



# COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

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## June 2024

### Washington State Chapters Update in June



**Terry Sparks**

Our final meeting before our summer break will be on June 18, returning to Zintel Creek. We will have a short presentation by Terry Sparks, who is the president of the Washington State Council of Chapters. This is a group that coordinates information and support among MOAA chapters in the state.

Terry is a retired commander from the US Navy Reserve. His military service started with eight and a half years active duty as an Electronics Technician riding diesel and Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines. His last active-duty station tracked polar orbiting satellites used for position fixes by US Navy Fleet Ballistic Submarines.

He went back to college after active-duty and received a BS in Electrical Engineering from WSU. Terry joined the Navy Reserves

and spent 25 years between communications stations, submarine support facilities, and Engineering Duty Officer assignments at Navy shipyards. Terry retired in 2002 from the Navy Reserves as CDR after 33.5 years' service.

He is a Life Member MOAA, Navy League, AUSN, ROA, and the VFW.

In parallel, after active duty, he was Chief Engineer KVEW TV for 5 years, taught Electronics at Columbia Basin College for two years, and worked for WPPSS, UNC Nuclear, and Westinghouse at Hanford, and for ABB Power.

He has been married to Patricia Sparks for 57 years, she is also the Whidbey Island Retired Officer's Wives Club president. Terry has been president of Whitby Island Chapter since 2021 and was elected as the president WSCOC October 2023.

After Terry's update on WSCOC activities, we will have time to socialize before we take off for the summer.

NOTE: Bob will be out of town; reservations will go to Paul Seipt this month.

### Election

Our by-laws call for an election of officers at the June meeting. All the incumbents have agreed to serve another term. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor; nominees must agree to serve if elected. Nominees are

### Chapter Officers

President

Aaron Pickett  
Cdr, USN

Vice President

George Stotz  
Capt, USA, Ret

Secretary

Bob Allen  
Maj, USAF, Ret

Treasurer

Paul Seipt  
LTCOL, USMC, Ret

### Directors

Richard Ciccone  
LTC, USA, Ret

Matt Boehnke  
LTC, USA, Ret

Past President  
Ron Weed

LtCol, USAF, Ret

### Extra Duties

High School ROTC  
Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison  
Matt Boehnke

Auxiliary Liaison  
Richard Misener

President: Aaron Picket  
Vice President: George Stotz  
Treasurer: Paul Seipt  
Secretary: Bob Allen

### Membership

After a slow start this year, our membership renewals came to a close. We now have:

Members: 20

Auxiliary members: 6

Two of last year's members did not renew. Auxiliary members include widows and honorary members.

### Clover Island Inn

As reported in the news, the Clover Island Inn is undergoing a sale and restructuring. Our contact there, Ed Nichol森, left as soon as he found a new job, leading us to cancel the April meeting at the last minute. Ed moved to the Red Lion Inn in Pasco, and reached out to us. The current costs there are a bit too high for us to follow him there right now, but we may pursue a meeting there next year if the price can be worked out.

### 1 Million Military Family Members, Retirees Now Eligible For Online ID Card Renewal

*(shamelessly copied from Rose L. Thayer, Stars and Stripes)*

Military family members and retirees living in the United States can now renew their identification

cards online and receive the new cards in the mail through an expansion of a pilot program that began nearly one year ago, the Defense Department announced. The change impacts about 1 million people carrying the department's Uniformed Services Identification Card, which is issued to family members and retirees so they can access service benefits and privileges. The cards are different from the Common Access Cards issued to military personnel and civilian employees. Each year, the Defense Department issues 4.5 million ID cards, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center. About 2.5 million of those are US ID cards. A pilot program for online renewal began in February 2023, and remains limited to those living within the U.S. An expansion to non-U.S. addresses is in the works, according to the department. "We think modern capabilities like renewing a driver's license online make it easier for people to get what they need when they need it without burdening them with having to take a trip somewhere," Mike Zarlenga with the Defense Manpower Data Center said in a statement. "We're excited about this, and it sounds like people see online renewal as making their lives easier, based on the feedback we're

getting." The change also will free up appointments for military and civilian personnel who must continue to renew in person or for those people getting a military ID card for the first time. "We want to make sure that people visiting that office can get an appointment when they need one, and they can get their CAC and resume their mission or duties with minimal impact to them or to the department," Zarlenga said. More information about the online US ID card renewal pilot program, including restrictions and requirements, is available on the cac.mil website.

### Final Thoughts

Gen Z is referring to the 1990s as "the late 1900s." I feel like I drank out of the wrong grail in an Indiana Jones movie.

You don't become cooler with age, but you do care progressively less about being cool, which is the only true way of being cool. This is called the Geezer's Paradox.

Zintel Creek  
314 N Underwood St  
Kennewick

Social hour: 6:30  
Dinner: 7:00  
\$35 per person

*A reservation made  
is a reservation paid*

### June Meeting

Tuesday, June 18

Reservations by  
**Thursday, June 13** to  
Paul Seipt  
(509) 521-3478  
pama227@charter.net

### Menu

#### BBQ Buffet

Smoked Brisket  
Pulled Pork  
Mac & Cheese  
Garden Salad  
Rolls  
Strawberry Cheesecake  
Coffee, water, iced tea