



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

Greetings. For March, our guest speakers were Daniel Pailthorp from Senator Murray's local office and Michael Snodgrass from Senator Cantwell's local office. Each was asked to speak and provide us an update of what their Senators were working on. Following their brief remarks, there was a number of questions and discussion and I have confirmed that both Senators are listed as co-sponsors on the Major Richard Star Act, S.344, 118th Congress (2023-2024).

At March's board meeting, Board member Dan Stalling submitted an excellent report on Orting and Shelton Veterans Villages. Lots of opportunities to work with the villages and to partner with other VSOs to offer support. Because of its location, we opted to focus our support on the village in Shelton and we are continuing to explore our options for supporting them. As we develop our plan, I anticipate one or more tours being arranged for us to see the village.

As the current state legislative session closes and the Governor signs the bills, many thanks to Jerry Fugich and the members of the Veterans Legislative Coalition that successfully worked to pass 13 bills that support active duty military, veterans and their families. In the past 10 years, the VLC has worked to get 133 Bills passed by the Washington State Legislature. Hooah! And, as a reminder, if you are not signed-up for MOAA's legislative alerts, please do so as April's Advocacy In Action isn't that far off!

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



Issue 04 - 2024

And, once again it is scholarship time and wow- the quality and number of this year's applicants are unbelievable. Of the 19 applicants, 50% have GPAs of 3.85 or higher and at least one is a class valedictorian. Thanks to your generosity, we can once again award five \$1000 scholarships.

Our next board meeting is via Teams at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 10 and our next chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17 at Panorama's seventeen 51 restaurant and bistro. Our social will begin at 11:30 AM with the meeting called to order at approximately 12:00 PM, followed by lunch and the presentation. Our guest speaker is tentatively Donna Handoe, President of Santa's Castle.

Lots going on and we look forward to seeing you at our April meeting. Remember, we're all recruiters, so bring a potential new member to the meeting.

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski

Note from National MOAA

Dena Kilgore, Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

Please be advised that the scheduled transition of our chapter dues payment portal is delayed. We had anticipated this transition would take place at midnight on March 1; however, we are still completing the testing of the updated solution. Please know that we are working diligently with our vendor to have this process up and running as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience. We are working to update the site with an indication to members that the solution is not operational at this time. We will keep you updated on the timeline for the system to be fully operational. Again, we apologize that this service will be temporarily unavailable and appreciate your understanding as we work to ensure a positive member experience when joining or renewing a chapter.

From the Desk of the Treasurer

As we Approach tax filing season, I want to remind you that our chapter is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As such, all of your donations in 2023 are tax deductible. If you would like an official letter from me capturing all of your donations, just contact me at willimosel@aol.com.

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 were due 1 Jan 2024.

Thanks to your incredibly generous donations, we did collect enough to award 5 \$1,000 scholarships again this year. While we continue to collect for our scholarship fund throughout the year, this quarter (Mar, Apr, May) donations are being collected for USO Northwest. Our goal for USO is \$1,400.

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

<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, willimose@aol.com

Treasurer's Report

Bill Moseley, Col, USAF, Ret. - Treasurer

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

During the Fall, the board of directors establishes the annual budget, including goals for each of our charities. These charities are supported solely by donations. Our past record of supporting our charities through monthly donations has been OUTSTANDING. So far this year, the trend continues. We recently exceeded our goal of \$3000 for the scholarship program by amassing over \$5000 for the third year in a row. This means that we can, again, offer five \$1000 scholarships to deserving high school students. Thanks for making this possible through your generous donations.

Our overall financial posture remains solid with total assets over \$12,391. We are also tracking to our budget for the year. This quarter, while we still encourage donations to our scholarship fund, our focus is on USO Northwest with a goal of \$1,400. However, with cuts in their budget over the past couple of years, they could use all that we can donate. Keep in mind that all of our donations to USO Northwest stays in the Northwest for support of our programs here. Please consider this as you plan your donations this year. We are focusing on USO for Mar-May. Let's beat our targeted goal. Thanks for your support!

| Charity | Balance as Of 03/31/24 | Amount Given YTD | 2024 Goal |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| USO | \$894.50 | \$0 | \$1400 |
| Fisher House | \$125.00 | \$0 | \$1000 |
| Santa's Castle | \$0 | \$0 | \$1200 |
| Scholarships | \$5029.50 | \$0 | \$3000 |
| JROTC Booster Club | | | \$500 |
| Sports Balls | | | 1000 balls |
| TOTALS | \$6049.00 | \$0 | \$7100 and 1000 balls |

Welcome Our Newest Member

Extending a warm welcome to our newest member this month: Benjamin Madera. Army Major Benjamin Madera is recently retired out of JBLM after a very rewarding career. He originally hails from the Bronx, and currently lives in Lacey with his wife, Mariana. Their son will be graduating from high school soon, but their twin girls are toddlers, so they will not be empty nesters for some time yet. Mariana has a great civilian job up at Winder Clinic on JBLM and her parents are in the area, making it very attractive for them to stay right here. Ben is applying for a technical graduate program with the University of Washington and looking for his next big challenge.

