



In this month's Bugle



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Olympia Area Chapter



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving to all! We had 25 members turnout for our November Annual Meeting luncheon at Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. This was a busy meeting with a lot of moving parts. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, Chaplain Doug White led us through our annual 2-Bell Memorial Ceremony. Among those honored were Barbara Lind, USA, Surviving Spouse; Judy Ann Jones, USN, Surviving Spouse; Lawrence Sparks, Col, USAF; Roger Englart, LtCol, USAF; and James McElroy, MG, USA. Please offer a prayer to our departed members.

Next, Bob Jones, founder of Thurston County Vet Services and long-time chapter member presented the Chapter with a check for \$250 to help with our Sports Ball Drive- Hooah! And, before lunch was served, Dana Clay, LCDR (ret), USN and current WSCOC President offered insights and observations from the state council and MOAA national level. Two key points Dana made were to emphasize the importance of chapter members being active in the MOAA Legislative Action Center and the change to MOAA's privacy policy requiring members to opt-out versus opt-in to activate receipt of Chapter and Council emails. Through 30 September, we have 33-chapter members registered with the Legislative Action Center who submitted 77 actions. State-wide, among chapter and council members there are 279 registered advocates who submitted 887 actions; top chapter in the state is Whidbey Island with 60 registrants and 305 actions. Our participation is important because this will be a scored Chapter of Excellence evaluation activity in 2026.

After lunch was served, we went into our Annual Meeting and reviewed a wide-variety of activities. The slides will be available on our website and the among the highlights- we're financially solid, thanks to your generosity we either met or exceeded our goals for Santa's Castle, USO, and Fisher House donations and were able to support 4-\$1,000 scholarships. Several By-law changes were proposed and for the most part, these serve to clarify confusing language in our current by-laws and help clarify our records retention and management. Approved by the members present were the



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 12 -2025



15 CONSECUTIVE YEARS FIVE STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER

recommended changes to the by-laws, the 2026 Officer and Board Member slate, the 2026 Budget, and retaining annual dues at \$20/\$10.

We also received several letters from Shelton HS NJROTC Cadets asking for our support of their program. Treasurer, Bill Moseley passed these out to members who wished to volunteer and support a cadet. Donations will be sent either individually or through the chapter to the NJROTC Booster club and then used to support travel, and other activities that enhance the NJROTC program and cadet experiences. Plus, many thanks to those who have donated books to our drive to help stock a reading library at the Shelton Veterans Village. Hooah!

As previously indicated, 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. Our luncheon will begin with a social at 11:30 AM with the meeting called to order at 12:00. This is a plated meal that includes a salad, main course, 2-side dishes, and dessert. Our holiday entertainment will be provided by Latitude 47. I hope to see each of you there.

Finally, this is the month we collect sports-balls for Santa's Castle. We will collect the balls on Saturday, Nov 22, between 10 AM- 2 PM at the Olympia Elks Lodge, 1818 Fourth Ave E, Olympia, WA 98506 and then deliver them to Santa's Castle. Although I don't yet know the number of balls we will collect, in advance, I want to thank each of you for your kindness and generous support of this initiative as this year has been especially difficult for junior enlisted families. Thank you.

Our December board meeting is cancelled and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, Dec 10, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant and bistro. Officer and Board member installation will take place at our December 10 meeting and our first board meeting in 2026 is Wednesday, Jan 14, 5:30 PM via Teams. See you on the 10th.

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
360-292-3624

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360-292-3624

2nd VP (Membership):
Carrie Nielson CAPT, USN, Ret
847-361-7917
Assistant Communications Director

Secretary:
Roselyn "Ro" Marcus CPT, USA
360-561-7451
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Treasurer:
William "Bill" Moseley
Col, USAF, Ret
360-688-7626

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Wiseman, MAJ, USA, Ret
719-313-3160

Sam Cagle, Col, USAF, Ret
360-456-8509

DeFrance Clarke, LtCol, USAF, Ret
360-438-5520

Douglas White, LtCol, USAF, Ret
Chaplain
253-686-8966

Christine McManus,
CDR, USN, Ret
425-501-5812
Communications Director

Allen Acosta, Maj, USA, Ret
360-556-4642

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance:	\$6,376.11
Savings account balance:	\$3,655.78
Total:	\$10,031.89

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

Cash App payments are currently unavailable due to issues with the app.



