

Minutes from the 7 November 2020 Virtual Meeting
By CDR Doug Sheehan, USCGR (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **29** 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 0933**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** who led the singing of the National Anthem. **Reverend Karyn Dix** gave the invocation.
- **President Mayer** welcomed guest speaker, **Brig Gen Donna M. Prigmore**, ORANG, the first female officer to serve as the Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, who spoke on **“The ORANG Today: F-15EX, Wildfires, Protests, and Deployments.”** The general then gave a highly informative presentation, followed by a spirited question-and-answer session.
- Chapter President’s Comments: **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
 - **Feedback from the 5 November 2020 Board of Directors Meeting**
 - Filling Positions on the Chapter Board of Directors:
 - **Colonel Rick Gano, USAF (Ret)** was approved by the Board to fill the second Air Force Representative position on the Board.
 - The Coast Guard Representative on the Board is still vacant.
 - As of 31 October 2020, our overall total assets were \$24,191.46, and we had a total of 168 Chapter members (*down 12 from last year*): 112 Regular Members, 52 Surviving Spouses, and 4 Honorary Members.
 - Remember: 2021 Annual Chapter dues of \$30 are to be paid by 1 January 2021. These dues cover the period 1 January – 31 December 2021.
 - **Other Significant Events:**
 - Veterans Day Events: Both the University of Portland ROTC Detachments and the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs are hosting virtual Veterans Day Events at 1100 on 11 November 2020. In addition, many restaurants in the local area are offering free or discounted meals to veterans..
 - Hearing on the Design Review of the Vietnam War Memorial will be held on Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 5:30 pm on YouTube; individuals and organizations can participate with written or verbal testimony.:
 - **Save the Dates – MOAA Events:**
 - MOAA National Board of Directors Meetings – 28-29 January 2021 – will be held virtually.
 - MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, 4 February 2021
 - MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting – Thursday, 11 March 2021
 - **Save the Dates – Other:**
 - United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting – Saturday, 9 January 2021
 - Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Meeting – Thursday, 2 December 2020
 - Oregon Women Veterans’ Biennial Conference, hosted by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, has been rescheduled for 22-23 May 2021 in Bend, OR. It may be held virtually, depending on the pandemic guidelines at the time.
 - 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games have been rescheduled for 4-9 July 2023
- **Legislative Committee: LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret) and CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - Senator Jeff Merkley’s Office will be conducting Service Academy Interviews on 12 and 19 December 2020 from 0830-1230 on both days. If chapter members would like to volunteer, they should contact **Cristen Hyde**, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative, at cristen_hyde@merkley.senate.gov
- **Fundraising Committee Report by CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
 - The Chapter Board approved the next chapter charity: supporting select junior enlisted families at the 142nd Wing at Portland Air National Guard Base who need assistance over the holidays.
 - Donations will be collected in the next month via three avenues: (1) use current residual and November raffle proceeds of \$1,300, (2) use wine raffle fund proceeds from the December meeting, and (3) ask chapter members to donate to the charity, instead of providing Christmas gift baskets.

- Donations will be turned into gift cards and presented to the 142nd Wing Airman Family Readiness Manager for distribution to the families. People who donate will be in the wine raffle.
- **Membership Committee Report by Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**
 - No new chapter members have been recruited since June 2020.
 - Many people are feeling isolated and lonely, and chapter solutions include: encouraging members to attend chapter meetings by Zoom or telephone; start a “social time” virtually before each meeting; and organize a “Call Chain” by which all chapter members are contacted to see how they are doing.
 - Members are encouraged to invite potential members to Zoom into our meetings at no cost.
 - The Membership Committee will set up a MOAA Marketing Table in the 142nd Wing Resiliency Center.
- **Communications Committee: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret):** The chapter website has been updated.
- **Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Jean Hillman**
 - The Christmas luncheon has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic..
 - All chapter members are asked to contribute to the **Operation Diaper Bag Care Packages** (put together by the Portland VA Health Care Women’s Voluntary Service Staff and Volunteers, then sent to the Veteran by mail or given in person when the notification of a birth is received from the VA medical or social work staff. Monetary donations, handmade items, or new purchased baby items are needed to add to the packages. For more information and instructions on how to donate to the Operation Diaper Bag Voluntary Services, go to: www.portland.va.gov or call **503-273-5042**.
 - Also, if you get a new cell phone for Christmas, be sure to save your old cell phone for Colonel Mayer for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**
 - Jean will be sending postcards to the 52 Surviving Spouse members, asking them how they are. Membership Committee funds will pay for the cost of mailing these postcards.
- **Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
 - Since the last chapter meeting, there have been no deaths in the chapter and no reports of any chapter members contracting the COVID-19 virus.
 - Please let President Mayer know of any chapter members who are ill, having surgery, or are having a hard time during the pandemic, so she can activate the Committee.
- **“For the Good of the Order”**
 - ODVA Director **Kelly Fitzpatrick** reminded all women veterans that ODVA is conducting a Women Veterans Tele-Townhall from 1200 noon to 1300 on 20 November 2020 via Zoom. To register, please go to www.oregon.gov/ODVA
 - At the 1 December 2020 Chapter Meeting, anyone who has a Christmas story, or inspirational message is welcome to share. Please let President Mayer know if you are going to share so she can put you on the meeting agenda.
 - **Wine Raffle: \$200** was raised at this raffle. Raffle winners included: **Col Richard Gano, USAF (Ret)** and **CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)**
 - **Joke: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** told a joke.
- **Closing Remarks by Chapter President: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**
 - The Chapter President thanked: (1) guest speaker, **Brig Gen Donna M. Prigmore, ORANG**, (2) **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for being our Zoom host, and (3) all the chapter members who joined via Zoom that morning to support the chapter
 - **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 1 December 2020 via Zoom Video Teleconference
 - A discussion was held on whether to have a **social time** for about 30 minutes before our virtual meeting. It was decided to do so, and we will start the social time with the December 2020 chapter meeting.
 - The next *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* will be the December 2020 issue which will be received by the membership o/a 10 November 2020. Inputs for this newsletter are due to the Editor tonight by midnight.
 - The Chapter President reminded the membership to fly their flags on 11 November 2020 (Veterans Day) and 26 November 2020 (Thanksgiving), wished the U.S. Marine Corps (founded on 10 November 1775) a happy 245th Birthday, and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving!
- The meeting was **adjourned** at **1130**.