



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XVIII, Number 1

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President's Message

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Spokane Chapter President. Goals I have in mind for this year are:

Involving members and requesting assistance with Chapter activities to serve the needs of the membership.

For a starter I would like to set up a committee to arrange and promote trips for the members and their families whether it be international or local.

MOAA has quantities of available resources. Making these known to present and new members and how to acquire useful information and support.

Last and very important is to continue to focus on recruiting new members. We are five hundred strong at this time in the Spokane Chapter, but more members means more clout as we petition our members of the U S Congress and our State Legislators for support of our needs. Marilyn Hunt has volunteered to coordinate the recruiting of new members through the "Give Me Ten Program".

At the April Luncheon Meeting we will be asking volunteers to provide members with information as to ways you may become involved in Chapter activities. Also we will have on display some of the publications of MOAA that are available to you and how to order them.

You are also invited to attend the Board of Directors Meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 9 AM in the cafeteria of the Shiner's Hospital in Spokane.

By belonging to MOAA we can influence legislation on our behalf, build a great camaraderie and support each other. I'm looking forward to seeing you April 6th at our luncheon at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute in Spokane.

Dick Oates, President 2008

Important Announcements

The VA has started issuing a new VA ID card which has all data encoded. No more SSAN or other personal information is visible on the card. I requested one and it arrived in the mail in one week. Cheers, Bob Imle

Just Opened: The Idaho VA Clinic 1122 Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene

Social Programs

CY 2008: Our annual membership meeting is at Mukogawa Fort Wright on 6 April. Get out your calendars – Cathay on 18 May, picnic on 22 June at the Imle's, Coeur d'Alene Resort on 7 September, Northern Quest Casino on 19 October, and Mukogawa on 7 December. Please send in the reservations as soon as you receive the newsletters so I can adjust the numbers and not have money (or food) wasted. All socials will feature fund-raising raffles and item donations to send to troops; entertainment/programs will be at most socials. Suggestions are welcome: Bob Imle rmimle@netscape.com or (509) 924-3846, cell (509) 701-3342.

Now Hear This!

Our Hat is off to:

Chapter Recruiters

Marilyn Hunt – 12 new members
Dick Oates – 2 new members
Frank Potter – 2 new members
Merl Gorton – 1 new member

Supporting Our Troops

Chapter Members attending the December Luncheon Meeting gave \$50 cash (for shipping costs), 30 Christmas Cards and 57 pounds of goodies.

Adams Elementary School in

Spokane Valley made 174 great Christmas Cards for Fort Lewis Soldiers serving in Iraq.

Changes to By-Laws

The following changes to the chapter bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors, and will need to be adopted by those attending the April social:

1. Chapter dues will be payable not later than 31 December for the coming calendar year (instead of 1 January).
2. A member may be dropped from the chapter rolls if dues are not received by 31 January (instead of 1 April).
3. In the case of a married couple in which both spouses are eligible for regular membership, both may become regular members by paying chapter dues for only one, but they will receive only one copy of the chapter newsletter and other routine correspondence. However, they may both pay chapter dues in their own right if they so choose, in which case each would receive a personal copy of the chapter newsletter and all correspondence.

Changes 1 and 2 will enable the chapter to maintain a current list of members in a timely manner, and change 3 will formally implement a policy that the board has been using for some time.

TAPS

Philip Starling, LTC, USAF 1/17/08
Hugh Higinbotham, MAJ, USAF 1/10/08

Retiree Activities Office 509-247-5359

Monday—Thursday 1000 to 1400 hours
Located on the 2nd floor of Personnel Office Building.
Volunteer Staffing at the RAO has been a special interest of our chapter for many years. Most of the staff are chapter members.

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.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This time we are supporting 12 Marines (all male) from the State of Idaho. These men work 18 hour days and have no laundry service, no microwave or refrigerator. They want letters and say even old newspapers, that old news to them is news. They are so busy they seldom have time to contact family back home. Please take 15 minutes and write a short letter to go with the goods we will be collecting at the April 6th Luncheon Meeting.

Requested Items:

Protein bars
Shaving crème & razors
Axe body soap
Foot powder
Marlboro red and lights
3V lithium, AA & AAA batteries
Laundry soap tabs
Toilet paper
Baby wipes
Tooth paste & brushes
Dental floss
Deodorant
Mechanics hand soap
Magazines
National Newspapers

**We are a 5 Star Chapter
proudly serving
northeast Washington
and
north Idaho
for 33 years!**

Now Hear This!

