



NOW HEAR THIS!
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May 2011

**5 Star Chapter President's Message
By Merl Gorton**



While Ralph is off on a once-in-a-lifetime sailing adventure in the South Pacific, I have assumed his duties. Here's some important information:

The **12 June social** will be very unusual! Your reservation is due no later than 4 June to dine at the **FAFB Warrior Dining Hall**, then attend a presentation at the **Survival School!** The food will be **FABULOUS** and you'll **only pay for what you eat (\$5—\$7) - no other charge for this social.** See pages 3 & 5.

Big news! For the third consecutive year, our chapter website received First Place for Legislative coverage! Kudos to Beth Ann Daigre and her son Travis (Website Coordinator)!

Since January 2010, I've served as the MOAA representative on the WA Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Council. While doing so, I've learned many things. For example:

— The **WDVA** contracts with 35 licensed professional counselors to provide counseling to veterans *and* their immediate family members, including PTSD counseling.

— Over 40 **VSOs** (Veteran Service Officers) in counties and at **VFW** and **Legion** posts process **VA** disability claims. Any veteran who is rated for a **VA** service-connected disability which requires a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheel chair) may receive a **VA** annual clothing allowance of \$716.00. Contact your **VSO** to apply.

— Washington has a new **Veterans Raffle** through Washington's Lottery that directs the proceeds to a fund providing financial assistance to returning veterans. The Raffle will provide a sustainable funding source for this very important program. Raffle tickets will go on sale on **Labor Day** of each year and the drawing will be held each **Veterans Day**.

**BRING SOMETHING TO THE
12 JUNE SOCIAL FOR
SUPPORT THE TROOPS &
Bring Your Old Cell Phones
(see p. 3 & 4 for details)**

2011 Chapter Socials

- 20 MAR- Northern Quest Casino
- 17 APR - Mukogawa Ft. Wright
- 12 JUN - FAFB Survival School
- 10 SEP - Saturday Picnic; Opportunity Presbyterian Church
- 16 OCT - Coeur d'Alene Resort
- 4 DEC - Mukogawa Ft Wright

Chaplain: Ann Hurst, Capt, NC, USAF
509-326-2978 ann_hurst@comcast.net

**Chapter Wives & Widows Club
2011 Meeting Dates:**

- 4 JAN: Prospectors Bar & Grill
- 1 FEB: Dockside, CDA Resort
- 1 MAR: Twigs Bistro, Spokane Valley
- 5 APR: Olive Garden
- 3 MAY: Luna Restaurant
- 7 JUN: Ripples on the River - Red Lion
- 5 JUL: Ci Shenanigans
- 2 AUG: Cedars Floating Restaurant, CDA
- 6 SEP: Taste & See
- 4 OCT: Harvest House
- 1 NOV: Max at Mirabeau Hotel
- 6 DEC: Christmas High Tea

See page 2 for details on upcoming events!

Now Hear This!



**Spokane Chapter, MOAA
2010 First Prize Winner**

*Best Legislative Coverage for
Website
Third Consecutive Year!*

Welcome New Members
COL Richard Kelly, ANG and wife Vicki, Fairchild AFB
TAPS
CDR James Blake, USCG (Ret.) 4/10/11
LCDR Kenneth Sanger, USN (Ret.) 5/15/11

Our Hat Is Off to:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2011	Give Me 10 2011
Marilyn Hunt	3	
Bob Imle		9
Chuck Latimer		4
Dick Oates		1
Ralph Shrigley	1	1
Chuck Stratton		2
TOTALS	4	17


Support the Troops: 2011 Cash donations YTD: \$146.
JAN: 2 boxes (17#) to 13M & 2W in Afghanistan (Army), 2 boxes (20#) to 8M & 3W in Afghanistan (USAF).
MAR: 2 boxes (17#) to 12M Arabian Sea (USN), 2 boxes (15#) to 7M & 1W in Afghanistan (USAF), 2 boxes (16#) to 40M & 20W in Afghanistan (Army), 2 boxes (18#) to 10M & 5W in Afghanistan (USMC).
2011 Summary: 12 boxes (103#) to 90M & 31W in Afghanistan and Arabian Sea.

Legislative Letters: 801 as of 5/9/11

Raffle Donations: MAR: \$320 AF&A Museum; APR: \$190 Ladies & Gentlemen of WA State Veterans Cemetery; JUN: MOAA Scholarships; SEP: Fisher House; OCT: Spokane Veterans Home; DEC: ROTC/JROTC.

Widows & Wives: 102# food & \$35 to Spokane Valley Food Bank. \$50 to Christ Clinic. 10 wreaths to WA State Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. 502 Cell Phones for Soldiers. Cards, clothing, goodies and visits to 3 residents at Spokane Veterans Home.

