

Council Meeting December 6, 2025

Meeting began at 1003

Invocation given by Deborah Halver-Hanson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Pete Halver

Members present: Pete Halver, Judy Ford, Rickey Thomas, Deborah Halver-Hanson, Sarah Bro, Chad Bro, Ed Brock, Gary Ausman, Margaret Cope, Judy Larson, David Foley, Terry Atchison, Robbie Brockliss, Chad Stoddard, Barbara Stoddard, Lonnie Mettler, Bremerton Chapter rep, Spokane Chapter rep, Seattle Chapter rep, Walla Walla Chapter rep.

August meeting minutes approved.

Report of Officers

Army Report: Deborah Halver-Hanson reported the Army has M1E3 tank and are due to receive in 3 years. The new Global War on Terrorism medal has been approved but it is not specified who will receive it. 6,500 aviators will be lost. Talent panels are being set up. The enlisted members will be transferred into unmanned vehicle platforms (drones).

Naval Services Report: Ed Brock reported the Navy is retiring one of its carriers. The Harry S. Truman had problems with big investigations, some not positive; indicating people are not trained. Marine Corps. Shifting and looking at the need for air support and removing some. China ships seen in Sharvol Shoals, close to allies. Australia monitoring China closely. The Navy did not meet its recruiting goals for active or reserve members and considered decreasing the reserves.

Air Force Report: Margaret Cope reported that the 100th KC-46A Pegasus (new tanker) was delivered at Travis AFB Dec 2nd. Two KC-46s were delivered with our Air Force Reserve Chief Lt Gen John Healy piloting in jet 99 and Air Mobility Command boss Gen John Lamontagne piloting in number 100. The first KC-46 was delivered to McConnell AFB, Kansas in Jan 2019. The final delivery will be a total planned fleet of 263 airframes. The KC-46 will likely fly into at least the 2070s. Regarding the two West Virginian Guardsmen who were shot in DC; one, Amy Sp1 Beckstrom passed away on Thanksgiving and Air Force SSgt Wolfe is still in a DC area hospital. The B-2 bomber which crashed in Guam in 2008 was restored at the cost of \$ 24M. An AF F-16 Thunderbird crashed Dec 3 in CA on a training mission over controlled airspace with the pilot ejecting safely. Finally, the Air Force has a new Chief of Staff; General Ken Wilsbach was sworn in as the 24th Chief of Staff in Nov. He is the former commander of Air Combat Command. With new leadership, many of the Air Force policies are being reviewed.

Standing Committees Reports

Constitution & Bylaws: The National JAG had some suggested word changes. These were sent to Council Members for consideration and need to be approved. Sarah Bro made a motion to adopt the "that if a merged or dissolved chapter restarts after the 5 years, chapter funds will be based on A-10 Section 1 of the Constitution and Article B-4.a of the Bylaws". It was seconded by Judy Larson and passed. Constitution and Bylaws will be amended.

Membership: Judy Ford reported that she continues to work on the roster to make sure older members are still alive. We have had no new members. With a web site, we may get more interest. She also stated she has not received the list from Chad on reassignment of 124th ARCOM members.

Annual Meeting: Peter Halver reported he signed the contract for 12 rooms at \$139/night at the Holiday Inn Express, 11751 Pacific Highway. This is at exit 125 off I-5. They anticipate the registration will be less than it was in Walla Walla. Holiday Inn Express has free breakfast. The dates will be 24-26 April 2026, with Ice breaker 6-10p, Friday, all day Saturday meeting and 9-11am on Sunday. Catering is still being arranged. There are several places near the hotel that caters.

Family Readiness: Barb Stoddard had nothing to report. Judy Ford mentioned the National Guard has Yellow Ribbon events in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Wyoming. Dates have been posted on our roanw.org website. Navy has virtual events.

Awards Coordinator: Margaret Cope reported there will be an updated roster of the ROTC/JROTC units. Many thanks to the ROA members who have presented the ROA medals at the college and high school award ceremonies.

