



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)
Brass Bulletin Newsletter**
"Never Stop Serving"

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**
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P.O. Box 18206
Portland, OR 97213

Volume XXXV, Number 4

www.MOAAPortland.org

December 2018

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Happy holidays to you and yours! As 2019 approaches, we should take time to count our many blessings and make some meaningful resolutions for the coming year. Hopefully, two of those resolutions will be to: (1) recruit new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter and/or (2) volunteer to serve on one or more of the chapter committees listed on *page 7*.

With more active members, the chapter could get more involved in community activities and be able to financially support more worthy charities. **Remember: it is everyone's business to recruit new members!** Our goal is 30 this year, and we have recruited only 7 so far! Certainly, all of us know at least one person who is eligible to join MOAA. Ask them to join "one of the top lobbying associations in Washington, DC" for the eleventh year in a row as rated by the political newspaper, *The Hill*. Since 1929, MOAA's greatest mission has been to protect our earned military benefits. Through tireless advocacy, the Association has forged a legacy of success benefiting the entire military community.

Your chapter dues for 2019 should be paid no later than the first of January. At their last meeting, the chapter board members voted to increase dues from \$25 to \$30. If dues are paid before 1 January 2019, they are \$25; after that date, they will be \$30. You may pay chapter dues up to five years in advance at the \$25 rate, if they are paid before 1 January 2019.

Finally, be sure to select a new health plan through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). You must enroll during the open season—12 November through 10 December 2018--to avoid losing dental coverage on 1 January 2019. To learn more about what you must do, please read the article on *page 5*.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WISHES ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

DECEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 4 December 2018

Social: 1700; Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

The John Bennett Trio will once again play for our singing, listening, and dancing pleasure!

Raffle tickets are available for ten gift baskets and wine which will benefit the endowment of the third Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship.

Please bring your packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

DRESS: We encourage you to wear your Service Dress Uniform or festive holiday attire to the meeting!

MENU:

London Broil Finished with Pinot Noir

Demi-Glace

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Spring Greens, Pears, Hazelnuts, and Feta Cheese

Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette

Chef's Assorted Desserts

Rolls and Butter

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, and Iced Tea

COST: \$27.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald 503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 November 2018**. **No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we must pay for no-shows.**

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**By Major William J. Tidd, USAF
(Ret)**

The MOAA Portland Chapter has had **NO** new members join since the November issue of the *Brass Bulletin*.

In my opinion, our chapter has reached the moment in time when the decline in membership and the failure to recruit new members is going to affect the annual budget and the capability of the organization to support its many initiatives. For several years, the chapter has been able to financially continue its activities, due to the generosity of several individuals. As the Chapter Membership Chair, I believe we can no longer sustain our budget, relying on these contributions.

During the August 2nd board meeting, a proposal for increasing the regular membership annual dues from \$25 to \$30 was submitted and approved by the board. The increase in dues will take effect on 1 January 2019. However, the increase of \$5 a year for the regular membership dues will only increase disposable funds by \$650. (130 regular members x \$5 = \$650 per year).

Therefore, I am requesting that all non-paying Surviving Spouse members of the chapter consider paying annual chapter dues of \$25. The extra dues will help pay for the production and mailing of the *Brass Bulletin Newsletter*, as well as contributing to the bottom line of our annual budget. A letter from the MOAA Portland Chapter President will be sent to all Surviving Spouse members in the next week requesting that each pay \$25 for chapter dues for 2019.

I recently returned from the MOAA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. There were a couple of issues discussed at the "Chapter Roundtable" that I want to convey to the membership:

- MOAA is in the process of changing the wording from "Auxiliary" to "Surviving Spouse" in all their documents since this Bylaws Change was approved by the membership.
- There will be a MOAA NW Region Workshop for selected Council and Chapter members from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Northern California on 3 and 4 May 2019 in Portland, OR. Details will be provided when site and times are confirmed.
- It is important that **EACH MEMBER** updates his/her personal information with MOAA Headquarters. I have the authority to change addresses and phone numbers, but ***only the member*** can change his/her **email**. The easiest way to update your personal profile is to go on-line at www.moaa.org or send an email to msc@moaa.org.

