



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

December 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President:

Rod Williams
503-317-2273

**1st Vice-President:
& Membership:**

**2nd Vice-President:
& Programs**

Secretary:

Jim Morse
360-433-5605

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:

Paul Crosby
360-666-8871

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:

Happy Holidays! May you all enjoy a Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Omisoka, or whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year. May the new year, 2022, find you healthy and full of joy.

As we close 2021 we can all look back in amazement of what we have endured and overcome in the last two years. Knowing what we have been through can give us confidence we can handle whatever 2022 throws in our path. I choose to be optimistic that next year will continue the positive swing. This is clearly true for the Columbia River Chapter of MOAA. We are ending the year with a strong chapter which has been recognized by national MOAA amidst all the strife of the year with multiple awards for our web site, this newsletter, and chapter level of excellence. We are a Five Star MOAA Chapter!

In 2021, our chapter excelled in meeting our charter objectives. Our legislative team kept us aware and engaged on key legislative advocacy matters directly supporting state and national efforts to improve the lives of military members and families. Our Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) used our Support the Troops fund to help multiple local veteran service organizations on the front line locally. The chapter scholarship fund successfully refined our relationship

with both Clark College and Washington State University, Vancouver. We provided four scholarships to a very impressive set of students again this year.



Looking forward, a slate of volunteers has stepped up for election to the Columbia River Chapter executive board at our January 15th, 2022, membership meeting. These are: **Rod Williams**

for President, **Jim Morse** (with support from his wife, **Pat**) for Secretary, and **Larry DeVries** for Treasurer. We still have the Vice President position open and will continue to recruit for it. Our charter requires prior notice to members before the election. Initial notice was given at our December 5th membership meeting.

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President's Message continued

We are also seeking to fill other lead roles in the chapter. **Paul and Ivadell Crosby** will be moving to California in early 2022. **Paul** has been our chapter lead for the scholarship program for more than twenty years and has built it into a very strong and highly effective model program. The scholarship lead partners with our CRMF team. We are also looking for a volunteer for our Personal Affairs lead. **Terry Babin** has been serving this role for several years and has also built a very effective program. He will be there to mentor and support the person taking this very important role which supports members and families through critical events. The national MOAA structure also provides immense support and guidance for this role. Another opening we need to fill for 2022 is our Surviving Spouse Liaison. **Terry Whisenant** has served superbly in this role but has asked for someone to step up and help her support this very vital element of our community. Again, a strong program already exists and is well supported by both the Washington State Council of Chapters and the national MOAA team.

All of you, 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.

If you think you can help, contact me or any of the current chapter leaders.

At our December 5th membership meeting we were able to meet that set of students and once again were impressed by how they are applying our scholarships to meet their personal life goals.

- **Kelly Sauter** is the Fenning Scholarship recipient at Clark College. Both her parents are Air Force veterans. She is majoring in Digital Media Arts and plans to be a digital media freelancer after graduation. She has two children, one also in college and another is a senior in high school taking college level courses.
- **Dillon Kelly** is the Chriss Scholarship recipient at Clark College. A freshman, his father is active-duty Air Force. He is a baseball player (pitcher) who wants to play professional baseball and someday become a physical therapist.
- **Justin Olmsted** is the Crosby Scholarship recipient at WSU-V majoring in biology. After graduation, he wants to work for the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office. He prefers Idaho over Washington because the emphasis in Idaho is more on the conservation and ecological side. He is a six-year veteran of the Army.
- **Christopher Bishop** is the Doty scholarship recipient. He served in both the Army and Air Force including one tour in Iraq. He has graduated from Clark with an Associate of Applied Technology Degree in Welding and Fabrication and hopes to be a certified welding inspector.

Rod Williams
President



**Annual Business Meeting,
January 15, 2022 by Rod Williams**

Traditionally we start each year with an open membership meeting to address key chapter business matters. This year's agenda will include:

- Election of officers. President **Rod Williams**, Treasurer **Larry DeVries**, Secretary **Jim Morse** (with **Pat**)
- Annual reports for Chapter budget, and major committees
- Annual reports for CRMF and budget.

Last year we held this meeting via ZOOM.

