

Minutes from the 4 November 2023 Chapter Meeting
By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **25** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0930**.
- **President Mayer** made opening remarks, noting that the chapter is the winner of the MOAA Five Star Levels of Excellence Award again for the 16th consecutive year. President Mayer introduced our virtual guest speaker, **Col Stuart Pettis, USAF (Ret)**, the Director of STEM Programs and Space Subject Matter Expert for the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA). She also introduced the newest member of the Chapter Board of Directors, **Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren, USAF (Ret)**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the Invocation.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, **President Mayer** introduced via virtual means, **Col Stuart Pettis, USAF (Ret)**. Col Pettis presented a very insightful program on the mission, organizational structure, and inter-service support of the recently created U.S. Space Force.

BUSINESS SESSION

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- **President Mayer** announced the following highlights from the 1 November 2023 Board Meeting:
 - **Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren, USAF (Ret)** was approved by the Chapter Board of Directors to serve as the second Air Force Representative on the Chapter Board.
 - As of 31 October 2023, the Chapter's overall assets were **\$22,717.37**, and there was a total of 155 members. She pointed out that we had 167 members at the same time last year.
 - **She** reminded members that **2024 Annual Chapter Dues** were to be paid by 1 January 2024, noting that dues are the only source of income to fund programs, website, and newsletter.
 - **President Mayer** noted the Veterans Appreciation Event by the JROTC at Oregon City High School on 8 November 2023. The University of Portland ROTC will celebrate on 11 Nov 2023. She also noted that the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs was going to host a statewide Veterans Day Ceremony at the Oregon State Capital Park on 11 November 2023. Liberty High School in Hillsboro was sponsoring a Salute to Veterans on 17 November 2023. She also reminded the group that many restaurants in the area were offering free meals to veterans.
 - Finally, she reminded the Chapter Board of Directors that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 7 February 2024 via Zoom.

Membership Committee Report: Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) and **CAPT "Chicky" McKinzie, USN (Ret)** pointed out the Membership Information Table, filled with items of interest for members. They also encouraged chapter members to bring in new eligible friends and colleagues to the chapter.

Fundraising Committee Report: CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) stated that the new chapter fundraising project was a chapter donation of \$5,000 (by June 2024) towards the Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Grounds of the Capitol in Salem, Oregon.

Program Committee: President Mayer discussed the **Christmas/Holiday Dinner Party**, planned for 5 December 2023 at The Monarch Hotel. The theme will be “Celebrating the 67th Anniversary of the MOAA Portland Chapter.” President Mayer announced that new MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, had accepted her request to be the guest speaker and to present the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award to the MOAA Portland Chapter.

Communications Committee: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) asked that members let him know of any newspapers where he could advertise our monthly chapter meetings. **President Mayer** noted that the website had recently been updated.

Surviving Spouse Committee: Mrs. Jean Hillman noted that the next Surviving Spouse Luncheon will be held at 1200 on 12 December 2023 at the Oswego Grill in Lake Oswego, OR. She commented that the Surviving Spouses continue to support “Operation Diaper Bag,” started by the Portland VA Health Care System Women's Committee, by donating diapers and baby wipes.

Personal Affairs Committee: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Since the last meeting, there have been no deaths reported. She asked members to let her know of any chapter members who are sick or are having surgery or have passed away so the Personal Affairs Committee could get engaged.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- The wine raffle raised **\$250**. Wine raffle winners were Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret); Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF, Ret); and several others.
- **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **Col Stu Pettis, USAF (Ret)**, and chapter member, **Maj Paul Granada, ANG (Ret)**, for his technical support to bring the guest speaker in virtually. She also thanked those members in attendance, **Mrs. Nancy Menagh** for bringing the table decorations, and the staff of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the wonderful meal and service.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 5 December 2023** at The Monarch Hotel. **Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, the new President and CEO, will be the guest speaker.
- The next *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* will be the December 2023 issue. Inputs are due **NLT Monday, 6 November 2023**.
- **President Mayer** reminded all in attendance to fly the flag on Veterans Day, 11 November, and Thanksgiving Day, 23 November. She also wished the U.S. Marine Corps a happy 248th Birthday on 10 November. Finally, she reminded all to turn their clocks back one hour as Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, 5 November 2023.
- The meeting was adjourned at **1115**.

