



Olympia Area Chapter

**In this
month's
Bugle**



ADVOCACY FOCUS
TRICARE AT RISK



DONATE - PAY DUES
SANTA'S CASTLE



**THIS MONTH'S
MEETING INFO**
MEAL ORDER

THE BUGLE

President's Note

David "Slots" Slotwinski, Col, USA, Ret. President

Fascinating September meeting! I want to thank our members who joined us for an historical presentation by retired BG Frank Goodell (USAF) covering the 1924 First Flight Around the World and the 100th Anniversary celebration to be held at Sand Point (now Magnum Park) on September 28, 2024. General Goodell integrated numerous historical photos and vignettes in his discussion of this historic flight that ranks among the most significant in the evolution of aviation.

Also present was Barry Wilcox, a recent new chapter member. Barry joined the USAF during the Vietnam War, was commissioned through the ROTC program and, following his tour of duty, has been a highly successful businessman whose farms provide a large portion of our nation's egg supply. If you see Barry at one of our meetings, please introduce yourself and welcome him into our membership.

Exciting news - we were again selected for recognition as a 5-star Chapter of Excellence Award winner. Kudos to all who contributed over the past year and helped us earned this recognition. And congratulations to our fellow WA State Chapters who also earned either a 4- or 5-Star Chapter of Excellence Award. Those chapters are the Columbia River Chapter, Kitsap Chapter, Olympic Peninsula Chapter, Spokane Chapter, Whidbey Island Chapter, and Mount Rainier Chapter. Hooah!

Next, we have a team of students from St Martin's University's Computer Science Program who have accepted making a MOAA App as their senior project. We should be meeting with the "team" soon, as they are excited to learn more about us and how our app should be structured.

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, 2023

Meeting attendance remains a challenge. Starting with our September meeting, we returned to luncheons and will continue to meet at lunchtime through 2024. By moving our meetings to luncheons, we have reduced the strain on Panorama's seventeen 51 restaurant and bistro staff. Our social will begin at 11:30 AM with the meeting called to order at 12:00 PM followed by lunch and then the presentation.

Our tentative October 18 speaker is Cheryl Toland who is our state council's Surviving Spouse Liaison. Cheryl is a member of the Mt Rainier Chapter and was recently selected at the council level as the 2023 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award winner. Finally, we have launched our recruitment for 2024 officers and board members. If you are interested in serving on either the board or as an officer, please share your wishes with any officer or board member.

Our next board meeting is via Zoom at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, October 11 and our next luncheon meeting is on Wednesday, October 18 at Panorama's seventeen 51 restaurant and bistro; social at 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00 PM. Our tentative guest speaker is Cheryl Toland, WSCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison.

I am looking forward to seeing you on October 18. And remember, we're all recruiters- bring a guest to the October luncheon.

And don't forget- it is sports ball collection time. This year, Santa's Castle will need more than ever before, so tell your friends, tell other non-profits and businesses that we want, no need them to help us collect these sports balls for Santa's Castle. Ball inflate will be at Northwest Harley, Lacey, WA, on Saturday, Nov 18.

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski

Dues and Donations

Annual Dues are \$20.00. \$10.00 for Surviving Spouses. Due 1 Jan 2023.

While we continue to collect for our scholarship fund throughout the year, this quarter (Sep, Oct, Nov) donations are being collected for **Santa's Castle at JBLM**.

Payment for dues (for one, two or three years) and/or donations can be done through **CashApp** or the MOAA national web site:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org>

or by mail to: Olympia MOAA, PO Box 5957, Lacey, WA 98509-5957.

If you are unsure if you owe dues, contact VP Carrie Nielson candrnielson@comcast.net or Treasurer Bill Moseley willimosel@aol.com

2023 Officers and Board Members

President & 1st VP: COL
Dave Slotwinski, USA, Ret.
360-292-3624

2nd VP, and past President:
CAPT Carrie Nielson, USN, Ret.
(Membership), 847-361-7917,

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

Treasurer: Col Bill Moseley,
USAF, Ret. 360-688-7626

2023 Board of Directors:

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

Allen Acosta, MAJ, USA, Ret.
360-556-4642

Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA,
719-313-3160

CWO4 Bryon Burgess, WANG,
Ret. 360- 459-2717

Col Sam Cagle, USAF, Ret.
Newsletter Co- Editor, 360-456-
8509

LtCol DeFrance Clarke, USAF,
Ret. 360-438-5520

LTC Steve Edwards, USA, Ret.
915-306-0629

LtCol Douglas White, USAF,
Ret. Chaplain, 253- 686-8966

Maj Chris Dearing, USAF, Ret.
253-677-6713

Treasurer's Report

Bill Moseley, Col, USAF, Ret. - Treasurer

A complete detailed monthly Treasurer's Report is available on request.

