



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 and our best wishes that you had a fantastic Thanksgiving Holiday. We had a small turnout of 22 attend our November monthly and annual meeting and 2-Bell Ceremony honoring chapter members who passed on in 2024. Those recognized during our 2-Bell Ceremony were Ben Adkins, Maj, USAF; Edward Brady, COL, USA; David Minton, CAPT, USN; and June Shaffer, Maj, USAF.

During the 2024 Annual Review, a detailed history of our chapter's activities was highlighted and, for the size of our chapter, it was impressive. Among the 2024 highlights were donations of \$1200 to Santa's Castle, \$1250 to the Fisher House, and \$2000 to the USO. We also awarded 5-\$1000 scholarships and raised \$1020 at the USO Golf Tournament. Noteworthy 2024 speakers included the local legislative liaisons from Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell's offices, a presentation by Paul Frost, from MOAA HQ on health care supplements, a presentation on the economic impact of JBLM, as well as a NATO/ Ukraine Update. Membership, Legislative Advocacy, Communications and Social Media Activities were also showcased as were our MOAA 5-Star Chapter of Excellence Award and 5-Star awards for our newsletter and website.

At our annual meeting we voted for and approved our budget for 2025, approved retaining dues at \$20/\$10 and approved the officer and board slate. Congratulations to all and the complete slate is posted further in the Bugle. If there is one weakness, it is in membership and we are committed to getting our numbers up in 2025. Copies of the slides used in the annual update will be posted to our website.

Five Star

Award Winning Newsletter

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 12 - 2024



2024 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

On Nov 23, we collected the sports balls, inflated them and transported them to Santa's Castle. Our total this year was 847 collected with 843 delivered to Santa's Castle. Many thanks to Ron, and the Olympia Elks for letting us use their Lodge for our location and to those who assisted- Ro, Carrie, Bill, Sam, Barbara, Allen, and Allen's daughter- Sunami. Also, many thanks to Lorri Gilchrist, Dana Clay and all the WSCOC MOAA Chapters that helped in our effort. Special thanks to Academy Sports and Mr. Ken Hicks for their substantial donations. Per Santa's Castle, the value of our sports ball donation was \$15,520. HOOAH!

As a reminder, if you are not signed up to receive the MOAA Newsletter and Legislative alerts, please do so. On our website, we have posted "how to instructions" for signing-up to receive the Legislative Action Center alerts and the prepared response letters for our Senators and Representative. Also, at a future meeting, we will be demonstrating how to sign-up to comment on legislation pending in the WA State Legislature. In addition, please check the status of your MOAA National Membership to ensure you are active with National and check your dues status.

In addition to membership, another challenge we face is meeting attendance. To break even, the restaurant needs a minimum of 25 attendees. For the last 2 months, we had less than 25 attendees, but needed to pay the minimum. This is not sustainable for either the restaurant or us and, consequently we have been asked to change the way we order so instead of having special meals created for our luncheons, we are being asked to order off the menu. This is a major board discussion item, and if we decide to change our meal ordering, the new procedure will start in January.

Overall, 2023 was an outstanding year for our chapter and I wish to thank each of you for your generosity, be it time, talents or treasury. Without you, we would have never accomplished what we did. We look forward to not only seeing you at our December Holiday luncheon but also look forward to hearing your ideas for making our chapter stronger and more appealing to new members. Remember, we're all recruiters, so bring a potential new member to the meeting.

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski



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

1stVP (Programs): Allen Acosta
Maj, USA, Ret
360-556-4642

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

Secretary: Roselyn "Ro" Marcus
CPT, USA

Treasurer: William "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, USA, Ret
360-999-0020

Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret
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
253-686-8966

November Chapter Meeting

At our November chapter meeting, we conducted our official annual chapter meeting. This included a solemn 2-Bell Ceremony to honor those members we lost in 2024: Ben Adkins, Edward Brady, Dave Minton, and June Shaffer.

