

In this month's Bugle



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Olympia Area Chapter



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and best wishes that you have enjoyed these Fall days and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. We had about 30 members turn out for our October luncheon at Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. Our guest speaker was Erin Doran, Panorama's Aquatic and Fitness Coordinator, who spoke on Fitness and Aging. Joining us was our newest member- CW4 (ret) Richard Lomsdale, a 26-year veteran with 8 years in the Navy, 4 years in the Army National Guard and 14 years in the active-duty Army. Also present was a former member we hadn't seen in years, Panorama resident Morris Buchanan – welcome back Morris.

During her presentation, Erin provided some great tips on the art of falling, how to fall and prevent serious injury, as well as covering the importance of exercise, having a sleep schedule, getting enough protein, staying hydrated, and developing good healthy habits. As previously indicated, for our November- December meetings, we will have luncheons at Panorama. For November, our meal selections are off the limited table menu and for December, we will offer selections from the plated lunch menu. November is our Annual Meeting, 2-Bell Memorial Ceremony, election of Officer and Board members, and approval of by-law changes. In attendance at our November luncheon will be Dana Clay, President of the Washington State Council of Chapters. This is an important meeting that reviews our past year and sets the course for 2026. I am counting on seeing you there! Due to the scheduling of the Resident Holiday Reception on Dec 17, our December Holiday Luncheon will be held on the 2nd Wednesday, Dec 10.

With respect to luncheon reservations, we need your



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 11 -2025



15 CONSECUTIVE YEARS FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER

assistance resolving an issue that impacts the kitchen staff-changing meal orders table side while lunch is being prepared and served. Apparently, orders are being changed table side; as an example, fries scratched out and salad written in. Although it seems like a small factor, it is not. The kitchen prepares meals and sides based on your original selection. When you change it table side, the requested item goes to waste and new food is prepared for you. This slows down the service and drives the cost up. We have excellent rapport with the restaurant staff and we want to keep it; let's make their job easier and not more difficult. Thank you.

Last month we supported the Thurston County United Way Day of Caring by volunteering to clean books at the South Sound Reading Foundation. Many thanks to Ro, Carrie, Ron, Bill, and Chris who supported our efforts. Plus, many thanks to those who have donated books to our drive to help stock a reading library at the Shelton Veterans Village. Hooah!

This is the month we collect sports-balls for Santa's Castle. Because of space limitations at the "Castle," we prefer the balls not be inflated. We will collect the balls on Saturday, Nov 22, between 10 AM and 2 PM at the Olympia Elks Lodge, 1818 Fourth Ave E, Olympia, WA 98506. For those who can't make it to the Elks on the 22nd, please bring your sports-ball donations to our November luncheon. Plus, we can use your help to get the word out to other organizations, friends, businesses, anyone who can help collect balls!

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, Nov 12, 5:30 PM via Teams; Next Chapter meeting is Wednesday, Nov 19, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. This is our Annual Meeting, election of officer and board members and 2-Bell Memorial Ceremony. In preparation for this meeting, included with the Bugle are the proposed by-law changes, 2026 Officer and Board members slate, and the sports ball collection flyer. See you on the 19th.

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: Savings account balance:

\$3,655.16 \$10,792.92

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 10/31/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
uso	\$0.00	\$1,394.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0.00	\$1,150.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$1,379.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$529.00	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.86	0	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$1,911.86	\$7,044.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

New for Disabled Veterans

Veterans with a qualifying discharge, a 70%+ disability rating, and a federally defined service animal can now apply for special disability parking privileges – valid for five years and available through October 1, 2035. For more information and application form, go to dol.wa.gov.

Santa's Castle



It is beginning to feel more like Christmas every day. 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. This season is projected to be even bigger. 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 our meeting and hand them over to chapter officers to collect or wait and bring them to the Sports Ball Drop on November 22, between 1000 and 1400 in front of the Olympia Elks Lodge. 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!

Shelton Veterans Village- by 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 made 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.

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







Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Sports Ball Collection Party



When: Saturday, Nov 22

Where: Olympia Elks Lodge 1818 Fourth Ave E Olympia, WA 98506

Time: 10 AM-2 PM

Questions? POC:

Slots: 360-292-3624

Carrie: 847-361-7917











In Memory of Judy Ann Jones

In September we lost Navy spouse Judy Ann Jones, wife of chapter member Earl Jones. Judy Ann was very proud of her time as a Navy spouse. She was clearly both a product of the home she grew up in and the years she spent making each new duty station a home for her family. Judy Ann used to enjoy attending the occasional chapter meeting and especially enjoyed the camaraderie of our Ladies Lunches. We did not see her lately as both her health and Earl's suffered setbacks these past few years. Our thoughts are with Earl at this time, comforted in the knowledge that he has many years of wonderful memories to sustain him.