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.

If you are not currently on and wish to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, contact the Communications Director or his Assistant (listed on the Officers and Board Members banner) and they will happily add you to their list. Distribution is primarily via email with a small number of members still receiving newsletters via snail mail.

Support Your USO

Submitted by: Bill Moseley, Col, USAF, Ret. - Treasurer

Since 1966, the USO Northwest has served over 4 million active duty service members, veterans, and their families with centers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Joint Base Lewis McChord (at the Shali Center on McChord and at a center located in the America's Credit Union building on Fort Lewis), Portland Airport USO Center, plus with the use of the mobile units. Last year, USO Incorporation merged USO Northwest under their umbrella, however; the mission, services, and programs of USO Northwest remain basically unchanged. The USO Northwest is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that relies solely on the generosity of individuals and organizations like the Olympia Area Chapter of MOAA. With over 300 volunteers in the Northwest region, the USO guarantees that your donations go directly to the services and programs benefiting service members and their families. This is one of the four organizations that your MOAA chapter supports annually through your kind and generous donations. So; during the next three months, we ask that you consider expressing your gratitude toward the world's finest military, its veterans and their families by generously donating to USO Northwest. They have guaranteed that 100 percent of your donation will remain in the USO Northwest service area. Our goal this year is \$1400.

Member of the Month – Robert Bower

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

Where are you from?

◆ Born and raised in Olympia, WA

Branch of Service?

◆ United States Coast Guard

Specialty/What did you do in the military?

◆ Served on a medium endurance cutter out of Astoria OR doing law enforcement, search and rescue and watching over the Japanese and Russians fishing off the coast and was Executive Officer on a sea going buoy tender out of Long Beach, CA. Also had a tour in Hawaii in the joint rescue center.

Most responsible position was as Executive Officer at the Coast Guard Personnel and Pay Center, 100 civilian employees and 100 military. at the time 38,000 active duty, 15,000 reserves and 25,000 retired - disbursing approximately 1.5 billion a year.

I spent 20 years active duty and 4 years at the Academy in New London, CT. Returned here in 1989 and now live on the property next to the house where I grew up. I am a direct descendent of Michael T. Simmons who brought the first wagon train here in the 1840s. My father's family came down out of Canada in 1869.

Family?

◆ My family had Ellison Oyster Company located about 4 lots over from my present house. Started in 1925 and sold in 1988. My wife Joan and I have two children who both live in state.

How did you end up here?

◆ My father's house burned down in 1988 with an explosion and we returned here to help my father. We own and operate a group A water system approved for up to 50 connections. I am a certified water distribution specialist. We also operate Four B's Farm which sells Holly, Honey and hand made wood products. Joan and I are both ordained ministers.

What do you enjoy doing now?

◆ When not fixing broken water pipes, I enjoy wood turning.

What would you like to see the chapter do next?

◆ Enjoy the things you do for kids!



CDR, USCG, Ret. Robert Bower and family.



Events and Links

📌 April Nisqually Widows

The Nisqually Military Widows will meet Tuesday April 16th in the Boardroom of Panorama's Seventeen51 restaurant. We gather at 11AM for socializing and ordering lunch off the menu. Lunch is served at 11:30.

📞 **For reservations contact:**

Linda Shaudis at 360-438-5095
 or email – mosserson@icloud.com
 No later than - Friday April 12th

📞 **For additional information contact:**

Ruth Brigden at 360-438-5786
 or email rmbrigden@gmail.com.

Nisqually Military Widows is open to all military widows, both officer and enlisted, in this area.

📌 April Ladies Lunch Club

The April MOAA Ladies Luncheon will be at the Martin Way Diner in Lacey, April 8 at 1200, noon. The address is 2423 4th Ave E, Lacey, WA. The menu is available at: <https://martinwaydiner.com/>

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.

Resource Links

📄 [WDVA Fast Facts - Veterans Services Programs](#)

📄 [WDVA 2023 Year in Review](#)

🔗 [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Thurston County, WA](#)

📌 April Board Meeting

April 10, 2024, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

[Next Board Meeting Join Link \(MS Teams\)](#)

Contact DSlotwin@outlook.com for a TMs invite or follow link above.

Connect With Us!

Website



Facebook Group



Events and Links - continued

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 Brothers 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.

UPDATES

Washington State Patriotic Day

The 2024 Washington State Patriotic Day was a rousing success! It took place 09 March at 2pm at the Pioneer Middle School in DuPont, WA. This free event, hosted by the Puget Sound Military Order of World Wars featured the I Corps Band playing patriotic music, an excellent speech by LTG (Ret) Keith Dayton and the annual Massing of the Colors. Our MOAA Chapter was represented by Doug White and Mark Wiseman marching in the Massing of the Colors. Chapter member Carrie Nielson was also the marshaling officer for all the flag units participating in the event.



