



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)**

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**

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**P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268**

Volume XXXIV, Numbers 7 & 8

www.MOAAPortland.org

April & May 2018

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 3 April 2018

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, OR 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

**Lt Col Edward A. Bos, CAP, Oregon Wing
Inspector General, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air
Force Auxiliary, will speak on “The Mission of
the Civil Air Patrol.”**

MENU:

Spinach Salad with Huckleberry Vinaigrette
Roasted Pork Loin Finished with Apple Demi-
Glaze

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls with Butter

Harvest Carrot Cake

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Dave Bredemann,
USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 March 2018.**
See Dave’s contact information and more info at the
bottom of the second column on this page.

IN MEMORIAM:

May They Rest in Peace!

Mrs. Eve Walker, Surviving Spouse

Mrs. Betty Johnson, Surviving Spouse

Mrs. Ann Clements, Surviving Spouse

MAY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 5 May 2018

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

Hayden’s Lakefront Grill

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

**(Invited) Major General Michael E. Stencel,
ORANG, The Adjutant General for Oregon, will
speak on “The Responsibilities of the TAG.”**

MENU:

Eggs Benedict

Home Fried Potatoes

Waffle Station with Berry Sauce and Whipped
Cream

Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage

Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint

Assorted Juices

Stumptown Coffee, Numi Hot Tea, and Milk

COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please
contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** at
503-974-9335 or dbredemann@comcast.net
or
online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on
Wednesday, 2 May 2018. No late reservations,**
and **please call** if you must cancel as we have to
pay for no-shows. (*Note: Please indicate if you
have any dietary restrictions.*)

DURING APRIL & MAY MEETINGS: Raffle tickets are
available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the 2018
Oregon Women Veterans’ Conference to be held in Sunriver,
Oregon from 26-28 April 2018. And, **please continue to bring in**
packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront--**
and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.**

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Thanks to the Programs Committee, under the leadership of **Larry Roberts** and **Tony Sebbio**, we have had an exceptional range of guest speakers thus far this program year. And, April and May are no exceptions.

Speakers: On 3 April, **Lt Col Edward A. Bos, CAP**, Oregon Wing Inspector General, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, will speak on **“The Mission of the Civil Air Patrol.”** (See picture below.)



Lt Col Bos was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey. He first joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2002 and was assigned as cadet programs officer in the Cape Cod Composite Squadron. In 2004 Lt Col Bos transferred to the Massachusetts Wing Headquarters and served as the Massachusetts Wing Emergency Services Training Officer, and later as a special project officer.

2007 saw Lt Col Bos transfer to the Alaska Wing Headquarters Staff, where he served as the Alaska Wing Director of Emergency Services, Vice Commander, and Chief of Staff. In 2011 he was assigned to the National Emergency Services Academy Squadron. In 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Bos returned to the Alaska Wing as a member of the Mat-Su Minuteman Cadet Squadron. Lieutenant

Colonel Bos transferred to the Oregon Wing in 2015.

Prior to assuming his current position as Oregon Wing Inspector General, he served as Oregon Wing Vice Commander and several other roles.

In addition to the responsibilities of overseeing inspections and investigations within Oregon, Lt Col Bos has also served as a course director for Civil Air Patrol professional development courses--and is an active instructor/evaluator for the emergency services training.

Outside of his Civil Air Patrol career, Lt Col Bos serves as an enlisted member of the Oregon Air National Guard--and works full-time as a dual-status technician in the Oregon Joint Operations Center.

Lt Col Bos has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and is a graduate of Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College. He is the recipient of numerous Major Civil Air Patrol and Military Awards and Decorations, including the Air Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (w/2 Bronze Clusters), Combat Readiness Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal (w/2 Bronze Clusters), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (w/1 Bronze Star).

For our 5 May meeting, we have invited **Major General Michael E. Stencel, ORANG, The Adjutant General for the State of Oregon**, to speak to us on **“The Responsibilities of the TAG.”** (See picture below.)



He is responsible for providing the State of Oregon and the United States with a ready force of more than 8,100 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or man-

made. He directs, manages, and supervises the administration, discipline, organization, training, and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, and the Office of Oregon Emergency Management. He is also assigned as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor. General Stencel develops and coordinates all policies, plans, and programs of the Oregon National Guard in concert with the Governor and State legislature.

General Stencel received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in December 1984. Upon completion of Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1985, he completed F-4 upgrade training and was assigned to the 123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron. In 1989 he completed F-15 transition training as part of the 142nd Fighter Wing's conversion to the F-15.

