



Olympia Area Chapter

In this
month's
Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Spring has sprung! The chapter is busy with meetings, Patriotic Day, scholarship activity, and OCS graduation, while we await word on our grant and award applications from national MOAA. Happily, our March meeting attendance numbers were once again in the thirties. Great food, great company and a great speaker are proving a winning combination – thank you to all who turned out to hear from Don Leingang with his USO Northwest update. He is a dynamic speaker and always has some interesting tidbits to share with us. Slots is working on getting a speaker from Madigan for April, so it promises to be another excellent meeting.

Chapter members reported enjoying this year's Washington State Patriotic Day on 21 March. This event was free, close (Pioneer Middle School in Dupont), featured an inspirational guest speaker and great music by the I Corps Band (that alone was worth the price of admission, which, did I mention, was free). The event is all about celebrating our active duty servicemembers, veterans and first responders. What a pleasure!

The board has selected two scholarship recipients and mailed out letters informing them of their selection, and inviting them to attend an upcoming meeting, so stay tuned. Board members will also attend school award ceremonies to present certificates to the students recognizing their scholarly achievement – I love this part of the job!

Kicking off April we will attend the annual National Guard OCS commissioning event on JBLM where we will present their newest officers with their first set of gold bars and talk to them about MOAA. This event will be 02 April from 1730-1900. This is an important opportunity to introduce new officers to our organization. This year



**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 04 -2026



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

they have moved it up from the summer to the spring – new timing for all of us. If you would like to be part of the chapter contingent, contact Slots. More information went out in an earlier email and is included in a note later in this newsletter.

While we have ended the legislative session here in Washington, April is Advocacy in Action season where MOAA members from around the country will converge in DC to visit as many senators and representatives as possible to lobby for MOAA’s priority issues for this session. A critical time of year in DC for MOAA. See an article later in the newsletter regarding this year’s priorities and how you can help support them.

Our next board meeting is April 08 at 5:30 PM via TEAMS and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, April 15, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama’s seventeen51 restaurant. Our guest speaker will be CPT Sophia Wahto from WADD, who will address how the Western US is defended against air threats.

Now I ask you all to please tell your family and friends and especially other officers about all the wonderful things we are doing, then invite them to come to a meeting, by which I mean get out there and recruit – the more the merrier!

Carrie Nielson

2026 OFFICERS

President:
Carrie Nielson
CAPT, USN, Ret

1stVP (Programs):
Dave Slotwinski
COL, USA, Ret

2nd VP (Membership):
DeFrance Clarke
LtCol, USAF, Ret

Secretary:
Roselyn “Ro” Marcus CPT, USA, Fmr
SSP, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Treasurer:
William “Bill” Moseley
Col, USAF, Ret

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Allen Acosta,
Maj, USA, Ret

Sam Cagle
Col, USAF, Ret

Marc Cote
COL, USA, Ret

Christine McManus,
CDR, USN, Ret
Communications Director

Danielle Nuxoll
Spouse, USA

Ray Rasmussen
COL, USA, Ret

Douglas White
LtCol, USAF, Ret
Chaplain

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Treasurer’s Report

Checking account balance:	\$7,611.32
Savings account balance:	\$3,656.41
Total:	\$11,267.73

Note from the Treasurer: The Treasurer worked with national MOAA to establish a Cheddar Up account to accommodate electronic payments.

It has features that include paying dues, making donations, and making meal reservations. It is linked from the website at the Dues and Donations page. The QR code for our Cheddar Up account is:



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

Charity	Balance as of 03/31/26	Disbursed YTD	2026 Goal
USO	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa’s Castle	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$2,165.50	\$0.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$574.50	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$5.42	\$0.00	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$3,445.42	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Note from Treasurer: Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our chapter members, we were able to collect over \$500 for the JROTC units we support in just one month. Thanks for your support! In the next two months we will be collecting for Fisher House.

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your generous donations are allowing us to provide two scholarships this year. Applications have been received, reviewed and approved and letters have been sent to the selected recipients. We plan to attend award ceremonies in May and June to recognize the two outstanding young people and we have invited them to join us for a meeting in the next few months. Stay tuned.

Olympia MOAA Supports 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 charge. Fisher House worldwide has housed over 500,000 families, saving

military families over \$610 million in lodging, food and transportation costs. This is what your donations will support for the next two months! Our goal for this year is \$1200.



Fisher House recently reached out to us with an urgent call for sanitizing wipes and liquid hand soap after the winter season depleted their supplies. Thanks to your donations, we answered the call. This is most significant because Fisher House operations are supported 100 percent through donations of supplies and monetary funds. All donations directly benefit the families staying at the JBLM Army Fisher House. Fisher House is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all your donations are tax-deductible.

