



ESTABLISHED 1970

January 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- President: Rod Williams
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Navy Rep: Open
Coast Guard Rep: C. S. Wetherell
Marine Rep: Open
Air Force Rep: Beth Brown
Public Health Rep: Roger DeRoos
Auxiliary Rep: Barbara De Vorss
Legislative Affairs: John Hershberger
Personal Affairs: Terry Babin
Public Affairs: John Donnelly
Scholarship: Paul Crosby

As I celebrated the end of 2010 at a gathering with family and friends, I looked back and saw many happy times and events to inspire hope in the New Year. Our Columbia River Chapter can equally look forward with optimism. The realist in me also sees the challenges we face as individuals and families, citizens and veterans. In this newsletter I would like to focus attention on two challenges facing us in 2011.

First, only if we bury our head in sand like an ostrich, can we avoid the challenge that an austere Federal budget will have on the lives and families of those currently serving, those fully retired who rely on past commitments in their retirement and also those who are in second careers with retirement plans based on past commitments. The news coming out of the Department of Defense on how they plan to achieve budget cut targets include dramatic changes. Some have described the DoD situation as similar to that of General Motors as it was seeking "bail out" dollars. GM was heavily burdened by the high cost of its retired workforce. I remember one talking head on a cable news show blaming greedy unions

who negotiated Cadillac level salaries, pensions and health plans. Now, based on the recommendations from President Obama's bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, we can read and hear similar comparisons to the military retirement and health care costs.

The majority of Americans can accept that the only way to balance the national and state budgets is to reduce what is being spent. When faced with such decisions in a family or business where bail outs and raising the debt ceiling are not options, we look at the impacts and risks to be incurred by each possible cut before making the tough call. The DoD has to submit a budget plan for Congressional approval that does much the same.

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27 Jan
Joint Luncheon
OWC - MOAA
The Waterford
at Fairway Village
Noon
\$15 per person
RSVP:
nancylbp@comcast.net
Or call 750-1335 and leave a message.
Details on page 7

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

As members of MOAA, we can be assured our National team will be in touch with those who have influence in both the DoD and Congressional budget processes. It is unlikely that we can change the way DoD is interpreting the impacts and risks to families and retirees, but we can influence our Congressional representatives who have to approve the budget to look at these issues with open eyes and minds. Expecting that there will not be change is unrealistic. Expecting past commitments to be honored and fairness in the outcomes is reasonable and achievable only if our voice is heard. Keeping up with the legislative action alerts from MOAA and our chapter legislative team is a very important role for each of us. Getting your message to your representatives is the critical action step. In this newsletter and on the MOAA Website you will find all the contact information you need. If not, contact any Board member for help.

The second challenge I want to address involves the vitality of our chapter. We have seen a marginal drop in attendance at some of our events. Your Chapter Board puts a lot of effort in planning our meetings. We seek your input in our annual survey so

that we can continue to offer programs that are meaningful and you want to come to. The second part of chapter vitality is renewal, meaning recruiting new members and volunteers for Chapter Board and committee positions. Most of our new recruits come from member contacts in everyday situations. If you meet a potential recruit, talk to them about the chapter and what you like about it. Get contact information and pass it along to our membership chair, Dave Casteel, or any Board member. If you have been a past Board officer and now feel you have the time and energy to re-engage in such a role just let us know. Or maybe based on your experience, you know another member who would make a great Board or committee member. Talk it up with them and let us know.

Each of us needs to speak up with clear voice and be heard on the issues and be an active participant and recruiter for us to meet the challenges of 2011.



**Rod Williams
President**

2011 Membership – Goal Achieved

MOAA gives each chapter a goal of recruiting ten new members each year in what's called the "Give Me Ten" program which is designed to keep MOAA growing and chapters vibrant. We achieved this goal again in 2010 and are pleased to announce a new national member who joined our chapter:

Heather Cotoia, Maj, USMC. Heather is the Commander of the Marine Recruiting Detachment serving here in Portland on a three year assignment and lives in Vancouver. We welcome Heather and her husband John to our chapter.

