



Department of Northwest

Council Meeting Minutes

15 August 2026

Meeting called to order at 1005
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Ed Brock
No Invocation

Members Present: Peter Halver, Ed Brock, Elise Rowe, Chad Bro, Sarah Bro, Rickey Thomas, Karola Cochran, Judy Ford, Larry Neil, Gary Ausman, Virtual Chapter, Bremerton Chapter, Seattle Chapter, Walla Walla Chapter.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes will be amended to complete a sentence regarding the one-day meeting. Sarah Bro made a motion to accept minutes from April meeting, as amended and Deborah Halver-Hansen seconded. Minutes approved.

President's Comments: Ed Brock attended the Department Presidents Meeting on July 1. He informed members that Roger Sandler died a week before that meeting. ROA has changed the name of the EXCOM to Board of Directors. National Annual Meeting will be Virtual October 16-17. The next in person meeting will be March 11-14, 2027. There used to be 3 committeemen from each section and now only 2. Jr. VP no longer part of the Board of Directors. Only the President Elect will be voted on in February 2027. Section ommitteemen/Directors will be voted on in 2028. One for 1 yr and one for 2 years. Then there will be one Director elected from each Service section per year for a 2 year term. Somebody is trying to buy the building so a Committee is doing research on the issue. Also mentioned the 22 days of service in October. Sarah Bro explained it is an initiative that departments and chapters pick a service project to do to provide to veterans.

Report of Standing Committees

Constitution & Bylaws: Nothing

Membership: Judy Ford reported we have 7 new members. The Chapter presidents were cc'd of these members with the introductory email. All were sent books. 2nd Lt Conner Huey has joined the National Talent Development Committee and is vested nationally and hopefully, locally.

Annual Meeting: Ed Brock indicated the meeting will be Ellensburg. He has secured March or April. Members questioned whether he wanted it before or after the National meeting in March. Ed will look at April dates and have it finalized for the November Newsletter. Also discussed the December meeting with Deborah Halver-Hansen having the meeting room reseved for the 1st Saturday in December from 0900 to 1800. Usually meeting starts at 1000 or 1100 with lunch at noon.

Family Readiness: Judy Ford signed up to attend 3 upcoming Yellow Ribbon events; Sept 12 in Tacoma, November 6, Camp Murray, and November 7 in Tacoma. She needs help manning the tables. She will have to cancel the Sept 12th event because of a conflict with a retirement ceremony at McChord at 11am.

Yellow Ribbon Events

Deploy Phase	Hosting Unit/Command	City	Event Location	Component	Event Start	Due Date
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Pre,1st Post	194 WG	Tacoma Camp	Washington	ANG	11/07/2026	10/02/2026
Pre	SPECIAL OPNS DET PACIFIC HQ 2D BN 146TH FIELD	Murray	Washington	ARNG	11/06/2026	10/07/2026
Pre	ARTILLERY	Tacoma	Washington	ARNG	09/12/2026	08/10/2026
DRT	NRC SPOKANE 62146	Spokane	Washington	USNR	09/12/2026	09/12/2026
Pre	JFHQ	TBD	Wyoming	ARNG	02/10/2027	02/10/2027

Awards Committee: Barbara Kiliz was not present.

Budget Advisory Committee: Gary Ausman reported he plans a meeting with the committee after Rickey has the draft budget done. He anticipates that will be September. He has been keeping in touch with the treasurer and plans a September committee meeting.

Officer Reports were deferred by Department President, Ed Brock

National Councilman Report: Ed Brock indicated this was covered under the President's comments

Treasurer's Report: Rickey Thomas sent the report out in an email and summarized it at the meeting. Budget attached to minutes. Treasury report accepted. There was a suggestion that the treasurer look at Navy Federal for CDs rather than Pen Fed and treasurer will take under advisement.

National BoD Report: Judy Ford indicated the Board of Directors met June 26 & 27. There was a reception for Nancy Pelosi at the ROA building Thursday to present her with her induction to the Minute Man Hall of Fame. Tom Tillis received his award in his office the Tuesday before, where he spent about 20 minutes with ROA staff. The Board met Friday and Saturday. The STARS bylaws were approved. Discussed the Reserve Bill of Right and functions of the Board of Directors. Peggy indicated we need to move quickly and thoughtfully as we change; creating and not just envisioning the future. The board needs to be strategic. The Board approved a Constitution and Bylaw change to be voted on in March to change the membership categories. The Membership Committee was tasked with looking at the future of the organization and presented their findings with the changes needed. The recommendation is to remove the age limit for Associate Members and have other benefits as determined by the National Staff. Associate members can't participate in elections or National committees but may have access to some benefits. The committee feels this will attract younger members. It also allows members to receive information about ROA and participate in local activities. Charter status has been a point of contention as it conflicts with the ROA Constitution and Bylaws. It has is still not gone through Congress.

Chapter Reports deferred except for Spokane and Walla Walla.

018 Spokane: Larry Neil reported he and Ed Brock met with the Walla Walla members on July 6th and handed over the funds and records. Officially merged with Walla Walla July 1, 2026

021 Walla Walla: Sarah Bro

- The Spokane Chapter NW-018 officially merged with our chapter on July 1! After one year of dedicated effort to revitalize the Spokane chapter, COL Larry Neil and CDR Ed Brock confirmed that participation had dropped too low to continue as an active chapter. We met with them on July 9 to conduct the business of the transfer. Records of NW-018 will be transferred to the Dept NW secretary. We are integrating the mailing list of Spokane with our list.
- We continue to hold our monthly member meetings with speakers. We hope to try livestreaming these meetings come September, so that Spokane members might attend.
- We had a very good turnout at the annual Fourth of July in the Park on July 4 - a couple of thousand circulated the displays.