In 1998, General Stencel transferred to the 142nd Maintenance Group as a Maintenance Officer. After a brief period as the State Plans and Programs Officer at Oregon Air National Guard Headquarters, he assumed command of the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron and followed that position as the 142nd Mission Support Group Commander, 142nd Fighter Wing. He next served as the State Director of Operations/A-3 Joint Force Headquarters. He returned to the 142nd Fighter Wing as the Vice Commander and as the Commander, executing Air Sovereignty Alert in defense of the Pacific Northwest, with an interim assignment as Battle Director in AFCENT's 609th Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Prior to serving as The Adjutant General, he served as the Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, as well as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, 11th Air Force.

General Stencel holds two Bachelor of Science Degrees in Civil Engineering and

Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Business Administration from Portland State University. He graduated from the General and Flag Officer Homeland Security Executive Seminar held at Harvard University. He is also a graduate of the Air National Guard Squadron Commander's Course, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

General Stencel has received numerous Military Awards and Decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Commendation Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), and Combat Readiness Medal (with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters).

Last Call for Registration for the 2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference!

- **DESCRIPTION:** The 10th Annual ODVA Oregon Women Veterans Conference comes to beautiful Sunriver, Oregon in 2018. This event is open to **women veterans ONLY** and is **free to attend!** Highlights include: (1) Screening of the award-winning documentary film "Lioness" followed by a panel of the female combat veterans featured in the film; (2) Welcome reception, happy hour, and networking; (3) Conference workshops on a wide variety of topics; (4) Featured speaker Margaret Witt, Veteran, Author: "Tell: Love, Defiance, and the Military Trial at the Tipping Point for Gay Rights"; (5) seventy vendors; and (6) Special discounts from Bend retailers and recreation areas.
- **DATE AND TIME:** Thu, Apr 26, 2018, 3:00 PM –Sat, Apr 28, 2018, 12:00 PM PDT
- **ROOM BOOKING INFO:** Reserve your room today at the Sunriver Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Suite 50, Sunriver, Oregon 97707! Be sure to let them know you are registering for the Oregon Women Veterans Conference for the best discount. Contact the resort at: (855) 420-8206 | www.destinationhotels.com/sunriver-resort
- **REGISTRATION OPEN: No fee for registered attendees.**
- **REGISTER AT: <http://wvc.oregondva.com/>**

Need Your Help. I need your help with the following:

- **Recruiting 25 more new members** for the MOAA Portland Chapter for this calendar year. We all know individuals who are eligible for chapter membership, and I challenge each of you to sign up at least one new member this year! Start by bringing them to chapter meetings so they can get to know us!
- **Volunteers to help the Membership Committee Chair, Bill Tidd**, with contacting potential new chapter members from the MOAA National listing.
- **Two volunteers to help Recording Secretary Roy Raat**, with the minutes for the nine chapter meetings and four board meetings. There is an established format, and the chapter president provides a *detailed* agenda for each meeting.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or 310-897-1902 (cell). Thanks!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined since the last issue of the *Brass Bulletin*:

Col John Wright, USMC (Ret)
And wife **Karen**

CAPT Jay Jewess, USCG (Ret)
And wife **Luci**

1LT Gary Dires, USA (Former)

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)
And wife **Rita**

The first quarter of the year has started out with a bang--with the recruitment of four members in the month of January and one more in March. I believe there are two reasons for this success. *First*, MOAA National rolled out a brand-new membership roster software module that lists every member in the Portland Chapter. This module is on-line and only accessible to the chapter president and the membership chairman. The nice thing about the roster is that it shows all the member's current information but, more importantly, whether his/her national membership is current or expired. Apparently, when MOAA receives a new application, that shows interest in joining a chapter; they add the name to the chapter's roster. So far, we have received two new potential members added to our Portland Chapter which I am pursuing as I write – wish me luck!

The *second* reason is contributed by **1LT Gary Diers, USA (Former)**. Gary was sitting in his VA Doctor's office and glanced down at the table, spying a recent copy of the *MOAA Military Officer Magazine*. He read the issue, liked what he read, and called MOAA National--asking for the names of the local chapters. After reviewing our web page and seeing the many efforts the chapter is involved in, he contacted our chapter president and immediately joined our chapter. He also signed up for a national Life Membership. This shows the value of placing copies of the *MOAA Military Officer Magazine* out into the community.

Coming early in the next quarter (probably around 1 April), MOAA National will be sending out the first installment of the regional potential membership listing. As always, I need **MEMBER VOLUNTEERS** to assist the Membership Committee in calling potential new members. Remember, it is every member's responsibility to acquire new members, so please give us a hand and volunteer! You can contact me at wtidd96218@aol.com.

Finally, I would like to share some good news. We have been informed that our previous Membership Committee Chair, **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)**, has moved to the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon. I am sure he would love to hear from you. You can contact him by writing to the following address: Oregon Veterans' Home, 600 N. 5th Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355-2876.

