



NOW HEAR THIS!

SPOKANE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



President

Ralph Shrigley, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret.)
208-623-2671 rshrigley@earthlink.net

1st Vice President

Merl Gorton, COL, U.S. Army (Ret.)
509-467-6138 mdgorton@aol.com

2nd Vice President, Mbrship. Chair & Email Newsletter Coordinator

Clif Collier, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
509-443-6490 clifcoll@msn.com

Secretary

Eddylou "Fred" Donovan, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.) 509-922-4982
fredonovan@sisna.com

Treasurer

Rufus Hofer, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret.)
509-443-6822 1rands@comcast.net

Auxiliary Liaison, Widows & Wives

Beth Ann Daigre 509-921-9581
bethanndaigre@comcast.net

Chief Recruiter, Newsltr. Ed. & IPP

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

Director & Travel Point of Contact

Richard H. Oates, LTC, USMC (Ret.)
208-777-2671 rhoates@roadrunner.com

Director & Program Chair

Robert Imle, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
509-924-3846
robertmargaretimle@gmail.com

Director & Web Page Coordinator

Chuck Lund, CAPT, USN
509-951-8626 cplund3@comcast.net

Director, Chaplain, Program Comm.

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

Personal Affairs Chairman

Elaine Anderson (Aux.) 509-328-5556
d122123@msn.com

Program Committee Member

Barbara Thornbrugh, AUX
(509) 466-2108
bjthornbrugh@comcast.net



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November 2012



5 Star Chapter President's Message

By Ralph Shrigley

We are headed into the home stretch for 2012 (Thanksgiving, Christmas), so don't forget the MOAA Spokane Christmas Social. We will meet at our usual place, Mukogawa Ft. Wright, on Saturday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m. To add a more festive air to the event, you're invited to wear your Class A, Service Dress or Mess Dress uniform, or just wear your ribbons on your civilian clothing. We will be regally entertained by the EWU choral group, and then the performers will join us at our tables for lunch. There will also be some special awards presented and we are expecting a special guest.

The raffle will benefit the seven ROTC/JROTC programs we support. We will be collecting goodies for Support the Troops, plus thermal gloves and socks for homeless veterans, and providing info regarding "Wreaths Across America."

The Washington Hometown Heroes Raffle began ticket sales on 11 NOV. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds go to support our returning service members. See page 3.

Our Support the Troops program has reinforcements. We are joining with the fine folks of DAV Ft. Sherman Chapter 9 in Coeur d'Alene. They will provide postage money for up to five boxes per month through June. The packages will contain a note stating they are the result of a joint effort of our two organizations. Please bring items to the social to ship overseas, and my thanks to chapter members who've recently sent donations for this program.

Events at the social will include installation of officers and board members for the coming year. Since this will be my last "President's Notes," I wish to thank one and all for the privilege of serving as your Chapter President for the past three years. It has been an uplifting experience to get to know so many of you and to work on our several projects. We are blessed by the generosity and dedication of so many who have contributed to our Chapter's many accomplishments. I have never served with a finer group of men and women than our Board of Directors. It has indeed been a pleasure.

Bring Something to the Saturday 8 December 2012 Social for SUPPORT THE TROOPS

2013 Chapter Social dates are
listed below. Locations to be
determined at a later date.

17 Mar	
28 Apr	MARK
23 Jun	
22 Sep	YOUR
27 Oct	
8 Dec	CALENDAR!

2013 Chapter Widows & Wives Club Meeting Dates

8 Jan	Downriver Grill
5 Feb	Rusty Moose (Prospectors)
5 Mar	The Onion
2 Apr	Bonsai Bistro
7 May	Black Angus Steakhouse
4 Jun	Anthony's at Spokane Falls
2 Jul	PF Chang's China Bistro
6 Aug	The Boathouse Seafood
3 Sep	Savory
1 Oct	MAX Restaurant at Mirabeau Pk.
5 Nov	Clinkerdaggers Restaurant
3 Dec	Beverly's, Coeur d'Alene Resort

Now Hear This!