Budget Advisory Com Rickey Thomas has not met but will have a proposed budget for April

Treasurer's Report: Rickey Thomas reported as of Dec 1, the Chase account has \$300.00 in operating funds and \$12,364.00 in savings or a total of \$12,664. The PenFed account has \$3,294.00 in Savings and the 2 CDs have \$16,466 and \$57,649. Our total assets are \$94,073.00. 2026 numbers about equal to 2025. We don't know if we will get annual rebate next year. When annual meeting contract gets signed, we will have a better idea.

National Council Report: Ed Brock had nothing to report

National Report Board of Directors: Judy Ford reported that she left the Board of Directors meeting to attend this meeting. New National committee members have been assigned and approved by the Board. The Strategic Plan was refined to be more forward looking. It is very exciting. Budget will be reviewed and approved today. We have several department members on National Committees

- CSM Terry Atchison, Col William Holahan on Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Lt Col Barbara Kiliz on Membership Committee.
- Andrew Chumney on the Family Readiness Support Committee.

It would be nice to have reports from them at our department meetings.

Chapter Reports

001 Virtual : Milt Houghton was not present

002 Bremerton: Deborah Halver-Hanson reported the chapter has 4 meetings a year. Collected for Toys for Tots, 2 boxes of items for vets and support 5 JROTC schools

015 Seattle: Rickey Thomas reported the chapter was active but not that active. Seven to eight members meet monthly for lunch to conduct business. Outside activity not doing anything. We need to attract more attendees.

018 Spokane: Ed Brock stated they are trying to get the chapter going. Larry Neil and Ed Brock had 6 meetings together. 75% of phone numbers are not good. Contacted one member in Florida and one in Arizona that are no longer interested. Two other letters to everyone. We had 3 meetings each with 3 new members. Have another meeting in March and should know by the next annual meeting if it will remain. We need to see if we can attract more people to come.

021 Walla Walla: Sarah Bro reported since the August 2025 Council Meeting, our chapter has continued to stay engaged locally with our efforts to **never forget a veteran**:

- Three speakers closed out our luncheon series for this year. We heard about the reboot and reinvigoration of the local Mathew Fazzari VFW Post #992; the Chaplain's Response on 9-11 (presented by a chapter member, a Navy chaplain who was on site); and several humorous and interesting stories from a former US Army Corps of Engineers lawyer managing claims for the Port of Walla Walla.
- From May - October at least once a month we were in the community at local markets and events, setting up our display, and getting the word out about our organization.
- Two retired Soldiers each received a Quilt of Valor. Their importance to our community cannot be understated - they are senior leaders in the Walla Walla JROTC program, also members of our ROA chapter, and we were pleased to honor them this way.
- We resourced a new X-Plane Flight Simulator to support Civil Air Patrol cadet training with the local Twin W Composite Squadron.
- We raised \$6000 to match an anonymous donor's contribution of \$6000, yielding \$12,000 to support our Headstone Preservation initiative. We were able to fund 170 new headstones to replace the collapsing and fading ones in the World War I section of Mountain View Cemetery. These were all installed early fall by the City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation Department.
- Members supported headstone cleaning for veterans graves in Mountain View Cemetery.
- As of this writing, we have secured sponsorships for nearly 600 wreaths from Wreaths Across America. On Saturday December 13 we will lay these wreaths at the Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery and Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens. Members in our community will join to support this now annual tradition.
- The **Forté Newsletter** for our chapter received the Sword & Pen Award (editors MAJ Lonnie Mettler and CSM Terry Atchison).
- The website roaww.org received the Sword & Screen Award (SSgt Keller & LTC Bro, webmasters).
- Yesterday (December 5) we held our annual business meeting and elected the four officers for 2026: LTC Sarah Bro (President), Capt Bill Howard (Executive Vice President), CSM Terry Atchison (Treasurer), and SSG Chad Bro (Secretary). We also recognized MAJ Mettler for his contributions to our organization (President, Past President, and Advisor).

Old Business

Department Annual Meeting place/date: Date will be 24-26 April at the Holiday Inn Express on Exit 125 of I-5. Fun night will be Friday evening 6-10pm and the theme of the night will be Geography. The facility has free parking and free breakfast. 12 Rooms are blocked for members attending outside the immediate area. Installed new officers and out

Department Website: Judy Ford reported she has had contact with the webmasters. Barbara Kiliz will be in Europe until January, but Karola Cochran has been putting things on the site. The website has been set up. The project remains under development. The Webmasters were clear that they are not the editors of content, a policy for posted material may be necessary. Members should submit their website content suggestions using the website 'contact us' form. Since the webmasters do not edit, the Department President, Department VPs, Treasurer, Secretary and Chapter Presidents will be the Gatekeepers. All posts must first be approved by a listed Gatekeeper. Judy Ford will communicate that to the webmasters since neither one was on the call.

