



Olympia Area Chapter

In this month's Bugle



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THE BUGLE

Presidents Note

April certainly brought a bit of everything with the weather, but I am liking all the green and blossoms I am seeing out the window now, so the weather whiplash is worth it.

Congratulations to Olympia Area MOAA Chapter! The results are in and we are a 5 Star Level of Excellence Chapter for the 16th year in a row. Our newsletter and website both earned 5 Star level of excellence recognition as well. The quality of our meetings, activities, communications, charitable contributions and chapter programs continues to be recognized nationally.

Happily, our April meeting attendance numbers remained strong. Great food, great company and a great speaker are proving a winning combination - thank you to all who turned out to hear from Captain Sophia Wahto with her update on the organization and operations of the Western Air Defense Sector. She proved to be a dynamic speaker and fielded the many audience questions smoothly. With Art Dolan coming in May, it promises to be another terrific month!

Looking forward to welcoming one of our scholarship recipients to our meeting this month (in spirit, I must miss this one). Be sure to greet Logan McCaslin from Shelton for me when he joins the May chapter meeting.

Four of our officers attended the National Guard OCS Commissioning Event in the company of a friendly USAA representative. We were pleased to have the chance to say a few words of welcome, talk a little bit about MOAA, hand out gold bars and welcome these brand-new officers into the wardroom. Excellent chance to plant the seed for MOAA.

I hear from our state council president that the Advocacy in Action event was successful with our state teams speaking to at least



**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





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

the staffers, and often the actual legislators in every WA office. Looking forward to hearing from our very own Allen Acosta about his first AiA experience.

Our next board meeting is May 13 at 5:30 PM via TEAMS and our next chapter meeting is Wednesday, May 20, social @ 11:30 AM, meeting called to order at 12:00. The location is Panorama's seventeen51 restaurant. For our guest speaker, Art Dolan is going to regale us with stories about our founding documents in keeping with the spirit of America250.

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
Chapter President

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

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

Treasurer’s Report

Checking account balance:	\$8,837.81
Savings account balance:	\$3,656.57
Total:	\$12,494.38

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 04/30/26	Disbursed YTD	2026 Goal
USO	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$1400
Fisher House	\$1,090.50	\$0.00	\$1200
Santa’s Castle	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$2000
Scholarships	\$2,290.50	\$0.00	\$3000
JROTC Booster Club	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500
Sports Balls	\$5.42	\$0.00	1000 balls
TOTALS	\$4,936.42	\$0.00	\$8100 and 1000 balls

Note from Treasurer: Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our chapter members, we were able to collect \$1,000 for the JROTC units we support in just over one month. Thanks for your support! This month we continue to collect for Fisher House.

OLYMPIA MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your generous donations are allowing us to provide two scholarships this year. One of our two scholarship recipients will be joining us at our May meeting. Still waiting to hear from our second recipient. We will be attending JROTC awards events for Shelton and New Market on May 21 at 1700 and 1730, and senior award nights at Rainier High School on June 02 at 1700 and Shelton High School on June 03 at 1800 to properly recognize these outstanding students and increase community visibility for our chapter. We will also present \$500 to each unit or their booster club before or during their awards ceremonies, thanks to chapter members’ generous donations.

Olympia MOAA Supports Fisher House

Fisher House provides service members and their families with a comfortable, nurturing and secure home away from home while 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 can be served 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. Based on your generous donations in past years, we have set a goal of \$1,200 for this year. We do have just two months to achieve our goal this year since we used one month this quarter to donate to our JROTC programs. So please be generous in May. **If you would like to know more about Fisher House and how it operates, they offer tours. Call Vattana Garcia at .

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, you can identify yourself as a Surviving Spouse and it will take you to a page full of information and resources specifically curated for you. These resources include:

- The Surviving Spouse Corner, updated monthly
- Information about the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council
- Surviving Spouse FAQs
- Information about the Widows Tax
- Links to Survivor Publications available from MOAA and MOAA endorsed Insurance

The available publications include “Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse”, “Survivor’s Checklist”, and “Your Guide to Military Burials.”

State Legislative Wrap-Up

Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition was able to get 8 Veterans Bills across the finish line in this year’s short session. These bills include the Dietician Licensure Compact, also a modification to the membership of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. One new law makes changes to school district requirements for enrolling children of military families, transferring their education records, and providing them with services and accommodations. There are five others involving military code victim rights, veterans’ benefits access, veterans/discharge definition, voting services and civil air patrol.