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 with no host social 6:00-7:00pm and dinner and dancing 7:00-10:00pm. The fee is \$75 per person (includes tax and tip). Reservation and payment required by November 20. Call Ray Dotson at, email searayd@gmail.com, or mail check to MOAA, PO Box 99212, Lakewood, WA 98496-0212.

Check MOAA's Legislative Action Center for Latest Updates and To Take Action

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. The Act keeps hitting procedural and fiscal roadblocks. 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 keep sending messages directly to your elected officials pressing them to bring the Star Act to the floor for a vote (once they get back to work).

BENEFEDs Open Season

BENEFEDs Open Season runs from 10 November to 08 December. Do you need to make a change to your dental or vision plan? Research rates, benefits, coverage, costs of all the plan alternatives now and be ready.

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:

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

This site can also be used to look up information about bills under consideration in WA State.

Shutdown Relief

For information about support available from USAA and other agencies during government shutdown, go to our website at:

https://olympiamoaa.org/

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.

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!

Excellent October Meeting

For our October meeting we were back at Panorama for lunch. While it had been fun to explore, it was nice to be back. The price was excellent and the food quite good. We welcomed new member Richard Lomsdale to his first meeting. Morris Buchanan made his first appearance at a chapter meeting in years and was welcomed back. Our guest speaker, Erin Doran, gave us an informative presentation on Fitness over Fifty. She covered the importance of exercise, sleep, protein, water, and good habits. Work on core strength and balance to reduce the danger of falls.

November's 2 Bell Ceremony

At our annual meeting in November, we hold a 2 Bell Ceremony to honor the memory of those members we have lost over the past year or so. The chapter staff is aware of the following members we need to honor at our next meeting: Charles Martin (Army LTC), Lawrance Sparks (AF Col), Barbara Lind (Army Spouse), and Judy Ann Jones (Navy Spouse). If anyone is aware of someone else we should be honoring, please contact Dave Slotwinski or Ro Marcus with the name and service information, so we can add them to our honor roll.

Member of the Month

Submitted by CAPT Carrie Nielson



Lucy Reuter is a lifetime member of MOAA courtesy of her late husband, Bob Reuter, and has been a member of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter for a long time now. She lives in Panorama with a number of our other chapter members. In the Panorama community she enjoys being a member of the Panorama Quilters, making quilts for the Seattle Children's Hospital, participating in a Zoom Bible Study led by two retired pastors at Panorama, playing games with friends, and walking the beautiful campus.

Where are you from? She was born at

Ft. Bliss, Texas, where her father, a career Army officer, was stationed with the US Cavalry. They moved often, and she attended American high schools in Nurnberg and Munich, Germany, from 1947 to 1949, a life changing experience for a 14 yr. old, to live among so much destruction.

What branch of service? Her husband, Bob served 30 years active duty. His specialties in the Army were Armor and Air Cavalry. Following Bob's tour of duty in Korea and Lucy's graduation from college, they were married at Ft. Knox, KY, in 1953, and their adventure began.

What was your favorite duty station? Over the years they were stationed at many Army Posts throughout the U.S and Germany. Bob also served two unaccompanied tours in Vietnam. Her favorite duty station was Carlisle Barracks, PA. They were there six years, while Bob was a student at the Army War College, and later served on the faculty. Lucy was a manager of the Carlisle Thrift Shop, and she and Bob were Explorer Scout leaders. Their two daughters were teenagers, who enjoyed all the activities, and the Carlisle Schools were excellent.

Family? Both daughters and their families live north of Seattle. Lucy has six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, who she enjoys seeing when she ventures north. Following Bob's retirement in 1980 at Ft. Lewis, they lived on Long Lake, in Lacey until moving to Panorama in 2001.

What keeps you busy these days? Lucy is currently volunteering in the Holiday Nook located in Panorama Hall. She invites you to come see all the beautiful gift items created by their talented residents. Cash and checks only. They cannot take credit cards.

Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting will be 19 November, gather at 1130, call to order at 1200. This month will be our annual meeting with 2 Bell Ceremony, brief on chapter status and vote on office slate and proposed bylaw changes. We will be meeting at Panorama's Seventeen51 Restaurant, 1751 Circle Ln SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Meal options will be:

Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad, or

Caprese Pasta, or

Reuben Grill Sandwich with choice of fruit, green salad, or fries

Price will be \$21.00 and include coffee, tea, tax and gratuity.

Uncasing Ceremony

On 06 November, at 1100, at the ARNG Readiness Center, BLDG 6205 Pendleton Ave, JBLM, the 3d Ordnance Battalion (EOD) will hold an Uncasing Ceremony to mark the return of their deployed members, and our Olympia Area MOAA Chapter Members are cordially invited to attend. Attire is Business Casual. Contact Carrie Nielson at if you wish to attend.

Connect!





