



# Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

## *Brass Bulletin* Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

Portland, Oregon  
Chapter

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P.O. Box 68959  
Portland, OR 97268

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[www.MOAAPortland.org](http://www.MOAAPortland.org)

June 2010

### *The President's Forum*

by LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret)

I am really excited about the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. If you are asking why, I am glad to let you know. **First**, we are hosting our fellow officers from the local MOAA Columbia River Chapter in Vancouver, WA. It is always good to have an opportunity to meet with them. **Second**, we are fortunate to be hosting **Brig Gen Paul G. Cohen USAFR (Ret)**, a MOAA National Board Member. This is the first time since June 2006 that MOAA National has sent out a representative. I have had the opportunity to hear Brig Gen Cohen give an update on MOAA's initiatives and their progress. I can assure you that he explains these in a very clear and concise manner that will excite you about our national organization. **Third** and most important, we are going to be installing your new Portland Chapter Officers for 2010-2011. I am certainly confident the new officers will bring strong leadership and progressive continuity with our ongoing projects. **Fourth**, we are kicking off our new e-mail reservation system. Please give it a try. This is our test month, and it is still a work in progress. **Lastly**, the venue is perfect as we are finishing this very successful year at the Gray Gables Estate. This leads me to thanking all of you for your support during my two year tenure as your president. The Chapter board members have been my inspiration as they definitely stepped up and gave me all the support one could have asked for. I really want to thank Treasurer **Ben Tabler**, Second Vice President **Jim Patrick**, and Immediate Past President **John Hill** as they are finishing their terms in office. They have been key

*(continued on page 2)*

### **Reminder:**

**Please Bring your Items or Financial  
Contributions for Residents  
of the Oregon Veterans' Home  
to the  
June Dinner Meeting**

### NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, 1 June 2010**

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

Gray Gables Estate

3009 SE Chestnut Street

Milwaukie, Oregon 97267

Phone: 503-654-0470

### PROGRAM:

**Guest Speaker: Brig Gen Paul G. Cohen, USAFR (Ret)**, MOAA Board of Directors Member, will speak on the "Status of MOAA Initiatives" and Install the New Chapter Officers

### MENU:

Fresh Fruit Display

Bay Shrimp Stuffed Mushrooms

Wine Poached Salmon w/ Herb Rice Pilaf Medley

Northwest Salad

Green Beans

Assorted Desserts

Coffee/Tea

### COST:

**\$25.50 per person (includes 20% gratuity)**

*Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.*

### RESERVATIONS:

To make your reservations, please contact **LTC Gary Brink** or **Jan Brink** at **503-659-3347** or [igbrink@comcast.net](mailto:igbrink@comcast.net) **NLT 1200 on 27 May 2010**. **No late reservations**, and **please call** if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.

**DIRECTIONS:** From **I-205**, take McLoughlin Blvd (99E) North (4.1 miles) to Chestnut Street; turn right on Chestnut (just past the U-Haul Store); Gray Gables is located on the left hand side of the street. From **Portland**, take McLoughlin Blvd (South) to Chestnut Street; turn left onto Chestnut Street; Gray Gables is on the left.

A **No-Host Bar** is available, and a parking attendant is on duty.

***PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)***

contributors to the tremendous improvements your chapter has made. Finally, as I complete my last of 18 President's Forum Notes, I make one last request. If you like what your chapter is doing, brag about it to your fellow officers who are not members and/or do not attend. Ask them to join or attend meetings. The life line of our chapter is a strong, vibrant, growing membership. See you all on June 1<sup>st</sup>!!!

***OUR GUEST SPEAKER IN JUNE***

Our guest speaker in June is **Brigadier General Paul G. Cohen, USAFR (Ret)**, a member of the MOAA National Board of Directors. He earned his undergraduate

degree from Union College in 1960 and completed the Air Command and Staff College and the national security management curriculum at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. While on active duty he served in supply, logistics, and management positions in North Dakota and the United Kingdom. He continued to serve in supply and management positions as a Nebraska National Guard officer until retiring in 1995 as Nebraska's Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He is currently the administrator of the Omaha Douglas Public Building Commission. He is president of the Heartland of America Chapter of MOAA and has served as coordinator of the Nebraska Military Coalition. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

***MINUTES FROM THE MAY DINNER MEETING by Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)***

On **May 4**, there were **66** members and guests who came out for dinner at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. During the social hour, raffle tickets were sold for four bottles of wine; the proceeds were for the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund. After the social hour, President **Gary Brink** called the meeting to order at **1845**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the National Anthem was sung [led by **Mrs. Jan Brink, Mrs. Ann Roberts, and Mrs. Jan Youngman**], and Chaplain **LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)** gave the invocation.

