



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



Scholarship update-3
United Way Day of Caring-4
Santa's Castle - 4
New Member Intro- 5



Shelton Veteran's Village-6
Membership Notes- 6
Fisher House -7
September Meeting - 7



Surviving Spouses - 7
Member of the Month - 8
Upcoming Events-9-10
Meal Order Form-11

THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and best wishes that you are enjoying our beautiful transition to Fall. We had an average size turnout of 24 members for our September dinner meeting at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. Our guest speaker was LtCol Brian Harwell, Senior Naval Science Instructor for Shelton High School NJROTC. Also joining us was new member- Army COL Aric Bowman.

During his presentation, LtCol Brian Harwell provided a detailed update on the Shelton HS NJROTC program and its schedule of events for SY 2025-2026. The program currently exceeds its minimum membership of 100 cadets and through participation in drill, academic, physical training, and marksmanship teams as well as community volunteer service activities provides numerous opportunities for cadets to practice their leadership and to demonstrate selfless service. One event Brian encouraged us to attend is the pass-in-review which is part of the unit's Annual Management Team Inspection. This event will take place at Shelton HS on Nov 18 @ approximately 12:00 Noon. More to follow as we get closer to the event.

As previously indicated, for our October- December meetings, we will be returning to Panorama for luncheons. For October and November, we will offer selections off the limited table menu and for December, we will offer selections from the plated lunch menu. Upcoming programs: for October- Erin Doran, Fitness in Aging; for November- our Annual Meeting and 2-Bell Memorial Ceremony; and for December- our Annual Holiday Luncheon to include the swearing-in of our 2026 chapter officers and board members. Please note that due to the scheduling of the Resident Holiday Reception on Dec 17, our December meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday, Dec 10.



**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**

Before the November meeting, we will be sending out the officer and board slate, 2026 budget, and recommended by-law changes.

Included in this month's Bugle are information on the USO's 5-star Gala on October 18, 2025, as well as information on the Mt Rainer Chapter's Annual Holiday Gala on December 5.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, October 8, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, October 15, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant. Our tentative guest speaker is Erin Doran on Fitness and Aging.

See you on the 15th.

Dave "Slots" Slotwinski

ID Card Update

The latest word from DFAS is that the old legacy paper-based ID cards will not all expire on 31 Dec, as was previously, apparently erroneously, reported. They will "remain valid until DoD determines when those ... cards will be terminated." Then "the Department intends to execute a positive communications plan formally announcing the termination well in advance of the actual termination date." Meanwhile, those individuals who still retain a legacy ID card should make sure that their contact information is up to date in DEERS, and they "may replace those legacy ID cards with a Next Generation USID card" at their convenience either online or at their nearest ID card office (for us, probably Waller Hall, JBLM).

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

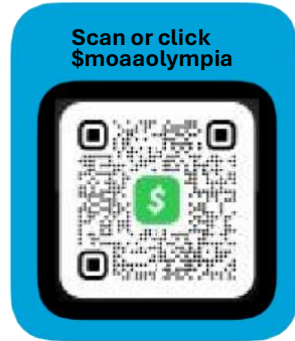
Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance:	\$8,355.71
Savings account balance:	\$3,655.46
Total:	\$12,011.17

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 09/30/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$0.00	\$1,394.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0.00	\$1,150.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$865.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$369.00	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$1,237.86	\$7,044.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations are accepted year-round for the Olympia Area MOAA Scholarship fund, as we open the 2026 season. For the 2026 Scholarship season, the board voted to limit eligibility to all the members of the Shelton and New Market NJROTC programs. The instructors will provide the students with eligibility and application guidelines, and we will conduct the program as in previous years, just with a smaller pool of candidates

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 was Thursday, September 25, 1100-1800 at 2094 Bitar Ave, Lewis Main, JBLM. The place was already humming with excitement as they welcomed visitors and talked about preparations for what promises to be another very busy season. Our donation goal this year is \$2000.