***AN OPINION PIECE:
MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION,
REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS***

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Secretary of Defense Levels His Sights on Congress: Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis is not nicknamed “Mad Dog” for nothing. In early February in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, he eviscerated Congress, saying “Let me be clear, as hard as the last 16 years of war have been on our military, NO ENEMY IN THE FIELD HAS DONE AS MUCH TO HARM THE READINESS OF THE U.S. MILITARY THAN THE COMBINED IMPACT OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT’S DEFENSE SPENDING CAPS, WORSENERD BY OPERATING FOR 10 OF THE LAST 11 YEARS UNDER CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF VARIED AND UNPREDICTABLE DURATION.” My emphasis! Note that under Senator Harry Reid as Senate Majority Leader for the entire Obama Administration, not a single Senate budget was even created, much less debated and passed, which led to the imposition of serial Continuing Resolutions.

Mattis also noted that stumbling into another fiscal year of Continuing Resolutions, as Congress seems to be heading, would mean NOT recruiting 15,000 Army soldiers and 4,000 Air Force airmen. It would also mean grounding aircraft for lack of spare parts, and worse in terms of longer term procurements for badly needed warships and weapons. Mattis also noted that the same day that a Congressionally-mandated National Defense Strategy was unveiled, that Congress SHUT DOWN the government. He noted in his testimony that “Without sustained, predictable appropriations, my presence here today wastes your time.” I would note that it also weakens our

defense readiness posture in both the short term and the longer term when our major adversaries are accelerating their military spending and challenging us virtually everywhere.

Please note that both Senators from Oregon are on the side of reduced defense spending. Each seems to be very supportive of service members and veterans, but against higher defense spending, a dichotomy I find difficult to understand.

Taxpayer Dollars Up In Smoke with Student Loan Losses: Over the past several years, I have written articles lamenting the deterioration of the Federal Student Loan Program. However, despite an explosion in the size of the program and an increasing default rate, the official position of the Administration and the Department of Education has been that the program would produce a sizable surplus/profit for the government.

That fiction has evaporated, and, instead, large losses are being predicted. How large? Say ostensibly \$36 BILLION! Now, in the context of a \$4 trillion national budget, \$36 Billion is not too large. But compare the figure to just \$33 billion expended in the Great Recession TARP program--to bail out banks, car companies, insurers and the like--and \$36 billion is LARGE.

Moreover, my guess is that the \$36 billion loss will end up at over \$50 billion, and this is a major scandal. I postulate a continuing expansion of the loss because there has been a pattern of underestimating both default rates and the number of loans converting to payments determined by income rather than the stated payment schedule. After all, the projected loss ballooned from only \$8.4 billion to the current figure in just one year, once the current Administration put in place more realistic accounting procedures recommended by the GAO.

Why did the government put itself in this position? Is there a single major program undertaken by government that is more efficient than private enterprise? Not one that I can find. The current Student Loan Portfolio is gargantuan in size, encompassing \$1.4 TRILLION in loans made to over 43 million students and parents with a default rate of over 10%. In comparison, the default rate on MOAA Scholarship loans is well under 1%. Already, over 5 million loans are in default. This is just

one more example of faulty government intervention in a system which was working well before it was taken over. One could envision a rationale for such a takeover if the premise was to provide lower cost loans to deserving citizens and still break even (or earn a return for the government).

A more cynical view is that this misguided effort by the previous Administration and supported by a compliant Congress is another sneaky method of income redistribution. After all, the government is taking funds from taxpayers and providing loans to low income students, then relaxing repayment requirements so that the taxpayer effectively is giving his funds to students. You can guess where I come out on that question. We taxpayers will be paying for this politically created monster for years if not decades.

CPI Trends UP in January: After stalling out for the earlier two months, the January CPI rose 0.5%, bringing the year-to-date increase over the COLA baseline to rise an aggregate 0.9%. Unless an unexpected cooling in inflationary pressures occurs over the next eight months, we could project a 2019 Cola adjustment in the 2% range. After a brief downturn in energy prices, oil seems to be returning to a WTI figure above \$60 per barrel, which is a major portion of the CPI compilation. Stay tuned.

Taking Down the Regulatory State Dollar by Dollar: Other than the Tax Reform Bill, Congress has not been a pivotal area for implementing change for the Trump Administration. However, change is and has been occurring at Agencies, the Courts, and Commissions.

Case in point is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. A bizarre creature created by the Dodd-Frank Act at the urging of Senator Warren, it was established without Congressional

funding mechanisms--instead receiving whatever it requested directly from the Federal Reserve. In essence, it was insulated from accountability, and its Director, Richard Cordray, routinely ignored the few jurisdictional constraints written into the law. Despite having essentially unlimited funding, Cordray during his tenure established a \$177 Million "reserve fund." Whatever he needed a reserve fund to accomplish is a mystery! Cordray then asked the Reserve for new funding of \$217 Million to close out his time in office.

