



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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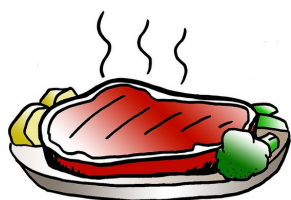
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Volume XXVIII Number 5



October 2018



5 Star Chapter President's Message By Dave Melges

Here we are and fall has fell, the temperatures are just right, the A/C has stopped running, the furnace hasn't kicked in, and the snow isn't falling. What a great time of year!

Everybody raved about the **extraordinary New York strip** we had at the Ramada Inn last year. So, guess what? We're going to savor it again on 21 October AND the price is the same! If you weren't there, you missed something really special. This is your golden opportunity to make up for lost time AND... on top of that... We're going to have a **supremely outstanding speaker Dr. Christa Copus, an Audiologist at the Spokane VAMC. Her information could change the quality of your life by light years and save you thousands of dollars.** This is a social you don't want to miss. See more details on page 3. Reservations are due by 17 October.

As military members past and present, we need to address Congress to ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases. All military beneficiaries, including active duty troops and retirees and their family members and others entitled to DoD health care, are affected.

Reforms to the Military Health System must sustain an operationally ready force with a ready medical force. MOAA strongly agrees that the military's health care system needs to evolve beyond what it is today into a modern, high-performing, integrated system. However, this interdependent relationship between health care and the readiness-laden infrastructure must not lose sight of either imperative. (Article continued on p. 4).



Bring Something to the 21 OCT Social for the Raffle

2018 Chapter Social Dates Mark Your Calendar!

18 Mar	Darcy's, Spokane Valley
15 Apr	Vine & Olive, Coeur d'Alene
10 Jun	Highlands Golf Course Grill & Tap House, Post Falls
16 Sep	Darcy's, Spokane Valley
21 Oct	Ramada Inn, Spokane Airport
2 Dec	Mukogawa Ft. Wright

2018 Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates



2 Jan	Ripples on the River
6 Feb	Black Angus Steakhouse
6 Mar	Dockside CdA Resort
3 Apr	Thai Bamboo
1 May	Bistro on Spruce
5 Jun	Christ Kitchen
3 Jul	Anthony's Homeport, CdA
7 Aug	Luna Restaurant
4 Sep	The Kroc Center, CdA
2 Oct	Radicci Italian Bistro, Hayden
6 Nov	Twig's Bistro
4 Dec	Bramble Berry Cottage Tea Shop

Now Hear This!



Taps

CDR Carl Benscheidt, USN (Ret.) (29 September 2018)

Irene Williams, Surviving Spouse (10 July 2018)

In 2018 Our Hat Is Off To:

Recruiter	Chapter	MOAA
Andy Eernisse	1 (self)	1 (self)
John Hall	1 (self)	0
Marilyn Hunt	6	10
Bob Imle	0	5
Dave Melges	3	7
Shirley Melges	1	0
Total	12	23

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD 2018

JROTC Scholarship Funds 8/22/18 \$1217

Legislative Letters, Postcards, Emails as of 9/26/18: 826

2018 Raffle Donations: MAR: \$230 Meals on Wheels; APR: \$150 MOAA Scholarship; JUN: \$170 Union Gospel Mission; SEP: \$150 Widows & Wives Wreaths Across America; OCT: Spokane Veterans Home; DEC: COL Spady Koyama JROTC Scholarships. **Total to date: \$700.**

Widows & Wives: Homeless Vets \$436.00 used to purchase 1580 items. Most recent items purchased: 108 cans of meat, 68 fruit cups, 8 peanut butter, 6 Hamburger Helper, 68 full size & 30 travel hygiene items, 35 disposable razors, 168 feminine hygiene products., 152 Tide soap pods.

