



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)
Brass Bulletin Newsletter**
“Never Stop Serving”

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**
--
P.O. Box 18206
Portland, OR 97213

Volume XXXVII, Numbers 7 & 8 www.MOAAPortland.org April & May 2021

APRIL VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

Social Time: 1800; Meeting Starts: 1830

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Video Teleconference

PROGRAM:

Dr. Bruce Gilley, Professor of Political Science, Portland State University, will speak on the “**Political Alignments, Developments, and Projections Surrounding the Ongoing Tensions in the South China Sea.**”

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 31 March 2021.** See Michael’s contact information and more info in the **middle of the second column on this page.**

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING: Please use one of the two following methods:

1. **For video teleconference**, click on the following link (or put the link in your computer’s browser), then add Meeting ID and Password:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89004867329?pwd=bnFkcjF3V0k2SDJBY2ZwSjVHd3A0QT09>

Meeting ID: 890 0486 7329 Passcode: 011294

2. **For audio only**, dial the phone number below, then add Meeting ID and Password:

+ 1 699 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 890 0486 7329 Passcode: 011294

Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0900
on Thursday, 6 May 2021
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

MAY VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:

Saturday, 1 May 2021

Social Time: 0930; Meeting Starts: 1000

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Video Teleconference

PROGRAM:

Reverend Karyn Dix, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation at Murray Hills Christian Church, will speak on “**Moral Injury.**”

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) at 503-381-2620** or mjseiwald@comcast.net **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 April 2021** so he can advise the Zoom Host to allow you access to the virtual meeting. *If Michael has not confirmed your reservation in two days, please follow up with him.* Once you have reservations, join the Zoom Meeting one of two ways (see below).

TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING: Please use one of the two following methods:

1. **For video teleconference**, click on the following link (or put the link in your computer’s browser), then add Meeting ID and Password:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81469677221?pwd=UWw1Unp0NDBSWk9HSVFiVnFNc0xqUT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6967 7221 Passcode: 815177

2. **For audio only**, dial the phone number below, then add Meeting ID and Password:

+ 1 699 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 814 6967 7221 Passcode: 815177

RAFFLES DURING APRIL & MAY MEETINGS: \$20 raffle tickets can be purchased in advance of the meetings for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF
(Ret)

The **Program Committee** has provided two dynamic and knowledgeable guest speakers for the April and May 2021 chapter meetings. In April, our guest speaker is **Dr. Bruce Gilley**, Professor of Political Science at Portland State University, who will speak on the **“Political Alignments, Developments, and Projections Surrounding the Ongoing Tensions in the South China Sea.”** (See photo below).



Bruce Gilley is Professor of Political Science at the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. His research centers on comparative and international politics and public policy. His work covers issues as diverse as democracy, climate change, political legitimacy, and international conflict. He is a specialist on the politics of China and Asia. He is the author of four university-press books, including *The Nature of Asian Politics* (2015), *The Right to Rule: How States Win and Lose Legitimacy* (2009) and *China's Democratic Future* (2004) in addition to several co-edited volumes. His scholarly articles have appeared in journals including *Comparative Political Studies* and the *European Journal of Political Research* and his policy articles

in journals including *Foreign Affairs* and the *Washington Quarterly*. A member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Democracy* and the *Journal of Contemporary China*, Gilley has received grants from the Smith-Richardson Foundation and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. He was a Commonwealth Scholar at Oxford University from 1989 to 1991 and a Woodrow Wilson Scholar at Princeton University from 2004 to 2006. From 1992 to 2002, he was a journalist in Hong Kong where he wrote for the *Eastern Express* newspaper and then the *Far Eastern Economic Review* magazine. His biggest scoop was exposing an illicit technology transfer by a Stanford professor to China's military.

In May, we have invited **Reverend Karyn Dix**, the Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation at Murray Hills Christian Church, 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 Karyn’s photo 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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

The MOAA Portland Chapter has recruited no new members since the last *Brass Bulletin Newsletter*.

The chapter has finally received the *2021 Chapter Recruiting Program Guide*. The basic guide remains basically unchanged except for a couple of new items. I have listed those items below:

- **Annual Recruiting Incentive (Premium & Life)** – Chapters will earn \$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.

As many of you are aware, on 25 February 2021, NASA was able to successfully land its 7th probe to MARS. The Mars 2020 *Perseverance Rover* will search for signs of ancient microbial life, which will advance NASA's quest to explore the past habitability of Mars. The rover has a drill to collect core samples of Martian rock and soil, then store them in sealed tubes for pickup by a future mission that would ferry them back to Earth for detailed analysis. *Perseverance* will also test technologies to help pave the way for future human exploration of Mars. Strapped to the rover's belly for the journey to Mars is a technology demonstration — the Mars Helicopter, *Ingenuity*, which may achieve a "Wright Brothers moment" by testing the first powered flight on the Red Planet.

