

Minutes from the 6 September 2022 Chapter Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **35** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President, **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **1830**.
- **President Mayer** recognized the guest speakers, **Mr. Jim Lasher** (and his wife **Elsie**) and **Mr. Arlo Gatchel** (and his wife **Judy**). They would speak to the membership after dinner on “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Commissioning of the *USS Oregon*: From Soup to Nuts.”
 - She congratulated the **MOAA Portland Chapter** for winning the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for Exceptional Performance in 2021**. The chapter has won this award *fifteen* consecutive years.
 - Also, congratulations were in order for our two sister MOAA Oregon Chapters —the **Central Oregon Chapter** and the **Emerald Empire Chapter** – for also winning the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for 2021**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem; and **Reverend Karyn Dix** gave the Invocation. Reverend Dix emphasized in her prayer that we will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks—a series of four coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States. She asked that the membership pause for a moment of silence to honor those who gave their lives in that attack upon our homeland and continued her prayer that an event like this never happen again.
- **Chapter President’s Comments:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - The Chapter President introduced the 2022-2023 Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs to the membership.
 - **Feedback from 4 August 2022 Board of Directors Meeting**
 - Colonel Mayer reported that the chapter ended the 2021-2022 program year in the black.
 - As of **31 July 2022**, our overall total assets were **\$24,257.64**, and we had a total of **164** Chapter members:
 - 111 regular members,
 - 50 Surviving Spouse members, and
 - 3 Honorary Members
 - The Board of Directors passed a balanced budget for 2022-2023
 - For those **Special Projects** which could not be included in the budget, we will continue to conduct raffles to fund them.
 - **Save the Dates – MOAA:**
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**
 - Date: Thursday, 3 November 2022 Time: 0900-1200 Virtual via Zoom
 - **MOAA National Board of Directors and Annual Meeting**
 - Date: 26 -29 October 2022, Location: Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO
 - **Save the Dates – Other:**
 - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Meeting**
 - Date: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 Time: 0930-1200
 - Location: Grand Ronde, OR
 - **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**
 - Date: Saturday, 8 October 2022 Time: 1200 Virtual via Zoom
- After dinner was served, **Mr. Jim Lasher** and **Mr. Arlo Gatchel** gave a joint presentation on the ***USS Oregon* Commissioning Program**. A question-and-answer session then followed, and the Chapter President presented each of them with a bottle of wine. **Mr. Gatchel** then presented the

Chapter President with an *USS Oregon* Honorary Plank Owner Certificate and Coin.

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Membership Committee:** Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)
 - One area for emphasis is recruiting new members for our chapter
 - **Special Events Committee:** LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)
 - **LCDR Christopher Gale** will continue to establish relationships with:
 - **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret):** JROTC Detachment at Oregon City High School
 - **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret):** JROTC Detachment at Reynolds High School.
 - **AFROTC and AFTOTC Commanders** at the University of Portland
 - **Legislative Committee:** LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)/CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
 - The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was signed by President Biden on 10 August 2022. The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic exposed veterans in more than 30 years.
 - **Fundraising Committee:** CAPT Larry Robert, USNR (Ret)
 - The Chapter raised **\$290** tonight for the commemorative coin project for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.
 - **Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Jean Hillman
 - **Next Surviving Spouse Luncheon:**
 - Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 Time: 12:00 noon
 - Location: Oswego Grill, 9073 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, OR (Clackamas Town Center)
 - **Personal Affairs:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - Since the last meeting, we have not been notified of any deaths.
 - However, according to Robert Flye, his father **LTC Macil Flye, USA (Ret)** is in hospice and is not expected to live long.
 - **LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret)** and **wife Susan** have moved to Mechanicsville, VA to be closer to their eldest son, Dean.
- **“For the Good of the Order”:**
 - **Wine Raffle:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret). Winners of one bottle of wine each were: CDR Doug Sheehan, CDR Michael Seiwald, Mr. Jim Lasher, and CAPT Chicky McKinzie.
 - **Membership Drawing for \$100 Dinner Gift Card for Saylor’s Old Country Kitchen:** Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret). The winner was **William B. Lacy**.
 - **Joke:** CDR Michael Seiwald gave the joke for CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret).
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) thanked the guest speakers, **Mr. Jim Lasher** and **Mr. Arlo Gatchel**, and their wives; all who came out this evening to support the chapter; **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for bringing the colorful decorations found on the tables; and the staff of The Monarch Hotel for the wonderful meal and service! The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, 1 October 2022** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR**. Guest speaker will be **RADM Chad Jacoby, USCG**. Topic will be **“Icebreakers in the Arctic.”**
 - **Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter:**
 - The next newsletter will be the **October 2022 edition** and will come out in **early September 2022**. Inputs for the **October 2022** newsletter are due **7 September 2022** at midnight.
 - Happy 75th birthday to the **U. S. Air Force**, established on 18 September 1947.
 - Remember that 11 September is **Grandparents’ Day**.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **2053**.