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. Talk to your family, your friends, the other service groups you belong to and encourage them all to support our sports ball drive this year!

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 UNITED.

The chapter has participated in this event in the past. In 2019, our chapter helped Nature Nurtures Farm get ready for winter. In 2024, we helped clean up a nature preserve.

This year, Day of Caring was Friday, September 26, 2025, and once again our chapter participated,

helping the South Sound Reading Foundation with tasks related to donated books; checking condition of the books, cleaning them as needed and placing stickers on books prior to placing them back into circulation.



The Foundation, founded in 2001, 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. The two hours flew by as we sat around the table working, chatting, snapping photos. United Way passed out T-shirts and buttons and the SSRF



even provided snacks. It sure felt good to do good!

Left and Above: Chapter members Bill Moseley, Chris McManus, Carrie and Ron Nielson cleaning books for South Sound Reading Foundation on Day of Caring. Photos by Ro Marcus.

Welcome Our Newest Chapter Member

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



I am pleased to announce we have a new chapter member. Retired Army CW4 Richard Lomsdale came to our chapter as a lead after first joining national MOAA. I had a great telephone conversation with him and then persuaded him to share the following information: Richard has 26 years of combined service, eight years in the Navy (two years with the 1st MARDIV, and two years onboard the USS Ranger CV-61), four years in the Army National Guard, and 14 years active-duty Army, retiring as a CW4/CWO4 All-Source Intelligence Officer. He deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and has been stationed at the Pentagon, South Korea, Germany, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Richard is originally from Monroe, Washington, and entered the Navy directly after high school. Between the Navy and the Army National Guard, he worked in the Alaska-based fishing industry on large factory trawlers for 12 years as a Chief Purser and Medical Officer. Due to the industry's volatility, he rejoined the military, with the Army National Guard being the only branch that would accept him due to his age. The rest is history.

He has been on the Yelm Planning Commission since 2022, and its Chairman since January. Richard was recently interviewed for the city position on the Washington State Council on Homelessness and recently started his master's program in Public Administration (MPA) with a major in Public Policy. Being on active duty, volunteering, and pursuing his education, he has not had much time for hobbies or leisure activities. If time ever does present itself, he enjoys woodworking, hopes to learn how to brew beer, use his aging salmon fishing gear, and finish writing a book he started.

When you see Richard at future meetings, be sure to give him a warm MOAA welcome!

Medical and Dental Insurance Open Season Coming Soon

Open Season for Medical and Dental Insurance Plans is coming up in less than two months. Now is a good time to think about your current status. Have you had any changes in your family status? In your medical or dental needs? Thinking about changing providers? Any reason you might want to add or reduce coverage? Open season is the time to make changes, so now is a good time to start thinking about any reasons why you might want to make a change and, if you do, you have time to research your options.

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 (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 include 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 genre, 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. Thank you to everyone who has already provided book donations. I will continue to collect books from chapter members in the coming months, just contact me (

) if you have books to donate. I plan to make a first delivery of books in mid-October. 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.

Check MOAA's Legislative Action Center for Latest Updates

The Major Richard Star Act was proposed as an amendment in both the House and the Senate to their versions of the 2026 NDAA. It appears to have ample support in both chambers, if it can get to the floor for a vote. As of the writing of this article the House had passed their version of the NDAA, but the Senate had not. WE still need to make our support for this act, as well as other important military family legislative matters, heard.

You can always use the [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!

Fisher House Support Project By Bill Moseley



Above: Bill Mosely delivers MOAA check to Fisher House Manager Vattana Garcia. Photo by Fisher House staff.

Fisher Houses 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. Thanks to all who donated, we were able to write a check for \$1,150 to Fisher House this year. In addition to our financial support of Fisher House, there is an ongoing need for food and miscellaneous items. Thank you to all those members who provided in-kind donations before or during our September dinner meeting. Bill delivered all the donated items to Fisher House, along with our chapter check for \$1,150. They were very grateful!

