



# 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](http://www.moaacolumbiariver.org)

February 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- President:**  
Rod Williams  
503-317-2273
- 1st Vice-President:  
& Membership:**
- 2nd Vice-President:  
& Programs**
- Secretary:**
- Treasurer:**
- Immediate Past  
President,**  
Evelyn Brady  
360-721-0865
- 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
- Public Health Rep:**  
Chris Rubadue  
425-269-1902
- Surviving Spouse  
Liaison:**  
Terry Whisenant  
360-576-7736
- Legislative Affairs:**  
Buck Marr  
757-636-8686
- Membership Services:**  
Terry Babin  
360-608-7789
- Public Affairs:**  
John Donnelly  
360-721-3792
- Scholarship:**  
Paul Crosby  
360-666-8871
- Chaplain:**  
Rev Max Metcalf  
541-961-0869
- Roster Manager:**  
Mike Ellis  
360-910-0625

There is a lot familiar and a lot new as I step back into the role of president of our great chapter. As some of you are aware, due to conflicts with my career and family health matters I took a bit of a sabbatical from chapter leadership. Many thanks to all of you who were there to welcome me back at the annual business meeting at Green Meadows on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

I return to find a very healthy chapter. We are in good shape financially as verified by the recent audit. Much of the credit goes to the continued donations from all of you. More about that later in this newsletter. For the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row the Columbia River Chapter received the MOAA Excellence Award for 2019. Obviously, I have a legacy to keep up and would be remiss if I did not recognize the superb leadership of **Evelyn Brady, David Casteel**, and all the chapter board members and faithful crew, past and present, whose names you have seen in the contact list of this newsletter.

Through our Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) our scholarship program continues to support local students with a military connection at Clark College and Washington State University, Vancouver. Many of us also support the MOAA scholarship program, but it is nice to see our local funds going to

deserving local students too. The CRMF is also keeping our support the troops program viable and active in the Southwest Washington area. **Dave Casteel** and I will be exploring



new troop support opportunities and bringing more information to the chapter in upcoming meetings and newsletters as we perform due diligence reviews.

What is new for me is starting my term still needing to recruit key board members. As with any volunteer group, we rely heavily on our members to step forward and help lead the chapter.

**Rod Williams  
President**

**20 February  
Thursday  
Chapter Luncheon  
Boxcar at 40 et 8  
Greet 1130  
Lunch at Noon  
Details page 10  
RSVP Yes Only**

**Newsletter Highlights**

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**Chapter Volunteers Needed**  
*by Rod Williams*

Presently we have **three openings** on the board:

**Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.**

All our members have leadership experience and could capably fill any vacant roles.

Many of our spouses also bring skills and experience which make them excellent candidates. We encourage you to volunteer, too.

The frequently repeated idiom “it takes a village” is especially true about our chapter. It takes many hands to carry the load and not be a heavy burden on any one person.

- **Vice President** – can be tailored to fit any willing and able applicants to help us with programs, membership, recruiting, and advocacy activities.
- **Secretary** – some computer skills but does not have to an expert.
- **Treasurer** – does not require an accountant. Balancing and maintaining a checking account is the key skill.

There are written procedures and years of documented practice for both the Secretary and Treasurer roles. If you think you can help, contact me, Rod Williams (503) 317-2273 or rodwil50@hotmail.com

We need you!

**CRC Annual Dues & Donation Drive**  
*by Rod Williams*

The CRC annual dues/donation drive had less than 50% of members respond.

If you missed the mailing, annual dues are \$20 payable to CRC MOAA.

Donations designated for the scholarship or support the troops funds are payable to CRMF.

Please remit to:  
CRC MOAA  
P.O. Box 1872,  
Vancouver, WA 98668.



**Annual Chapter Business Meeting Photos**  
**18 January 2020**



New Chapter President **Rod Williams** sworn in by **Maria Mayer**.



Incoming Chapter President **Rod Williams** presents flowers to our outgoing Chapter President **Evelyn Brady**.



