

Minutes from the 3 October 2020 Virtual Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **32** 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 0930**. She welcomed guest speaker, **CAPT James Estramonte, USCG**, Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard Pacific Area, who would address the membership later.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem. **Reverend Karyn Dix** gave the invocation.
- During her comments, **President Mayer** said that we still needed an Air Force and a Coast Guard Representative on the Chapter Board of Directors; a Co-Chair for the Special Events Committee to work with **Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)**; and, when things get back to normal, a Decorations Committee Chair.
- **President Mayer** will participate in the MOAA National Board of Directors Virtual Meetings on 22-23 October 2020 and asked members to “Save the Dates” for the following:
 - MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, 5 November 2020 at 0930 via Zoom
 - MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting - Thursday, 11 March 2021 at the Oregon Veterans’ Home, Lebanon, OR from 0930-1430
 - United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting – Saturday, 10 October 2020 at 1200 via Zoom
- The Chapter Recording Secretary, **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret)**, introduced the guest speaker, **CAPT James Estramonte, USCG**, Former Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter *Munro* and Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard Pacific Area, who gave a presentation on the “Mission and Accomplishments of the *Munro*.”
- **Committee Reports** then followed:
 - **Membership Committee Report, Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**: He asked that everyone read his “Membership Corner” in the October 2020 chapter newsletter. During this pandemic, he recommended that we get as many people as possible to attend our Zoom meetings.
 - **Fundraising Committee, CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**: At the 5 November 2020 MOAA Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, a new chapter charitable organization will be chosen for the upcoming raffles.
 - **Special Events Committee, Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)**. Due to medical issues, Doug is on leave of absence until January 2021. Col Mayer asked for some chapter members to help him with the JROTC and ROTC activities.
 - **Legislative Committee, LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)**: All of the Congressional aides seem to be distracted with COVID-19 virus issues and are not returning phone calls; however, the Committee has emailed position papers to the various Oregon Congressional Offices on the major legislative issues of import to MOAA. **President Mayer** asked **LTC Gary Battles** to contact Senator Merkley’s office to see if the Service Academy Interviews are going to be conducted in December 2020.
 - **Communications (Public Affairs and Website), CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)**. The chapter website (www.moaaportland.org) has been updated recently.
 - **Surviving Spouse, Mrs. Jean Hillman**. During the pandemic, the Surviving Spouses have been unable to meet, and it is not clear when lunches can be held again in person. Another issue is the fact that Albertina Kerr’s restaurant has closed permanently, so there is a search for finding restaurants both on the east and west side of Portland that will host the luncheons. The Surviving Spouses have started to support “Operation Diaper Bag” started by the Portland VA Health Care System Women’s Committee in 2009. Monetary donations and/or the following items are needed for this program: baby monitors, diapers in various sizes, burping cloths, bibs, pacifiers, bottles, baby wipes, baby clothes, small baby toys/rattles, teething rings, gift cards from major retailers, diaper bags, and nursing covers. The ladies can make homemade items for “Operation Diaper Bag.”
 - **Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**.
 - Mary reported that there had been one death: **Colonel Ivan J. Jones, USAF (Ret)**.

- She encouraged the membership to let her know about any deaths in the chapter or any members who are ill or have had/will have surgery so she can engage the Committee.
- **For the Good of the Order:**
 - **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** said there is now a 25% chance of winning the raffle. Eight members contributed to the raffle this month, with a total of **\$160** added to the raffle funds. The two raffle winners were: **Col Mary J. Mayer** and **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret)**. Each will receive two bottles of wine.
 - **CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)** told the joke.
 - **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** said that our meeting this morning has been recorded, and he will send a link to the recording for anyone who is interested.
- **In closing, President Mayer** thanked **CAPT James Estramonte, USCG** for his presentation; **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for being our Zoom host; and all who attended. The next Chapter Meeting will be held on **Saturday, 7 November 2020**, and our speaker will be **Brig Gen Donna M. Prigmore, OANG**, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard. Make your reservations by 4 November 2020. This will still be a virtual meeting. MOAA national is encouraging chapters to hold virtual meetings. The chapter might be able to meet in person for the December Holiday/Christmas Party, but that is not certain. The Chapter Board of Directors will discuss the plans for the December Meeting at its November meeting.
- The MOAA Portland Chapter website has a list of speakers for the 2020-2021 year under the “Meetings” tab. Please encourage potential members to make note of those speakers who interest them and then have them attend those meetings.
- The November 2020 newsletter will be emailed/mailed about 8 October 2020. Inputs for the newsletter need to be provided to Mary by midnight on 5 October 2020.
- If there are any changes in member’s contact information (email, address, phone number), please send the changes to **President Mayer** so she can update the Chapter Membership Roster.
- **President Mayer** reminded members to fly their flags on Columbus Day on 12 October 2020, wished the Navy a happy 245th birthday on 13 October 2020, and wished everyone a Happy Halloween on 31 October 2020.
- Finally, she reminded members that daylight savings ends 1 November 2020 and encouraged all to wear face coverings/masks, maintain social distancing, and wash their hands frequently..
- The meeting was **adjourned at 1043**.