

NORTHWEST



Reporter

President's Message by LTC Peter Halver



Greetings to one and all! With 2025 just beginning, along with the inauguration of our new President and Commander in Chief, this year already has been full of many changes and we anticipate many more!

This year our **Annual Meeting** will be held at the historic **Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla Wednesday - Friday, March 26-28 - our theme is Hawaiian Dress and Aloha Fun!** Take advantage of lower mid-week hotel rates with a special ROA room rate of \$139/night plus taxes and tourism fee. If you are flying in to Walla Walla the hotel has a free shuttle from the airport. Plan to join us Tuesday evening **March 25** with a social gathering from 1800h - 2100h. On Wednesday, we will have our general meeting. On Thursday we are excited to have a special speaker from the Walla Walla area: **Sergeant First Class Mark Mebes**, who will share his insight on the history of the Walla Walla High School Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC). **Get your registration in as soon as possible - see the form on Page 3! Be sure to bring items for our auction - all proceeds will benefit the Fisher House!**

Our **December 2024 Council meeting** was held on December 7 at Wandering Hills with 17 members attending live and 7 others on Zoom. A shout out to LTC Sarah Bro for providing a back up Zoom link for our online attendees (keeping our delayed start time to only 30 minutes!). Our membership total stands at **1,747** for the Department of Northwest, made up of six chapters. During our auction, we raised monies for the Department as well as the USO.

From ROA Headquarters: You have likely seen the announcement from **MG Jeff Phillips** regarding his last day as the association's Chief Executive Officer. He will step down at the end of May 2025. MG Phillips has valiantly served eleven Executive Committees, six national Presidents, and 36,000 members. He was appointed as the Association was navigating a difficult environment. Given a tough task, he confidently led the organization back to being a champion for the Reserve Component. MG Phillips also marked our 100th anniversary and made a significant effort to ensure the two-year celebration was memorable. He was also able to take ROA from the RED to the BLACK financially. Thank you MG Phillips!

The year 2024 has been a beacon of encouragement for our Association. Our financial growth through December 7 stands at an impressive 11.9%. Plus, the Top of the Hill revenue increased by 33%.

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THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING **ALL** UNIFORMED SERVICES RANKS

Army - Marine Corps - Navy - Air Force - Space Force - Coast Guard - Public Health Service - National Guard - NOAA

Department of Northwest: proudly serving ROA members in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming!

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EXCOM REPORT
Lt Col Judy Ford

At the December 2024 ROA National EXCOM meeting, the **procedure for ballot voting** was approved. On January 15, 2025 there was a town hall meeting with Department Presidents and Secretaries to explain the process. This new initiative will allow all members to vote for the national officers. Anticipate further ROA correspondence in the near future! Contact a Department officer if you do not hear anything by July. Resolution, Constitution, and Bylaw changes will be sent to each Department President 90 days before this fall's Annual Meeting (October 17-19, 2025 in Washington DC).

Coming up in 2025:

- **March 7:** the ROA will host its **first Industry Partner gathering** at the Minuteman Memorial Building (MMB) in Washington DC. We hope to establish partnerships with corporations promoting the ROA!
- **March 13-15:** the **National Council and Leaders Conference** will meet at the MMB. In addition to the discussion on the Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress, they plan to reinstate the Legislative Breakfast on Friday morning, which has been beneficial in the past. Registration is not yet available — for more information, contact Diane Markham at dmarkham@roa.org or (202) 646-7728.
- **June 30:** marks the **75th anniversary of our Charter**, signed by President Truman in 1950!
- For more ROA National meetings and events, see the calendar at https://www.roa.org/events/event_list.asp?DGPCrSrt=&DGPCrPg=1
- Our **2025 ROA National Annual Meeting** will be held in the same place in October 2025. Look for more information soon and plan to be there with us next year!

Please note: if you have a blue military ID card you must update to the new **white card NLT 2027**. Just go to the ID Card Office Online at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>



DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MEETING

Come One, Come All!



95TH Department of Northwest Annual Meeting

Registration Form

Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, 6 W. Rose St, Walla Walla, WA
March 26-28, 2025 - - - "Hawaiian Dress & Aloha Fun!"

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Service: _____

Name of Spouse/Guest: _____ 1st Timer: _____

Chapter: _____ Past President: (Department & Year) _____

Full Registration: Before Mar 12 (\$145.00) After Mar 12 (\$150.00)

Full registration includes badge, program, Reception, Luncheon, Banquet

Wednesday Evening Reception at 6:00 p.m. – No host Bar available.

