



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 10, October, 2022

Greetings Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Members,

Ron and I are just back from an awe-inspiring tour of several southwestern states National Parks. I highly recommend everyone, who is able to do so, get themselves a National Park pass and start seeing these inspiring places! Lifetime National Park Passes are free to disabled veterans and the latest word is they will be free for all military, veterans, and gold star families by the end of 2022 (see the nps.gov website for details).

My one regret about this trip is missing our September meeting. I hope all who attended had a great time socializing and enjoyed an excellent brief about Medic One from Kurt Hardin, Director, Thurston County Emergency Services Department.

I do hope I will see many of you at our October meeting. We will meet at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel again on 19 October. Slots has scheduled a brief from William Powell, Chairman of the Thurston County Veterans Advisory Council. He will tell us about current operations of the council, and Lacey Veterans Hub. Come on out for some good food, an important presentation, and mostly for the chance to visit with your fellow MOAA chapter members! We also plan to have some of our NWYLC scholarship students join us in October to tell us about their experience, and you don't want to miss that!

October will be our last dinner meeting for the year, as we will switch to lunch meetings in November. We also plan to return to Panorama in November after a very long absence. River's Edge and Red Lion/Olympia Inn both served us well, but a majority of our members have expressed a desire to return to the comfortable, familiar surroundings of Panorama (and convenient for several of our members), so we will be making that happen in November. We are also preparing for our annual meeting and 2 Bell Ceremony in November. If you know of a chapter member or spouse we have lost in the past year, please let Chaplain Doug White know, so we can make sure they are remembered during the 2 Bell Ceremony.

I am honored and excited to be planning to attend a national MOAA meeting for the second year in a row to accept a 5 Star Level of Excellence Award on behalf of our chapter. These awards recognize the outstanding work our chapter does in the areas of advocacy, community service and chapter sustainability (welcoming new members and supporting current members). I always look forward to engaging with the interesting and generous members of this chapter and am so proud of all that we continue to accomplish together.

We are well on our way to achieving our fundraising goal for Santa's Castle this quarter, keep those generous donations coming! Of course, we also continue to collect funds for our scholarship year-round. We have begun soliciting scholarship applications for this year, which will be due in January. Along with our usual fundraising efforts, we are planning to run our Santa's Castle sports ball drive. Now is a good time to start shopping.

Stay safe and stay well.

Carrie Nielson, Chapter President



Be sure to add the new chapter web page, <https://olympiamoaa.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,
candrnielson@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, USA

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

LtCol DeFrance Clarke, USAF, 360-438-5520
Maj Chris Dearing, USAF, 253-677-6713

LTC Steve Edwards, USA, 915-306-0629

LtCol 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. Contact
President for Zoom link.

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

Time to Gear Up for Santa’s Castle

Santa’s Castle has provided Christmas gifts since 1994 to the children of Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve families experiencing financial difficulty. In 2021, 2,633 children from 1,245 families were served by Santa’s Castle. A grand total of \$219,981 in toys, books, games, bikes, and stocking stuffers were given out.

Santa’s Castle is operated entirely by volunteers. Their donors and volunteers are dedicated to ensuring the children of our military heroes receive Christmas gifts, making their holidays brighter.

Each year from September through November our MOAA chapter collects monetary contributions to be donated to Santa’s Castle. The contributions are critical to making Santa’s Castle successful in achieving its mission.

We also encourage any chapter members interested in volunteering to consider serving as elves at Santa’s Castle, helping service members and spouses shop for their children at the castle. This year, toy distribution will occur November 28-December 2 and December 5-9. If you can spare the time, consider volunteering as an elf. It only requires a brief training session and then at least one 2-4 hour shift at the castle. Santa’s Castle anticipates holding training sessions in November. Volunteers need only attend one training session. Our chapter Point of Contact for this effort is Dave Slotwinski (360-292-3624).

Meanwhile, please consider including a little something extra in your monthly check to be donated to this worthy cause. Goal is \$1,200.

Treasurer’s Comments

We've entered the last quarter of the financial year. Our total assets of \$14,328.37 represent your dues and generous donations to our supported charities. This quarter, we will focus our donations on Santa's Castle. Our goal is \$1200. To date, we have collected \$962. Don't forget our ongoing donations to our scholarship fund which stands at \$870. Over the past two years, we have been able to award \$5000 in scholarships due to your generosity. So far this year, we have also awarded \$1350 to the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference, \$1300 to USO, \$3273 to Fisher House and \$500 to the Shelton JROTC Booster Club. Keep those dollars coming! Don't forget that your donations are tax deductible.