After dinner, **President Brink** called on **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**, the Membership Committee Chair, who thanked all for coming and asked each person to pick up a flyer on the table regarding the 1 June 2010 dinner meeting. He asked attendees to put the date on the calendar and make reservations as soon as possible. As part of a Membership Challenge, John said last month that attendees indicated that they would like to see the chapter grow, but very few volunteered to help make that happen. In the meantime, John personally sent out 120 letters to prospective members, and he asked by a show of hands how many attendees would make calls to 3 people asking them to join our chapter and/or attend a chapter meeting. Various members volunteered, and each was handed a list of 3 prospective members to call. He asked those calling to tell him if any of the information was incorrect. Finally, John introduced a new Chapter member: **CW3 Jack Brink, USA**.

Scholarship Committee Chair, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, indicated there was nothing new regarding the scholarship program. We are "on track," and he thanked those who have made contributions.

Auxiliary Member Liaison, **Mrs. Edie Rieken**, announced a lunch at her home on 22 June to raise money for scholarships. See **page 4** for more details.

**President Brink** then asked **LtCol Nanci Visser, USMCR (Ret)** to introduce the slate of officers for 2010-2011 found on **page 4**. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations; it was approved. So, this slate of officers will be installed at the June dinner meeting.

**MINUTES (continued)**

**President Brink** then recognized the “stalwart efforts” of outgoing Treasurer **CDR Ben Tabler, USN (Ret)**, Second Vice President **Captain Jim Patrick, USMC (Ret)**, and Immediate Past President **COL John Hill, USA (Ret)**.

**President Brink** then recognized **Mr. Chuck Diamond**, the guest speaker’s Professor of Military Science at Oregon State University. He then introduced the guest speaker, **CAPT Rick Williams, USN (Ret)** who spoke on his remarkable multi-task submarine career from 1975-2000 in a presentation he entitled “Remain Flexible or Semper Gumby.” The presentation was well-received by the membership, and a lively question-and-answer session followed.



**CAPT Rick Williams, USN (Ret) makes a point at the May Dinner Meeting**

In the “**For the Good of the Order**” portion of the program, **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)** said he wanted to recognize the fact that **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** would be the **first woman president** of the MOAA Portland Chapter. He also gave a plug for as many members as possible to come to the June meeting at the Gray Gables Estate to hear **Brig Gen Cohen**; Bill said that the general did a great job at the State

Convention and was a real down-to-earth guy. He finished with a joke!

Scholarship Committee Chair, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, conducted the raffle for the bottles of wine; winners were **LtCol Norb Murray, USMC (Ret)**; **Lt Col Jim Dixon, USAF (Ret)**; **CAPT John Lobdell, USN (Ret)**; and **Mrs. Anne Nichol**. Next month, the proceeds from the raffle will be divided between the Oregon Veterans’ Home and the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund. **CAPT John H. Sweeney, OARNG (Ret)** made an announcement about the Clackamas Community College Military Families Scholarship Endowment. The goal is to develop a million dollar scholarship endowment that will provide military families with the opportunity to advance their education. Pamphlets were on each table. For more information on how you can make donations, contact Vicki Smith at 503-657-6958 ext. 2044 or [vickis@clackamas.edu](mailto:vickis@clackamas.edu) **LCDR George H. Bickford, Jr., USN (Ret)** stated that the USS Ranger Foundation now has \$250,000 in the bank, and President/CEO Peter Ogle is confident that the Foundation will be able to bring the ship to Portland, Oregon.

In closing, **President Brink** thanked **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for providing the bouquets of flowers from her garden; the youngest mother at each table took the flowers home in honor of Mother’s Day. He then thanked everyone for coming, told them to drive safely, and encouraged them to come to the June dinner meeting. The meeting was adjourned at **2035**.



