



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



ADVOCACY FOCUS
MEMBER OF MONTH



DONATE - PAY DUES
SCHOLARSHIP



THIS MONTH'S MEETING DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE

THE BUGLE

President's Note

Greetings. Approximately 25 members attended our April meeting and were treated to an excellent presentation by Santa's Castle President, Donna Handoe. Donna provided an excellent update on Santa's Castle operations. They had one of their biggest years ever as they continued, through a satellite operation, to expand their efforts to serve the greater Bremerton area Navy community. This year the "Castle" will celebrate its 30th Anniversary of bringing cheer to the children of military families in need. The Castle is run 100% by volunteers. There is no paid staff and all toys and operations are funded through numerous donations, fundraisers and grants. It is my belief that our chapter has been with them from year 1 and that we are one of their oldest donor organizations. In addition to our monetary and sports ball donations, a member of our chapter serves on the Castle's board and several members volunteer as Santa's Elves during the busy shopping season.

At April's board meeting we continued our discussion of how best to support the Shelton Veterans Village. Dan Stalling has arranged for a couple of tours and I suspect once we get a chance to look over the village and verify needs, we'll be able to build an action for support.

With the state legislative session closed, the State Council's attention turned towards the other Washington and this year's Advocacy in Action. It was great to see that among those in Congress who MOAA recognized for their support of military/ veterans' issues were Representative Adam Smith



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 05 - 2024



and Betsy Dudley from Representative Marilyn Strickland’s Washington DC office. And, as a reminder, if you are not signed-up for MOAA’s legislative alerts, please do so, as every email, card, and letter counts.

Our scholarship committee met and we have approved a slate of recipients for our 2024-2025 scholarships. A list of those selected will soon be published and, as in the past, we will invite each to join us at one of our Spring/ Summer luncheons. The quality of this year’s applicants was phenomenal.

For the Chapter, more accolades as our chapter, our newsletter and our website were all recognized as categorical 5-star Level of Excellence Award recipients. A total of 6 WA State Chapters were recognized as 5-star LOE Recipients and seven Chapters received recognition for either their newsletter, website, or both. And, the app is just about ready to go live!

Our next board meeting is via Teams at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 8. Unfortunately, we are deferring our next chapter meeting until June. A number of board members will be unavailable and our scheduled guest speaker, Tammie Perreault, NW Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office, will also be unavailable due to a medical issue. Tammie has graciously agreed to be our October speaker and I am working with MOAA National HQ to see if we can get Paul Frost as our June speaker to discuss how the various supplemental plans work with Medicare, Tricare, and Tricare for Life.

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

Dave “Slots” Slotwinski



National MOAA online dues payment system is back online.

2024 Officers and Board Members

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

1st VP (Programs): Allen Acosta,
MAJ, USA, Ret.
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2nd VP (Membership):
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847-361-7917
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Director

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

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

2024 Board of Directors:
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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: <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, candnielson@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 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 \$14,790. 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. Thanks for your support!

Charity	Balance as Of 04/31/24	Amount Given YTD	2024 Goal
USO	\$2033.50	\$0	\$1400
Fisher House	\$125.00	\$0	\$1000
Santa's Castle	\$0	\$0	\$1200
Scholarships	\$5059.50	\$0	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club			\$500
Sports Balls			1000 balls
TOTALS	\$7218.00	\$0	\$7100 and 1000 balls

Welcome Our Newest Member

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest member this month: Michael Minson. Michael was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. His father was in military service, so he did not have any rooted place. He joined the Army and became a helicopter pilot. Michael went to Vietnam three times, Korea three times and made many more moves. After 28 years of service, he decided to retire from the Army, and went into Civil Service for 22 years. He retired again in 2022. Michael is married to Mia and has two sons; his biological son lives in San Francisco and his adopted son lives in Littleton, CO. Michael and Mia moved to Lacey about two months ago from Clarksville, TN, to the Ovation at Oak Tree 55+ community. He enjoys doing woodwork, bird watching and some traveling.



Mike Minson in his younger years.

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.

Member of the Month – Linda Shaudis

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

Linda Shaudis is a Panorama resident, a long time Surviving Spouse member of our Olympia Area MOAA Chapter and an active member of the Nisqually Military Widows.