Welcome New Members

Mary G. Battaglia (“Gerri”), LCDR, NC, USNR,
and husband **COL Robert Ricks, MC, Army,** Post Falls ID
Bill Booth, Capt, USAF, and wife Kathryn, Hayden ID
Matthew Crotty, MAJ, ANG, and wife Laura, Spokane WA
Roger Dickinson, 1Lt, U.S. Army, and wife Cheryl, Post Falls ID
June Higinbotham, AUX, Nine Mile Falls WA
Terry Hoover, MAJ, Army Reserve, and husband David,
Spokane Valley WA
Lisa Jacobson, LTjg, NC, USNR, and husband Grant, Post Falls ID
John Lee, LtCol, USAF, and wife Susan, Hayden Lake ID
Tom Malzahn, MAJ, USMC, and wife Cathy, Post Falls ID
James Mangan, LTC, USMC, and wife Julia, Coeur d’Alene ID
Robert Reish, CDR, USN, and wife Nancy, Post Falls ID
Robert Ricks, COL, MC, Army, and wife LCDR Mary G. Battaglia (“Gerri”),
NC, USNR, Post Falls ID
Roger Ryan, LTC, U.S. Army, and wife Maria, Coeur d’Alene ID
Edward Santos, LTC, U.S. Army, and wife Peggy, Hayden, ID
Larry Sayrs, CW3, Army, and wife Mayo Ann, Spokane Valley WA
Daniel Simmons, COL, USAF, and wife Wendi, Medical Lake WA
Joan Starling, AUX, Spokane WA
Gary Whitman, CAPT, USNR, and wife Barb, Liberty Lake WA
Dale Wiltse, LTC, U.S. Army, and wife Marcene, Post Falls ID

Spokane Auxiliary Corner

Do you know that as a spouse of a member you are basically already an auxiliary member? When you become a surviving spouse of a member you hold the membership in your name. In the chapter roster your spouse’s name is dropped as is their branch of service, and replaced with your name and the branch becomes AUX. If your spouse had a life membership with National MOAA you inherit that life membership. Then you only pay dues to your local MOAA chapter.

So now my point of all this information is to ask for your help. You don’t have to be a surviving spouse to be active in the Auxiliary. We happily invite all members to participate.

There are so many things this chapter could be doing to help our community and our membership. If you won’t be at the next meeting to sign up for a committee or special interest group, you may contact me directly. Your help will be appreciated and it will be fun.

Beth Ann Daigre, Auxiliary Liaison
509-921-9581 bethannmadsen@msn.com

Legislative Contacts

Washington

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
601 W. Main, Suite 1213
Spokane WA 99201
509-624-9515 fax 624-9561

Senator Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
920 W. Riverside, Suite 697
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2507 fax 353-2547

**Representative Cathy McMorris
Rodgers**
United States House of
Representatives
10 N. Post Street, Suite 625
Spokane WA 99201
509-353-2374 fax 352-2412

Idaho

Senator Larry Craig
United State Senate
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 121
Coeur d’Alene ID 83814
208-667-6130 fax 765-1743

Senator Mike Crapo
United State Senate
1000 W. Hubbard, Suite 209
Coeur d’Alene ID 83814
208-664-5490 fax 664-0889

Representative Bill Sali
United State House of
Representatives
610 W. Hubbard, Suite 206
Coeur d’Alene ID 83814
208-667-0127 fax 667-0310

Now Hear This!

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

When I first became an officer in the Spokane Chapter in 1998 I did not know about the Washington State Council of Chapter (WSCOC) or its functions. Then in January 2007 I became the President and was reelected in September to another 2 year term. For the first time I became informed on the role of this organization. WSCOC has four officers with the position of the Secretary-Treasurer combined. The WSCOC officers and 10 chapter presidents are the Board. Combined WSCOC is almost 2,000 in total strength including auxiliary members.

Our Council is a major player in legislative activities at both state and national level. First let us consider how we are involved at state level. There are two committees that work on veterans issues. First is the Veterans Affairs Advisory Council (VAAC). The VAAC is chaired by John Lee of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. Members are appointed by the Governor. It meets 6 times a year in different locations throughout the state. Our representative is Col Deryl McCarty Ret-USAF. Secondly, WSCOC maintains a membership on the Veterans Legislative Council (VLC.) This committee works with the legislature reviewing laws affecting veterans, active duty members, National Guard and Reservists and dependents. It has 37 Veterans Service Officers (VSO) members. Our representative is Lt Col Ken Deich Ret-USAF. In the next newsletter there will be a discussion of this legislative year.

National MOAA supplements its legislative activity by conducting an annual event titled "Storming the Hill". Council presidents and some chapter presidents are brought to Washington DC for a one day visit to members of the House and Senate. They focus on three issues that MOAA feels must receive favorable congressional action. This year the event will be 1-3 April with the visit to the members on 2 April. The issues for this year will be; [Eliminate Financial Penalties for Military-Caused Disabilities and deaths; Bar Disproportional Military Health Fee Increases; and Sustain Defense Budget Floor of at least 4% of Gross Domestic Product.

Our 360,000 MOAA members do represent a strong force in dealing with congress. However, the real call to action organization is its 409 Chapters and 48 councils. What occurs in both legislative bodies at state and national level is important to each of us.

