



Olympia Area Chapter

In this
month's
Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

Greetings and look at that, another month has flown by! We had more than 30 members present at our February lunch meeting at Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant. Sheriff Derek Sanders of Thurston County proved to be a dynamic speaker with a lot to tell us. Members were very engaged and he was happy to field our questions.

So March should be lots of fun. We have our usual Ladies Lunch and Board Meeting for anyone interested in attending. Our Chapter Meeting guest speaker is Don Leingang with a USO update. Don is a high-energy speaker, who always has something new to share. There is also a free Military Appreciation event on 14 March up in Kitsap County for those willing to make a little road trip. On 21 March one of the big events we support is coming up: Washington State Patriotic Day. This event is free, it is close (Pioneer Middle School in Dupont), it will feature an inspirational guest speaker and great music by the I Corps Band (that alone is worth the price of admission, which, did I mention, is free). The event is all about celebrating our active duty servicemembers, veterans and first responders. I am really looking forward to it and I encourage everyone to attend.

In early 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. It is an important opportunity to introduce new officers to our organization. This year they are moving 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 will be provided before the event date.

As we near the end of the legislative session here in Washington, members Jerry Fugich and Allen Acosta have been deeply



**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 03 -2026



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

involved in tracking bills before the House and Senate, working with legislators, testifying for those bills the Veterans Legislative Coalition had determined deserved our support and working with other VSO's to make all this happen. If you want to hear more about how that has gone, you should talk to them. Meanwhile, it is almost 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.

Our next board meeting is March 11 at 5:30 PM via TEAMS and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, March 18, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant. For our guest speaker, we have invited Don Leingang, USO Northwest Director, to come give us an update.

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

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

Treasurer’s Report

Checking account balance:	\$7,124.23
Savings account balance:	\$3,656.26
Total:	\$10,780.49

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 02/28/26	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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$5.42	\$0.00	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$2,870.92	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Note from Treasurer: Greetings fellow chapter members. At our annual meeting November 2025, we presented a budget that included the breakout of how we fund our supported charities through your donations. In the past, we funded the JROTC program with funds from our general fund account. However, your officers and board of directors decided that this approach was no longer sustainable because of the drain it was having on those funds which are needed for chapter operations. Therefore, we decided to add the JROTC program to the charities that we support with member donations. **Starting this year, March is the month that we have designated for JROTC.** As with the other charities, we will distribute all of the funds donated to the JROTC program. Thanks for your support!

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This year, the officers and board of directors decided to shift our scholarship program focus from all the area high schools to the two Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in our service area. So, we distributed our scholarship application package to JROTC programs at Shelton High School and the New Market Skills Center in Tumwater. After board approval, we will award two \$1000 scholarships to a deserving cadet from each program. The funds collected over the past quarter are sufficient to cover these scholarships – thank you chapter members for your generosity.

Members of the Month: Alexander and Danielle Nuxoll

Submitted by DeFrance Clarke



Alex and Danielle are lifetime members of MOAA and have been members of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter since Spring 2025. They live in Lacey with 2 daughters, 2 huskies and a cat. While Alex serves 1st Special Forces Group, Danielle is a newly elected member of the Chapter's Board and works for AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust. **Where are you from?** Alex was born in Seattle, WA, but moved to Bolingbrook, IL, as a toddler. Danielle was born in Naperville, IL. Their families still reside in their childhood homes (3 miles apart). Alex and Danielle met during their junior year of high school and married in 2014.

Professional Development? Alex graduated from Olivette Nazerene University in 2014 with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Military Science. After commissioning he headed off to IBOLC at Fort Benning, GA, to join Infantry and was later assigned to 2ID at JBLM, after graduating Ranger School and Airborne. Alex decided to transition from Infantry to Special Operations Community in 2017, passing selection and graduating the Qualification Course in 2021. Having become proficient in Mandarin Chinese, he was assigned 1SFG, 2nd Battalion. Alex was promoted to Major in 2024, earned a

Masters in Defense and Strategic Studies from The Naval War College, then returned to JBLM and is serving as the Bravo Company Commander for 3rd Battalion.