Notable November Dates

- National Veterans and Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month, National Family Caregivers Month
- 11/10 1200, Ladies Lunch, The Westside Tavern, 1815 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia
- 11/10 Marine Corps Birthday, 1775
- 11/11 Veterans Day, originally Armistice Day, honoring all military veterans
- 11/12 1730, Board Meeting, via TEAMS
- 11/19 1800, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat
 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday)

Ladies Lunch Club

When: November 10 at 1200, noon Where: The Westside Tavern

1815 Harrison Ave NW, Olympia 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

November 12, 2025, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

Contact Dave Slotwinski or Chris McManus for a Teams invite.

Position	Incumbent 2025	Officers 2026, 1 year term					
President	Dave Slotwinski	Carrie Nielson					
1 st VP	Dave Slotwinski	Dave Slotwinski					
2 nd VP	Carrie Nielson	DeFrance Clarke					
Treasurer	William Moseley	William Moseley					
Secretary	Roselyn Marcus	Roselyn Marcus					
Past President	Carrie Nielson	Dave Slotwinski					
Bugle Editor/ Web site	Shared by Carrie Nielson and Chris McManus	Shared by Carrie Nielson and Chris McManus					
Vacant or BOD members up for re-election							
Term expires 2025 Next Term 25- 28	Doug White	Doug White					
Term expires 2025 Next Term 25- 28	Allen Acosta	Allen Acosta					
Term expires 2025 Next Term 25- 28	Mark Wiseman	Danielle Nuxoll					
Term expires 2026	Dan Stalling - resigned	Marc Cote					
Term expires 2026	Tristan Atkins - resigned	Ray Rasmussen					
	Board members not up for re-election						
Term expires 2026 Term 24-26	Sam Cagle						
Term expires 2027 Term 25-27	DeFrance Clarke (shifting to fill 2 nd VP position)						
Term expires 2027 Term 25-27	Chris McManus						

SUMMARY OF CHANGES** To OLYMPIA AREA CHAPTER BYLAW To Be Proposed at Annual Meeting November 12, 2025

The Olympia Area Chapter Board of Directors are recommending changes to the current chapter bylaws. In addition to grammatical, clarification and updating language, and other non-substantive changes, the following substantive changes are recommended:

Article III, Section 6. Records Management.

• Changed the current requirement that all documents be maintained for 6 years to a requirement that records shall be maintained in accordance with the chapter's records management policy, which is currently being finalized. This policy will require all financial records to be maintained for 7 years, will maintain historical records permanently, and allow transient records to be destroyed in 6 years or less. The policy will be provided to all chapter members once approved by the board.

Article IV, Membership.

- Section 1.(a). Added Space Force to list of services.
- Section 4.(A) d. Removed confusing language related to verification of membership applications.
- Section 4.(B) Clarified that recommendations for honorary membership can be submitted by the board directors and officers, as well as chapter members.

Article VIII, Board of Directors

- Section 2(a). Changed when directors take office from next regular board meeting to the first board meeting in January, establishing the term as a one calendar year term.
- Section 2(b). Added the ability for a vacant position on the board to be filled by election of a member at the next annual meeting, to serve to the remaining period of the term. This is in addition to the current ability of the board to appoint a member to a vacant position.
- Section 5. Made it clear that board meetings can be held in person, by electronic means or a combination of both.
- Section 9. Made it clear that voting by the board may occur by email, in accordance with chapter policy. The board will develop and approve a voting policy that provides the process for voting by email.

Article IX, Officers

- Section 2. Changed when officers take office from next regular board meeting to the first board meeting in January. Establishing calendar year terms.
- Section 7. Clarified the Secretary's duties to include the maintenance of records in accordance with the records management policy.

Article X, Committees.

- Section 2. Simplified the committee structure to conform with current practice to provide greater
 flexibility by removing all the named committees with their attendant duties and replacing with the
 board establishing the process for creating committees by establishing a committee policy and
 listing some requirements that must be in the policy.
- Section 4. Clarified the appointment of liaisons and removed the list of organizations for which liaisons are currently appointed, to provide greater flexibility and remove the need to amend the bylaws when organizations change.

^{**}To see the full text of the bylaws with recommended changes, go to the chapter website.

Donation/Lunch Options

Venue: seventeen51 restaurant - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, November 14, 2025 to Doug White, RSVP@olympiamoaa.org. Please include menu entree selection in CashApp payment description, email, or snail mail RSVP.

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 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 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.

Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad	\$21.00	Χ	= \$
Reuben Grill Sandwich □ Fries □ Salad □ Fruit	\$21.00	Χ	= \$
Caprese Pasta	\$21.00	Χ	= \$
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

RSVP@olympiamoaa.org

OR

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

Book Review:

Fisher-Alaniz, Karen, Breaking the Code - A Father's Secret, a Daughter's Journey and the Question that Changed Everything. A moving story about a father and daughter's quest to discover "the rest of the story" regarding his service in the Pacific Theater in WWII and the parts of his story that are somehow causing him nightmares and distress fifty years after the end of the war. An interesting story involving a cache of saved letters, repressed memories, love, loss and remembrance. In a Washington connection, the family is from the Walla Walla area.

From Carrie Nielson