



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 Holiday Season. We had a nice turnout for our December Holiday luncheon. Past Chapter President LtCol Mark Fouch began the meeting by presiding over the installation of the Chapter's Officers and new Board members. Following lunch, we were entertained by Entertainment Explosion who provided a program of traditional, fun holiday music. After their performance, it is hard not to be in the holiday spirit. And, in attendance was Jim Williams, CDR, USCG (ret), our newest member. Please be sure to greet Jim and get to know him at your future meetings.

As the New Year approaches, as a reminder, Congress and the State Legislature will both be in session. 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. For the state legislature, our January 15 guest speaker will be Ro Marcus, Senior Legal Counselor for the Governor's Office of Financial Management who will walk us through how to sign up to testify remotely and other tips for working with the state legislature.

Last month, I wrote about the challenges we face with meeting attendance and breakeven costs for the *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro*. For 2024, we were charged \$18.50 per meal, which included tax and gratuity and the chapter added \$1 to cover costs for guest speakers. Unfortunately, the actual cost per meal to Panorama was \$23.00. After taxes and gratuity, \$13.40 was left to cover meal expenses, causing the restaurant to lose \$9.60 per meal- not a sustainable operation. Consequently, we were faced with two choices- keep the meal cost down or significantly increase the luncheon price. We opted to keep prices down.

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 01 - 2025

14 Consecutive Years **Five Star**
Level of Excellence Chapter

For 2025, we will be ordering off a limited table menu. Each month there will be a salad option, a sandwich option with choice of side and a specialty choice. The available items will rotate monthly and our price after tax and gratuity will be \$17.85 but would not include either beverages or dessert. To include coffee and tea, the cost would be an additional \$3 and we agreed on a final price of \$20 (yes, we dropped dessert.) The Chapter will once again add an additional \$1 to cover the meals of guests, so your cost will be \$21.

The meal selections for January are Mandarin Salad, Reuben Grill, or Mac and Cheese. For February, the selections are Chamber's Salad, Smoked Turkey Sandwich, or Roasted Veggie Fettuccine. Although it will be beneficial to know the numbers for each selection, it is not essential. Individual orders will be taken upon arrival from the limited menu. The restaurant will process all of our orders at the same time so meals should come out together.

Overall, 2024 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. To all, Happy Holidays, see you in January.

Next board meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 AM @ Panorama's *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro*. Don't forget the new meal procedure!

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski



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

2025 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

Secretary: Roselyn "Ro" Marcus
CPT, USA
360-561-7451
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison

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

2025 Board of Directors

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

Daniel Stalling, LTC, USA, Ret
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Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret
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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

Christine McManus, CDR, USN, Ret
425-501-5812
Assistant Communications Director

Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret
360-556-4642

December Chapter Meeting

At our December chapter meeting, past chapter president Mark Foutch inducted our 2025 officers and board members to kick the meeting off right. We had a truly delicious meal and then we were entertained by Entertainment Explosion. They reminded us musically that “the holidays are no time to diet.”



Entertainment Explosion performs at the December Chapter Meeting.



Welcome Our Newest Chapter Member

A big welcome to our newest chapter member, retired Coast Guard Commander James G Williams! Jim and his wife, Linda Clary, are now residing in Panorama. They have been gradually moving their way up the west coast from California. Chapter member Dick Sparks invited Jim to our December meeting and Jim enjoyed it enough to decide to join the chapter. Next time you see Jim and Linda at a chapter event or around Panorama, be sure to welcome them to the area and to the chapter.

Member of the Month – Retired Air Force LtCol Mark Foutch

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Retired LtCol Mark Foutch is a lifetime member of MOAA, and a long-time member of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter, who lives with his spouse, Janet, on the east side of Olympia. Mark is a former Mayor of Olympia and he and Janet are very active in the community. His primary focus has been on family since retiring, with time spent on community service and home restoration as well.

Where are you from? Springfield and Decatur, Illinois, by way of San Mateo and San Jose, California.

Branch of Service? Air Force

Specialty/What did you do in the military? Mostly Public Affairs; finished in the DOD newsroom at The Pentagon. One tour as an OTS instructor at Lackland AFB, San Antonio.

Favorite duty station/assignment? Four-plus years as the PAO for 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, UK.

Family? Blessed by my 2001 marriage to Janet Charles, plus my two grown sons and four grown granddaughters, with a just-arrived great grandson in Seattle, plus Janet's two grown daughters (one here, one in Albuquerque), plus her two grandsons and their wives, all local--one of those couples produced her now-16year old great grandson.