**Members enjoy themselves at the May Dinner Meeting. (Left to right): Mrs. Jan Brink, Mrs. Ann Roberts, Chapter President LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret), Incoming Chapter President Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), and Scholarship and Legislative Chair, CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**

***MEMBERSHIP CORNER by  
MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)***

We would like to welcome our newest member: **CW3 Jack Brink, USA**, a scout pilot with the 10<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade. Jack is also the son of our current Chapter President, **LTG Gary Brink**, and his wife **Jan**.

At the Chapter's April meeting, we challenged our membership to help with our ongoing membership drive, by calling potential members from a list provided by MOAA National.

In addition to sending out approximately 120 letters, at our May meeting we also passed out "three names" per member (approximately 50 names) to those who volunteered to call. The response was terrific! I would encourage you to invite them to our **September** meeting (remembering we have the summer months off).

A "BIG" thank you. The current drive will end September 2010, and at that time the Membership Committee will evaluate our success.

***AUXILIARY CORNER by Mrs. Edie Rieken, Liaison to the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee***

Although attendance at our April luncheon was smaller than usual, we all agreed we had the best-ever "quality time" which also resulted in two boxes filled with Gifts for Troops. Our thanks to **Joyce Fiske** who will again deliver them to the 41<sup>st</sup> Brigade/Family Readiness Support in Tigard.

On June 22 at noon, Auxiliary members are again invited to my home for a MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fundraising luncheon, but the food is free! The same as last year, a donation matching the cost of a luncheon at

Albertina's, (and hopefully a bit more!) is suggested. If you are unable to attend and would like to contribute on behalf of Auxiliary members, please send me a check payable to: MOAA Scholarship Fund. A reservation is essential by **Friday, June 18**. Call Edie at 503-254-5029 if you can attend and for directions.

One of our most enthusiastic Auxiliary members, Sister Catherine Trtek (whose father was an aviation pioneer in what is now the Beaverton area), has been accepted to participate in a ***Pilgrimage for Veterans—Wounded, Disabled, and Retired US Military***, and will be leaving on May 18 from Washington, D.C. for Lourdes, France. She will be assisting one of the veterans in the group on this week-long journey, a pilgrimage for peace and possible healing, which welcomes active or reserve duty, retired military personnel and families. It is intended especially for wounded veterans and those in need of care or assistance while on pilgrimage. She will have much to tell us later.

Congratulations to our new Chapter President **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**--one of our faithful Auxiliary luncheon attendees!

***ELECTED 2010-2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS***

The following members were elected as Chapter Officers on 4 May 2010 and will be installed on 1 June 2010 by Brig Gen Paul G. Cohen, USAFR (Ret), a member of the MOAA National Board of Directors:

**President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Col Rick Gano, USAF (Ret)

**Secretary:** Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)

**Treasurer:** Capt Jim Cole, USAF (Sep)

**Immediate Past President:** LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret)

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***Medicare/TRICARE Reimbursement Rate Cuts**

When we last reviewed this ongoing soap opera, which is serious stuff approached in a non-serious manner by both the House and the Senate, the 21% reduction in Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates had actually been implemented on April 1st, and Congress was (mercifully) on Easter Vacation. That meant they were earnestly attempting to stay in office after the November elections. Medicare and TRICARE, however, “held” pending claims through the first half of April, so that the adverse impact was mitigated. Consider that the inaction of Congress and the Medicare/TRICARE response slowed receipt of reimbursements for medical providers, which was a hardship to them.

Returning to Washington, both houses of Congress passed legislation mid-month, and the cuts were delayed until JUNE 1. All that fire and brimstone and inaction resulted in kicking the can down the street for all of 45 days. Here we go again!

Of course, rates are scheduled to decline 25% in January 2011, and that issue has not as yet been addressed.

This is analogous to the Alternative Minimum Tax, where Congress acts on an annual basis, often delayed, to carve out exemptions for middle class income levels instead of implementing a very simple fix of indexing income levels for inflation.

There will be much to come on this front, because a permanent fix involves some \$240 billion in hits to the budget, which is already \$1.3 trillion or so in the hole.