Photo: Bill Moseley, Fisher House Liaison, donates supplies to Melissa Cady, Operations Assistant at JBLM Fisher House. Photo by Fisher House Staff.

Surviving Spouse Corner

On the national MOAA website, under the Resources tab along the top banner, there is a section called [Surviving Spouse Corner](#). This section has really grown over the past few years. There are a lot of potentially useful short articles in this section. Just a sampling of the topics to be found there:

- Strengthening Emotional Well-Being
- The Value of Connection
- Getting to Know TAPS
- Making a VA Benefits Compensation Claim
- Protect Your Health and Wealth
- Writing Your Legacy
- Understanding Long Term Care Insurance Policies

And this is just a short sample from a very long list. Recommend visiting the page to see if you don't find something of value to you.

MOAA's 2026 Advocacy in Action (AiA) April 13-16

Every year MOAA selects 3-4 key issues for congressional focus, brings members from around the country to DC, trains this team, and sends them to the hill to meet with as many Senators and Representatives as possible in less than two days to lobby for support of the chosen key issues. This year Allen Acosta of Olympia Area MOAA Chapter will be joining our WA State Council President, Dana Clay, and the State Surviving Spouse Liaison, Cheryl Toland, in DC for AiA. The year's four key topics are:

The Richard Star Act, which aims to end the wounded veteran tax. Some 54,000 combat injured veterans are forced to forfeit a portion of their earned retirement as it is offset for their disability pay. This bill enjoys broad bipartisan support yet has not been able to reach final approval as it has hit multiple snags, primarily concerns over cost.

The Guard VA Benefits Act, which aims to protect veterans from predatory, unaccredited actors exploiting gaps in enforcement to charge veterans to help them obtain their benefits (these services are available for free from many accredited organizations). It simply reinstates the civil and criminal penalties for unaccredited fee-charging actors and restores VA's enforcement authority.

The Military Care Act, which would create a standardized digital system to report and track problems with receiving care within the military healthcare system, allowing chain of command and Congress to identify trends, address them. This is intended to address struggles with access to care, limits in options, blockage, long delays. Plan is to improve transparency, accountability and oversight.

The Shutdown Fairness Act is intended to address the problems of military personnel losing pay during government shutdowns, Guard and Reserve having to cancel drills and training. The Act would establish consistent plan to pay services during shutdown, though I do not think it addresses those services outside the DoD.

It would be a big help if AiA day was not the first time that our Senators and Representatives heard about these issues. You can use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to learn more about these MOAA priorities, and to send messages directly to your elected officials. Act now!

Olympia MOAA Officers Support Washington State Patriotic Day

On 21 March, several officers of the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter were present to support this year's WSPD at Pioneer Middle School in Dupont. Dave (Slots) Slotwinski and Bill Moseley carried the Olympia Area MOAA colors in the Massing of the Colors while Ro Marcus took photos. Meanwhile Carrie Nielson, also Commander of the Puget Sound MOWW Chapter, was coordinating all the parading units in the auxiliary gym, and chapter members Allen Acosta and Dan Stalling were both engaged, carrying flags for other organizations. As usual, the WSPD featured wonderful music from the I Corps Band and a moving speech, this year from General Keith Dayton. This year's event was extra special, as it included a reenactment of the British withdrawal from Boston on March 17, 1776, as part of the America250 celebration. Each year the WSPD is an outstanding, free event, open to the public, celebrating the patriotic contributions of active-duty service members, veterans and first responders – mark your calendar for 20 March 2027!

Right: Dave (Slots) Slotwinski and Bill Moseley carry the Olympia Area MOAA colors in the Massing of the Colors. Photo by Ro Marcus.



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

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?	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- and mention the code "grassroots", you can receive a 10% discount.
If you are not currently on and wish to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, contact the Communications Director (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.	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!

Outstanding March Meeting



We had an outstanding turnout for our March meeting. As usual, we enjoyed an excellent meal and the members had a good time visiting with each other at their tables before and during the meal. Our guest speaker for the meeting, Don Leingang, gave us an informative update on the USO Northwest. He reminded us of their facilities: the Shali Center on McChord opened in 1984, the Camp Lewis center in the ACU building opened in 2017, and the SeaTac center, which is currently open either until midnight or 4am, depending on flight schedules. Interesting fact: the wooden floor in the entryway of the SeaTac center came from the deck of a WWII battleship. USO

Northwest also has four mobile units to support WA/OR/ID. Don told us the USO now has a canine program and has established a presence on aircraft carriers and some large amphibs, giving Sailors away from home a place to go and relax and mingle. Chapter members are encouraged to support USO Northwest's big fundraising events: their golf tournament on 25 June and their USO Gala on 17 October. Members can participate in our chapter's Pitch-a-Ball tent at the golf tournament by contacting Slots, and/or sign up to volunteer at one of the USO locations, by going to:

<https://volunteers.uso.org/>

Photos: Above: President Carrie Nielson introduces Don Leingang, the speaker for the March Meeting.

