



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



Passing of Larry Sparks
Fisher House Support
Member of the Month
Scholarships



WA State Patriotic Day
WA LAC Update
TRICARE West Referral Waiver



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Meal Order Form

THE BUGLE



Presidents Note

Greetings and welcome to the New Year. We had a nice turnout for our January luncheon and our first experience with ordering off the menu. Although there was a back-up in the kitchen, we took advantage of the delay and conducted our chapter business before lunch was served. Seemed to work out, so what do you think, should we conduct chapter business before lunch is served with the program immediately following lunch?

Given the WA State legislature is back in session, we had an excellent program presented by chapter member Roselyn Marcus, Director for Legal Services in the Governor's Office of Financial Management and by Mr. Scott Merriman, a colleague of Roselyn's and a seasoned public agency legislative liaison with 30 years of legislative experience. During their presentation, Roselyn demonstrated how to use the legislative web site, <https://www.leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/> and Scott offered insights in how to communicate and interface with our legislators.

With Congress and the State Legislature both in session and MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action coming up in April, 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, we will be posting "how to instructions" for using the state legislature website to post your comments on legislation and to sign-up to testify remotely.

This past month was "the test" for having a limited menu available for us to select from. From what I can tell, it worked reasonably well with a few growing pains. One in particular is dessert which must now be ordered individually off the menu. Each month there will be a salad option, a sandwich option with a choice of side, and a specialty option.



**FIVE 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





**14 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER**

The meal selections for February are Chamber’s Salad, Smoked Turkey Sandwich with choice of green salad or French fries, and Roasted Veggie Fettuccine. Orders can be either made in advance or taken upon arrival from among the limited menu. It is extremely beneficial to the chapter and the restaurant to know who is coming and what they want to eat ahead of time, so we would like people to continue to RSVP, but we will not suffer a penalty for last minute additions. The restaurant will process all of our orders at the same time so meals should come out together.

Next board meeting is Wednesday, February 12, 5:30 PM via Teams. Next chapter meeting is **Wednesday, February 19, 1:00 PM @** Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. **Note the late gathering time to allow people to attend the memorial service for Larry Sparks if they wish (see Page 3).** Our guest speaker is Mr. Arthur Dolan, George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, who will present on the history of the flags of the United States.

Dave “Slots” Slotwinski



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2025 OFFICERS	
President:	Dave “Slots” Slotwinski COL, USA, Ret 360-292-3624
1stVP (Programs):	Dave Slotwinski COL, USA, Ret 360-292-3624
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 MEMBERS	
	Tristan Atkins, COL, WANG, Ret 360-339-3126
	Daniel Stalling, LTC, USA, Ret 360-999-0020
	Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret 719-313-3160
	Sam Cagle, Col, USAF, Ret 360-456-8509
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	Douglas White, LtCol, USAF, Ret Chaplain 253-686-8966
	Christine McManus, CDR, USN, Ret 425-501-5812
	Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret 360-556-4642

Treasurer’s Report

Checking account balance:	\$ 7,522.40
Savings account balance:	\$ 3,654.19
Total:	\$ 11,176.59

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 willmosel@aol.com.

CASH APP:



Treasurer Bill Moseley present MOAA Olympia Chapter donation of \$1535 to Santa’s Castle for 2024. Photo by Santa’s Castle Staff

Charity	Balance as Of 01/31/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$273.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa’s Castle	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$3,279.50	\$0.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$3,703.36	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Passing of Olympia MOAA Lifetime Member Larry Sparks

Colonel Larry Sparks, USAF, retired, recently passed away. A longtime member of our Olympia Area chapter, he has been inactive for the past four years as he and his wife Caryl have been residents of Panorama’s C&R unit and haven’t been getting around much. His brother, Major Dick Sparks, USA, retired, followed him to Panorama a year and a half ago and has been very active in our chapter since. Per Brig. Gen. Kathy Roberts, USAF, Ret, Larry’s daughter:

MOAA chapter members are welcome to attend the Memorial Service, which will be held 1030-1130 Wednesday, 19 February, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1515 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia, WA. Close friends and family are also invited to attend an inurnment service, 1500, Wednesday, 19 February, at Tahoma National Cemetery, 18600 SE 240th St, Kent, WA. The inurnment service typically takes about 30 minutes.

