

NORTHWEST



# Reporter



## ***President's Message by LTC Peter Halver***

The Department of Northwest ROA has been very active since our December Council meeting!

Although a deficit budget had initially been proposed for 2025, the year concluded with both unexpected income (largely from the dissolution of Chapter NW-030) and reduced expenses, resulting in an overall financial increase for the Department (**see more on page 7**). A finance meeting will be held in February, and we anticipate presenting a balanced budget at the 2026 Annual Meeting in April.

Proceeds from the auctions at the December Council meeting supported our donations to Fisher House and the USO and were warmly received! We received a letter from USO Northwest expressing their appreciation for the \$1,000 donation, which was personally delivered by **Ms. Roberta Brockliss** and **Capt. Teri Barnes** (**see page 2**). The letter also noted that although USO Northwest will

merge with USO National in Washington DC, our contribution will continue to be used locally. Many thanks to Robbie and Teri for taking the time to deliver the donation in person!

ROA National President **MG Margaret "Peggy" Wilmoth** began her term of office with a Zoom meeting with all Department Presidents in late December 2025. She outlined her focus on growth, relevance, and advocacy, aligned with the vision and goals of **ROA VISION29** (**see more on page 6**). As our membership numbers decline, it is essential that ROA adapts successfully—by unifying, sharing our strengths, and working together toward a common vision.

Our **96th Annual Department Meeting** will be held **April 24-26, 2026** at **The Holiday Inn Express & Suites Tacoma South - Lakewood**, located at 11751 Pacific Hwy SW, Lakewood WA 98499 (Exit 125 off I-5). Our rooms are blocked at \$136 (plus taxes and resort fee - \$1.50 per day) - get your reservation in as soon as possible! **The registration form is on Page 3 - please print and mail to the address on the form.** For those unable to attend in person, I will set up a virtual meeting via Zoom - look for that link in your email as we get closer to the conference dates!

We are also very pleased to announce that our special guest speaker for our annual meeting in April will be **ROA National CEO/Executive Director John Hashem (MG, USA Ret.)**. Sincere thanks to **Lt Col Judy Ford** for arranging his attendance. This will be a valuable opportunity to engage in firsthand discussion with him and learn more about developments at the national level.

**I look forward to seeing everyone in April!**

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!**

**President**

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**We have a NEW DEPARTMENT WEBSITE!**

**[WWW.ROANW.ORG](http://WWW.ROANW.ORG)**

*Come check out our newest postings!*



## ***USO Northwest at Sea-Tac International Airport EXPRESSES GRATITUDE!***



*Getting our donations to the USO Northwest at  
Sea-Tac International Airport!*

From **Ms. Roberta Brockliss:**

**Capt Teri Barnes** and I met to give our donation to the USO Northwest at Sea-Tac International Airport. The green bag in the picture was full of donations collected at our December 2025 Council meeting.

Our usual USO contact, Mr. Don Leingang, happily accepted the \$1000 check, noting both the date and how promptly it reached him!

Don offered to donate an auction item for our December meeting this year, and we hope he will be able to attend.

Also pictured is a USO volunteer (far R) who happened to be on site and graciously stepped in to assist!

# The 96th Department of Northwest Annual Meeting

## Lakewood WA | April 24 - 26, 2026



### 96TH Department of Northwest Annual Meeting

Registration Form

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Conference Rooms Lakewood, WA 11751 Pacific Hwy SW,  
Lakewood, WA 98499

April 24-26, 2026 - - - "Geography & National Parks Theme!"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Timer: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Past President: (Department & Year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Registration: Before April 3 (\$125.00) After April 3(\$130.00)**

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

#### Friday Evening Reception at 6:00 p.m.

		Before Mar 12	After Mar 12
<b>Separate Events:</b>	Friday	Reception \$10.00	\$15.00
	Saturday	Luncheon \$30.00	\$35.00
	Saturday	Banquet \$50.00	\$55.00

#### Buffet Entree Choice:

#### Registrant & Guest

Make Your Own Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Parmigiana \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to ROA and Mail with Registration Form to Rickey Thomas at  
20909 Olympic Place NW #171. Arlington, WA. 98223-4669

**Room Reservation:** Holiday Inn Express to get ROA rate of \$136.00 plus Taxes and Tourism Fees. Room rates guaranteed until April 22 using the code below <https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=Seala&PMID=99801505&GPC=HVE&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00026> or call direct 253.582.7000 for ROA NW conference.

