



The Bugle



The 5 Star Award Winning newsletter for the members and friends of Olympia Area Chapter (WA 04) of the Military Officers Association of America, a 501(c)(3) organization,
P.O. Box 5957, Lacey, Washington 98509-5957
Number 04, April, 2022

Greetings Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Members,

Welcome to April! We are definitely into Spring now, and I hope you are all enjoying the blossoms and added green that this season brings to the Pacific Northwest.

Chris Dearing, Sam Cagle, and I were able to attend the Washington State Patriotic Day this past month. It was such a pleasure to return to a live event. It was in a new venue and taking place after last year's pause, so a little smaller and took a few extra minutes to get all the flag marching units sorted to parade into the gym, but it was a sight to behold. The I Corps band provided the patriotic music, and the guest speaker was the very admirable Medal of Honor recipient MSgt Petry. It was stirring to hear from him. It was especially nice to see the young JROTC and Sea Cadets looking sharp in their uniforms, along with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts parading in the flags. I do appreciate that MOWW provides this opportunity each year to pause and consider what it means to be a patriot.

Seeing the young cadets at Patriotic Day got me very excited about this time of year we are entering. Soon the scholarship committee will be reporting on the selected recipients for our scholarships for 2022 and we can reach out to award scholarship money to graduating seniors in our area. I look forward to supporting the educational goals of these young people. In May, Shelton NJROTC will hold their award ceremony. I look forward to presenting our MOAA medal to an outstanding young cadet and providing funds to their Booster Club to help support activities to benefit all the cadets. This summer, I believe Northwest Youth Leadership Conference will come back after a two-year COVID forced absence and our chapter will sponsor three youth from Thurston County to attend this excellent leadership development opportunity. You can all be justifiably proud of the support our chapter provides to youth in our community.

My thanks to those who attended our March meeting. Unfortunately, our guest speaker was unable to join us at the last minute due to a family emergency. We will invite her back in May or June. In the meantime, we had a pleasant time visiting among ourselves, did a quick review of chapter activities status and adjourned early.

I am very excited to report that we will be meeting in person in April for the first time in two years! We will gather starting at 5:30pm on 20 April, at the Rivers Edge in Tumwater, with dinner being served at approximately 6pm. See details in a separate article. This is truly cause for celebration and I hope to see many of you there!

Given MOAA's commitment to "Never Stop Serving," I encourage everyone to pick a way to be of service. And... don't forget, we're all recruiters; let's find some new members. Is your new neighbor an officer? Maybe you meet someone standing in line at the commissary or in a different Zoom social who is also a military officer. Invite them to a social, then invite them to join the chapter. Our VP for Membership has business cards he can provide for you to give out to prospective new members with his contact information. Contact him if you would like a small supply. Also, I am still looking for a new Bugle editor.

Stay safe and stay well.

Carrie Nielson, Chapter President



Be sure to add the chapter web page, moaaolympia.org, and its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MOAAOlympiaAreaChapter/> to your favorite sites.

2022 Officers

President: CAPT Carrie Nielson, USN,
also Newsletter Editor, 847-361-7917,
candrielson@comcast.net

1st VP: COL Dave Slotwinski, USA,
Programs, 360-292-3624

2nd VP: CWO3 Jim Richards, USA,
Membership, 360-459-2217, slimrjc@aol.com

Secretary: CPT Ro Marcus, USA
360-561-7451

Treasurer: COL Bill Moseley, USAF
360-688-7626

Immediate Past President: COL
Dave Slotwinski

2022 Board of Directors

Ruth Brigden, SSP, Surviving Spouse
Liaison, 360-438-5786

CWO4 Bryon Burgess, WANG, 360-
459-2717

COL Sam Cagle, USAF, Newsletter Co-
Editor, 360-456- 8509, caglels@comcast.net

LTC DeFrance Clarke, USAF, 360-438-5520

MAJ Chris Dearing, USAF, 253-677-6713

LTC Steve Edwards, USA, 915-306-0629

LTC Douglas White, USAF, Chaplain, 253-
686-8966

***Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the**
Tacoma Room of the Quinault Building
(Panorama main bldg) 2nd Wednesday.
All members are welcome to attend
these meetings. **Board will meet via
Zoom until further notice.

