



WICMOAA NEWS

The Whidbey Island
Chapter, MOAA
---- Since 1968 ----

Jan 2023

President's Comments

Here we go for 2023. For those that came to the Christmas Party and heard MOAA Director Frank Michael's talk you heard the main challenge for chapters is recruiting new members.



The MOAA mission, making sure congress takes proper care of DOD pay, benefits, and retirement is what WICMOAA supports. We need to all be recruiters for MOAA and WICMOAA. While WICMOAA had fifteen new members join in 2022, (five last month see below) we need even more members to help us support the MOAA mission.

In January the application for the MOAA Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award will be available. I plan to apply for WICMOAA. Our great newsletter, by Patrick Fisher and our website should earn us 5 stars.

Why are you bothering to apply for awards? The answer is again recruiting. When we were on active duty, commands receiving awards based on good work showed they were doing the job right. I believe people like to join a winning group and the WICMOAA is a winning chapter with winning members.

Our Scholarship program, JROTC support, and the flags placed on veteran's grave sites, led by David Cohick for Veteran's Day, are great community outreach by WICMOAA. Donations from our members in the form of profit from our monthly raffles, the playhouse buyout, and cash donations from our members support these programs. I will provide a running total in 2023 newsletters for the 2024 Commitment vs donations.

Scholarship 2024 program commitment:

\$3000.00 / Donated to date: \$00.00

JROTC 2024 program commitment:

\$1000.00 / Donated to date: \$00.00



2022 Officers:

President: (360 Area Code)

Terry Sparks 544-2817

1st VP

Marshall Bronson, 678-7097
CAPT, USN Ret.

2nd VP (Membership)

Patrick Fisher, 678-1402
CAPT, USAF Ret

Secretary

Mike Bobeck 703.314.0858
Brig. General, USA Ret

Treasurer:

Michael Morgan, 298-3097
CDR, USN, Ret

Past President:

Laurence Moses, 678-1080
COL, USA, Ret

2023 Directors:

JROTC/Scholarships:

William Goodman, 678-3888
CDR, USN, Ret

Publicity:

JR Russell, 682-6648
CAPT, USN, Ret

Directors at Large

David Sullivan, 240-0560
LtCol, USMCR, Ret

David Gruber, 588-4067
LT, USN Ret

Harry Turner, 679-3799
CDR, USN Ret.

WICMOAA Chaplain

David G. Lura 720-8398
LCDR USN Ret

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Nancy Tull 675-6755

Health Affairs:

Trish Rose, 257-9554
MajGen, USAFR, Ret

Legislative Chair

Jesse Epp 805.407.9635
LCDR USN, ACT

WICMOAA Family

David Cohick
LCDR USNR Ret

ROWC President:

Pat Sparks 425-298-9319

TREASURER'S CORNER

TREASURER'S CORNER. Holiday greetings to all of my fellow WICMOAA chapter members, hoping that you've had a merry Christmas so far and have recovered from shoveling all of that snow away as well! In the continuing holiday spirit I think I will keep this report very short indeed.



We ended the year with our membership back up to 82, 79 of whom are dues-paying. Of those, 57% are already paid up on their 2023 dues. Need a new New Year's Resolution this year? Let me suggest paying your dues sooner rather than later and, by the way, if the holiday spirit is upon you and you get this impulse to add in a small additional donation for our scholarship funds — go ahead, those are always welcomed!

Speaking of scholarships, we paid out our Harvey Lasell scholarship in November and our own scholarship in December, thanks to Bill Goodman's efforts in hounding the recipients into completing the paperwork requirements so we could disburse the funds. We do have some more good news to report on scholarships, however.

As you know, we conduct cash raffles at each meeting to support the scholarship program, actually two drawings per meeting. Half of the total draw goes straight to scholarships, then 1/4 is won by the first person whose ticket is pulled. The remainder is then put into a bag which also contains a bunch of poker chips, most of them white and one which is red. If the winner draws a white chip, he gets nothing and the funds stay in the bag for the next drawing but, if he draws the red, he wins all the cash accumulated in the bag.

By the time of the December Christmas luncheon, the cash had grown to over \$300 and there were only two chips left in the bag. The owner of the winning ticket in the second drawing, who shall remain nameless but let's call him Bob, had a 50-50 shot at walking off with all of that but, sadly, it was a white chip that was pulled out from the bag.



