



# COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

4-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)

August 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

Obviously, this has not been a normal year for any of us. Well, I really miss the old normal and seeing all of you at our monthly meetings. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed all our lives in many ways, and it appears it will last into 2021. You should know your Columbia River Chapter (CRC) continues to support our mission. You may soon get a call from a chapter member as part of the chapter membership call network to help stay in touch and gather input from members.

In the interim, you are all encouraged to keep safe, maintain good social distancing protocols, and wear masks when in contact with people outside your household.

Have you tried ZOOM or other technology to meet with friends and family? Your chapter executive board adopted ZOOM to meet virtually to keep the chapter and the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) moving forward until we can meet in person again.

Under the Washington state guidelines for large public gatherings we must wait until Clark County enters Phase 4 of the re-opening plan to meet in person in groups larger than ten. The timing of the next chapter meeting remains beyond our control. We therefore cancelled planning for our traditional September BBQ and scholarship fund raiser at Pat and my

new home in the Rivercrest Estates along the old Evergreen Highway.

In this newsletter you will also get an update on CRMF activity from **Dave Casteel**. The board will consider other scholarship fund raising alternatives at the August board meeting.



The need for advocacy has in no way diminished by all of this. As members of MOAA you should be receiving emails and the monthly MOAA magazine keeping you updated on current legislative issues. For example, the annual National Defense Authorization Act process is still underway. The House FY2021 version has been passed and the Senate is still underway. I encourage all members to go to the **SUMMER STORM 2020** link ([MOAA.org/summerstorm](http://MOAA.org/summerstorm)) and take action to preserve the military health care benefit.

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**We cannot wait to  
be with you all  
soon!**

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### **President's Message continued**

Urge our senators to support Sections 715 and 716 in the House-passed defense bill regarding DoD's military treatment facility restructuring and DoD medical billet reductions. Follow the links to send a message to our elected representatives on this and other key issues.

MOAA'S topnotch councils and chapters compete annually to receive a four or five-star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award. On the third of August National MOAA announced results of the LOE award submissions for 2019. This year, our chapter received a four-star LOE rating. MOAA recently revised the LOE process and standards putting a lot more emphasis on recruiting, sustaining membership, active chapter engagement in the community, advocacy programs, and chapter leadership succession planning. Evidenced by our consistent 4 and 5 star ratings, we are strong in many of these categories. The latter area of leadership succession is a weak point. We have openings for vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Currently, in addition to president I am covering the VP and treasurer roles and **Dave Casteel** has volunteered, in addition to being President of the CRMF, to act as temporary secretary until we can recruit and elect for these open positions. To continue to be successful, the chapter needs members to step up. Experience is not essential. The chapter needs you!



I hope we can soon meet again with a sense of safety and renewed vigor. Until then, stay safe.

**Rod Williams**  
President



### ***CRMF August 2020 Update***

*by Dave Casteel*

Dave Casteel ([shilohcamas@comcast.net](mailto:shilohcamas@comcast.net) or [CRMFpresident@comcast.net](mailto:CRMFpresident@comcast.net))

Thanks to your generous response to the January dues letter, your Columbia River MOAA Foundation continued to be active during this pandemic using your donations to assist students and veterans organizations.

In May we donated \$1,000.00 to Clark College Foundation in support of our three \$1,000 scholarships (which was split, with some going toward the scholarships and the remainder qualifying for matching funds going directly to increase our endowment).

We also donated \$787.50 for a WSU-V matched scholarship as well as \$787.50 for a match towards building the Col Paul and Ivadell Crosby MOAA future endowment at WSU-V. Colleges have unique challenges in the current environment, but student veterans need and want an education and need our continued support. We plan to continue our September and December scholarship fundraising events, even if it is by virtual conferencing (video and or audio). We hope by December that we will again get to meet as a group to recognize our four scholarship recipients in person. As of now, we are projecting the Scholarship Fund to end the CY below our three-year reserve minimum requirement because of potentially lower contributions at these two events.

Regarding the Support the Troops Fund, your foundation approved \$500.00 to donate to A-Warriors-Way which is a 501c3 nonprofit home in Vancouver for homeless male veterans. They are currently at capacity with five men. The husband and wife who created this also want to start a home for homeless female veterans. To do this, they will need more community support—ours included.

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**CRMF Update continued**

The CRMF also approved a \$500.00 donation to the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (their Executive Director spoke to us at one of our meetings in 2018). As you may know, their major Spring fundraising event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Fortunately, they receive some food grants so are able to provide box lunches for veterans in need. They tell us they are “keeping their heads above water, for now, but just barely,” and have had to severely reduce the hours they are open.

Although closed to all but the most severe cases, the Vancouver Fisher House has ongoing needs so the Foundation approved \$1,000.00 going forward this year. Because of COVID-19, they have had to close their kitchen to communal dining and equipped each room with a Keurig, small refrigerator and a microwave, as well as disposable utensils. They need Keurig pods (coffee and tea) as well as individually packaged disposable utensils.

We especially appreciate those families that have linked their Fred Meyer Rewards Card to our Foundation. For those of you have not done so yet, we would ask you to do so. Our organization number is AU238, or you can type in Columbia River MOAA Foundation. So far this year we have received \$46.55 from this program.

We started receiving money this year from *Amazon Smile* from those of you who have linked your *Amazon Smile* accounts to the CRMF. When you sign in to *Amazon Smile* hover over the orange colored word “Supporting: \_\_\_\_\_” directly below the product search window and enter Columbia River MOAA Foundation. That’s all there is to it. Each time you shop, we get a percentage. On line shopping is huge especially now and it all adds up – so far this year we’ve received \$29.08. Proceeds from this program as well as the Fred Meyer Rewards program is split between the Scholarship and Support the Troops Funds.

As a reminder, we can accept Qualified Charitable Distributions from your RMD (they reduce your AGI dollar for dollar). Remember, this year, you can also deduct \$300.00 per person (\$600.00 on joint returns) from your AGI for donations to 501c3 nonprofits (such as the CRMF) even when you take the standard

deduction! With your support, each of you can make a difference.

Also, if you donate appreciated stock directly to the CRMF, you avoid having to pay the capital gains you would otherwise have to pay the IRS if you cashed in the securities then donated the proceeds to the CRMF. You come out ahead and we gain--let me know if you are interested in this option.

Remember, we can also accept bequests. Our EIN is 47-4776049.

We really miss seeing all our wonderful MOAA friends and hope this will all end soon.

**Dave Casteel**



The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron “Thunderbirds” perform aerial maneuvers at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 6, 2020. The aircraft were part of an aerial review following a change of responsibility ceremony in which Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. assumed the responsibilities of Air Force chief of staff from Gen. David L. Goldfein. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bridgitte Taylor)

**Chapter Receives MOAA Marvin Harris Communications Five Star Awards for Newsletter and Website**

The chapter was notified in late June that we were awarded five-star recognition for both the Newsletter and Website for 2019.

Since we usually do not meet in the summer, we have been announcing and presenting the awards at the September Fall Scholarship Fundraising Barbecue.

Because the barbecue is cancelled this year, we wanted all to know and to thank **Rich** for his tremendous efforts making our newsletter and website top notch.



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

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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 rodwill50@hotmail.com

We need you!



## ***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)