President Dave Slotwinski (Slots) provided a summary of our 2024 achievements and 2025 plans. Our chapter received 5-Star Communications Awards for Newsletter and Website Excellence and was recognized as a 5-Star Chapter of Excellence for the 14th year in a row. We continued our excellent community service projects, including awarding 5 \$1,000 scholarships. We continued to hold monthly meetings with interesting speakers and excellent lunches at reasonable prices. Jerry Fugich kept the chapter appraised of calls to action to support national and state legislative matters impacting the military family.

During the meeting we approved the 2025 budget and a motion to maintain our dues at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for Surviving Spouse members per year. We also approved the 2025 Slate of Officers and Board Members, who will be inducted at the December meeting:

Officers, One year term

President	Dave Slotwinski	
1 st VP	Dave Slotwinski	
2 nd VP	Carrie Nielson	
Treasurer	William Moseley	
Secretary	Ro Marcus	
Past President	Carrie Nielson	not elected
Communications Team (Newsletter, Facebook, Website, etc)	Carrie Nielson, Dave Slotwinski, and Mark Wiseman	not elected

Board of Directors, Three year term

Re-elected	DeFrance Clarke
Newly elected	Christine McManus
Continuing	Doug White
	Allen Acosta
	Mark Wiseman
	Dan Stalling
	Tristan Atkins
	Sam Cagle



Treasurer’s Report:

Checking account balance: \$. 7,380.02
 Savings account balance: \$ 3,652.65
 Total: \$11,032.67

Note from 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.



Treasurer Bill Moseley, Chaplain Doug White, Janet Foutch inflating sports balls at the Elks.

Charity	Balance as Of 11/30/24	Disbursed YTD	2024 Goal
USO	\$273.00	\$2000.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0	\$1250.00	\$1200
Santa’s Castle	\$1,535.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$2,249.50	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	Over 800	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$4061.36	\$7750.00 and over 800 balls	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Member of the Month – Retired Navy Commander Christine McManus

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Retired Commander Chris McManus joined the Olympia Area MOAA chapter when she retired in 2017. She lives on a small hobby farm with her sister, nephew, five chickens, one dog, one cat and four goats in West Olympia. Since retiring she has spent time caring for family, learning about small farms, reconnecting with local friends, exploring the local area and volunteering

Where are you from? Chris grew up in Poulsbo, on the Kitsap Peninsula.

Branch of Service? US Navy

Specialty/What did you do in the military? She was an SH-60B helicopter pilot for the first 10 years or so, then became an Aviation Engineering Duty Officer.

Favorite duty station/assignment? NAS Sigonella in Sicily - certified in SCUBA with a friend and did a bunch of diving in the Mediterranean!

How did you end up here? Chris’ sister and parents had lived in Olympia for years and about a year before she retired Chris and her sister bought the property on which they now live.

What do you enjoy doing now? Cooking, baking, reading, volunteering, riding their bike (weather depending!).

Any ideas about what you would like to see the chapter do in 2025? Increase membership.

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.

2025 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 2025. We launched our program in the school districts at the beginning of the school year and will award the scholarships in the May-June timeframe. The application form is available on our website at: <https://olympiamoaa.org/scholarships-2/> and complete applications are due February 01, 2025.

Santa's Castle Sports Ball Drive

On November 23, our 2024 sports ball drive culminated in the ball drop and inflate event held at the Olympia Elks Lodge. A dozen chapter members, family and friends gathered to collect, inflate, count and bag the balls to then load them into vehicles to be delivered to Santa's Castle on JBLM. We had generous donations from Olympic Peninsula and Kitsap MOAA Chapters, from First Command, Olympia Elks, a joint donation from Puget Sound MOWW and Mt Rainier MOAA Chapters, from many of our own chapter members and the local community, as well as Mr. Ken Hicks and Academy Sports. Thanks to all of that generous support, our 2024 sports ball drive exceeded last year's record and yielded over 800 balls for Santa's Castle to give out to military families to brighten their holidays this year. We even took in additional boxes of donated new toys along with the balls to add to the joy.