	Before Mar 12	After Mar 12
Separate Events: Wednesday Reception	\$10.00	\$15.00
Thursday Luncheon	\$40.00	\$45.00
Thursday Banquet	\$85.00	\$90.00

Buffet Entree Choice: Registrant & Guest

Braised Boneless Short Rib _____

*Make Check payable to ROA and Mail with Registration Form to Rickey Thomas at
20909 Olympic Place. Arlington, WA. 98223-4669*

Room Reservation: Call Marcus Whitman Hotel at 866-826-9422 to get ROA rate of \$139.00 plus Taxes and Tourism Fees. Room rates guaranteed until February 15, 2025. *The rate is good for two days in advance of the conference and one day after the conference.*

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

- Presidents Message, continued from Page 1 -

Ballot Vote Process: Elections and calendar of timing town hall meetings took place, but after much discussion it was decided to have another town hall meeting, date to be determined. The idea of using a ballot vote system was brought up from our ROA President during last year's National Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. *The main goal is to have every member of ROA able to cast one vote.* It was pointed out that that initiative, in essence, takes the Department voting. How this will take place will be discussed further during our Department Annual Meeting.

In closing, I wish all of you the very best - **see you ALL in Walla Walla come March!**

Yours in Service,
Peter Halver, LTC -ret

BREMERTON WA (NW-02)

CPT Deborah K. Halver-Hanson | heloaviatrix23@gmail.com

Bremerton Chapter President CPT Deborah Halver-Hanson (AV, USA-Retired) submitted Press Release information for the Chapter's support of **charity work for National Day of Mourning for President Carter**. Though the Chapter's press release was not printed in the newspaper, the local newspaper thanked the Chapter President for her information and charitable service.

In recent months, we made several deliveries to State of Washington's VA **program for transitional housing for homeless Veterans** in Port Orchard and has given items to assist with the children's **Angel Tree Program** (Salvation Army - Bremerton). We provide both new toys and additional items needed for gift wrapping. If any toys are not needed for the Christmas program, those toys will be made available for other similar children's programs and initiatives.

In future months, the Chapter will prepare **an additional donation to three schools with four JROTC-Navy programs** and assist the Department with available ROA officers to present the awards to the high school cadets.

At the close of 2024, the Chapter completed revisions of their Constitution and By-Laws and submitted the annual election report to both the ROA National Headquarters and the Department Secretary. Before leaving her post on our EXCOM, the Chapter's Treasurer, Lt Col Judy Ford (USAFR Retired), will complete and submit the Chapter Financial Report and IRS report. The Chapter's 2025 Budget was also approved. **The Chapter President and the membership express their utmost appreciation and gratitude for the work of Chapter Treasurer Lt Col Judy Ford!**

Within the next month, CPT Halver plans to announce the 2025 schedule of chapter meetings, conducting some virtually and some in-person. If you have inquiries, please see ROA.org Members Section or call the Chapter Secretary at (360) 613-9886 (basic land line, no texting) or pager-style voice mail (206) 625-2200.

The Chapter has many openings and opportunities to serve including program planning, web improvements, and membership drives. If interested please reach out!

Respectfully submitted,
Beverley Brown Losey, LTC, USA-Ret'd
Bremerton Chapter Secretary

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

WALLA WALLA WA (NW-021)

LTC Sarah L. Bro | (360) 951-7680 | roa21pr@gmail.com



Our **monthly speaker series** concluded with two presenters. In October **master storyteller Rebecca Hom** (left) provided an engaging talk shedding light on the vital role of the **Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)** during World War II. Her captivating storytelling honored the bravery and sacrifice of these remarkable women and highlighted their significant contributions to the war effort. Rebecca Hom's presentation served as a powerful reminder of the often overlooked role of women in history and their impact on shaping the world we live in today. In November we were honored to hear from **Washington's first territorial governor Isaac Stevens**, as re-enacted by **Ron Klicker** (right). He



discussed the two Treaties he negotiated between the United States and the local Indian tribes and the aftermath of the treaty meetings.



