



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume XXIX Number 1



February 2019

Spokane Chapter Board of Directors

President, Newsletter Editor
Dave Melges, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
509-465-8867 spomooa@melges.net

1st Vice President
Alan Davis, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
208-215-5607 rota_al@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President, Membership Chair & Email Newsletter Coordinator
Clif Collier, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

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Jon Hall, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
jonshall@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Alan Davis, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
208-215-5607
rota_al@yahoo.com

Surviving Spouses Liaison, Widows & Wives
Audrey Oates, (208) 777-2671
AROates@roadrunner.com

IPP & Social Chair
Rufus Hoefer, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret.)
509-443-6822 1rands@comcast.net

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Marilyn Hunt, CDR, USN (Ret.)
208-773-1074 cinc@frontier.com

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Vacant

Director, ROTC, Homeless Veterans
Robert Imle, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
509-701-3342
robertmargaretimle@gmail.com

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Betty Krafft, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
509-768-3138 bkrafft@spocom.com

Director & Social Committee
Barbara Thornbrugh, Surviving Spouse
509-466-2108
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net

Director & Website Coordinator
Dave Melges, LCDR USN (Ret.)
509-218-0735
spomooa@melges.net

Personal Affairs Chairman
Pat Burns 509-466-2874
burnspc9@comcast.net

5 Star Chapter President's Message



Our next social will be Sunday, 17 March at The Airport Ramada. Our planned speaker is **Joe Bruce**. Bruce works as director of children's ministries at Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church. He is a 1981 graduate of Central Washington University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in science education. He spent three years teaching in Spokane, but left public education to help run a family-owned bike shop before joining Hamblen five years ago. Joe is the immediate past president of Rotary Club 21. He is a volunteer with NASA and Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He has been a Solar System Ambassador for over ten years, but in reality has been on a 28 year mission discovering mysteries about *space, the last frontier*. (I couldn't pass up the chance to throw in some Star Trek lingo there). OK, he gets a little dreamy when talking about landing a man on Mars or traveling outside the solar system. But he's really down-to-earth, he may even show up in an authentic blue, space shuttle flight suit and comes with plenty of his own visual aids. He calls them his big-boy toys.

The chapter needs some help with the upcoming ROTC awards, we need someone to assist by making the telephone calls to the respective schools we support. If you can assist in this endeavor please call or e-mail me.

(Continued on page 3)

MOAA Websites & Membership:

MOAA Website: <http://www.moaa.org>

MOAA "Take Action": <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

MOAA Legislative: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#Legislative-Action-Center>

Spokane Chapter website: <http://www.spokanemoaa.org>



Membership in Spokane Chapter and MOAA national is open to present and former commissioned officers and warrant officers (including retirees) with honorable service in any of the United States seven uniformed services (including National Guard and Reserves) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. MOAA and Spokane Chapter MOAA are nonpartisan.



Find us on:

facebook®

@SpokaneMOAA

@MOAA

Salute



This is the 3rd place ribbon the chapter received from the Bayview Daze July 2018 parade.

Thanks to Bob and Marilyn Hunt for all the work they put in on our parade participation.



Our Hat Is Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Jon Hall	0	1
Marilyn Hunt	0	2
Dave Melges	0	1
	0	0
2019 Total		4

Chapter Scoreboard 2019

JROTC Scholarship Funds (as of 2/02/19) \$1457

Legislative Letters, Postcards, & Emails (as of 2/2/19): 72

2018 Total: 1131

2019 Raffles:

MAR: Meals on Wheels

APR: MOAA Scholarship

JUN: Union Gospel Mission

SEP: Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America

OCT: Spokane Veterans Home

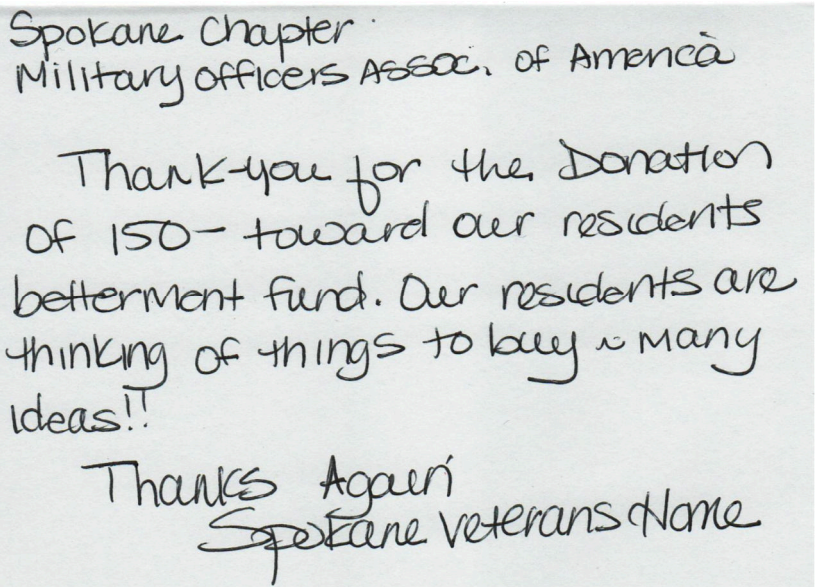
DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships.

