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NORTHWEST Reserve Organization of America Reporter

President's Message by CDR Ed Brock



Hello Department of NW ROA Members!

I want to **thank each of you** for the opportunity to serve this region again as President. Your faith and trust means a lot to me.

Hacked: I'm saddened to say a few of you have experienced the fact my communications, mainly email, has been hacked. Maddening as that is, the worst part is not finding support from resources I felt should be able to help. So far only my email seems to be compromised. Should you receive an email from me which doesn't make sense, and is asking for anything (money, information, virtually anything), please don't respond. Instead, please let me know and forward the email to me.

Upcoming: the **Third Council Meeting will take place Saturday December 5th**. Hoping for a good in-person turnout, and for those can make it virtually, please do! See details on Page 4.

At the National Level: I attended virtually the National ROA President's equivalent of a convention on the second Saturday in October (which also happened to be the opening weekend of hunting season in Washington...). I must admit that not much information was forthcoming, and no votes were taken. **Three items of interest emerged: First**, rumors of an offer to purchase the ROA building were confirmed (more on that topic in a moment). **Second**, the National Annual Meeting has moved to the spring, beginning in March 2027. **Third**, the March 2027 Annual Meeting may prove to be one of the most significant in the history of our Organization, although the full extent of its significance has yet to unfold. Regarding the building, the purchase offer was rejected. However, it prompted the formation of a committee to research the value of the building and property, as well as the procedures and potential implications of a sale. At present, there is no interest in selling the building.



Recruitment: I hope many of you are wearing your service baseball cap, shirt, or sweat shirt and engaging those who mention your service with information about ROA membership. Thus far **I have added two new members** (one in the presence of a number of members from Walla Walla Chapter!) and two who are still considering the opportunity. **Please give it a solid try!**

Our **Department of Northwest Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 3, 2027**, at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott, 1709 South Opportunity Street, **Ellensburg WA** 98926. The hotel phone number is (509) 933-5000. A block of rooms will be available for reservations as we approach our Third Council Meeting on December 5. The room rate is $113.00 per night, plus 10.5% tax. I'm planning to hold the annual meeting to a single day. More details to follow!

Finally, I hope all of you cast your ballot as you were led to. I pray each of you have a happy, enjoyable, and safe holiday season! Cheers!

Yours faithfully, Ed

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Check out our DEPARTMENT WEBSITE!
WWW.ROANW.ORG
Keep current with all postings!

Reporting Requirements Due!

Lt Col Judy Ford, USAF (Ret)

Department Secretary



CHAPTER ELECTIONS ARE AROUND THE CORNER!

DUE IN JANUARY: Annual Chapter Reports and Filings

All chapters must submit the following annual reports and filings in January:

1.Annual Election Report and Financial Report
Submit both reports to National ROA and the appropriate Department officers:

- National ROA: Tracey Ware at tware@roa.org
- Department Secretary (Election Report): Judy Ford at roa.NW@outlook.com
- Department Treasurer (Financial Report): Rickey Thomas at randsthomas@comcast.net

2. IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) Submit the IRS 990-N postcard to both National ROA and the Department Treasurer, Rickey Thomas.

Where to Find the Forms
All forms and filing instructions are available on the National ROA website at www.roa.org . Navigate to **About > Leader Resources > Leader Quick Links**, where you can access the forms for the chapter election report, financial report, and IRS 990-N postcard.

Kind Reminder: Please save your submission confirmations for your records so you can retrieve them if needed in the future!

ROA National Board of Directors Update
October 2026
Lt Col Judy Ford, USAF (Ret)

The Board met for two days, with most of the time devoted to a major revision of our governing documents. These proposed revisions will be presented for a vote at the March 2027 National Annual Meeting.

Department of Northwest representation at this meeting is critical. We expect to have approximately 10 votes and up to 20 delegates at the national level. The breakdown is currently projected to be:

- **Army:** 4 votes and 8 delegates
- **Navy:** 3 votes and 6 delegates
- **Air Force:** 3 votes and 6 delegates

These numbers may change slightly based on membership fluctuations.

The proposed revisions are intended to streamline our governing documents and provide greater flexibility for the governing body. The changes developed at this meeting will next go to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, followed by the Department Presidents. Presidents are expected to receive the recommended revisions by December 14, 2026.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for December 5, but the revisions may not yet be available. I have a Board of Directors meeting that day and will be unable to attend our Council meeting. CDR Ed Brock will share the revisions for your review and comment when they become available.

