



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and best wishes that you are enjoying our beautiful Northwest summer. We had an excellent turnout of 31 members and 2 children for our August dinner meeting at Mercato's. Since we weren't sure what the turnout would be, we didn't schedule a speaker and used the evening as a night for socializing. The room was set-up in three long tables of 12 and this presented opportunities for members to sit and socialize with members other than their normal tablemates.

Among those present was long-time member Bob Jones who also serves our community as the President, Thurston County Vet Services, and as a member of the Madigan Foundation. In addition, Alexander and Danielle Nuxoll introduced us to their two children, Sophia and Tessa. Once we have the details on Alexander's Special Forces Company Assumption of Command, we will share them with anyone who wishes to attend.

Further, last month, after Wesley Wuco, Executive Director, Armed Services YMCA Pacific Northwest update, there were several in attendance who asked questions about volunteering or making a donation to the Armed Services YMCA Pacific Northwest. For those interested in either volunteering or donating, here are 2 online links.

Online Volunteer Application:

<https://pacificnw.asymca.org/how-to-help/volunteer-with-us/>

Online ASYMCA- Pacific Northwest donation form:

<https://pnw.asymca.org/campaign/677720/donate>

Also, anyone interested in making a donation can do so securely through their website, or if they prefer to mail a check, to the following address.



**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





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

DFMWR, Child and Youth Services

ATTN: ASYMCA

Box 339500 MS20

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98433

This year's presentation of "gold bars" to Army National Guard OCS graduates took place on August 7. Roselyn and I, along with James Jenner (USAA) were present to recognize the 46 OCS graduates with their first "Gold Bars." This year's ceremony was well organized and provided an opportunity for us to play the "Duty, Honor Country" sound piece narrated by Gen (ret) Norman Schwarzkopf. Following our welcoming the new LTs into the officer corps, they surrounded us and posed for a great photo with each showing off his or her gold bars.

Also, in this edition of the Bugle look for an update on the Shelton Veterans Tiny Home Village and the Thurston County United Way Day of Caring on September 26. The charity we will be supporting is the South Sound Reading Foundation.

Given the success we had with attendance at our August dinner meeting, we are moving forward with having our September 17 meeting as a dinner meeting at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club off Yelm Highway. The September 17 meeting will follow our past dinner meeting protocols with a social at 5:30 PM and dinner served at 6:00 PM. For the September meeting, the meal choices are either Asian Chicken Salad, Meatloaf Platter, or Pasta Alfredo with garlic bread. Coffee and tea included as well as a Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce dessert; cost is \$ 30.00 and includes tax and gratuity. Bar serve is available on a pay as you go basis. Tentative speakers are the Senior Instructors from Shelton and the New Market NJROTC programs.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, September 10, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, September 17, social @ 5:30 PM, meeting called to order at 6:00 PM. The location is the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

See you on the 17th.

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 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

Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret

Sam Cagle, Col, USAF, Ret

DeFrance Clarke, LtCol, USAF, Ret

Douglas White, LtCol, USAF, Ret
Chaplain

Christine McManus,
CDR, USN, Ret
Communications Director

Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance:	\$8,312.71
Savings account balance:	\$3,655.30
Total:	\$11,968.01

Note from the Treasurer: Nothing to report for this month.

CASH APP:



Above: Carrie Nielson and Bill Moseley present check to USO center manager David Dutcher.

Charity	Balance as Of 08/31/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$0.00	\$1,394.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$1,134.50	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$495.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$319.00	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$1,952.36	\$5,894.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

2025 OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We have completed pay-out of the 2025 scholarships. Keep in mind that donations are accepted year-round for the Olympia Area MOAA Scholarship fund, as we open the 2026 season. September marks the beginning of the school year for Thurston county schools, so we will be opening up the application on our website and sending out reminders to all the high school counselors to encourage this year's seniors to apply.