At our annual business meeting in December we elected a **new chapter president, LTC Sarah Bro** (left). **Secretary Capt Bill Howard** (far left) and **Treasurer CSM Terry Atchison** (not pictured) agreed to renew their terms. Our Executive Vice President position goes unfilled at this time. The Chapter expressed its gratitude to **MAJ Lonnie Mettler** (right), stepping down as Chapter president, a role he has filled admirably for two years. Thanks, MAJ Mettler!



Also at our annual business meeting we were pleased to honor **PO2 Bob McCoy**, USCG, with a beautiful Quilt of Valor, presented by members of the Walla Walla Sweet Freedom Quilters!

Our principal initiative for December was bringing **Wreaths Across America Day** to life on December 14! Our chapter raised sponsorships for **almost 600 wreaths** to be placed at the **Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery** as well as a new site, the **Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens**. Thanks to **SSG Chad Bro** for his leadership in this effort! Several members of the community came out to help lay wreaths and underscore one of our primary missions: **Never Forget a Veteran!** Please contact us if you would like to learn more about this effort for your own chapter!



Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery



Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens

Membership Report

Lt Col Judy Ford

Bring In More Members!

The ROA represents 475,000 Reservists. We advocate for these individuals at the level of both Congress and the Reserve leadership to address issues which affect the drilling Reserve and National Guard forces.

The **Department of Northwest** currently has **~1750 members** with 195 members currently serving in the Reserves, National Guard, or Active components.

This is how Department of Northwest breaks down:

- **only 4** are 30 years old or younger
- **only 95** are under the age of 55
- This means **over 1650 of us are over 55**, and the majority are above the age of 70 - and not getting any younger!

The Department cannot survive with these numbers! We need to figure out how to engage and recruit younger members! Although ROA is now open to all ranks, **our Department has only 37 enlisted with 6 still active in the military.**

Any and all suggestions are appreciated! As Membership Chair, we really want all members involved: contact a Congressman! Participate in our awards program for ROTC and JROTC! Attend meetings! Volunteer for local, Department, or National officers! **Bring in more members!**



JOIN US!

Department of Northwest

2025 Annual Convention!

Join us **March 26 - 28, 2025** (Wed - Fri) back in **Walla Walla WA!** We will meet at the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center! Check out their website at <https://marcuswhitmanhotel.com/>.

This year's theme:

Hawaiian Dress & Aloha Fun!

Complete the enclosed registration form on **Page 3!**
Send it in TODAY!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Department Northwest - 2024 Final

For the Year of 2024	
Income	US\$15703
Expenses	-US\$13161
Funds remaining	US\$2542

Chase Bank*		PenFed Credit Union**		
Checking	US\$156	Savings	US\$1577	
Savings	US\$8563	16K CD (6/6/24)	US\$16307	\$307 dividends earned to date
		56K CD (6/6/24)	US\$57093	\$1093 dividends earned to date
TOTAL	US\$8719	TOTAL	US\$74977	\$2945 increase from 1/1/24

TOTAL ASSETS = US\$83696 (\$3137 increase from 1/1/24)

*Chase Bank funds are daily operating funds

**Both CDs have a yield of 4% and will mature on 15 June 2025 (1 year) with approximate dividend totals of \$2500

The REPORTER (Newsletter)		
2024 Fund (\$10/year Club)	US\$639	Up \$84 from 12/31/23 - thanks for steady donations! Keep 'em coming!
Printing/mailling costs for two 2024 issues	US\$2541	Included as part of Expenses above. Our fund helped offset about 25% of this cost!

If there are concerns or questions on this report, please contact me!

Respectfully submitted,
Rickey D. Thomas, Treasurer

10-Bucks-A-Year Club (donors since November 2024)

CAPT Glenn J. Pruiksma Ttee	Walla Walla Chapter In Memory Of	Ann Torgerson In memory of
LTC Peter Halver	COL William "Bill" Paul Gray, USA, Ret.	BG James V. Torgerson
CDR T.C. Thetford	Lt. Col. Judith P. Larson	2024 Funds Collected: \$639

Members are still encouraged to make donations to this fund, which helps offset the printing costs of the newsletter. Print newsletters still go to our members who do not have email addresses and want to stay connected! Please contact **Rickey Thomas at (360) 581-9383** to make a donation!



Department of Northwest

The purpose of the Reserve Organization of America is to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security

--ROA Congressional Charter, 1950

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- ROA, One Constitution Ave NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-5628
- Email: roainf@roa.org
- (202) 279-2200 or (800) 809-9448