Happily, after Cordray's departure, Trump's new Acting Director, Mick Mulvaney, rescinded that request and asked for \$0 dollars, absolutely zero. He will spend down the Reserve Fund and ascertain what the proper spending level will be by the next quarter. This is called impacting the federal government spending pattern by going to actual zero-based budgeting!

In a January 2018 memo to the CFPB staff, Mulvaney concluded with the following charge, "The CFPB has a new mission: We will exercise, with humility and prudence, the almost unparalleled power Congress has bestowed upon us to enforce the law faithfully in furtherance of our mandate. But, we go no further. The days of aggressively 'pushing the envelope' are over." What a breath of fresh air!

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Liaison to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Quote by Charles M. Schulz

We did have chocolate at our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Valentine's Day Luncheon**--thanks to **Mrs. Carol Patrick**. There were 11 in attendance, which included our guest speaker; **Jill Murphy**, Soldier & Family Assistance, US Army Recruiting Battalion, Portland, OR. She spoke of her 45-day assignment in Dallas, Texas, taking calls from hurricane survivors. She told of a couple unique situations: Animals entering homes to get out of the elements, one lady who had a dead boar in her living room and she could not get it out, a handicapped man who had bees move into his home as the tree where the nest was had blown down, and challenges with phone service and language barriers in Puerto Rico.

We were treated to 2 models showing clothing and jewelry from “**Albertina’s Closet**”. The jewelry caught the eye of one of our attendees. The “special gift” of the day was won by **Col Mary Mayer**.

We look forward to our next luncheon, starting at **12:00 noon** on **April 17, 2018** at **Albertina Kerr’s Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232**, in the main dining room. Chapter wives are cordially invited. To make reservations for the luncheon, please call or email **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**. If you have food allergies, please call Albertina’s two days before the luncheon at 503-231-0216 to arrange for food that you can eat.

Operation Homefront will be having a “Baby Shower” the month of May in Bremerton, WA. Diapers and wipes will be needed for this celebration. Thank you for your support. Also, if you or anyone you know received a new cell phone recently, please bring used cell phones to the luncheon for the **“Cell Phones For Soldiers Program”**.

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
REPORT By Captain Doug
MacEllven, USAF (Former)**

ROTC CONNECTIONS:

- This spring, University of Portland Formal Awards Banquets will be held for Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC. AFROTC will be 19 April at the University of Portland Commons, while AROTC will be 4 May at the Airport Sheraton.
- All commissioning cadets (18 Army; 10 Air Force) will receive Gold Bars and certificates provided by our MOAA-PDX Chapter. The MOAA Medal and our Chapter’s scholarship for \$500 will be presented to the outstanding cadet from each branch.

- All Commissioning cadets will be recognized by name in our next *Brass Bulletin*.

JROTC CONNECTIONS:

- JROTC MOAA National Leadership Award Ceremonies will be held this spring for both of our supported JROTC programs (Reynolds High School and Oregon City High School). The cadets receiving the awards will be recognized by name in our next *Brass Bulletin*. Each JROTC Commander [our Chapters members: **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)** of Oregon City H.S. and **CWO4 Rick Fernandez, USA (Ret)** of Reynolds H.S.] will receive a \$500 award toward leadership training courses.
- Last November, some of our members participated in Oregon City H.S. Veterans Day class speaking engagements, and in the next week a separate classroom speaking event was held as Career Spotlight Day. The career day speakers’ opportunity will be repeated on 18 April 2018 (early class periods). Last year, the varied speaker topics covered in 20 to 30-minute talks spanned the spectrum of Aeronautics, R.N., lawyer, teachers, business owners, engineers, news reporters, project directors, computers, etc. If you would like to be a speaker, please contact: **Erica Frafjord**, ASPIRE Coordinator, College & Career Center, O.C.H.S. (503-785-8900 ext 5033; Erica.frafjord@orecity.k12.or.us

VETERANS’ STAND-DOWNS AND FAIRS:

- Our Membership Committee Chair **Major Bill Tidd (USAF, Ret)**, **Kathryn MacEllven**, and I attend these events to promote MOAA and the PDX Chapter as well as to distribute ROTC literature from colleges (think future MOAA members).
- In April, we will be attending two events:
 - Marylhurst University’s 2nd Annual Veterans Resource and Job Fair – 14 April (Saturday)
 - Hood River County’s 2nd Annual Job Fair at the Hood River Armory–20 April (Friday afternoon)

Note: Contact information on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, **www.moaaportland.org**

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

April 3, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
April 17, 2018	Surviving Spouse Luncheon (Time: 1200 noon, Location: Albertina Kerr's Restaurant)
May 3, 2018	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
May 5, 2018	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: Hayden's)
June 5, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
July and August 2018	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meetings</i>
August 2, 2018	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
September 4, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

NOTE 1: All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at **0930**—and **are open to all members!** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the **June 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **6 May 2018**.