Fisher House

Fisher House provides service members and their families a comfortable, nurturing and secure home away from home when they receive medical care at Madigan Army Medical Center. The JBLM Fisher House can serve 18 families in-house with their two facilities and other eligible families at off-site locations completely free of cost. Fisher House worldwide has housed over 500,000 families, saving military families over \$610 million in lodging, food and transportation costs. Our goal for this year was \$1200. As of the end of August our total collected is \$1,134.50! With just a little final push we could hit our goal. Don't forget that your donations are tax-deductible.

Santa's Castle



With our warm summer weather it is hard to believe it is time to start thinking about Santa's Castle, but it really is never too early to welcome the spirit of Christmas giving. September through November is our quarter for contributions to the castle.

The mission of Santa's Castle is to ease holiday stress by providing new toys, board games and books to military families in the Pacific Northwest who are experiencing financial hardships. Last season they served 1,913 families with 4,040 children, distributing \$791,928 worth of toys, books, games, bikes and stocking stuffers to make Christmas brighter for our Service Members and their families. Santa's Castle Open House is Thursday, September 25, 1100-1800 at 2094 Bitar Ave, Lewis Main, JBLM. Join them to celebrate their 31st season. Come and see where the magic happens. Bring a new toy to help "fill the sleigh."

Along with collecting monetary donations, we will run a sports ball drive again this year for Santa's Castle and it is not too early to start buying new sports balls for this drive. You can bring them to meetings and hand them over to chapter officers to collect or wait and bring them to the Sports Ball Drop in November, date and time TBD.

United Way Day of Caring 2025 – by Ro Marcus

United Way of Thurston County's Day of Caring is its largest volunteer event of the year—bringing together individuals, businesses, and organizations to make a hands-on difference. From landscaping and painting to harvesting gardens and providing needed services, we can continue to serve, build community, and show what it means to LIVE



Photo 1

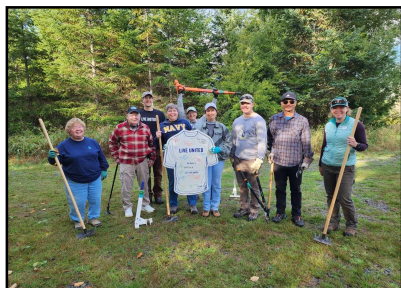


Photo 2

Nurtures Farm get ready for winter (photo 1). Our last event was in 2024, when we helped clean up a nature preserve (photo 2).

This year, Day of Caring is Friday, September 26,

2025, and once again our chapter has registered to participate. We will be helping the South Sound Reading Foundation with tasks related to donated books; such as unpacking, cataloguing, checking condition of books, cleaning them as needed and possibly placing stickers on books prior to placing them back into circulation. **We will work at their location from 2pm to 4pm on the 26th.**

The Foundation, founded in 2001, is located at 2830 Willamette Drive NE (farthest suite from the highway), Lacey. It envisions a community where all children read well and enjoy reading, and where reading opens new opportunities. To that end, it has a book van that visits sites and delivers books, has 3 locations where "bags o' books" can be picked up, has story time and other literacy programs as well as programs to educate families about reading. On average, the Foundation distributes 80,000 books each year, serving over 1500 children each week, of which 85% are from low-income families. This is a great organization to help.

If you are interested in being part of the Chapter's team for Day of Caring, please email me at xxxxx@xxxxxx.com. All we need is your T-shirt size and a release form. Join us to do good and feel good!

National Guard OCS Graduation

On August 07, President Dave (Slots) Slotwinski and Secretary Roselyn (Ro) Marcus attended the National Guard Officer Candidate School graduation celebration with James Jenner of USAA right here at JBLM. They were able to visit with the staff and new officers, chat with them about MOAA and present each new officer with their first set of gold bars. What a great opportunity to make a good, early first impression on some of America's newest officers.



Left: Dave Slotwinski and Roselyn Marcus with James Jenner (USAA) surrounded by new National Guard 2nd LTs showing off their gold bars.