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

The whirlwind AiA took place mid-April. This year Allen Acosta of Olympia Area MOAA Chapter was a member of our WA State contingent in DC for AiA. Anticipate getting a report out from Allen soon. State Council President Dana Clay says the two state teams were able to get to the offices of every one of our legislative members to speak with either the members themselves or their staff about this year’s MOAA priorities and all of them seemed receptive.

You can always use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to learn more about these MOAA priorities, and to send messages directly to your elected officials. Act now!

Members of the Month – Raymond and Francelia (Frankie) Rasmussen

Submitted by LtCol DeFrance Clarke

Ray and Frankie are lifetime members of MOAA and have been members of the Olympia Area MOAA chapter since 2023. Ray is a newly elected member of the Chapter Board. Along with MOAA, they are active in Lacey Bible Church, Panorama Bible Study, Officer Christian Fellowship, Bible Study Fellowship, Panorama Resident Transit, and the Panorama Clay Art Studio.



Where are you from? Ray is a Navy Brat and his family spent the most time at NAS Memphis. Frankie grew up in South Jersey (Southern New Jersey).

Branch of Service? Ray: US Army: 30 years - Field Artillery Officer Frankie: US Marine Corps 2 years (Aviation Operations), then US Army for 18 years – Military Intelligence Officer.

Favorite duty station/assignment?

Ray: Inspector General for the Wisconsin State National Guard, Madison, Wisconsin.

Frankie: Tactical Officer for Company C, 1st Regiment, USMA West Point.

Family? 2 Children, 4 Grands, 8 great-grands

How did you end up here? Ft Lewis was Ray's first duty station after graduating from West Point. It was also Frankie's first duty station following OCS – but they didn't know each other then. When retirement was closing in, they sifted through their past assignments and chose Ft Lewis as the best place to settle down.

What have you been up to lately? Prior to moving to Panorama, they owned a little hobby farm (17 acres w/wetland) for 20 years. They moved to Panorama in 2020. They stay active with community volunteer work, church activities and Bible studies. Ray and Frankie also enjoy traveling.

Welcome New Member



We had a lifetime national MOAA member join us for our April meeting at the recommendation of Danielle Nuxoll. After receiving a warm Olympia Area welcome, CW5 Barry Lindeke, USA RET decided to join us and applied to become our newest chapter member. When you see him at a meeting, be sure to welcome Barry to the chapter.

Barry lives in Puyallup where he is currently in the process of moving to a senior co-op. Barry enjoys traveling throughout the United States and overseas, especially Japan where he recently spent 9 weeks just roaming around the country. Road trips in the United States are also a favorite to visit various national parks and annual trips to visit 2 daughters living on Cape Cod, MA. His third daughter lives locally in Bellevue, so Barry sees her weekly. Barry's interests run the gamut from photography to computers. And he keeps very involved in the running of the senior co-op where he recently moved.

Look for Barry's Member of the Month profile next month for more biographical info!

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:

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

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- 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 (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 April Meeting



We had a great turnout for our April 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, Air National Guard Captain Sophia Wahto, provided us with a superb briefing on the mission, capabilities and operations of the Western Air Defense Sector. Chapter members had lots of questions for her and we invited her to join our chapter.

Left: Mark Foutch, Bob Jones, Danielle Nuxoll, speaker Captain Sophia Wahto, John McConnel, Hal Miller, Jim Williams, Carrie Nielson at April MOAA Meeting. Photo by Ron Nielson

National Guard OCS Event

On Thursday, 02 April, at 1700, Carrie Nielson, Dave Slotwinski, Ro Marcus and Bill Moseley gathered at the WANG Aviation Readiness Center on JBLM to represent MOAA at the National Guard OCS Graduation Celebration. We have the opportunity to say a few opening remarks congratulating the new officers, welcoming them to the wardroom, describing the proud tradition they are joining, telling them a little bit about MOAA and then we handed out first gold bars, shook hands and exchanged a few words with each officer, providing pamphlets, applications, and/or business cards as desired. USAA Representative James Jenner was right beside us, handing out silver coins and we thanked him for funding our gold bar initiative. We even cued up the duty, honor, country recording to get them motivated. This was an excellent opportunity to welcome these brand new officers to our ranks and introduce them to MOAA, planting the seed early.