Charitable Donations	Balance as of 9/30/23	Amount Given YTD	2023 Goal
USO	\$275	\$1200	\$1,400
Fisher House	\$1081		\$1,000
Santa's Castle	\$485.50		\$1,200
Scholarship	\$3074	\$3,000	\$2,000
NJROTC Booster Club	\$0	\$500	
Total Amount	\$4915.50	\$1,000	

2024 Olympia MOAA Scholarship

If you know any high school seniors or have friends who know any high school seniors, it is a good time to start filling out an application for our 2024 Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Scholarships.

<https://olympiamoaa.org/scholarships-2/>



Santa's Castle - JBLM

Santa's Castle serves Active, Guard and Reserve Military families. In addition to donating funds each year, a few of our chapter members donate their time as Santa's Elves to help the military members or spouses to shop. It is a fun and very rewarding way to give back. If you think you might be interested, you can speak with Slots, Ro, Carrie Nielson, or Sam or Barb Cagle who have all served in the past for advice. The Castle will be holding Elf training in early November (just one one hour session is needed).

Olympia Area MOAA Sports Ball Drive

'Tis the season. This quarter not only are we collecting funds for Santa's Castle, we are also conducting a Sports Ball Drive in support of the castle. We are collecting new sports balls of all shapes and sizes to contribute to Santa's Castle so they can give a free ball to every family that shops at the Castle this year. We expect the need will be greater than ever this year, so we are aiming for a minimum of at least 1,000 balls. Start now to scour the local stores and shop on line. Tell all your friends and family. Get your favorite businesses and non-profits in on this very worthy cause. You can bring them to our Santa's Castle Sports Ball Drop in November, date/time/place to be published in the November Bugle. Make Christmas brighter for our military families!



MOAA Legislative Action

If you haven't already done so, be sure to sign up at the MOAA Legislative Action Center. You can track and learn about your legislative representatives and send them emails in support of key MOAA advocacy issues. You can read about bills MOAA is tracking/supporting and about MOAA's critical advocacy issues. This is a terrific source of information, coordination and support.

MOAA Legislative Action Center Link: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

MOAA Foundation Grants

Beginning in the COVID-19 crisis, The MOAA Foundation has provided grants to support veteran housing, food assistance, employment, family support (including behavioral health) and more. Community Outreach Grants and COVID-19 Chapter Grants have been awarded in Lacey, Steilacoom, and Auburn, WA, just to name a few of the local recipients.

The MOAA Foundation Mission creates, enhances, expands, or supports high-impact, proven-successful programs and services that enable the nation's uniformed service members and veterans of all ranks and their families to maintain a quality of life reflective of their selfless service to America. The foundation funds these programs and services through philanthropic contributions from the American people and organizations that support our mission.

The MOAA Foundation Community Outreach program supports MOAA councils and chapters delivering to their local communities vital programs and support services in eight areas of critical military and veteran family need. A number of MOAA councils and chapters nationwide are engaged in this type of very real, high-impact, community work. Through this work, MOAA council and chapters are reaching out to currently serving military families and veterans of all ranks and providing assistance in critical areas like housing, employment, financial assistance, behavioral health and more. For more information or to donate: <https://charities.moaa.org/get-involved/Give/>

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Sponsored Legislative Action

Veterans who need and receive Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) grants because of a service-connected disability receive up to \$6,800 and those who are rated 50% service connected or greater may receive the same amount even if a modification is needed because of a nonservice-connected disability. Veterans who are not service connected but are enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system can receive up to \$2,000 for needed home modification. These are the maximum amounts an eligible veteran can receive in their lifetime. HISA rates have not changed since Congress last adjusted them in 2010. However, the cost of home modifications and labor has risen more than 40% during the same timeframe.

H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, would increase the amount of funding available to disabled veterans for improvements and structural alterations provided to them by the VA for home improvements related to their disability.

This bipartisan legislation would increase the amount of funding for VA grants for disabled veterans to make necessary modifications to their homes to fit their needs, including wheelchair ramps, structural changes, medical equipment, and would adjust the amount to account for inflation.

DAV supports H.R. 2818, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 326, which calls for a reasonable increase in HISA benefits for veterans. DAV is calling on its members and supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to co- sponsor and support H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act. <https://dav.quorum.us/campaign/51282/>

Member of the Month - Mark Wiseman

Submitted by: Carrie Nielson, CAPT, USN, Ret. - Membership

Mark Wiseman is one of our newest members of the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Board. He has already made significant contributions to chapter management as he brings fresh ideas to the team. He attends our monthly Board of Director meetings and provides input on the direction and activities of the chapter.