For 2022 we are going to hold a joint ZOOM and in person meeting on Saturday, January 15th, from Noon to 2 PM. We will meet in the 40&8 Boxcar room.

The listed address still takes you to the Bingo Hall at 7607 NE 26th Ave, Vancouver, WA.

Instead, please enter the smaller parking lot from NE 78th St. The Bingo Hall building has been sold and is currently a construction site. Based on our average age and known health concerns, it is essential we follow safe public meeting protocols.

We ask that if you are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19, please join by ZOOM. You should also know the 40&8 facility requires wearing of masks and a level of social distancing. It has been difficult finding a location with staff and capability to support our in-person meetings. A no host luncheon is available in the adjoining 40&8 Chateau Room following our meeting.

We will send an email with further information and the link for those who will attend by ZOOM.

Any questions, please contact me, **Rod Williams**, at (503) 317-2273 or rodwill50@hotmail.com

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, Space 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 more than 350,000 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, **Jim Morse**, coordinates calendar inputs and newsletter distribution. You can contact him at 360-433-5605 or email him at jlmorse77@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Rich Wersinger**. You can contact him at 360-901-1915 or e-mail him at 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 **Jim Morse**, our Chapter Secretary at 503-360-433-5605 or jlmorse77@gmail.com.



Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) Update

by Dave Casteel CRMF President

I am very pleased to announce that member response to our Post COVID Scholarship (PCS) Appeal was a great success—response was excellent! Member generosity is overwhelming despite the fact COVID is not yet eradicated.

Thanks to the generosity of **32** donors (including four via Qualified Charitable Distributions from their RMD) we raised a record breaking **\$5,912** total to date. This includes \$5,112 for our Scholarship Fund and \$800 for our Support The Troops Fund. The appeal was designed to gap the shortfall that was created by not having the in-person BBQ and in-person Christmas scholarship social. Your generous response to this appeal allows us to proceed with more certainty going forward into 2022.

The remarkable young men and women who receive our scholarships are very appreciative for the support from our chapter which YOU help make possible. Thank you.

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE! We are now able to offer you the option to donate securities directly to the CRMF through our new organizational Vanguard Brokerage Account. Because security concerns prevent me from including the Vanguard account number in the newsletter, please e-mail me at CRMFPresident@comcast.net or call me at 360-834-2448 for instructions if you are interested. While Vanguard does NOT charge the CRMF any fees, donors need to check with the financial institution at which their securities are held to determine whether they charge fees for the transaction.

Planning to sell some stocks before year end? Then consider donating some to the CRMF. Benefits of donating securities directly to a 501(c)3 like the CRMF: Charitable gifts of appreciated securities held for at least one year offer special tax advantages. Donors can receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the securities while avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciation.

We thank the members listed below who supported the Post COVID Scholarship (PCS) Appeal including those who made their donations as a memorial gift and the seven members who wish to remain anonymous (or did not check the permission block on their donation slip). If I missed anyone or you find an error, please let me know so I can correct it in the next newsletter.

First Name(s)	Last Name	In Memory of:
Terry & Virginia	Babin	Professor Ronald King & LtCol Spike Duff, USMC, Ret
Marlin & Elizabeth	Brinkley	
Dave & Marilyn	Casteel	
Robert & Teresa	Clark	
Sally & David	Cowles	
Roger & Kay	DeRoos	
John & Charlene	Donnelly	
Jim & Bonnie	Faull	

First Name(s)	Last Name	In Memory of:
Ronald	Gagnon	
Frank	Hill	Chaplain Max Metcalf
Dick & Gert	Ionata	
Allan	Jeska	
Marlene	Laurie	Al Laurie
Buck & Sherry	Marr	
Bob	McFarlin	
Robert	McNeal	
Bruce & Cassandra	Miller	
Jim & Patricia	Morse	
	Officers Wives Club	
Beverly	Olson	Glenn Olson
Ron	Pastor	Peggy Pastor
Charles & Janet	Shaul	Maj Peter Shaul
Larry & Patti	Smith	
Marge	Van Nus	
Rod & Pat	Williams	

The Columbia River MOAA Foundation (CRMF) is an IRC 501(c)3 public charity to which donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 47-4776049. As always, we recommend you consult your attorney or tax professional regarding your specific situation.