Shelton Veterans Village by Roselyn (Ro) Marcus

New Horizon Communities manages several tiny home villages, two of which are for veterans. The Shelton Veterans Village in Shelton opened in 2023 and houses 30 veterans, both men and women. In addition to providing housing stability, the Village provides case management, behavioral health individual and group therapy sessions, community meals and other services.

In July, Bill Moseley, David (Slots) Slotwinski and myself visited the Village and toured the facilities with the manager, Dave Redman. We toured the main building, a vacant tiny home and the grounds, which includes a vegetable and fruit garden that the residents maintain. What we saw was a well-run community that offers services and hope to our homeless veterans.

The Village is always in need of donations, both monetary and in-kind. One thing we saw was that the village maintains a small library for their residents, who are avid readers. The library could use an infusion of books. We saw novels of all genres, from mysteries and spy thrillers to historical fiction and stories of families or friendship.

I proposed and the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter board agreed to invite our chapter to help provide books for its library. I am sure many of you, like me, have shelves of books that you would like to be rid of but didn't know where to donate them. Here's your chance. If you have books that you can donate, please bring them to our September chapter dinner meeting or contact me and I will pick them up from you. We are hoping to deliver books to the Village in time for the holiday season. It would make a great holiday gift from our chapter to their community.

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 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. This quarter, their primary needs are listed below. They want to replenish their stock ahead of the cold weather season. If you can donate any of the items, please bring them to our September dinner meeting where you will see some donation boxes in the room. Thanks for supporting our Fisher House military families.

Fisher House Wish List:

Disinfectant Spray

Clorox Wipes

Excellent August Meeting

Our August meeting was our first dinner meeting in many months as Panorama has not been open for dinner for quite a while. After an extensive search for a worthy venue, we found two options to try. For August, we gathered at Mercato's Italian restaurant in downtown Olympia. For our first dinner gathering of the year, we decided to forego the guest speaker and just have a social event with some chapter business thrown in. There was plenty of lively discussion before and during dinner, as we had 31 adults plus two children gathered at three long tables. The food was very good and the company even better. We had so much fun, we decided to do dinner again next month. In September we will meet at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. It won't be Italian, but the price will be a little lower and will include dessert!

For Surviving Spouses -From the WA State Surviving Spouse Liaison, Cheryl Toland

This is to inform everyone about the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter & how great it is for all Surviving Spouses (not just Liaisons) to know & benefit from attending the monthly ZOOM meetings.

Your Virtual Chapter Leadership is initiating a MEMBERSHIP DRIVE! We need your help! We are asking Geographic Chapter Leaders to find at least one new member to join our Chapter.

- There are no dues associated with our Chapter.
- The time commitment is one hour per month.
- You attend meetings from the comfort of your home, no travel involved.
- Every month there is new and valuable information.
- You join a network of National Leaders with expertise on Surviving Spouse issues.
- Your information is confidential; we do not sell or distribute our mailing lists.
- I think they call this a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!

The purpose of the virtual Surviving Spouse Chapter is to provide:

- A national forum for surviving spouses of uniformed services officers
- A common space to communicate with each other
- An arena to share information about concerns pertinent to each of us and our families
- A platform to advocate for the protection of rights for our members and our dependents

For additional information or to join the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, contact us at mssvc02@gmail.com.

Support Servicemembers During Summer Advocacy in Action

From email from MOAA President Brian Kelly, 5 August

For this year's [Summer Advocacy in Action Campaign](#), we are focusing on the following topics:

- **Major Richard Star Act** – Combat-injured veterans deserve their full earned compensation, and this legislation reinforces our promise to support those who served — long after they've left active duty. The Star Act is an enduring priority for MOAA, and we are excited to report it has generated significant momentum since Spring. We are sharpening our focus and targeting our efforts to drive this initiative even further.
- **TRICARE Access to Care** – Servicemembers and military families can often face administrative barriers and red-tape their counterparts covered by civilian health plans do not when it comes to reproductive health. By strengthening access to care, we can improve mission readiness and boost retention across the all-volunteer force.
- **Military Spouse Hiring Act** – Spouse employment is a critical component for the financial stability of military families and adding military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit will incentivize more businesses to hire military spouses.