*The rate is good for two days in advance of the conference and one day after the conference.*

This year there will be **no costume contest**. Instead, for our ice breaker, we will focus on a **Geography** theme, with interactive activities highlighting places we've visited and explored! Participants can help scratch off a National Parks map and a world travel map, examine a tectonic plate world map and globe, and enjoy a Bingo game, space permitting.

## Chapter Updates - Across the Department

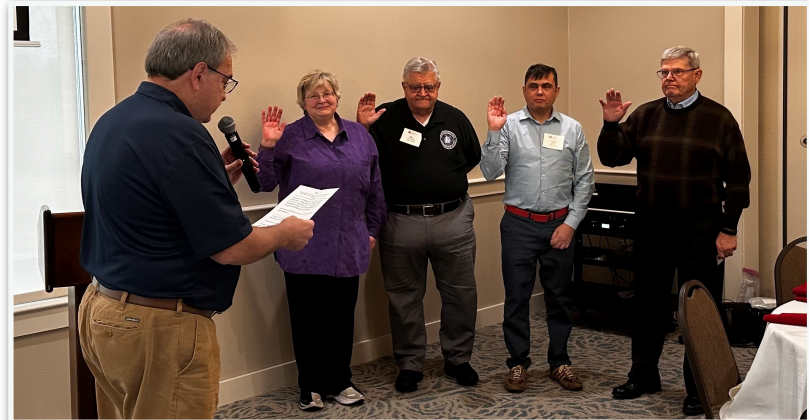
### WALLA WALLA WA (NW-021)

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



Our final speaker of the 2025 program year, **COL Jim Baker** (left)—a chapter member and former attorney with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Walla Walla Valley—gave an engaging presentation entitled “USACE Legal Claims Stories: Believe It or Not!” He invited us to weigh the evidence and consider how we might decide the cases ourselves.

At our December 2025 business meeting, we elected a new slate of chapter officers. **LTC Sarah Bro** will return for a second term as President. **Capt Bill Howard** stepped down as Secretary and assumed the role of Executive Vice President, while **CSM Terry Atchison** agreed to serve another term as Treasurer. We also warmly welcomed **SSG Chad Bro** to the team as our new Secretary.

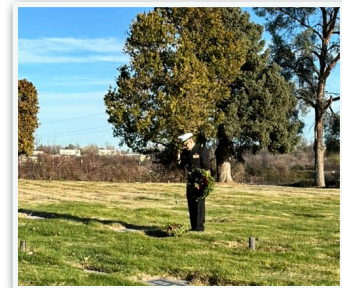


**MAJ Lonnie Mettler** (far left), Past President (2023, 2024), administered the oath of office to the 2026 officers. **Officers (L to R):** LTC Bro, Capt Howard, SSG Bro, and CSM Atchison.



For this year’s soft fundraiser, we raffled off a vintage 1940 chess set made of fruit wood with carved jade figures. Over the course of the program year, members purchased raffle tickets, resulting in a final donation of **\$300**. **LTC Allen Aplash** took home the chess set! These proceeds will fund our initiative to preserve and update cemetery markers for veterans.

Our annual **Wreaths Across America** campaign was a great success! Generous commercial and private sponsors funded nearly 600 wreaths, which we placed at veterans’ graves at the **Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery** and **Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens**. Excellent weather made for cheerful work on December 13—thanks to the volunteers who came out to help lay wreaths! Through our efforts as a sponsoring organization, we will receive **\$5** for each wreath sponsored, supporting our ongoing commitment to never forget a veteran!



The **next edition of THE REPORTER** will be **June 2026!**

Be sure to send your photos and updates to the editor LTC Sarah L. Bro at [roa21pr@gmail.com](mailto:roa21pr@gmail.com)!

Keep us informed of your chapter’s status and activities!

## Chapter Updates - Across the Department

### VIRTUAL (NW-01)

LTC Milton D. Houghton | [LTCMilt@gmail.com](mailto:LTCMilt@gmail.com)

*No report provided.*

### BREMERTON WA (NW-02)

CPT Deborah K. Halver-Hanson | [heloaviatrix23@gmail.com](mailto:heloaviatrix23@gmail.com)

Our chapter continues to hold four meetings each year. Most recently, members collected donations for Toys for Tots and contributed two boxes of items to local veterans.

