

Minutes from the 6 June 2020 Virtual Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **24** members and guests attended the MOAA Portland Chapter Virtual Meeting via Zoom. Chapter President, **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, called the meeting **to order at 0933**. She said that this is our first Virtual Chapter Meeting. She welcomed guest speaker, **Ms. Kelly Fitzpatrick**, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and our Chapter member, who will give the chapter members an update on **"Reopening Oregon: Details on Restarting Public Life and Business."**
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem and followed that with the invocation.
- **President Mayer** commented on the unusual conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that she expects the 1 September meeting and possibly others will be virtual. When we do meet in person, we need to decide how to protect our members. The Chapter budget shows we are financially solvent. We have 123 active members and 52 surviving spouse members; 9 members have not paid their chapter dues. Our recruiting goal this year remains to bring in 30 new members. She also encouraged members to recruit people to attend our Zoom meetings.
 - Applications were due 1 May for the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award**. President Mayer submitted ours on 28 April. We hope to win our 13th consecutive the award later this year.
 - **The Biennial Oregon Women Veterans' Conference** has been rescheduled for May 22-23, 2021. The MOAA Portland Chapter has pledged \$2,500 to the conference to be used for first time attendees, helping with their lodging and gas cost.
 - A virtual **MOAA National Board of Directors Meeting** is scheduled for 13-14 July 2020.
 - Thursday, 6 August is the virtual **Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**. This is the first Board Meeting of the 2020-2021 Program Year, and all Board members are encouraged to attend.
 - The **MOAA Virtual Oregon State Council of Chapters Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 1 September at 1000. Special guest is **CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret)**, Program Director, MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs. It is also the date for our Chapter's membership Meeting.
 - The **40th National Wheelchair Games** was cancelled this year and rescheduled for opening ceremonies on 4 July in 2023 in Tempe Arizona. Our Chapter member, **MAJ Shaun Benson, USAR (Ret)**, is the local contact for this event.
- **Legislative Committee, CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** and **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)**. Gary Battles reported on the Legislative Committee and encouraged our members to visit the MOAA website. He forwarded a MOAA National letter to our representatives in Oregon. Only responses from **Senator Merkley** and **Representative Bonamici** were received. **MAJ Shaun Benson, USAR (Ret)** sent emails citing the pandemic as a reason not to cut medical benefits and staffing; he received responses from **Merkley, Bonamici**, and **Blumenauer's offices** saying they support the position. Larry Roberts projects a \$10 to 12 billion shortfall in Military Funding in this biennium. Either bailout or tax increase is the only solution to a \$2 billion deficit this year. More details to be reported in the coming months. .
- **President Mayer** introduced **Ms. Kelly Fitzpatrick** who presented an update on **"Reopening Oregon: Details on Restarting Public Life and Business."** Kelley had presented her slides before to other State veterans' organizations.
- **Fundraising Committee, CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**.
 - He will be working on how to raise funds without the benefit of having in-person chapter meetings. In our fundraising account, \$800 remains for a future charity.
- **Membership Committee Report, Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**. New membership recruiting seems to be "dead in the water." However, all but nine (9) chapter members have paid their chapter dues. January's Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations were to: 1) increase communications, 2) increase attendance, 3) raise more funds, and 4) review programs. Need to continue with these efforts at next Board Meeting.
- **President Mayer** reports that our venues are still not open. We will see what happens in June or July.

- **Special Events Committee, Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former).** All ROTC events, such as the AFROTC and AROTC Awards Banquets, at the University of Portland have been cancelled. The chapter usually gives medals/\$500 scholarships to the two MOAA Leadership Award winners and certificates/Gold Bars to the commissioning cadets. We plan to participate in the Awards Banquets next year when the University of Portland conducts these events. All JROTC activities have been cancelled as well. We did get a \$300 grant from USAA to support the selected JROTC cadet at Oregon City High School to attend a Leadership Conference in Tacoma, WA during the summer; the conference was cancelled, so the money will go towards next year's cadet leadership program.
- **Communications (Public Affairs and Website), CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret).** No report. A picture of the screen of those attending our virtual chapter meeting will be put on our chapter website.
- **Surviving Spouse, President Mayer for Mrs. Jean Hillman.** Albertina Kerr's Restaurant is now permanently closed. They need a new venue and will provide update at the next chapter meeting.
- **Personal Affairs Report by President Mayer:** There have been 3 deaths: **Lt Col Duane Houck, USAF (Ret); Mrs. Marjory Fischer, Surviving Spouse; and Mrs. Mitzi Erickson, Surviving Spouse. Lt Col Jim Warnock, USAF (Ret)** had heart surgery. **CAPT Larry Roberts' wife, Ann,** had throat surgery, and she is doing well.
- This is the last meeting of the 2019-2020 program year. **President Mayer** thanked everyone for their support and hard work, particularly the Board Members and Committee Chairs.
- **Vote on Slate of New Officers for 2020-2021.** Because of the pandemic, the nominations (scheduled for May) and approval votes (scheduled for June) for new officers were combined.
 - *Motion was made, seconded, discussed, and voted upon to approve the following slate of officers; the motion was approved:*
 - President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
 - First Vice President:** LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)
 - Second Vice President:** Major William J. (Bill) Tidd, USAF (Ret)
 - Recording Secretary:** CDR Doug J. Sheehan, USCGR (Ret)
 - Reservations Secretary:** CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)
 - Treasurer:** LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret)
 - Senior Director:** CAPT Lawrence (Larry) W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
- **Installation of Officers:** President Mayer introduced **Lt Col Tom Majchrowski, USAF (Ret),** MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters President, who gave the oath of office to the new chapter officers.
- During the **"For the Good of the Order"** portion of the meeting,
 - **CAPT Dave Todd, USN (Ret)** mentioned a Rose Festival virtual event today on Facebook at 1120. Rose Festival will be streaming live a Grand Petite Parade with public entries of shoebox floats, family bands, etc. at 1400 today at <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandRoseFestival/live>. Coronation is an upcoming event.
 - **CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)** asked for us to remember D-Day. Taps for Veterans on Memorial Day was an honorable event.
 - **MAJ Shaun Benson, USAR (Ret)** indicated UPS had already purchased all the coins for the wheelchair games athletes; 707 athletes signed up in Portland. Shaun is to send them coins, plus some extras for people who helped with planning. One will be given to **Tony Sebbio** for his excellent volunteer efforts.
 - **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a humorous joke.
- **In closing, President Mayer** recognized all fathers in the audience and wished them a Happy Father's Day on 21 June, wished the U.S. Army veterans a happy 245th Birthday on 14 June; and reminded all that the Korean War Veterans Honor Day in Oregon is celebrated on 25 June every year.
- The next chapter meeting will be held virtually on **Tuesday, 1 September.** Guest Speaker is **CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret),** Program Director, MOAA Council and Chapters, who will speak on **"MOAA National in 2020."** Reservations to attend must be made by 1100 on Wednesday, 26 August to **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret).** Inputs for the September 2020 *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* are due to the Editor by midnight on 7 August 2020.
- The meeting was **adjourned at 1201.**