than \$700 for the purchase of ceremonial flags for the Lewis and Clark Young Marines and \$337 to the Portland Sea Cadets for the same.

We supported veterans and their caregivers at the Vancouver Fisher House in the amount of \$1,000 and the VA Transplant Lodge—also in the amount of \$1,000. We gave \$500 to the Clark College Veterans Center of Excellence for their textbook library and general support of veteran students at the college. We also gave the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center \$1,500 to meet the needs of veterans with food and supplies as well as financially supporting their Fall Stand Down. Several chapter members stepped up and volunteered their time at the Stand Down.

This January, CRMF board of directors approved recommended By-Laws revisions to be presented to members at our annual meeting on February 20th. If the proposed revisions are approved, we believe WSU-V will waive the nearly 5% administrative fee on our annual scholarship and on all funds we pay to increase the balance on our new endowment.

This year, we plan to continue donating to worthwhile youth and veteran support groups and hope to increase the value of scholarships at Clark College

and WSU-V. We also want to work steadily to increase the balance in our new WSU-V endowment. Your approval of the proposed scholarship revisions could save us the amount of one current year scholarship at WSU-V over the next five years!

We thank the 12 families who have linked their Fred Meyer Rewards to the CRMF. This has resulted in extra revenue! If you make plans to make a donation to the CRMF, please consider doing so using a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from your RMD. This will reduce the amount of your Adjusted Gross Income on your IRS Form 1040 by the same amount. This is a win-win for you and the CRMF!

Here's to another good year! We hope the new year finds you and your loved ones enjoying property and above all, good health.

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.



Update on Managing Your DFAS Pay Account For Military Retirees, Survivor Benefit Plan Annuitants and Survivors, by Leah Davis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

The following article was extracted from the U.S. Air Force “AFTERBURNER” Volume 64, Issue 2, 2024

Managing Your DFAS Pay Account Just Got Easier DFAS, CLEVELAND — We continue to look for ways to make the important work of managing pay easier for military retirees, **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants, and survivors.**

Using your feedback, along with ideas from our pay partners, we recently set out on a mission to make our askDFAS online tools experience more intuitive and helpful.

One comment we heard from retirees and **SBP annuitants** was: finding the way to an online upload tool or online form on askDFAS could be challenging.

So, this year, we undertook a major project to change that. We refreshed the “Ask Retired Pay” module of askDFAS to make it easier to navigate. The changes combine the familiar functionality you have come to enjoy, while also expanding your options and reorganizing tools in a thoughtful way so you can easily find the correct tool for your request.

As you survey the new options on the “Ask Retired Pay” module of askDFAS, you will see reorganized and expanded online form upload tools, new self-service tools, and the opportunity to send account questions to the DFAS Cleveland Customer Care Center via an askDFAS ticket.

New Online Upload Tools

For both retirees and *SBP annuitants*, there are many new online upload tools. This means now you can submit any form or document you need to send us online as a PDF via these tools.

New Options for Retirees and SBP Annuitants to Ask Account Questions via askDFAS

Even more exciting, there are now new options for retirees and SBP annuitants to ask account questions online via askDFAS! Now you won't have to always make a phone call to get the answer to a question!

New for SBP Annuitants: Update Your Mailing Address Online on askDFAS.

For SBP annuitants, there is now an option to request the mailing address on file to be updated online via askDFAS. This request requires correct answers to the validation questions presented on the ticket.

Find out more here: [Retiree askDFAS Online Tools](#)

NEVER STOP SERVING!!!!

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



Annual Chapter Dues & Donations Letter in the Mail, by Larry G. DeVries, Treasurer

The 2025 Dues & Donations letters to individual members of the chapter were mailed in the last week of January.

The annual chapter dues portion of the appeal was directed at members for renewal of their chapter membership.

Chapter membership dues provide the funds for the many basic functions of the chapter covering the costs of the newsletter, the website, and operating expenses.

The At-the-Door fees collected at our luncheons and events fund the cost of the food service at those meetings. The fees are set to fund the food service events on a break-even basis over the course of the year.

The donations portion of the Dues and Donations letter is an annual reminder about the mission of our Foundation (CRMF) which supports both Scholarship and Support the Troops funds.

The chapter budget covers all the administrative costs of the CRMF so all donations to it go to the recipients of the gifts and grants. There are no overhead administrative costs extracted from donations to the CRMF.

The Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. More information on the CRMF is located on our website at <https://moacolumbiariver.org/>.

Your annual dues and generous donations sustain our efforts, enabling us to continue our events and, through our Foundation, reach even more in accordance with its guidelines.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us build a stronger local MOAA community and helps to continue the MOAA mission.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and generosity.

Larry G. DeVries
Treasurer, 2022-2025
Columbia River Chapter, MOAA

MOAA Columbia River Chapter Name Badges by Rich Wersinger

At our fantastic 2024 Annual BBQ at our President's home, some of us were asking about obtaining MOAA Columbia River Chapter name badges.

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.

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 2025 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
20 February Thursday	CRC & CRMF Annual Business Meeting	Speaker: Jack Holland , CDR, USN (Ret.) Cascadia Culinary Academy. 11:30 am Please see the details below.
20 March Thursday	“142nd Wing Regarding F15EX”	Speaker: LT.COL Joshua Hovanas Cascadia Culinary Academy. 11:30 am
17 April Thursday	Membership Meeting	Program: Resiliency in the Time of Change Toby Clairmont & Terry Sparks , Washington Council President Cascadia Culinary Academy 11:30am
15 May Thursday	Membership Meeting	Program: Clark Regional Services Agency Judy Blackwood , Emergency Management Coordinator Cascadia Culinary Academy 11:30am

YOU ARE INVITED TO

THE MOAA COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER Annual CRC & CRMF Business Meeting

- WHEN:** February 20th, 2025 @ 11:30 am
- WHERE:** Cascadia Tech Center Culinary Academy
12200 NE 28th St
Vancouver, WA 98682
- PROGRAM:** **Roger Rosenberry** CRC & CRMF Annual Business Meeting
followed by:
Jack Holland, CDR, USN (Ret) USS Ticonderoga Flight Operations & USO Entertainment during the Viet Nam War.
- RSVP** Please RSVP by 18 February to **James Morse**, CRC Co-Secretary, by phone or text at 360.433.5605, OR by email at jlmorse77@gmail.com
- NOTE:** We will NOT have our customary raffle in February because of the fullness of our meeting schedule.

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

