



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

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**

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**P.O. Box 18206
Portland, OR 97213**

Volume XXXVI, Numbers 7 & 8

www.MOAAPortland.org

April & May 2020

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 7 April 2020

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, OR 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

CAPT James Estramonte, USCG,
Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter
Munro, will speak on **“The Mission and
Accomplishments of the *Munro*.”**

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: \$31.00 per person (includes 22% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Michael Seiwald,**
USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 1 April 2020. See
Michael’s contact information and more info at the
bottom of the second column on this page.

IN MEMORIAM:

May They Rest in Peace!

Lt Col Duane Houck, USAF (Ret)

Mrs. Marjory Fischer, Surviving Spouse

Mrs. Mitzi Erickson, Surviving Spouse

MAY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 2 May 2020

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

Reverend Karyn Dix, Youth Minister at Murray
Hills Christian Church, will speak on **“Moral
Injury.”**

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Cheese
Breakfast Potatoes
French Toast with Maple Syrup, Strawberries, &
Whipped Cream
Crisp Bacon and Link Sausage
Fresh Seasonal Fruit Tray
Bakery Assortment with Butter & Fruit Preserves
Assorted Chilled Fruit Juices
Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST: \$28.00 per person (includes 22% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please
contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at
503-381-2620 or **mjseiwald@comcast.net NLT**
1100 on Wednesday, 29 April 2020. No late
reservations, and please call if you must cancel as
we must pay for no-shows. (*Note: Please indicate*
if you have any dietary restrictions or need
transportation.)

DURING APRIL & MAY MEETINGS: Raffle tickets are
available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the MOAA
Portland Chapter Charity. 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. April and May are no exceptions.

Speakers: On 7 April, **CAPT James Estramonte, USCG**, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter *Munro* will speak on **“The Mission and Accomplishments of the *Munro*.”** (See picture below.)



CAPT Estramonte will be highlighting the recent success of the *Munro* in capturing a semi-submersible vessel that was carrying 17,000 pounds of cocaine. This made national news, and the video about it went viral. You can view the video

at: <https://www.military.com/video/us-coast-guard-cutter-munro-interdicts-suspected-drug-smuggling-vessel>

When the *Munro* returned to her home port of Alameda, California, she was met by Vice President Pence to congratulate the officers and crew for a job well done. The *Munro* performs 10 of the Coast Guard's 11 missions (she doesn't do

icebreaking), so he will also address the Coast Guard's current status and needs. His next assignment will be as Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard Commander, Pacific Area.

Please feel free to invite any of your friends who you think may be interested in hearing about this very interesting topic!!!

For our 2 May meeting, we have invited **Reverend Karyn Dix**, the Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation at Murry Hills Christian Church in Beaverton and Portland Chapter Honorary Member and Chapter Meeting Chaplain, to speak on **“Moral Injury.”** Moral Injury is defined as a “wounding to a person's spirit/soul when their actions go against the moral code that each human is born with.” Moral Injury is a huge issue for today's military. (See picture below.)



Reverend Dix has served in her current position since 2013 and is excited to be a part of God's calling to do Ministry in today's changing world. Prior to this position, she worked as a Youth Minister for six years.

Growing up in Northern California, Karyn moved to Oregon in 2002 to raise her daughter closer to family. She earned her Master of Divinity from George Fox Evangelical Seminary in December 2012 with a concentration in Spiritual Formation. Karyn is also a trained Spiritual Director. She has a passion for justice and ministers to women in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Oregon's Women's Prison. In addition, she is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry at Brite Divinity School, where the Center for Moral Injury is housed.

Karyn's father served in the Air Force before she was born, and her uncle served as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. Neither talked about their service much. It wasn't until a few months before Karyn's Ordination in 2013 that the effects of Military Trauma manifested themselves. It was then that her uncle had a "breakdown" from his Vietnam experiences. Her uncle's condition was the catalyst for her interest and research into Moral Injury.

**LAST CALL FOR
REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020
OREGON WOMEN VETERANS
CONFERENCE!**

Registration is open for the 2020 Oregon Women Veterans Conference! This free biennial event, organized by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, is the largest gathering of women-identified veterans in the state.

Women veterans from every branch of military service, era, and background are invited to attend this free conference being held on May 30-31 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend. The conference hosts educational workshops, keynote speakers, networking opportunities, and celebrates the service and contribution of women who served in the military throughout history.

"Oregon is a leader in recognizing and honoring the unique contribution of women who have served their country. At this year's conference, we are emphasizing the strength of the Oregon women veteran community," said ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick. "Attendees will learn about accessing their earned veteran benefits, hear from several dynamic women veteran speakers during general sessions, and have many opportunities to connect with other like-

minded women veterans from across the state."