President Joseph Biden

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

(202)456-1414

president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Patty Murray

[Http://murray.senate.gov](http://murray.senate.gov)

950 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 650

Tacoma, WA 98402

(253)572-3636

Senator Maria Cantwell

<http://cantwell.senate.gov>

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615

Tacoma, WA 98402

(253)572-2281

U.S. Rep Jaime Herrera-Beutler (3rd

District) www.house.gov/herrerabeutler

350 N. Market Blvd.

Chehalis, WA 98532(not a mailing address)

(360) 695-6292

U.S. Rep Derek Kilmer (6th District)

www.house.gov/kilmer

345 6th St, Suite 500

Bremerton, WA 98337

(360)373-9725

U.S. Rep Adam Smith (9th District)

www.adamsmith.house.gov

101 Evergreen Building

15 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA

98057

(425)793-5180

U.S. Rep Marilyn Strickland (10th District)

420 College St SE, Suite 3000

Lacey, WA 98503

(360) 459-8514

This Quarter We Focus on USO

Our charitable donations for this quarter (Mar-May) are focused on the USO. Throughout the past year, despite the pandemic, the USO has continued to service our military community. As a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization, the USO relies on the generosity of individuals and organizations to support its activities. With the help of over 400 volunteers, including 2 from our chapter, the USO Northwest serves over 800,000 military and their families annually. Locally, your donations support the Shali Center at McChord Field, the Camp Lewis Center at Fort Lewis and the mobile program that services Washington and Oregon, as well as centers at Seatac and Portland airports.

The newest center, on Fort Lewis, is located inside the America’s Credit Union (ACU). They reopened in July and are open from 0900-1500, Monday – Friday, serving lunch 1100-1300 with a comfortable lounge area, computers, snacks all day in a café seating area. Along with serving as a pleasant sanctuary, they occasionally run special events, like Coffee Connection gatherings for spouses, or an evening when guests/families could get their portraits taken professionally, and enjoy a chicken dinner, just in time to gift the photos to parents/grandparents. While lunch at Fort Lewis is usually sandwiches and chips, the Shali Center offers a bit fancier spread with their kitchen arrangement ranging from hot breakfast to beef stroganoff and beyond.

To date, we have collected \$640 against a goal of \$1,400. Please consider supporting this program through your generous donations.

From the Treasurer’s Report

Bank Balance as of 31 Mar 2022:

Checking \$15,435.54

Prime Shares \$ 3,623.74

Total \$19,059.28

Charitable Donations Update:

NWYLC \$1,500.00

USO \$ 640.00

Fisher House \$2,300.00

Santa’s Castle \$ 450.00

Scholarship ****\$5,236.00**

**We presented 5 \$1,000 scholarships in 2021. We will be able to present at least 5 in 2022.

(goals: NWYLC \$1,350, USO \$1,400, FH \$1,000, Santa’s Castle \$1,200, Scholarship \$2,000)

Scholarship Program Update

Donations to our scholarship program are ongoing throughout the year. To date, we have collected \$5,236 against a goal of \$2,000. The \$2,000 goal was established to enable us to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships to high school students. To date, we have exceeded the goal, thus allowing us to award at least 5 scholarships again this year. Thanks for your continuing support to our scholarship program. The scholarship committee is combing through the wealth of excellent applications we received, and we are so excited about this opportunity to support our community!

Virtual Fireside History Talks

Broadcast from the Schmidt House the 2nd Wednesday each month at the noon hour using Zoom. Preregister for these free events via Tumwater Parks and Rec online or call 360-754-4160. April 13 – “Naming of Tenino”



Chris Dearing and Carrie Nielson parading in the colors and in the stands at the 2022 WA State Patriotic Day at Pioneer Middle School, Dupont, WA. With music by the I Corps Band and guest speaker Medal of Honor recipient MSgt Leroy Petry, it was a grand return to live events as we gradually emerge from the pandemic.

WDVA Assistance for Transitioning Service Members

Don't wait until you separate from the military to apply for VA service-connected disability compensation. The Benefits Delivery at Discharge program allows service members to apply for VA disability compensation benefits between 180 and 90 days prior to separation from service. It can take quite some time for the VA to review your submitted paperwork, your medical records, schedule any necessary confirming medical exams and adjudicate your claim, so you want to get started as soon as possible. It is advisable to obtain the paperwork and start working with a professional to fill it out six months prior to your separation/retirement date to give yourself ample time. The WDVA can help. They can assist with the disability composition applications and provide a wealth of information on VA programs, such as home loans, VA medical, education benefits and much more. They can also provide information on state and local programs. So make an appointment to visit the WDVA at one of their two locations on JBLM: Service Member and Family Assistance Center, BLDG 9059, JBLM, WA 98433, or Crittenberger Career Center, rm 115, 3271 2nd Division Dr, JBLM, WA 98433. Contact WDVA staff at 1-800-562-2308.

