

Minutes from the 1 September Virtual Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **20** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Virtual Meeting via Zoom. Chapter President, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, called the meeting **to order at 1716**. She welcomed guest speaker, **CAPT Erin E. Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret)**, Program Director for MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs, who would later give the chapter members an update on **“MOAA National in 2020.”**
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem. **President Mayer** followed that with the invocation.
- **President Mayer** congratulated the members of the chapter for winning the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for Exceptional Performance in 2019**. The chapter has won this award thirteen consecutive years. She also congratulated the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and our sister MOAA Central Oregon Chapter for also winning the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award**.
- **President Mayer** gave feedback from the **6 August 2020 Board of Directors Meeting**:
 - Due to realignments and resignations, the following positions need to be filled:
 - Air Force and Coast Guard representatives on the Chapter Board of Directors
 - Special Events Committee Co-Chair
 - Decorations Committee Chair.
 - We ended the 2019-2020 year in the black. Total Chapter assets are \$26,384.26.
 - We now have 170 Total Chapter Members: 114 regular members, 52 Surviving Spouse Members, and 4 Honorary Members—after 9 Chapter members were dropped by the Board for failure to pay their 2020 dues.
 - Annual chapter dues were increased from \$25 to \$30 starting in 2019 and will stay at \$30 for 2020-2021.
 - Our recruiting goal this year is 30 new members. Last year we had 13 new members. We have 2 new members so far this year. The Chapter recruiter of the year gets \$50 to apply to Chapter lunches or dinners.
 - The 2020-2021 MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting Schedule is on our website at www.moaaportland.org
 - Chapter meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual.
 - The next Chapter Board of Directors Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, 5 November 2020.
 - The next MOAA National Board Meetings will be held virtually on 22-23 October 2020.
 - The next MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters meeting will be held on 11 March 2021 at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon, Oregon.
- **Save the Dates**:
 - 9 September 2020 at 0930: **Virtual Meeting of the Advisory Committee** to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - 10 October 2020: **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting** at the 50+ Senior Center in Salem, Oregon or via Zoom.
 - 22-23 May 2021: **Oregon Women Veterans’ Biennial Conference**. Location: The Riverhouse on the Deschutes, 3075 N Hwy 97, Bend, OR 97703. Phone: 541-389-3111. The **MOAA Portland Chapter donation of \$2,500** to be used for scholarships for first-time attendees to help with lodging and gas costs
 - 4-9 July 2023: **42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games** co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. 650 to 700 athletes attend these games from every state, Puerto Rico, and England. Hosts: August 2021 – New York City; July 2022 – Tempe, AZ
- **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **CAPT Erin E. Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret)**, Program Director for MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs, who gave the chapter members an update on **“MOAA National in 2020.”**
- **Membership Committee Report, Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**.
 - The monthly MOAA National list is **Major Bill Tidd’s** primary source of potential new members. He initiated a new pilot program for inviting prospective members to meetings. For a donation of \$10, they can sign up for a few select meetings to attend. We will try this for 3 to 6 months. For potential members who are on the fence about joining, we will give them this option.

- **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** is in contact with **CWO-2 Mary Barrera, USMC (Ret)** as a potential member, but she has five children and will join when things get back to normal.
- **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** asked what the \$10 buys them. **Major Tidd** clarified that everyone is invited to attend one time for free, but, after that, they should join the chapter.
- **Fundraising Committee, CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - On 2 May 2019, the Board voted unanimously to support the 2020 Oregon Women Veterans' Biennial Conference with a donation of \$2,500; this amount has been raised and will be given to ODVA in the Spring of 2021.
 - After paying ODVA, we still have \$800.47 left in the raffle fund for another project.
 - Eight (8) members are participating in the new virtual raffle tonight.
- **Legislative Committee, LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret) and CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - **Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley--plus Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, and Kurt Schrader**—have been contacted via email by Committee members, asking them to support the legislative items presented during the MOAA “Storming the Hill” virtual event in March 2020.
 - The Congressional members have not yet gotten back to **CAPT Larry Roberts** and **LTC Gary Battles**, and they will be following up. The chapter needs to maintain good relationships with the staff members working for our Oregon Congressional delegation to be most effective. Any contact with a member of Congress creates an impression that helps in the long term.
 - Chapter members are encouraged to use the MOAA “Call to Action” button on the MOAA website. If Democrats win, Senator Ron Wyden will be the chair of the Finance Committee.
 - **CAPT Erin Stone** said that if she gets a form letter response to an inquiry, she calls and asks to speak to the person who wrote the form letter.
- **Special Events Committee, Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)**. Due to medical issues, Doug is on leave of absence until January 2021
- **Communications (Public Affairs and Website), CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)**. The chapter website has been updated.
- **Surviving Spouse, President Mayer for Mrs. Jean Hillman**. The Surviving Spouses have decided to start supporting “Operation Diaper Bag,” started by the Portland VA Health Care System Women’s Committee in 2009.
- **Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
 - Since the last meeting, there has been **two deaths**: **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)** (died on 10 June 2020) and **Mrs. Betty Richard**, wife of **COL John Richard, USA (Ret)** (died on 30 June 2020)
 - **Mrs. Carol Patrick** just had open heart surgery.
 - **Mrs. Ann Roberts** is recovering nicely from throat surgery.
- During the “**For the Good of the Order**” portion of the meeting,
 - **CAPT Erin Stone** presented the **MOAA Leadership Award** to **CAPT Larry Roberts** for his dedication and long-time service to the MOAA Portland Chapter. He was presented with a certificate and lapel pin. We will put a picture on the chapter website.
 - **LtCol Nanci Visser, USMC (Ret)**, longtime MOAA Portland Chapter member who moved to Virginia, told a joke. She and husband Eric celebrate their 50-year wedding anniversary this year.
 - **Raffle – CAPT Larry Roberts**. The following individuals won two bottles of wine each: **Mrs. Jean Hillman** (she was not present), **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)** (he was not present), and **Col Mary J. Mayer**. The raffle brought in **\$170.00** with just eight individuals participating. **LTC Gary Battles** offered to ship **CAPT Erin Stone** a bottle, but she instead donated the bottle to the Chapter.
 - **In closing, President Mayer** thanked our guest speaker, **CAPT Erin Stone; CAPT Tony Sebbio** for being our Zoom host; and all those attended the meeting via Zoom.
- The next chapter meeting will be held virtually on **Saturday, 3 October 2020**. Guest speaker is **CAPT James Estramonte, USCG**, Former Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter *Munro* and current Chief of Staff, PACAREA. Reservations to attend must be made by 1100 on Wednesday, 30 September to **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)**. Inputs for the September 2020 *MOAA Portland Chapter Brass Bulletin Newsletter* are due to the Editor by midnight on **6 September 2020**.
- The meeting was **adjourned at 1850**.