

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

- **25** 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 1000**.
- **President Mayer** recognized the guest speaker, **CAPT Scott Jackson, USCG**, and the chapter's newest member, **Maj Gen Barbara Brannon, USAF (Ret)**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** sang the National Anthem, and **President Mayer** gave the invocation.
- **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** then introduced the guest speaker, **CAPT Scott Jackson, USCG**, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, who spoke on **"420 Miles of Coastline, 465 Miles of River: The U.S. Coast Guard's Role in Maritime and Environmental Safety."**
- After thanking **CAPT Jackson** for an excellent presentation, **Colonel Mayer** started the **Business Session** of the meeting with the following comments:
  - **Feedback from 4 November 2021 Board of Directors Meeting**
    - **CAPT Doug Brown, USCG (Ret)** was approved by the Board as the Coast Guard Representative
    - As of **31 October 2021**, our overall total assets were **\$23,640.49**, and we had a total of **163** Chapter members (*down 5 from last year*)
    - She encouraged all to pay their 2022 annual chapter dues no later than 1 January 2022.
    - The MOAA Portland Chapter has been awarded the **Five Star Level of Excellence Award** from MOAA National for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!
  - **MOAA National Board of Directors Meetings**
    - **Dates:** 14-15 October 2021 **Location:** Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S. Orme St., Arlington, VA 22204
    - The MOAA Strategic Plan was approved for 2022-2026 (effective 1 Jan 2022)
    - In 2022, there will be an increase in membership dues
    - The COVID-19 Relief Fund is to be converted to an Enduring Relief Fund under the MOAA Foundation
    - Recruiting for 12 New Board Members will begin in January 2022
    - Individuals are to submit their nomination packages to MOAA between 1 January-31 March 2022
    - Recruiting for New President and CEO – Lt Gen Atkins is leaving in January 2023
    - Recruiting for MOAA CIO – Stefanie Keuser left 5 November 2021 after 23 years at MOAA
  - **Request for Grant Evaluators:** The Veteran\_Services Grant Program awards one-time grants to organizations up to \$250,000 through a competitive grant process.
    - Jacqueline Kemp, ODVA Grants Coordinator, Statewide Veteran Services looking for volunteers to serve as Grant Evaluators
    - **Contact information:** [Jacqueline.kemp@ODVA.Oregon.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.kemp@ODVA.Oregon.gov)
    - **Interest form:** <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ae471f12be784121bb452a0ecc3a525b>
    - Mary, Bill, Gary, Tony, and Barbara have signed up.
  - **Other Significant Events:**
    - **The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)** will honor all veterans (especially those from the Vietnam War Era) of the U.S. Armed Forces during the 2021 Statewide Veterans Day Celebration on **Wednesday, 10 November 2021 at 2:00 pm** in Salem— and will return to an outdoor and in-person format this year, within public health guidelines.
    - **The ROTC at the University of Portland** will conduct a Veterans Day Ceremony at 1100 on Thursday, 11 November 2021 at the Praying Hands Memorial on the campus of the University of Portland. An outdoor reception follows at 1200 noon.

- **Save the Dates – MOAA Events:**
  - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting:** Thursday, 3 February 2022
  - **MOAA Virtual National Board of Directors Meeting:** 24 February 2022
  - **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting** Date: *TBD* Time: 0930-1430  
Location: Oregon Veterans' Home, Lebanon, OR
- **Save the Dates – Other:**
  - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting**
    - Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 Time: 0930-1200 noon Location: TBD
  - **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**
    - Date: Saturday, 8 January 2022 Time: 1000 Location: 50+ Senior Center in Salem, Oregon **or** via Zoom
  - **42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games Dates:** 4-9 July 2023
- **Colonel Mayer then transitioned to Committee Reports:**
  - **Membership Committee Report** by Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)
    - Chapter members will be called again in January 2022 to see how they are doing, tell them of plans to resume in-person meetings in February, and remind them to pay 2022 chapter dues.
  - **Fundraising Committee Report - CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
    - At the 4 November 2021 Board Meeting, various potential projects were discussed to support during the Christmas/Holiday Season.
    - We will continue to raise funds via our chapter raffles, and, when it is appropriate, the Chapter Board of Directors will choose a charity for December 2021. Larry is talking to the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River about providing gift cards to ten junior enlisted families.
    - Currently, we have \$3,250.91 remaining in the raffle fund
  - **Special Events Committee:** The Chapter President is in communication with a potential committee chair.
  - **Legislative Committee:** LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret) and CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
    - Gary will check with Senator Merkley's office to see if/when the Service Academy Interviews are being scheduled for December 2021.
  - **Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Jean Hillman announced that the Christmas Luncheon has been cancelled.
  - **Personal Affairs:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
    - Since the last meeting, there has been no deaths reported.
- **"For the Good of the Order"**
  - **Raffle** – CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret). The raffle was won by **LTC Chip Larouche, USA (Ret)** and **President Mayer**.
  - **Joke** – CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret) told the joke in the absence of CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
  - Thanks to our guest speaker, **CAPT Scott Jackson, USCG; CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for being our Zoom host; and to the chapter members who attended the meeting.
  - **Next Meeting:** Christmas/Holiday Meeting - **Tuesday, 7 December 2021** via **Zoom**
  - **Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter:**
    - The next newsletter will be the **December 2021** issue. Chapter members will be receiving this newsletter **o/a 10 November 2021**.
    - Inputs for the **December 2021** Newsletter are due **NLT Monday, 8 November 2021** at midnight!
  - In closing, she reminded chapter members to fly the flag on the following days in November: Veterans Day (11 November) and Thanksgiving Day (25 November)
  - President Mayer wished the U.S. Marine Corps a happy 246<sup>th</sup> birthday – having been established on 10 November 1775.
  - She also reminded chapter members that **Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday, 7 November 2021 – so all should set their clocks back one hour.
- **Adjournment:** After wishing all a Happy Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, President Mayer adjourned the meeting at **1127**.