- We are ramping up for collecting sponsorships for Wreaths Across America. We are on schedule to observe WAA day on December 19.
- We have been working on our headstone preservation project, which we do regularly each year. NW-021 members SSG Sherilyn Jacobson and SSG Chad Bro have been very active in this initiative.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

New Department Initiative: Sarah Bro presented a Department Membership Plan for consideration.

Department Membership Growth and Engagement Initiative (2027–2029) Purpose: Develop and fund a coordinated Department-wide strategy to increase awareness of ROA, recruit new members, and improve engagement and retention. **Objectives** • Increase Department membership by 10–15% over two years. • Reactivate inactive members. • Develop relationships with Reserve and National Guard units. • Increase attendance at chapter and virtual events. • Create a sustainable recruiting program. **Key Strategies** **Pilot Budget** **Professional Development** • Retirement planning • Promotion boards • VA benefits • Leadership • Transition assistance **Partnerships** • Yellow Ribbon events • ESGR (Employer Support of Guard and Reserve) • Family Readiness Groups • JROTC/ROTC • Military appreciation events **Engagement** • Quarterly webinars • Guest speakers • Legislative updates • Commander presentations **Recruiting Tools** • Brochures • QR codes • Displays • Website/social media • Recruiting kits **Item Cost** Recruiting materials \$1,000 Events \$1,500 Digital outreach \$750 Speaker travel \$1,250 Recruiting kits \$1,500 Contingency \$1,000 **Total \$7,000** **1 Timeline with Decision Gates** **Q1 2027** Activities: Department approves pilot, budget, steering team. Decision Gate: Gate 1: Approve funding and metrics. **Q2 2027** Activities: Develop materials, website, recruiting kit, identify partners. Decision Gate: Gate 2: Ready to launch? **Q3–Q4 2027** Activities: Conduct outreach events, webinars, presentations. Decision Gate: Gate 3: Mid-year review—are participation targets being met? **Q1 2028** Activities: Evaluate new members, engagement, cost/member. Decision Gate: Gate 4: Continue, modify, or expand? **Q2–Q4 2028** Activities: Expand successful activities to other chapters. Decision Gate: Gate 5: Department-wide adoption? **Q1 2029** Activities: Final report and recommendations. Decision Gate: Gate 6: Permanent program or conclude pilot. 2

Good of the Order

Adjournment at 1110

ROA DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST

2026 BUDGET as of. August 1, 2026

Prepared by: Rickey D Thomas; Dept Treasurer

PROJECTED FINANCES for PERIOD JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2026

REVENUE	Proposed	Actual	Difference
ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATIONS	2500	2520.	20
Family Support (auctions-2)	3000	1044(1).	-1956
December Lunch	250	0	- 250
REPORTER Fund	600	385	-215
Dues Rebates from National	0	715	715
BANKING			
CD Interest Earned	2500	1189	-1311
Savings_Interest Earned	3	1	-2
Donations	500.	337	- 163
TOTAL	9353	6191	-3162
EXPENSES			
OFFICE			
Supplies (stamps, paper, etc.)	250	58	192
Mailing (USPS)	100	0	100
Rebates to Chapters	0	0	0
ANNUAL MEETINGS			
Hotel Meeting Room & meals	3000	1978	1022
Roberta Brockliss - Prizes	100	0	100
Deborah Hanson - Lunch	150	0	150
Decorations	150	0	150
Fisher House	1000	1000	0
USO Northwest	1000	0	1000
ROTC			
ROTC & JROTC Medals	700	1765	-1065

Mailing. (USPS)	300	1165	- 865
REPORTER			
Minuteman Press	2100	1619	481
<u>Mailing. (USPS)</u>	650	477	173
<u>OTHER</u>			
<u>Jim Scissel – Long Timers Awards</u>	100	74	26
<u>Gary Ausman – Plaque Engraving</u>	0	39	-39
TOTAL	9600	8175	1425
TOTAL (Income minus Expenses)	- 247	-1984	-1737

TREASURER REPORT
Department Northwest, ROA

Rickey D Thomas, Treasurer

August 11, 2026

This report is a synopsis of the department's current treasury covering the first six months of year 2026.

A review of the year shows the department registration income covered the expenses for the annual convention. We donated \$1000 to Fisher House and collected \$40 for the Reporter Fund as well as \$337 in general donations. Expense wise, we have spent double what has been allowed for ROTC medals and mailings. Although this is in the red now, it is a good showing our increased ROTC program has reached more schools this year than ever in the pass. This is an additional expense we can absorb into this budget and plan for more next year. Reporter costs are on the break-even point at this time of the yearly budget.

Currently, the department's "operational" account with Chase Bank has assets amounting to \$10,521 with no outstanding bills. Our two CDs with Pentagon Federal Credit Union matured in June and were reinvested at the current earning rate. The CD's currently stand at \$57,649 and \$16,466. The separate PENFED Savings account stands at \$4,681. Total department assets as of this report is \$89,317.

Our REPORTER contributor for the second quarter was SSG Roberta Brockliss.

For those wondering about a 2027 proposed estimated budget, I will not start putting that together until at least after the third quarter (September) financial information has been placed into the expense accounts. That will be a daily update as we progress towards the end of year expenses (Christmas Dinner income/expenses)

If you have any concerns or questions, please email me at randstthomas@comcast.net.

Respectfully Submitted

Rickey D Thomas, Treasurer, ROA Dept Northwest