



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XIX, Number 1

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President's Message
By Marilyn Hunt

Please join me in welcoming the 19 new members listed on page 3 who've recently joined our chapter. Ten of them returned postcards to MOAA indicating interest in chapter membership, so this "push" by national has meant real growth for us. I hope to see all our new folks at the next social. Speaking of which....

SOCIAL: We're off and running toward our 35th Anniversary! Our first 2009 social will be 15 March at Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights. We went there for the first time last year and it was so popular that we decided to make it the first event of 2009. Mr. Bill Youngs, History Department Chair at EWU, will enlighten us as to how northeast Washington and north Idaho came to be, so it should be intriguing. As an added benefit, you will be served at your table instead of going through a buffet. The food is terrific there, so it seems to me that we should have a fabulous turnout. Reservations are due in the chapter mailbox by 7 March

You've Got Email... We've Got a Newsletter

Believe it or not, we're moving forward with email newsletters. The goal is to email the chapter newsletter to those members who want to get it that way. Some of you already know this because we sent a message to those with email asking which way you prefer to get your newsletter: by email or U.S. Mail.

We're hoping that at least 100 members will say "yes, send it by email" because it would greatly reduce the cost to print and mail it. If we haven't heard from you, please contact Dean Thie at dthie@hughes.net and give him your decision. Also, let him know if your email address has changed (we've had 28 bounces).

BAYVIEW: MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENT!

As a departure from our usual routine, we will have a social on **SATURDAY (yes, Saturday) 13 June** at the U.S. Navy Acoustic Research Center in Bayview, Idaho. (See Social article on page 3). If you've ever been to Bayview, you already know that one cannot simply drive aboard the research center, so this is a rare opportunity to see what the Navy is doing out there.

WHEELCHAIR GAMES: We're asking those who are rarely able to attend socials to support the chapter in another way: Send a donation for the VA Wheel Chair Games which will be held here in July. See page 4 for the coupon and details.

Auxiliary/Spouse Luncheons

- 3 March - Perkins Restaurant,
Division by the river
- 5 May - to be determined
- 7 July - to be determined
- 1 Sep - to be determined
- 3 Nov - to be determined

2009 Calendar of Events

- 15 MAR- Northern Quest Casino
- 26 APR - Mukogawa Ft. Wright
- 13 JUN - Bayview ID, USN
Acoustic Research Ctr.
- 13 SEP - Picnic at Imle's
- 18 OCT - Spokane Club
- 6 DEC - Mukogawa Ft Wright

Now Hear This!

Our Hat Is Off to:

Member Recruiters	Chapter YTD	Give Me 10 YTD
Beth Ann Daigre	1	
Marilyn Hunt	1	1
Chuck Latimer	1	1
Frank Potter	1	
TOTALS	4	2

Supporting Our Troops

At the social on 15 March, we will collect money and goods to ship to the troops. Please bring either or both . The cash helps with shipping costs. For information, call Margaret Imle 509-924-3846

Give Me Ten 2008: We brought MOAA 78 GMT members last year— almost 8 times what they asked for!

**NEW ARMY ROTC UNIT
NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE**

By Marilyn Hunt

A new Army ROTC Unit was recently established at North Idaho College (NIC) in Coeur d’Alene. It is the Cardinal Detachment of the University of Idaho Crimson Unit. Your Board of Directors voted to add this unit to the other six that we support. On 4 Feb, Immediate Past President Dick Oates and I met Lead Instructor 1LT Steve Keeton, ANG, who invited us to speak to his cadets. It was a very productive time and we’re looking forward to more contact with the unit. Cadets who belong to this unit will be able to complete the first two years of a military science degree at NIC, then they can transfer to a four-year Army ROTC Unit to complete their commissioning requirements.

**Retiree Activities Office needs volunteers now!
509-247-5359**

**Open: Monday—Thursday 1000 to 1400 hours
Located on the 2nd floor of Personnel Office Building**

The Retired Affairs Office at FAFB is in dire need of volunteers because the present ones are aging (aren’t we all?). To help out, you apparently only need to provide one four-hour stint per month. So give them a call. Being of service at the RAO is a perfect excuse to travel out to the base and visit the exchange/commissary at the same time.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and the surrounding area. His office is in the personnel/finance complex at the base. He can be reached at 509-247-8551. If you are calling long distance, leave a message and he will call you back.