Danielle graduated from the University of Iowa in 2014 with a Bachelor's in Statistics. During Alex's military career, Danielle has continued to pursue a career with AAFMAA Wealth Management & Trust. As a Senior Relationship Manager, she guides military families through the transition from military service and second career retirement through financial planning. She nurtures client relationships by managing delivery of wealth management solutions that help her clients realize their personal aspirations. Danielle earned her Wealth Management Certified Professional® designation in 2025, specializing in goal-based wealth management, tax strategies, and investment risk management.

Favorite duty station? Alex and Danielle's favorite duty station by far has been JBLM. Since Alex was born in WA, he has some extended family here and has always maintained his love for Seattle sports. Alex and Danielle enjoy all the PNW has to offer including the mix of beach, mountains and city.

Family? Sophie is 6 and Tessa is 2 years old. Both Sophie & Tessa dance at South Sound Dance and do gymnastics at Black Hills Gymnastics. Sophie is in 1st grade at Olympic View Elementary. Tessa was born with Cystic Fibrosis and thanks to the phenomenal, specialty pediatrics clinic at Madigan she is absolutely thriving. The Nuxoll family often participate in Cystic Fibrosis Foundation charity events to raise awareness for the community. This year they will be attending the CFF Night Mariner's baseball game on April 18 and will be walking at the Great Strides event on May 17 in Seattle. If you would like to participate or learn more about the local Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, please reach out to Danielle.

Thoughts for the chapter's/your future? Alex & Danielle appreciate the opportunity to continue to get to know their community and hope this will one day be their final assignment before military retirement.

All photos courtesy of Alex and Danielle Nuxoll.



MOAA's President and CEO's Testimony to House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on 24 February - From MOAA National Website

Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) testified before committee members alongside members of other veterans advocacy groups on 24 February, asking the committee members to support three bipartisan bills currently working their way through Congress.

The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act, provides financial, career and retirement support helping caregivers avoid choosing between caring for veterans and securing their own future.

The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act, provides tools to stop unregulated companies from charging veterans for help with disability claims.

The TAP Promotion Act, allows groups like MOAA to play a more important role in the transition process and “ensures servicemembers and their family members receive timely, accurate information before separation, not after problems arise.”

You can always use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to catch up on the status of MOAA priorities, current legislative concerns, and to send messages directly to your elected officials.

For Surviving Spouses

- From Cheryl Toland, Surviving Spouse Liaison for Mt Rainier Chapter and WSCOC

The [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#) directly supports all those grieving the death of an active duty servicemember or veteran, regardless of the survivor's phase in their grief journey. TAPS' team of expert staff, compassionate volunteers, and peer-support network stand ready 24/7 to embrace bereaved families, friends, and battle buddies and connect them with immediate and lifelong tangible resources and emotional care. This includes casework and education assistance, community-based connections, in-person events, a thriving online community, and the [National Military Survivor Helpline](#), (800) 959-TAPS (8277), which is answered by a knowledgeable, caring survivor care team member anytime, day or night.

TAPS was founded in the wake of a tragedy: the 1992 crash of a military aircraft in Alaska that took the lives of eight soldiers. Among the grieving family members was Bonnie Carroll, the widow of Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, USA. After realizing that no support network was in place for the families of the fallen, Bonnie spent two years researching best practices while navigating her own grief alongside fellow survivors. Since TAPS officially opened its doors to military and veteran survivors in 1994, Bonnie and the TAPS team have supported over 100,000 military and veteran survivors as they grieve, heal, and honor the life of their loved one.