In lieu of flowers, the family is suggesting donations to either:
[St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 362 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN, 38105](#) or
[Hill Aerospace Museum, 7961 Cottonwood St, BLDG 1955, Hill AFB, UT84056](#)
 Both links will take you directly to the donation pages for the respective sites.

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

At our January meeting, Secretary Ro Marcus and her colleague Scott Merriman gave an excellent presentation on how to interact with our state legislators. Ro told us all about the <https://leg.wa.gov/> website where we can look up bills, enter our information and then provide our comments and indicate our support for a bill. It appears to be a very user-friendly new website. It can also be used to track details about and progress of a bill and provide testimony for a hearing on a bill. Scott provided strategies for positive interactions with our legislators when meeting with them. By the end of the meeting, attendees felt very empowered!

Our chapter member, Jerry Fugich, is the chairman of the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) and can provide us with information about bills they are tracking, then we can go to this website to express our support of the bills we would like our officials to support.

Check [the WDMA Legislative Updates](#) page for updated information throughout the week.

The VLC will be testifying on the following bills in the upcoming week:

HB1335 - Military spouse employment

HB 1541 - Veterans affairs adv. comm.

SB5200 - Veteran medical foster homes

SB5338 - Veterans affairs adv. comm.



Senator Steve Conway, Olympia Area MOAA Chapter members Jerry Fugich and Allen Acosta at the Veterans Legislative Coalition Legislative Reception. The Senator was recognized for his long-standing support of the veterans community. Photo by Carrie Nielson

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. Thank you to those who brought donations to the January meeting to support our Fisher House military families.



President Dave Slotwinski and Treasurer Bill Moseley presenting donated in-kind materials to Vattana Garcia of Fisher House Madigan. Photo by Fisher House Staff

Member of the Month – Judy Bourgault

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Judy Bourgault is a lifetime surviving spouse member of MOAA, and an active member of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter, who lives in Lacey. Judy regularly attends both chapter meetings and Ladies Lunch gatherings. These days she enjoys retirement living at Panorama. It includes volunteer work at the C & R, participation in Panorama's emergency preparation program, helping with Catholic liturgy services, and various other "as needed" projects. She is also busy with lots of travel to see family as well as to enjoy some wonderful new experiences.

Where are you from? Family?

I was born and raised in Seattle. I met and married my former spouse before he was commissioned as an army officer after ROTC training and graduation from Seattle University in 1964. At that time, we had two children (girls) and later a boy.

Branch of Service? Specialty/What did you/your spouse do in the military? What was your profession?

Bruce served 20 years in Army Field Artillery. This included 2 tours in Vietnam as well as tours in Germany, Alaska, Virginia, and Hawaii where he retired. During that time I obtained my bachelor's degree (Computer Science) and worked over 20 years in the business computer field. I retired in 2001 while working for The Olympian newspaper.

Favorite duty station/assignment?

There were lots of enjoyable military assignments. The favorite for all the family was Ft. Monroe, VA. Our children were teenagers at the time and living in such an historic area was an education for all of us.

How did you end up here? What do you enjoy doing now?

I did not participate in any military social life after Bruce's retirement until I moved to Panorama a few years ago. Another MOAA member and I became good friends. She invited me to come to a lunch/meeting. I felt so at home with everyone. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance was (and still is) a highlight of the gathering for me. The chapter provides education as well as a means to contribute to both the nearby civilian and military communities. Thank you.

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?

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.

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.

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

2025 Olympia MOAA Scholarship

In 2019, we decided to develop a scholarship program with a goal of awarding three \$1000 scholarships annually. Due to the great generosity of our members, we have been able to exceed that goal and award five scholarships each year the program has existed! For 2025, our goal is again \$3000. The scholarship fund is the primary donation focus from December to February and is already over \$3000 – since we allow donations into the scholarship fund throughout the year, I expect that we will exceed the goal and allow us to award five scholarships again! 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 28, 2025** (Note extended deadline). Any high school senior graduating this year who lives in our chapter's geographic area and who is headed for a vo-tech, 2 year or 4 year college program is eligible and should apply today! **This is the last focus month for the scholarship fund and it would be great to get it close to \$5000!**

Washington State Patriotic Day

The [2025 Washington State Patriotic Day](#) will take place 22 March from 2pm to 4pm at the [Pioneer Middle School](#) in DuPont, WA. This is a free event, hosted by the [Puget Sound Military Order of World Wars](#). Come on out and see Old Glory on parade, listen to the I Corps Band play patriotic music, hear a chosen guest speaker and support our flag unit. Our MOAA Chapter will be represented by two members marching in the Massing of the Colors. There is typically plenty of free parking for this fun, inspiring event.