Early Days

◆ My late husband and I were both USAR second lieutenants in the 361st General Hospital in Philadelphia. He was a dental student in the pre-professional MSC program and I was an Army nurse. He outranked me by about three months so guess who had to salute first?

Specialty/What did you do in the military?

◆ In 1964 Tom's status changed to Captain, Active Duty U.S. Army Dental Corps. We were assigned to Ft. Lewis, and my plan to transfer to the Reserve General Hospital in Seattle was thwarted when I became pregnant and had to resign my commission.

How did you end up here?

◆ Seventeen years and one tour in Viet Nam later we returned to JBLM where we retired and put down roots in Lakewood. The plan was to fully retire to Panorama when keeping up the house and all that entailed became too much, but darn, Tom wasn't able to make that move. Sadly, Tom died in 2014 as a result of his time in Viet Nam and I became a Gold Star Wife.

Family?

◆ There is one son, born at the old Madigan, a former Air Force Reserve Flight Medic who lives in Oregon with his wife and rescue Akita.



Linda Shaudis at the Panorama Pea Patch with her gigantic sunflower.

Events and Links

May Nisqually Widows

The Nisqually Military Widows will meet Tuesday May 21st 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 May 17th



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.

May Ladies Lunch Club

When: May 13 at 1200, noon
Where: Anthony's Hearthfire Grill
1675 Marine Dr NE,
Olympia, WA 98501

https://www.anthonys.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/OL-HF_Lunch-4_11.pdf

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.

May Board Meeting

May 8, 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.

Resource Links

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

 [WDVA 2023 Year in Review](#)

Save The Date & TBD

- ◆ **May 10** Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- ◆ **May 12** Mothers Day
- ◆ **May 18** Armed Forces Day
- ◆ **May 23** Shelton NJROTC Awards Ceremony
Present MOAA NJROTC medal and check for booster club. (At least 2 officers)
- ◆ **May 27** Memorial Day
Service at the Capitol Rotunda @ 10am
- ◆ **June 20** USO Golf Tournament
Anticipate fundraiser in conjunction with event again this year.
- ◆ **Late July / Early August** NG OCS Commissioning
Details are pending - Usually, we present a set of bars, and talk about MOAA with these new National Guard officers.



Website



Facebook Group



Connect With Us!

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

Support Your USO

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

We continue to focus our donations this month on the USO. As a volunteer, I get to see, firsthand, your donations at work. For example, during the week of Apr 15th, the Shali Center fed over 3,000 deploying soldiers. USO Northwest is committed to keeping your donations in the Northwest so that they can continue to provide this level of support. Thanks for your continued support!

**With one more month to go
we have already collected \$2033.50
towards our goal this year of \$1400.**

Let's see how much more we can contribute to show our support for those currently serving.

2024 Olympia MOAA Scholarship

We 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, 18 submitted complete, qualifying packages. Since we raised \$5000, we will be selecting 5 students and awarding each \$1000. The scholarship committee submitted its report to the board at the end of April for approval and we hope to see scholarship recipients join us at our May and/or June chapter meetings.

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>

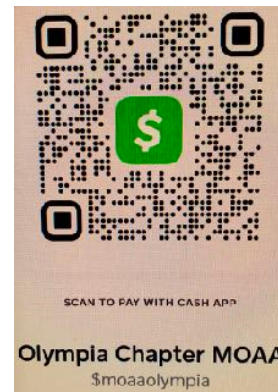
Donation Options

The May Chapter Meeting has been deferred until June because of conflicts for several board members as well as the invited guest speaker.

Donation opportunities for this quarter remain.

Donation Options

Scholarship Fund Donation	= \$
USO Northwest	= \$
Annual Dues \$20.00 Member, \$10.00 Surviving Spouse	= \$
Total Amount Mailed	= \$



Tear line for mail in payments

The treasurer encourages members to send in payment for any dues or donations by mail or via CashApp. Please include note of donation selection or dues in CashApp payment description. Payment can be check, CashApp or exact change in cash.

✉ Mail payment and confirmation to:

Olympia MOAA,
 PO Box 5957
 Lacey, WA 98509-5957



New member Michael Minson listens to Donna Handroe's presentation about Santa's Castle.

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