



NOW HEAR THIS!
SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Volume XXI, Number 6



November 2011

5 Star Chapter President's Message
By Ralph Shrigley



Christmas is rapidly approaching and so is the date of our gala Christmas Social, on 4 December at Mukogawa. Check out the details on pages 4 & 5 in this newsletter. One of our traditions is to wear your uniform if it hasn't shrunk too much. If you no longer have a uniform, please feel free to wear your medals/ribbons on your jacket. We will once again enjoy the Christmas sounds of the Eastern Washington chorus. Please bring something special for the Support the Troops box and the raffle, which will go to the ROTC and JROTC units we support.

I recently returned from the MOAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio where I was honored to receive the Spokane Chapter's sixth consecutive 5 Star Chapter Award. The new banner will be on display at the December Social. Only one in four of MOAA's Chapters is honored in this manner.

We were also honored for fourth place in the national Cell Phones for Soldiers Program, having collected nearly 1,000 old cell phones which will provide nearly 55,000 minutes of call time for deployed U.S. military members. Please pause to remember our great service members in your thoughts and prayers during the holiday season. We are honored and blessed by their service and sacrifice.

Despite the many challenges facing current and former service members, MOAA is leaning forward in the saddle. At the MOAA Annual Meeting we heard from MOAA national leadership and it gave my spirits a boost. MOAA membership is currently 375,000+ and holding. The Association is financially sound, despite a weak economy and is increasing its voice through advertising and recruiting initiatives. MOAA is the only military group within the top 50 lobbying groups in Washington, D. C.. When MOAA speaks, people listen. This is extremely important when the population of serving and retired service members is dwindling and so few of our national leaders have worn the uniform. Only 25% of the Senate and 20% of the House of Representatives have served in the military. See the article on page 4 about how you can lend your voice to MOAA's "One Powerful Voice."



**BRING SOMETHING TO
 THE
 4 DECEMBER
 SOCIAL FOR
 SUPPORT THE TROOPS**

Mark your Calendar!

2012 (not 2011) Chapter Socials

18 Mar All locations
 22 Apr
 10 Jun to be published
 16 Sep
 21 Oct at a later date
 2 Dec

**2012 (not 2011)
 Chapter Widows & Wives Club
 Meeting Dates**

(See W&W Article on p. 2 for 2011)

3 Jan Black Angus Steakhouse
 7 Feb Thai Bamboo
 6 Mar Ambrosia Bistro & Wine Bar
 3 Apr Beverly's, CdA Resort
 1 May Chaps Coffee Company
 5 Jun Europa
 3 Jul C. I. Shenanigans
 7 Aug Clinkerdagger Restaurant
 4 Sep Grille from Impanema, CdA
 2 Oct Twigs Bistro & Martini Bar
 6 Nov A Taste of Dome at Asian
 4 Dec Ripples, Red Lion River Inn

Co-Chaplains:

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

Rev. Betty Krafft, LCDR, USN (Ret.) 509-768-3183 bkrafft@spocom.com

Now Hear This!

Welcome New Members

Capt. Cynthia Adams, USAF & husband Robert Wirkus, Spokane
 COL Richard Allinger, U.S. Army and wife Zena, Spokane Valley
 Cpt. Robert Kinnune, CHC, U.S. Army & wife Susan, Spokane
 2LT Christopher Post, USAF & wife Laurel, Seven Bays, WA

TAPS

COL John Finnegan, USAF (Ret.) (10/10/11)



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

**Best Legislative Coverage for
 Website
 Third Consecutive Year!**

Our Hat Is Off to:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2011	Give Me 10 2011
Richard Allinger	1	
Merl Gorton	3	
Marilyn Hunt	8	17
Bob Imle	2	16
Chuck Latimer		5
Karen Mastantuono	Convert to Life	1
Denny McMonigle	Convert to Life	1
Dick Oates		1
Ralph Shrigley	1	1
Esther Starkey	Convert to Life	1
Chuck Stratton		1
TOTALS	15	44

Support the Troops: YTD 2011 cash donations \$259, checks \$100

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).

JUL: 2 boxes (16#) to 12M & 4W in Afghanistan (USMC). 2 boxes (18#) to 150M & 30W in Iraq (USN). 2 boxes (16#) to 19M & 4W in Afghanistan (Army). 2 boxes (16#) to 525M & 25W in Afghanistan (USAF).

NOV: 8 boxes (2 per unit—82#) to 33M in Afghanistan (Army), 10M & 50W in Arabian Sea (Navy), 14M & 20W in Afghanistan (USMC), 8M & 10W in Afghanistan (USAF).