The WSPD was well attended with many participating color guards.



Douglas White, LtCol, USAF, Ret. (left) and Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret. (right) represent Olympia MOAA in WSPD.

2024 Olympia MOAA Scholarship

We have just concluded another successful scholarship campaign by reaching students in most of the high schools in our service area. This year, we placed our scholarship application on our website, visited many of the schools in person, and received 29 applications. Of those, 19 submitted complete packages which we will judge over the next two months. Since we raised \$5000, we will be selecting 5 students and awarding each \$1000.

2024 Advocacy in Action Issues From MOAA Website

Support Combat-Injured Veterans

The Ask: The Major Richard Star Act would end an unjust pay offset that prevents tens of thousands of retired service-members from receiving the compensation they deserve. [Ask Congress to include the bill in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act.](#)

Learn More: [MOAA, Military Coalition Lead Star Act Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill](#)

MOAA Resources: [Star Act Issue Paper \(PDF Download\)](#) | [More on Concurrent Receipt](#) | [MOAA FAQs](#)

Protect TRICARE For Life

The Ask: This earned benefit is under threat -- unfair fees and cost shares now under consideration are misguided cost-saving options. Ask Congress to reject these ideas not just for current retirees, but to protect future generations of service-members. [Share your TRICARE For Life story with MOAA.](#)

Learn More: [How MOAA Works to Stop the Threat Before It Starts](#)

MOAA Resources: [TRICARE For Life Issue Paper \(PDF Download\)](#) | [Transitioning Into Medicare and TRICARE For Life \(Member-Exclusive Publication\)](#)


Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing

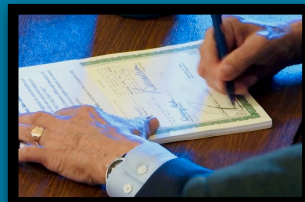
The Ask: Ever-growing housing costs are just one of the financial challenges faced by service members and their families, especially young enlisted personnel. [Ask Congress to ensure BAH again covers 100% of housing costs.](#)

Learn More: [Help MOAA Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing](#)

MOAA Resources: [BAH Issue Paper \(PDF Download\)](#) | VIDEO: [The Push to Restore BAH Continues](#)

 [Click Here to Download the Latest WA State Legislative Update](#)

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



Governor Inslee signs bills 1862 and 2SHB 2014 into law as members of VLC and WDVA, including our own Allen Acosta look on.

MOAA State Legislative Advocacy Summary

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

The Veterans Legislative Coalition actively tracked over 30 bills before the House and Senate during the current Washington State Legislative session. They attended hearings, provided testimony, spoke to representatives and staffers, and tracked status, as appropriate for each bill as it moved through the process. We kept lines of communication open to inform chapter members of critical issues and stood ready for calls to action as needed. Ultimately 13 bills were passed by the Washington State Legislature that will help Active Duty Military and Veterans. In the last 10 years the Veterans Legislative Coalition (of Washington State) has worked to get 133 Washington State bills passed. The VLC is a team effort that gets legislation passed. Next session Jerry Fugich and the rest of the team hope a bill is passed that will establish more County Located Service Officers. Having a claim filed by a VA Certified service office can be critical.

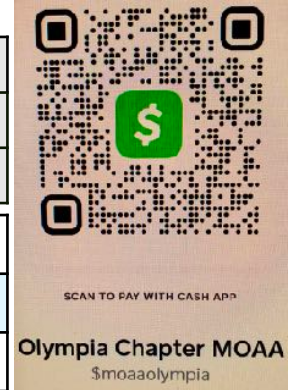
Meeting Information and Meal Request

Venue: *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro* - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Monday, April 15, 2024 to dougwhite1936@gmail.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 17 gather at 11:30 am and lunch at noon.

April Menu and Donation Options

| | | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|------|
| Tuna Melt w/ Fries | \$19.50 | x | | = \$ |
| California Cobb Salad w/ Grilled Chicken | \$19.50 | x | | = \$ |
| Butternut Squash Ravioli w/ Garlic Bread (Vegetarian) | \$19.50 | x | | = \$ |
| Scholarship Fund Donation | | | | = \$ |
| USO Northwest | | | | = \$ |
| Annual Dues \$20.00 Member, \$10.00 Surviving Spouse | | | | = \$ |
| Total Amount Mailed | | | | = \$ |



The lunch cost is **\$19.50** - Dessert is Boston Cream Pie. (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: dougwhite1936@gmail.com
OR mail payment and confirmation to: Olympia MOAA, PO Box 5957, Lacey, WA 98509-5957



Daniel Pailthorp (left) from Senator Murray’s local office and Michael Snodgrass (right) from Senator Cantrell’s local office.



Olympia MOAA members enjoying engaged discussions during March 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.