

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

- 36 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 and welcomed our guest speaker, **Captain J. Pearce Beissinger, ORANG**, and his wife **Heather**.
- President Mayer led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and **Reverend Karyn Dix** from Pendleton gave the Invocation.

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- President Mayer asked for a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives in the 11 September 2001 attack on our homeland.
- She also noted dates of future meetings:
  - MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting: 1 Nov, 2023, 0800-1100 via Zoom.
  - Advisory Committee to the Oregon Dept of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting: 13 Sep, 2023, 0930-1200, Mt Vernon Community Hall, Mt. Vernon OR.
  - United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting: 14 Oct 2023, 1200 via Zoom.
- **Fundraiser:** Prior to dinner, Colette Travel Representative Andy Boone discussed the fundraiser for the Oregon Military Museum which is a travel package sponsored by Collette Travel for a World War II Memorials Tour commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This land tour will take place 21 June-3 July 2024 and include London, Portsmouth, Normandy, Caen, Giverny, and Paris.
- During dinner, the chapter joined to celebrate **Ms. Edie Rieken's** 99th birthday with a special cake.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

- After dinner, President Mayer introduced **Captain J. Pearce Beissinger, MS, PA-C (Cardiac Surgery), DiMM, ORANG, 142nd MDG Det-1, 102d Oregon CBRNE-CERFP, Assistant Medical Director, Portland Mountain Rescue**. Captain Beissinger provided a very interesting presentation on **"Military Operations and Collaboration in Mount Hood Rescues."**

**BUSINESS SECTION**

- President Mayer introduced the 2023-2024 Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs.
  - **Officers**
    - President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret);
    - First Vice President and Legislative Co-Chair:** LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret);
    - Second Vice President and Membership Co-Chair:** Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret);
    - Co-Recording Secretaries:** Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret) (Chapter Meetings) & Maj Paul Granada, ANG (Ret) (Board Meetings);
    - Reservations Secretary:** CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret);
    - Co-Treasurers:** LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret) & CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret).
  - **Board of Directors:**
    - Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret);
    - Army Reps:** Col William Crist and Major Shaun Benson;
    - Navy Reps:** CAPT Tony Sebbio and CDR Dave Bredemann;
    - Air Force Rep:** Colonel Rick Gano;
    - Marine Corps Rep:** MajGen Christopher Owens;
    - Coast Guard Rep:** CAPT Doug Brown;

**USPHS:** CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman;  
**NOAA:** CDR Colin Kliever;  
**Women in Service Rep:** CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret);  
**Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee:** Ms. Jean Hillman; and  
**Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA):** LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)

- **Portland Chapter Committee Chairs**

**Program:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) and CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)  
**Membership:** Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) and CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret)  
**Legislative:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) and LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)  
**Personal Affairs:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)  
**Communications:** CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)  
**Surviving Spouse:** Ms. Jean Hillman and Ms. Jan Brink  
**Decorations:** CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret) and Ms. Nancy Menagh  
**Fundraising and Scholarship:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)  
**Special Events:** LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)  
**ESGR Outreach:** COL Bob Windus, USA (Ret)  
**Chaplains:** Reverend Karyn Dix and LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)

- **President Mary J. Mayer** reported feedback from the 2 August 2023 Board of Directors Meeting that, for the 2023-2024 program year, the Directors passed a balanced budget. She reiterated the need to recruit new members for the Portland Chapter as members are the lifeblood of the organization. The challenge was for members to bring one guest to the October 7, 2023 meeting.
- **Special Events Committee:** **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** presented **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)**, JROTC Detachment Commander at Reynolds High school and **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, JROTC Detachment Commander at Oregon City High School each a \$400 check from the MOAA Portland Chapter.
- President Mayer noted that, effective 1 August 2022, the chapter has been covered by an ABMA Liability Insurance policy.

**“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”**

- The wine raffle raised **\$340**. Wine raffle winners were **CDR Doug Sheehan, LTC Myrna Trull, LTC Mark Johnson, Ms. Edie Rieken, and Reverend Karyn Dix.**
- **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:** **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, those in attendance, CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret) for the table decorations and birthday cake, and the staff of the Monarch Hotel for the wonderful meal and service.

- The next chapter meeting will be held on: Saturday, 7 October 2023. Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR. The guest speaker needs to be confirmed.
- Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter: Inputs for the October 2023 newsletter are due no later than 9 September 2023.
- President Mayer reminded all in attendance to fly the flag on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance (11 Sept), POW/MIA Recognition Day (15 Sept), and the day the US Constitution was approved in 1787 (17 Sept). She also wished a happy 76th birthday to the USAF, established on 16 Sept 1947.
- The meeting was adjourned at **2100**.