**Maria Mayer** presents MOAA Leadership Awards to **Evelyn Brady** and **Dave Casteel**.



**Buck Marr** presents the Legislative Issues Updates.



New Chapter President **Rod Williams** swears in new CRMF Officers.

## **UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE** by Terry Babin

### Army Cemetery in Vancouver:

There continues to be confusion and misinformation about eligibility for burial in the Army's Fort Vancouver Post Cemetery adjacent to Fourth Plain and Interstate-5 near the Veterans Administration campus in Vancouver. The 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 burial at the cemetery.

There is space available at the cemetery—persistent rumors to the contrary are incorrect. Retirees of both the active and reserve components are eligible for interment. 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 interment at the Post Cemetery are made by the funeral home. Bring a copy of the DD Form 214 with you to the funeral home. If the funeral home does not have a current phone number to make arrangements, they can call 1 (253) 968-7943, or, call me (Terry Babin) for assistance to make contact with the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command—my cell phone (360) 608-7789.

### Designation for Beneficiaries:

All Uniformed Services retired personnel receiving retired pay should have received by now a statement of year 2020 pay. For those whose retired pay is administered and paid through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), the form sent is the “Retiree Account Statement” form DFAS-CL 7220/148.

At the bottom of the first page of the statement is the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election of record for coverage (i.e., the beneficiary(ies)). Or, if SBP was not elected, there is a statement of no election on record. Please check to make sure the coverage is correct.

At the top of the reverse page is the Arrears of Pay beneficiary information. This block should show the name, share of total payable, and relationship of the beneficiary(ies) to the retiree. Again, make sure the information is correct.

If corrections are needed, contact DFAS for instructions.

DFAS Customer Service: **800-321-1080**  
M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET

Make sure your next of kin know how to find this statement in your records/files.

### Annual Reports:

The Annual Report of the Membership Services Committee activities in 2019 was given at the January 18, 2020, Chapter Annual Meeting. A copy of that report is provided pages 11 - 12 in this Newsletter.

Although not a function of the Membership Services Committee, the Annual Report for the Joint Audits of the Chapter and its Foundation is also provided in this Newsletter, pages 13 - 14 as a matter of interest to all members.

If you have questions or need assistance, call our Membership Services Committee Chairman, Terry Babin, at (360) 608-7789



## Jury Duty Scam Preys on Law

**Enforcement Fears** both articles on this page  
courtesy of Clark County Sheriff's Office (S.A.L.T. Times)

Some scams just don't quit! Despite running for years, this con still successfully uses threatening calls and intimidating emails to scare people into paying up. Jury duty scams have staying power because they prey on a fear of law enforcement.

### How the Scam Works:

You answer the phone, and it's someone claiming to be from the local law enforcement or judicial agency. The caller tells you that you've missed a jury duty summons and could be arrested. They may even claim that a warrant has already been issued. The caller may appear to be very legitimate -- with caller ID showing a police phone number and an official-sounding voice on the phone.

The scammer tells you that, fortunately, you can avoid arrest by paying a fine. The scammer asks you to wire money or put cash on a prepaid debit card and share the PIN. Of course, the fine -- and the jury duty summons -- were never real.

Like most long-running scams, jury duty cons have a few versions, not all of which ask you for money outright. In some cases, the jury duty scam may be used to trick you into providing sensitive, personal information that can be used for identity theft. In another version, scammers use email and allegedly attach your "jury summons" to the message. The file is really malware and downloading it will infect your computer.

### Tips to Avoid a Jury Duty Scam:

- **Be skeptical of email and unsolicited calls.** Courts do not typically summon people via email, text message or phone. Unless you are involved in a case and have opted into receiving other types of communications, courts normally communicate through mail.
- **Pick up the phone.** If you ever question whether you need to appear in court, call the appropriate judicial agency. Don't call the number in the email, as that will likely just lead you to the scammer. Look for official websites in your jurisdiction... and be on the lookout for fake websites, too.
- **Ignore calls for immediate action.** Scammers try to get you to act before you think by creating a sense of urgency. Don't fall for it.
- **Beware of requests to pay via wire transfer or prepaid debit card** (such as MoneyPak, iTunes or similar cards). These are almost always a sign of fraud.
- **Ask someone for help.** BBB's research shows that asking someone else is an important factor in reducing the chance of being scammed. Ask a family member or friend, "Does this sound right?"