Widows and Wives Club
By Beth Ann Daigre



We always meet at 1:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. On 7 June we will be at Ripples on the River at the Red Lion. Call Diane Gorton at 509-467-6138 to save your seat. On 5 July you can join us at CiShenanigans. Call Kay White at 509-464-2774 for a reservation.

Guess what? We do other things besides eat and talk! We just sent a check for \$50 to Christ Clinic, and this month we donated 24 pounds of food to the food bank. Lynne Lind and Esther Starkey visit our three guys in the Spokane Veterans Home and give them cards, clothing and goodies, plus sit down and visit.

The Spokane Chapter has donated the most **Cell Phones for Soldiers of any chapter!** See the article on page 4 for details. When the Widows and Wives Club took on this project, we had no idea we'd be so successful. Bring on those phones!

On 28 April the FAFB Officers Spouses Club give \$8000 in college scholarships to local military kids. This hugely surprising amount was raised at the base Thrift Store which they operate with their volunteer time and one part-time paid employee. I've never been there but will be making that visit shortly, and will donate my used clothing, furniture, household goods etc. to them in the future. Please help support this worthy cause.


If you are a male officer reading this, please share this newsletter with your wife, and tell her we would love to have her join us once a month. Our monthly calendar is on the front page.

On Monday 11 July at 3:30 p.m., the chapter is going to the Spokane Indians baseball game and some of the Widows and Wives will attend (see article on p. 3 for reservation details). Also, some of us will meet at Pig Out in the Park on the first day like we did last year. Please join us for both events! Let's live life while we can.

NEED a RIDE to a SOCIAL?

Idaho:
Richard Oates 208-777-2671
Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Washington:
Clif Collier 509-443-6490
Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483
Chuck Latimer 509-326-2978
Clinton Piper 509-747-9305

Seize the moment! Remember those ladies on the Titanic who passed up the dessert cart! Erma Bombeck

Now Hear This!



12 June Social: FAFB Warrior Dining Hall & Survival School

It just doesn't get any better than this! On 12 June we will have a highly unusual social at Fairchild Air Force Base. It includes a "pay for what you eat" lunch at the Warrior Dining Hall (which has outstanding native American décor and terrific food), followed by a one-hour presentation at the Air Force Survival School.

Your reservation coupon must be received by 4 June, so please mail it soon. We need it because:

1. We have to provide a head count to the Dining Hall staff
2. We need to put a list of attendees at the Main Gate so that anyone who does not have base access will be able to come aboard.

At the dining hall, you'll only pay for what you order (\$5—\$7 per person) — cash preferred; credit and debit cards accepted.

There will be no other charge for this social and arrival time is BEFORE 12:00 noon. You're welcome to include civilian guests on your reservation coupon. If you'd like to stay overnight on the base, Space A Quarters may be reserved by calling (509) 247-5519.

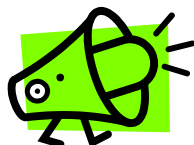
The food will be FABULOUS! How about this? Baked Chicken, Beef Stew, Catfish, garlic potatoes, cranberry brown rice, green beans, roasted vegetables, fried okra, deli and hot line, dessert. Be sure to arrive before 12:00 noon.

Members and guests who do not have military IDs will be able to easily get on the base because the names of all attendees will be posted for the guards at the Fairchild Main Gate — no need to stop at the entry building before the gate. The Survival School is only five minutes from the dining hall, and we will caravan there together for the presentation. A field instructor will explain what is taught to survive/shelter/find something to eat in differing climates. The school trains all USAF aircrew members on survival, escape and evasion, Geneva Protocols, and has an extensive Exhibits lab displaying each area of training.

Also, we'll be doing legislative postcards instead of letters (to save time), so please bring:

- \$1.00 per person to cover the cost of postage
- Any old cell phones you might have (see article on p. 4)
- Something for Support the Troops, such as small containers of toiletries, protein bars, beef jerky, cocoa, ham, tuna, chicken with crackers, popcorn, Slim Jims, Halloween candy, raisins, peanuts, cookies, batteries, hand & foot warmers, & laundry soap tabs.

Upcoming Socials



- **SATURDAY, 10 September:** indoor picnic at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, 202 N. Pines in Spokane Valley. Guest speaker will be **Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna**.
- **Sunday, 16 October:** Coeur d'Alene Resort, guest speaker will be Washington **Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers**.

LAST CALL! Spokane Indians Baseball Game

Join other chapter members on Monday, 11 July, at 3:30 pm for a Spokane Indians baseball game! At Avista Stadium, the Indians will host the Vancouver Canadians. Remember to bring your sunscreen and K cards; enjoy some excellent baseball and camaraderie this summer.

