



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 05, May, 2022

Greetings Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Members,

And just like that it is May! Hopefully this month will bring less rain and more flowers. It has already brought good news for Olympia Area MOAA Chapter. Our newsletter has received a 5 Star Communications Award and our website has received a 4 Star Communications Award from MOAA national.

For the second year in a row, we raised enough money to award 5 \$1,000 scholarships. I have notified the five scholarship recipients and we look forward to hosting them at a future chapter meeting, if their busy schedules permit. So far it looks like most of them may join us in June. In May and June, I will keep busy attending school award events to present medals and/or symbolic checks to outstanding students on behalf of our chapter. So inspiring to see these young people getting ready to go out and conquer the world! You can all be justifiably proud of the support our chapter provides to youth in our community.

My thanks to those who attended our April meeting. We were in a lovely room at the River's Edge restaurant. Those in attendance enjoyed catching up with old friends and making some new friends. The wait staff was attentive and they gave us a fair selection of meals to choose from for dinner. Along with having a terrific time catching up, we discussed the importance of recruiting as we come out of COVID. Sadly, we have lost a lot of members the last few years as our active duty members moved away and some of our older members passed away. We worked hard to stay in touch with and keep our chapter members informed, but our ability to get out in search of new members was limited. We will be reenergizing our recruiting efforts as COVID loosens its hold on us, and we need all our members to think like recruiters for MOAA when they start getting out and meeting new people.

We had so much fun last month—let's do it again! We will gather starting at 5:30pm on 18 May, at the River's Edge in Tumwater, with dinner served at approximately 6pm. See details in a separate article. We'll do a short chapter status report, facilitated discussion on pandemic and new post-pandemic activities, raffle off some prizes for our quarterly charity, and mostly concentrate on enjoying the in-person camaraderie.

Remember 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 our next 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

Your May MOAA magazine contains tear out cards for you to mail to your Congressional representatives. It takes just a few minutes to tear out, add a note, if desired, and drop them in the mail. There is persuasive strength in numbers – let's show our legislators that these issues are important to us!



2022 Officers

President: CAPT Carrie Nielson, USN, also Newsletter Editor, 847-361-7917, candrnielson@comcast.net
1st VP: COL Dave Slotwinski, USA, Programs, 360-292-3624
2nd VP: CWO3 Jim Richards, USA, Membership, 360-459-2217, [srimrjc@aol.com](mailto: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, cagles@comcast.net
LTC DeFrance Clarke, USAF, 360-438-5520
MAJ Chris Dearinger, 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

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

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 \$755 against a goal of \$1,400. Please consider supporting this program through your generous donations.

From the Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance as of 30 Apr 2022:
Checking \$15,620.54
Prime Shares \$ 3,623.10
Total \$19,243.64

Charitable Donations Update:

NWYLC	\$1,500.00
USO	\$ 755.00
Fisher House	\$2,300.00
Santa's Castle	\$ 450.00
Scholarship	***\$5,256.00

**We presented 5 \$1,000 scholarships in 2021. We will be able to present 5 in 2022.
(goals: NWYLC \$1,350, USO \$1,400, FH \$1,000,
Santa's Castle \$1,200, Scholarship \$2,000)

Scholarship Program Update

To date, we have collected \$5,256 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 5 \$1,000 scholarships again this year. This year's recipients have been selected and invited to join us at a meeting in the next few months. Do not forget that donations to the fund continue throughout the year and the amount collected by next April will determine the number of scholarships we will award next year. Thank you for your continuing support to our scholarship program.

Virtual Fireside History Talks

Broadcast from the Schmidt House the 2nd Wednesday each month at the noon hour via Zoom. Preregister for these free events via Tumwater Parks and Rec online or call 360-754-4160. May 11—"Captain Cook Rediscovered"



Jim Richards, Ro Marcus, Dave “Slots” Slotwinski, Judy and Ben Adkins and Dan Stalling look over the menu and chat with our server.

At first it was raining and then there was this. Seemed like a special addition to the view for our first in person meeting in two years – Cheers!

May Chapter Meeting

We will gather at Rivers Edge, 4611 Tumwater Valley Dr SE, Olympia, WA, on Wednesday, 18 May. We gather at 5:30, socializing and ordering our drinks and meals, 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.

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. Or you can call or email the chapter president or treasurer to RSVP.

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 13 May.**

We would like to do a raffle in support of our quarterly charity. If you would like to donate an item to be raffled off, please bring it with you. Suggestions include bottle of wine, potted plant, book. Tickets will be \$5 each. We are planning to do a facilitated discussion amongst ourselves rather than a guest speaker this month.

IAW state policy, masks are optional for our gathering.

MOAA Crisis Relief Fund

MOAA has approved a \$50K budget and rolled out a new Crisis Relief Fund modeled on the recently ended COVID relief fund. This new program is under the MOAA Foundation and offers those experiencing financial hardship due to a catastrophic event or crisis grants of up to \$500. Service members, spouses, veterans, caregivers and survivors are eligible, with preference given to those not eligible for support from the service relief societies or other organizations (an estimated 12+ million veterans). Should MOAA chapter members become aware of a catastrophic event or crisis in their area, and of impacted individuals who may be eligible for grants from this relief fund, they can serve as the intermediary to assist individuals to apply and to seek other resources identified by MOAA. Application available at: <https://www.moaa.org/CrisisReliefApp> Additional resource information available at <https://www.moaa.org/OtherRelief> Chapter members will be asked to assist in verifying the applicant's eligibility. For more information on the program: <https://www.moaa.org/relief-verification> MOAA will be conducting fundraising to build an endowment with a goal of \$1M to sustain a \$50K annual budget.