New Business

National Annual Meeting: Peter Halver provided a summary not included in the newsletter. 4 of the 5 Constitution and Bylaws amendments submitted by the EXCOM were passed.

1. A-3 expanded eligibility for membership
2. A-8 amended to change the EXCOM to Board of Directors
3. B-3 proposal to appoint an inclusivity officer was not approved.
4. A-9 Removed the EXCOM members from the National Council
5. A7, A-8, & B-8 Removed the Jr. Officer from the Executive Committee but kept 3 Executive Committeemen for each section.

Outgoing National President Layne Wroblewski installed MG Margaret "Peggy" Wilmoth as new National President. Pete mentioned she will be a fire brand.

Zoom Account: Rickey Thomas has closed his zoom account and Pete has one for use. If a meeting is needed to conduct a committee meeting, Contact Pete Halver to set up a meeting.

The Good of the Order

Deborah Halver-Hanson indicated Mr. Trump signed an order to increase what Medal of Honor recipients receive from \$16,000 to \$65,000

Peter Halver mentioned it is too late to order the coins from ROA and Wreaths Across America. He also encouraged everyone to read Reserve Voice online.

ROA academy will address DD214-1 for Reserve forces on Dec 9th at 8pm EST. Need to register online to attend.

Rickey Thomas received a sword and screen award
ROA Reporter (Sarah Bro) received the Sword and Pen Award as well as the Ben Franklin Award.

Proceeds of today's auction will be split between USO NW and the department.

Adjournment at 1129

ROA DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST

2025 BUDGET

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Prepared by: Rickey D Thomas; Dept Treasurer

PROJECTED FINANCES for PERIOD 2025

REVENUE		Proposed	Actual	Difference
ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATIONS	2500	3380	880	
Family Support (auctions)	3500	2275	-1225	
December Lunch	250	250	0	
REPORTER Fund	600	680	80	
Dues Rebates from National	0	1274	1274	
BANKING				
CD Interest Earned	2700	2460	540	
<u>Savings Interest Earned</u>	3	2	-1	
Donations	0	640	640	
TOTAL INCOME	9553	10961	2188	

EXPENSES

OFFICE			
Supplies (stamps, paper, etc.)	500	74	426
Mailing (USPS)	125	0	125
Print New Checks/Deposit Slips	0	155	-155
Rebates to Chapters	0	472	-472
ANNUAL MEETINGS			
Hotel Meeting Room & meals	3150	2412	738
Hotel 2026 Meeting Reservation	500	0	500

Roberta Brockliss - Prizes	100	30	70
Deborah Hanson - Lunch	150	0	150
Decorations	150	0	150
Fisher House	1200	1138	62
USO Northwest	1200	0	1200
ROTC			
ROTC & JROTC Medals	750	634	116
Long Timers Award	120	73	47
Mailing. (USPS)	300	295	5
REPORTER			
Minuteman Press	2100	2061	39
<u>Mailing. (USPS)</u>	500	648	-148
OTHER			
Secretary of State Filings	0	80	-80
GO Daddy Account	0	167	-167
TOTAL EXPENSES	10845	8239	2606
TOTAL (Income minus Expenses)	10961 – 8239 = + 2722		

Bank / CD Accounts (1 Dec.2025):

Chase Bank: Checking - \$ 300 Savings - \$. 12364. (\$12664)

PEN FED: Savings. - \$3294 CD#1 \$16466 CD#2 \$57649. (\$77409)

TOTAL ASSESTS Available: \$90073

NOTES

There will be some changes to the expenditure report (pg.1) once the December meeting concludes as we do not know what the food bill will be for lunch nor how much income will be received towards paying the cost of the food. We also do

not know how much the auction will bring in nor how much will be dedicated to the USO.

I will post those amounts once I receive them and transactions are completed.

Once I have 2025 totals, I will submit a 2026 “proposed” budget.