

## **Minutes from the 7 May 2022 Chapter Meeting**

### **By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary**

- **28** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting at The Aerie at Eagle Landing. The chapter was meeting for the first time in this venue. Chapter President, **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **1000**.
- **President Mayer** said that Congress has officially recognized May as National Military Appreciation Month. It's a wonderful time to thank our Armed Forces, as well as veterans, for their service to this great nation. She recognized the guest speaker, **LtCol Ara E. Barton, USMC (Ret)**, Manager of the Blackjack/Integrator Product Line at Insitu, Inc. (a Boeing subsidiary), who would be speaking later in the meeting on **"What is New in Drone Technology?"**
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** sang the National Anthem; and **Lt Col Jim Warnock, USAF (Ret)** gave the Invocation.
- **Chapter President's Comments:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - At the **5 May 2022 Board of Directors Meeting**, the following was discussed:
    - **Chapter Budget and Membership Dues:** All budget items were on track, except payment of annual dues. Of the 162 members of the chapter, 97 out of 110 regular members have paid and 5 Surviving Spouse members have voluntarily paid their 2022 dues.
    - **New Chapter Board Member: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** was elected to the Board of Directors, filling the "Director At Large" position vacated by **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** when he moved to the Marine Corps Rep position on the Board. **LCDR Gale** is also serving as the Special Events Committee Chair
    - This evening (Saturday, 7 May 2022), 11 members of the MOAA Portland Chapter will attend the **Oregon Vietnam War Memorial Gala Fundraiser Event** at the **NW Events in Hillsboro, Oregon**. The featured speaker is **General James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret)**, Secretary of Defense from 2017 to 2018. Social starts at 6:00 pm and dinner is served at 7:00 pm.
    - **Status of Fundraising Project:** The Board voted unanimously that our next Fundraising Project would be the purchase of 700 Challenge Coins for the 42<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games to be held in Portland, OR from 4-9 July 2023. **\$3,000** is required to purchase the Challenge Coins. Currently, we have **\$1,691.02** in our account to apply to this charitable project.
    - **Submission of the Levels of Excellence Award for 2021:** The Levels of Excellence Award submissions were due 1 May 2022. President Mayer submitted the Nomination Package for the MOAA Portland Chapter on **30 April 2022**.
    - **MOAA Council and Chapter Leaders Workshop (NW Region)** will be held from 3-4 June 2022 in Tacoma, Washington. The President, Membership Chair, Legislative Liaison, and Surviving Spouse Liaison will be attending from our chapter. States represented at this Workshop are OR, ID, WA, CA, and the virtual Councils and Chapters.
    - **MOAA Vacations: Signature Travel:** If you plan your vacation with MOAA Vacations, the chapter will receive a royalty – the MOAA Portland Chapter recently received \$70 as a MOAA Travel Royalty.
    - **Search for New President and CEO of MOAA:** **Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)**, the current President and CEO of MOAA, is leaving MOAA in January 2023. MOAA is currently looking for a replacement for him.
    - **Save the Dates – MOAA:**
      - **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting**
        - Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2022 via Zoom
      - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**
        - Date: Thursday, 4 August 2022 via Zoom

- **MOAA National Board of Directors Meeting**
  - Date: 13-15 July 2022 in Alexandria, VA
- **MOAA National Board of Directors and Annual Meeting**
  - Date: 26 -29 October 2022 in Kansas City, MO
- **Save the Dates – Other:**
  - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Meeting**
    - Date: Wednesday, 1 June 2022 via Zoom
  - **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**
    - Date: Saturday, 9 July 2022 via Zoom
- **Membership Committee Report.** Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) encouraged all to bring a potential new chapter member to the 7 June 2022 dinner meeting at The Monarch Hotel.
- **After Brunch, President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **LtCol Ara E. Barton, USMC (Ret)**, who gave his presentation. After a lively Q&A session, **Colonel Mayer** presented the guest speaker with a memento from the chapter.
- **Committee Reports (continued):**
  - **Special Events Committee:** LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)
    - **Col Mayer** presented the **MOAA ROTC Award** and **\$300 scholarship** to **Cadet Konnor Hathaway** at the **Air Force ROTC Dining-Out on Tuesday, 12 April 2022**. She also presented the 16 commissioning cadets with their first set of Gold Bars.
    - **LCDR Gale** presented the **MOAA ROTC Award** and **\$300 scholarship** to **Cadet Kaylee Ocheltree** on **Thursday, 28 April 2022**. He also presented 18 commissioning cadets with their first set of Gold Bars.
    - **.Junior ROTC (JROTC) Connections:** **LCDR Gale** presented the MOAA JROTC Award to **Cadet Mason Gram** on 31 March 2022 and to **Cadet Elana Lathrop** on 7 April 2022. **Presentation of \$300** to each JROTC Detachment Commander to support JROTC Activities will be presented to each Detachment Commander at the 7 June 2022 MOAA Portland Chapter dinner meeting
  - **Legislative Committee:** **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)**, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, and the **Chapter President** contacted Oregon Representatives Bonamici, Schrader, and Blumenauer to lobby the MOAA Advocacy-in-Action topics: Support for the Major Richard Star Act, Reduced TRICARE Mental Health Co-Payments, and Enactment of a 4/6% Military Pay Raise in the FY2023 NDAA.
  - **Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Jean Hillman said the next Surviving Spouse Luncheon is to be held on Tuesday, 24 May 2022 at 12:00 noon at the Claim Jumper Restaurant in Tualatin, OR.
  - **Personal Affairs:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret). Since the last meeting, we have been notified of two deaths in the chapter: **LCDR Robert Russnogle, USN (Ret)** who died on 4 January 2022 and **LCDR George Huff Bickford, Sr., USN (Ret)** who died on 12 April 2022
- **“For the Good of the Order”**
  - **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** stated that the **USS Oregon Commissioning Ceremony will be held on 28 May 2022** in Groton, CT. The event can be viewed virtually.
  - **The 15th Annual Patriotic Tribute will be held at Volcanoes Stadium on 4 July 2022**
  - **Raffle:** **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** stated that we raised **\$235**. Winners were **Maj William Tidd, CDR Michael Seiwald, CDR Dave Bredemann, and Col Geoffrey McCarthy.**
  - **Joke:** CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) presented the joke.
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President:** **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** wished all the mothers a Happy Mother’s Day and thanked the guest speaker for his remarks, **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for providing the table decorations, and the staff of The Aerie for their excellent service. The next meeting will be held on 7 June 2022 at The Monarch Hotel; the June newsletter will have all the details and will be the last newsletter until the September 2022 edition.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **1202**.