



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



ADVOCACY FOCUS
MEMBER OF MONTH



DONATE - PAY DUES
SCHOLARSHIP



THIS MONTH'S MEETING INFO
MEAL ORDER

THE BUGLE

President's Note

To all, Happy New Year and let me extend to you wishes for a year filled with health, happiness, prosperity, and good cheer. We ended the year right! CDR (ret) Terry Sparks, newly elected WSCOC President started the meeting by swearing in our 2024 officers and new board members; then we were treated to an excellent plated lunch; followed by delightful, seasonal entertainment by Entertainment Explosion. They gave us about an hour long show that was highly entertaining.

Closing out the year, our chapter is in excellent shape and we are postured to continue our Chapter of Excellence traditions. Things to look for in 2024- we'll continue to work with the *seventeen 51 restaurant and bistro* staff to ensure excellent luncheon meal service and, if staffing permits, return to dinner meals in the Spring. We'll strive to provide a variety of programs and want to hear your ideas for future programs. We will continue to support our main charities- USO, Santa's Castle, Fisher House, and our scholarship program as well as continue our support to the Shelton NJROTC, and the ANG OCS and Warrant officer commissioning programs. We will look to MOAA and USAA for outside support and hope to again "sell Nolan Ryans" at the USO golf tournament.

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 01 - 2024

We will also look for opportunities to become further involved in our community and legislative advocacy as community service recognition and legislative advocacy are key to attracting new generations of potential members.

And... for those wondering, our sports ball drive was highly successful as we donated over 700 balls to Santa's Castle. Many thanks to all who contribute as it looks like this holiday season, the "Castle" had a record year supporting over 1200 military families with close to 3000 kids.

Our next board meeting is via Zoom at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, January 10 and our first meeting in the new year will be on Wednesday, January 17 at Panorama's *seventeen 51 restaurant and bistro*. Our social will begin at 11:30 AM with the meeting called to order at 12:00 PM. Our guest speaker is Colleen Carmichael, Executive Director, Quixote Communities who will share with us details about the tiny home veteran villages in Shelton and at the Orting Soldiers Home. Looking forward to seeing you in January.

From Ro and I to you and your family,

Happy New Year!
 Dave "Slots" Slotwinski



2024 Officers and Board Members

President: Dave Slotwinski,
 COL, USA, Ret.
 360-292-3624

1st VP (Programs): Allen Acosta,
 MAJ, USA, Ret.
 360-556-4642

2nd VP (Membership):
 Carrie Nielson,
 CAPT, USN, Ret.
 847-361-7917
 Assistant Communications
 Director

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

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

2024 Board of Directors:
 Ruth Brigden,
 SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison,
 360-438-5786

Tristan Atkins,
 COL, WANG, Ret.
 360-339-3126

Daniel Stalling,
 LTC, Army, Ret.
 360-999-0020

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

Sam Cagle,
 Col, USAF, Ret.
 360-456- 8509

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

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

Dues and Donations

Annual Dues are \$20.00, \$10.00 for Surviving Spouses. 2024 Dues are due 1 Jan 2024.

This quarter (Dec, Jan, Feb) our designated charity is our chapter scholarship fund. While other quarters, we collect for USO, Fisher House or Santa’s Castle plus the scholarship fund, this quarter the sole focus of our fundraising is our scholarship fund. The more money we raise, the more scholarships we will be able to fund. The minimum target is three \$1,000 scholarships, while the reach goal achieved the past three years is five \$1,000 scholarships.

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

Treasurer’s Report

Bill Moseley, Col, USAF, Ret. - Treasurer

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

During the first of the year, the board of directors established monetary goals for each of our charities. These charities are supported solely by donations. Through your generous donations, we have met or exceeded the goal established for each organization. This quarter, our focus shifts to our scholarship fund with a goal of \$3000. The more money we collect the more \$1,000 scholarships we will be able to award. Thanks for your support!