Spokane Veterans Home 589 items, including 69 unfinished wood items, 22 AA batteries, 59 bottles acrylic paint, 21 paint brushes, 10 back packs, 4 camo ball caps, 9 USA ball caps, 7 disposable razors, 1 glue gun, 60 glue sticks, 50 hardbound novels, 70 magazines, 1 peg game, 22 pounds bird seed, 10 sheets peel & stick felt, 12 wall clocks, 1 toiletry bag, 2 fanny packs, 20 postage stamps, 2 adult coloring books, 10 note pads, 5 rosaries. **Meals on Wheels** \$205.50. **Christ Kitchen** \$100.00



MOAA Website and Membership:



MOAA website: www.moaa.org

MOAA "Take Action": www.moaa.org/takeaction/

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

Spokane Chapter website: 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.

SPOKANE CHAPTER IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

LIKE US AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPOKANEMOAA

SIGN UP TODAY!

Widows & Wives Club Upcoming Events



DATE	LOCATION	CALL
4 SEP	The Kroc Center, CdA 1765 W. Golf Course Rd. Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 667-1865	Jan McMonigle (208) 772-3735
2 OCT	Radicci Italian Bistro (formerly Daanen's) 8049 N. Wayne Dr. Hayden ID (208) 635-5821	Jan McMonigle (208) 772-3735
6 NOV	Twigs Bistro 14728 E. Indiana Ave. Spokane Valley (509) 290-5636	Deanie Binsfield (509) 466-8006
4 DEC	Bramble Berry Cottage Tea Shop 206 E. Pacific Ave., Spokane (509) 926-3293	Pat Tolley (509) 953-6768

Now Hear This!



Deaf in One Ear and Can't Hear Out of the Other? Dr. Christa Copus, Spokane VAMC Audiologist Speaker at 17 October Social—Airport Ramada Inn



We're going to have a very special speaker at the Sunday, 17 October social, someone who could improve your life by light years and save you thousands of dollars. Dr. Christa Copus is a highly qualified Audiologist at the Spokane VA Mann-Grandstaff Medical Center.

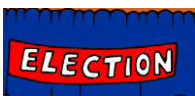
She's provided some remarkable things for one of our members who is totally deaf in his right ear and makes his living at sea:

- Hearing aid that transmits what he would hear in his right hear to his left ear via Bluetooth
- Pendant which hangs around his neck and receives signals from the radar on his boat if it alerts, then transmits the alarm via Bluetooth to his hearing aids.

This information should persuade you to fill out the reservation coupon right now and send it in. She will provide valuable information about hearing aids and other hearing devices that are available to veterans through the VA.

She will bring samples of various devices and will also explain how she can lessen the effects of tinnitus. One device is a very small microphone that can be set on a podium while someone is giving a speech, and it will transmit to an individual's hearing aids.

On top of all this, we're having Chef Carved New York Strip. See Page 5 for menu & reservation coupon.



Chapter Elections—Ramada Inn Social 21 October.

President Dave Melges has served as President for the last four years and prior to that was chapter Secretary for two. He and Marilyn Hunt are the only members in the history of the chapter who've served as President for four years.

Speaking of **Marilyn Hunt**, she's been on the board for since January 2000, serving as chapter President in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009. She's also been the Newsletter Editor from 2005-2007 and 2009 until present, the Chief Recruiter since February 2010, and she's written the annual 5 Star Chapter application for the last 13 years. She's thoroughly enjoyed all of it, especially all the personal connections and everything she's learned along the way. But she thinks the board needs new blood. Her term is up on 31 DEC, so now is the time for someone else to step up to the plate.

Greg Sassman has been the chapter Secretary since 2016 and would like someone else to take the job.

Board meetings are at the Valley Hospital at 0900 on the first Saturday of each month (no meeting in August). They typically last less than two hours and are very amiable.



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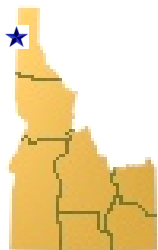
Continue ✓

President's Piece Continued from Page 1

The health care benefit is a commitment our nation makes to service members and their families, military retirees and survivors for their years of service. Any reform of TRICARE must take into account the decades of service that constitute a prepaid, in-kind premium worthy of a top-tier health benefit. Over 80 percent of those in Congress have not served in uniform and likely do not understand the toll that service has on individuals and military families.