From the Treasurer’s Report

Bank Balance as of 30 Sep 2022:
Checking \$10,703.69
Prime Shares \$ 3,624.68
Total \$14,328.37

Charitable Donations Update:
NWYLC *\$ 150.00
USO **\$ 172.00
Fisher House \$3,273.00
Santa’s Castle \$ 962.00
Scholarship ***\$ 870.00

*Have paid for NWYLC 2022.
**Have paid \$1,300 to USO for 2022.
***We have paid out all 5 scholarships for 2022.
(goals: NWYLC \$1,350, USO \$1,400, FH \$1,000, Santa’s Castle \$1,200, Scholarship \$2,000)

Olympia Sustains 5 Star Level of Excellence!!

***** In August the results were published and Olympia Area Chapter was again recognized as a Five Star Level of Excellence Chapter. *****

19 October 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 16 October.**

1. I ___do___ do not intend to attend the dinner meeting. My dinner choice is ___Ale Battered Cod with Thick Cut Fries and Seasonal Vegetables, ___Chicken Florentine with Roasted Red Potatoes and Sautéed Green Beans, or ___Penne with Mixed Vegetables and a Garlic and Herb Cream Sauce. Cost \$28.
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 NLT 14 October 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 Santa's Castle 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.

**At this time, you cannot pay for the dinner online. You can either mail in a check to pay for dinner, or pay upon arrival at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel on the night of the dinner meeting. On the night of, we can accept checks or exact change cash, \$28 for dinner plus any desired donation amount. Thank you.

September Chapter Meeting

We met at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel in September and received a brief about Medic One from Kurt Hardin, Director, Thurston County Emergency Services Department.

October Chapter Meeting

We will meet at the Red Lion/Olympia Hotel, 2300 Evergreen Park Dr, Olympia, WA, on **Wednesday, 19 October**. We **gather starting between 5:00 and 5:30** for social hour, with dinner served at 6:00. We ask that everyone RSVP and place their orders ahead of time. The cost for the dinner will be **\$28 per person**, which includes pre-set water/iced tea, coffee service, starter salad, garlic bread, chef's choice dessert, and choice of main meal: Ale Battered Cod with Thick Cut Fries and Seasonal Vegetables, or Chicken Florentine with Roasted Red Potatoes and Sautéed Green Beans, or Penne with Mixed Vegetables and a Garlic and Herb Cream Sauce. The price includes tax and tip.

I have modified our usual dues/charity contribution form above to include a dinner RSVP/order line. You can print/cut it out and mail it to the chapter mailbox with your RSVP/dinner order. Or you can call or email the chapter president or treasurer to RSVP and place your order. You can send your check, to include payment for the dinner as well as any charitable contribution, in with the order form, or you can pay at the door when you come to the dinner, BUT you **must RSVP NLT 16 October for dinner**. We have to give numbers to the restaurant beforehand. If you pay at the door, we can accept check or exact change cash for the dinner plus any charitable donation you are making.

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 dinner, so the right size 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 14 October for bus transport.**

Our guest speaker will be William Powell, Chairman of the Thurston County Veterans Advisory Council.

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



Santa's Castle Fundraiser
\$1,200 2022 goal
\$962 2022 raised



Surviving Spouse Corner – National MOAA Has Virtual Chapters that may be of Interest

In addition to its geographically based chapters, MOAA has recently started some virtual chapters for communities with common interests. A Surviving Spouses Chapter was one of the first to form. They have recently announced two new ones: one for Judge Advocates and one for Women and Family Advocacy.

WA National Guard Warrant Officer Graduation/Commissioning

On 16 October at 1400, the WA National Guard will be graduating/commissioning 6 new Warrant Officers and we are invited to attend. Even better, at 1000 that day we will be presenting these new Warrant Officers with rank insignia, congratulating them on this important career milestone and talking with them about MOAA. All of this activity will take place at the drill hall on Camp Murray. Recommended attire is uniform of the day, or business casual attire. Contact Dave Slotwinski at dslotwin@outlook.com or 360-292-3624 by 10/10/2022, with questions and/or to sign up to attend.

Flu Season

It is flu season. If you have not already gotten your flu shot, now is the time. What are you waiting for?

Scholarships

With schools back in session, we have begun advertising our scholarships to Thurston County high schools. Information about the scholarship and the application form can be found on our chapter website. Feel free to share with any deserving local high school senior you know.

Sports Ball Drive

Along with collecting funds for Santa's Castle, we also like to gather new sports balls of every variety each year with a goal of collecting 1,000 balls so that every family served will receive a sports ball. So start ordering and buying balls, tell your friends and neighbors, get the other clubs you belong to involved. Let's collect a record number of balls this year to make sure every military family that comes to the castle leaves with a ball! We will have a final collection day in November, details to be announced in our November newsletter.

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.