

Minutes from the 6 May 2023 Chapter Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **32** 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, stating that May was National Military Appreciation Month. She then introduced our guest speaker, **LtCol Ryan L. Barton, USAF**, the Deputy Commander, 142nd Mission Support, Portland Air National Guard Base. He was accompanied by **TSgt Reymundo Castillo, USAF**. **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the Invocation.
- After brunch was served, **Lt Col Barton, USAF** spoke to the chapter membership on “**Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicles, commonly known as Robotic Dogs.**” **TSgt Castillo, USAF** demonstrated the different capabilities of the Robotic Dog to those in attendance both inside and outside the venue.

BUSINESS SESSION

Chapter President’s Comments: Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

- At the **3 May 2023 Board of Directors Meeting**, the following were discussed:
 - **Chapter Budget and Membership Dues:**
 - All budget items were on track, except payment of annual membership dues.
 - **Priority: Election of Chapter Officers for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 (2 Year Terms):**
 - **Schedule:**
 - April: Nomination of Officers
 - May: Election of Officers
 - June: Installation of Officers
 - **Slate of Proposed Officers:**
 - **Co-Treasurers:** LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)/CDR Doug J. Sheehan, USCGR (Ret)
 - **Recording Secretary:** Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret)
 - **Reservations Secretary:** CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)
 - **Second Vice President:** Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)
 - **First Vice President:** LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)
 - **President:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - **The chapter members approved our Chapter Officers to be installed in June.**
 - **USPHS Representative to the Chapter Board of Directors**
 - CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman has agreed to stay on the board since he can attend virtually while living in Idaho; he has paid chapter dues for 2023 and 2024.
 - **Changes to Committees:**
 - **Co-Membership Chairs:** Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) & CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret)
 - **Special Events Chair,** LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret), is to be assisted by Col Bill Crist, USA (Ret) and Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), when requested.
 - **Chaplains:**
 - **Board Chaplain:** Reverend Karyn Dix
 - **Chapter Meeting Chaplain:** LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)
 - **Nomination Package Submission Date for the Levels of Excellence Award**
 - Due to MOAA National: 1 May 2023; submitted 30 April 2023
 - **Save the Dates – MOAA Events:**
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 2 August 2023 0800 Virtual Meeting
 - **Save the Dates – Other:**
 - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Meeting.** 7 June 2023, 0930-1200, Grants Pass, OR

- **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**, 8 July 2023 1200-1400 via Zoom
- **Update on 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games:** 600 volunteers have signed up but still need 1,400 more for 4-hour shifts; 569 athletes have signed up to compete. Register at www.wheelchairgames.com Just show up to attend events; no registration is needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership Committee Report by Colonel Mayer for Maj Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
 - **3 New Members:**
 - Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren, USAF (Ret) and wife Diane
 - LCDR Aron Swerdlin, USN (Ret) and wife Bobbi
 - Major Paul Granada, USAF (Ret) and wife Nancy
 - **Status of Fundraising Project:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
 - **Current Charity:**
 - **2023 Oregon Women Veterans' Conference:** A \$500 check will be sent to ODVA.
 - **New Charity:** It will be selected at the 2 August 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.
 - **Legislative Committee:** LTC Gary Battles, USAF (Ret)/CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
 - **Advocate:** Sign and mail the 4 postcards in the May 2023 edition of the *Military Officer Magazine*.
 - **Advocate:** Visit the offices of our U.S. Senators and Congressmen in August when they are home in Oregon to lobby on the MOAA Advocacy-in-Action topics.
 - **Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Jean Hillman said they are planning to have a luncheon in June.
 - **Personal Affairs:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) said there were no deaths reported this month.
 - **Special Events Committee Report by:** LCDR Chris Gale, USCG (Ret)
 - **2023 AFROTC AWARDS DINNER AND AROTC DINING OUT**
 - **2023 MOAA Leadership Awards** were presented to one AROTC cadet and one AFROTC cadet at the University of Portland on 20 April and 25 April 2023, respectively.
 - The Chapter presented the Gold Bars this year to the 14 AROTC and 5 AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland.
 - **JROTC Detachments**
 - LCDR Chris Gale, USCG (Ret) presented the MOAA Leadership Award to the following JROTC cadet at:
 - Reynolds High School: 17 March 2023 – Military Ball – Cadet Savannah Anderson
 - Oregon City High School: 5 April 2023 – Cadet Staff Sergeant Evan Roberts
 - \$300 will be given to each Detachment Commander to support JROTC Activities.
 - **USAA Sponsorship Funds Program for 2023**
 - Request for \$300 was approved and received for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
 - **For the Good of the Order:**
 - Wine Raffle Winners were Mrs. Jean Hillman; CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret); CAPT Jim Main, USN (Ret); and Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret)
 - **Joke:** CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) presented the joke.
 - **Closing Remarks by Chapter President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 6 June 2023, **Guest Speaker** will be **CDR Daniel Pippenger, USCG (Ret)**, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Portland. **Topic:** “What’s Going On at PDX?”
 - Inputs for the June 2023 newsletter are due no later than 8 May 2023. The chapter newsletter will take a hiatus during the summer; the next edition will be the September 2023 edition.
 - She wished all the mothers a Happy Mother’s Day and recognized the Women’s Army Corps, founded 81 years ago, on 15 May 1942.
 - The meeting was adjourned at **1206**.