Outstanding September Meeting

Our September meeting was our second dinner meeting in many months as Panorama has not been open for dinner for quite a while. We met at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. The setting was lovely, the service was excellent, and the food was tasty. The price was lower than the previous month and included a delicious dessert. Those in attendance gave it a thumbs up. We welcomed new member Aric Bowman to his first meeting. Our guest speaker, Marine LtCol Brian Harwell, Senior Instructor for the Shelton High School NJROTC gave us a thorough briefing on their status and activities, thanking us for our support, and inviting us to attend their upcoming Pass in Review on 18 November at 1200 and their end of year Awards Ceremony on 21 May. Ro Marcus thanked members for bringing in book donations for the Shelton Veterans Village and Bill Moseley thanked members for bringing in hygiene item donations for Fisher House. Chapter member Jim Williams informed those present that he had learned USAA Safe Miles discount program should be coming in December 2025, so watch for that. Next month we are back to lunches at Panorama, and we will keep Indian Summer in mind if Panorama is not doing dinners when the days get longer in 2026.

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

The Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter has a newsletter. They even have a book club. Their latest newsletter covered lots of topics of interest, including VA/DoD Joint Survivors' Forums and Military One Source Spouse Education and Career Opportunities resources for Surviving Spouses.

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

Member of the Month

Marc G. Cote DO, FACOI, FACP, COL (ret) US Army

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Retired Army COL Marc Cote is a lifetime member of MOAA and joined the Olympia Area MOAA chapter in 2023. Marc lives in Olympia with Sherri, his wife of fifty-one years.

After retiring from Active Duty, Marc served as the senior medical director of the two-star Western Regional Medical Command for five years. Marc then transitioned to academia when he was recruited at a professional physician meeting to become Chair of Medicine and subsequently the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education at Pacific NW University of Health Sciences in Yakima, WA. Since retiring from the University as a Professor of Medicine, he

continues to teach and provide presentations at professional meetings. He enjoys time with his grandkids, travel, cruising, dog sports, pickleball and hiking with Sherri.

Where are you from? Biddeford-Saco, Maine

Branch of Service? US Army

Specialty/What did you do in the military? I first served as a research technician in physiology and high altitude at the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Massachusetts (USARIEM). After the USARIEM assignment, I went on to graduate with a medical degree from Kansas City University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas City, MO. My residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Nuclear Medicine were completed at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. As a military physician, I worked in both Internal Medicine and Nuclear Medicine departments. The US Army Surgeon general selected and appointed me as the Nuclear Medicine Consultant to the Surgeon General's office for the last seven years of my active duty.

Favorite duty station/assignment? Madigan in multiple senior positions including Chair of Radiology, Chief of Nuclear Medicine and time filling in when needed as the Deputy Commander of Clinical Services.

Family? Our three grown children are dispersed to multiple states. Our closest grandchildren reside in Oregon.

How did you end up here? We were transferred to Madigan and we originally intended to move back to Maine on my retirement from active duty. Life happens and we extended our stay in Washington state due to job opportunities and fate.

What have you been up to lately? We continue to travel in our RV and to take cruises. Professional activities at national meetings the fall of each year also provide for travel and activities.

Any ideas about what you would like to see the chapter do in 2025 and beyond? I would like to see the chapter continue its growth with new members. Perhaps consider a social media presence that invites them to look at the chapter.

Connect!**Notable October Dates**

- **10/08 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS**
- **10/13 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, location**
- 10/13 – Columbus Day – federal holiday commemorating Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas (also celebrated as Indigenous Peoples Day)
- 10/13 – Navy Birthday – celebrates the anniversary of the founding of the Continental Navy in 1775
- **10/15 – 1200, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant. Speaker: Erin Doran, speaking on Fitness in Aging**
- **10/18 – USO Northwest Five-Star Gala**
- 10/26 – National Day of the Deployed – a day to honor service members who are currently deployed
- 10/27 – Navy Day – non-federal holiday established by the Navy League to honor former President Theodore Roosevelt and recognize the Navy's service

Ladies Lunch Club

When: October 13 at 1200, noon

Where: The River's Edge

611 Tumwater Valley Drive S Tumwater, WA

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

October 8, 2025, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

Contact [Dave Slotwinski](#) or [Chris McManus](#) for a Teams invite.

