

Minutes from the 3 February 2024 Chapter Meeting
By Maj Paul Granada, ANG (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **29** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing**. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0945**.
- **President Mayer** made opening remarks, wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and welcomed all to the first chapter meeting in 2024. She then introduced and welcomed our guest speaker, **CDR James A. Steele, USN**, Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland.
- Additionally, **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** introduced her two special guests. **Lt Col Fred Broadwater, ARNG (Ret)** and **Major Don Weber, ARNG (Ret)**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, who led the National Anthem. **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the invocation.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, **President Mayer** introduced **CDR James A. Steele, USN**, Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland, who provided a great overview and insight of US Navy recruiting--discussing academics, physical fitness, readiness impact, service, team, and values.

BUSINESS MEETING

- **Chapter President's Comments:**
 - President Mayer indicated that at next month's meeting she would be presenting the topics discussed at the next MOAA Portland Board of Directors Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 7 February 2024.
 - The MOAA Levels of Excellence Award nomination packages are due to MOAA National by Friday, 16 February 2024. Please email any community activities you have done during the year to Mary (maryjmayer@yahoo.com) NLT 7 February 2024 so she can include them in the award write-up.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Membership:** **CAPT Chicky McKinzie, USN (Ret)** and **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** gave the following report:
 - Chapter dues for 2024 were to have been paid by 1 January 2024. Those who have not paid their dues yet are highly encouraged to do so.
 - Members were encouraged to bring potential new chapter members to each chapter meeting.
 - The Membership Table is filled with valuable information on MOAA, the chapter, ODVA, Surviving Spouse, and current events. Members may take whatever documents they want to bring home.
 - **Fundraising Committee**
 - **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** reported that we have raised **\$2,684.49** toward our goal of \$5,000 for the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial on the grounds of the capitol in Salem, OR. We have committed to raising the whole amount by June 2024.
 - **Legislative Committee**
 - **Co-Chair LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** commented on MOAA being recognized as a top lobbyist for 17 straight years by *The Hill* in Washington, DC.
 - He also mentioned the importance of MOAA advocacy by each chapter member and indicated how to participate directly from the MOAA website.

- **Surviving Spouses: Mrs. Jean Hillman** reported that:
 - They were planning a Surviving Spouse Luncheon in April or May 2024. She and Mrs. Jan Brink would appreciate any ideas people had for a fun, welcoming luncheon.
 - She encouraged members to bring in baby items for Operation Diaper Bag and Operation Homefront, and to bring in old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.
- **Personal Affairs**
 - President Mayer announced the death of 3 of our chapter members: **COL John H. Hammond, Jr., USAR (Ret), Captain Rick P. Horiuchi, USAF (Ret), and Mrs. Lois Lobdell**, a Surviving Spouse.
 - **Col Rick Gano, USAF (Ret)** is recovering from a broken hip.
- **Special Events Committee**
 - **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** stated that the AFROTC cadet and the AROTC cadet from the University of Portland who receive the MOAA Leadership Award will also be presented with a scholarship check for \$300 for educational expenses from the MOAA Portland Chapter at the AROTC and AFROTC Awards Banquets in Spring 2024.
 - The chapter will continue to award a set of second lieutenant bars (“gold bars”) to the AROTC and AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland at the Spring 2024 Awards Presentations.
 - The chapter supports the JROTC Detachments at both Reynolds and Oregon City High Schools. **LCDR Gale** will present a MOAA Leadership Award to a selected cadet at each school, and \$400 will be awarded to each Detachment Commander to support JROTC leadership activities.
 - **LCDR Gale** has made a request for \$300 to the USAA Sponsorship Funds Program; if we get these funds again for 2024, the amount will be put into the JROTC Support Fund.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- **I Corp Twilight Tattoo** (University of Portland)
 - Date: Probably 3 May 2024
 - Location: Ft. Vancouver, WA
- **Celebrating Centenarian Veterans**
 - Invitees: Veterans from Portland, OR and Southern Washington
 - Number: Approximately 115 vets at the VA who are aged 99 or older (oldest = 107)
 - Awarded: a letter and coin
 - More information to follow
- The Wine Raffle winners were **COL Bob Windus, USAR (Ret); CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret); Mrs. Jan Brink; LT Roger Harr, USN (Ret); and LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)**. The raffle made \$325.
- **MG Curtis Loop, USAR (Ret)** won the Membership Appreciation dinner, and **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** provided the monthly joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked:
 - our guest speaker, **CDR James A. Steele, USN**, for his outstanding presentation;
 - all those in attendance who came out to support the chapter;
 - **Mrs. Nancy Menagh** for providing the decorations, and
 - the **staff** of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the wonderful meal and service. She then wished all a Happy New Year, Valentine’s Day, and Presidents’ Day.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, 2 March 2024** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing**, Happy Valley, OR. The guest speaker will be **Maj Gen Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret)**, Executive Vice President of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), who will speak on the “**B-21 Raider: A Multi-Purpose Air & Space Capability for Our National Security.**”
- Inputs for the combined **March-April 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** are due to the editor NLT Monday 6 March 2024. The meeting was adjourned at **1145**.