



COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

5-Star Excellence Chapter



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
P.O. BOX 1872 VANCOUVER, WA 98668

ESTABLISHED 1970

website: www.moaacolumbiariver.org

January 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:
Evelyn Brady
360-721-0865
**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998
**2nd Vice-President:
& Programs**

Secretary:
Rod Heidelberg
360-607-6015

Treasurer:
Ron Pastor
360-882-1275

**Immediate Past
President,
CRMF president:**
Dave Casteel
360-834-2448

Army Rep:
Jon Frederick
360-576-9078

Marine Rep:
Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Navy Rep:
Rich Wersinger
360-901-1915

Air Force Rep:
Jeremy Baenen
360-281-9998

Coast Guard Rep:

Public Health Rep:
Chris Rubadue

**Surviving Spouse
Liaison:**
Terry Whisenant
360-576-7736

Legislative Affairs:
Rod Williams
360-891-5605

Membership Services:
Terry Babin
360-608-7789

Public Affairs:
John Donnelly
360-904-8966

Scholarship:
Paul Crosby
360-666-8871

Chaplain:
Rev Max Metcalf
541-961-0869

As many of you already know, **Bob Cross** had a serious fall on the ice on January 12, broke his neck and injured his spinal cord. He has been at Peace Health Hospital in Vancouver since then and is now beginning vigorous rehab. He is in good spirits and we wish him all the best. He and Liz appreciate our thoughts and prayers. Bob is a charter member of our chapter.

On January 21, we held our Annual Membership Business meeting. We approved the changes to the by-laws of both the chapter and the foundation. We held elections, however, we still have three positions

needing to be filled on the board. Our treasurer, **Ron Pastor**, and our secretary **Rod Heidelberg**, have completed their terms and are willing to help transition to new officers. Our 2nd Vice President position is also vacant. Please consider serving on the Executive Board of your chapter. We welcome **Chris Rubadue** as the PHS service representative.

As we make plans for 2017, we continue to explore different venues for meetings and to find programs that are interesting to you, the members. We asked the members at the business meeting and the consensus was to continue to find different venues for

our monthly meetings. Please let us know of your ideas or thoughts on programs.

We received the Harris Communication Award from MOAA for 2015. This is mainly due to our outstanding newsletter that **Rich Wersinger** prepares and edits. I

receive several chapter newsletters, and ours is the best. Thank you **Rich!** I am sending in the application for the 2016 Communication Award before 1 FEB2017.

Please plan to be at our next meeting on FEB 16 and the American Legion Smith Reynolds Post 14 on St James

Road. We have an excellent program planned. **Pat Jollota** is our guest speaker and those of you that have heard her speak know she is an outstanding speaker.

Stay safe, and remember, never stop serving!

**Evelyn Brady
President**



**16 February
Thursday
Chapter Meeting
American Legion Hall
St. James Road
Vancouver, WA
RSVP 9 February
Details on page 10**

Newsletter Highlights

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Membership Update by *Jeremy Baenen*

Despite how busy the holidays can be and all that Mother Nature has thrown our way lately, we added two more members to our chapter! I'd like to first introduce **Larry DeVries**. **Larry** lives in Vancouver and has been an active member of this community in a number of affairs for quite some time. You may have met **Larry** when he joined us at the luncheon we held at Ben's Bottle Shop. **Larry** is a retired U.S. Navy Captain and is also a life member of the Association of the United States Navy, the Reserve Officers Association and the Society of American Military Engineers.

Our newest member is **Eleanor P. Shea** who prefers to be called "Ellie". **Ellie** is a life member of MOAA and a surviving spouse. **Ellie** has been extremely active in MOAA for a long time. We are very happy to have her transfer her affiliation to our Chapter as she has recently moved here to Vancouver to be closer to family members.

Climatically speaking, it's a tough time of year to move but I promise you it will get better . . . some time!

Welcome all and thank you for you and your family's service to our country and welcome to the chapter! We are looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

If you would like to reach me, you can e-mail me at Jeremy.Baenen@gmail.com or call my cell 360-281-9998.

Jeremy Baenen
Membership Recruitment Committee



Chapter ~ Membership Eligibility

Chapter membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased officers are also eligible to join.

Columbia River Chapter ~ Affiliate

Our chapter is an affiliate of the 390,000 member national MOAA which is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. MOAA and the chapter are nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter is an IRC 501(c)19 war veterans organization.

Newsletter Editor

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

Our Chapter Secretary Rod Heidelberg, (360) 607-6015 roderickjheidelberg@yahoo.com coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

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, Rod Heidelberg.