Right: Don Leingang speaks on the USO Northwest.

Photos by Allen Acosta



Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting will be 15 April, gather at 1130, call to order at 1200. This month's planned speaker is CPT Sophia Wahto from WADD. We will be meeting at Panorama's Seventeen51 Restaurant, 1751 Circle Ln SE, Lacey, WA 98503. RSVP No Later Than Friday, 10 April. Meal options will be:

- Mandarin Salad with Poached Shrimp, or**
- Hummus Wrap, or**
- Reuben Grill Sandwich with choice of fruit, green salad, or fries**

Price will be \$20.50 and include tax and gratuity. Beverages and desserts may be ordered and purchased separately.

Connect!



Next Board Meeting

April 8, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
Contact Ro Marcus or [Chris McManus](#) for a Teams invite.

Ladies Lunch Club

When: April 13 at 1200, noon
Where: Tugboat Annies, 2100 W Bay Dr NW, Olympia, WA 98502
Please RSVP to: [Christine McManus](#)

Notable March Dates

- April – Month of the Military Child
- 04/01 – April Fool's Day
- 04/02 – 1730-1900, OCS Graduation
- 04/05 – Gold Star Spouses Day
- 04/06 – Army Day (U.S. entered WWI, 1917)
- 04/08 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS
- 04/09 – National Former POW Recognition Day
- 04/11 – Desert Storm Cease Fire, 1991
- 04/12 – Civil War Began, 1861
- 04/13 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Tugboat Annies, 2100 W Bay Dr NW, Olympia, WA 98502
- 04/14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 04/15 – 1200, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant
- 04/22 – Earth Day
- 04/23 – Army Reserve Birthday
- 04/25 – Spanish American War Began, 1861
- 04/30 – National Military Brats Day

Veterans Stand Down, Saturday, 11 April, 0900-1600, Puyallup Elks Lodge, 314 27th St. NE, Puyallup, WA. Offering Health and Wellness Screenings, Employment Resources, Free haircuts, clothing and food, Community Resources, VA Benefit Information, Financial Resources, Housing Support and Referrals and Legal Assistance. Primary mission is to assist unhoused veterans and their families; however all veterans are welcome. POC: Crystal Wills, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, .

National Guard OCS Event will be Thursday, 02 April, at 1730. Recommend you be there by 1700. Event location will be WANG Aviation Readiness Center, BLDG6224, JBLM, WA. Event lasts about 1 hour; start time is flexible. Directions: Enter Main gate, go past the PX, turn left at the airfield (Pendleton) as if headed towards Madigan AMC. The Aviation Readiness Center is on the left at 2nd Division and Pendleton. So put on your MOAA gear and head over to help hand out gold bars, congratulate these new officers and talk to them about MOAA. If you have any questions, contact Slots at or

Donation/ Lunch Options

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

Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, April 10, 2026 to [Doug White](#).

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

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 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.

	Mandarin Salad with Poached Shrimp	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Reuben Grill Sandwich with choice of fries, green salad, or fruit	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Hummus Wrap	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Total Lunch				= \$

The lunch cost is **\$20.50**
 Water provided. Tax and gratuity included.
 Gluten Free items are available from the menu upon request.

Fisher House	= \$
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.

QR code for CheddarUP app option to pay:		
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Payment at door must be check 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

Upcoming Event:

On Wednesday April 29, at 11am and 1:30pm in the Quinault Auditorium at Panorama, a single actor will perform [Winning Her Wings](#), a show bringing the stories of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) to life and highlighting their fight for opportunity and recognition during World War II.

Part of the HOME FRONT/WAR FRONT series, this companion piece to FLY FOR FREEDOM follows the intersecting journeys of women who faced and broke barriers together, fighting for justice in a time of global conflict and domestic prejudice. Discover how they soared—despite the odds.

Developed in partnership with the Museum of Flight, Museum of History & Industry, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and Boeing.
 (If interested in attending from outside Panorama, contact Doug White, or DeFrance Clarke.)