We also want to thank and recognize Evelyn Brady of our chapter who is serving a one year active duty assignment in Sacramento, CA. Evelyn has done a great job recruiting two national members for us this year. John Donnelly also deserves recognition for recruiting Col Daniel Kern, USA.

Want a GREAT gift for your spouse? Give the gift of a Life Membership conversion. When you are gone your spouse will never have to pay any annual dues and will receive seamless assistance from MOAA. When you make the Life conversion, PLEASE write MOAA "WA-01 Columbia River Chapter" on your application so our chapter receives credit. I have a prepaid form for you. Call me at 834-2448 or e-mail me at shilohcamas@comcast.net and I'll get it to you.

**Dave Casteel – 360-834-3534
shilohcamas@comcast.net
Membership Chair**



Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Editor: Rich Wersinger. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at rich@rjwconsulting.org.

Chapter Secretary John Donnelly coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

Did you Know?

Submitted by Dave Casteel

...that your Columbia River MOAA Chapter is 501 (c) 17 non profit organization under IR code? This means that donations to the chapter (not dues) are tax deductible as allowed by law. This includes your donations for scholarships, Support the Troops, etc. You can donate by cash, check and even appreciated stock. You can also make a bequest to the Columbia River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America by remembering us in your will. If you would like more information about large gifts please call or e-mail Dave Casteel at 834-2448 or shilohcamas@comcast.net. Deductibility questions should be directed to your financial advisor.

VA Community Reintegration Program

Submitted by Dave Shoemaker

The Camas Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus is supporting the Veterans Administration's (VA) Community Reintegration Program, an effort to end homelessness among veterans by 2015. The local VA manager for this effort is located on the Vancouver Campus.

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternity of 1.8 million Catholic men. The purpose of the Fourth Degree is to advance the cause of patriotism.

Our Assembly is interested in partnering with business and community organizations to fund and staff this effort. We would welcome MOAA participation in this patriotic effort to serve those who have served in the armed forces that guard our country.

Our current efforts involve collecting and delivering supplies and essential housekeeping items to homeless veterans who are moving into VA rent-supported, unfurnished housing. Recent efforts include delivery of donated furniture such as bed frames, tables, chairs, and television sets.

Newsletter Distribution

We continue to distribute our newsletter by e-mail, so if you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify our Chapter Secretary, John Donnelly, donnellyj@comcast.net or 360-260-9336

The VA has provided a list of recommended items. The list is not all inclusive – donors are asked to consider what they would need when moving into an apartment with no furniture or supplies. Among the suggested items are kitchen and bathroom paper products, kitchen appliances, bed and bath linens, pots and pans, bed frames (no old mattresses please—unused mattresses OK, or just bed frames OK), toiletries, dishes, eating utensils, cleaning supplies, TVs, radios, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated. Checks may be made out to Knights of Columbus Assembly 2926 and sent to:

Earle Putnam
VA CRP Coordinator
2635 NW 42nd Ave
Camas, WA 98607

The Camas Assembly's point of contact for this project is Earle Putnam. He can be reached at 360-834-9795.

See also the VA's Web page support for our homeless veterans: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>



Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/>

MOAA Capitol toll free hotline at 1-866-272-6622

White House

Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
FAX: 202-456-2461 E-mail: comments@whitehouse.gov

Congressman Jaime Herrera Beutler Washington's 3rd Congressional District

<http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/>

The U.S. Government's Portal: <http://www.usa.gov/>
U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>
U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>



Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1130 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3536 Fax: (202) 225-3478	Vancouver, WA Office: O.O. Howard House 750 Anderson Street, Suite B Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 695-6292 Fax: (360) 695-6197
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Contact Congresswoman Herrera Beutler via email:
<https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell <http://cantwell.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3441 202-228-0514 - FAX 202-224-8273 - TDD	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1313 Officers Row Vancouver, WA 98661 360-696-7838 360-696-7844 - FAX	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 915 Second Avenue Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174. 206-220-6400 206-220-6404 - FAX
Contact Senator Cantwell via email: http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/		

