



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and salutations. We had an excellent turnout for our February luncheon and a fantastic, informative presentation by Arthur Dolan, George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, on the history of the flags of the United States. At the conclusion of his presentation, he tempted us with a future presentation on the “forgotten Presidents”, and we will try to get him scheduled for either June or July.

Prior to our meeting, several of us attended the memorial service for long-time chapter member Larry Sparks, Col, USAF (RET) at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, in West Olympia. Larry is survived by his spouse of 73 years, Caryl, his daughter Katherine, his son Thomas, two grandchildren, and his brother Dick, a fellow chapter member. Larry was interred at the Tahoma National Cemetery later that day.

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 Representatives. For the state legislature, we will be posting “how to instructions” for using the state legislature website, <https://www.leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/> to post your comments on legislation and to sign-up to testify remotely.

To date, 35 students have applied to our chapter scholarship program and we have collected \$3540. Although it is our plan to award up to five \$1000 scholarships, we may be limited by the size of our fund. Also, we are looking for judges to score the applications, so if you are interested, please contact either Bill Moseley, Carrie Nielson or myself.



**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



Issue 03 -2025

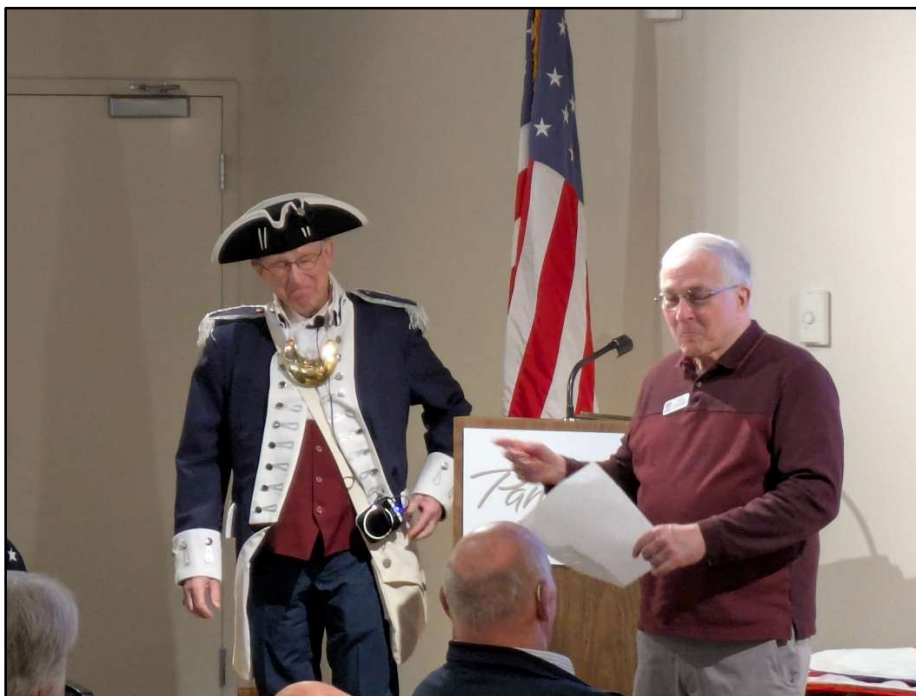


**14 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER**

Our tentative March speaker is Donna Handoe, President of Santa’s Castle, who will speak to their record year. Meal selections are posted in the Bugle.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, March 19, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant and bistro.

See you on the 19th at our regular meeting time.
Dave “Slots” Slotwinski



Above: Arthur Dolan and Dave Slotwinski at the February MOAA Chapter meeting. Photo by Chris McManus.

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 chapter is not liable or responsible for the content found in the links to other websites

2025 OFFICERS
President: Dave “Slots” Slotwinski COL, USA, Ret
1stVP (Programs): Dave Slotwinski COL, USA, Ret
2nd VP (Membership): Carrie Nielson CAPT, USN, Ret
Assistant Communications Director
Secretary: Roselyn “Ro” Marcus CPT, USA
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison
Treasurer: William “Bill” Moseley Col, USAF, Ret
2025 BOARD MEMBERS
Tristan Atkins, COL, WANG, Ret
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Sam Cagle, Col, USAF, Ret
DeFrance Clarke, LtCol, USAF, Ret
Douglas White, LtCol, USAF, Ret Chaplain
Christine McManus, CDR, USN, Ret
Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret

Treasurer's Report

CASH APP:

Checking account balance:	\$ 8,165.15
Savings account balance:	\$ 3,654.35
Total:	\$ 11,819.50



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

Note from the Treasurer:
 For anyone working on their taxes: 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.