I hope that each of you will find time to join us at our annual Christmas party at The Monarch Hotel on the 4th of December. *Happy Holidays!!*

**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN
GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2019 DUES!**
By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Treasurer

As of 8 November 2018, the MOAA Portland Chapter has **188** total members:

- 38 members have paid chapter dues through 2019
- 11 members have paid chapter dues through 2020
- 10 member has paid chapter dues through 2021
- 8 members have paid chapter dues through 2022
- 6 members have paid chapter dues through 2023
- 10 Surviving Spouse members paid 2019 chapter dues
- 44 Surviving Members have not paid 2019 chapter dues (not required)
- 3 Honorary Members (do not pay annual chapter dues)
- 3 Voices for America's Troops who have paid 2019 annual chapter dues
- 55 members have not paid chapter dues for 2019

2019 Annual Chapter Dues are **\$25.00** if you pay them **BEFORE 1 January 2019**. **AFTER 1 January 2019**, the dues go up to **\$30**. There are several ways you can pay: in cash or check at a meeting, mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213), having your bank mail us a check, or you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.

Reminder: When you make a reservation to attend a MOAA Portland Chapter meeting and fail to attend or cancel your reservation the night before, you incur an obligation to reimburse the Chapter for the cost of your reservations. The Chapter is required to pay for your meal(s) whether you are there or not. If you made reservations and failed to show, please send a check to cover the cost of your meal(s) to the Chapter Treasurer at **MOAA Portland Chapter, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213**.

AN OPINION PIECE: MY COMMENTARY ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) Legislative Committee Chair

Apologies are in Order! At the 3 November 2018 Chapter meeting, I quoted an article in the *Los Angeles Times* supposedly quoting a statement made recently by Senator Diane Feinstein of California; the supposed quote disparaged veterans badly. To my chagrin, two emails were awaiting me within an hour of the completion of the meeting. Two hawk-eyed members did a fact check on the “quote” and determined it to be false and misleading. Indeed, it was fake news of the worst kind.

I fact-checked the fact checkers and agreed with their findings. Thus, I must apologize to the entire chapter for failing in a basic way to report what is verifiable news! I promise you, our members, that such a failure will not be repeated going forward! And I thank our intrepid members for taking quick action and then notifying me of the error.

I generally use the following sources in preparing my notes: *The Oregonian*, all the MOAA publications and emails and positioning statements, the *U.S. Navy Institute Proceedings* daily updates, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Overall, these sources are trustworthy and provide more content than I can utilize.

This should never have happened and definitely will not happen again! Feel free to respond to me at rocketlarry@icloud.com or **503-722-1897**.

Sin Tax Increases on the Way? The Cascade Policy Institute reports that the Governor is proposing to the legislature that the next legislative session pass a bill to raise taxes on beer, wine, cider, cigarettes and cigars, and vaping pens.

The state hopes to raise close to \$800 million in the next biennium, positioned as a public health measure. What it really addresses is a similar \$800 million shortfall in funds required to support the previously expanded ranks of Medicaid beneficiaries. This is the second edition of band-aids to support Medicaid, the first being the taxes on hospitals and health insurers in the current two-year period. Indeed, the current round of taxes in effect are passed down to the taxpayers.

Of course, there is a problem with sin taxes, in that if they succeed in diminishing sales of beer, et. al., then there is less revenue raised. What the state really wants and needs flat or increasing sin product sales, not diminishing sales.

Many states fell into the Medicaid trap of the last Federal Administration, which promised to fund the expenses of such an expansion, but only for a finite time, after which federal support would diminish. The result is that many states are struggling with the same problem as Oregon.

Looking forward, the two driving forces toward higher spending and higher taxes are Medicaid and

PERS. Until these issues are faced and resolved, just plan to keep opening your wallet.

