



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



October 2025

Chapter Officers

President
Jon Ray
LtCol, USMC, Ret

Vice President
Aaron Pickett
Captan, USN

Secretary
Bob Allen
Maj, USAF, Ret

Treasurer
Paul Seipt
LTCOL, USMC, Ret

Directors

Richard Ciccone
LTC, USA, Ret

George Stotz
Capt, USA

Past President
Aaron Pickett
Captain, USN

Extra Duties

High School ROTC
Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison
Matt Boehnke

Auxiliary Liaison
Richard Misener

Chapter email

moaa.tricities@charter.net

Don't Miss the October Dinner and Presentation

The next MOAA dinner will be held on October 21st at Zintel Creek Golf Course and Event Center. The dinner is always very good and the service at Zintel is excellent.

Our guest speaker this month will be Manuela Guarjardo who is a long term employee in the compliance department at Gesa Credit Union. The topic is financial fraud, tricks and scams. She is extremely knowledgeable on this subject and can probably answer most any question that comes up.

Don't miss this interesting, engaging, and fun evening
Reservations by Thursday, October 16, please.

Changes in Chapter Leadership

At the September meeting, elections were held to select new leadership. Aaron Pickett was unable to continue to serve as President due to term limits but he graciously offered to stay very active and will be the Vice President for this term. Thanks to Aaron and Bettina for all the time and energy they have given the organization the past two years!

Jon Ray was uncontested and elected as the new President. Jon plans to focus on finding a variety of speakers and also adding some



Jon accepting presidency from Aaron (l)
Jon addressing the meeting (r)

entertainment to the program at each monthly meeting. He will also be working on expanding the organization so spread the word! We would love to have new people join. Other leaders will work on the national MOAA connection and a range of projects such as the scholarship program. The new officers are listed in the chart on the left side of the page.

Tri Cities Veterans Resource Expo and Stand-down

We will have a table at the TriVets Expo on November 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. We could use some volunteers to explain our chapter and encourage people to join. If you're interested talk to Jon at the October meeting.

The expo will be at the Columbia Basin Veterans Center, Southridge Sports & Event Complex, 2901 Southridge Blvd., Kennewick

The one-day event will feature

- Employment Services
- VA Benefits
- Housing Services
- Social Services
- Counseling Services
- Surplus Available
- Over 30 Vendors Available

HqMOAA sends . . .

Government Shutdown

Impacts

Retirees and Survivors

(Note: this was current as of Oct 2)

• Armed services retirees, to include Coast Guard retirees, will continue to receive retiree pay during the funding lapse. Officers who retired from the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA would not receive their next paycheck (Oct. 1 checks, covering pay from September, were processed).

• Commissaries and exchanges will remain open.

• Elective and routine medical procedures at military facilities may be canceled or postponed; contact your provider to confirm your appointment. The shutdown will not affect retirees using TRICARE or

TRICARE For Life benefits in the private sector.

• Military pharmacies will remain open, but hours may change.

• Survivor Benefit Plan payments will continue.

• Retirees and survivors covered under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) won't be affected. Federal employees whose FEDVIP premiums are deducted from their federal pay will retain coverage; their premiums will be deducted from retroactive pay when posted.

COLA 2026: Final Projection for the Annual Adjustment

Military retirees, Social Security recipients, and others receiving federal funds with a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) should learn the amount of that increase for 2026 next week . . . but a look at the figures so far gives a good indication where COLA will end up.

Should inflation trends continue, expect an adjustment between 2.7% and 2.8% for the coming year – outpacing this year's 2.5% figure, but below other recent annual increases of

3.2%, 8.7%, and 5.9%. This projection mirrors others made after the release of August's inflation figures, which showed a 2.8% yearly change in the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

One important caveat: The Bureau of Labor Statistics has suspended operations, to include announcements and website updates, during the federal shutdown. The September CPI-W figure -- the final figure required for the 2026 calculations -- would not be announced Oct. 15 as scheduled if the funding lapse continues.

TRICARE Vaccinations

TRICARE For Life covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines based on the CDC's recommendations. A listed, covered vaccine, should be available at no cost.

However, vaccines needed for travel outside the U.S. – a yellow fever vaccination, for example – are not covered; you must pay out of pocket.

A personal note: my wife and I were unable to get yellow fever vaccinations for travel to Africa last year. I called the shot clinic at Fairchild AFB. They said to come on up. Got our shots, no hassle.

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

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

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid*

Reservations by
Thursday, Oct 16 to
Bob Allen
Text: (509) 554-6992
moaa.tricities@charter.net

Menu

Marinated Tri Tip
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Honey-Glazed Carrots
Garden Green Salad
Rolls
Chocolate Texas Cake