**26 Year Old Dependents on TRICARE**

Bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to allow continued TRICARE coverage for adult children, as required by law, and to broaden the categories of individuals in that age range to include anyone that otherwise does not have access to qualifying health care coverage.

As I suggested last month by a tongue in cheek question, such coverage will come with a premium to be determined by the Department of Defense.

This change is expected to be implemented during 2011.

Currently, individuals who are about to “age-out” of TRICARE can participate in the Continued Health Care Benefit Program, which provides TRICARE Standard-type coverage for a premium of about \$930 per quarter.

**TRICARE, the VA, and Health Reform**

The Senate has passed a bill that explicitly states that TRICARE is a qualified plan for ObamaCare purposes. The House previously passed such a bill, so the next step is to get a signature from the White House.

Separately, the Senate has passed a similar bill covering VA health care, while the House has this under consideration.

**Federal “Debt Commission”**

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform convened in late April. This is a commission, dubbed the Debt Commission but really the Tax and Spend Commission, created by and appointed by the President. It has no power, is not authorized or empowered by Congress, and can only make recommendations. It has broken into three working groups that meet weekly and convene on the whole monthly.

Early commentary from two former Directors of the Congressional Budget Office were that both spending cuts and increased revenue (read “taxes”) were needed. This is pure sophistry on the part of the administration. If it wished to reduce spending, it could do that.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** (continued)

My bet: this is the backdrop for introducing a VAT under the mantle of a bipartisan commission.

MOAA has been suspicious of the Commission approach ever since it was first broached, and will be monitoring discussions.

### **Caregiver Assistance Bill**

Both houses of Congress have voted and the President has signed into law a bill which makes caregivers for seriously disabled veterans eligible for education, training, counseling and mental health care, and respite services. Caregivers for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will also be eligible for VA health coverage, a monthly stipend, and lodging and subsistence payments while accompanying patients on medical visits.

The bill also upgrades VA coverage for women veterans.

### **Government Efficiency**

Excerpts from a May 10, 2010 article in *Forbes* entitled "Scamming Uncle Sam:"

"The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services acknowledge[s] **\$47 billion** a year in 'questionable claims' (i.e. fraud) a year in Medicare, about **10%** of the program's \$480 billion budget. Attorney General Eric Holder puts fraud even higher, at maybe **\$60 billion**. In contrast, private-sector health insurers...keep the fraud rate to **1.5%** (by my colleagues and my estimate)."

Makes you feel really good about the increasing intrusion of the government in every sector.

email: [Larry@RocketVentures.com](mailto:Larry@RocketVentures.com)  
phone: 503 722 1897

## **MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE** by *CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)*

### **Contributing to a "Best in America" Fund**

One of the primary reasons that the Chapter created and is funding the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund is that the MOAA umbrella fund is an incredibly efficient vehicle for making educational charitable contributions.

The MOAA fund has been awarded the "Best Fund in America" designation by the Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities organization. This group audits funds annually, focusing on public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost efficiency. They estimate that there are over 1 million charities in the United States, that no more than 5% meet their high standards, and that fewer than 2,000 have been awarded the designation. That gives us comfort that we are giving to the very best, much like a 5 star Morningstar designation for a mutual fund.

Consider that with approximately \$7000 contributed to the Chapter fund in its first full year of operation, we already have one outstanding local recipient receiving a \$5,500 interest free loan per year. Before the end of this year, we will have our second recipient, meaning that in less than 18 months our fund will have been responsible for disbursing \$16,500 to Portland area undergraduate students of military families. What an impact for the chapter and a benefit to the recipients.

Further, this is an evergreen fund, meaning that once the fund reaches its \$25,000 level in five years or so, it will be supporting 5 undergraduate loans of \$5500 (which will increase with the cost of education) annually. This occurs because the recipients pay back the loans interest free in the following 5 years. So, our current giving keeps on giving! What a deal on both sides.

Please consider contributing to the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund annually. It is a decision to give to a worthy cause with the best leverage of your dollars and with huge impact on the recipients and their families.

The Scholarship Committee currently includes John Hill, Nanci Visser, Mary Mayer, and Jimmy Patrick.

