

Minutes from the 7 October 2023 Chapter Meeting
By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret), Recording Secretary

- **33** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0930**.
- President Mayer made opening remarks and welcomed our guest speaker, **Mr. Steve Bates**, and his wife **Betty**.
- President Mayer led the Pledge of Allegiance, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** led the National Anthem, and **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** gave the Invocation.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- President Mayer congratulated the MOAA Portland Chapter for being awarded the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National** for the 16th consecutive year. She added that there was a change in submission dates for the following year: 31 January 2024 instead of May.
- President Mayer announced that **Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren, USAF (Ret)** accepted the invitation to become the second Air Force Representative on the Chapter Board of Directors.
- She also noted dates of future meetings:
 - MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Meeting: 9 Oct 2023, 1000-1100 via Zoom.
 - MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting: 1 Nov, 2023, 0800-1100 via Zoom.
 - United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting: 14 Oct 2023, 1200 via Zoom.
- Prior to brunch, President Mayer made a special presentation to MOAA member, **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, who after five years as the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), retired on 1 Oct 2023. President Mayer thanked Major Fitzpatrick for her valuable support to the chapter and her dedication to greatly improving the lives of veterans throughout the state of Oregon. She then presented Major Fitzpatrick with an Army Pin by Ann Hand Jewelry as a token of appreciation from the chapter.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After dinner, President Mayer introduced **Mr. Steve Bates**, President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund, who spoke on the **"Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial."** A Life Member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Mr. Bates served as Chair of the Committee on Memorials and Remembrance over the past 8 years. He reported on the planned Oregon Vietnam War Memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Salem, and recounted the actions he took at the 2023 Legislative Session which resulted in a one-million-dollar allocation for the Memorial. Mr. Bates showed a video rendition of the planned memorial, the 2-phase building plan, and the remaining amount of funds necessary for its completion.

BUSINESS SECTION

- **Membership Committee Report:** **CAPT "Chicky" McKinzie, USN (Ret)** discussed the need to continue encouraging membership as it is the lifeblood of the organization. She challenged all members to bring at least one guest to the next chapter meeting in November. New chapter members include: **LCDR Aron Swerdlin, USN** and his wife, **Bobbi**; **LTC John Toll, USA** and his wife, **Katherine**, and **COL David Gillingham, USA (Ret)** and his wife **Jan**. **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** noted the re-introduction of the Membership Table with a variety of resources for members.
- **Treasurer's Report:** **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)** reminded members that chapter dues for 2024 of \$30 are due NLT 1 Jan 2024.
- **Special Events Committee Report:** **President Mayer**, on behalf of the committee chair, reported that the **MOAA Portland Chapter** will present the **MOAA Leadership Award** and \$250 scholarship to one **AROTC** and one **AFROTC** cadet at the University of Portland at the Spring Dinings-Out. Additionally, the **MOAA Portland Chapter** will present Gold Bars to the 35 commissioning **AROTC** and **AFROTC** cadets.
- **Legislative Committee Report:** **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** noted that, besides the **MOAA Advocacy in Action Event**, there are more opportunities for members. They may engage legislators in person when they are in Oregon. He noted that the committee will contact Oregon Senators and Representatives.
- **Fundraising Committee Report:** **CAPT Larry Robert, USNR (Ret)** reported that the current fundraising project is the **Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial** on the Grounds of the Capitol in **Salem, OR**.

●**Surviving Spouse Committee Report:** **Mrs. Jean Hillman** announced the next Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon would occur 12 Dec 2023, 1200 noon, at the Oswego Grill in Lake Oswego OR.

●**Personal Affairs Committee Report:** **President Mayer** noted that there were no reported deaths, illnesses, or upcoming surgeries since the last chapter meeting.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

●The Membership Appreciation Drawing was won by LT Roger Harr, USN (Ret).

●The wine raffle raised **\$270**. Wine raffle winners were LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret); CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret); Col Bill Crist, USA (Ret); LT Roger Harr, USN (Ret); and LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret).

● **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

● **Major Shaun Benson, USA (Ret)** gave a quick report on the **42nd National Veteran Wheelchair Games**, held 4-9 July 2023. He noted its success and mentioned that more than 375 athletes and 1200 volunteers participated. Timber Joey came to support on the first day and decided to return each day afterwards to support the Games. Shaun thanked all members who volunteered and announced the 2024 games would be held in New Orleans LA.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

● **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, those in attendance, **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)** for bringing the table decorations, and the staff of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the wonderful meal and service.

● She also recognized and thanked **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)** once again, and the audience gave her a standing ovation!

●The next chapter meeting will be held on: Saturday, 4 Nov 2023. Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley, OR The guest speaker will be **Col Stuart Pettis, USAF (Ret)**, Director of STEM Education Programs and Space Subject Matter Expert for the Air & Space Forces Association.

●Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter: Inputs for the November 2023 newsletter are due no later than 9 October 2023.

●President Mayer reminded all in attendance to fly the flag on Columbus Day, 9 Oct, and Navy Day, 27 Oct. She also wished a happy 248th birthday for the U.S. Navy, established on 13 Oct 1775.

●The meeting was adjourned at 1120.