Welcome New Members



Pam Garrett, Auxiliary, Spokane

LCDR Bernard Middleton, USN (Ret.) &
wife Dorothy, Spokane

COL Stanley "Dick" Olson, US Army (Ret.) &
wife Margaret, Spokane Valley



Spokane Chapter, MOAA

**2011 First Prize Winner
Best Legislative Coverage for
Website**

Fourth Consecutive Year!

Website: 1st Runner UP

Our Hat Is Off To:

Member Recruiters	Chapter 2012	GMT 2012
Clif Collier	1	1
Lyn Conant	1 (self)	
George Conn	1 (self)	
Merl Gorton	1	1
Marilyn Hunt	7	18
Bob Imle		16
Bernard Middleton	1 (self)	
Dick Oates	1	4
Dick Olson	1 (self)	
Ralph Shrigley	1	1
Barbara Thornbrugh	1	1
TOTALS	16	42

CHAPTER SCOREBOARD



Support the Troops

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 (US Army), 2 boxes (18#) to 10M & 5W in Afghanistan (USMC). 2 boxes to 150M & 25W Afghanistan (USMC); 2 boxes to 37M & 8W Afghanistan (USAF). 2 boxes to 10M &

2W on USS Abraham Lincoln (USN), 2 boxes to 42M Afghanistan (US Army) - 79.5 pounds total.

JUN: 8 boxes (83#) to 672M & 211W in Afghanistan (2 boxes each to four units - US Army, USN, USMC, USAF). September: 6 boxes (83#) to 672M & 211W in Afghanistan (Army, USAF, 2 USMC units)

2012 STT Summary: 30 boxes (311.5 lbs.) to 1652M & 483W in USAF, Army, USMC and USN in the Arabian Sea and Afghanistan, and onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Legislative Letters, Postcards & Emails: 1310 as of 24 Sep 2012.


Raffle Donations: MAR \$140 JROTC Units. APR \$160 Ladies & Gentlemen of the WA State Cemetery; MAY \$230 JROTC Scholarship Program; JUN \$200 Fisher House; SEP: \$120 MOAA Scholarship Fund; OCT: \$190 Spokane Veterans Home

Widows & Wives: \$87 & 46 lbs. food to Spokane Food Bank. Yarn, knitting needles & crochet hooks to Spokane Veterans Home.

WIDOWS & WIVES CLUB

By Beth Ann Daigre



 Our group of women continues to take care of our veterans, regardless of what their needs may be. Please allow me to explain. If they are aging or ailing and living in the Spokane Veterans Home, we gather and deliver items that will brighten their days. If they are homeless and need household items to set up housekeeping, we gather those items and deliver them to the Homeless Veterans office in downtown Spokane. If veterans or their spouse pass away, we send a condolence card to those left behind. If it's a widow left behind, we invite her to join our club. And when they are buried (veteran or spouse) at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, we are there as a Lady with a veteran serving as our Gentleman/escort to extend condolences to the family with a card from the Washington State Governor, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the entire military family.

Right now the need is great for **thermal gloves size x-large and crew socks size 9-12** for our **homeless heroes** who may sleep in shelters at night but must spend the daytime hours outdoors.



If you can help them by bringing one or two of these items to the December social on Saturday, 8 December, we will have a donation box there for the Spokane Homeless Veterans Program. If you would like to make a donation and cannot attend the December social, contact Pat Tolley at (509) 953-6768, as she is our Chair for this program.

If you want to bring donations for the Spokane Veterans Home, you will find the list of items desired at the chapter website www.spokanemoaa.org on the Auxiliary page. Our Chair for this program is Elaine Anderson (509) 328-5556.

Be sure to check the front page of this newsletter for our 2013 luncheon calendar. We have picked some of our favorite places to enjoy each others' company and good food. Our luncheon at the Clark House on Hayden Lake was outstanding. November we went back to Twigs North (a beautiful place), and our **December 4th** luncheon will be at **Ripples in the Red Lion River Inn, at 1 PM**. Hope to see you there! Call Kay White to save your place at the table (509) 464-2774.