2011 Summary: 28 boxes (251#) to 861M & 174W in Iraq, Afghanistan and Arabian Sea.

Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 1808 as of 11/4/11

Raffle Donations: MAR: \$320 AF&A Museum; APR: \$190 Ladies & Gentlemen of WA State Veterans Cemetery; JUN: \$155 Fisher House ; SEP: \$141 MOAA Scholarships; OCT: \$140 Spokane Veterans Home; DEC: ROTC/JROTC.

Widows & Wives: 242# food & \$103 Spokane Valley Food Bank. \$50 Christ Clinic. 10 wreaths WA State Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. 1,010 Cell Phones for Soldiers as of 11/4/11. Cards, clothing, goodies and visits to 3 residents at Spokane Veterans Home.

WIDOWS & WIVES

By Beth Ann Daigre, Auxiliary Liaison



Our **December 6th 2011** luncheon **location has changed**. The Palm Court in the Hotel Lusso has been moved into the Davenport Hotel. We are, instead, going to Clinkerdaggers – everyone loves **Clinkerdaggers, 621 W. Mallon, Spokane**. Our time is still the same: 1 PM.

We will be collecting dues for next year; they are still the same \$10. Our community projects are still the same: food or cash for the food bank, cards and letter for the deployed troops, gifts and cards for our three gentlemen living in the veterans home, wreaths for the Veterans Cemetery in December, donation to Christ's Clinic, Cell Phones for Soldiers and letters to Congress. Those letters may switch to the State Legislature if an attention push is needed.

Our President, Ralph Shrigley, called me from the MOAA annual meeting in San Antonio and said the MOAA Board of Directors has taken up our call for Voting Rights for Auxiliary Members. Our petitions were the tipping point!

Also, our chapter has taken fourth place in the Cell Phones for Soldiers program and Ralph is bringing us that certificate. **However, we are collecting cell phones through January**. We are shooting for 1 million minutes. Each phone is worth 60 minutes.



**National Personnel Records Center
 New Address Is...**

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis MO 63138-1002, USA

To order records from NPRC (such as a DD 214) with minimal delay, go to this address on the Internet:
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Now Hear This!

400 410 420 430 440 NUMBERS COUNT! 450 460 470 480 490 500

Even if you don't attend socials, **we need your membership**. When we write to our legislators, it gives us clout to say we have over 400 members, and we are the largest MOAA chapter in Washington and Idaho. Please keep our chapter strong—renew your dues!

The Chapter Memberships listed below expire on 31 December 2011. Payment Options:

- 1) Bring your check to the 4 December social and pay in person (save a stamp), or**
- 2) Mail your check with this coupon to Spokane Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037.**

Chapter dues: Regular member \$40/3 yrs. or \$15/1 year Auxiliary member \$25/3 yrs. or \$9/1 year

Note: Only MOAA national has Life memberships, not the chapter. Chapter dues are separate from national. Spouses of Regular members do not pay dues. Auxiliary members are surviving spouses of deceased officers.

Questions? Call Clif Collier at (509) 443-6490 or (509) 590-3298 or send an E-mail to clifcoll@msn.com.