Your input is important. Our delegates will vote on behalf of the entire Department at the March 2027 National Annual Meeting, so any questions, concerns, or recommendations need to be raised and addressed well before that event.

Following the March 2027 National Annual Meeting, all voting will be conducted remotely.

Please contact me if you have any questions!



*ROA National President **MG Peggy Wilmoth**, USAR (Ret), presents the award to Speaker Emerita **Pelosi***

In June 2026, former **Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA) and **U.S. Senator Thom Tillis** (R-NC) were each presented with the **ROA Minute Man of the Year Award.**

Speaker Emerita Pelosi visited the ROA Building to accept her award in person, while Senator Tillis received his award at his Senate office, presented by ROA leadership and staff.



Lt Col Judy Ford** with Speaker Emerita **Pelosi

Second Dept of NW Council Meeting of 2026

Lt Col Judy Ford, USAF (Ret)

The **Second Department of Northwest Council** met virtually August 15, 2026, to discuss organizational changes, membership, finances, and upcoming activities. **President Ed Brock** shared updates on national ROA leadership restructuring, including changes to the Board of Directors and future elections. The next in-person National Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 11–14, 2027.

Membership reported seven new members. **Spokane Chapter NW-018** officially merged with **Walla Walla Chapter NW-021** on July 1 following unsuccessful efforts to revitalize Spokane. Walla Walla continues monthly meetings, community outreach, Wreaths Across America preparations, and its ongoing headstone preservation project.

The Council reviewed financial reports showing total department assets of $89,317, while noting increased expenses for ROTC/JROTC medals and mailing. National leadership is considering membership category changes to attract younger members. **Walla Walla Chapter President Sarah Bro** presented a proposed 2027–2029 Department Membership Growth and Engagement Initiative, requesting $7,000 to support recruitment, partnerships, outreach, and member engagement. This will be considered at our annual meeting in April 2027.

The full meeting minutes may be viewed at roanw.org under 'News & Newsletters'.

Third Dept of NW Council Meeting of 2026

Buffet & Auction to Follow!

ALL ARE WELCOME - SPOUSES & GUESTS ARE INVITED!

The **Third Dept of NW Council Meeting** of this year will be **Saturday December 5,2026** at:

Wandering Creek Homes Clubhouse
831 240th St SW, Bothell WA 98021

Schedule:
10 AM: Meeting begins
12 noon: Christmas Luncheon with all the fixin's!
After food: Dessert auction, silent auction, and live auction!

All proceeds will go to the charity selected at today's meeting.
ROA members: please bring one new item for auction valued at $10.00 or more.
*Optional: bring nonperishable snack food items, coffee and/or travel sized toiletries, toothbrushes, razors, feminine hygiene products for the USO Northwest Sea-Tac Center. If you cannot attend, please consider a donation in support of our charities, mailed to Barb Stoddard, 14408 107th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. Checks should be made out to **ROA**.*

Catered Luncheon cost: $20.00 at the door

RSVP PLEASE by November 30 to Barb Stoddard, (206) 992-2295 or stoddard.barb@gmail.com . This is to ensure we have enough food for all attending. When you RSVP, you will receive a **gate code**, which is required to come into the enclosure.

For those attending virtually, the agenda plus link for attendance will be sent out to all members as we get closer the date!

Reserve Excellence Celebration

Lt Col Judy Ford, USAF (Ret)



L to R: *Lt. General Paul R. Fast, Capt. Kristine Betts, Lt. Col Judy Ford, Chief Master Sergeant Israel Nunez*

On October 16, 2026, the ROA hosted its **inaugural Reserve Excellence Celebration** at the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir VA. The evening brought together military leaders, distinguished guests, community partners, and supporters to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of our nation's Reserve Component service members.

The celebration honored individuals and organizations whose dedication, leadership, and commitment to service exemplify the best of America's Reserve forces. Through an evening of fellowship and recognition, the event highlighted the vital role Reserve Components play in strengthening our national defense and supporting communities across the country. It also reaffirmed ROA's longstanding commitment to advocating for and celebrating the men and women who serve.

Lieutenant General Paul R. "Speedy" Fast is the 16th Chief of the Air Force Reserve and Commander of the Air Force Reserve. The Junior Officer of the Year is **Captain Kristine Betts**, USAFR, of the 36th Aerial Port Squadron at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM), Washington. **Chief Master Sergeant Israel Nuñez** is the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Pentagon, Washington D.C., and Command Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Please note: if you have a blue military ID card you must update to the new **white** card **NLT 2027**. Just go to the ID Card Office Online at https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/



Contact us at the DEPARTMENT EMAIL:
Reserve Organization of America Department of Northwest
ROA.NW@outlook.com
Reach out for questions or concerns any time!