**Membership Services:
Committee: Updates** by Terry Babin

The Annual Report for Membership Services Committee is summarized below. A couple of additional comments:

- ❖ If you know of a member or spouse who is ill, please let me know so I can send a card from the Chapter.
- ❖ There has been some confusion regarding burial site availability and eligibility at the Fort Vancouver Post Cemetery. I have provided a separate article in this *Newsletter* which should help clarify current administration and internment criteria.
- ❖ Can you help act as a sponsor for a new member? Right now the Service Representatives are doing this, but additional sponsors are needed. There will be an article in the next *Newsletter* with more details about this program. It is very easy to do, and takes little time, but has a big payoff in properly welcoming a new member into the Chapter.
- ❖ Our semiannual phone calls have proven to be an excellent way to help our members keep our Chapter records current, and answer general questions.
 - If you do not want to be called in the future, simply call me at (360) 608-7789 or e-mail me at tbear06@comcast.net to be placed on the Do Not Call List.
 - Additional volunteers to help with the calls are needed—particularly we need two more “**Alternate**” callers. Call lists for a caller are kept at 11 or less members. Contact me for further details.

**SUMMARY OF THE
MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR
2016**

Committee Overview:

1. Committee Mission: Develop and support activities which encourage active participation and long-term membership in the Chapter.
2. Committee Members:
 - Chairman—also serves as the Chapter’s Personal Affairs representative.
 - Service Representatives
 - Auxiliary Representative
 - Immediate Past President

Responsibility: Establish and maintain a program for welcoming new members and their spouses.

1. New Member Orientations with a brunch hosted by the Executive Board were held during February and September. The next Orientation will be held during February 2017.
2. The Chapter implemented its New Member Sponsor Program during the fall with Service Representatives, and other experienced members, acting as a sponsor for each new member:
3. Six (6) sponsors have been assigned during the past 4 months.

[Continued on page 4]



Buck Marr swears in Rod Heidelberg as secretary of the chapter at our 21 JAN 2017 business meeting.

Membership Services continued

Responsibility: Support a system to keep contact with members—designated as the “Keeping Connected” system.

1. Phone calls, or follow-up e-mails, were made to Chapter members during April and May, and again during October.
2. Contact success rate was close to 70%.
3. Forty-two (42) Action Items were identified during the two phone call series, and action was taken and completed by Chapter officers.

Responsibility: Provide personal affairs services.

1. Provided casualty assistance for five (5) families of deceased members.
2. Sent sympathy and “get well” cards to ten (10) members, spouses, or surviving children.
3. Provided personal affairs planning pamphlets and local checklists for one member and also to two surviving adult children (not located in the area).

Responsibility: Coordinate with Membership and Program Committees.

1. Membership Committee Coordination: Continued coordination to ensure timely assignment of sponsors for new members.
2. Program Committee Coordination: Participated regularly in planning Chapter programs.

If you have any ideas, let me know (360) 608-7789.

Terry Babin
Membership Committee Chairman



Fort Vancouver Post Cemetery

by Terry Babin

There has been some confusion and misinformation about eligibility for burial in the Post Cemetery adjacent to Fourth Plain near the Veterans Administration campus in Vancouver. This article provides an update on the cemetery, and the most recent general eligibility criteria for burial of other than active duty service members.

The Fort Vancouver Post Cemetery is one of several cemeteries under the jurisdiction of, and administered by, the Department of the Army. Neither the Veterans Administration (VA), nor the State of Washington set the eligibility requirements for internment.

Originally, administrative and operational control was exercised by the Vancouver Barracks. When the Barracks was deactivated, control was transferred to Joint Base Lewis-McCord. During 2016, there was another transfer of control to the 88th Regional Support Command (Public Works) at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The local representative for that command is Mr. Roethler, Facilities Operations Specialist.

There is space available at the cemetery—rumors to the contrary are incorrect. Retirees of both the active and reserve components are eligible. Reserve and Guard retirees not drawing retirement pay are eligible. Also, honorably discharged veterans with “wartime service” (as defined by the VA) are eligible.

Confirmation of eligibility) and arrangements for internment at the Post Cemetery are made by the funeral home. Bring a copy of the DD Form 214 with you to the funeral home.

There have been some phone number changes. So if the funeral home representative has difficulty making contact, Mr. Roethler’s e-mail is thomas.j.roethler.civ@mail.mil.

Or, call me (Terry Babin) for assistance to make contact with the 88th Regional Support Command—my cell phone (360) 608-7789.

Terry Babin
Membership Committee Chairman

Scholarship Corner by Paul Crosby

2016 was a very good year for the chapter's scholarship program with four outstanding scholarship recipients and some changes that will benefit the overall program.

First a reminder of the process.