The theme selected for this year's conference is "*Stronger Together.*"

"The Oregon Women Veterans Conference began over 20 years ago as a small gathering of women veterans who wanted to reach out and support one another," said ODVA Women Veterans Coordinator Liz Estabrooks. "It is phenomenal to see how the conference has evolved, but also how it has remained true to its original intent: to be a place where women veterans can meet other women veterans from across the state, learn about the veteran benefits they are entitled to, and celebrate the historical contribution that women have made to the nation while serving in the military."

Today, more than 25,000 women veterans make up nearly 9% of the Oregon veteran population and that number is expected to continue to increase as military occupation specialties traditionally reserved for male service members have expanded to explicitly allow women to serve in all roles.

- **ROOM BOOKING INFO:** Reserve your room today at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes, 3075 N Business 97, Bend, Oregon 97703! Be sure to let them know you are registering for the Oregon Women Veterans Conference for the best discount. Contact the resort at: (866) 453-4400 or online at www.riverhouse.com
- **REGISTRATION OPEN:** Conference attendance is free for women-identified veterans and registration is required. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.
- **REGISTER AT:** <http://wvc.oregondva.com>

Finally, I Need Your Help with the following:

- Bringing in new chapter members
- Volunteering for Chair, Decorations Committee
- Volunteering to join the Program Committee
- Volunteering to join the Membership committee

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 in January and February 2020.

Captain Amy McIlvenna, USAR (Ret)
and husband **Gavin**

Colonel Eric Leshinsky, USAF
and wife **Kimberly**

The year has really started out with a bang with two new members joining the Portland Chapter since the first of the year. MOAA National has also been actively sending me potential new member listings containing 27 names for the month of January and 46 names for the month of February. Out of the 73 names, I was able to transmit 50 “Welcome Packages” which invited them to our next chapter meeting. As of this date, I have received zero replies, but maybe they will attend the dinner.

The Membership Committee has also started some new initiatives. We have requested MOAA National to announce our meetings on March 7th and April 7th in their electronic support message. This should reach approximately 1,500 potential non-chapter MOAA members inviting them to the meetings. We have also formed an Ad Hoc Advisory Group which will investigate the current methods used in the receipt and disbursement of our financial resources, brunch and dinner pricing, instituting a “Call Member” program, and ways we can retain the 10-15 individuals each year who do not feel obligated to continue membership in our chapter.

Finally, I thought it was time to re-inform each member on the incentives and awards available to the chapter.

- One-time National MOAA Recruiting Bonus Incentive
 - Chapters will receive a one-time \$50 bonus if 100% of MOAA – eligible chapter members are national MOAA members at the basic level or above on June 1, 2020.
 - Incentive will be paid in July 2020 by EFT.
- Annual Recruiting Incentive
 - Chapters will earn \$10 for every incentive-qualified BASIC member, \$15 for every incentive-qualified PREMIUM member, and \$30 for every incentive-qualified LIFE member who is new or upgrades membership level during the calendar year.
 - Incentive will be paid by EFT to the chapter in January of the following year.
- Annual Retention Incentive
 - \$150 retention incentive awarded to each geographic chapter that retains 90 percent or more of their membership for the year.

There are sufficient incentive funds available from MOAA National that should motivate all members to get out there and recruit for the chapter. Are you doing your share?

AN OPINION PIECE:

**MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Incompetence Strikes Again in Salem: Ever since Kate Brown became Governor of our fine state, she has trumpeted her refrain, that the state has a “Revenue Problem.” That is why the legislature and the Administration have been inventing new ways to tax us citizens, much to our dismay. My response over the years has been that we really have a Spending Problem, which is largely created by incompetent management throughout the state and local jurisdictions.

As our cruise ship idled off the shores of Fiji this morning while health inspectors inspected the ship for signs of the coronavirus, I was struck by an article in the *Oregonian* regarding a FINANCIAL CRISIS at the state Forestry Department.

In essence, the Forestry folks have spent ALMOST ALL of their 2-year budget in just 7 months and will run out of funds in March unless the state provides

emergency new cash in a range of \$52-\$132 million, basically right now. Who really knows if such funds will last through the end of the budget period?

At this time, the Department has amassed accounts receivable of \$103 million, much from the federal government and some dating back 7 YEARS FROM 2013! Seven years? Are they serious? This issue was raised several months ago, and the Governor appointed a panel to look into the situation, but NOTHING seems to have been done in the interim. How hard is it to mail out bills that have been around for years? So, in the accounts receivable area, we see dereliction of duty, and in the spending pattern total lack of controls! So, the financial crisis is bad enough by itself. But the overall challenge is compounded by the Governor, who wants to substantially EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE Forestry Department. She proposes to add 68 new employees at a supposed cost of \$20 million annually to improve firefighting and reforestation programs. That seems to me to be the equivalent of providing alcohol to an alcoholic! Let them prove that they can manage their current department before expanding the mission and committing more taxpayer dollars.