Widows & Wives:

Homeless Vets **\$25.00, 1082 items** delivered, including canned meat & fruit, 15 dozen cookies and personal hygiene products.

Spokane Veterans Home: **406 items** delivered, including 72 new golf balls, 10 puzzles, 40 postage stamps, 97 new greeting cards, 22 sticker sheets, 6 calendars, 7 magazines, 5 adult coloring books, 54 twist up crayons, 48 colored pencils, 10 unfinished wood bird houses, 23 bottles acrylic paint, 12 disposable razors

Meals on Wheels **\$22.00.**



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P O Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Editor: David Melges, spomooa@melges.net, 509-218-0735.

Looming Defense Spending Cuts: The Trump Administration has announced it wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2020 (begins Oct. 1, 2019) Defense Department spending levels from \$733 billion to \$700 billion. In addition spending caps of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 which sets strict caps on both defense and non-defense spending are scheduled to be re-imposed in FY 2020 and FY 2021. In the past Congress managed to make short-term compromises, lifting the caps for a couple of years at a time, but no such agreement applies to the FY 2020 Defense budget, at least not yet.

These automatic cuts, known as Sequestration, require that 50 percent come from Defense even though Defense spending only makes up 16 percent of the federal budget. Budget cuts mandated by the BCA pose a threat to national security and will substantially impact service members' pay and benefits.

What can you do to prevent these cuts?

Contact your legislators, their contact information is located on page 4. Any method, be it telephone, e-mail or snail mail can put pressure on them to prevent the cuts. Talk to your neighbors, relatives, other acquaintances and ask them to do the same. Now is not a time for the United States to get any weaker. Our potential enemies are not cutting their military budgets, they are increasing spending. Look at China, their navy is growing as you read this, they are building their third aircraft carrier, they have eight ballistic missile submarines, 70 amphibious ships, 240 surface combatants and 67 attack submarines. These vessels are not being built to protect their shores but to control the South China Sea and areas beyond.

They have built up several reef areas in the South China Sea and constructed runways, missile emplacements and stationed troops there. They have ignored the rulings by the United Nations and the International Court in the Hague. Our allies in the Pacific (Japan, Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines and others) are directly threatened by these moves to control shipping in this vital area. These are not the only moves the Chinese are making, they have compromised our defense industries and stolen technology they are using to build up ICBMs, attack aircraft and fighters. They claim to have a super-sonic missile that can target our aircraft carriers at extended distances and deploying them to the built up islands in the South China Sea.

Our Air Force is struggling to retain pilots and air crews. Army recruiting goals were not met, we, the United States, have two choices: continue to allow our foes go unchallenged and desert our friends and allies OR rebuild our armed forces to counter the actions of China and Russia.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW!

Korean War Veterans Ambassador for Peace Medal

Veterans who served in Korea during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 or participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.



The Ambassador for Peace Commemorative Medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to American service men and women who served in the Korean War. The Ambassador for Peace Medal was initially presented to veterans as a special memento for those of who returned to South Korea through the "Revisit Program." The honor has since expanded to veterans who cannot travel the long journey to Korea.

Posthumous Awards

The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. However, please understand that the highest priority for presenting the medal is given to veterans who are currently surviving. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.

Additional information on how to apply for the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center at 800-558-1404, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C St. West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Tex., 78150, or by visiting its Web site at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards>

2019 COLA: I hope you noticed an increase to your retirement check in January. The 2019 COLA (cost of living adjustment) for military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, Social Security checks, VA disability and survivor benefits is 2.8 percent. MOAA accurately forecast this final outcome in November based on annual trends and factors, such as energy commodities, shelter (housing), and transportation services. You can access this data on the MOAA National website, it changes monthly, at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#COLA-Watch>. The 2.8 percent 2019 COLA is the second largest COLA of the past decade, trailing only the 3.6-percent COLA year of 2011. Some of the biggest factors influencing your COLA include the prices of food, clothing, housing, fuels and transportation fares, and charges for medical services and drugs. Measured price changes on those items over time determine the annual COLA. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current year to the average for the same months of the year prior. It is important to keep in mind the CPI might not reflect your personal experience with price changes, but is rather a measure representing the experience of the average household.