Feel free to contact **Dave Casteel** (shilohcamas@comcast.net) or CRMFpresident@comcast.net) or phone (360-834-2448) or me (**Frank Hill**) by email (hillhouse2@comcast.net) or phone (360-241-8252) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES' NEWS

by Terry Babin

KEEPING CONNECTED PROGRAM

Phone calls are being made to members from December 3rd through the 19th. These calls are made to let you know the Chapter is thinking of you and interested in your welfare. This is an opportunity to give us any updates on address, e-mail, phone, or other contact information. If you have any questions regarding Chapter or National MOAA operations and activities, suggestions for the Executive Board, receipt of the Newsletter, or any other inquiries for which we might be able to assist, this is also an opportunity to convey this to the Chapter officers.

If you have not received a call from one of the following by December 22nd, please call me at (360) 608-7789 and leave a message. Callers this December 2021 phone call series are **Buck Marr, Roger DeRoos, Dan Sockle, Joel Scott, Jim Morse, Holly Mangum, Rich Wersinger, or Marlene Laurie.**

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.



VA Delays in Printing & Mailing Notification Letters

The Veterans Affairs department recently sent out notice they are experiencing delays in printing and mailing VA notification letters through the Government Publishing Office's vendors. More details can be found online at [VA statement on GPO printing and mailing delay](#). In their notice they advised delays are due to supply chain and staffing shortages. The notice further stated:

“The disruption may impact the ability of some claimants to meet required deadlines via written correspondence with VA. In response to the mailing delays and to protect the best interest of claimants, the Veterans Benefits Administration is extending their response period by 90-calendar days for claimants with letters dated between July 13, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021.

If a claimant does not reply to a time-limited notification, such as, making an election of benefits or services, or reporting for a scheduled compensation and pension examination, VBA will not take adverse action to deny, reduce or terminate benefits and services unless: 1) the claimant is contacted and there is documentation of their right to respond; 2) the requested information has been received; or 3) the response period has lapsed.

VA and GPO are proactively working to quickly address the mailing delays.

For questions on this matter, Veterans and claimants can contact VA at **800-827-1000**.

Veterans who filed an appeal with the Board of Veterans' Appeals can click [here](#) for information specific to Board correspondence, scheduled hearings at the Board and receiving your Board decision.

As more information becomes available, updates will be provided. If you have any questions or believe you were impacted by the delays, call 1-800-827-1000, as stated above.”

MOAA Chapter Travel Forum Update

By Dan Sockle and Terry Babin

The Chapter's fifth *Travel Forum* was held the evening of November 18th as a Zoom meeting.

Discussion about international travel planning and recent travel experiences were the primary topics for this Forum:

- A trip report was given on a recent Norwegian Cruise Line cruise in the Western Mediterranean:
 - Restrictions and COVID protocols on shore activities varied by country with Italy being very restrictive and Spain relatively normal.
 - Important to have all vaccination records with you and keep all COVID-related documents on your cell phone.
 - Expect changing COVID testing requirements and frequent testing including likely pre-embarkation testing.
 - If you have the opportunity for a cabin upgrade, find out exactly what is being offered before deciding.
- One Forum participant has an upcoming rebooking for a tour in Costa Rica and was curious about safety. If you have traveled to Costa Rica in the past two years, and have any advice, please pass on to **Terry Babin** or **Dan Sockle** who will forward the information to the member.
- Travel to Trinidad is being discouraged because of the high crime rate. If you considering travel to, or through, the island, check the Department of State website first.
- Information received from a travel agent was shared during the Forum.
 - Post tour and cruise complaints are on the rise.
 - Complaints are mostly about decreased quality of service and knowledgeable tour company personnel while being charged pre-pandemic prices.
 - Many companies cut higher cost amenities and staff to try to stay financially afloat and have not reinvested in employees or services.
 - Bottom line: You may have to adjust your expectations on cost/quality of travel for the foreseeable future.