U.S. Senator Patty Murray <http://murray.senate.gov/>

WASHINGTON, DC 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238	SW WASHINGTON The Marshall House 1323 Officer's Row Vancouver, Washington 98661 Phone: (360) 696-7797 Fax: (360) 696-7798	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 2988 Jackson Federal Building 915 Second Avenue Seattle, WA 98174 Phone: (206) 553-5545 Toll Free: (866) 481-9186 Fax: (206) 553-0891
Contact Senator Murray via email: http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm		

Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 15
Senator	Craig Pridemore 786-7696	Don Benton 786-7632	Joseph Zarelli 786-7634	Jim Honeyford 786-7684 786-7173
Representative, Position 1	Jim Jacks 786-7924	Tim Probst 786-7994	Ann Rivers 771-8133	Bruce Chandler 786-7960
Representative, Position 2	Jim Moeller 786-7872	Deb Wallace 786-7976	Ed Orcutt 786-7812	David Taylor 786-7874

Note. All phone numbers are 360 area code. Toll free **1-800-562-6000**
More info at www.leg.wa.gov/legislature

Legislative Affairs

A whirlwind of legislative action during the lame duck session by our Congressional Representatives and Senators appears to be leading to a new and politically interesting year for 2011. Our newly elected officials will be installed January 5th as the 112th Congress convenes, and... let us hope, our legislators will achieve accord and wisdom in their service of the American people.

Locally, we have a new rep in the Legislative Affairs shop; me! I'm John Hershberger, a retired Naval Aviator. I have become a MOAA Life Member after seeing the good results and effectiveness of MOAA. I told my predecessor, Dave Casteel, I'd be glad to assist him since I was already active trying to urge our legislators to support the military. The next thing I knew, I got his job! (Smile!)

It is vital we contact our elected officials and let them know our views as various subjects come up. This helps Congress understand the will of the people they represent and the majority opinion. But what are the most effective ways to inform them?

Various sources, and experience, suggest these effective contact methods, in descending order:

- 1) a personal visit,
- 2) a letter,
- 3) a phone call, and
- 4) an email.

Although it's listed last, note the MOAA member email has a distinct advantage, especially when we utilize the MOAA Web Base, <http://www.moaa.org>. For example, in late 2009, we generated over 60,000 emails to congress preventing TRICARE funding cuts. Our MOAA web base has the issues, the addresses and the emails. It just needs you. Then, our officers follow up with our legislators, backed by the thousands of emails we sent.

If you choose to make a personal visit, it's best to call for an appointment. The local offices are convenient. Both of our Senators Cantwell and Murray, have their offices in the Marshall House on Officers Row. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler's office is the second floor (elevator available) of the O.O. Howard House, one block South of the Officers Row traffic circle. See our previous page for local addresses and telephone numbers

One can walk in, as well, and still be able to leave a brief opinion or comment with the receptionist. Realize it's best to talk with a staffer. Expect only 5 to 10 minutes and be cordial. Be sure to thank them for the opportunity to discuss your important issue. Send a "Thank You" note to the person by name when you get home. Next time, ask for them. There's more at "How to Effectively Lobby an Elected Official" or <http://tinyurl.com/27tmofs>

Feel free to call me at 360-573-2940 or e-mail me at hershberger6047@comcast.net if you have any question about this issue.

John Hershberger
Legislative Affairs



2011 CHAPTER CALENDAR

27 January	OWC & MOAA Annual Joint Luncheon ~ 1200: The Waterford at Fairway Village Sweet Chili Salmon/Beef Tenderloin/Portobello and Asparagus Pasta Details below.
17 February	Luncheon – Installation of Officers Clark County Skills Center ~ 1130 gather, luncheon at 1200 ~ Program: Historic Flight
19 March Saturday	Brunch ~ 1000 – Location to be determined ~ Program: TBD
21 April	Luncheon – Clark County Skills Center ~ 1130 gather, luncheon at 1200 ~ Program: TBD
19 May	Dinner – Orchard Hills Country Club (tentative) ~ 1730 gather, Buffet at 1830 ~ Program: TBD
June	Wine Tasting/Picnic ~ Location: TBD



OWC & MOAA 11th Annual Joint Luncheon
27 January, Thursday
Noon

The Vancouver Retired Military Officer's Wives' Club (OWC) Takes great pleasure in once again inviting MOAA members to join us for lunch

The Waterford at Fairway Village
2911 SE Village Loop,
Vancouver, WA 98683

Program: Brandi Williams
Waterford Village

Cost: \$15.00 per person all inclusive,
collected at the door.