Charity	Balance as of 12/31/23	Amount Given YTD	2023 Goal
USO	\$400.00	\$1200	\$1400
Fisher House	\$125.00	\$1100	\$1000
Santa’s Castle	\$0	\$1200	\$1200
Scholarships	\$2,474.00	\$3000	\$3000
NJROTC Booster Club	\$0	\$ 500	
Sports Balls	\$0	\$1470.59	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$2,999.00	\$8,470.59	\$6600 and 1000 balls

From the Desk of the Treasurer

We are approaching the end of the tax year. As a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, all of your contributions to our charitable causes throughout the year are tax deductible. If you would like a receipt for your records reflecting your total contribution this year, please let me know by sending your request to willimosel@aol.com.

2024 Olympia MOAA Scholarship

Several years ago, we decided to develop a scholarship program that has been successful in awarding five \$1000 scholarships each year. This year, our goal is again \$3000. We allow donations into the scholarship fund throughout the year, then make it our primary focus for donations December through February. With this approach, I expect that we will exceed the goal and allow us to award five scholarships again in 2024. We launched our program in the school districts at the beginning of the year and award the scholarships in the May-Jun timeframe. The application form is available on our website at: <https://olympiamoaa.org/scholarships-2/> and **complete applications are due January 15, 2024.**

Santa's Castle 2024

Olympia Area MOAA continued its long-standing tradition of supporting Santa's Castle on JBLM and their mission to make Christmas brighter for military families in the Pacific Northwest. Our Sports Ball Drive was a big success and was featured in national MOAA e-newsletter and website: https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/member-spotlight/olympia-area-chapter-donates-over-1,000-sports-balls-for-military-children/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=DCBEXKsZ7XsAMHJh1eJHNA==+WA+ATFHSRM+1+SRO+L+CC

Our chapter members were also very generous with their cash donations again this year. We were able to make a \$1,200 contribution to Santa's Castle to help fund other toys to stock their shelves. Some chapter members also give of their time each year to make the magic of Santa's Castle happen. President Dave Slotwinski serves on the board of Santa's Castle. Carrie Nielson volunteered as a shopping elf for the sixth time this year. What a fun, joyful, rewarding experience! Carrie said "This is the single most rewarding activity I do each year." Additional chapter members also signed on to assist, and if you did not have the opportunity to participate this year, they will be looking for volunteers again next year.



Carrie Nielson volunteering as elf at Santa's Castle.

MOAA State Legislative Advocacy Summary

Jerry Fugich, Chairman of the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC), provided the following State Legislative update:



The Veteran Legislative Coalition will be hosting the VLC Legislative Reception at 12:00pm, Friday, 12 January, in the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building to thank the members of the House and Senate and their staffs for their support in sponsoring and passing meaningful legislative action in support of military members and their families. MOAA members are invited to attend and mix with other Veterans Service Organizations in thanking our elected officials.

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

Member of the Month – Dan Stalling

Submitted by: Carrie Nielson, CAPT, USN, Ret. – VP for Membership

Dan Stalling has been a faithful member of the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter for years. He has regularly attended our chapter meetings, either via Zoom during the pandemic, or in person since we have come out of the pandemic. In November 2023 Dan was elected as one of our newest Board of Directors members. This year Dan also volunteered as an elf at Santa's Castle.

Where are you from?

-- Born in Seattle, WA, and raised on Whidbey Island, in Oak Harbor, WA

Branch of Service?

-- Though I was raised in a Navy town and was in the Sea Cadets until E3 I opted to go Army. I served three years enlisted Army in the infantry and as a supply specialist/armorer. When I left the service I went Army ROTC at Washington State University and then served 28 years in a combination of Active and Reserve duty.



Dan Stalling

Specialty/What did you do in the military?

- - I began as a Tactical All Source intelligence Officer, serving in Counter, Imagery, Signal, and Strategic Intelligence positions. After that I branch transferred to Transportation Branch serving in Road/Rail, Marine Terminal, Aerial TC positions. When the branch merged with others to become Logistics Branch I served in Logistics, Maintenance, Contracting, Force Modernization, CHOPS positions and as a Regional Inspector for various quality control programs.

Favorite duty station/assignment?

- - As the Headquarters Commandant for USARPAC Fort Shafter, HI. Though the position was work intensive I got to do some amazing stuff and Oahu is a really fun island to visit. It was a great two years.

Family?