### SEATTLE WA (NW-015)

CAPT Rickey D. Thomas | (360) 581-9383 | [randstthomascomcast.net](http://randstthomascomcast.net)

Our chapter remains active, with seven to eight members meeting monthly over lunch to conduct chapter business. However, participation beyond these meetings has been limited, and there have been few additional activities. Increasing attendance and engagement remains an important goal for the chapter. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 for lunch, at Scotts Bar & Grill ( 8115 Lake Ballinger Way, Edmonds, WA. 98206). Please email me (address above) if you plan to attend, so reservations can be made in advance.

### SPOKANE WA (NW-018)

COL Larry J. Neil | [lsneil1964@gmail.com](mailto:lsneil1964@gmail.com)

Efforts are underway to revitalize the chapter. **CDR Ed Brock** and I have met six times to coordinate outreach; however, approximately 75% of member phone numbers are no longer valid, and members contacted in Florida and Arizona indicated they are no longer interested in participating. Two letters were sent to the full membership, and three meetings were subsequently held, each attracting three new attendees. A localized meeting in early December invited 45 members, but resulted in the attendance of only one member and two non-members, making it an informational session without sufficient participation to organize chapter leadership or structure. Another meeting is scheduled for March as a final effort to reactivate the chapter, at which point the future viability of the Spokane Chapter should be clear before the April Department meeting.



**We have a NEW DEPARTMENT EMAIL:**  
**Reserve Organization of America Department of Northwest**  
**[ROA.NW@outlook.com](mailto:ROA.NW@outlook.com)**



*Reach out for questions or concerns any time!*



**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/>



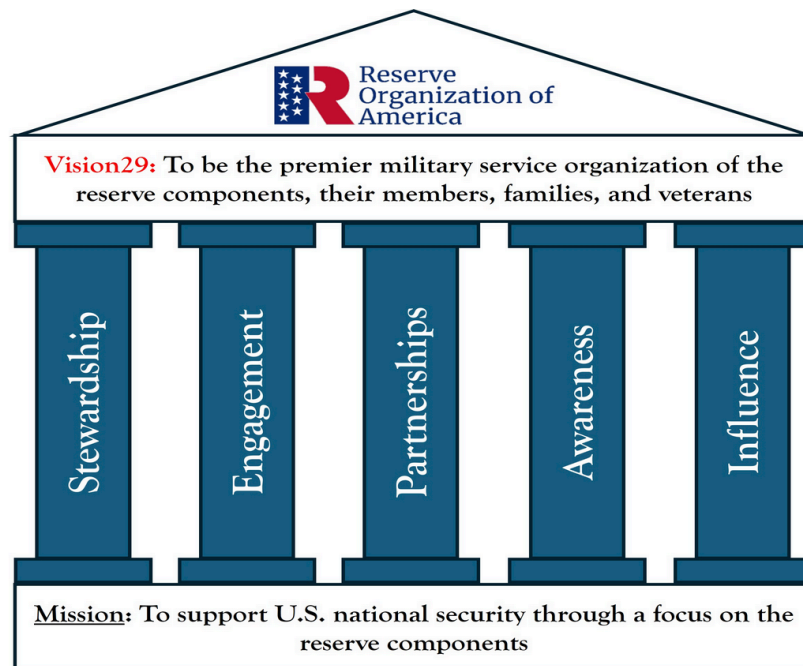
## ROA VISION29

ROA's VISION29 is a strategic plan for the Reserve Organization of America to re-establish its baseline for its second century. It aims to support the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026 by advocating for a modernized Reserve component, enhancing member engagement, and ensuring the organization's financial stability through five key pillars. Please find an excellent trifold brochure - NEW this year! - at this link and learn more!

**Link to brochure:** [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.roa.org/resource/resmgr/vision29/vision29\\_trifold\\_06.14.25.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.roa.org/resource/resmgr/vision29/vision29_trifold_06.14.25.pdf)

### ROA Strategic Plan

2024-2029



**Re-establishing the baseline for the 2nd Century**

### 5 Strategic Pillars Support Our Commitment & Goals:

We Will Remain Financially Stable

We Will Engage with Programs & Educational Opportunities

We Will Grow Individual & Corporate Membership

We Will Communicate Through Expanded Messaging Channels

We Will Advocate & Spearhead Legislative Efforts

## **Membership & Call for Volunteer Leaders**

### **Lt Col Judy Ford**

There has been little change in our membership. Our current count stands at **1,696** members across five chapters.