Each day, an average of 26 new survivors connect with TAPS in search of support, resources, and community, such as:

- **Programs.** TAPS offers a wide variety of programming, seminars, online groups, and workshops. Learn more at [TAPS.org/programs](https://taps.org/programs).
- **Advocacy.** Efforts are dedicated to empowering survivors to use their voices to spark change while working closely with government leaders and lawmakers to advance policy and legislation that impacts life after unspeakable tragedy. Visit [TAPS.org/advocacy](https://taps.org/advocacy).
- **TAPS Magazine:** This quarterly publication, mailed to members/survivors, is a comprehensive resource for grieving families. Visit [TAPS.org/magazine](https://taps.org/magazine).
- **Facebook group.** In this group, a survivor can share and receive support from other survivors, staff, and professionals. Learn more at Facebook.com/tapsorg.

Lacey Veterans Services Hub: Centralized Support for the Military Community

By Brian Waananen, Lacey Veterans Services Hub Coordinator

The Lacey Veterans Services Hub (LVSH) provides a centralized location where Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members, and their families can access coordinated support throughout Thurston County and the greater region surrounding Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Guided by its mission, “Honoring Service. Supporting Veterans,” the LVSH was created to make assistance easier to find, understand, and use.

The program operates under a simple vision: Centralized, Comprehensive Support for Veterans, Active-Duty, and their families. By bringing multiple providers and services together in a welcoming environment, the LVSH reduces barriers and helps individuals navigate complicated systems such as VA benefits, employment services, and housing resources.

The City of Lacey, with support from Thurston County, provides the program free of charge so cost is never a barrier to assistance.

Services Offered

- Housing assistance and homelessness prevention
- Financial assistance and budgeting support
- Employment and job-readiness services
- Education assistance
- Legal assistance referrals
- Food insecurity resources
- Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) for VA claims and benefits navigation

Transportation Support - The LVSH also offers free transportation to medical appointments in Thurston County and to the American Lake VA. This service ensures Veterans and family members can reliably attend essential healthcare appointments. In 2025 alone, LVSH transported more than 250 Veterans and family members and logged over 9,700 miles of travel to support access to care.

Partnerships and Community Impact - The LVSH works closely with national and local partners, including the Travis Manion Foundation, to strengthen community engagement, leadership development, and service opportunities for Veterans and their families. In 2025, the Hub assisted more than 3,607 clients, including Service Members, Veterans, spouses, and children. This reflects the growing need for services and the LVSH’s role as a cornerstone of military-connected support in the region.

Staying Connected - Community members can follow the LVSH on Facebook for updates, outreach events, and program announcements. You can find additional information, eligibility requirements, and schedule appointments with VSOs on the LVSH website.

Location and Contact:

Lacey Veterans Services Hub, 4232 6th Ave SE, Suite 101, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone:

Facebook: [LVSH Facebook Page](#)

LVSH Website: [Veterans Services Hub - City of Lacey](#)

The LVSH encourages members of the military community to reach out, whether they need assistance themselves or want to connect a fellow Service Member, Veteran, or family member to trusted support resources.

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 February Meeting



We had an outstanding turnout for our February meeting. We enjoyed an excellent meal and the members seemed to have a good time visiting with each other at their tables before and during the meal. Our guest speaker for the meeting, Sheriff Derek Sanders, gave us an informative update on the Thurston County Sheriff's department. Sheriff Sanders was just 28 years old when he was elected to his office. When he went before the county commissioners, they told him they liked what he wanted to do, but there was no money to do it. They were the worst staffed sheriff's office in the worst staffed state in the

country. So, his first challenge was to campaign for a sales tax to support his initiatives. Happily, the tax passed and he has been able to add 33 new positions, new officers, they have added training and they are obtaining a much-needed new headquarters building. The audience was very engaged and had lots of questions before we thanked the Sheriff and presented him with the coveted MOAA mug.

Above: President Carrie Nielson presents the MOAA mug to Sheriff Derek Sanders. Right: Sheriff Derek Sanders speaks to the assembled MOAA members. Photos by Ro Marcus.