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

Charity	Balance as of 11/30/25	Disbursed YTD	2025 Goal
USO	\$0.00	\$1,394.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$0.00	\$1,150.00	\$1200
Santa's Castle	\$1,682.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$619.00	\$4,000.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$3.21	\$840.65	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$2,304.21	\$7,884.65	\$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.

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.

Fisher House Support Project

By Bill Moseley

The Joint Base Lewis McChord Fisher House is a “home away from home” for military families faced with a medical tragedy. Families stay at the house so that they can stay close to their loved ones that are receiving treatment at Madigan Army Medical Center or other medical treatment facilities in the area. 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 that are reflected on the list below. If you can donate any of the items, please bring them to our Dec luncheon meeting where you will see some donation boxes in the room. Thanks for supporting our Fisher House military families.

Fisher House Wish List	
Food Items Bottled Water & Soft Drinks Juice (single serve) Cereal (single serve packets) Oatmeal (single serve packets) Fruits (fruit cups/cans single serve) Chips (single serve) Snack foods (single serve) Protein Bars Popcorn (single serve)	Misc Items Disposable utensils (forks, spoons, knives) Paper plates, paper bowls, hot drink cup Trash Bags (13 gallon and 4 gallon) Laundry Supplies (pods, dryer sheets, liquid detergent) Toothpaste (travel size) Deodorant (travel size) Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)

Shelton Veterans Village— by Ro Marcus

Shelton Veterans Village maintains a small library for its residents, who are avid readers. To help its library, the Chapter held a book drive to collect books that could be donated to the Village library.

I am happy to report that the Chapter collected close to 100 books for the Village. I delivered the books to Dave Redman, the Village Program Supervisor, on November 14th. He was extremely thankful to our generous donation and said that the residents will truly benefit from this donation.

In addition to the book drive, I am working with Dave on an application for MOAA’s Community Outreach Grant. We could potentially

receive up to a \$5000 grant that would benefit the Village residents. Some ideas we developed is for the grant to purchase items that would go in a new

resident welcome bag, to get them started on their new independent living at the Village. We could purchase the items, put the bags together and help give them out when new residents arrive. The new resident welcome bag contains a hygiene kit, some initial food to get them started, and bedding. Other ideas are welcome. Thanks again to everyone who donated books for the Village. You are making a difference in the lives of veterans who are trying to get back on their feet.

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

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

No Shutdown Should Stop Servicemember Pay - The Pay Our Troops Act of 2026/Pay Our Military Act of 2025 (H.R. 5401/S. 3002) would guarantee the Armed Forces, which statutorily includes the Coast Guard, continue to receive pay and allowances during any lapses in appropriations in FY 2026. Unfortunately, the bill leaves out the USPHS Commissioned Corps and the NOAA Corps.

Our servicemembers and their families stand ready to serve through any crisis. Congress must provide them the certainty of uninterrupted pay so they can remain focused on the mission, not financial hardship.

Urge your elected officials to cosponsor and support this bill, and to do all that they can to fight for the inclusion of USPHS and NOAA servicemembers in this much-needed legislation.

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.

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/>

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

Membership Notes

<p>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?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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!</p>

Excellent November Meeting



WSCOC President briefed the group on the current status and future plans of the state council and MOAA national level.

In addition to the 2 Bell Ceremony, November's meeting included Bob Jones, founder of Thurston County Vet Services and long-time chapter member presented the Chapter with a check for \$250 to help with our Sports Ball Drive and former LCDR Dana Clay, USN, current

November's 2 Bell Ceremony

At our annual meeting in November, we held the 2 Bell Ceremony honoring the memory of those members we have lost over the past year or so. Members honored were: Barbara Lind, USA, Surviving Spouse; Judy Ann Jones, USN, Surviving Spouse; Lawrence Sparks, Col, USAF; Roger Englar, LtCol, USAF; and James McElroy, MG, USA.