Merl Gorton

Give Me Ten – or a Hundred!

By Marilyn Hunt

Active Duty officers (including drilling Guard and Reserves) get a free one-year membership in MOAA . They can also have a free one-year chapter membership if they wish, or they can get three years of chapter membership for \$15 (a \$25 value).

New or lapsed regular MOAA members who are not on active duty or in the Guard or Reserve can now get two years of membership in MOAA national for \$25 (a \$54 value). Members in this category include former and retired officers with honorable service. Remember: an officer does NOT have to be retired to join MOAA.

These new paying members can also have:

1. A free one-year Spokane Chapter membership (worth \$10)
2. OR a three-year membership in our chapter for \$15 (instead of \$25)

New or lapsed Auxiliary Members can have two years of MOAA membership for \$25 and a) two years of free Spokane Chapter membership (a \$10 value) or b) three years of membership in our chapter for just \$5.00 (a \$15 value).

Bottom line: a paying Regular Member can get two years of MOAA national membership and three in the chapter for \$40 total – that works out to \$8 a year. Auxiliary Members will pay \$30 for the same thing, which is only \$6 per year.

Life Membership: The chapter will pay the first \$20 of a Life membership for Give Me Ten (GMT) recruits and for any current MOAA member who converts their membership to Life.

MOAA's 2008 Give Me Ten recruiting program makes this all possible. Since MOAA will pay the chapter \$10 for any new Regular or Auxiliary member we bring them (active duty or otherwise), the board has voted to help new GMT members join our chapter by passing on this benefit. MOAA also pays us \$20 for Life members, so that's why we can pay the first \$20 for them. It's all a "wash" for the chapter, but it helps both MOAA and the chapter to get new members. Please remember that chapter membership is separate from national membership.

Do you need Give Me Ten or chapter membership application forms? Call any board member and they'll make sure you get some. Or contact Marilyn Hunt and she'll send them directly to you. Phone (208) 773-1074, email is cinc@verizon.net.

Now Hear This!

Spokane Chapter of MOAA
P O Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

6 April 2008 at Mukogawa Fort Wright
Institute Commons Building
12:45 p.m. Social time
1:15 p.m. meal service begins

Please mail your reservation so we receive it by Saturday, 29 March.
We cannot accept late reservations or walk-ins.

Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday 6 April 2008 luncheon meeting at Mukogawa Fort Wright.
The cost is \$13.00 per person. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.
Please make your check payable to "Spokane Chapter MOAA" and mail to the chapter mailbox above.

Name: _____ member/assoc/guest Name: _____ member/assoc/guest
(circle one) (circle one)

Name: _____ member/assoc/guest Name: _____ member/assoc/guest
(If more guests, please write in)

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

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

----- cut here

Directions:

6 April 2008 12:45 p.m. Mukogawa Fort Wright 4000 West Randolph Road, Spokane Directions: From I-90 take the Maple Street exit—which puts you on 4th Ave. Stay on 4th to Sunset Blvd and turn left. Move into the right hand lane and do not go down when the road divides. Turn right onto Government Way. Turn right onto Ft George Wright Drive. Go about 0.1 mile and turn left onto Randolph Road and follow it to the roundabout at the end. The Commons will be there with parking on all sides. Come in the doors on the right side.

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.

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

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 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: _____

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
SPOKANEMOAA.ORG



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Association of America
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**Immediate Past President
MARILYN HUNT**

Our Immediate Past President, Marilyn Hunt retired in 1992 as a Commander in the US Navy. She has a great many stories to tell of her travels across Europe and her experiences as a female naval officer. She was born in Sheridan WY, moved to Ft Lewis during the Korean conflict, then on to Billings, Phoenix, Butte, Helena and back to Billings. She attended Carroll College in Helena for 2.5 years, then transferred to Eastern Montana College in Billings and graduated with two degrees, English and Education. She met and married her husband Bob, before it was against military policy for officers and enlisted to do so. Bob Hunt is the Senior-Vice Commander of the Disable American Veterans in Coeur d'Alene. And he has been of immeasurable service to our chapter and helping his wife be a great president for our chapter during the last 3 years. They are the proud parents of two beautiful golden retrievers, Maggie and Mr. Roberts.

**New Board President
RICHARDS OATES**

Our new President on the Board of Directors grew up in Lusk Wyoming. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1957, and married his wonderful wife, Audrey (the day after graduation). They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past year. In 1978 he retired from the Marine Corps and returned to Wyoming where he earned a degree in accounting then back to work as the CFO of a mining company. When their fifth child graduated from College they went to Europe where Dick taught for Universities and Audrey, using her PhD, worked for the DODEA system. After 13 years, in 2003, they came back to the USA electing to live in Post Falls, Idaho. They enjoy the golf course and the great surroundings where they live. Dick currently works for Ground Force Manufacturing a local company. Future plans for Dick and Audrey include traveling and visiting grandchildren.