

Minutes from the 4 March 2023 Chapter Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **30** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting at The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **1000**.
- **President Mayer** made opening remarks and welcomed back our guest speaker, **Ms. Kelly Fitzpatrick**, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and MOAA Portland Chapter member. She also stated that we would be recognizing and honoring military women and Vietnam War Veterans at this meeting.
- Finally, she recognized two special attendees:
 - **LTC John Toll, USA** – the new Commander of the Army ROTC at the University of Portland
 - **CDR Colin Kliewer**, Executive Officer at the NOAA Marine Operations Center Pacific and the new NOAA representative to our board. He lives in Dallas, OR.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and. **President Mayer** gave the Invocation.

HONORING MILITARY WOMEN AND VIETNAME WAR VETERANS

- **President Mayer** stated that March is Women's History Month, and, as part of the celebration, we salute female veterans of all branches and all eras. Each military woman in attendance was individually recognized and thanked for her service.
- **President Mayer** also stated that March is Military Appreciation Month. 2023 is the 50th anniversary recognizing the end of the Vietnam War, and the MOAA Portland Chapter recognized and honored its Vietnam War veterans, surviving spouses, other family members, and caretakers this morning by giving each honoree a Presidential Proclamation and commemorative pin.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, **Ms. Kelly Fitzpatrick**, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, gave an "Update on Veterans' Issues in Oregon," emphasizing the mission, vision, and values of ODVA and the 2023-2025 Governor's Recommended Budget Investments for ODVA. A spirited question-and-answer session followed.

BUSINESS SESSION

- **Chapter President's Comments:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - **Top Priority:** Reminder to pay your 2023 Chapter Dues
 - **Second Priority:** Bring in new chapter members
 - **Third Priority:** Finding volunteers to fill the following positions:
 - **U.S. Public Health Service Representative on the Board** (replacing Dr. Robert Steelman)
 - **Second USAF Representative on the Board**
 - **Treasurer** [replacing LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)]
- **Nomination Package Submission Date for the Levels of Excellence Award is due to MOAA National on 1 May 2023.** Send community activities to maryjmayer@yahoo.com by 4 April.
- **Save the Dates:**
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 3 May 2023 at 0800 via Zoom Video Teleconference
 - **ODVA Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Meeting** will be held on 7 June 2023 from 0930-1200 in Grants Pass, OR.
 - **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting** will be held on Saturday, 8 April 2023 at 1200 noon via Zoom Video Teleconference
 - **Update on 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games to be held from 4-9 July 2023**

- **Maj Sean Benson** updated the chapter on the Wheelchair games. Our Chapter presented him with a check for \$3,127.50 for challenge coins for the games.
- Volunteers are needed; please register to help at www.wheelchairgames.com

Committee Reports:

- **Membership Committee Report** by **Maj Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**: We have three new members.
- **Status of Fundraising Project**: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
 - **Next Project: 2023 Oregon Women Veterans' Biennial Conference**
 - **Chapter will give** at least a \$500 donation (*proceeds from raffles in Feb, Mar, and Apr 2023*) and set up a MOAA Membership Table
- **Legislative Committee: LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)/ CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - **MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) Event – April 26, 2023 in Washington, DC.**
 - Since **Lt Col Tom Majchrowski, USAF (Ret)**, the President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, cannot attend this year, former MOAA Board member, **CAPT Peter Troedsson, USCG (Ret)**, will lead the Oregon delegation in reaching out to Oregon's Senators and Representatives during the 2023 MOAA Advocacy in Action Event.
- **Surviving Spouse**: Mrs. Jean Hillman stated that there have been 2 luncheons, and they are trying to get more spouses to attend.
- **Personal Affairs**: Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) said that there have been no deaths since the last chapter meeting in February 2023.
- **Special Events Committee Report** by: Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - **AWARD PRESENTATIONS at UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND**: Plans to recognize outstanding cadets at the University of Portland AROTC and AFROTC
 - **2023 MOAA LEADERSHIP AWARDS** will be presented to the following cadets at the University of Portland:
 - Air Force ROTC **Cadet Alexa M. Ulrich** and Army ROTC **Cadet TBD**
 - Both will be presented with a \$300 scholarship grant.
 - **2023 AFROTC AWARDS DINNER AND AROTC DINING OUT**
 - **AFROTC Annual Awards Dinner**: Tuesday, 25 April 2023, 1630: social; 1700-2020: dinner and awards presentation, Bauccio Commons, University of Portland Campus
 - **AROTC Dining Out**: Thursday, 20 April 2023, Bauccio Commons, University of Portland Campus
- **GOLD BAR PROGRAM**
 - The Chapter will continue to present Gold Bars this year to the 14 AROTC and 5 AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland.
- **JROTC Detachments**
 - Support the following JROTC Detachments:
 - Presentation of MOAA Leadership Awards cadet at each high school
 - \$300 to each Detachment Commander to support JROTC Activities.
- **USAA Sponsorship Funds Program for 2023: The \$300 funds were approved.**
 - Request for \$300 was approved and received for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

“For the Good of the Order:” The winners of the wine raffle were CWO4 Gerald Burn, CAPT Jim Main, CPT John Sweeny, Mrs. Jean Hillman, and CDR Dave Bredemann. CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) gave the joke.

Closing Remarks. The Chapter President thanked **Kelly Fitzpatrick, CAPT Sharon Sebbio** for the table decorations, and the staff of The Aerie for the great food and service. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, 4 April 2023 at The Monarch Hotel. The **Guest Speaker** is MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret) who will speak on “Tensions over Taiwan.” Inputs for the *April/May Brass Bulletin Newsletter* are due NLT Monday, 6 March 2023.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 1209.