AUXILIARY NEWS

By Beth Ann Daigre, Auxiliary Liaison

Let’s talk about our chapter’s Auxiliary members and future Auxiliary members. When a past or present officer in our military services joins MOAA, their spouse becomes a part of the membership by association. If you were an active duty spouse, you may have enjoyed (tongue-in-cheek) the many moves afforded our families to various parts of the United States and perhaps parts of the world. The officer is/was your sponsor. After your sponsor dies you can stay in the military family by maintaining your membership as an MOAA auxiliary member.

As you know, MOAA national and our chapter continue to fight for the benefits that were earned by the many moves, whether we were active duty spouses or the spouses who came after and often were the caregivers during the last years of their lives. I was married to my first husband during his active duty years in the Air Force. My second husband was already retired from the Navy by the time we met.

When my husband joined the Spokane Chapter, the auxiliary ladies met for luncheons at various places with speakers from that place or from outside venues. I am missing those luncheons and I’m sure many of you are too. I love to hear the stories we ladies have to tell of our adventures. I also believe we can often be the speaker at our luncheons.

Our next luncheon will be at Perkins on Division by the river. It will be a working luncheon in that we need to decide where we would like to have subsequent luncheons. Do we want to have speakers or meet at various restaurants? Do we want to find one regular place? What we used to do and what we do now do not need to be the same. We also need to form a committee, so the meetings have various points of view. We should also come up with a name for our group.

Auxiliary and future Auxiliary members (spouses) are invited to attend. I have two very special announcements that I will make at this luncheon!

We did not have the January luncheon because of all the snow. **The next luncheon is Tuesday, March 3rd at 1 PM.** We will adjourn at 3 PM. These times are set to miss the lunch rush and going-home traffic. If you usually eat earlier than 1 PM, have a little snack and then come join us.

Please call Beth Ann (509) 921 -9581 to reserve your seat at the table.

**If you have Email, please tell Dean Thie whether you prefer to get your newsletter by Email or U.S. Mail:
dthie@hughes.net.**

Now Hear This!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ann Archibald, Auxiliary, Spokane
Gerna Burke, Auxiliary, Newport WA
Gayne Clifford, LTC, Army and wife JoAnn, Coeur d'Alene
Forrest Diehl, MAJ, USA, and wife Marlene, Spokane
John Gerry, CWO2, USN, and wife Nina, Spokane
Thomas Henderson, CWO4, USCG, and wife Irene, Sagle ID
Steve Keeton, 1LT, ANG, and wife Deborah, Hayden Lake ID
Richard Kosanke, COL, USAF, and wife Karolyn, Liberty Lake
Kreston McClure, CWO3, USN, and wife Mary, Cheney WA
Joseph McDonnell, LtCol, USAF, Spokane
Forrest Miller, MAJ, ANG, and wife Cheryl, Garfield WA
Duane Nelson, LTC, Army, and wife Carol, Spokane
Richard Obregon, LCDR, USN, and wife Maricella, Spokane
Theodore Ponticelli, CW4, USA, Post Falls ID
Mark Sherman, 1LT, Army, and wife Karri, Post Falls ID
Alexander Shogan, LTC, USA, and wife Maureen, Spokane
Matthew Shovelski, Capt, USAF, and wife Melanie, FAFB
Walter Townsend, LT, USN, and wife Sandy, Colbert WA
Alna Tripp, Auxiliary, Medical Lake WA

PROMOTIONS

LCDR Jerry Zee, USPHS, 1 July 2008
MAJ Jim Phillips, ANG, 6 Dec 2008

TAPS

Norman Archibald, MGEN, Army (12/23/08)
Charles Burke, COL, USAF (1/27/09)

2009 SOCIALS

By Bob Imle, Program Chairman

Northern Quest Casino treated us well last year (even set up a pay-as-you-go bar) and they are first on the schedule this year – 15 March. Our guest speaker is Dr Bill Youngs, History Department Chair at EWU. His presentation will focus on the history of northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Our 35th Anniversary social will be at Mukogawa on 26 April. For a real treat, Hobart Jenkins has arranged an MOAA tour of the U.S. Navy Acoustic Research Center in Bayview, ID on SATURDAY 13 June. This is one that you will definitely want to make. **We have to forward a complete list of attendees (Name, place and Date of Birth, SSN) so we must have your info not later than 31 May (and that literally means by 31 May, no later. Form will be in the next newsletter)**. Those with late reservations will not go on the tour, but may still attend the catered picnic. The picnic at Imle's will be on 13 September, and on 18 October we will be at the Spokane Club, and our winter social will be at Ft. Mukogawa on 6 December. *Mark your calendars now!*

