

Minutes from the 5 December 2023 Chapter Meeting
By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **74** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **1830**.
- **President Mayer** made opening remarks, noting the theme was the “67th Birthday of the MOAA Portland Chapter.” President Mayer welcomed our guest speaker, **Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, the new MOAA President and CEO.
- **Reverend Karyn Dix** gave the Invocation. The AFROTC Color Guard from the University of Portland did the posting of the colors. **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, who led the National Anthem.
- **President Mayer** introduced the Head Table:
 - **Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, MOAA President & CEO
 - **Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels**, Interim Director, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA)
 - **BG Dennis Merrill, USA (Ret)**, Immediate Past President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters
 - **Col Dave Casteel, USAF (Ret)**, Immediate Past President of the MOAA Washington State Council of Chapters, and his wife **Marilyn**
 - **Col Scott Grainger, USAF**, Professor of Air & Space Studies, and Commander, AFROTC Detachment 695, University of Portland
- Special guests who joined the chapter meeting included:
 - Air Force ROTC Cadets from the University of Portland who served as the Color Guard this evening: **Cadet Chase Richards, Cadet Dustin Kelly, Cadet Christian Browne, and Cadet Aleksei Zuniga**
 - **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)** – Commander, Army JROTC Detachment at Reynolds High School
 - **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)** - Commander of the Army JROTC Detachment at Oregon City High School
 - Former MOAA Board of Directors Members:
 - **Maj Gen Richard C. (Buck) Marr, USAF (Ret)** and his wife **Sherry**
 - **Brig Gen Dave Price, USAF (Ret)** and his wife **Paula**
 - **CAPT Peter Troedsson, USCG (Ret)**
 - **CAPT Kenneth J. Evans, USPHS (Ret)**, President of the Emerald Empire Chapter (Eugene), and his wife **Elaine**
 - **COL Jim Woodbridge, USA (Ret)**, Outgoing President, Central Oregon Chapter (Bend), and his wife **Becky**
 - **Captain Rod Williams, USAF (Ret)**, President of the Columbia River Chapter (Vancouver), and his wife **Pat**.
 - **Mrs. Cheryl Toland** – Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award Winner for 2022

GUEST SPEAKER

- After dinner, President Mayer introduced MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)**. Lt Gen Kelly provided the audience with a comprehensive overview of MOAA's history, culminating with the current programs and charities the organization supports. These charities include the Scholarship Fund and the MOAA Foundation. He discussed challenges facing MOAA and recommended ways individual members can support MOAA legislative issues, such as through the Advocacy Legislative Action Center.
- After the presentation, **President Mayer** presented a gift from Oregon, a Pendleton "Chief Joseph" blanket, as it was **Lt Gen Kelly's** first visit to the state.
- **Lt Gen Kelly** officially recognized four chapters in Oregon and Washington by presenting the Five Star Levels of Excellence Awards to their Chapter Presidents:
 - Columbia River Chapter, **Captain Rod Williams, USAF (Ret)**, Chapter President.
 - Central Oregon Chapter, **Col Jim Woodbridge, USA (Ret)**, Outgoing Chapter President.
 - Emerald Empire Chapter, **CAPT Kenneth Evans, USPHS**, Chapter President.
 - MOAA Portland Chapter, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, Chapter President.
- **Lt Gen Kelly** officially presented MOAA Coins to three MOAA Portland Chapter Leaders:
 - **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)**
 - **Maj William Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
- The 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games (4-9 July 2023) Challenge Coins were presented to MOAA Portland Chapter Members by **MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret)** in appreciation for the support and partnership with this event. The MOAA Portland Chapter President was also presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a gold medal from the games as a chapter thank you.

"FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER"

- The wine and gift basket raffle raised \$750. Raffle winners were: **Mrs. Rita Owens, Mrs. Mary Benson, Ms. Janet Brim, CAPT Kenneth Evans, USPHS, CAPT David Todd, USN (Ret), CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret), Mrs. Marilyn Casteel, Maj Paul Granada, ANG (Ret), COL Bob Windus, USA (Ret), LTC Mark Johnson, USA, Mrs. Cheryl Toland, CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret), Col Rick Gano, USAF (Ret), CPT John Sweeny, USA (Ret), Col Scott Grainger, USAF, Mr. Chuck McKenzie, Mrs. Dawn Gale, Maj Gen Barbara Brannon, USAF (Ret), and Capt Rod Williams, USAF (Ret)**.
- The raffle was followed by a short Christmas sing-along, led by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USN (Ret)**. **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke. The Benediction was given by **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)**.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)**; **Col Scott Grainger, USAF** and the AFROTC Cadets from the University of Portland; the members in attendance; those who paid for the gift baskets, wine, and cadet meals; **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for the table decorations; and the staff of The Monarch Hotel.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, 3 February 2024** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing**, Happy Valley, OR. Guest speaker will be **CAPT James A. Steele, USN**, Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland. The meeting adjourned at **2119**.