Charity	Balance as Of 02/28/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$273.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$370.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$3,542.50	\$0.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$4,439.36	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

2025 OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP

By Bill Moseley

Our scholarship program has definitely enhanced the MOAA brand in our surrounding communities and is receiving great responses from high school students in our service area. To date, we have received 35 applications. Our plan is to award as many \$1000 scholarships as funds allow. Currently, we have collected \$3540 in donations towards our scholarship program, and we will continue to collect donations for the scholarship fund throughout the year. Our next step is to assemble a team of 3-4 judges to score the scholarship application packages and select our awardees. If you would like to serve as a judge this year, please contact Bill Moseley.

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

What a fun meeting! This may have been the best attended meeting since pre-COVID with thirty people in attendance. The food was excellent, and our guest speaker was phenomenal. Arthur Dolan, of the George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution gave a presentation about the early history of the American flag with lots of flag props for the visual learners in the crowd. This presentation differed from the standard flag day presentations and the speaker was very dynamic, clearly passionate about his topic, really pulling in his audience. Chapter members who did not attend this month really missed out, but we are planning on having him return to tell us about some intriguing presidential history later this year, so everyone should plan to attend then!



Left: Arthur Dolan with an early colonial flag.
Right: Ro Marcus, Dave Slotwinski, Mike Minson and Arthur Dolan demonstrate how the UK Flag is made up of the early flags of the British Isles.

Photos by Chris McManus



Support Your USO Submitted by: Bill Moseley

Since 1966, 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), plus with the use of the mobile units. Last year, USO Inc. 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. 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.

Passing of Olympia MOAA Member

Barbara Eskridge Lind

May 29, 1930 – February 23, 2025



Barbara Lind, a longtime MOAA member, passed away on February 23rd after a brief illness.

According to her family, a memorial celebration of

Barbara’s life will be held at the Olympia Country and Golf Club at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to a favored charity, Wolf Haven International (wolfhaven.org).

Remembering Lawrence R. Sparks

Lawrence Sparks, age 96, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2025, in Lacey. He was born in Evanston, IL, to Lawrence and Norma Sparks, and lived first in the Chicago area and then in the New York City area before joining the Navy in 1945. After his release as part of the post-WWII drawdown, he finished high school and college, using the GI Bill and an Air Force ROTC scholarship. In 1951, he was called up by the Air Force during the Korean War, commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, assigned to Wichita, KS, and married his college sweetheart, Caryl Fisher Shaw.

By 1953, he finished his BS in Political Science and was selected for training as a Navigator. Assignments with the Air Force included Kansas, Texas, New Jersey, England, Utah, Colorado, Vietnam, Greece, New Mexico, and back to Utah where he retired as a Colonel. He worked for E-Systems for over a decade and served on the board for the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Utah and the Hill Air Force Base Museum, helping it transition to a major field museum of the US Air Force Museum system.

Larry is survived by his wife of 73 years, Caryl, daughter Katherine, son Thomas, two grandchildren, and brother Dick. His friends and family remember him as a tremendous planner (“The plan! The plan!”), storyteller, a wonderful husband and father.





The Military Order
Presents



Washington State Patriotic Day

March 22, 2025
2 – 4 PM

Pioneer Middle School
DuPont, WA



No entry fee. Just watch Old Glory
on parade and listen to the band
playing patriotic music!

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/wspd-event/>

State Legislative Update

Chapter member and VLC Chairman, Jerry Fugich, reports that the state leg. session has reached a cutoff point where bills are required to have made it through one body of the legislature (house or senate), or they are considered dead for this session. It is at this point that the number of bills still in play drops. He is not sure, but hopeful that House Bill 1102 will make the cut. This bill is about providing enough Veterans Service Officers throughout the state to ensure our veterans obtain the earned benefits they are entitled to. He urges chapter members to use the website we learned about at January’s chapter meeting to go online and let our representatives know we strongly support passage of this bill. Go to the [state legislature website](#) to send your comments.

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

MOAA-Backed Bills to Protect the Value of Your Survivor Benefits

From moaa.org

Bipartisan legislation reintroduced in February in both the House and Senate would help protect and modernize survivor benefits, ensuring they keep pace with other federal programs and allowing survivors to retain benefits after remarriage, regardless of age. MOAA supports both the Caring for Survivors Act and the Love Lives on Act, both of which address longstanding issues with survivor benefit calculation and eligibility. For more details about these acts and for further links to lend your voice in support, go to: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/these-moaa-backed-bills-protect-the-value-of-your-survivor-benefits>



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/>

Dear Retiree – A Note from DFAS From DFAS Smart Docs email

Notifying DFAS of life changes that might affect your retired pay or Survivor Benefit Plan can make your loved one's experience easier.