Welcome New Members

It is a great pleasure to be able to welcome two new members to the chapter this month. Rod Phillips joined us at our February meeting and has now officially signed up as the newest member of Olympia Area MOAA Chapter. Rod is a retired Army Colonel who lives in Roy with his wife, Nancy, and is a friend of Slots. He is now fully retired and ready to engage with a local chapter of MOAA. He has a particular interest in financial planning and the military to civilian transition process.

Benjamin Lee found us via our chapter website. He is an active CW3 in the Army and lives in Lacey with his young daughter. He is aiming for a Fall '27 retirement and contemplating a post-Army gig as a mortgage broker. When you see Rod or Ben at a future chapter meeting or event, be sure to welcome them to the chapter.



The Military Order of World Wars



Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Anniversary

Washington State Patriotic Day



March 21, 2026

Pioneer Middle School, DuPont, WA

Program starts at 2 PM, ends at 4 PM



**Scan for more
information**



Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting will be 18 March, gather at 1130, call to order at 1200. This month's planned speaker is Don Leingang, who will provide an update on the USO. We will be meeting at Panorama's Seventeen51 Restaurant, 1751 Circle Ln SE, Lacey, WA 98503. RSVP No Later Than Friday, 13 March. Meal options will be:

**Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad, or
Macaroni and Cheese, or
Turkey 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

March 11, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
Contact Ro Marcus or Chris McManus
for a Teams invite.

Ladies Lunch Club

When: March 9 at 1200, noon
Where: Lacey Brewery City Pizza, 4353
Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516
Please RSVP to: [Christine McManus](#)

Military Appreciation Day – March
14, 1100-1400, Kitsap County
Fairground, hosted by the Kitsap
Chamber of Commerce. This free
event honors military members and
families with local resources, food
and activities.

Notable March Dates

- March – Women's History Month
- 03/03 – Navy Reserve Birthday - established 1915
- 03/05 – Seabee Birthday - established 1942
- 03/08 – Spring Forward to Daylight Savings Time
- 03/08 – International Women's Day
- 03/09 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Lacey Brewery City Pizza, 4353 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516
- 03/11 – 1730, Staff Meeting, via TEAMS
- 03/13 – K9 Veterans Day – honors US military and working dogs
- 03/14 – Pi Day
- 03/17 – St Patrick's Day
- 03/18 – 1200, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant
- 03/21 – Rosie the Riveter Day – honors the women who worked in factories and shipyards during WWII
- 03/25 – Medal of Honor Day – recognizes the recipients, established 1863
- 03/29 – Vietnam Veterans Day – commemorates final withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam in 1973
- 04/02 – 1730-1900, OCS Graduation Event on JBLM – our gold bar event with National Guard OCS, moved forward from Summer

Save the Date in March:

Washington State Patriotic Day – March 21, 2pm, Pioneer Middle School, Dupont

The event is free to the public, celebrates the spirit of service and patriotism, thanking our active duty, veterans, and first responders, all the way back to the original patriot - George Washington. There will be an inspiring guest speaker, the excellent music of the I Corps military band, a massing of the colors event and more. Come on out – it isn't far, there is plenty of free parking, and this year is extra special – it is America 250 – the 250th Anniversary of our nation's birth. Olympia Area MOAA Chapter will have a unit participating in the massing of the colors, so come out and cheer and vote for your chapter.

Donation/ Lunch Options

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

Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, March 13, 2026 to [Doug White](#).

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

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 18, 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	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Turkey Sandwich with choice of fries, green salad, or fruit	\$20.50	X		= \$
	Macaroni and Cheese	\$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.

JROTC	= \$
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

Fisher House Support:

During the winter months, Fisher House has depleted some of their supplies and have reached out to us for support.

If you can donate any of the following items, please bring them to our next meeting on Mar 18th:

- Clorox/Lysol sanitizing wipes
- Softsoap brand hand soap

- Thanks from your Fisher House Liaison.