Major Veterans Legislation Winding Through Congress: Among this Legislation is a measure that would block schools from penalizing student veterans for Department of Veteran Affairs delays. This was brought about by the public relations fiasco caused by VA's late GI Bill payments this last fall. Other items include burial and memorial benefits, expansions of the Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and changes to VA's debt collection practices.

TRICARE Dental Plan Changed

The old TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP) expired on 31 December 2018. MOAA pressed the issue explaining many eligible participants were unable to complete the enrollment process and needed additional time to navigate the sign-up procedure or do not have computer access.

This pressure by MOAA resulted in the BENEFEDS enrollment option being extended for three months. Some members signed up via telephone and it was a simple operation. If you have not signed up as yet, and want to, go online to <https://benefeds.com/> or call **1-877-888-3337** to enroll.

Big Income Tax Changes!

Have you filed your 2018 Federal tax return? Did you find that your refund is lower than last year? Do you owe more than you had withheld? The major tax changes made last year have really effected the withholding formula, because of that your retirement check and your social security payment probably increased and less was withheld. You can make sure this does not happen to you for your 2019 tax filing, here's how:

1. Collect your 2018 return paper work (include all statements for investments and bank accounts)
2. Get online (if you don't have access to a computer at home try the public library)
3. Go to <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator>
4. On the upper right of the page you can view a video on how to use the calculator
5. When you are done, you can adjust your W-4 on the DFAS website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>
6. If you aren't familiar with this page there are video instructions available by going to <https://bit.ly/2AgEJf1>
7. Still need help? Your kids or grandchildren are great tech help resources.

President Donald Trump
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 Russ Fulcher
United States House of
Representatives
1520 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6611

Widows & Wives Club Upcoming 2019 Events

Date	Where	Hostess
8 January	Black Angus Steakhouse 14724 E Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-927-1177	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768
5 February	Ripples on the River Red Lion Hotel 700 N Division St, Spokane, WA 509-323-2557	Shirley Melges 509-465-8867
5 March	Beverly's Coeur d'Alene Resort 112 S Second Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 800-688-5253	Pat Connell 208-772-2559
2 April	Anthony's Homeport 1926 Riverstone Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-664-4665	Maxine Mahony 208-762-3380
7 May	Tea	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768
4 June	Rad Ricci Italian Bistro 8049 N Wayne Drive, Hayden, ID 208-635-5821	Jan McMonigle 208-772-3735
2 July	Thai Bamboo 5204 N Division St, Spokane, WA 509-777-8424	Deanie Binsfield 509-466-8006
6 August	Tito Macaroni 210 E Sherman Ave, Coeur D Alene, ID 83814 208-667-2782	Jan McMonigle 208-772-3735
3 September	Christ Kitchen 2410 N Monroe St, Spokane, WA 509-325-4343	Kay White 509-315-9684
1 October	Bistro on Spruce 1710 N Fourth, Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-664-1774	Pat Connell 208-772-2559
5 November	Twigs Bistro 14728 East Indiana Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 509-290-5636	Barbara Thornbrugh 509-466-2108
3 December	Clinkerdagger 621 W. Mallon Street, Spokane, WA 99201 509-328-5965	Pat Tolley 509-953-6768



Upcoming Events 2019 Mark Your Calendars!



Spokane Chapter Social Dates

- 17 Mar Ramada Inn
- 28 Apr Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 23 Jun Highlands, Post Falls
- 15 Sep Anthony's, Coeur d' Alene
- 27 Oct Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 1 Dec Mukogawa Ft. Wright

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



WASHINGTON
Clif Collier 509-443-6490

IDAHO
Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671

Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates

- 8 Jan Black Angus Steakhouse
- 5 Feb Darcy's, Spokane Valley
- 5 Mar Beverly's Coeur d'Alene Resort
- 2 Apr Anthony's Homeport, CdA
- 7 May Tea
- 4 Jun Rad Ricci Italian Bistro
- 2 Jul Thai Bamboo
- 6 Aug Tito Macaroni, CdA
- 3 Sep Christ Kitchen
- 1 Oct Bistro on Spruce, CdA
- 5 Nov Twig's Bistro
- 3 Dec Clinkerdagger



Local Resources

Washington Attorney General's Military & Veteran Legal Resource Guide

This guide summarizes in one place some of the many legal rights, protections, and resources available to Washington's military service members, veterans, and their families. It is designed to help promote awareness and understanding about the laws and protections among military service members, veterans, and others, to help current and former military service members see the full benefit these laws provide.