Where are you from? St Louis, MO.

Branch of Service? Presently serving in the Army.

Specialty/What do you do in the military?

Started enlisted Infantry 2001. Commissioned Ordnance through OCS (2011) with follow-on to Explosive Ordnance Disposal School.

Favorite duty station/assignment? JBLM

Family? Wife - Jennifer, Son- Eli (13 y/o), Daughter- Abigail (11 y/o)

How did you end up here? We were stationed at JBLM 2016-2019 and chose to return for a final assignment and retirement (2022-2024).

What do you enjoy doing now? Woodworking, family time, church, gardening, electronics, and coding (not all inclusive or in order of precedence).

What would you like to see the chapter do next? I'm excited about the chapter embracing digital communication. I would love to see the chapter adopt a military unit. I would also be interested in interviewing some willing members to capture some of their stories of service in an audio and/or video format.

Welcoming Our Newest Members!

As further introduction to our newest members:

Ray Rasmussen was Field Artillery and Frankie Rasmussen was Military Intelligence. They met in the Pentagon while assigned to the Army G-1. Frankie retired from active duty when they departed DC, then worked for the Wisconsin VA during their next assignment with the Wisconsin National Guard. She worked in the private sector and as a contractor when they made their final move to Fort Lewis. Ray stayed in for the full 30 years allowed - retiring out of Fort Lewis, then worked as a contractor for the Army ROTC program, then as a consultant. They made the move to Panorama in November 2020. We are so glad they have found us - welcome to Olympia MOAA Chapter Ray and Frankie!



United Way Day of Caring, Sept 29, 2023

Events and Links

October Nisqually Widows

The Nisqually Military Widows will meet for lunch at the Panorama Restaurant at 11 AM on Tuesday October 17th. Reservations are due to Linda Shaudis at 360-438-5095 or by e-mail at mosserson@icloud.com.

October Ladies Lunch Club

The October MOAA Ladies Luncheon will be at Shipwreck Cafe in West Olympia October 9th at 1200, noon. The address is 244 Madrona Beach Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502. The menu is available at: <https://www.theshipwreckcafe.com/menus/lunch-and-dinner>

Please RSVP to christine.mcmanus@gmail.com. If anyone would like a ride or wants to carpool, mention that when you RSVP and something can be arranged.

October Board Meeting

October 11, 2023, 5:30 pm. Via Zoom. Contact DSlotwin@outlook.com for a Zoom invite.

Guest Speaker - September

September's Guest Speaker Frank Goodell, Brig Gen, USAF, Ret. spoke to us on the 1924 Round the World Flight by US Army Air Service crews flying out of Seattle. For more information visit: <https://www.friendsofmagnusonpark.org/awards/>



Be sure to add our chapter web page: <https://olympiemoaa.org> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2391199391028076> to your favorite sites.

This QR code will take you directly to our webpage: olympiemoaa.org

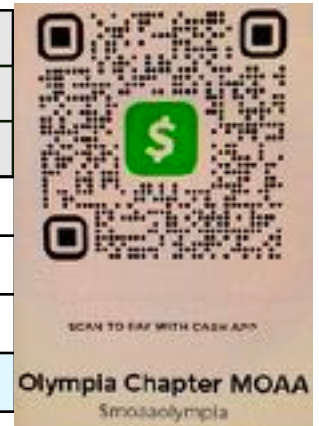
Meeting Information and Meal Request

Venue: *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro* - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of October 16, 2023 to willimosel@aol.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 18, gather at 11:30, lunch at 12:00 pm.

October Menu and Donation Options

Panorama Club Sandwich with Fries	\$19.50	x		= \$
Vegetable Lasagna with Green Salad	\$19.50	x		= \$
Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad	\$19.50	X		= \$
Scholarship Fund Donation				= \$
Santa's Castle Donation				= \$
Annual Dues \$20.00 Member, \$10.00 Surviving Spouse				= \$
Total Amount Mailed				= \$



The lunch cost is **\$19.50**. Dessert is Kahlua Cream Pie. Vegetarians may order from the menu. There are five options to choose from. (Coffee, tea and water are provided). Gluten Free items are available from the menu on request.

----- *Tear line for mail in payments* -----

The treasurer encourages members to send in payment for meals along with any dues or donations by mail or via CashApp beforehand to ensure menu item entree selection and RSVP count. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description. Payment at door must be check, CashApp or exact change in cash. Please send a confirmation email to: willimosel@aol.com OR mail payment and confirmation to: Olympia MOAA, PO Box 5957, Lacey, WA 98509-5957



Purple Heart Ceremony at the City of Dupont. Allen Acosta Olympia MOAA Board Member is sixth from left.

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