Now Hear This!

Items Needed for Support the Troops

As noted in the President's Piece, DAV Ft. Sherman Chapter 9 in Coeur d'Alene has agreed to pay the postage until next June for up to five boxes per month for our Support the Troops project. This means we need a large variety of things to send to our service members. So please plan ahead and bring your items to the December social. If you can't attend, please fill out the coupon below and send a donation. We will happily purchase things for you and send them on their way.



The troops especially like hand & foot warmers, small bottles of shampoo/ conditioner/ lotion, shaving cream, beef jerky, cookies, peanuts, and crackers w/small cans of chicken and tuna.



**Please fill out this coupon, attach a check, and mail everything to:
Spokane Chapter MOAA, Attn: Support the Troops, PO Box 466, Veradale WA 99037**

I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for the Spokane Chapter MOAA Support the Troops project.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Christmas Social Saturday, 8 December

YES, our December social is on a **Saturday**. The price is \$22 this year, down from \$27 last December. This reduction results from our having only one entrée; we've dropped ham from the menu. The menu is now Roast Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans almandine, green salad, cranberry jello, fruit medley, rolls & butter, and cheesecake with assorted fruit toppings for dessert. We will have free beer and wine available. The EWU choral group/jazz ensemble will again entertain us and join us for lunch.



Chapter Dues Are Due

Names of Spokane MOAA members whose chapter dues expire on 31 DEC were published in the September newsletter. To keep our chapter strong and save us the cost of sending you a reminder by mail, **please send your renewal check to: Spokane Chapter MOAA, Attn: Membership, PO Box 466, Veradale WA 99037. Dues for Regular members are \$15 for one year or \$40 for three. Auxiliary members pay \$9 per year or \$25 for three.** Auxiliary members are surviving spouses of deceased officers. Chapter dues are separate from national. Only MOAA national has Life memberships. View the September newsletter at www.spokanemoaa.org. Questions? Please call our Membership Chairman, Clif Collier, at (509) 443-6940.

Washington Hometown Heroes Raffle

The second annual Washington Hometown Heroes Raffle officially launched on Veterans Day, 11 November. Tickets cost \$10 each and will be on sale through 1 January 2013. The drawing for 131 prizes will be held on 2 January 2013. This lottery is jointly sponsored by the Washington Lottery and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). It provides all players the best chance to win \$1 million among all current Washington Lottery games. Every ticket sold benefits the WDVA's Veterans Innovation Program (VIP) which provides crisis and emergency relief, as well as education, training and employment assistance for Washington's veterans who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Now Hear This!



Law Allows Retirees and Veterans to Salute the Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag. A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008. (Source: www.military.com)



Auxiliary Corner

Beth Ann Daigre, Auxiliary Liaison

Hooray! Auxiliary members have reason to celebrate! MOAA members approved a change to the bylaws that will grant the vote on national MOAA issues to Auxiliary members and allow them to serve on MOAA's board of directors!

Ten years ago, MOAA formed a study group to look at auxiliary issues and how MOAA could better meet the needs of this important membership group. Soon after, the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) was formed, and auxiliary liaisons were appointed in many chapters. Today, 116 auxiliary liaisons are serving as chapter leaders, and 15 are part of their state council leadership teams. They have chosen to continue their spouse's dedication, service, and loyalty to this country. They've supported military families, planned events, managed projects, raised funds, and given comfort and help to other military spouses who have suffered the same loss as they have. They have advocated maintaining and improving the benefits promised to service members.

Earlier in 2012, we told you about four areas of concern regarding Auxiliary members. They are 1) low attendance at chapter events, 2) an aging population, 3) difficulty in recruiting new members, and 4) the continuing inequity of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset for surviving military spouses of disabled veterans who choose not to remarry. We suggested several ways to attract new auxiliary members to chapters, including program variety that appeals to all age groups, organizing activities such as trips to local points of interest that include auxiliary members, and supporting meaningful projects that serve the needs of military families and engage younger auxiliary members.