Name _____ Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone () _____

Aguirre, Vincent	Crotty, Matthew	Holmberg, Harry	Mullin, Carmel	Spohn, Gary
Albright, Paul	Daniels, Alston	Hooppaw, James	Nelson, Arlette	Spores, Kathleen
Anderson, Angeline	Davidson, Frances	Hough, Ann	Northrup, James	Stark, Forrest
Arnold, Nancy	Dempsey, John	Hueber, Marilyn	Nystrom, Edward	Starling, Joan
Atkins, Gary	Dowers, Mary	Jewell, Richard	Obregon, Richard	Starrett, Jack
Bailey, Gardner	Duncan, Kenneth	Jones, C. Dave	Oliver, Almon	Stearly, Stephen
Barrett, Jean	Endahl, Charles	Jordan, James	Olson, Beverly	Stein Jr, Henry
Beaman, Ann	Fliger, Manley	Jose, Christopher	Olson, Oscar	Stone Jr., William
Bender, Walter	Flood, Jerry	Juber, C.	Osborne, Robert	Sundholm, Larry
Benscheidt, Carl/ Lisa	Ford, James	Kavanaugh, John	Ostrom, Lester	Swain, Lee
Bertsch, Roger	Frazier, Victor	Kelly, Edward	Parker Jr., Edward	Tassie, Lawrence
Betz, Jeremiah	Fullington, Douglas	Kershinar, Louis	Patrick, Paul	Tate, Harlan
Brandstoettner, Ed- ward	Garrett, Thomas	Kersting, William	Peck, Ann	Taylor, Steven
Brennan, Philip	Gaynos, Nick	King, Brent	Phillips, Jim	Thompson Jr., Law- rence
Brierley, Sheila	Gidlund, Carl	Kirkpatrick, H.L.	Piper, Clinton	Thorgerson, Arne
Brooke, Robert	Gillespie, David	Kloehn, Gordon	Potter, June	Thrash, James
Browning, Esther	Given, Robert	Knight, David	Povich, Michael	Tolman, Scott
Bublitz, Robert	Goldsworthy, Robert	Kosanke, Richard	Pritchard, Jonathan	Trebor-MacConnell, Barrie
Buck, Christopher	Grangnelli, Joseph	Lacy, Thomas	Pruitt, Bill	Valentino, Stacey
Burke, Gerna	Grapes, Jim	Lanning, Thomas	Regan, Michael	Vogel, Howard
Burns Jr., Charles	Grashio, Devonina	Larribeau, John	Roberts, Carroll	Wallick, Marie
Calhoun, Harry	Green, Jr., Dr. Harry	Liberg, Ray	Roden, Susan	Watts, Jeanne
Canfield, Marjorie	Gresham, Cliff	Lind, Carl	Sachse, Billy	Werner, Ila
Cappello, James/ Cynthia	Griffith, Lawrence	Malone, Jerry	Sauer, Walter	Whitman, Gary
Champion, Metra	Gronberg, Robert	Martin, Jacqueline	Savidge, Dale	Williams, Donald
Chandler, Mary Ann	Hagelin, Sharon	Mastantuono, Karen	Scharff, Ronald	Williams, Dr. David
Chorvat, Michael	Hand, Charles	Matthews, John	Schwartz, Robert	Williams, Irene
Clark, Catherine	Hargitt, Gerald	McCabe, Gaylord	Sealock II, Gratton	Williams, Michael
Clark, Jim	Harris, Marmaduke	McCollim, Lawrence	Seamster, Denney	Wiltse, Dale
Colliton, Jeffry	Harrod, Charles	McDonnell, Joseph	Sertich, Phillip	Winn, Louise
Comstock, Larry	Herion, George	McGaughy, Michael	Simmons, Daniel	Worley, Anneliese
Connell, James	Higgins, Gerald	Means, Paul	Skarka, Harry	Yocom , Peter
Cowley, Sue	Hinman, Craig	Memminger, Mary Anne	Slaton, Clifford	
Craghead, Robert	Hire, Claude	Millard, Val	Smith, Eugene	
	Hitter, James	Miller, Ruth	Smith, Omer	
	Hodgson, Myron	Mongelluzzo, Judith	Sommers, Duane	
	Hogue, James	Moore, William	Spitzbarth, Marcella	

NOW HEAR THIS! Is published 6 times per year by the Spokane Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, P O Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Editor: Marilyn Hunt cinc@frontier.com 208-773-1074. Advertising limited to members/spouses only. No subject matter that would preclude non-profit mailing.

Now Hear This!

Military Retiree Benefits Under Attack

By Ralph Shrigley, Chapter President



Amid the simultaneous weakness of both democracy and capitalism, our country's leaders are searching frantically for ways to reduce spending while protecting their ideological sacred cows. There seems to be an affliction common to all sides to protect one's own strategic interests while offering up other programs to the chopping block. The Administration has now turned its attention to military retirement and retiree medical benefits, stating the goal of reducing these benefits by \$27 billion over the next 10 years.

Through objective comparison of military retiree and medical benefits, they have determined that our benefits are considerably more expensive than those of civilian programs. Objectivity is an excellent analytical tool for those who do not have to deal with the "qualitative" issues -- such as the possibility of being blown up by an IED on the way to work, or having to spend months at a time away from loved ones. There are reasons why military retirement and retiree health benefits are structured as they are. It makes no sense to civilianize retirement unless we also civilianize the service.

What can you do? Washington, D.C. is a long way off and there is a decreasing number of those in power who have answered the Call to Arms themselves. How do we prevent our leaders from adopting ill-advised policies which may seriously damage our highly professional all volunteer services? You can make a difference.

Establish contact with your Congressional Representative, Senator, or the President. Let them know how you feel. Each representative values correspondence from his or her constituents, and their offices are organized to handle a large volume. MOAA can help. The MOAA web site at www.moaa.org makes it easy to monitor national political discussions and they frequently write letters that can be emailed or printed out and sent to your representatives. MOAA members have sent over 550,000 emails to our elected representatives this year, and the feedback we receive is that it "makes a difference." **Even better, we're told, is to simply send a *handwritten letter*.** Recipients recognize the extra effort such a letter requires and will generally give it special treatment.