Coming 28-29 October, at National Harbor, Maryland, MOAA is hosting the first ever Total Force + Conference, the first conference to focus entirely on the human side of the military. There will be great speakers, exhibitors, networking opportunities. Sessions aimed at active duty, veterans, and spouses. It is not too late to register to attend this special event. Contact MOAA at 800-234-6622

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Want to get in contact with your State or Federal Congressional Delegation? Here's the contact information of the Olympia Area representatives:

Senator Maria Cantwell (253)572-2281 950 Pacific Ave Suite 615 Tacoma, WA 98402 https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email	Senator Patty Murray (360)205-2878 771 Capitol Way S, Suite 502 Olympia, WA 98501 https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/
Marilyn Strickland (360)459-8514 420 College St SE, Suite 3000 Lacey, WA 98503 https://strickland.house.gov/contact/	Jessica Bateman, Senator, District 22 (360)786-7642 409 Legislative Bldg PO Box 40422 Olympia, WA 98504
Beth Doglio, Representative (360)786-7940 308 John L O'Brien Bldg PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504	Lisa Parshley (360)786-7992 317 John L O'Brien Bldg PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504

To find other Federal Members of Congress by location you can go to:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

To find other Washington State Members of Legislature by location you can go to:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

USO Northwest Five-Star Gala

On October 18, 2025, USO Northwest will hold their annual Five-Star Gala at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Seattle's Southport, 1053 Lake Washington Blvd N. They will honor their Military Members of the Year and raise funds to support over 200,000 service members and their families annually. General MacFarlane will be the keynote speaker, and former soldier and country artist Scotty Hastings will speak and sing. Scotty Hastings was shot ten times while serving in Afghanistan and has quite the story. One-Star sponsorship includes dinner seating for ten, and name recognition in the program for \$2,500. For more information or to register as a sponsor, contact Donald Leingang at dleingang@uso.org

MT RAINIER MOAA CHAPTER HOLIDAY GALA 05 December

If you are looking for a special way to ring in the holiday season, look no further. Our neighboring MOAA chapter holds a delightful annual holiday party, and they are inviting us to join them for a fun evening, which includes dinner, dancing and some fun additional fundraising games, like Heads or Tails and a dessert auction. This year's gala will be held at the McChord Club on December 05 at 6pm. More information to follow next month.

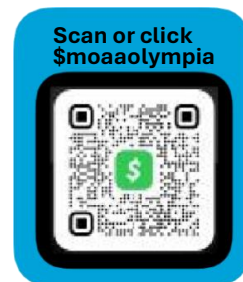
Donation/ Lunch Options

Venue: seventeen51 restaurant - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, October 10, 2025 to Doug White, . Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description.

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 15, 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 for 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.

	Chambers Salad (romaine, grilled chicken, tomato, olives, egg, avocado, and green goddess dressing)	\$21.00	X	= \$
	B.L.A.S.T.(bacon, lettuce, avocado, Swiss cheese, tomato) Sandwich ☐ Fries ☐ Salad ☐ 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.

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

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

Book Review:

Nez, Chester, Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir By One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII. During World War II, the Japanese had managed to crack every code the United States used. But when the Marines turned to their Navajo recruits to develop and implement a secret military language, they created the only unbroken code in modern warfare – and helped assure victory for the United States over Japan in the South Pacific – based on a language they were punished for speaking while attending boarding schools that sought to rid them of their culture and traditions as children torn from their families by the government of the country they would grow up to fight to protect. The Navajo have always been warriors and their upbringing on southwestern reservations gave them the physical and mental strength to excel as Marines. Sounds like a great read!
From Amazon