That left only the red chip for the next drawing, so it was proposed, and our members present at the luncheon generously approved simply taking the kitty and putting it straight into scholarships and starting over with a new load of chips in the bag. That \$300+ windfall, plus the other donations received over November and December, managed to put our scholarship account up into positive territory with over \$3,000 already in hand to pay next year's awardee.

Please don't take that as a reason to let up, thinking that your scholarship donation isn't really needed. Nothing could be farther from the truth for, in reality, we are always collecting for the next year out. We are still committed to raising another \$3,000 over the coming year and any and all assistance you are able to provide along the way will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.



1st VP Comments

January Speaker: Commander Tim (Oz) Oswald, XO NAS Whidbey Island

“China’s Economic World War”



A native of Little River, Kansas, Commander Oswald graduated from Kansas State University in 1993. He joined the Navy in 1995 as an enlisted Radioman and received his commission through Officer Candidate School. After designation as a Naval Aviator, Commander Oswald operationally flew the S-3B Viking and P-3C Orion. He instructed in both aircraft, along with the T-45C Goshawk.

At sea, Commander Oswald served in Sea Control Squadron 21 (VS 21) and completed five deployments while flying the S-3B from the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), four in 7th Fleet and one in 5th Fleet. He conducted three 5th Fleet, one 7th Fleet and one 4th Fleet deployments while flying the P-3C in Patrol Squadrons (VP) 40 and 46. While assigned to these commands, Commander Oswald participated in Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

Shore tours include Training Squadron 9 (VT 9), the Joint Staff Deployable Training Team, and as U.S. Naval Attaché to Pakistan. He was selected to command CJTF-82 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan and completed a tour as the Commanding Officer of Naval Recruiting District Minneapolis. Commander Oswald attended the Naval War College, earning a MA in National Security and Strategic Studies. He also earned a MA in Leadership from St. Mary’s University.

Commander Oswald’s awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (6 Strike/Flight awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 awards and Combat V), Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (4 awards), Battle "E" (4 awards), and various campaign and service awards. He has logged over 3200 flight hours and 143 combat missions.

Upcoming ROWC Events

For the 2023 ROWC meeting year we will have volunteers plan and organize the luncheons. I will be unavailable for a few months, and I very much appreciate all who stepped up to keep our get-togethers going.

Patty Cohick has offered to be available to assist with any questions or concerns. Patty has a great deal of organizational experience, so volunteers please feel free to call her at (360) 675-5171.



Members watch your emails for further details.

Happy New Year!





“Got anything else? I gave up carbs.”

MOAA ADVOCACY

2023 Bills before Washington State Legislature that may impact our military.



- **MILITARY**  (See also **VETERANS**)
 - School districts, military friendly, purple star award to recognize, creating: [SB 5071](#)
 - Spouses of members, businesses hiring, tax credits: [HB 1005](#)
 - Spouses of members, credentialing, and employment of, expedited process and assistance: [HB 1009](#)
 - Spouses of members, military spouse employment act: [HB 1009](#)
- **VETERANS**  (See also **MILITARY; RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS**)
 - Assistance programs, veterans' assistance fund, property tax levies for: [HB 1022](#)
 - Businesses hiring veterans and their spouses, tax credits: [HB 1005](#)
 - Veteran, defined for interruptive military service credit for certain retirement systems: [HB 1007](#)

MOAA's Legislative Priorities: [Link to MOAA Priority List](#)

Active MOAA Legislative Campaigns: [Link to Campaigns List](#)

Washington State Legislation: [Washington State Bills](#)



Keep apprised of MOAA key goals and Washington bills at: <https://wicmoaa.com/stay-involved>

Playhouse Event

Hey Gang...we have at our fingertips an incredible array of communication tools with each other and the world! There are Events, [Facebook](#), Email, Twitter, Instagram, Cell Phones and even landline phones! With all these avenues of communication, the WICMOAA family wants to let you know that you can reach out and let us know if you need help or assistance! Also, if you KNOW of anybody who might need help or assistance, LET US KNOW! Keep your WICMOAA roster by your phone and feel free to use it!