December Events and Links

Nisqually Widows - Third Tuesday of the Month

Where: Boardroom of the Seventeen51 restaurant at Panorama

When: December 17, Gathering @ 1100, Lunch served @ 1130

For reservations contact:

Linda Shaudis at 360-438-5095
or email – mosserson@icloud.com
No later than the Friday before meeting

For additional information contact:

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

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

Ladies Lunch Club

When: December 9 at 1200, noon

Where: Mercato's

111 Market St NE
Olympia, WA

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.

Board Meeting

January 8, 2024, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

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

Contact DSlotwin@outlook.com or mark.wiseman@olympiamoaa.org for a TMs invite or follow link above.

Resource Links

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

[WDVA 2023 Year in Review](#)

Notable Dates

- **12/01:** Civil Air Patrol Established, 1941
- **12/07:** Pearl Harbor Day
- **12/09:** Ladies Lunch, 1200, Mercato's
- **12/11:** Chapter Meeting, 1200, Panorama
- **12/13:** National Guard Birthday
- **12/17:** Nisqually Widows Lunch, 1100, Panorama
- **12/25:** Merry Christmas!

Website



Connect !

Facebook Group



MOAA Advocacy

From MOAA Website

Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center

January 04, 2022 Jon Hicks/Getty Images

By MOAA Staff

If you frequently engage with your lawmakers on issues key to MOAA's mission, first please accept the sincere appreciation from everyone here at MOAA – your efforts are critical to our success protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities.

Second, you may notice some changes at our [Legislative Action Center](#) and on individual "Take Action" messages. Our new system is designed to make it even easier to reach out to your lawmakers on these issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging on in the halls of Congress.

Take Action Center Instructional Video: <https://youtu.be/prcIYFHFbj0>

MOAA's Member Service Center can field all manner of technical questions about the website; visit [MOAA.org/contact](https://moaa.org/contact) for full details on the best way to get in touch. Have a question about the bills themselves, or about MOAA's advocacy work? Email legis@moaa.org.

GREAT NEWS AND YET NEEDS OUR ACTION & CAN BE SENT TO THE SENATE VIA OUR MOAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER. We've all been working so hard for this & note MOAA is mentioned in the last paragraph as well.

*From Cheryl Toland , Vice President Surviving Spouse Liaison
Washington State Council of Chapters*

From: Elizabeth Dole Foundation-U.S. House passes landmark bill for veteran and caregiver community.

"Major news came from the U.S. Capitol tonight as the House of Representatives passed the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act!*

Senator Dole and I were proud to be in the House Chamber as 389 Members cast their vote for this legislation that will be transformative for the millions of veterans, caregivers, survivors, and families we serve.

Now, we need your help. Please [call your U.S. Senators](#) to tell them that this version of the bill is ready to be passed by the Senate and sent to the President to be signed into law. We've asked for your calls, and your support is working! Passage of the bill will bring much needed care and benefits to caregivers and veterans nationwide. They simply cannot wait any longer for this life-changing support. The Senate must pass the bill before the new Congress is sworn in early next year.

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation has been working with a dedicated coalition of partners for more than a year to deliver the promises of this bill, and we are grateful to each of them for their collaboration and determination, including [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#), [Tragedy assistance Program for Survivors](#), [Wounded Warrior Project](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#), [The American Legion](#), [Military Officers Association of America](#), [Disabled American Veterans](#), [AARP](#), [I AM ALS](#), and [The ALS Association](#).

Please join us in getting this bill across the finish line. [Call your Senators today!](#) "

MOAA Western Region Training Event



On 15-16 November, four officers of Olympia Area MOAA Chapter attended a MOAA Leaders Workshop in Reno, NV. This event was attended by MOAA leaders from chapters and councils in WA, OR, ID, CA, UT and NV, along with national leadership, making it a great networking opportunity. The workshop included guest speakers, panel discussion, breakout sessions and town hall discussion time with the MOAA CEO, Brian Kelly. They put out a lot of good information, which Olympia officers will be reviewing for possible action. They showed a “Never Stop Serving” video that featured a photo from our 2023 Sports Ball Drive. Video can be found on the MOAA website under Affiliate Chapters and Councils page. They mentioned that you do not have to be a MOAA member to use the MOAA Legislative Action Center, so you can encourage your friends and family members to also sign up for legislative alerts and the use of the website to communicate with legislators about military supportive bills. Also learned that MOAA is about to roll out a new on-line system to use for submitting dues and donations from members to chapters. The system is called Cheddar+. It has been thoroughly vetted and MOAA plans to pay the required fees and assist with setup. The speakers emphasized that MOAA is an association of officers but our mission is about the entire military family, not just officers. We serve and advocate for all.

Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) Meeting

While they were in Reno, NV, for the Region Training Event, the WA State MOAA leaders assembled for a quick WSCOC quarterly meeting. The assembled group decided to discontinue the WSCOC website and the \$50 activity photo incentive program. They also decided to maintain the current level of dues from chapters to council. We did have an interesting discussion to consider at all chapters: planning to assist military member’s survivors should consider not only spouses, but surviving next of kin for those who do not have spouses. This was a quick meeting of professional colleagues.



WSCOC meeting attendees

Virtual Chapter Update

There are now seven virtual chapters in MOAA that are organized based on shared interests. They are Surviving Spouses, Nurses, Chaplains, Lawyers, Public Health Services, Spouses & Family, and Public Affairs & Communications. Members can belong to multiple chapters – geographic and/or virtual. Members are encouraged to participate in the Chaplain chapter if they were/are a military chaplain and/or if they are the chaplain for their geographic chapter. Similarly, members are encouraged to participate in the Public Affairs and Communications chapter if they are/were PAO's in the military or they perform those functions in their chapter. These chapters offer another opportunity to network with other members of the military family, share ideas and learn valuable information.

Dual Military Couples

If both members of a married couple are military officers and they would both like to be life members of MOAA, national MOAA says the second lifetime membership will only cost \$100 – what a great package deal!

Benefits Open Season

Have you had any changes to your medical, dental, vision needs? Has there been any change in your family's circumstances? Now is the time to look at your current coverage and determine if it meets your needs. TRICARE Open Season is Nov. 11–Dec. 10, 2024. TRICARE Open Season lets you

change your healthcare plan for next year. Changes you make during this time start on Jan. 1, 2025. Also starting Jan. 1, 2025, new T-5 regional contracts will take effect in the U.S. TRICARE Open Season applies to you if you have or qualify for TRICARE Prime, US Family Health Plan, or TRICARE Select. For more information, go to the Tricare website, or check out relevant webinars from MOAA, but act quickly.

Military Retirees can enroll in a Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) plan or make changes to an existing plan during Open Season, which started November 10, and ends December 9, 2024. FEDVIP program is run by OPM. For more information, go to benefeds.gov website.



800+ sports balls ready for delivery to Santa's Castle!



800 Sports balls delivered to the "Castle!"

Thank you for your generosity!

Lunch and Donation Options

Venue: *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro* - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, Dec 6, 2024 to dougwhite1936@gmail.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: **Wednesday, December 11** gather at 11:30 am and lunch at noon.

December Menu and Donation Options

Roasted Sirloin	\$19.50	X	= \$
Roasted Turkey	\$19.50	X	= \$
Butternut Squash Turnover	\$19.50	X	= \$
<i>All served with Caesar Salad, Roasted Red Potatoes, Buttered Broccoli, and Pumpkin Pie</i>			



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

The lunch cost is **\$19.50** -. (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 to:
dougwhite1936@gmail.com

OR

✉ Mail payment and confirmation to:

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

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.

National MOAA Charities

If you are looking for good causes to support in addition to our chapter's excellent regular charities, National MOAA can offer you two great options.

The MOAA Foundation provides life changing programs preventing and protecting active-duty service members, veterans, military spouses, caregivers, survivors, and families, regardless of rank or branch of service from falling into crisis. The foundation provides a Crisis Relief Program. In times of emergencies, like a natural disaster, it can provide financial relief quickly to community members who need it most.

The MOAA Scholarship Fund has provided a unique approach to financial aid for students of military families for over 75 years. Through interest-free loans, the fund has maintained fiscal stability year after year. While these loans are the fund's backbone, it also has been able to significantly increase grant allocations thanks to generous donors who recognize the value in higher education.

[Learn More](#)

[Donate Now](#)