### Write Out The Year!

Avoid abbreviating the year 2020. Writing "/20" without-the first-two digits may leave consumers vulnerable to scammers. Fraudsters can capitalize on the use of abbreviated dates in the new decade, altering document dates to their benefit by adding- just two digits.

For instance, the date "1/10/20" could be changed to "1/10/2019," making consumers-vulnerable to an array of fraud. Checks, bank-drafts, payorders, bills, legal documents and more are susceptible to alteration.

### **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**

Our Chapter Secretary coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution.

Newsletter Editor: **Rich Wersinger**. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at [rich@rjwconsulting.org](mailto:rich@rjwconsulting.org).

### **Newsletter Distribution**

We continue to distribute our newsletter by e-mail. If you are receiving this via postal service and would prefer e-mail please notify **Rod Williams**, our Chapter President at 503-317-2273 or [rodwill50@hotmail.com](mailto:rodwill50@hotmail.com).





**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](mailto:comments@whitehouse.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/>

**Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District**

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



Washington, DC Office: U.S. House of Representatives 1107 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: <a href="https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/">https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/</a>	

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

WASHINGTON, DC 511 Hart 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: <a href="https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email/form">https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email/form</a>		

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

WASHINGTON, DC 154 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: <a href="https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme">https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme</a>		

**Vancouver Area Washington State Legislative Districts and Representatives**

Legislator	District 49	District 17	District 18	District 14	District 20
<b>Senator</b>	Annette Cleveland 786-7696	Lynda Wilson 786-7632	Ann Rivers 786-7634	Curtis King 786-7626	John Braun 786-7638
<b>Representative, Position 1</b>	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Chris Corry 786-7810	Richard DeBolt 786-7896
<b>Representative, Position 2</b>	Monica Stonier 786-7872	Paul Harris 786-7976	Larry Hoff 786-7812	Gina Mosbrucker 786-7856	Ed Orcutt 786-7990

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](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature)

**Federal Legislative Update:***by Buck Marr*

MOAA was recognized for the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row as a **Top Lobbyist** by The Hill news outlet.



In sports there is a ‘tried and true’ saying.... never take your eye off the ball. It is also true for lobbying. One of the constants for us MOAA-ites is that we never “take our eye off the Federal legislative ball.” In our Nation’s capital there seems

to be a never-ending menu of “hot button issues” which have little to do with necessary legislative nuts and bolts but do consume most of the “oxygen” in the halls of the Capital. For example, Congress wrapped up 2019 in December by completing a frantic last-minute vote to put in place a temporary government-wide funding bill to avert a shutdown before addressing the details of more than \$1.4 trillion worth of unfinished spending legislation. And then, on the evening of 20 December, the last day of the continuing resolution, the President signed the annual Defense Policy Bill (NDAA) hours before the continuing resolution expired.

Throughout the congressional turbulence, MOAA kept their “eye on the ball” assuring ourselves of a successful NDAA outcome. Champagne corks popped over one big issue...SBP-DIC. After years of lobbying with sympathetic congressional support but with no solutions for the price tag, the offset will be phased out over a three-year period with full elimination in 2023. Annuitants will then receive the full amounts of both SBP and DIC. The Bill will not be retroactive. No other benefits have been cancelled or reduced to pay for the offset repeal. The repeal does cancel the option of a surviving spouse transferring the annuity to a dependent child effective in 2023.

Other NDAA good news: The largest pay increase (3.1%) for servicemembers and civilian employees in

10 years; No new TRICARE fees or pharmacy increases for 2020. (The January 2020 increases were previously agreed to); a delay in the announced intention to reduce medical end strength authorizations in order to allow a comprehensive review of requirements and beneficiary impacts; correcting a mistake which denied National Guard and Reserve Component personnel retirement credit for pre-planned peacetime mobilization deployments; directing DoD to develop a regulation for negligent medical malpractice. The Feres Doctrine is not repealed but this gives servicemembers the opportunity to file for damages as a result of medical malpractice; the implementation of military housing reform to include a tenant bill of rights and coverage of medical/relocation expenses by landlords; and, increases in spouse employment resources.

