



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



November 2025

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Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison
Matt Boehnke

Auxiliary Liaison
Richard Misener

Chapter email

moaa.tricities@charter.net

Chapter Website

tricitiesmoaa.org

A Fun Evening Planned

For the November 18th meeting we are featuring a night of entertainment in addition to our usual social time and dinner. For this evening, we are inviting guests and all veterans to join us. The entertainment will be provided by the Tri-City Tappers, an over-40 dance group based in the Tri-Cities. The Tappers have become a favorite entertainment group all over the Mid-Columbia region! They tap dance to a wide range of music styles from different times—including some oldies!

The manager and leader of the Tri-City Tappers is Carolyn “Dolly” Ammann who is also a veteran. Dolly is a retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. Some of the other Tappers are also military veterans.

All Veterans, families, and the public are invited as we take a moment to recognize all of those who have served our great nation through their military.

Dinner will be at the Zintel Creek Golf Club restaurant, 314 Underwood, in Kennewick. The social hour, entertainment & dinner will be on the ground level. The steps to the downstairs, inside the front entry, are a little steeper than normal. Zintel Creek will provide a golf cart to take anyone with concerns about the stairs around the building to the downstairs. Please plan to meet the golf cart at the front entry.

The Tappers will perform before dinner, so please keep this schedule in mind:

1700 - 1750 Social hour

1800 - 1830 TriCity Tapper
show

1840 - 1930 Dinner buffet

Members are encouraged to invite all Veterans and your guests to attend. Chapter members may make reservations with Bob as usual, including their personal guests. Non-member guests need to purchase tickets in advance online at: tricitiesmoaa.org. This will enable us to get a good head count to order dinners. The cut off for ordering non-member tickets is Thursday, November 13.

New!--On-Line Payments on the Chapter Website

We have added the Square system for on-line payments to our website. The two links at the bottom of the page will take you to a payment page, where you'll enter your credit card information. This page is on the Square site, the chapter does not collect your credit card information. Because Square takes a fee for this service, you will be charged \$35 per dinner reservation. Members paying at the door will not incur this fee, you can still pay \$30 for dinner at the door. Guests accompanying a member will also be charged \$30.

A second link is for membership renewal, which is due in January. For now, the chapter will “eat” the fee, membership remains \$25 for 2026. Renew early, we may decide to include the fee in the future.

Contact Bob if you have questions.

And the winner is . . .

Diana Schlauder won the door prize at the October meeting. The prize was a gift basket provided by Rest On High (<https://restonhigh.com>), which provides aerial ash scattering service for the cremated remains of loved ones.

Annual Dues

As noted above, annual dues are due in January. You can mail a check to

Paul Seipt
232 Somerset St
Richland WA 99352

Or pay on line. Or, best of all, bring your check to the next meeting.

HqMOAA sends . . .

Commissary Privatization Plans

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) issued a Request for Information to the grocery industry, investment firms, and other potential partners Sept. 19

seeking feedback on the possible privatization of commissary operations.

The request, which covers all 178 commissary locations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, represents the latest chapter in a decades-long debate over whether the commissary system should remain a government-managed benefit or transition to private sector control. While industry feedback may highlight opportunities to reduce costs or improve operations, history offers a clear warning: Once privatized, it becomes far harder to safeguard quality and affordability for the military community.

Congress appropriates about \$1.4 billion annually to cover DeCA's operating costs. A private company taking over commissary operations would need to recoup those costs, most likely through higher prices and diluting the very benefit the system is meant to provide. For military families living on tight budgets, retirees on fixed incomes, and survivors reliant on commissary savings, even a modest increase in prices could erode a benefit that has stood for more than 150 years.

Commissary privatization is not a new concept. It has been

proposed in the late 1980s, in 2001, and in the mid-2010s. Each time, the outcome was the same: The prevailing consensus has been that the system must remain under Pentagon management to ensure the quality of life benefit is protected for service members, retirees, veterans, and survivors. Unlike commercial grocery chains, commissaries are not designed to maximize revenue. Instead, they exist to deliver a benefit that will attract, retain, and support morale and readiness for the military community.

Retirement Pay During Shutdown

As I'm writing this, the government shutdown sees no resolution. If the government shutdown continues, military (and Coast Guard) retirees will continue to be paid. Military retirement is paid from the Military Retirement Fund, not from yearly appropriations. The other uniformed services, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will not be paid as their pay does not fall under the Military Retirement Fund.

Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

Social hour: 5:00
Entertainment: 6:00
Dinner: 6:40
\$30 per person members
\$35 per person non-members

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid*

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 18

Reservations by
Thursday, Nov 13 to
Bob Allen
Text: (509) 554-6992
Email:
moaa.tricities@charter.net
Non members reserve and
pay on line:
<http://www.tricitiesmoaa.org>

Menu

Chicken with spinach,
garlic & cheeses.
Baked potato
Grilled vegetables
Caesar salad
House-made
focaccia bread
Cake pops for dessert
Beverages