## ***SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE*** ***(continued)***

Anyone else who would like to participate in this effort, please let us know. Committee member duties will not be onerous, and will be very important in leading us in this endeavor.

Thanks for your commitment to the education of the future leaders of our country and to children of our nation's defenders.

## ***CHAPTER DUES***

Almost halfway through the calendar year, there are 24 members still remiss in their dues. Two reminder letters have been sent. And, for those 12 of the 24 who receive the *Bulletin* via the US Postal Service, the mailing label on each issue has shown an expiration date of "DEC 2009" in the upper right corner. Dues (\$25.00) should be sent to: *Portland Chapter/MOAA, P.O. Box 68959, Portland, OR 97268*. Remember, dues are the only source of income for the Chapter. "

## ***DONATIONS FOR THE OREGON VETERANS' HOME***

On 4 June 2010 your Chapter Officers will be going to the Oregon Veterans' Home (OVH) in The Dalles, Oregon in connection with a meeting of the Oregon State Council of Chapters. We are collecting items at the June dinner meeting. A list of recommended items follows: (1) Disposable Cameras with Flash, (2) Wind Chimes, Windsocks, Pinwheels, (3) Sugar-Free Candy and Cookies, (4) Postage Stamps and Postcards, (5) Greeting Cards and Stationery, (6) Microwave Pop- corn, (7) Push Pins/Thumbtacks, (8) Music CDs (Oldies/Big Band/Easy Listening/Show Tunes), (9) Eye Glass Lens Wipes, (10) Bottled Water for Outings, (11) Hanging

Bird Feeders, (12) Card Tables and Chairs, (13) Non-Alcoholic Beer (Coors Cutter or O'Doul's), (14) Polaroid Film 600, (15) Snack Size Packets of Cookies and Cheese and Crackers, (16) Universal Remote Controls for TV, (17) *New Garden* and Baseball Men's Caps, (18) Sunglasses: Regular and Clip-On, (19) Slip-On Slippers (Large Sizes), and (20) Wild Bird Food. Cash donations are also welcome; those chapter members who wish to make a financial donation should make the checks payable to: "Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund" and mail to: Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund; 700 Summer Street NE; Salem, OR 97301-1385.

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## ***Portland Chapter Officers***

### **President**

LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

### **First Vice President**

MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret): 503-632-5265

### **Second Vice President**

Capt Jimmy L. Patrick, USMC (Ret): 503-654-1511

### **Secretary**

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): 1-310-897-1902

### **Treasurer**

CDR Ben Tabler, USN (Ret): 503-698-2974

### **Immediate Past President**

COL John Hill, USA (Ret): 503-653-9524

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## ***Portland Chapter Board of Directors***

### **Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC David E. Hill: 503-579-9684

### **Navy Reps**

CAPT James H. Main: 503-793-8499

CAPT Larry Roberts: 503-722-1897

### **Air Force Reps**

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Lt Col Boyd Yaden: 503-702-3812

### **Marine Corps Reps**

Maj James F. Simpson: 503-233-9341

LtCol Nanci L. Visser: 503-614-8463

### **Coast Guard Rep**

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

### **Women in Service Rep**

1LT Sabrina F. Vasquez, USA: 503-312-8505

### **Liaison, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Edie Rieken: 503-254-5029

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

**PORTLAND CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA (MOAA)  
P.O. BOX 68959  
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE  
REQUIRED**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your calendars!**

June 1, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker & Installation of Chapter Officers (Location: Gray Gables)
<i>July &amp; August 2010</i>	<i>No Dinner Meetings Scheduled</i>
<i>August 6, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
September 7, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch Hotel)
October 5, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Gray Gables Estates)
November 2, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch Hotel)
<i>November 12, 2010</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
December 7, 2010	Dinner Meeting w/Entertainment (Location: Gray Gables Estate)
<i>January 2011</i>	<i>No Dinner Meeting Scheduled</i>

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**NOTE 1:** All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0930**—usually at the **Colwood Bar & Grill** at the **Colwood National Golf Course**--and **are open to all members!** Alternate locations will be indicated.

**NOTE 3:** The newsletter will take a hiatus in July and August 2010. All articles for the **September 2010 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 August 2010**.