An update on the hard fought for Blue Water Navy Act of 2019. It goes into effect in 2020. It extends the presumption of herbicide exposure like Agent Orange to Veterans who served up to 12 NM from the Vietnam shore.

Close the book on 2019 and look to the inevitable schedule challenges of 2020. At this article’s writing, it looks like the Administration will still attempt to submit the President’s FY21 budget on 10 February despite the fact that congressional budget testimony has been blocked by OMB until mid-March. There will be no work done during the political party’s summer national conventions.

And, of course the election campaigning season will slow work further. The number of 2020 legislative working days is now greatly reduced. And when work is completed who knows whether we will have a lame duck House, Senate or Presidency or all of the above.

Practically speaking, expect more continuing resolutions and a dash to the finish line for all appropriations legislation including the NDAA. MOAA will be following closely the normal subjects involving a pay raise, increases in medical and pharmacy fees etc.

[Continued on page 9]

### **Federal Legislative Update continued**

A big dog for 2020 will be Congressional enthusiasm for “reforming” the Military Health System. Read cut medical billets. MOAA is on guard against cuts or actions which reduce the overall health care benefit.

MOAA has outlined its [strategic advocacy goals](#) for 2020. I encourage each of you to read them on the MOAA website. As always, we need to be articulate advocates for service members and their families. Don’t take your eye off the advocacy ball!

P.S. Also, don’t forget to review MOAA’s proposed resolutions for 2020-2022. The suspense for comments is February 24.

**Buck Marr**  
**Federal Legislative Affairs**

### ***CNO Hosts Chief of Royal Australian Navy for Counterpart Visit:***

***by CNO Public Affairs Released 7 February 2020***

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. **Mike Gilday** hosted Chief of Royal Australian Navy Vice Adm. **Michael Noonan** for a formal counterpart visit, Feb. 6-7.

During the two-day visit that included a [full honors ceremony](#) and discussions between the Australian delegation and senior U.S. Navy leadership, the two leaders focused on expanding and strengthening maritime security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

“Australia is a great friend and our alliance is an anchor of peace and stability,” said **Gilday**. “Our two navies have worked together and fought together for more than 100 years and security cooperation has always been a cornerstone of our alliance. I look forward to the next 100 years working alongside the Royal Australian Navy.”

**Noonan** echoed **Gilday**’s sentiment.

“The important partnership between the Royal Australian Navy and the U.S. Navy is underpinned by our shared history, mutual respect and our commitment to the maintenance of global maritime security,” Noonan said.

“Our strong alliance underscores continued cooperation of our navies to increase interoperability, through exercises, operations, information sharing, capability development and building people-to-people links,” he continued. “I look forward to continuing to work with Admiral **Gilday** to further our shared commitment to a stable and secure Indo-Pacific region.”

From the Arabian Gulf where the two navies operate as part of the International Maritime Security Construct, to the Pacific, where they conduct operations like the Enforcement Coordination Cell, the two partners regularly work together to promote security and stability around the globe.

Additionally, the two navies conduct frequent cooperative deployments, and operate together during high-end exercises like [Talisman Sabre 2019](#), the largest bilateral exercise with more than 34,000 military personnel participating from Australia and the United States.

During the visit, **Gilday** also noted the continued cooperation with Australia to build future fleets that are interchangeable so that the two navies can operate more closely together. A significant demonstration of this is the employment of the Aegis Combat System on board the soon-to-be commissioned Hobart-class air warfare destroyer, HMAS SYDNEY (DDG 42).

“We are excited for the future and are honored to work with the Royal Australian Navy day-in and day-out to preserve free and open maritime commons,” said **Gilday**. “Going forward, we will continue to explore ways to strengthen our relationship and more effectively respond to challenges together, both regionally and around the world.”