Saint Martin's University (SMU) Free Tax Preparation Service

SMU senior accounting and finance students operate a certified free tax assistance program. The program serves those with incomes below \$58K, those with disabilities, limited English language skills and members of the SMU community. It runs every Saturday from now until April 9, on the SMU campus, in Harned Hall, 5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey. Hours are 9am until 3pm. If you or someone you know is interested and qualified, you can contact Carrie or Slots (they have flyer with what to bring and directions to location).

COVID-19 At Home Test Kits Available

Madigan is now distributing antigen-based COVID-19 test kits to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries with a DoD ID card from 8am-12pm daily. Location: COVID Testing Site. Pick up requires an appointment. Appointments can be made at: <https://madigan.tricare.mil/covidtesting> If there are no appointments showing on a date, that means there are no appointments available. If you need to cancel an appointment, you use the same website. The test kits distributed at JBLM require a Smartphone to complete your self-testing at home.

FDA Approves 2nd COVID Booster Shot

US regulators cleared second booster doses of Moderna and of Pfizer COVID vaccines for those adults 50 and older at least four months after receiving first booster shot, according to the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday. The COVID-19 vaccine is available in all Madigan primary care clinics by appt, at Tricare network pharmacies, as well as at other community locations. To find the nearest vaccine location, please visit: <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov>

MOAA Podcast: Appreciating the Backbone of the Military Family

MOAA has a podcast, Never Stop Serving, hosted by Lt. Col. Olivia Nunn, USA (Ret), that tackles pay and benefits, health care, career transition tips and more. Olivia talks with currently serving officers, veterans, and veterans service organization leaders to provide expert guidance and insights. In most cases, the military spouse tends to be the mom: the unsung hero that runs the household that plays nanny, caregiver, boo-boo fixer, carpool driver, after-school sports practice pick-up, homework enforcer, chef, and so much more. But what we don't talk about is how all of these titles weigh heavily on the military spouse – how all of these responsibilities, day in and day out, year after year, impact their mental health. In Season 2, Episode 2, Holding Down the Fort – The Military Family and the Backbone that Keeps it Together, Olivia speaks to Jen Amos and Jenny Lynne, two amazing military spouses and podcast hosts from "Holding Down the Fort." Access the Never Stop Serving podcast at https://www.moaa.org/podcast?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=CA+AFHSRM+1+Ret+L+CC#EP11 or wherever you access podcasts.

Concurrent Receipt Call to Action

In the latest (April) issue of MOAA's monthly magazine, Military Officer, are two sets of pullout letters to the Democratic and Republican leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, urging them to change the law prohibiting "concurrent receipt" of VA disability benefits and full military retirement pay, for veterans disabled in combat. Veterans' organizations for years have tried to get Congress to allow concurrent receipt for all disabled retirees, reasoning that these are two separate benefits and eligible retirees should not be "punished" by receipt of one causing the other to be reduced a like amount. Limiting a new concurrent receipt benefit to combat-related disability would be a significant step and appears to be winning over some in Congress put off by the cost of allowing it for all disabled retirees...

While it's true that the VA disability payment is not taxable, that benefit comes nowhere close to the loss caused by the current blanket prohibition of concurrent receipt of VA and military retirement benefits.

There are two sets of these letters in the magazine, one for the MOAA member and one for a spouse. Your Chapter leadership encourages members and spouses to fill in the blanks on the letters, tape (NOT staple) them shut, put stamps on them and mail them "asap!" Masses of letters like these, arriving from all over the country, do make an impression on Congressional members and their staffs. So please sign and send them...NOW!

From President Dana Atkins: Your Critical Role in This Year's Advocacy in Action (AiA) Campaign (from The MOAA Newsletter)

Changing laws on Capitol Hill is arduous work. Legislation addressing critical issues can remain stuck in subcommittees through an entire two-year congressional session. Other bills can advance through committees only to lose momentum and die before reaching a floor vote. MOAA members can move these changes forward, but only if we're all pulling in the same direction. That's where Advocacy in Action comes in.

[ACT NOW: [Send a Message to Your Lawmakers Supporting MOAA's Advocacy in Action Priorities](#)]

I encourage all MOAA members to take part in this campaign throughout April. Click the link above to send letters to your legislators, preparing them for calls from MOAA's state leaders and other volunteers who will be arranging meetings online and in person. Special focus will be put on interacting with these lawmakers during their state and district work period (April 11-22), when they will be more accessible to their constituents.