Because the SBP/DIC offset was the biggest concern, the AMAC has chosen it as their next national project. Congress has acknowledged the gross inequity that allows spouses age 57 or older who remarry to retain the benefits their late spouses earned but forces un-remarried spouses to have their SPB annuities reduced dollar-for-dollar by receipt of DIC payments. SBP is income insurance purchased by the military retiree through monthly payments over a period of years. The AMAC will plan and execute a campaign to build support for eliminating the offset. We need help to launch a well-organized plan in early 2013. Please email ideas to your AMAC representative or to auxiliarycommittee@moaa.org or to me bethanndaigre@comcast.net 509-921-9581.

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

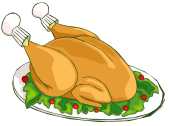
Senator Jim Risch

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, MOAA
P O Box 466
Veradale WA 99037

SATURDAY 8 December 2012
Mukogawa Ft. Wright Institute Commons Building
12:30 Social, Meeting 1:15, 1:30 p.m. buffet begins

Mail your reservation so we receive it by Friday, 30 November. Please, no late reservations or walk-ins.
If you need to cancel a reservation, contact Bob Imle (509) 701-3342 NLT Friday, 30 Nov for a refund.

MENU: Roast Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans almandine, green salad, cranberry nut jello, fruit medley, rolls & butter, cheese cake. Please reserve _____ places for the Saturday 8 December 2012 luncheon at Mukogawa Fort Wright. The cost is \$22.00 per person. My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. Your check should be payable to "Spokane Chapter MOAA" and mailed to the chapter mailbox above.

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

Name: _____ member/guest Name: _____ member/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) _____

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: _____

Cut Here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut Here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut Here ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Cut Here

Directions: SATURDAY 8 December 2012 – 12:30 p.m. Mukogawa Fort Wright, 4000 West Randolph Rd, Spokane. From I-90, Maple St. exit North, turn left on 4th Ave, then 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 only .1 mile, turn left onto Randolph Road and continue to the roundabout at the end. Questions? Call Bob Imle (509) 701-3342.

We will sign legislative letters and have a raffle in support of the Spokane Veterans Home. Please bring:
3 stamps and 6 address labels per person, something for the raffle (which will support the four JROTC and three ROTC units), and something for Support the Troops, or socks and gloves for homeless veterans. The troops especially like hand & foot warmers, small bottles of shampoo/ conditioner/ lotion, shaving cream, beef jerky, cookies, peanuts, crackers w/small cans of tuna & chicken. Cash donations help pay for additional items and postage.

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



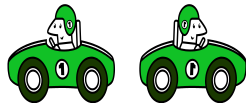
Spokane Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. BOX 466
Veradale WA 99037

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U.S. Postage Paid
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Spokane WA

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



Time is Running Out!

Convert MOAA Annual Membership to Life by 31 DEC or Forever Hold Your Peace!
(The *Give Me Ten* program is going away for good on 12/31/12)

Thanks to *Give Me Ten*, Chapter Members Save 10% & Get a \$20 Refund from the Chapter
Sample Conversion: Age 71-75 Life membership \$366 - \$36.60 - \$20 = \$309.40 - a 15% savings!

To convert to Life and get these benefits, you MUST do exactly the following no later than 31 DEC 2012:

1. Call the MOAA Membership Service Center at (800) 234-6622.
2. Say you're a member of the Spokane Chapter and you want to convert your Annual Membership to Life under Give Me Ten.
3. Contact Marilyn Hunt at (208) 773-1074 or cinc@frontier.com and tell her you did it. (Leave a message if she's gone).

Note: If you predecease your spouse, they will inherit your Life membership and owe no more dues to MOAA national. In essence, their national dues are paid in advance when you convert your Annual membership to Life.

Casualty Assistance Officer: Bernie Fritz is the casualty assistance officer for Fairchild AFB and surrounding area. He 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!