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## 2020 CHAPTER CALENDAR

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20 February  
Thursday      **Chapter Meeting** at 40 Et 8 Boxcar, 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665  
Social at 11:30 am. Lunch at 12:00 pm  
Program: CDR **Richard Taylor**, USNR.  
Topic: Underwater Ice Station Zebra, a deep-sea rescue of a spy satellite in the Pacific.  
Cost: \$15.00 pp at the door.  
We will have a raffle, so please bring your donation.  
RSVP: Yes only to Terry Babin (360) 608-7789

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19 March  
Thursday      **Chapter Meeting** at 40 Et 8 Boxcar, 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665  
Social at 11:30 am. Lunch at 12:00 pm  
Program: **Ken Kraft**, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Veteran.  
Topic: Injury, Recovery, and Life After Combat  
Cost: \$15.00 pp at the door.  
We will have a raffle, so please bring your donation.  
RSVP: Yes only TBD

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16 April  
Thursday      **Chapter Meeting** at 40 Et 8 Boxcar, 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665  
Social at 11:30 am. Lunch at 12:00 pm  
Program: Possible talk about a new Men's Home for Homeless Veterans in Vancouver  
Cost: \$15.00 pp at the door. RSVP: Yes only TBD

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21 May  
Thursday      **Chapter Dinner Meeting**  
at Club Green Meadows 7703 NE 72nd Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661  
Social at 5:00 pm. Dinner at 6:15 pm  
Program: TBD  
Cost: \$TBD pp at the door. RSVP: Yes only TBD



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Don't forget to check our [Chapter Website](http://www.moacolumbiariver.org/events-3/) for more events and the latest event details  
See: <http://www.moacolumbiariver.org/events-3/>

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**COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER  
MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**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
  - Surviving Spouse Representative
  - Immediate Past President

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

1. The Chapter’s New Member Sponsor Program was implemented during 2017.
2. Program Objectives:
  - Introduce a new member to other Chapter members.
  - Help the new member become familiar with the primary functions of the Chapter.
  - Encourage participation in Chapter activities and events.
  - Build a relationship with the new member and the Chapter which encourages long-term retention and involvement.
3. A New member “Welcome Luncheon” was hosted by the Executive Board on October 26, 2019.
4. Results during 2019 were mixed because of a combination of few new recruited members, and shortage of active Service Representatives.

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

1. Program Objectives:
  - Maintain at least semi-annual contact with members and spouses—particularly those unable to regularly attend Chapter meetings and activities.
  - Keep records current on members’ contact information.
  - Provide information about Chapter programs, activities, and initiatives.
  - Determine needs and support which the Chapter might provide to individual members.
  - Survey members and spouses on matters of significant interest to the Chapter’s Executive Board.
2. Call Lists were updated throughout the year, and a new Alternate Caller was added.
3. Phone calls to Chapter members were made during May and September 2019.
  - Contact success rates were 79% and 81% respectively—our best rates since the program started.
  - E-mail follow-ups were made when unable to make phone contact.
  - Thirty-five (35) Action Items (one less than last year) were identified during the two phone call series, and action was taken and completed by Chapter officers on all but two (which are still in progress).

**Responsibility: Provide Personal Affairs (PA) services.**

1. Provided casualty assistance for families of two (2) deceased members.
2. Sent sympathy, "get well," or "thinking of you" cards to fourteen (14) members and spouses.
3. Provided personal affairs planning pamphlets, checklists, documentation assistance, and other support for one member's family, and checklists to two out-of-the-area military retirees who heard about our Chapter's PA program.
4. Assisted one Surviving Spouse in writing a U.S. Senator requesting intervention because of over a half-year's non-payment of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity.
5. Regularly published articles in Chapter's newsletter about personal affair's planning and as well as Membership Services Committee activities.

**Responsibility: Coordinate with Membership and Program Committees.**

1. Membership Committee Coordination: Continued coordination to plan the New Member's "Welcome."
2. Program Committee Coordination: Participated regularly in planning Chapter programs.