The Department continues to seek members willing to take on both Chapter and Department leadership positions. Our Constitution and Bylaws, which outline the responsibilities of Department roles, are posted on our website at [roanw.org](http://roanw.org) . **We are seeking volunteers for these leadership positions:**

**National Councilman.** With our current National Councilman stepping into the role of Department President, the National Councilman position is now open. This three-year role serves as the primary liaison between the Department and the national organization. The Council meets virtually throughout the year, with the Annual National Council Meeting held in conjunction with the Spring Leadership Meeting in Washington DC. A National Council briefing is also held during the Annual National ROA Meeting in October.

**Department Treasurer.** Candidates with a financial background or interest are encouraged to apply. The Treasurer and JAG positions are elected for three-year terms and typically continue as long as the individual is able to serve.

**NW-01 State Coordinator.** Our Virtual Chapter is seeking a State Coordinator to help organize events such as Yellow Ribbon activities and ROTC/JROTC award presentations. Upcoming Yellow Ribbon events are listed on our website at [roanw.org](http://roanw.org) .

**Also seeking, at the Department level:**

- Service Section Vice Presidents and Junior Vice Presidents
- a Committeeperson for each service

**These roles may be filled virtually and require a two-year commitment.**

If you are interested in volunteering for this or any other position, or have some time to help in any capacity, **we would love to hear from you.** Please reach out at [roa.nw@outlook.com](mailto:roa.nw@outlook.com) —**your willingness to serve is truly appreciated!**



## **National ROA Board of Directors**

**Lt Col Judy Ford** was reelected to the Board of Directors at the October ROA National Annual Meeting. The recent hiring of **MG John Hashem** as Executive Director brings a fresh perspective to the organization. The Board approved the annual budget, which includes the addition of two national staff positions, as well as the appointment of committee members. The Board also refined and strengthened the organization's Strategic Plan. The next Board meeting will take place during the National Council & Leadership Conference, March 14–16, 2026.



*Installation of ROA Board of Directors, October 2025  
Lt Col Judy Ford, 4th from left*

## TREASURER'S REPORT - Final Report: December 2025

BANK /CD ACCOUNTS (2 JAN 2026)	CHECKING	SAVINGS	CD#1	CD#2	TOTAL
CHASE BANK	\$159	\$13,788			\$13,947
PEN FED		\$3,491	\$16,466	\$57,649	\$77,606
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>					<b>\$91,553</b>

REVENUE - 2025	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Annual Meeting Registrations	\$2,500	\$3,380	\$880
Family Support (auctions)	\$3,500	\$4,454	\$954
December Lunch	\$250	\$225	(\$25)
REPORTER Fund	\$600	\$948	\$348
Dues Rebates from National	\$0	\$1,274	\$1,274
124 <sup>th</sup> ARCOM (closing)	\$0	\$4,284	\$4,284
<b>BANKING</b>			
CD Interest Earned	\$2,700	\$2,652	(\$48)
Savings Interest Earned	\$3	\$2	(\$1)
Donations	\$0	\$940	\$940
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,553</b>	<b>\$18,159</b>	<b>\$8,606</b>

EXPENSES - 2025	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
<b>OFFICE (4 entries)</b>	\$625	\$701	(\$76)
<b>ANNUAL MEETING (5 entries)</b>	\$4,050	\$2,582	\$1,468
• Fisher House	\$1,200	\$1,138	\$62
• USO Northwest	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$200
<b>ROTC (3 entries)</b>	\$1,170	\$867	\$303
<b>REPORTER (2 entries)</b>	\$2,600	\$2,708	(\$108)
<b>OTHER</b> (SOS filing, Website)	\$0	\$247	(\$247)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$10,845</b>	<b>\$9,243</b>	<b>\$1,602</b>
<b>TOTAL (Income minus Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$1,292)</b>	<b>\$8,916</b>	\$7,624

**Good News!**

- As predicted and planned for, we finished 2025 **in the black!**
- Over the last five years, we have steadily moved out of deficit budgets into surplus budgets. Both 2024 and 2025 have been surplus budgets.
- **Thanks** for promoting fiscal care for our organization!

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*Rickey D. Thomas, Treasurer*

\$10/YEAR CLUB: 2025 Q4 DONATIONS	
<i>Walla Walla Chapter, in Memory of:</i>	
COL Emil Erich Leitz	\$10.00
LTC David Murray	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

**\$10/Year Ongoing Fundraiser**  
*To help offset printing costs of the REPORTER for those that don't have email!*  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

**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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To change address or report the death of a member, go to Customer Services at one of the following:

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