Watch for updates and future calls to action via *The MOAA Newsletter*, MOAA's [Advocacy News page](#), and [MOAA.org/AiA](#). We aim to reach 535 congressional offices with our AiA message, and we can't do it without your support.

We'll rally behind these three issues:

- **Concurrent Receipt for Combat-Injured Servicemembers:** The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1242, S. 344) would fix a longstanding injustice by allowing tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans to receive full retired pay and disability pay. The act has amassed 205 House co-sponsors, adding 54 since January, and is at a critical point as lawmakers draft the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- **Affordable mental health for TRICARE beneficiaries.** The Stop Copay Overpay Act (H.R. 4824) would overturn the doubling of TRICARE copays for mental health care in recent years. The bipartisan bill has only four co-sponsors, but additional momentum from your AiA efforts would improve chances of inclusion in the FY 2023 NDAA.
- **A 4.6% military pay raise.** This raise applies to all eight of our uniformed services; the percentage is linked to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) by statute. It remains one of MOAA's annual priorities to ensure the raise is not reduced to fund other programs or pay table overhauls – cumulative reductions over a recent three-year span (2014-2016) left servicemembers 2.6% below what they should have received.

We cannot contact every one of the 535 lawmaker offices on Capitol Hill without your help. Your legislators want to hear from you, [by any method](#).

MOAA is no stranger to success in these efforts. Many of you participated in our decades-long effort to repeal the “widows tax,” which [ended with success in the FY 2020 NDAA](#), or in letter-writing campaigns to help MOAA overturn “[COLA minus 1 percent](#)” and restore the full cost-of-living adjustment for retirees via legislation passed in 2014.

Our renowned advocacy work ranges from events on Capitol Hill to in-person meetings in your hometown with your legislators. Through both our national and local efforts, MOAA has been recognized for the 15th year in a row as a Top Lobbyist by *The Hill*, a highly respected publication in the competitive Washington, D.C., environment.

We can move mountains if we never stop serving. Thank you for being a part of this next chapter of success.

Chapter Survey Results

The board received 27 surveys from chapter members. Thank you to those of you that replied, we do appreciate your feedback! It appears folks are eager to return to in-person meetings, though almost half would be most comfortable if all in attendance were vaccinated. The vast majority favor a return to Panorama, though some are interested in holding at least some meetings in other locations. While 36% favor continuing our current lunch – dinner schedule, 16% requested more dinner meetings, another 20% requested all dinner meetings, and another 20% indicated they were flexible concerning the lunch vs. dinner question. Individuals were nearly unanimously happy with current start times for lunch and dinner meetings.

For pricing options, when asked how much they would be willing to pay at Panorama, the average for lunch was about \$20-25, while the average for dinner was about \$25-35. When asked how much they would be willing to pay at a different venue, the average maximum for lunch was \$22 and for dinner was \$31. When asked how much they would be willing to spend for a drink, the most frequent responses were evenly split: “between \$5-8” and “don’t drink.”

All the survey respondents who have attended meetings expressed that they were highly satisfied, satisfied, or mostly satisfied with the programs and some did provide useful suggestions, which will be used by the VP for programming in planning future programs. Virtually everyone indicated they were content to contribute financially to our charitable causes and each respondent indicated their other areas of interest. All members who indicated an interest in serving as officers or board members are currently serving, so apparently we have some recruiting to do. The positive comments and praise for the officers and board members are greatly appreciated, as well as the assorted suggestions provided for improving the chapter. The officers and board members will use the suggestions in future event and strategic planning.

In Person Meeting in April

While the survey reinforces that the chapter definitely wishes to return to Panorama when that becomes possible, there was also desire expressed to get together in person as soon as possible. With that in mind, our program VP has secured an excellent alternative plan for us for April. It has been two years since we have gathered together as a chapter in person. Time to celebrate this opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and make some new ones.

We will be gathering at Rivers Edge, 4611 Tumwater Valley Dr SE, Olympia, WA, on Wednesday, 20 April. We will gather for cocktail/social at 5:30, with dinner served at approximately 6:00. We will be ordering individually off a special limited menu, with each party receiving a separate check. There are beef, chicken, seafood and vegetarian entrée options with prices varying from \$15-23. Salad, soup, desserts, and beverages, including alcoholic beverages, will be available for additional charges. As we are all ordering individually, we will be served individually, not necessarily at the same time, so we do ask that those attending order expeditiously, before getting caught up in socializing, to keep things moving smoothly. For this first meeting together in person we are forgoing a guest speaker to concentrate on getting acquainted/reacquainted with each other.

