



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

December 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite all 2020 could throw at us, our Columbia River Chapter will be wrapping up the year still on our feet and ready to go another round.

Here are a few highlights from me, as chapter president. We are pressing on with the business of supporting our scholarship program and "support the troops" activities through our very active Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) led by **Dave Casteel**. We also continue to push forward with our advocacy role through our legislative leads and individual member engagement on the MOAA national Web site. The election did not change much on our representatives at the national and state level. Chapter leaders will be reaching out to them on topics of special interest items and share information we collect from MOAA on national matters and the Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) on state matters. When you go onto the MOAA Web site, please click that you are an active CRC member and include our chapter identifier of WA01.

Gov. Jay Inslee announced a four-week statewide set of restrictions effective November 16 in response to the recent spread and spikes in the COVID-19 virus in Washington and across the country. The latest news here in Southwest Washington is we are still trending up. There is good news about vaccines coming available in the next

few months. It is critical we continue to follow CDC guidelines by avoiding gatherings with others outside our immediate household, wear your masks when in contact with others, and keep social distances. As the vast majority of our chapter members are in vulnerable groupings by age or health conditions, we do not plan to have face to face meetings until the all clear is sounded.



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

Indoor Social Gatherings

Prohibited with people outside your household unless you quarantine for 14 days prior OR 7-day quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test

— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

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Newsletter Highlights

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- President:**
Rod Williams
503-317-2273
- 1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**
- 2nd Vice-President:
& Programs**
- Secretary: (acting)**
Dave Casteel
- Treasurer: (acting)**
Rod Williams
- 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:**
- Roster Manager:**

President's Message continued

This month we are activating our Chapter Call List as an outreach to all members. You should expect a call from one of our volunteer callers by about December 21st. They will ask you a few questions just to confirm the contact info we have is current and confirm you are getting the communications from the chapter and know when the next membership meeting will be. **Terry Babin** is the lead for this team and tells me they are being encouraged not to keep you on the phone any longer than you would wish. If you do have questions or need some assistance this is a good way to get it to us. If your caller cannot give you the response you need, he or she will pass it along and one of the chapter officers will get back with you.

We have had some good success with our virtual ZOOM chapter meetings and will continue them until we can gather in person again. At our November 19th meeting we had 22 members and a few spouses, join us virtually via ZOOM to see a presentation from **Shane Ostrom, CFP, Lt Col (Ret)**. He provided a very informative "Overview on Scams and Frauds" including specific ways to detect them, prevention steps you can take, and actions if you are a victim. Based on the questions posed by chapter members it was clear this was a very informative session. Shane shared his presentation slides, so if you missed the meeting contact me and I can share them with you.

Our next meeting is December 6th from 3 to 4:30 PM and will be our annual holiday meeting. As always, this meeting focuses on the four CRC scholarships at Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver. Our scholarship chair, **Paul Crosby**, will introduce them and they will talk with us about themselves and how they will use the scholarship. One of the hallmarks of our chapter having a local scholarship program is being able to meet the students and hear their story. You should receive a message with the ZOOM meeting link and instructions, so save the date and time. If you do not get a message, contact me and I will pass it along. I hope to see many of you at the meeting.

Rod Williams
President



Screen print by **Rod Williams** showing attendees at Nov 19, 2020 CRC Membership Meeting via ZOOM



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES' NEWS
by Terry Babin

KEEPING CONNECTED PROGRAM

In addition to the comments by our Chapter President in this Newsletter, I add my personal appreciation to all our volunteer callers.

Calls are being made December 1st through the 21st. If you have not received a call from one of the following by December 23rd, please call me at (360) 608-7789. Callers this December 2020 phone call series are **Buck Marr, Roger DeRoos, Terry Whisenant, Dan Sockle, Joel Scott, Jim Morse, Holly Mangum, Rich Wersinger, or Paul Crosby.**

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

A reminder that within the next couple of weeks the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will be sending to Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Army (active and reserve components) retirees their **Retiree Account Statement**. Check to ensure that your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Coverage information is correct in the block at the bottom of the Statement. Also, check on the reverse page to make sure your Arrears of Pay Beneficiary Information block contains the correct information/beneficiary designation.

MEDICAL WELLNESS

I have received information over the past two months about the possible significant increase in incidents of bladder cancer among Vietnam veterans. I recommend you consult with your primary care physician about early detection measures.

Terry Babin
Membership Services
360-608-7789

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 rodwill50@hotmail.com

We need you!



CRMF September 2020 Update
by Dave Casteel

Dave Casteel (shilohcamas@comcast.net or CRMFpresident@comcast.net)

First of all, I would like to acknowledge a Give 50 for our 50th Anniversary Appeal gift by **Phil Naven**. I received word of it too late to acknowledge in the last newsletter. Thank you **Phil**. All of our members are just the greatest.

December is the time we normally get together to meet our scholarship recipients, learn about their passion, and goals for the future. It is also a grand time to visit with each other and sing some Christmas carols together. I will miss that and all of you this year. If the stars line up, we will see (or hear) many of you on a ZOOM meeting with the recipients.

Our Christmas scholarship social event is also the time many of you make an end of the year gift. If you would like to do so, please make it payable to the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) and mail it to P.O. Box 1872, Vancouver, WA 98668.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the CRMF now has a Vanguard Brokerage account set up for stock donations. If you are interested, please call me at 360-834-2448 for the Vanguard account and DTC numbers to tell your financial institution.

Here are a number of ways to support the CRMF:

1. Donate Cash (i.e., check).
2. Linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the CRMF.
3. Linking your Smile.Amazon.com account to the CRMF.
4. Using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA as part of your RMD. Benefit: QCD's reduce the AGI on the front of your IRS Form 1040 by the amount of your QCD.
5. 2020 Only: The CARES Act allows donors to receive an above-the-line charitable cash contribution credit up to \$300 for donations to 501(c)3 charities (which the CRMF is one) only if you do NOT itemize.
6. 2020 Only: The CARES Act allows taxpayers WHO ITEMIZE their deductions to deduct charitable contributions up to 100% of their AGI thus offering the ability to wipe out their tax liability entirely.
7. Donating appreciated securities held at least one year directly to the CRMF. By doing so, you avoid paying capital gains on the value of these shares. Both you and the CRMF benefit.
8. Leaving a bequest. This is as simple as listing the Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) in your will/trust as a charitable beneficiary. Our EIN is 47-4776049.

I really miss seeing and chatting with all of you and hope we can do so VERY soon in 2021.

Dave Casteel



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@smplyexplainit.com.

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.





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 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: https://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/	

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: https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email/form		

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: https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme		

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	Peter Abbarno 786-7638
Representative, Position 1	Sharon Wylie 786-7924	Vicki Kraft 786-7994	Brandon Vick 786-7850	Chris Corry 786-7810	Richard DeBolt 786-7896
Representative, Position 2	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