Please feel free to invite your friends along. Just let us know the total number in your party. Also, please let us know if you can't make it after RSVP-ing.

RSVP by 19 Jan: nancylbp@comcast.net
Or call 750-1335 and leave a message.

Please let us know your choice for RSVP:

- (1) Grilled Sweet Chili Salmon**
Served with Blue cheese Mashed Yukon Potatoes and Asparagus
- (2) Beef Tenderloin Steak**
with a Mushroom Demi Sauce
Served with Blue cheese Mashed Yukon Potatoes and Asparagus
- (3) Seared Portobello and Asparagus Pasta**
(vegetarian)
Dessert is: Warm Banana bread pudding with a whiskey raisin sauce
Beverages: water, coffee, ice tea, hot tea, Pepsi, sierra mist

MOAA Columbia River Chapter 2011 Survey

1. Please confirm that your mailing address is correct.

_____ My mailing address is correct

_____ Please change my mailing address as follows:

2. What is your current email address? Or if none, circle NONE.

3. National MOAA membership number (on front of magazine) _____
(Needed to align our membership roster with National MOAA' roster)

4. Our Board of Directors has opened a dialogue with the new J-9 at Ft. Lewis-McCord AFB to determine assistance needs of the families of deployed soldiers and airmen--particularly those families residing in SW Washington. **Are you willing to furnish financial or volunteer help to continue the Chapter's "Support the Troops" program in this new initiative if critical support needs are found?**

YES NO NOT SURE

5. Our Scholarship Committee wants your input on the future direction of our Scholarship Program. Under consideration are establishing an "endowed" scholarship at WSU-Vancouver (similar to the 3 scholarships already established at Clark College) as well as increasing the annual awards at Clark College (currently at \$750 per award). Estimated total needed is a minimum of \$60,000. **Are you willing to support a new scholarship drive? YES NO NOT SURE and Would you consider adding a donation, trust, or other financial support in your Will(s)?**

YES NO NOT SURE

6. Our Board of Directors is authorized under our Chapter By-laws to conduct almost all the business of the Chapter outside of the monthly meetings. This frees up time for meetings to be primarily social and educational events. We also try to provide a variety of meeting times and programs for our members. **What programs do you enjoy the most--enough to consider actually attending the meeting/event?** Please check all that apply:

Local or military history. Legislative issues-- Local State

Federal. Financial and estate planning. General Topics (e.g. local

geology, gardening, travel, shopping, health, etc.) --**Anything in particular you would like to recommend?** _____ . Social only. Guest Speakers on what other

topic(s)? _____ . Other recommendations?

MOAA Columbia River Chapter Dues

1. **Amount enclosed:**

Chapter Dues (\$15/year or \$40 for 3 Years) \$_____

NOTE: Members who opted for 3 year dues in 2008 are now due for 2011!

Scholarship Fund Donation \$_____

Support the Troops Donation \$_____

TOTAL \$_____ (Make all checks out to MOAA Columbia River Ch.)

Please return this form and survey with your check for dues/donations (if applicable) to:

**MOAA – Columbia River Chapter
PO Box 1872
Vancouver, WA 98668**

NOTE: New 2010 members under the “Give Me Ten” Program do not pay 2011 dues!

NOTE: Chapter dues are due at the beginning of the year. We pay per capita dues to the State Council by the end of January. Thus, your early payment helps. Thank You!

Contact Information (for questions):

Treasurer: **Larry Sickles** 892-2638 or lsickles@comcast.net (3 year dues status questions)

Membership, large donations, and bequest information: **Dave Casteel** 834-2448 or shilohcamas@comcast.net

IRS Statement

The Columbia River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is a 501 (c) 17 non-profit organization under IR code. As such, donations (NOT dues) are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you have questions please consult your financial advisor.