



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



September 2025

Chapter Officers

President

Aaron Pickett
Captan, 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

Chapter email

moaa.tricities@charter.net

Summer is ending The Chapter is meeing

It's September and time for the chapter to start meeting again. We will return to Zintel Creek on September 16 to catch up on our summer activities, elect officers for the year, and vote on amendments to our by-laws.

The slate of officers nominated:

- President: Jon Ray
- VP: Aaron Pickett
- Secy: Bob Allen
- Treasurer: Paul Seipt
- Directors: Dick Ciccone & George Stotz

Nominations will also be taken from attendees. New nominees must agree to serve.



Jon Ray

Introducing Jon Ray: He was the speaker at the April 2024 meeting. Jon was born and raised in a small town north of Pittsburgh, PA. He attended Michigan State, graduating in 1977. He was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps in 1978 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1980. His multiple assignments in aviation included deployment to

Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990, where he saw combat. He was assigned to Marine Helicopter One as a pilot for President Ronald Reagan. Jon retired from the Marine Corps in 2000. He started a construction company in SoCal and developed residential clientele in Beverly Hills and NW Los Angles. In 2013 Jon moved to Richland and was hired to fly DOE special mission aircraft nationally and internationally for PNNL. Jon retired from PNNL in 2023 and now has his own aviation company "Rest On High," based at the Richland airport. Jon and his wife, Eileen, live in Horn Rapids.

The proposed by-laws revision deletes the requirement for two vice presidents. The chapter has grown smaller: in 2001 we had 42 members (can you believe that was 24 years ago?), now we have 23. We have had only one VP since May 2021, and I dropped the 2nd VP from the Officers list on the left of the newsletter. The proposed motion to amend the by-laws:

So much of Article VII, Section 1 as reads "The board of directors shall be composed of the elective officers (president, first and second vice presidents . . ." is amended to read "The board of directors shall be composed of the elective officers (president, vice president . . ."

So much of Article IX, Section 1, as reads "The elective officers shall be president, first vice president, second vice president . . ." is amended to read "The elective officers shall be president, vice president . . ."

So much of Article IX, Section 4 as reads "A vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled automatically by the first vice president who will be replaced by the second vice president. A vacancy in the office of the first vice president shall be filled automatically by the second vice president. Replacements for vacancies in the offices of second vice president secretary, and treasurer shall be proposed to the board of directors by the nominating committee, . . . " is amended to read "A vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled automatically by the vice president. Replacements for vacancies in the offices of vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall be proposed to the board of directors by the nominating committee . . ."

Don't miss this chance to socialize with old friends, vote for officers, and update the chapter by-laws.

HqMOAA sends . . . MOAA-Backed Caregiver Aid, Plus Other VA-Focused Legislation, Moves Through Key Committee

A legislative lifeline for veteran caregivers who face an uncertain future as their caregiving duties end was among six MOAA-backed bills advanced through the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee late last month.

The committee's efforts will result in progress across critical areas of veteran and caregiver support. The bills moving forward as of July 30:

- S. 879, Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act: Provides job training, professional relicensure support, retirement planning, and bereavement counseling to family caregivers who are enrolled in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), which will assist them after their caregiving duties conclude.

- S. 275, Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act: Expands residential rehabilitation treatment program for veterans

with mental health and substance use disorders, particularly in geographic areas where VA services are limited or not available. It also enhances veterans' access to community care.

- S. 607, Improving Veteran Access to Care Act: Requires VA to establish an interdisciplinary patient team to modernize scheduling, coordinate services, and cut wait times.

- S. 1245, Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act: Strengthens health care and benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma and assault.

- S. 1383, Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act: Creates an independent advisory body to improve accessibility for veterans with disabilities.

- S. 2392, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Authorizes an annual cost-of-living adjustment to protect the value of veterans' compensation and benefits.

These measures reflect MOAA's longstanding commitment to protecting earned benefits and expanding services for those who have served.

Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

Social hour: 5:30
Dinner: 6:30
\$30 per person

***A reservation made
is a reservation paid***

September Meeting Tuesday, September 16

Reservations by
Thursday, Sept 11 to
Bob Allen
Text: (509) 554-6992
moaa.tricities@charter.net

Menu

Dinner

Creamy Tuscan Chicken
Roasted Baby Bakers
Steamed Vegetables
Caesar Salad
Rolls
Dessert (to be determined)