JROTC Awards Events

On Thursday, 21 May, both of our supported JROTC units will be holding their end of year awards events. Shelton's event will begin at 1700, while New Market's event will begin at 1730. Our officers/board of directors will have at least one member in attendance at each event to present a certificate to our scholarship recipient and the MOAA JROTC medal to the cadet selected for that honor, along with a check to the unit/booster club to support their program. If you would like to attend a JROTC Awards Event to show our support, contact Slots at , or to coordinate.

VFW Fundraising Breakfast

VFW Post 318, at 2902 Martin Way E, is hosting a fundraising breakfast on Saturday, May 16, 0900-1100. They will have eggs, bacon, sausage, and biscuits and gravy made from scratch all served with a variety of juices for just \$15. They are raising funds for The Wall That Heals, the largest replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC, which travels the country with an education center to give Vietnam Veterans a proper welcome home to come to Lacey.

Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting will be 20 May, gather at 1130, call to order at 1200. Our speaker will be Art Dolan (he gave the flag presentation last February). His topic will be Our Country's Founding Documents in keeping with our celebration of America250. We will be meeting at Panorama's Seventeen51 Restaurant, 1751 Circle Ln SE, Lacey, WA 98503. RSVP No Later Than Friday, 15 May. Meal options will be:

Chambers Salad with Grilled Chicken, 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

May 13, 2026, 5:30 pm. Via Teams.
Contact Ro Marcus or [Chris McManus](#)
for a Teams invite.

Ladies Lunch Club

When: May 11 at 1200, noon
Where: Cebu, 5225 Yelm Highway SE,
Olympia, WA 98513
Please RSVP to: [Christine McManus](#)

Notable May Dates

- May – National Military Appreciation Month
- May – Month of the Military Caregiver
- First full week in May – Public Service Recognition Week
- 05/01 – Silver Star Service Banner Day – Honors wounded, ill, and injured veterans
- 05/01 – May Day
- 05/05 – Cinco de Mayo
- 05/08 – Victory in Europe (VE) Day
- 05/08 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 05/10 – Mother's Day
- **05/11 – 1200, Ladies Lunch, Cebu, 5225 Yelm Highway SE, Olympia, WA 98513**
- **05/13 – 1730, Board Meeting, via TEAMS**
- 05/13 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- 05/16 – Armed Forces Day
- **05/20 – 1200, Chapter Lunch Meeting, gather 1130, eat 1200, Panorama Seventeen51 Restaurant**
- 05/25 – Memorial Day

North Thurston Public Schools Military Spouse Appreciation Event

All active duty, reserve personnel, retired, veterans and their families are invited to attend an open house style event on May 8 from 1530 to 1700 in the District Office Boardroom at 305 College St NE, Lacey. The event features resource tables, door prizes and refreshments and should be a wonderful opportunity to build connections and have some fun.

Rainier MOAA Chapter Meeting Featuring Presentation about Amelia Earhart: Fact, Fiction, and More

The Rainier MOAA Chapter will hold their monthly meeting at Patriot's Landing in Dupont on May 17th, doors opening at noon, program and buffet starting around 1230, pay at the door. This month the subject will be "a breathtaking presentation on the life, and disappearance of a most remarkable person, Amelia Earhart." Point of contact is Doug Kotrba, dougekotrba@comcast.net

Donation/ Lunch Options

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

Please RSVP no later than the morning of Friday, May 15, 2026 to [Doug White](#).

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

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 20, gather at 11:30 am and call to order and lunch at noon.

With our new menu arrangement, we do not suffer a penalty for attendees that may show up without prior notice, so do not let having forgotten to RSVP keep you from joining us. On the other hand, it is very beneficial for both the chapter and the restaurant to have a good head count ahead of time for planning purposes, so we do continue to request that you RSVP to let us know you are coming and which entrée you would like.

	Chambers Salad with Grilled Chicken	\$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. Drinks and dessert are extra and may be ordered from wait staff. 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

Guardian Hills - submitted by Carrie Nielson

I recently learned of a nonprofit organization/facility donated and operated by a former trauma doctor on a 28-acre farm with barn, art studio, three 4-bedroom cabins, an arena, horses, disc golf and archery. They have therapists on site and focus on experiential therapy to assist veterans suffering from PTSD, Moral Distress, and Sexual Trauma. This will be their third year in operation. They run from May through October and offer one-week courses with reentry assistance and follow-up for participants.

Their contact information and application form are on their website. There are some eligibility requirements for participation. The program is free and some assistance with transportation may be available, as they are in the Green Hills region of Missouri. If you know of someone who is suffering and might benefit from such a program, and/or wish to learn more, go to www.guardianhills.com, or contact Dan Slawski at .