Other items of interest and discussion:

- Regarding the travel agent's warnings about increasing travelers' complaints, one of the Forum participants stressed that using a top-rated tour company that takes the worry out of schedule changes and travel issues is the best way to go—particularly in this pandemic environment. You might pay a bit more, but for a lot more assurance. Tauck at **tauck.com** was again recommended
- Hawaii is increasing its efforts to promote tourism.
 - Use the Safe Hawaii site in making your plan to visit the Islands.
 - Kilauea Military Camp (www.kmc-volcano.com) on the Big Island was recommended as a very good deal.
- For RVers: U.S. Army installations usually have very good RV campgrounds.
- Space A expected to come back around January 20th.

Next Forum Zoom meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 20th.



**Best Cities for Military Retirees – 2021 Study-
-Vancouver, WA #2**

Many of us already know Southwest Washington is a great place for military retirees to live. An article in Yahoo Finance forwarded by Vancouver Mayor, Anne McEnery-Ogle confirms it. In his November 4, 2021, article titled *Best Cities for Military Retirees – 2021 Study*, Patrick Villanova reported on a study by SmartAsset, a financial technology company.

Villanova posed that when the time comes for members of the American military to hang up their uniforms for good, they inevitably face the same question anyone else asks themselves when nearing retirement: Where will I live? There are several factors that make a city or town a good place to retire. But which cities are best for military retirees?

To answer this question, SmartAsset compared 200 of the largest cities in the country across various metrics, including the percentage of the population who are veterans ages 65 and older, number of retirement communities, estimated senior tax burden, number of Veterans Administration health facilities and benefit offices, median veteran income, percentage of veterans living under the poverty line and unemployment rate.

Key findings of the study ranked our neighbor Boise, Idaho, best for military retirees with Vancouver, Washington, second overall. Boise is the top-ranked city in large part due to its third-best military retirement friendliness score, as well as the city’s low veteran poverty rate. Vancouver and the SW Washington area, has the ninth-highest score for the military retirement friendliness index, including the second-most retirement communities per 10,000 residents (4.06). Vancouver, Washington, also has the 24th-highest percentage of residents who are veterans ages 65 and over (3.03%). We also ranked near the top in the availability of resources for veterans.

Yet another thing for which we in Southwest Washington can be proud.

Rank	City	Military Retirement Friendliness Score	Resources for Veterans Score	Economic Environment Score	Ranking Index
1	Boise, ID	96.29	61.34	81.44	79.69
2	Vancouver, WA	88.87	71.88	73.85	78.20
3	Sioux Falls, SD	81.32	84.03	66.80	77.38
4	Chesapeake, VA	79.26	56.23	92.68	76.06
5	Anchorage, AK	91.07	64.22	64.23	73.17
6	Virginia Beach, VA	79.26	46.01	91.33	72.20
7	St. Petersburg, FL	96.98	56.87	58.67	70.84
8	Roseville, CA	95.05	40.89	70.73	68.89
9	Honolulu, HI	76.51	76.36	53.12	68.66
10	Oceanside, CA	84.75	47.28	73.58	68.54
11	Alexandria, VA	53.30	56.55	92.68	67.51
12	Surprise, AZ	85.44	26.84	89.02	67.10
13	Charleston, SC	56.59	66.45	77.91	66.99
14	Aurora, CO	59.34	69.97	71.14	66.82
15	Spokane, WA	88.74	57.83	53.79	66.79
16	Port St. Lucie, FL	95.47	24.60	79.95	66.67
17	Lincoln, NE	63.74	69.97	65.99	66.56
18	Hollywood, FL	71.15	69.33	56.50	65.66
19	Fort Collins, CO	35.85	91.37	69.65	65.62
20	Santa Rosa, CA	69.64	64.86	61.79	65.43
21	Overland Park, KS	61.54	62.30	72.36	65.40
22	Corona, CA	31.46	87.86	76.56	65.29
23	Bellevue, WA	61.13	42.49	90.79	64.80
24	Huntington Beach, CA	81.73	40.89	70.19	64.27
25	Raleigh, NC	46.98	65.50	78.86	63.78
26	Peoria, AZ	84.75	26.52	78.59	63.29
27	Scottsdale, AZ	86.13	23.64	77.64	62.47
28	Macon, GA	74.59	50.80	61.79	62.39
29	Colorado Springs, CO	66.90	53.99	66.12	62.34
30	Washington, DC	38.46	80.83	67.21	62.17