To Heck with the Cost: We WILL Reduce Diesel Emissions: Living in West Linn, I am not bothered individually by economically questionable Area agency purchasing decisions. However, my eyes snapped open at a recent Cascade Policy Institute report that TRIMET plans to replace its entire fleet of diesel buses with battery electric versions by 2040.

The differential in cost is staggering, with battery electric costing an estimated \$553 million, essentially 1/2 billion, more than the diesel variety. Anybody want to bet against the likelihood that the differential will expand over the next 21 years? That is an extra \$26 million in acquisition cost per year, which, do you think, will factor in service pricing?

Moreover, King City has found that the battery electric buses generally suffer breakdowns slightly less than every 3,000 service miles, while the old but reliable diesel bus goes over 17,000 miles before breakdowns. Think of the maintenance costs associated with the new fleet potentially being over 6 times that of the old reliable one.

Looking further, Los Angeles did a study to find that buses powered by renewable natural gas from land-fills exceeded the fuel economy of electric vehicles.

I am aware that the above data is likely offset to some extent by lower particulate emissions by the electric vehicles, and there are other factors to consider, but the magnitude of the cost differential and the reliability data as presented causes at least considerable questioning of the basic decision.

Oh, well, I did not see on my property tax statement that I am paying any

TRIMET taxes, but it is a fair assumption that I will in the future as TRIMET heads to Bridgeport.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: TWO DESIGNATED SCHOLARS NAMED FOR 2018-2019

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Since the Chapter finished fully funding our second \$25,000 Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship this summer, we now have **TWO** Designated Scholars for the academic year 2018-2019, **Ryan Russell** and **Skyler Schuck**.

We will contact them as soon as possible and give Chapter members a report in the next combined *February & March 2019 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*.

We are now in the early stages of funding a third scholarship. Great work! What an achievement!

Only 5 other chapters throughout the country have more scholarship recipients per year than we do, and no other Oregon chapter sponsors even a single scholarship.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT
By Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)

- **Junior ROTC (JROTC) Connections:**
 - “Living History Events” (opportunities to speak to high school students about our military experiences) were held on 8 November 2018 at both **Oregon City High School (OCHS)** and at **Reynolds High School**. I was glad to learn that some of our chapter members had volunteered to speak at one or both venues.
- **Stand-downs**
 - I staffed the MOAA Portland Chapter table at the East County (Troutdale) Stand-down on 20 October 2018. It was a typical Stand-down, but the unusual aspect was our joint effort with the **The Elks Veterans Bunker** in Saint Helens. As a volunteer for that non-profit and going to set up a MOAA table at East County, I transported 100 pairs of blue jeans from **The Bunker** to vets in need in Troutdale. I returned

to St. Helens with the left-over clothing items, and we determined our needs for the upcoming two-day **Columbia County Stand-down** (9 and 10 November in St. Helens).

- When our needs were determined to have been met, my wife **Kathryn MacEllven** and I transported more jeans and other clothes to the **Camp Rilea (Warrenton) Stand-down** with their excess going to the **Tillamook Stand-down** a week later. The remainder was composed mostly of about 50 sport coats (high quality, with no or little wear), slacks, and women's clothes. Kathryn and I transported these items to the **Vietnam Veterans of America** donation site at the **Red, White, & Blue Thrift Shop** in Gladstone.

FEDVIP OPEN SEASON STARTS MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2018
By CAPT Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret),
MOAA's Director of MOAA
Government Relations Health Affairs

On Monday, military retirees will begin selecting a new health plan through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

Retirees who have the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan administered by Delta Dental must enroll during the open season to avoid losing dental coverage on 1 January 2019.

Enrollment, which can be done online or on the phone, ends at midnight Eastern time on 10 December 2018.

FEDVIP offers retirees 10 choices for dental coverage and four vision carriers. Compare rates using this tool: <https://tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/findPlan?ctoken=EYVilxSc>

Retirees can make a plan selection and enroll online or over the phone (**877-888-3337**) from **12 November until 10 December 2018**.

The same phone number can be used by retirees to request a plan comparison from a customer service representative, but officials said retirees must contact plan carriers directly for specific details.