How did you end up here? Was PAO for 25th Air Division in the NORAD Region blockhouse at McChord AFB. Was invited onto the Chamber of Commerce/Olympia Yacht Club "Foofaraw" cruise to Island Home and bbq salmon lunch, done every year to honor military folks in the area. (When I was mayor I'd go out there to welcome the latest crowd of honorees and tout the area as a great place to retire.) My first wife's families were multigenerational notables in the area (the Bigelows, for one example). I quickly grew to love the place and wherever I was sent I always wanted to come back here.

What do you enjoy doing now? I read a lot; always have. Still maintain memberships in AF Public Affairs Association (past president and board chair), Olympia Historical Society (past president), Olympia Downtown Alliance, others. Trying to keep up with maintenance on an Italianate 1887 historic register home on 2/3 acre east of downtown (moved in 1986 and soon became a three-year president of the Eastside Neighborhood Association). Was three-year president of our chapter of what was then The Retired Officers Association, "TROA." Was first elected to the Olympia City Council in 1993 and served 16 years (second longest tenure, 12 as mayor); joined and often chaired many of the interjurisdictional committees such as Thurston Regional Planning Council, the six-county Olympic Region Clean Air Agency, and the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board. Successfully proposed names for new 4th Avenue Bridge (Olympia-Yashiro Friendship Bridge); a section of Cooper Point Road through the Auto Mall (Cooper Point Road Auto Mall Drive SW, check the exit sign outbound on SR 101), and the former city hall, now the law and justice center named for a deceased Municipal Court Judge.). Served a three-year tour as board president of the Association of Washington Cities, the state municipal league.

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

I'm amazed about how the chapter's activities have bloomed over the past 10 years or so, a tribute to the dedication and energy of our leadership! If not being done already, it's getting to be time to groom future leaders and support their efforts.

**For anyone pondering a run at politics, Mark shares that his time as mayor was incredibly rewarding and notes that as reminders of that time, to this day you will find his portrait hanging in the lobby of I Corps (Civilian Hall of Fame) and his name on a plaque at the south entrance to the Olympia Farmers Market and on another in the entry lobby at the "new" city hall on E. 4th.

***Photo depicts Mayor Foutch presenting a proclamation from the City of Olympia to the CO of USS OLYMPIA expressing gratitude and pride for the submarine's years of service protecting our national security.



Treasurer’s Report:

Checking account balance:\$ 6,670.55
 Savings account balance: \$ 3,653.41
 Total: \$10,323.96

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 Charles inflating sports balls for Santa’s Castle at the Elks.

Charity	Balance as Of 12/31/24	Disbursed YTD	2024 Goal
USO	\$273.00	\$2000.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0.00	\$1250.00	\$1200
Santa’s Castle	\$170.00	\$1,535.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$2,599.50	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	Over 800	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$3,046.36	\$9,285.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

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. Now that Christmas is over, let's turn our charity focus towards building the scholarship fund for 2025!

Fisher House Support Project

By Bill Moseley

The Joint Base Lewis McChord Fisher House is a "home away from home" for military families faced with a medical tragedy. Families stay at the house so that they can stay close to their loved ones that are receiving treatment at Madigan Army Medical Center or other medical treatment facilities in the area. The house is equipped with most of the amenities, except food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies for their rooms. Each year, our chapter makes a monetary donation to Fisher House to help it sustain its operations. However, there is an ongoing need for food and miscellaneous items that are reflected on the below list. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to our January luncheon meeting where you will see some donation boxes in the room. Thanks for supporting our Fisher House military families.

Fisher House Wish List:

Misc. Items

- ** Disposable utensils (forks, spoons, knives)
- ** Bleach
- ** Paper plates, paper bowls, hot drink cups
- ** Trash Bags (13 gallon and 4 gallon)
- ** Laundry Supplies (pods, dryer sheets, liquid detergent)

Food Items

- ** K-Cup Coffee Pods
- ** Bottled Water & Soft Drinks
- ** Juice (single serve)
- ** Individual Coffee Creamer (shelf stable)
- Cereal (single serve)
- Oatmeal (single serve packets)
- Grits (single serve packets)

**Cleaning Supplies (Magic Erasers, dish detergent, dishwasher gel packs, Swiffer Wet Pads, Lysol Disinfectant Spray, Lysol wipes, Pledge Furniture Spray, Carpet Spray Cleaner, Liquid floor cleaner)
Deodorant (men and women travel size)
Toothpaste (travel size)
Hand Soap (multiple 7.5 oz)
Disposable razors (men's & women's)
Shaving cream (travel size)
Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)

Food Items (cont)

Fruits (fruit cups/cans single serve)
Crackers & Chips (single serve)
Snack foods (single serve)