Better yet, hire some financial management personnel and identify a department head who has actual financial and accounting expertise. Get your house in order before wasting more money.

Moreover, the Governor proposes to add a new re-forestry initiative at an expected cost of \$200 million over 20 years. I will bet that the cost will be much higher than the proposed figure, but it will mostly occur after her tenure is completed.

In a true Governor pattern, she plans to initiate and pay consultants to ascertain how other states fund their forestry needs!

More dollars out the door and more time wasted for information that should already be resident inside the Forestry Department.

The beat goes on, and it adversely affects our state, the citizens who pay for state waste, and our vital forests. The *Oregonian* adds as a side note that the Department has raised the level of clear cutting to raise money for its operations. Save us!

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

Our MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Valentine Luncheon was small in attendance, but so enjoyable as usual. We never lack for conversation. Many times, it is difficult to decide what to order as there are so many choices on the menu, but no worries; any choice is delicious. There is always chocolate candy at each place setting and the chance to win a special gift.

We hope you will be able to join this special group of ladies for our next luncheon. You will feel so welcome. Chapter wives are always welcome. We have only two more luncheons until our summer break.

Our April luncheon is scheduled for 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland 97232. If you would like to attend, please call or e-mail **Mrs. Jean Hillman** at **503-692-5571** or budjean@aol.com

If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at 503-231-0216 to arrange for an alternate menu.

If you or anyone you know has bought a new cell phone, please bring the old cell phone for the **Cell Phones For Soldiers Program**. We are still receiving diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront**.



*By CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret),
Chapter Board of Directors*

This year Portland will host the 40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games from July 3rd-8th. Shaun Benson, a MOAA Portland Chapter member, is the local chairperson for this year's Wheelchair Games. The event is a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Games serve veterans with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, amputations, and other central neurological impairments--with the goal to increase their independence, healthy, activity, and quality of life through wheelchair sports and recreation.

Wheelchair sports had their beginning in the aftermath of World War II. Disabled Veterans playing wheelchair basketball in a VA hospital were showing mobility skills, laughter, and team spirit that providers were not seeing in the clinics. The power of sport and recreation to support the recovery of disabled Veterans soon spread throughout VA hospitals across the United States, and the field of Recreational Therapy emerged.

Interest soon spread to other sports such as track and field, bowling, swimming, and archery. Associations devoted to new and innovative wheelchair sports began to form across the country. The first National Veteran Wheelchair Games was held in 1981 as part of the International Year of Disabled Persons, and that year 74 Veterans from 14 states competed. Attendance has grown over the years, and now over 600 athletes attend these games from nearly every state and Puerto Rico.

Most of the events for the Portland Wheelchair Games will take place at the Oregon Convention Center, but other venues will be used for swimming, golf, and track and field. To carry out a successful event, history has shown that it takes upwards of 3,000 volunteers from the community to bring this together. If you would like to volunteer for the Games, contact **Barbara Decoito-Weaver** at **503-220-8262, Ext. 55042**. For more information on the games, check out the website: <https://www.wheelchairgames.org>, and the Portland Games promotional video at [NVWG 2020 PDX](#).

REMINDER:
The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0945
on Thursday, 7 May 2020
at the Colwood Golf Center
(Full Breakfast Starts at 0900)

ODVA DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT
MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER
ON 7 MARCH 2020



Chapter President Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
(right) thanks ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick for
sharing her insights with the chapter membership

PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**President**

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret): 1-310-897-1902

First Vice President

CAPT Lawrence Roberts, USNR (Ret): 503-722-1897

Second Vice President

Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret): 1-443-996-1011

Recording Secretary

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

Reservations Secretary

CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret): 503-381-2620

Treasurer

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 971-226-7103

Immediate Past President: *Vacant*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297
LTC Gary Battles: 503-739-3334

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896
CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

Air Force Reps

Colonel Eric Leshinsky: 503-744-1292
Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253

Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Doug Sheehan: 503-297-8474

USPHS

CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman: 503-333-4565

Women in Service Rep

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret): 503-951-1805

CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

Membership: Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

Legislative: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)
LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

Personal Affairs: Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Communications: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman
Mrs. Carol Patrick

Decorations: *Vacant*

Fundraising: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR
(Ret)

Scholarship: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR
(Ret)

Special Events: Capt Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm)

ESGR Outreach: COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)
COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

Chaplains: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)
Reverend Karyn Dix
Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

Note: More contact info 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 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

April 7, 2020	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
April 21, 2020	Surviving Spouse Luncheon (Time: 1200 noon, Location: Albertina Kerr's Restaurant)
May 2, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 7, 2020</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
May 29-31, 2020	Oregon Women Veterans Conference (Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, OR)
June 2, 2020	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July and August 2020</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meetings</i>
<i>August 6, 2020</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>

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 2020 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **4 May 2020**.