

**Minutes from the 6 March 2021 Virtual Meeting**  
**By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary**

- **26 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 1001**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem and gave the invocation.
- **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** welcomed and introduced our guest speaker and fellow chapter member, **Ms. Kelly Fitzpatrick**, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, who gave the group an **"Update on Veterans Issues in Oregon."** A lively question-and-answer period followed.
- **Chapter President's Comments:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - March is **Women's History Month**, as well as **Military Appreciation Month**
  - She then stated there were currently three priorities for the chapter:
    - **2021 Dues Payments:** She reminded all to pay their 2021 Chapter dues ASAP.
    - **Recruiting New Members:** She challenged the membership to bring at least one guest to the next virtual chapter meeting on **Tuesday, 6 April 2021**.
    - **Finding volunteers to fill the following positions:**
      - **Decorations Committee Chair:** CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret) will fill the role of committee chair, but she needs another volunteer to help her when she is on travel.
      - **USCG Representative on the Board**
      - **Second USAF Representative on the Board** [to replace Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former) who is retiring in June 2021]
      - **Special Events Committee Chair** [to replace Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former) who is retiring in June 2021]
  - **Nomination Package Submission Date for the Levels of Excellence Award**
    - Due to MOAA National: 1 May 2021
    - If chapter members have done non-MOAA activities in the community, please email them to Colonel Mayer **NLT 3 April 2021** at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) so she can include them in the write-up.
  - **Save the Dates – MOAA Events:**
    - **MOAA Virtual Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting:** Date TBD
    - **MOAA Virtual National Board of Directors Meetings:** 18 – 22 April 2021
    - **MOAA Virtual Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting:** 6 May 2021
  - **Save the Dates – ODVA:**
    - **Virtual Women's Military History Week:** 15-19 March 2021.
    - **Virtual Vietnam Veterans Town Hall:** **Thursday, March 25, 1200 noon to 1300**
    - **Virtual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day:** Tuesday, 30 March 2021
    - **2021 Virtual Oregon Women Veterans Conference: Save the Date!**
      - **Date:** Saturday, 22 May 2021; **Registration** is opening soon.
      - **Invitees:** All military women are invited. There is no conference fee.
      - **Program:** This year's event will still include live and interactive workshops, networking opportunities, and a great lineup of speakers.
      - **Host: New ODVA Women Veterans Coordinator:** LtCol Jessica Bradley, USMC (Ret)
  - **Virtual Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting:** 2 June 2021 at 0930.

- Any suggestions for agenda items can be emailed to the Advisory Committee at [yaac@odva.state.or.us](mailto:yaac@odva.state.or.us)
- **Save the Dates – Other:**
  - **Virtual United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting:** 10 April 2021
- **Membership Committee Report by Maj Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
  - Requested an electronic support message be sent out from MOAA National to advertise our 1 June 2021 chapter meeting. Professor Jason Cornelius and Ms. Winnie Kuang from the NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, CA will give us an “Update on Mars and the Mars Ingenuity Helicopter.”
  - Bill now serves on the Veterans Care Centers of Oregon (VCCO) Board of Directors.
- **Scholarship Committee:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) – No report.
- **Status of Fundraising Project:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) – No report.
- **Legislative Committee:** LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)//CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
  - **MOAA “Advocacy in Action”** (formerly “Storming the Hill”)
    - Will be conducted virtually this year on **Wednesday, 21 April 2021**
- **Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Jean Hillman by Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - Jean conducted an outreach to Surviving Spouse Members via postcards—and is now doing follow-up telephone calls to those from whom she did not hear.
- **Personal Affairs:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - Since the last meeting, we have had no deaths in the chapter.
- **Special Events Committee Report by:** Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - The **2021 MOAA Leadership Awards** will be presented to the AROTC and AFROTC cadets selected at the Award Presentations normally held in the spring.
  - The Chapter will continue to present **Gold Bars** this year to the 18 AROTC and 13 AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland.
  - The Chapter will continue to support the **Army JROTC Detachments** at Oregon City High School and Reynolds High School and will present MOAA Leadership Awards to the recipient at each high school; \$300 will be given to each Detachment Commander to support JROTC activities.
  - **USAA Sponsorship Funds Program for 2021**
    - In December 2020, a request was forwarded by Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) on behalf of the Special Events Committee to USAA Sponsorship Program for \$300 to partially cover the cost of Drill Team Commanders from the JROTC Detachment at Oregon City High School to attend the National Drill Camp being held 11-17 July 2021 at Schreiner University, Kerrville, Texas. The request for \$300 was approved and received.
- **“For the Good of the Order”**
  - **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** gave an update on the *USS Oregon*.
  - **Wine Raffle:** \$140 was raised. Chip & Setsy Larouche and “Chicky” McKinzie won.
  - **Joke:** **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** gave the traditional joke.
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021
    - **Guest Speaker** will be **Dr. Bruce Gilley**, Professor of Political Science, Portland State University
    - **Topic:** “Political Alignments, Developments, and Projections Surrounding the Ongoing Tensions in the South China Sea.”
  - **Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter:** Inputs for the combined *April/May Newsletter* are due no later than **Sunday, 7 March 2021**

The meeting was **adjourned** at 1140.