We do not need to preorder meals or collect money with this venue (they will generate separate checks), but we do need to get a head count to allow the restaurant to properly prepare for us. I have modified our usual dues/charity contribution form to again include a dinner RSVP line. You can print/cut it out and mail it to the chapter mailbox with your RSVP. Alternatively, you are welcome to call or email the chapter president or treasurer and let us know you plan to attend.

For Panorama residents, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus for transportation. He will need to provide names of those wishing to ride the bus to and from the dinner, so the right sized bus can be provided and residents’ accounts can be properly charged for the ride (\$3 each). Please RSVP to DeFrance at defrance@usa.net to let him know if you plan to ride the Panorama bus. ****Please RSVP no later than 15 April.**

IAW state policy, masks are optional for our gathering, so if it makes you feel more comfortable to wear one, you are certainly encouraged to do so when not eating or drinking.

April 2022 Dinner Meeting RSVP and Chapter Payment/Donation Form

Please fill out/check the appropriate items:

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

(please provide if there has been any change)

****Please RSVP NLT 15 April.**

1. We don't need to preselect entrees or prepay, but we do need to get a head count, so: please let us know ____ Yes, I will be coming, and there will be _____ people in my party, or ____ No, I will not be coming to the April meeting.
2. If you live at Panorama and would like to ride the bus, DeFrance Clarke is in charge of procuring bus transportation. He needs names to pass to the staff. Your account will be charged \$3 for the ride. ____ Yes, I want to ride the bus from Panorama. Please email DeFrance Clarke to confirm at defrance@usa.net.
3. I wish to pay my 2022 Chapter Dues of _____ (\$20 for members and spouses, \$10 for surviving spouses, which were due as of 01 January 2022). **** If you are unsure of your dues payment status, give Jim Richards a call, or send him an email, to confirm (360-459-2217, slimrjc@aol.com).**
4. I wish to donate \$ _____ toward our USO fundraiser.
5. I wish to donate \$ _____ toward our scholarship fund.
6. My check, in the amount of \$ _____, is enclosed to cover the above indicated items.

You can mail this form with check to Olympia Area Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 5957, Lacey, WA 98509-5957.

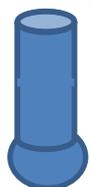
ALTERNATE PAYMENT OPTION: Members can pay dues and make charitable donations online. Dues can be paid for one, two or three years. This tool also allows for a maximum donation of \$100. It will only allow one charitable category at a time. So, it is set up to go to our quarterly charity. Here's the link: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>
No login information is needed. Once you select the state and chapter, the payment made will go to that chapter. You only need to pay your dues once a year, but you can use this system to make charitable donations any time of year and as many times as you want. (Helpful Hint: It may ask for your MOAA Member #, which is listed on our chapter roster.)



Fun and Comaraderie at March Meeting

We found ourselves without a speaker due to a family emergency, so we were free to enjoy socially visiting amongst ourselves. We reviewed the state of our chapter activities and charities and adjourned early.

**Olympia Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 5957
Lacey, WA 98509-5957**



Scholarship Fund
\$2000 2022 goal
\$5236.00 raised!!!



Surviving Spouse Corner

MOAA recognizes that a significant, and quite active portion of its membership consists of surviving spouses of military service members who have passed on. These individuals are strong, passionate defenders of our military and military families, and they have interests and needs of their own. MOAA has set up some tools, resources specifically for Surviving Spouses now. If one goes to the home page of the national MOAA website, there is a central prompt that reads “I am a _____” with a drop-down menu. One of the options in the drop-down menu is Surviving Spouse. Selecting this option will lead to a page full of information and further links specific to the needs and interests of Surviving Spouses. These members are naturally encouraged to participate in geographically based chapters, each of which has a Surviving Spouse Liaison (ours is Ruth Brigden), but MOAA also has a Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, and one can participate in both. There is also a Facebook page devoted to the group. Invitation/application to join virtual chapter: [ssvc-02-2021-letter-application.docx \(live.com\)](#) Pages with information about virtual chapter: [MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner: 2019 in Review](#)
[MOAA - Surviving Spouses Launch New Virtual MOAA Chapter](#)

Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Has An AmazonSmile Account!

The Olympia Area Chapter of MOAA now has an AmazonSmile account, so when you shop on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and shop as usual, then select Olympia Area Chapter MOAA as your charitable organization, and we will receive quarterly donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation. Let's take advantage of this benefit.

MOAA's new Legislative Action Center can be found here: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

Editorial Policy: The Olympia Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any inference of partisanship is unintended.