The chapter pays for the three Clark scholarships with a combination of funds from our Clark College Foundation endowment and the chapter's foundation scholarship fund. In 2016 the payout from the Clark Foundation increased from \$1558 to \$1612 and the chapter contribution decreased from \$1442 to \$1388. The chapter paid for the WSU Allan scholarship with \$1000 from the chapter's foundation account. We won't know what the 2017 endowment distribution will be until sometime in March.

Chapter members had the opportunity to meet our 2016 – 2017 scholarship recipients at our annual Christmas Social on December 4th.

The four scholarship recipients were:

Chriss – Daniel Nehnevaj

Doty – Abigail Bohn

Fenning – Samantha Wendland

Allan – Jason Langley

I was impressed with all four of them and hope you were also.

During a scholarship review at the May 2016 board meeting, the board made three decisions that will improve our scholarship program.

The **first** was to determine a minimum amount to keep in the chapter's foundation scholarship fund. The chapter and foundation boards agreed that the amount would be \$9,000 on December 31 of each calendar year. Worst case, this would cover three years of scholarship funding.

The **second** was to move (sweep) any money above that \$9,000 to our Clark College endowment. We swept \$6,000 to the Clark College Foundation last May. At the board and foundation meetings on January 19th, a decision was made to sweep \$650 this January. The May 2016 sweep led to an end of year endowment total of \$60,503.23. This was an increase from the \$53,532 held in the endowment at the end of 2015.

The **third** was to increase the Allan WSU Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$1,500 beginning with the 2017 – 2018 school year. This decision was based on the higher costs at WSU-Vancouver vs Clark College.

Some thoughts on our scholarship program. Member generosity has allowed the chapter to improve our chapter's scholarship fund and thus improve the health of our endowment. The idea is to make the Clark endowment self-sustaining which will eventually mean that the only funding from the chapter will be the WSU scholarship. At some point we might be able to start an endowment at WSU, minimum \$25,000, which can be done in steps. We will need major financial support to do that. A WSU endowment will continue to be the number one scholarship program goal.

Thank you for your generosity. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our scholarship program, please let me know.

Paul Crosby
Scholarship
360-666-8871





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

Congresswoman 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
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 14	District 20
Senator	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Norm Johnson (509) 454-7210	Richard DeBolt 786-7990
Representative, Position 2	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Liz Pike 786-7812	Gina McCabe 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 786-7896

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

2016 MOAA CRC Annual Legislative Report: by Dave Casteel

The Columbia River Chapter was legislatively proactive in 2016

1. As the State WSCOC VP for Legislative Affairs
 - a. Sitting member of Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) (membership comprised of representatives from 14 state chapters of national veterans organizations; hosted by WDVA)
 - b. Attended annual reception for State Legislators and their staffs in Olympia at start of 2016 legislative session
 - c. Attended weekly VLC meetings (January – March) to monitor veterans related legislation and testify for or against proposed bills affecting state veterans and their families
2. Wrote Federal and State Legislative articles for all six chapter newsletters
3. Discussed pertinent issues at monthly business meetings
4. Met with US Senator Murray's Legislative Affairs representative in SW Washington prior to Storm the Hill to educate and promote MOAA's position on:
 - a. [Rejecting disproportional TRICARE fee hikes](#) (discussed and left MOAA brochure)
 - b. [Eliminating the SBP-DIC Offset](#) (discussed and left MOAA brochure)
5. Discovered MOAA's CAP WIZ site was in error regarding Senator Murray's co-Sponsorship of Senate bill to [eliminate the SBP-DIC Offset](#). Called CAPWIZ parent company and found out site did not automatically update. Senator Murray's DC office advised us the official site to determine bill status and bill cosponsorship is www.Congress.gov.
 - a. Advised WSCOC officers and all chapter presidents in our state about www.Congress.org

6. August Recess:

- a. Met with Senator Murray's and Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler's staffs to advocate for FY17 Defense Authorization Bill Key Issues:
 - i. Issue 1: Support Troops Full Pay Raise and Force Plus Ups
 - ii. Issue 2: Reject Military Housing Allowance Cuts
 - iii. Issue 3: Oppose Disproportional TRICARE Fee Hikes
 - iv. Issue 4: Reduce Military "Widows Tax—Don't Just Maintain It"

7. Attended Western Region Symposium in Las Vegas

- a. Participated in MOAA legislative affairs workshop with LAs from other chapters – sharing ideas
- b. Brought information back to chapter and shared with other chapters in the state

Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs



Larry Smith, President Evelyn Brady and Buck Marr attended an open house at the Veterans Resource Center at Clark College on 26 January 2017

MOAA Top Goals for 2017: by Dave Casteel

MOAA published their Top 10 legislative goals for 2017 which are listed below. These are the issues about which we can expect to be asked to respond to Legislative Alerts concerning. Storm the Hill is scheduled to be a little earlier this year (first week in April) and will likely focus on two or three issues in the top five.