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

VIRTUAL (NW-01)
LTC Milton D. Houghton | LTCMilt@gmail.com

No report provided.

BREMERTON WA (NW-02)
CPT Deborah K. Halver-Hanson | heloaviatrix23@gmail.com | (703) 314-9219

We have been encouraging broader member participation in charitable giving throughout the year, rather than focusing solely on seasonal donations. Members have expressed interest in both donating items for children in need and veterans in transitional housing, as well as making financial contributions. We have also identified opportunities, such as Toys for Tots, to take advantage of matching-fund programs and extend the impact of our donations.

SEATTLE WA (NW-015)
CAPT Rickey D. Thomas | randsthomascomcast.net | (360) 581-9383

The Seattle Chapter is alive and well! We meet for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Scott's Bar & Grill, 8115 Lake Ballinger Way, Edmonds WA 98026. We typically have a group of 7–8 members, and we'd love to have you join us! If you're interested, please let CAPT Rickey D. Thomas know at randsthomas@comcast.net at least one week before the meeting so he can include you in the lunch reservation.

SPOKANE WA (NW-018)
COL Larry J. Neil | lsneil1964@gmail.com | (509) 482-1647



As of July 1, 2026, we have merged officially with the Walla Walla Chapter (NW-021)!

After a year of efforts to re-engage our membership, we determined we could no longer sustain an independent chapter. Our best option was to merge with another active chapter so our members could remain connected and informed. **CDR Ed Brock** and I met with the Walla Walla Chapter EXCOM in Othello to make the merger official. This will be the final report of the Spokane Chapter.

L to R: SSG Chad Bro (NW-021 Secretary); LTC Sarah Bro (NW-021 President); CSM Terry Atchison (NW-021 Treasurer); MAJ Lonnie Mettler (NW-021 Membership Chair); COL Neil & CDR Brock (NW-018 officers); and Capt Bill Howard (NW-021 Executive Vice President).

The **next edition of THE REPORTER** will be **February 2027**!
Be sure to send your photos and updates to the editor LTC Sarah L. Bro at roa21pr@gmail.com!
Keep us informed of your Chapter's status and activities!

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

WALLA WALLA WA (NW-021)

LTC Sarah L. Bro | roa21pr@gmail.com | (360) 951-7680

On July 1 we happily welcomed almost 100 more people to our chapter, as we finalized the **merger with the Spokane Chapter NW-018!** The Walla Walla Chapter now serves as THE chapter of the Department of Northwest covering all Washington territory east of the Cascades!



Our speaker series continued on schedule throughout the year. In June, we heard from member **MAJ Jeff Cortez**, USAR (R), Inventory Management and Pharmacoeconomics Program Manager at the Walla Walla VA Center, who discussed how federal pharmacists play a vital role in patient-centered care, public health, medication safety, and improving health outcomes for Veterans.



In August, we welcomed back member **SFC Mark Mebes**, USA (L), Army Instructor for the WaHi Army JROTC program, who focused on "Teaching the Army Values to High Schoolers." In September, member **Capt Gordon "Mick" McClean**, USAFR, presented "Oregon Coast Prepares for Invasion!" exploring how, following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Oregon Coast quickly became a heavily guarded military zone amid fears of a Japanese invasion.



In October, former **PFC Dave Reed**, USA (L), shared his firsthand experiences in "A Screaming Eagle," describing a Cold War-era war game between the 82nd "All American" and 101st "Screaming Eagles."

We've made significant progress on our headstone preservation and restoration initiative, identifying dozens of veterans at Mountain View Cemetery whose graves lack markers recognizing their military service. Special thanks to members **SSG Sherilyn Jacobson** and **SSG Chad Bro**, who have been coordinating volunteer sessions to carefully clean and restore headstones (R), making them more legible and recognizable and preparing them for photography and inclusion on online platforms. What a difference a bit of elbow grease makes!



Before cleaning and after cleaning



Community events thus far have included showing our display at the annual **Fourth of July in the Park** (L) and at the October Walla Walla **Veterans Stand Down** (R).

Coming up December 19:
Wreaths Across America Day! We're out in the community now gathering sponsorships for this annual event at three local cemeteries.



To learn more about our chapter's efforts, please check out our award-winning newsletter ***The Forté*** at https://roaww.org/forte-reporter/ .