**Other Activities Arising from the Performance of Committee Responsibilities:**

1. Keeping Connected Program: Two special initiatives were undertaken and completed as the result of information and concerns arising from the Spring 2019 phone calls:
  - a. Assistance was provided to link a spouse with both Veterans Administration assistance and community support programs for in-home care of a member with declining mental health.
  - b. A phone call program was established to furnish timely reminders and information about monthly Chapter activities to the 18 members who do not have, or use, internet services. Participation is optional. There are three callers (all from the Keeping Connected Program) providing this service since September 2019.
2. Personal Affairs Program: During casualty assistance calls over the past three years, there were several cases where difficulties arose in getting the SBP annuity quickly started. This was particularly evident in the cases of retired reservists. With the assistance of one of our Surviving Spouses to document the apparent problems, a letter as a "concerned retiree" was prepared by the Chairman of the Membership Committee to the Inspector General (IG) of the Department of Defense (DoD). The letter cited possible process and systemic problems at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The letter, furthermore, documented specific, apparent problems in the determination of eligibility and start of SBP payments. The letter was sent in September 2019 to the IG. The DoD IG subsequently directed that the requested inquiry be conducted. The inquiry and IG review have not yet been completed. Additionally, U.S. Senator Patty Murray and her staff have expressed support for the IG inquiry which also includes a request within the letter that the inquiry determine if DFAS is adequately resourced to comply with the Congressional intent for timely SBP payments, and identify any legislative relief/changes that may be needed.

Submitted by: Terry Babin, Chairman Membership Services Committee on January 18, 2020.

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ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY  
of the  
2019 JOINT AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS

**Purpose:** This summary of the Joint Audit of the Columbia River Chapter (CRC) and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is provided for the record at the Annual Meeting of the CRC and CRMF.

**Audit Date:** December 2, 2019.

**Period Audited:** October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

**Audit Areas:**

- ✓ Documentation
- ✓ Budgeting
- ✓ Income & Receipts
- ✓ Expenses & Expenditures
- ✓ Petty Cash
- ✓ Chapter Assets
- ✓ Internal Controls
- ✓ Administration, Procedures, and Processes

**Prior Year Recommendations:**

1. The recommendation that the Chapter By-laws be amended to better reflect the financial responsibilities of the Chapter officers still are awaiting final vote of the Chapter members.
2. The recommendations for CRMF regarding back-up storage of Foundations records and documents has been adequately addressed by both Boards.

**Audit Objectives and Findings:**

1. **Ensure essential documentation for registering with Federal and State agencies, to include certification of non-profit status, is complete and current.** Documentation was complete and current for both the CRC and the CRMF.
2. **Review the adequacy of the audit trails for income and expenses, as well as internal controls, are sufficient to support an external (e.g., IRS) audit.**
  - Records and documentation of income/receipts, deposits, and expenditures for the CRC and CRMF were complete and accurate.
  - Internal controls are prudent and practical.
3. **Determine any areas of weakness, or areas requiring further examination/discussion, with respect to processes, procedures, and overall management of assets and finances.**
  - The primary recommendation for both the CRC and CRMF is to review and recommend better procedures for:
    - Documenting cash for check transactions between the Chapter and Foundation Treasurers.
    - Ensuring the audit trail is not lost when receipts are handled by other than the Treasurers.
  - Two other recommendations for the CRC are minor, but important, for “tweaking” and formalizing internal procedures.

**4. Make a risk assessment of potential for waste, fraud, or abuse.**

- Treasurers for both the CRC (**Susan Ellis**) and CRMF (**Frank Hill**) been very attentive and diligent in performing their duties, and doing so in a timely manner. Both have created accounting tools and record formats that facilitate a transparent and efficient audit trail.
- Overall, the risk for waste, fraud, or abuse is low in both the CRC and CRMF.

**Other Remarks:**

1. The Adoption of the proposed amends to the Chapter By-laws regarding financial responsibilities is enthusiastically recommended.
2. A special thank you to **Christine Rubadue** and **Robert McFarlin** for volunteering to be part of the Audit Team for the fourth straight year.

Submitted by: **Terry Babin** on January 18, 2019.