Don't hesitate. Speak out before it is too late.

4 December Social at Mukogawa Ft. Wright Institute

By Bob Imle, Program Chairman

The 4 December social at Mukogawa has an unavoidable price increase due to their reorganizing and finding of previous undercharging for social events. The good news is the return of Randy Wagner and his outstanding, sophisticated EWU choral group! We will have beer and wine available and a Christmas dinner of turkey plus all the trimmings.



All members are encouraged to wear their Class A, Service Dress or Mess Dress uniform (unless they've shrunk too much). In that case, wear your ribbons and medals on your jacket.

Cancellations must be received NLT 29 Nov to receive a refund.

Legislative Contacts

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20500

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

Now Hear This!

**Spokane Chapter of MOAA
PO Box 466
Veradale WA 99037**



**4 December 2011 at Mukogawa Ft. Wright
1230—Social time, 1315 Meeting,
1330—Meal service begins**

Mail your reservation so we receive it by Friday, 25 November. Please, no late reservations or walk-ins.
Please reserve _____ places for the Sunday 4 December 2011 luncheon meeting at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute.
The cost is \$27.00 per person. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (27 x ____). (Pertinent article on page 4).
Your check should be payable to “**Spokane Chapter MOAA**” and mailed to the chapter mailbox above.

Menu: Turkey dinner and all the trimmings, plus wine and beer.

If you need to cancel a reservation contact Bob Imle (509) 701-3342 NLT Tuesday, 29 Nov for a refund.

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one)

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one)

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one)

Name: _____ member/guest (circle one)

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



Cut here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut here

Sunday 4 Dec Mukogawa Fort Wright social starts at 12:30, meal at 1:30 p.m. Directions: 4000 West Randolph Road, Spokane. From I-90, Maple Street exit, turn left on 4th Avenue, and left on Sunset Blvd. Stay in the right hand lane. After the bridge, turn right onto Government Way, and right onto Fort George Wright Drive, go 1/10 mile, turn left onto Randolph Road and continue to the roundabout at the end. Questions? Call Bob Imle (509) 701-3342.

Please bring OLD CELL PHONES and these things also:

- 1. 3 stamps and 6 return address labels per person for legislative letters**
- 2. Something for the raffle (proceeds go to the JROTC & ROTC Units we support)**
- 3. Something for our troops serving in harm’s way (postage fees also appreciated)**



**Membership Chair/Committee
Spokane Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 466
Veradale WA 99037**

**EMAIL REQUEST, CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE, or
TEMPORARILY AWAY:**

**Clip and complete this form and send it to the
address on the left so we can update our database. Thank you.**

NOTE: We do not send junk email or spam. Also, we do not give away, sell or trade your email address.

Member name: _____
(Please print clearly)

- [] I would like to be added to the chapter email list. I specifically request to (check all that apply):
- [] Receive the chapter newsletter by email instead of U.S. Mail.
 - [] Receive important information in a timely manner.

[] My email 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**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Spokane WA

We Only Need 2 More Paid "Give Me Ten" Memberships by 31 December to Earn a \$100 Bonus



One way to earn this is to recruit two former or retired officers. Under MOAA's Give Me Ten (GMT) program, **they will get two years of MOAA national membership for only \$30 (instead of \$65)**. They just need to fill out the proper form which you can get by contacting me - Marilyn Hunt at (208) 773-1074 or cinc@frontier.com. (I'll also have forms at the social).

*And if you can get a GMT member to join the chapter, they'll get a \$10 discount on our dues - \$5/1 yr. or \$30/3 years instead of \$15 & \$40. **Bottom line: two years of MOAA membership and three years of chapter membership for \$60 instead of \$105.*** Just like you, they

will get the *Military Officer* magazine, the chapter newsletter, Pentagon Federal Credit Union credit card with 5% savings on gas purchases, 20% discount on Garrett Financial Planning, Vanguard 529 savings plan, MOAA travel discounts, high-value insurance programs, discounts on Dell computers & Apple products, MOAA sponsored mortgages, exclusive money market account & market-leading money market CDs.

How good does it get? If you've got a prospect, contact me and I'll send the proper form and write your name in as the recruiter. That way, you'll be entered in the MOAA national "lottery" for all GMT recruiters and **you could win \$1000.**

Need a Ride to a Chapter Social? Call Anyone Listed Below

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

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area. His is in Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 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!