Chapter Demographics

Submitted by CDR Christine McManus

Who makes up the Olympia MOAA chapter? Here are a couple of fun word clouds based on our demographics – the size of the words is proportional to the population of that group in the chapter.

For instance, 34 of our active members were or are directly affiliated with the US Army, 12 with the US Navy, 9 with the US Air Force, 2 with the US Coast Guard, 1 with the Washington Air National Guard, and we have 20 surviving spouses.



In our rank distribution, we're more distributed. All of our surviving spouses are widows, hence our large collection of "Mrs" rank. Beyond that we have 14 Colonels, 10 Lieutenant Colonels, 10 Majors, 7 Captains (Navy Version), 6 Commanders, 2 Captains (Army / Air Force version), 2 Chief Warrant Officer 3, 2 Chief Warrant Officer 2 and one each of Chief Warrant Officer 3 and 5.



How do we get the Bugle? Mostly by email – 24 of us use a Comcast.net account, 21 use Gmail and most of the rest use other web mail services like AOL or Hotmail. And 7 members still get the Bugle in hard copy, having no email at all! Must make clicking on those links harder.



Monthly Chapter Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant, our December Holiday Luncheon will be held on the **2nd Wednesday, Dec 10**. Our luncheon will begin with a social at 11:30 AM with the meeting called to order at 12:00. This is a plated meal that includes a salad, main course, 2-side dishes, and dessert. Our holiday entertainment will be provided by Latitude 47. Meal options will be:

Chicken Marsala, or
Apple-stuffed Pork Loin, or
Eggplant Parmesan

Price will be \$26.00 and includes a salad, your main course selection, 2-side dishes, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Connect!

WEBSITE



FACEBOOK GROUP



Notable December Dates

- National Giving Month
- 12/7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/8 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Casa Mia – Plum St
- 12/10 – Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant
- 12/14 – 1st day of Hanukkah
- 12/21 – Winter Solstice
- 12/25 – Christmas Day
- 12/31 – New Year's Eve

Ladies Lunch Club

When: December 8 at 1200, noon

Where: Casa Mia - Plum St

716 Plum St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Please RSVP to: [Christine McManus](#)

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

Next Board Meeting

December Board Meeting canceled.

January 14, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.

Contact [Ro Marcus](#) or [Chris McManus](#) for a Teams invite.



The Nuxoll's daughter Sophie will be performing in South Sound Dance's "Nuts for The Mouse" this season. [Tickets](#) are on sale now!

⌚ Performances: December 4-7

📍 Olympia High School Performing Arts Center

🎫 Tickets: <https://27928.recitalticketing.com/>
Sophie will be in the Thursday PM, Saturday AM and Sunday AM shows!

Donation/ Lunch Options

Venue: seventeen51 restaurant - Panorama, 1751 Circle Ln. SE, Lacey, WA 98503.

Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, December 5, 2025 to Doug White, RSVP@olympiamoaa.org.

Please include menu entree selection your email or snail mail RSVP.

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 10, 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.

Red	Chicken Marsala	\$26.00	X	= \$
Blue	Apple-stuffed Pork Loin	\$26.00	X	= \$
Green	Eggplant Parmesan	\$26.00	X	= \$
	Total Lunch			= \$

The lunch cost is **\$26.00**

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 beforehand to ensure menu item entree selection and RSVP count.

Payment at door must be check 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

Upcoming Things to Do in the Olympia Area:

If you're looking for upcoming events in the greater Olympia area, check out the Experience Olympia website:

<https://www.experienceolympia.com/events/>

A sampling of things to do in December:

- Ongoing – Check out Oly on Ice in Isthmus Park for Ice Skating
- 12/1, 5pm - Lacey Holiday Lights, Huntamer Park
- 12/10, 6pm - Anne Shimojima's talk on Hidden Memories, My Family's Story in WWII incarceration camp at Harbor House on Percival Landing

And many more!