Our WICMOAA Facebook page is useful for announcing events BUT we can also use it to share fun and photos from our meetings and events! CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, LIKE IT, FOLLOW IT here with this link:

[Whidbey Island Chapter MOAA](#)

IROTC/Scholarships Chair

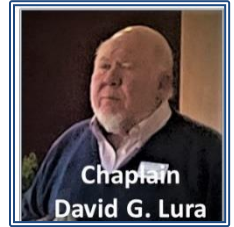
Have a high school senior you know that could use a scholarship. You can find links to WICMOAA, MOAA and other scholarships on our website.



<https://wicmoaa.com/scholarships>

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lura provided the wonderful riming prayer he wrote for the WICMOAA Christmas Party Saturday December 10th. Thank You David for all you do. Terry



WICMOAA Prayer

10 December 2022

Chaplain David G. Lura

'Twas two weeks before Christmas, raise the red, white & blue
WICMOAA was meeting for the last time in '22.

They gathered together at the Whidbey Golf Club
To celebrate the season and eat some good "grub."

President Sparks and members - holiday attire is what they wear
Shared smiles and greetings and brought presents to share.

They said the pledge of allegiance toward the flag of our land
And turned to the chaplain who had a prayer in his hand.

"Great God in the heavens we call upon Thee
To bless this great country, the land of the free.

To bless this great city, and all the people therein
To free us from sorrows and the burden of sin.

Make us one with each other, to pick up those who fall.
Help us work hard together for the betterment of all.

So that when all else is said to those far and those near,
Merry Christmas and God Bless You and Happy New Year.

AMEN

The Whole 9 Yards..

The term "the whole 9 yards" came from W.W.II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."

What is WICMOAA doing in 2023

Mark your Calendars for the WICMOAA Meetings in 2022 at the WGC 11:30 AM

Jan. 12th Brief by **Commander Tim Oswald, XO NAS Whidbey Island** “China’s Economic World War”

Feb. 9th Brief by **Michael Layfield CEO Whidbey Medical Center** “Whidbey Health 2023”

March 9th Brief by **Captain Althoff, CO Navy Clinic Oak Harbor** “New CO, new direction for Clinic and Virtual Appointments”

April 13th Brief by **Joshua Boga/Cherie Wardlaw NAS WI JAG** “Services available and how to get started”

May 11th Brief by **LT Goldsmith** “NAS Whidbey Search and Rescue Water and Mountain Challenges”

June 8th Brief by

July 15th **Annual BBQ Event:** VFW VDOME – No Brief, just good food, friends, and fun!

August: No Chapter Meeting

September 14th Brief by

September 23rd **Member Appreciation Burger Burn at VFW VDOME**

October 12th

November 9th

Saturday - December 16th **Annual Christmas Party at the Whidbey Golf Club**



You can order your meal On the WICMOAA Website



Chicken Cesar Salad and a Roll
\$19.25



Meatloaf, with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and Green Beans Blue Ticket Special
\$19.25



Chili and a Roll
\$9.50

WICMOAA Order Form

Name(s): Date:

Chapter Meeting Meal Order for the Month of:

Number

Green Ticket: Chicken Caesar Salad & Roll \$18.50 ea. X = \$

Blue Ticket: Dinner plate of the month \$18.50 ea. X = \$

Red Ticket: Bowl of Soup or Chili & roll \$ 9.00 ea. X = \$

Include coffee or iced tea with the meal. (Price Includes Tax and a 20% Tip.)

Scholarship Fund Donations \$

From the WICMOAA Store (Checks or Cash)

2022 Dues \$20.00 for Members and \$5.00 for Auxiliary Members \$

WICMOAA Shirts Gray + White = X \$25 each \$

Size(s)

WICMOAA Grey Caps X \$25 each \$

Tales of Military Service Vol 1 X \$17.50 each \$

Tales of Military Service Vol 2 X \$15.00 each \$

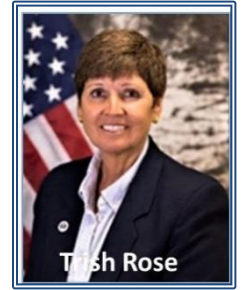
“Total Purchases” \$

Please print this page and include it with your check for “Total Purchases” to be mailed to
WICMOAA
P.O. Box 255
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Health Affairs

FEELING SAD?

Winter is here with the dreadfully short days. Maybe you're commuting to and from work in the dark, and you're finding it harder to wake up, get motivated and stay focused and on top of your work.