Visit moaa.org/summerAiA for issue papers and other resources to help you connect with your lawmakers while they're home. You can also use our [Legislative Action Center](#) to send messages directly to your elected officials.

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 their 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

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING

Chapter Meeting will be 17 September, gather at 1730, call to order at 1800. This month's guest speaker(s) will be the senior instructors from the NJROTC units in our area. We will be meeting at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Meal options will be:

Asian Chicken Salad, or

Meatloaf Platter, or

Pasta Alfredo with Garlic Bread

All served with Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce for dessert.

Price will be \$30 and include coffee, tea, tax and gratuity.

For those of you coming from Panorama, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus. Contact him at xxxxx@xxx.net to reserve your spot. Fee is just \$3 per person.

Connect!***Notable September Dates***

- 09/01 – Labor Day
- 09/02 – Victory over Japan Day, WWII ended this day
- 09/08 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Leaning Maple
- 09/10 – 1730, Board Meeting, via TEAMS
- 09/11 – Patriot Day
- 09/18 – Air Force Birthday
- 09/17 – 1800, Chapter Dinner Meeting, gather 1730, eat 1800, Indian Summer Golf and Country Club
- 09/19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
- 09/26 – United Way Day of Caring, Olympia MOAA at SSRF 1400-1600
- 09/28 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day (last Sunday in September)

Ladies Lunch Club

When: September 8 at 1200, noon

Where: The Leaning Maple

111 Washington St NE, Olympia

Please RSVP to:

Christine McManus

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

Next Board Meeting

September 10, 2025, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

Next Board Meeting Join Link (MS Teams)

Contact Dave Slotwinski or Chris McManus for a Teams invite.

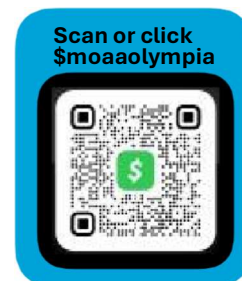
Donation / Meal Options

Special September event – we are having a dinner meeting at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, 5900 Troon Ln SE, Olympia, WA 98501. We are hoping that many of our members who are still working and can't join us for lunch meetings will join us for this dinner meeting. We are inviting the senior instructors for the two NJROTC units in our area to be our speakers. It is really important that we get our head count in to the restaurant by the Friday before the meeting (they are not open Monday), so we need everyone to RSVP by Thursday.

**RSVP NLT Thursday 11 September

Date and Time: Wednesday, 17 September, gather at 5:30pm, and dinner at 6:00pm.

	Asian Chicken Salad	\$30.00	X		= \$
	Meatloaf Platter	\$30.00	X		= \$
	Pasta Alfredo with Garlic Bread	\$30.00	X		= \$
	Total Dinner				= \$



Price includes coffee, tea, Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce for dessert, tax and gratuity.

For those of you coming from Panorama, DeFrance Clarke has reserved a bus. Contact him at xxxx@xxx.net to reserve your spot. Fee is just \$3 per person.

Santa's Castle	= \$
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

xxxx@olympiamoaa.org

OR

Mail payment and confirmation to:
Olympia MOAA
PO Box 5957
Lacey, WA 98509-5957

Summer Reading

Hornfischer, James, The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors: The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour. "This will be a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected. We will do what damage we can." With these words, Lieutenant Commander Robert W. Copeland addressed the crew of the destroyer escort USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS on the morning of October 25, 1944, off the Philippine Island of Samar. On the horizon loomed the mightiest ships of the Japanese navy, a massive fleet that represented the last hope of a staggering empire. All that stood between it and Douglas MacArthur's vulnerable invasion force were the ROBERTS and the other small ships of a tiny American flotilla poised to charge into history. The Battle of Samar was a naval engagement unlike any other in US history with men, strategies, and sacrifices that turned certain defeat into a legendary victory. Absolutely riveting read! - From Amazon