Based on MOAA Leadership Roundtable Brief by Rebecca Culhone

ACT NOW for Advocacy in Action (AiA) Campaign

I guess my article last month did not move many people because MOAA has a tracker now and it appears almost nobody actually went online and sent emails to their legislators. I am asking as your chapter president – let your voice be heard! Our voices joined together can be very powerful in persuading Congress that we care about these issues. Please take note.

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

Click the link above to send letters to your legislators, reinforcing calls from MOAA's state leaders and other volunteers who have been arranging meetings online and in person. Special focus was put on interacting with these lawmakers during their state and district work period (April 11-22), when they were more accessible to their constituents. MOAA state and national officials are still working to reach 535 congressional offices with our AiA message, and they can't do it without our support.

We are rallying 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). These are earned benefits that they have every right to. We are very close to correcting this injustice.

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. Mental health care has never been a more critical need for our veterans and family members and the copay costs are becoming prohibitive. Cost should never keep a member of our military family from getting the care they need most.

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](#).

Based on MOAA Newsletter Article, April

Veteran Suicide Prevention

The 2021 VA Suicide Prevention Annual Report reflects 2001-2019 data. This report indicates that the overall veteran suicide rate for Washington state is 34.2%. It is highest for 18-34 year-olds. The report indicated that this WA state suicide rate is not significantly higher than the national veteran suicide rate, but it is significantly higher than the national general population suicide rate (18.0%). It behooves us to be aware of veteran suicide prevention measures in our state, such as the Veterans Crisis Line. *If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.*

U.S. VA 2021 Suicide Prevention Report

VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The federal VA has a program that benefits veterans and their caregivers for eligible veterans who served either on or after September 11, 2001, or on or prior to May 7, 1975. It is for designated primary caregivers who live full time in the household. Benefits may include education, training, mental health counseling, travel, lodging, financial assistance when traveling with the veteran to receive care, a monthly stipend, access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at least 30 days per year of respite care for the veteran. The eligibility is very specific. VA disability rating of 70% or higher with service-connected disabilities caused or made worse by active duty service during service periods mentioned above. Veteran must have been discharged from the U.S. military or have a date of medical discharge. Veteran must need at least 6 months of continuous in person care with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, transferring, etc. We have so many veterans in need of services and this is one way for those who choose to keep their loved one at home to have some resources to mitigate expenses. For more information, go to:

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/> from WDVA website

May 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 13 May.**

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 May 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). **At this time, 75 members have not paid for their 2022 dues. 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.)



Mark Foutch, Janet Charles, Barbara Cagle, Ralph and Sue Chappell and Frank Hensley enjoy their drinks and the view.



Doug White, Karen Peterson, DeFrance Clarke, Chris Dearinger, Chuck Peterson and John McConnel enjoying each other's company in our new venue.

April Chapter Meeting

While our chapter survey reinforced 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 secured an excellent alternative plan for us for April. We gathered at Rivers Edge Restaurant in Tumwater starting at 5:30. It was an absolute delight to see old friends and some new ones in person, to catch up on each other's lives. The setting was lovely, the service pleasant and they gave us a nice selection of food to choose from. We had a drawing for a door prize, a bottle of wine, won by Janet Charles, to celebrate our first time back together. The President said a few words, shared a status report on the chapter, reminded everyone that we are all recruiters, and everyone introduced themselves since we had a few new faces, then we just had a great time socializing.

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



Surviving Spouse Corner

Recently in another publication, they listed common mistakes made by widows and widowers. One was falling prey to con artists. There are tons of con artists who target widows and widowers. Check the credentials of anyone reaching out after a death. "Blind faith in strangers can cause a lot of destruction. In most situations, you're better off erring on the side of caution and consulting with someone who you reached out to independently after thoroughly researching, rather than working with a professional who has reached out to you," says Nishank Khanna, CFO of Clarify Capital.

On a more pleasant note, we are gradually coming out of COVID and some interest has been expressed in starting up the Ladies Who Lunch group. This would actually be for all spouses, not just surviving spouses. It would be a casual, social group meeting once a month for lunch at a local restaurant. The restaurant would potentially change each month, checking out different venues being part of the fun. Pre-COVID this group was great for providing suggestions for things to do in the area, vacation ideas, assistance with navigating support issues (need a doctor, dentist, lawyer, hairdresser), or just a source of support and camaraderie. Would anyone be interested in assisting with coordinating these lunches (picking venue, checking to see if the restaurant can support reservation for 6-12, making reservation and sending out email to ladies)? Who is interested in attending at this time? Please contact Carrie Nielson at 847-361-7917, or Ruth Brigden at 360-438-5786.

NJROTC Award Ceremony

The Shelton NJROTC Unit will hold its annual awards ceremony on 26 May at 1700 in the Shelton High School gymnasium. Members of our MOAA chapter will attend to present the MOAA JROTC medal to a stellar cadet and a support check to their booster club.

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.