** most needed items

Santa's Castle Update

In November, chapter members collected, inflated and delivered to the castle over 800 sports balls. In December, Treasurer Bill Moseley delivered to the castle a check for \$1,535.00, the culmination of your generous monetary donations this quarter. A couple of chapter members continued our proud tradition of volunteering their time at the castle as well. Slots serves on the board and Carrie will tell you her favorite volunteer activity of the year is serving as a Santa's shopping elf during the two weeks after Thanksgiving. "It is hands down the most fun and most rewarding thing I do all year." Santa's Castle served a record number of families and children this year, continuing their new initiative of providing a mobile Castle for a couple of days on Bangor Naval base to help Navy families up on the Kitsap Peninsula. They just keep getting bigger and better in support of the military families of the Pacific Northwest and making Christmas shine bright.



Dave (Slots) Slotwinski and Carrie Nielson check out the spruced- up hallway of Santa's Castle, celebrating their 30th anniversary

Ladies Lunch Club

When: January 13 at 1200, noon

Where: Sushi House

2000 Black Lake Blvd
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

Notable January Dates

- 01/01 – New Years Day
- 01/06 – Epiphany
- 01/08 – Chapter Board Meeting, Teams, 1730
- 01/09 – Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 01/13 – Ladies Lunch, 1200, Sushi House
- 01/15 – Chapter Meeting, gather 1130, lunch 1200, Panorama
- 01/20 – Martin Luther King Day/ Civil Rights Day
- 01/27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

***Nisqually Widows-
No Longer Meeting***

Next Board Meeting

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

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

[Contact DSlotwin@outlook.com](mailto:DSlotwin@outlook.com) or mark.wiseman@olympiamoaa.org for a TMs invite or follow link above.

Connect !

Website



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.

Also, MOAA National had an excellent article about several initiatives in the 2025 NDAA aimed at improving military spouse employment and child care. Here's a link to that article. https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/child-care,-spouse-licensure,-and-more-how-the-fy-2025-ndaa-will-help-military-families/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=DCBEXKsZ7XsAMHJh1eJHNA==+WA+ATFHsRM+1+SRO+L+CC

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 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!

New Year, New TriCare West Region Contractor

from [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) website, go there for more information

On Jan. 1, 2025, TriWest Healthcare Alliance will become the West Region contractor. **If you pay your enrollment and premium payments by military allotment, this will rollover from the old contractor to the new without action, BUT, IF you pay enrollment or premium payments by bank funds transfer or credit card, be sure to set up your payment information with TriWest before Dec. 31, 2024. Don't forget or you'll risk getting disenrolled!**

If you do not pay by government allotment: you must set up recurring payments with TriWest. Your payment information won't be transferred to TriWest from the outgoing contractor. Set up recurring payments for your TRICARE fees or premiums today. Payments with your current contractor end Dec. 31, 2024. TriWest won't charge you for your 2025 health plan enrollment fees or premiums before Jan. 1, 2025.

You have three options for setting up payments for next year.

- Option 1: [Set up automatic payments securely online](#). You'll need your primary email address on file with DEERS to sign up as a new user. Sign up for monthly, quarterly, or annual payments.
- Option 2: Call TriWest Customer Service at 888-TRIWEST (874-9378).
- Option 3: [Download the Automatic Monthly TRICARE Payment Set Up Request form](#). Complete the form and mail it to the address on page 2. The form is for recurring monthly payments.

Donation/ Lunch Options

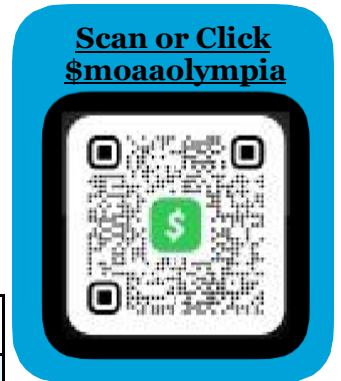
Venue: *seventeen51 restaurant and bistro* - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, Jan 10, 2024 to dougwhite1936@gmail.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 15, gather at 11:30 am and lunch at noon.

For 2025, we will be ordering off a limited table menu. Although it is not necessary that we know the numbers for each selection, we would like to know the number planning to attend. Consequently, we will continue to urge you to **RSVP in advance**. Individual orders will be taken upon arrival and from among the limited menu. The restaurant will process all of our orders at the same time so meals should come out together.

November Menu and Donation Options

Mandarin Salad	\$21.00	X	= \$
Reuben Grill	\$21.00	X	= \$
Macaroni and Cheese	\$21.00	X	= \$



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

The lunch cost is **\$21.00** -. (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

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](#)