A special comparison chart and FEDVIP Guide is included in the November 2018 *MOAA Military Officer Magazine*, which is delivered to MOAA premium and life members. Members can access their digital edition by going to www.moaa.org or and logging in.

The availability of new choices in dental and vision coverage is truly a culture change for TRICARE beneficiaries. Historically, military beneficiaries have always had one plan and only one, so there was no choosing between options.

Another significant change with the new coverage plan is the open enrollment season. The defined period to select plans may be the hardest part of the change and could result in feeling of anxiety for some beneficiaries.

“If you are depressed, you are living in the past.

If you are anxious, you are living in the future.

If you are at peace, you are living in the present.”

-- Lao Tzu

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison******CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE,
HAPPINESS AND CHEER***

Our MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, 18 December 2018 at 12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232. We will be served in the main dining room where you can choose from the menu.

If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina's at **503-231-0216** to work out a viable menu. Wives of regular chapter members are always welcome.

For reservations, contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at jymbo@earthlink.net or **503-654-1511**.

We always have chocolate candy at each table setting, donated by Mrs. Carol Patrick; a surprise gift to the lucky person who has a sticker on the bottom of her coffee cup; and continual conversation.

We are treated to models showing clothing and jewelry from "Albertina's Closet."

Plan to come early and check out the different shops. It will be a wonderful time to shop for Christmas.

Remember to bring diapers and wipes with you for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Solders Program**.

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM A CHAPTER MEMBER!***By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret),
Membership Committee Chair***

The MOAA Portland Chapter has had a recent request for transportation from **Dade Wright**. He is a long-time Chapter member who lives very close to Good Samaritan Hospital in Northeast Portland. He no longer drives but is interested in coming to our meetings.

His address is 2420 NW Marshall Street, Portland, OR. If there are any potential drivers who could pick him up and drop him off after meetings, it would be very helpful and much appreciated.

If you are interested, please contact MOAA Portland Chapter member, **COL Ramona Candelin, USAR (Ret)**, at rscandelin@gmail.com who is in touch with Dade.

Indeed, as winter sets in, we have certain chapter members and potential members who find it difficult to drive, especially at night.

If we could establish a small group of drivers to serve their needs, we could add to our active membership rolls, do a good deed for each of them, and expose them to our excellent programs.

Any member who might like to volunteer to drive members to chapter meetings should contact the Membership Chair, **Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)** at wtidd96218@aol.com or **443-996-1011** (cell)!

2018-2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS**President:**

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

First Vice President:

CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret): 503-722-1897

Second Vice President:

Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret): 443-996-1011

Correspondence Secretary:

LTC George Peters, USA (Ret): 503-659-0834

Recording Secretary:

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

Reservations Secretary:

CDR Michael Seiwald: 503-381-2620

Treasurer:

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 503-644-7353

Immediate Past President: *Vacant***BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297
LTC William G. Kroger: 971645-6889

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896
CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret): 503-974-9335

Air Force Reps

Col Lynn Guenther, 541-354-1771
Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253

Marine Corps Rep

Captain Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep

CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS

CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman: 503-333-4565

Women in Service Rep

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret): 503-739-3334

PORTLAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

Membership: Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

Legislative: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Communications: LTC William Kroger, USAR (Ret)

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman
Mrs. Carol Patrick

Decorations: Mrs. Betty Richard

Fundraising: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR
(Ret)

Special Events: Capt Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm)

ESGR Outreach: COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)
COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

Chaplain: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)
Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

(NOTE: More contact information on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, **www.moaaportland.org**)

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark your calendars!

<i>January 2019</i>	<i>No chapter meeting scheduled</i>
February 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 7, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
March 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 2, 2019	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>April 10, 2019</i>	<i>MOAA "Storming the Hill" in Washington, DC</i>
<i>May 2, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
May 4, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0945**—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: The newsletter takes a hiatus during January 2019. All articles for the combined ***February & March 2019 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Col **Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **6 January 2019**.