Cost is \$10 – send your reservation and check to Fred Donovan, 1824 S. Vera Crest Drive, Veradale WA 99037. Pick up your reserved tickets at the Will Call window on game day!

This is the last call for reservations. Send your reservation now or strike out!



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Now Hear This!

Spokane Chapter Collects Record Number of Cell Phones for Soldiers—with More to Come!



Compared to all other MOAA chapters, the Spokane Chapter has hit a record high by collecting 502 Cell Phones for Soldiers!

An old cell phone in a junk drawer is worthless, but a donated cell phone to CPFS is priceless. Each phone is worth one 60-minute calling card for deployed troops to call home.

The donated phones are sent to ReCellular which pays *Cell Phones for Soldiers* for each phone, and the money is used to purchase prepaid calling cards which are sent to our deployed troops. About half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in over 40 countries. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and recycled to reclaim gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs; and (of course) plastic.

Please bring your old cell phones to the 12 June social. Or put them in collection boxes through September at any **Global Credit Union**, the **Washington State Veterans Cemetery**, **Regional Readiness Center** 1626 N. Rebecca, **Vida Nails** 15607 E. Broadway, and **Coldwell Bank NW Group** 6519 Maple.

Have More Fun Than the Law Allows

Volunteer to serve on the chapter's bit early to be thinking of this, but will be held in October and the next



2012 Board of Directors! It may seem a not when you consider that elections newsletter will be published in August.

This is actually a FUN thing to do!

We meet the first Saturday of each month at 0900 in the Education Building of the Valley Hospital and are usually done by 1100. Marilyn Hunt has been coming since Moby Dick was a minnow, and she says it's a great way to keep your brain synapses and your sense of humor flexible and intact. If you're interested, please contact someone on the Nominating Committee, which is:

Marilyn Hunt, Chair: (208) 773-1074

Rufus Hoefler: (509) 443-6822

Bob Imle: (509) 701-3342

Chapter Chaplain



You probably remember reading in our March newsletter that one of our Co-Chaplains, LCDR Jack Dowers, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, passed away. It would be nice if we could fill his slot with another chapter member who is an ordained member of the clergy. If you are one of those people and you'd like to serve as a chapter Chaplain, please contact 1st Vice President Merl Gorton by phone or email at (509) 467-6138 or mdgorton@aol.com.

Legislative Contacts

Washington

Senator Patty Murray

United States Senate
10 North Post St, Suite 600
Spokane WA 99201
509-624-9515
Fax (509) 624-9561

Senator Maria Cantwell

United States Senate
920 W. Riverside,
Suite 697
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2507
Fax (509) 353-2547

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers

United States House of Representatives
10 N. Post St, 6th floor
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2374
Fax 509-352-2412

Idaho

Senator Mike Crapo

United States Senate
610 W. Hubbard
Suite 209
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-664-5490
Fax (208) 664-0889

Senator Jim Risch

United States Senate
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 213
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-6130
Fax (208) 765-1743

Representative Raul Labrador

United States House of Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr.
Suite 243
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
(208) 667-0127
Fax (208) 667-0310

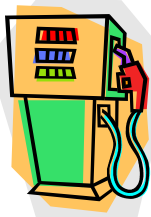
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All MOAA Members Can Save 5% on Gas! This Includes New Give Me Ten Members!



One of the more recent benefits of belonging to MOAA is that you can join the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and get one of their credit cards. After you use it to buy gas at the pump, there will be a 5% reduction in gas charges on your monthly statement when it arrives. At current gas prices, that's about 20 cents per gallon.

To join PenFed, call them at 1-800-616-6600, tell them you belong to MOAA, and you'd like one of their credit cards so that you can get a discount on your gas. Have your MOAA membership number ready when you call.

By the way, anyone who joins MOAA under the Give Me Ten program can also use this benefit.. Have you got any friends or relatives who are active duty military officers? If so, either you or they can contact Marilyn Hunt and she'll sign them up for a free year of MOAA membership. Former officers (including retirees) can join MOAA for \$30 for two years (vs. the usual \$65). We offer a \$10 discount on chapter dues for all Give Me Ten recruits. Marilyn has all the forms you need.

Contact Marilyn Hunt at cinc@frontier.com or (208) 773-1074.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and the surrounding area. His office is in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St.. He can be reached at 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, he will call you back.

FAFB Retiree Activities Office
Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4029
The Retired Affairs Office needs volunteers. Serving at the RAO is a perfect excuse to travel out to the base and visit the exchange/commissary at the same time. Call them!

Chapter Speakers Bureau: If you're willing to speak about your military experience, call Chuck Latimer (509) 326-2978.