- - I have a sister and two wonderful, and accomplished, nieces. And two soon to be in High School grand nephews.

How did you end up here?

- - After about 25 years of living in Seattle, on and off, I sold my house in 2016, packed everything into a storage unit, and spent six months traveling and hiking the El Camino in Spain. When I returned I came to visit a friend in Olympia. I liked the city and decided to settle here.

What do you enjoy doing now?

- - I have a massage therapy business (dormant for Covid) which I am spinning back up, I travel, I do volunteer work, read about 50 books a year, and am somewhat politically active.

What would you like to see the chapter do next?

- - I think the chapter is doing pretty good from what I have seen. I think I would like to explore more ways to do public outreach both for member recruitment and to raise awareness of Veteran issues.

Events and Links

January Nisqually Widows

Nisqually Widows will not be meeting in January. For information contact Linda Shaudis at 360-438-5095 or email her at mosserson@icloud.com. Nisqually Widows is open to all military widows, enlisted and officers. If you know of someone who may be interested feel free to contact Ruth Brigden at 360-438-5786 or Rmbrigden@gmail.com.

January Ladies Lunch Club

The January MOAA Ladies Luncheon will be at Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen in Tumwater, January 08 at 1200, noon. The address is 205 Cleveland Ave SE, Tumwater, WA 98501. The menu is available at: <https://tugboatannies.com/restaurant/>. 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.

January Board Meeting

January 10, 2023, 5:30 pm. Via Zoom. Contact DSlotwin@outlook.com for a Zoom invite.

Volunteer Opportunity - Air & Space Forces Association - 100th Anniversary - Round the World Flight

After almost six months en route, two Douglas World Cruiser Aircraft completed the first Around the World Flight landing at Sand Point Airfield near Seattle on September 28, 1924. The fliers were supported by 36 ships while flying with pontoons when crossing the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. This flight is considered the second most important aviation achievement, exceeded only by the Wright Brother first controlled flight at Kitty Hawk.

In commemoration of this historic event, planning has started on a **100th Anniversary** of the First Aerial Circumnavigation of the World, to be held on **Saturday, September 28, 2024.**

Volunteers are needed to be team leaders, or oversee an activity to make sure it is on track. If you are interested, please contact General (Retired) Frank Goodell at goodellwf@comcast.net.



Membership Notes

If you are serving or have served as an officer in any branch of U.S. service, and are not yet a member of the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter and would like to join, and/or if you are not currently a member of national MOAA and would like to join, just go to our chapter website (<https://olympiamoaa.org/join-us/>) and fill out the convenient online application form and you will be contacted by our membership chairperson. The first year of membership is free, so what are you waiting for?

Have you been thinking about upgrading your national MOAA membership from basic to premium, or even life membership? This would really help support MOAA's mission and give you access to many more MOAA resources and services from transition support to financial counseling, travel discounts to resource webinars. If you call 1-800-234-6622 and mention the code "grassroots", you can receive a 10% discount.

Additional Notes

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has put together a booklet about Fraud Prevention. It reviews fraud prevention, identification, reporting and additional resources to address common types of frauds targeting veterans and their family members. We have posted a link to this document on our Olympia MOAA website.



Be sure to add our chapter web page: <https://olympiamoaa.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: olympiamoaa.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 Monday, January 15, 2024 to willimosel@aol.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 17 gather at 11:30 am, lunch at 12:00 pm.

January Menu and Donation Options

Classic Cheeseburger w/ Fries	\$19.50	x		= \$
Chicken Caesar Salad w/ Garlic Bread	\$19.50	x		= \$
Portobello Mushroom Panini w/ Green Salad	\$19.50	x		= \$
Scholarship Fund Donation				= \$
Annual Dues \$20.00 Member, \$10.00 Surviving Spouse				= \$
Total Amount Mailed				= \$



The lunch cost is **\$19.50** - Dessert is Dutch Apple Cobbler. (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



Left to Right: Ro Marcus, Carrie Nielson, Allen Acosta, Dave “Slots” Slotwinski and Sam Cagle are sworn in as chapter’s new officers and board members for 2024 at the December meeting.

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. The Olympia Area MOAA is not liable or responsible for the content found in the links to other websites.