MOAA Advocacy - **From MOAA Website**

Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center

January 04, 2022 *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 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.

Defense Health Agency Announces TRICARE West Region Referral Approval Waiver - From [TriCare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil)

Are you enrolled in TRICARE Prime? You should know that the Defense Health Agency has waived the requirement to obtain pre-authorization for referrals to outpatient specialty care for TRICARE Prime enrollees in the West region. This means TRICARE-authorized specialty care providers don't need to wait for TriWest to approve referrals issued by your primary care manager before providing outpatient care. However, you'll still need to get a referral from your Primary Care Manager before getting that specialty care.

This process will be in place through March 31 and is retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Hometown Hero

One of the heroes of the Battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam in November, 1965, was from right here in Olympia, WA. Helicopter pilot Bruce Crandall, was born and raised in Olympia. He attended Olympia High School where he was an All-American baseball player and he attended the University of Washington before he was drafted into the Army during Korea. At Ia Drang, he flew fourteen flights in and out of that hot landing zone, evacuating some 70 wounded soldiers and delivering much-needed ammunition. Crandall had a long and varied Army career, flying 900 combat missions in Vietnam, ultimately being promoted to Colonel and earning the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Ia Drang. He and his wife had three children and five grandchildren.

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.

Connect!



Notable February Dates - Black History Month

- 02/01 – Freedom Day
- 02/09 – Superbowl Sunday
- 02/10 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Shipwreck Cafe
- 02/12 – 1730, Chapter Board Meeting, on Teams
- 02/14 – Valentines Day
- 02/17 – Presidents Day
- 02/19 – **Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1PM, eat 1:30, Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant**
- 02/28 – MOAA scholarship deadline

Ladies Lunch Club

When: February 10 at 1200, noon
 Where: Shipwreck Cafe
 244 Madrona Beach Rd NW, 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

Next Board Meeting

February 12, 2025, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
 Next Board Meeting Join Link (MS Teams)

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

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

Tax Assistance

This tax season, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be available to assist taxpayers for free at seven sites in Thurston County from late January through April 15, 2025. For detailed information, including locations and how to get an appointment, check out the Thurston County Tax-Aide website at:
<https://taxaidewa20.org/>

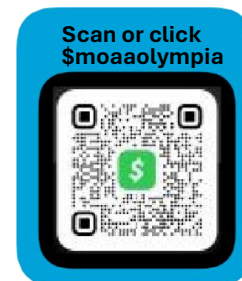
Donation/ Lunch Options

Venue: seventeen51 restaurant and bistro - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, February 14, 2025 to dougwhite1936@gmail.com. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 19, gather at 1:00 pm and lunch at 1:30pm.

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.

Chamber's Salad (Romaine, grilled chicken, tomato, olives, egg, avocado, & green goddess dressing)	\$21.00	X	= \$
Smoked Turkey Sandwich <input type="checkbox"/> Fries <input type="checkbox"/> Salad	\$21.00	X	= \$
Roasted Veggie Fettuccine	\$21.00	X	= \$
Total Lunch			=



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 a great option.

MOAA's Crisis Relief Program offers emergency financial assistance for service-connected households. Currently serving personnel and their spouses, veterans, surviving spouses, and military and veteran caregivers can apply for this aid, which is open to all ranks and branches of uniformed service. Aid can be used to cover housing and automobile costs, utilities, and other bills connected to financial emergencies.

"Uniformed servicemembers, veterans, and their families work hard everyday to protect our great nation, and we here at MOAA are dedicated to working hard to protect them," MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said in a recent video supporting the Crisis Relief Program.

Learn More

Donate Now