Each score is measured on a scale of 0 to 100. Underlying metrics are listed below.
Military Retirement Friendliness: Percentage of the population who are veterans ages 65 and older, retirement communities per 1,000 residents and estimated senior tax burden.
Resources for Veterans: Veterans Administration (VA) health facilities per 100,000 veterans and VA benefits facilities per 100,000 veterans.
Economic Environment: Percentage of veterans under the poverty line, median veteran income and Aug 2021 unemployment rate.

smartasset





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

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 3rd 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: 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

Federal Legislative Update:*by Buck Marr*

Our November legislative article highlighted the “Little Engine That Could” reminding us to stay on point and remain optimistic that in time, U.S. military forces will get legislation conveying sufficient FY22 resources to execute our National Security Strategy published last March. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to continue to advocate for issues sponsored by MOAA and The Military Coalition. Currently, operating under a continuing resolution, there exists a reasonably large gap between funds required and funds received. Disappointingly, for the 17th year out of the last 20 years, the Congress failed to pass appropriations legislation by the end of the fiscal year. Last year’s delay was 80 days. This year, it is a sure fired certainty to exceed 90 days.

Friends of the Columbia River Chapter—

I don’t think I have ever failed to ask you to keep your advocacy hats on continually. History has shown that if we take our eye off of the “legislative ball,” the Congress will likely dribble it out of bounds. Permit me to make a couple of points: **First**, our MOAA history is chocked full of legislative “wins.” Behind wins were hundreds, nay, thousands of contacts by MOAA members. Please trust me...I can confirm this assertion from my six years on MOAA’s Government Relations Committee and 12 years as an unregistered lobbyist. **Second**, what kind of buying power is lost during operation under a continuing resolution? Congressional research services estimate that operation under a continuing resolution costs the defense organizations approximately \$3 billion a month. What happens to that money? Poof, it disappears into thin air...the services never get it back. If the Hill doesn’t pass and the President doesn’t sign authorization and appropriations bills by the end of December, that’s about nine billion dollars of lost buying power for the services. \$9B dollars funds about 42 F-35’s and half of the entire Space Force budget. (Pardon my USAF/Space bias)

In order to sustain weapons system development, procurement and operating tempo for the services, Congress will look for places to take money. That’s a given. Where should they take the money?

Military personnel and health care accounts come to mind immediately. Let’s strike fear into the hearts and minds of veterans and consider Tricare for Life. It was advocacy that pushed it across the finish line 20 years ago. It is a benefit earned through sacrifice in support of the nation. It’s been under threat for years and certainly will be again in a budgetary environment which is allocating monies in large amounts to accounts other than veteran benefits.

Additionally, the TRICARE fee structure continues to increase substantially in total disregard of instructions in the FY17 NDAA. Current MOAA priorities are in a fight for funding despite very good sponsorship in Congress. Toxic Exposure Reform currently is not in the NDAA drafts and neither is TRICARE Young Adult Parity and Concurrent Receipt for medical retired pay and VA disability despite good sponsorship. Basic Needs Allowance for junior enlisted families appears to be safe.

One new initiative deserves your support. The Military Survivor Comfort Act in the Senate will ease the short term financial burden for surviving spouses soon after losing their loved one.

Our theme has been one of “patience.” I would suggest another well know phrase, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” We must have advocacy but we really need tough hard-nosed advocacy.”

Buck Marr**Federal Legislative Affairs**

Columbia River Chapter Membership 2022 Calendar Events

Date	Event	Program/Speaker
January 15 Saturday 12 Noon to 2pm	Annual Business Meeting Location: 40&8 Boxcar, 7607 NE 26 Ave, Vancouver, WA. Enter from NE 78th St.	January 15th will be our annual business meeting Agenda to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of officers: President Rod Williams, Treasurer Larry DeVries, Secretary Jim Morse (with Pat) • Annual reports for Chapter, budget, and major committees • Annual reports for CRMF and budget



CRC Newsletter Schedule
First week of month
February 2022