The social schedule has one event in Idaho, one upscale social in the spring and in the fall, and programs that are enjoyable, interesting, and informative. All of the meal charges for indoor socials include an 18% gratuity, state tax, and the cost of meals for the guest speaker(s). That's why a \$13.95 menu item costs \$19.

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
1000 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 121
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-6130
Fax (208) 765-1743

Representative Walt Minnick, United States House of Representatives
1900 Northwest Blvd.
Suite 106
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-0127
Fax (208) 667-0310

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Now Hear This!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

By Chuck Latimer

With all of the emphasis on the stimulus package, the issues concerning the constituency of MOAA seem to disappear. But if you read the list identified by MOAA in the January 2009 magazine, you can see that there are 33 issues of concern. This is a large list to pursue in numbers and try to explain, but many are critical for us who are MOAA members.

The one that should concern all of us is the 20.1 percent reduction in Medicare payments. There is already a shortage of primary care doctors who will accept Medicare patients and it is obvious that this will make Tricare for Life payments even less. In addition, DoD intends to recommend an increase in premium payments for all of the Tricare programs *and* a premium for Tricare for Life.

Medical procedures have increased in cost, but the dramatic increases recommended by DoD would create hardships for many in the programs. MOAA continues to recommend that any raises follow the annual rate of inflation, and that these should occur on an annual basis.

So you say, "What can I do?"

1. Sign and mail any letters MOAA puts in their monthly Military Officer magazine.
2. Write a letter to your senators and representative. The letters from many do help influence legislative votes. (President's note: more is better. They literally stack up letters and emails on a given issue—pro and con—to decide how to vote. Repetition makes Action).
3. Send emails when you get MOAA Legislative Updates.

Washington State Legislation

The Washington State Council of Chapters (WSCOC) also has interest in what is occurring in the Washington State Legislature. There are two bills out of the 29 that MOAA members should support. The first is HB 1001/SB5481 (Veterans Burials). This long overdue bill provides liability protection for burial of unclaimed veterans' remains. Many funeral directors have in storage remains that been kept on their shelves for years.

Secondly HB 1075/SB5428 seeks to provide military education equity. There are 32 states that already have an interstate compact on education for children of military families. Frequent transfers and moves can place these children at a disadvantage. The compact would require the state's educational system to facilitate the process to prevent these children from being penalized because of their moves.

Both the Congress and our state legislature have seen a major decrease in those who have served in our country's armed services. So it is important that we MOAA members be vigilant and active in informing them of our concerns. It is our duty to do this. If you want to read more about Washington state bills, log on to www.leg.wa.gov.

Wheelchair Games

by Chuck Latimer

From 13 – 18 July, VAMC Spokane will host the 29th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Hundreds of heroic veterans who have paid a heavy cost for their service to our nation – the loss of mobility — will compete in track and field, softball, quad rugby, swimming, weightlifting, basketball, marksmanship and archery, and other events.

VAMC Spokane must raise over \$300,000 and recruit hundreds of volunteers for a whole host of duties. According to Kathleen Kovaleski, VAMC Spokane Volunteer Coordinator for the Games (509.434.7510), many duties are administrative, while others are more physical. More about the types of volunteer efforts that will be needed will be described in future newsletters and on our website.

I was originally alerted to involvement with the Games by a national board member who lives in Omaha, the site of last year's games. As I am a sports official, I've already volunteered to officiate softball and/or basketball, and I've contacted our local officials associations for help.

While some of us can't volunteer for a task, we can all help with funding. We have nearly 500 chapter members, about 100 of which come to our socials throughout the year and give generously to various worthy causes through our raffles. We know that many of you who do not normally attend have various reasons that make attendance rare, but you've supported the chapter with your membership to keep our voice strong in our legislative grassroots efforts. We also know you would often like to support the chapter in other tangible ways, but are not sure how to do so.