1. Remove the Sequester
2. End disabled/survivor financial offsets and penalties
3. Ensure TRICARE reform sustains access to and performance of top-quality care
4. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee hikes and inordinate program changes
5. End military pay-raise caps and restore pay comparability with private sector
6. Guard against erosion of earned compensation and commissary benefits
7. Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support
8. Credit Guard and Reserve call-ups for retirement purposes
9. Improve and sustain spouse and family support
10. Assure timely access to VA care and eliminate claims backlog

Note. This list came from p 36 in the January issue of Military Officer Magazine

**Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs**



**Letters to Congress / FY17 National
Defense Authorization Act
(NDAA) Summary / Commentary:
by Dave Casteel**

The February 2017 Military Office magazine contains up to eight (four for you and four for your spouse) tear out ready-to-sign letters to Congress. The top two issues are **Stop Sequestration and Increasing SSIA and phasing out the unfair SBP/DIC offset**. Please sign and mail your letters today (optional personalization is a plus). *The sheer mass of seeing tens of thousands of these letters pour in makes a compelling case to Congress.*

Also, if you want to read a good detailed summary of the provisions of the FY17 NDAA here are a few options:

- ~ Log in to www.MOAA.org;
- ~ Select “Publications & Media;”
- ~ From the dropdown menu select “News and Press Releases;”
- ~ Locate the large News Box and select “Go.” Articles will scroll L-R;
- ~ Select the article you want to read.

As of the date I wrote this, (30 Jan 2017) Tom Philpott’s “Military Update: Behind the Hill’s Swift Reform of Military Compensation” is the latest article. Thanks to Maj Gen Buck Marr, MOAA is in the process of working to archive his articles and make them easier to access.

An Executive Summary by the SASC can be found if you Google “FY17 NDAA—Senate Armed Services Committee—US Senate” and open the pdf.

Perhaps the easiest way is to open the February 2017 Issue of the Military Officer magazine to pages 34-35 (or view the online version at www.MOAA.org under the first dropdown under Publications and Media).

**Dave Casteel
Legislative Affairs**

Washington State Legislative Affairs Update: by Dave Casteel

As you know, the 2017 session of the 65th Legislature 2017-2018 Washington State Legislature convened January 9th and is scheduled to end regular session April 23rd. The current list of bills may increase since February 17th is the last day to read bills into record on the floor (with some exceptions). As of January 20th, there are sixteen veterans related House bills and nine Senate Bills that your Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) is monitoring.

The entire list is too long to print in the newsletter so I would encourage you to view it yourself and contact me when you have issues / comments or questions. To do so, go to www.dva.wa.gov. Select "About Us," and then on the drop down menu, select "Legislative Updates." You will see a comprehensive list of all current bills affecting veterans that we are monitoring. This daily update will tell you the bill number, a brief description, the companion bill number, if any, (in the opposite chamber), who the original sponsor is, as well as the latest committee meeting information. You can also sign up for updates to be sent to you directly by clicking on "JOIN THE LISTSERV."

Here is an example of one bill:

Bill	Status	Brief Description	Companion Bills	Original Sponsor	Latest Cmte Mtg Info
HB 1055	H JUDIDP	Concerning pro bono legal services for military service members, veterans, and their families.	SB 5021 (S Law & Justice)	Kilduff	Jan 19 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Judiciary at 1:30 P



2017 CHAPTER CALENDAR

16 February
Thursday

Chapter Meeting

Program: Pat Jollota talks about “Black Hawk Down.”
Social: 1130 - Lunch: 1200

American Legion Smith Reynolds Post 14, St. James Road, Vancouver, WA

See details below.

16 March
Thursday

Chapter Meeting

Program: TBD
Social: 1130 - Lunch: 1200

Cascadia Technical Academy (formerly Clark County Skills Center)
12200 NE 28th Street, Vancouver, WA 98662

Chapter Meeting

16 February 2017
Thursday

***American Legion Smith Reynolds
Post 14***

4607 NE St. James Road
Vancouver, WA 98663

Social 1130 - Lunch 1200

Cost: \$15 per person at the door.

RSVP:

Call or e-mail Ron Pastor NLT 9 February
882-1275 pastor2718@comcast.net

Program

Pat Jollota, mother of Black Hawk pilot CW5 Dan Jollota, USA, (ret), talks about the Mogadishu, Somalia, rescue mission known as “Black Hawk Down.”