What can we do? Personal stories from constituents have a lot of impact on Capitol Hill. MOAA's members, councils and chapters are a great source of grassroots support. Remind congressional legislators that any TRICARE reform must take into account that military members prepaid their health benefits through decades of service and sacrifice.

Idaho Members: Please Call or Write Senator Crapo and Senator Risch ASAP



The proposed federal VA budget has been approved in the House and is expected to be voted on by the Senate in October. It includes a six-fold increase in funding for veterans homes. As a result, construction of the proposed veterans home in Post Falls could move up dramatically. Legislative addresses are to the right.

Suggested wording :

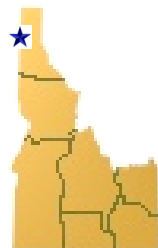
Dear Senator Crapo/Risch:

I MOST STRONGLY encourage you to support the upcoming VA Budget to dramatically increase funding for Veterans Home programs. We have a great need in north Idaho for a veterans home. As you know, 7.3 acres of shovel ready land in Post Falls has been donated by the Jacklin family for this purpose.

We have a large veteran population here and strong community support. We are ready to go as soon as the VA gives us the nod.

I ask you to use every ounce of energy and every contact you've got to make a new veterans home in Post Falls happen NOW.

Sincerely, _____



Legislative Contacts

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 Raul

Labrador, United States
House of Representatives
1250 Ironwood Dr.
Suite 241
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-667-0127
Fax 208-667-0310

Now Hear This!

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



Sunday, 21 October, Ramada Inn
8909 Airport Drive, Spokane
12:30 Social, 1:15 Buffet

Speaker: Dr. Christa Copus, Audiologist at Spokane VAMC

Please mail reservation early so we receive it no later than Wednesday, 17 October 2018

If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Rufus Hoefer (509) 443-6822 NLT Wednesday, 17 October for refund.

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.

Cost is \$25 per person. Please reserve ____ places for the Sunday, 21 October social at Ramada Inn, Spokane Airport. My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed (\$25 x ____ number of reservations). Make check 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)

SUNDAY 21 October, 12:30 p.m. Ramada Inn, 8909 Airport Drive, Spokane.

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 Spokane Veterans Home
- Gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, canned meat or hygiene items for homeless veterans

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

☐ 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: _____



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SPOKANEMOAA.ORG



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Military Officers Association of America
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Veradale WA 99037

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

WASHINGTON

IDAHO

Clif Collier 509-443-6490



Ralph Shrigley 208-623-2671



Donations to Spokane Chapter, MOAA

Chapter expenses vs. revenue were reviewed at the September board meeting. Major expenses include the newsletter and website. Declining chapter assets will be a significant problem in a few years if unaddressed. The most obvious solution is to raise dues. However, the board is reluctant to do that since it would probably cause some members to not renew their membership.

Another solution is for members to make donations to the chapter. These would be tax deductible, since the chapter is a 501(c)(19). However, it would NOT be possible to make donations from an IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) because the recipient must be a 501(c)3 entity.

What's in it for you? If you choose to make a donation to the chapter, 1) It could be a tax deduction if you itemize your taxes, and 2) You help maintain the chapter and avoid raising dues.

If you'd like to make a donation to the chapter, please write a check to Spokane Chapter MOAA and mail it to P.O. Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Note on the check that it's a donation.



Casualty Assistance Officer: Erica Kerin, Bldg. 240 at 7 W. Arnold St., 509-247-4488. If you leave a message, she will call you back.

FAFB Retiree Activities Office (RAO)
Tsgt Michael Knapp, USF (Ret.), Director
Bldg. 240, 7 W. Arnold St., Ste. C2A, 509-247-5359
Hours: 1000—1400.
They need volunteers to work four hours per month.