To keep your account updated:

- Report life-changing events right away,
- Ensure your beneficiary choices are current, and
- Provide up-to-date contact information for both you and your beneficiary.

What are life-changing events?

- Moving
- Marriage or Remarriage
- Divorce
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Death of a spouse or child

Be sure to report life changes as soon as they happen. Some changes to Survivor Benefit Plan coverage have a one-year time limit, so it is very important you notify DFAS promptly.

Now it's easier to keep your SBP account up to date. If you are making a change to your SBP coverage because of a life event, you can use our new Form Wizard to assist you in completing the DD Form 2656-6, Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate. After generating your completed DD Form 2656-6 using the Form Wizard, you can print, sign/witness and then upload your completed form in a PDF using our askDFAS online upload tool.

In addition, if you have a question about your SBP coverage, you can now submit your question via our new askDFAS online "Ask a Question" tool instead of needing to call our Customer Care Center during business hours. You'll get a response via askDFAS that you can check when it's convenient for you. DFAS continues to develop helpful tools and information to make managing your account easier. Find out more on our Quick Tools webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>

New Year, New TriCare West Region Contractor Is A Work in Progress from [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil) website, go there for more information

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is the new TriCare West Region Contractor, as of 01 January 2025. The transition is not going smoothly.

The Defense Health Agency 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 waiver will remain in place through March 31 and is retroactive to January 1, 2025.

While most beneficiaries pay for their TriCare coverage via allotment directly from their pay, you still have time to set up your payment information with this new contractor if you pay by EFT (from a bank account), credit card, or debit card. If you have TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Select, TRICARE Young Adult, TRICARE Reserve Select, or TRICARE Retired Reserve, you have until March 31. If you miss this deadline, you will be disenrolled back to January 1.

Both the Director of the DHA and the President and CEO of TriWest posted letters to beneficiaries to reassure them. The TriWest CEO stated "We are committed to providing access to quality, timely health care and we will do whatever it takes to achieve that mission."

Connect!



Notable March Dates – Women’s History Month

- 03/03 – Birthday of the Navy Reserve
- 03/05 – Birthday of the SeaBees
- 03/09 – Daylight Savings Day
- 03/10 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Taqueria y Mas Mi Pueblo
- 03/12 – 1730, Chapter Board Meeting, Teams
- 03/13 – K9 Veterans Day
- 03/17 – Saint Patrick’s Day
- 03/19 – Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant
- 03/20 – First Day of Spring
- 03/22 1400, Washington State Patriotic Day, Pioneer Middle School, Dupont
- 3/35 – National Medal of Honor Day
- 03/29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

Ladies Lunch Club

When: March 10 at 1200, noon
 Where: Taqueria y Mas Mi Pueblo
 7839 Martin Way E Lacey, WA 98516
 Please RSVP to:

If anyone would like a ride or wants to carpool, mention that when you RSVP and something can be arranged

Next Board Meeting

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

Contact Dave Slotswinski or Chris McManus for a TMs invite.

Washington State Patriotic Day

The 2025 Washington State Patriotic Day will take place 22 March from 2-4 at the Pioneer Middle School in DuPont, WA. This is a free event, hosted by the Puget Sound Military Order of World Wars to honor active-duty military, veterans and first responders and celebrate patriotism. 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. If you would like to be one of the two members to walk in our chapter flag and the American flag in the Massing of the Colors, contact Dave (Slots) Slotswinski or Carrie Nielson to volunteer.

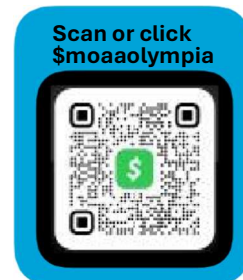
Donation/ Lunch Options

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

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 19, gather at 11:30 am and call to order and lunch at noon.

With our new menu arrangement, we do not suffer a penalty for attendees that may show up without prior notice, so do not let having forgotten to RSVP keep you from joining us. On the other hand, it is very beneficial to both the chapter and the restaurant to have a good head count ahead of time for planning purposes, so we do continue to request that you RSVP to let us know you are coming and which entrée you would like.

	Mandarin Salad with poached shrimp	\$21.00	X	= \$
	B.L.A.S.T. Sandwich <input type="checkbox"/> Fries <input type="checkbox"/> Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit	\$21.00	X	= \$
	Macaroni and Cheese	\$21.00	X	= \$
	Total Lunch			= \$



The lunch cost is **\$21.00**

Coffee, tea and water are provided.

Gluten Free items are available from the menu on request.

USO Fund Donation	= \$
Scholarship	= \$
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 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:
Doug White
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