Some people who are sensitive to the shorter days and longer nights have seasonal affective disorder (SAD). SAD symptoms include:

- . Persistent feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness.
- . Feeling hungry all the time, overeating, and weight gain.
- . Low energy and constant tiredness.
- . Inability to focus and concentrate.
- . Loss of interest in work and personal activities.
- . Reluctance to socialize.
- . Being irritable, angry and unhappy.

Unlike other forms of depression, SAD tends to develop during winter and may improve during the longer days of spring and summer.

No one has to get the blues during winter. If you notice you have the symptoms listed above this time of year, talk with your health care provider. SAD is a problem that can be treated with medication and/or light therapy. Lifestyle changes, such as getting more exercise, can also help.



“Do you take an oath to change your lifestyle?”

Welcome aboard New WICMOAA Members



Marietta (Mardi) Enright- Karr Captain USAF (RET)

Mardi spent her career in the USAF. During her years of service, she attained the rank of Master Sergeant before receiving a commission and ultimately attaining the rank of Captain. She is very proud to say she is a "MUSTANG". Mardi served over 26 years in the USAF. Most of her career was spent in the medical field. After retiring, Madi has opted to enjoy her golden years here on Whidbey Island and moved to Oak Harbor in the summer of 2019. She loves Whidbey Island and Oak Harbor.

To be quarantined during Covid -19 in such a beautiful area, Mardi says she is not going to complain.



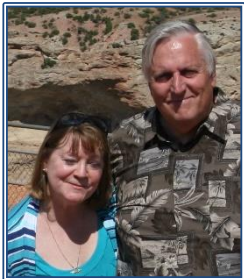
Christopher Churchill Captain USMC (FMR)

Christopher is a former marine that spent his time in the Marine Corps and then moved into the civilian world again. He is now the District Advisor, Financial Advisor, and Principal for First Command. He lives in Anacortes but travels a lot.



David Marshall Commander USN (RET)

Just joined WICMOAA. David lives in Oak Harbor with his wife Jean. More to follow.



Gregory Thomas Gregory Thomas has 20 years' service in the US Air Force. He was an A-6 pilot with multiple tours at Whidbey (VA-196, VA-128, VA-52).

Other tours include Training Command advanced strike instructor (TA-4J), Assistant Strike Operations USS Carl Vinson, Seventh Fleet liaison to 5AF at Yokota AB in Japan. Wife Jean's late father was a Navy pilot who flew F-9's in Korea and A-10's in Vietnam. They have retired to Coupeville.



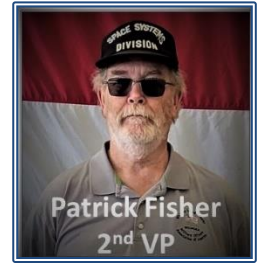
Steve Bristow Commander USN (RET)

Steve Bristow and his wife Ranee have joined WICMOAA. Steve is a retired Navy Pilot. Steve remains a consultant on the NAS Whidbey base and is on the Island County Planning Commission. Steve has also been very active in Navy League and was the past President of Navy League.

Be sure and say HI to all the new members when you get a chance!

Newsletter Notes:

I was looking for a military story on the web when I ran across Stolen Valor being on the rise. I had always heard about the people claiming to be SEALs or having awards they had not received such as Purple Hearts. Of course, I knew it was much more than just those, so I thought this would be a good time to review since it seems to be on the rise and a popular subject for politicians.



First, is Stolen Valor a crime?

President Barack Obama signed into law in 2013 the Stolen Valor Act which makes it a federal crime for people to pass themselves off as war heroes by wearing medals they didn't rightfully earn. The legislation passed with majorities of both houses. Unfortunately, legally this is only a felony when it is used to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefits. It is against the law to gain benefits by claiming you've earned one of the following: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, or Combat Medical Badge.

Second, if they are just trying to gain recognition for themselves there is not much you can do about it. There are several sites where you can do research to find out what medals, awards, assignments and actions or wars they have participated in.

Finally, if you do know of someone who has claimed stolen valor, there are websites to file a claim that does not involve a legal action. One of those websites is [Military Phonies](#). They will research the claim thoroughly and if they find the allegations correct will post the conclusions on their website.



WICMOAA
P.O. Box 255
Oak Harbor, WA 98277-0255

Whidbey Island Chapter, MOAA
— Since 1968 —

WICMOAA Never Stops Serving