Topics Included: Legal Assistance • Consumer Protection • Employment • Education • Housing • Family Law • Health Care • Disability and More...

The free guide can be downloaded at the following link or received by mail via written request to the address below:

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/veteran-and-military-resources>

Washington State Office of the Attorney General
Military & Veteran Assistance
800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA 98104

Fairchild AFB Retiree Activities Office (RAO)

SGM Jim R. Smith, USA (Ret.), Director
Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., Ste. 109,
509-247-5359
Hours: 1000—1400

They need volunteers to work four hours per month.

Casualty Assistance Officer

Claudette Becker is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area.

Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488.

If you leave a message, she will call you back.

U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance Fairchild AFB Wing Headquarters (509) 247-2838

Legal Assistance: Tuesday & Thursday 0830-0930
Notary & Power of Attorney: Mon—Fri 0830-1600

Call to find out if they can help with your legal needs.



17 March Social Event Reminders



SUNDAY, 17 March, 12:30 p.m. Social, 1:15 p.m. Buffet
Ramada Inn, 8909 Airport Drive, Spokane, WA 99224

DIRECTIONS: Take I-90 east or west to exit 277 (Hwy. 2 for Spokane Airport /Davenport). Take Airport exit shortly after that and then follow Airport Drive to Flint Road. Take next right on W. McFarlane Rd., then take the second left to Ramada Inn. Plenty of handicapped parking and an entrance on the east side of the motel. Ramp available to elevator.

PLEASE BRING:

- 3 postage stamps & 6 return address labels per person
- Something for the raffle which will benefit Meals on Wheels
- Gloves, hats, XL white T-shirts, hand warmers, canned meat or hygiene items for homeless veterans
- Plastic tube type hangers, postage stamps, and unused greeting cards for birthdays & anniversaries etc., small gift items for residents to celebrate family occasions, magazines, and craft items for Veterans Home.

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 No later than Wednesday, 13 March for refund.



Mailing Address

Spokane Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

Social Registration March 2019

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than **Wednesday, 13 March**

To cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefler (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 13 March for refund.

What's on the Menu:

Remington Buffet:

Chef carved New York Strip with rosemary au jus & creamy horseradish sauce, Chicken Picatta with lemon caper butter sauce; fresh fruit & cheese platter. Chef's signature salad, au gratin potatoes, green beans, sliced Fontana bread & butter, choice of beverages. Dessert. Cash bar.

Date & Times

Sunday, 17 March 2019
12:30 Social, 1:15 Buffet

Cost is \$25 per person

Location

Airport Ramada Inn
8909 W Airport Dr,
Spokane, WA 99224

Please reserve ___ places for the Sunday, 17 March social at Ramada Inn, Spokane Airport. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$25 x ___ number of reservations). Make check payable to "**Spokane Chapter MOAA**" and mail to chapter mailbox above.

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one) Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one)

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one) Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one)

Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one) Name: _____ Member/Guest (circle one)

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

Update My Communication Preferences

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.

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
- Receive important information in a timely manner.

NOTE: We do not send junk email or spam. Also, we do not give away, sell or trade anyone's email addresses.

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: _____ Date: _____

Fill out and Mail to: Spokane Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037

Join Today!

FREE Chapter Membership for NEW members thru 31 DEC 2019
Regular Member: \$15/yr. or \$40 for 3 yrs.

Please Print or Type: NAME _____

RANK _____ SERVICE _____ STATUS (Circle one): Active, Retired, Former, Surviving Spouse

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ NAME OF SPOUSE _____ MOAA NAT'L NO. _____

E-MAIL _____ I do / do not (circle one) wish to receive my chapter newsletter by E-Mail.

DATE OF RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION (If Applicable) _____ CIVILIAN OCCUPATION _____

To join Spokane Chapter, MOAA, membership is required in MOAA national. I am / am not (circle one) a current member of MOAA national. Membership in the Spokane Chapter and MOAA national is open to present and former commissioned officers and warrant officers (including retirees) with honorable service in any of the United States seven uniformed services (including National Guard and Reserves) of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ RECRUITER _____



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