TREASURER'S REPORT - November 2026

CAPT Rickey Thomas, USCGR (Ret)



This report provides a summary of the Department's financial activity for the **first ten months of 2026**.

A review of the year shows that registration income covered the expenses associated with the annual convention. The Department also donated $1,000 to Fisher House and collected $60 for the REPORTER Fund, along with $337 in general donations.

On the expense side, spending for ROTC medals and mailings has reached twice the budgeted amount. While this puts the program over budget, it reflects the success of our expanded ROTC outreach, which reached more schools this year than ever before. This additional expense can be absorbed within the current budget, and we will plan for increased funding for the program in 2027. The REPORTER newsletter expenses are currently close to breaking even for the year.

The Department's financial assets are currently distributed as follows:

- **Chase Bank operational account:** $10,538, with no outstanding bills.
- **PenFed Credit Union CDs**: Both CDs matured in June and were reinvested at the prevailing interest rates. Current balances are $57,649 and $16,466.
- **PenFed savings account:** $5,368.

Total Department assets as of this report: $90,021.

There were no contributions during the past quarter to the $10-Buck-A-Year program supporting REPORTER expenses. Members wishing to contribute to this program or make a general donation may send a check payable to Reserve Organization of America or provide cash in person. Please indicate if your contribution is intended for a specific program.

Regarding the 2027 budget, a proposed budget has been submitted to the members of the Finance Committee for review and recommendations before the end of the year. The proposal maintains essentially the same programs funded in 2026.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by email at randsthomas@comcast.net . Donations and other correspondence may be mailed to:

20909 Olympic Place NE #171
Arlington, WA 98223

Respectfully submitted,

Rickey D. Thomas
Treasurer, ROA Department of Northwest

THE FIRST COIN OF A CAREER, AND THE ONES THAT FOLLOW



In June, ROA chapters presented certificates and coins to graduating ROTC cadets at Washington State and Idaho. For those new officers, that coin is the first of a career.

Years from now it will sit in a drawer beside the others: a unit coin, one from a commander, one from a deployment or a retirement. The coins survive. T he stories behind them too often do not.

AllCoin exists to write them down. A member, or a family member helping, photographs both sides of a coin they already own, adds a few lines about how it was earned, and it joins a searchable Coin Library a grandchild can find decades from now. Uploading existing coins is always free for veterans; there is nothing to buy.

To take part, go to **allcoin.braav.co** and **create a free account**. Photograph the front and back of a coin, then write the story: who gave it, when, and what it meant. Once your account is set up, you can also text a photo of a coin, with your account name, to (805) 395-6805.

Scan the QR code with to claim a **free Braav Welcome Coin** and see how it works. Or visit the site at https://www.allcoin.braav.co/claim/f5345413-32e6-4619-9ec9-517d6c38e5c2

Submitted by
Ashley Reid

Yellow Ribbon and Meeting Calendar

11/06/2026	Special Operations Detachment Pacific We will have a table at the Camp Murray Air National Guard Armory in Camp Murry, Washington during the Pre-Deployment Phase.	All day Camp Murray, Washington
11/07/2026	194th Wing Special Operations Detachment We will have a table at the Air National Guard in Tacoma, Washington during the Pre and 1st Post Deployment Phase.	All day Tacoma, Washington
11/21/2026	319th Ordinance Company We will have a table at the Air National Guard in Tacoma, Washington during the 1st Post Deployment Phase.	All day Tacoma, Washington
12/06/2026	341st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguistic) We will have a table at the Air National Guard in Tacoma, Washington during the 1st Post Deployment Phase.	All day Tacoma, Washington
01/10/2027	A (FSC) 1249th Engineer Battalion We will have a table at the Air National Guard in Salem, Oregon during the 1st Post Deployment Phase.	All day Salem, Oregon

YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

The **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** is a Department of Defense-wide assistance for National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities following, before, and after deployment. It addresses the unique challenges facing the Guard and Reserve community, including living away from military support networks and fewer deployment resources than the Active Component.

Come share more about the ROA at any one of these upcoming events! More at https://www.yellowribbon.mil/



Department of Northwest

The purpose of the Reserve Organization of America is to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security

--ROA Congressional Charter, 1950

Opinions expressed in the Northwest Reporter are those of the editor, columnist(s), and/or contributor(s), and are not necessarily those of the Department of the Northwest OR the ROA. Publication of advertisements do not imply endorsement by the Department of the Northwest OR the ROA.

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- Email: roainf@roa.org
- (202) 279-2200 or (800) 809-9448