With that in mind, your chapter board of directors has decided to ask those who do not normally attend chapter socials to make a financial contribution to the Wheel Chair Games. This will be your chance to do what you know how to do best: TAKE CARE OF THE TROOPS. If 400 of our 500 members contributed \$100 each, \$40,000 would go to a tremendously worthwhile cause. Even half that sum would help immensely.

Please fill out this coupon, write a check to the 2009 VA Wheel Chair Games, and send everything to Spokane Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. We'll keep track and report back to you on how we're doing, and we'll pass your check on to the VA.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount: _____

Now Hear This!

Spokane Chapter, MOAA - Programs
P O Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

15 March 2009 at Northern Quest Casino
100 North Hayford Road, Airway Heights
1245 Social time, 1330 served meal begins

Please mail your reservation early, we must receive it by **Saturday, 7 March**; no late reservations or walk-ins as meal preference must be ordered – MENU CHOICES: Herb Crusted Choice Sirloin atop Onion Fritz w/ Mushroom Demi Glaze, baby red potatoes, fresh vegetables OR Grilled Fresh Fillet of Salmon with Citrus Butter, Rice Pilaf, and fresh seasonal vegetable. Both include garden salad, rolls, and coffee, tea, or soft drink for **\$19 per person**.

Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday 15 March 2009 social. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. The check is payable to **'Spokane Chapter MOAA'** - mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: _____ member/guest (BEEF or SALMON) (please circle)

Name: _____ member/guest (BEEF or SALMON) (please circle)

Name: _____ member/guest (BEEF or SALMON) (please circle)

Name: _____ member/guest (BEEF or SALMON) (please circle)

[] Please write in your phone number if you can provide a ride to the luncheon

[] Future Program suggestions (food, location, speakers, etc)

Directions: Northern Quest Casino: I-90 west, exit 277 (Fairchild/airport exit), 4 miles, right at first traffic light on Hayford Road, 2 miles, park in first casino parking lot on left. Transport is by shuttle to casino front door. MOAA room is on right; follow the signs. Questions? Call **Bob Imle (509) 701-3342**. Also, bring cash or goods for **Support the Troops project**.

Membership Chair/Committee
Spokane Chapter of MOAA
P O Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE, TEMPORARILY AWAY:
Clip and complete this form and send it to the address to the left so we can update our roster. Thank you.

Member name: _____
(Please print clearly)

[] I would like to be added to the chapter e-mail list to receive important information in a timely manner.
My e-mail address is: _____

(Please print clearly)

[] My mailing address, email address, and/or phone number has changed to :

[] I will be temporarily away starting _____ and returning _____. I do do not (circle one) wish to receive the newsletter while I'm away. If "do" please send it to:

Signed: _____



Spokane Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. BOX 466
Veradale WA 99037

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NEED a RIDE to the LUNCHEON MEETING?

Idaho:

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

Washington:

Clif Collier 509-443-6490 Floyd Geiger 509-328-4483

Chic Juber 509-926-9817 Chuck Latimer 509-326-2978

Ed Parker 509-891-6380 Clinton Piper 509-747-9305

Omak: Jerry Zee 509-442-7735

Chapter Recruiting Incentives

1. If you recruit three new chapter members by 31 December, you will receive a free one-year extension on your chapter dues.
2. If you recruit two more, you'll also get a free ticket to a chapter luncheon.

2009 GIVE ME 10 RECRUITING PROGRAM
Contact Marilyn Hunt or go to www.moaa.org/givemeten

Rules for 2009 Give Me Ten recruiting program:

- Free one-year MOAA membership for any officer on active duty or serving in the Guard or Reserve.
- \$28 for two-year MOAA national membership for new or lapsed MOAA members
- 10% discount for chapter members who convert their annual membership to Life. Call the MOAA Service Center at (800) 234-6622 for the 10% discount.

Anyone we recruit in the first two categories is eligible for a free one-year chapter membership. We will refund \$20 to any chapter member who converts to Life membership under Give Me Ten. **A Life membership automatically goes to your spouse if you die, and they pay nothing more to MOAA.**

If you've been promoted, contact Marilyn Hunt at cinc@verizon.net or (208) 773-1074 so she can put it in the next newsletter.