On 1 June 2021 at 6 pm, our chapter has successfully arranged for a guest speaker, **Dr. Jason Cornelius**, who will give us an "**Update of MARS Initiatives and the MARS Ingenuity Helicopter.**" This virtual chapter meeting should be the highlight of the season. Watch for the meeting details and Zoom connection in the *June 2021 MOAA Portland Chapter Brass Bulletin Newsletter!* I hope to "see" all of you in attendance.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at wtidd96218@aol.com or 443-996-1011 (cell).

REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER: PAY YOUR 2021 CHAPTER DUES! *By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Chapter Treasurer*

As of today, we have **169** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter. Of those, **72** regular members have paid their dues for 2021 or later, and **2** Surviving Spouse members have paid their dues for 2021. In addition, **40** regular members still owe \$30 for chapter dues for 2021 and **51** Surviving Spouse members have elected not to pay any dues. Like Surviving Spouse members, the 4 Honorary Members are not required to pay dues but are encouraged to do so.

If you have not done so already, please plan on paying your **2021 dues** as soon as possible. Send your **\$30**

- **Weekly Recruitment Tracker** – This tracker was developed so that chapter leaders can see their progress and should reflect updates Command Module Administrators have made to their rosters.
- **Online Chapter Member Dues Join and Renewal Program** – This tool is offered at no cost to chapters and allows participating chapters to offer single and multi-year membership renewals to members, as well as an option to make a donation.
- **Common Join Form** - The master form has been revised.

check, made out to “Portland Chapter - MOAA” (memo line should read “2021 Dues”) and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



Crocus, daffodil and daphne are all welcoming us to spring. It is a fresh new time of year. We will have spring rains, but don't be bothered--as that is part of keeping Oregon as we know it.

Many have received or are in the process of receiving their vaccines. That is good news. If you know someone who is frustrated trying to get an appointment for the vaccine, have them go online at <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/> or have them check with their local pharmacies. Or you might give them some assistance and make the search yourself! It would certainly be appreciated.

We may be able to plan a **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse luncheon** relatively soon. Our normal luncheon would be Tuesday, 20 April 2021. That gives us some time. Keep positive thoughts. It would be so nice to share a meal together again.

If you order groceries on-line to be delivered or picked up, you might order a few new baby items for the Portland VA Health Care Program, **Operation Diaper**

Bag. The internet link is: www.portland.va.gov and their number is **503-273-5042**. Also, continue to purchase diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and check with friends and family for old, replaced cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

Always check your *MOAA Portland Chapter Brass Bulletin Newsletter* for information on the upcoming Virtual Chapter Meetings. The next one will be **Tuesday, 6 April 2021; social time starts at 1800**, and the **meeting starts at 1830**. Surviving Spouses are always invited to these chapter events, which include highly informative guest speakers. The meetings are held via Zoom Video Teleconference, and I have been pleased to see several of you attending on a regular basis. However, I would like to see more of you join us for our virtual Chapter Meetings—you don't have to drive and can enjoy the meeting from the comfort of your own home.

If you don't have Zoom capability, you can **call in on your phone**. The directions are easy: dial **1-669-900-6833**, and, when prompted, put in the **Meeting ID and Password**. *The Meeting ID and Password are found on the first page of the newsletter*. For those of you missing the social part of our Chapter Meetings, we are now having a **Virtual Social Time** for 30 minutes before each meeting – come join us!

AN OPINION PIECE: MY COMMENTARY ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret), Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Truth in Labeling - Congressional Style: In the very early stages of the Biden administration, there are momentous pieces of legislation winding their ways through Congress. Unfortunately, the titles appended to some of these bills are in no way reflective of their intent. Yet, our feckless media adopts the misleading titles to refer to the proposals, obscuring the real intent of Congress, or at least the ruling party leading Congress. Two of the most important bills are the “For the People Act,” HR 1, and the alleged “COVID Relief Act.”

HR 1 is self-described by its sponsors as a “voting reform act” with a dose of campaign finance “reforms” baked in.

In actuality, the act is written to override the Constitution of the United States, removing the individual states from establishing their separate laws, restrictions, and processes. Instead, much of the power to manage voting in the states would be federalized, wherein the Representatives and Senators the populace is voting on will also be the individuals establishing the voting process. Does that sound right to you? It sure does not to me – nor to the 20 state attorneys general who will take the bill to court if it is passed and signed into law.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* editorial by Kimberley Strassel said the bill would:

- Strip states of their authority to decide methods of balloting, election deadlines, and most aspects of election security
- Mandate mail-in voting
- Impose registration rules
- Dictate ballot return dates
- VOID identification standards (emphasis is mine)
- Limit state ability to draw congressional districts (not a factor of voting but of extreme import)

The Ohio Secretary of State sent a letter to the Ohio Senators warning that, far from “reforming” elections, the bill is setting states up for “bedlam.” He notes that Ohio just concluded its fall elections by shattering the voter turnout record and avoiding confusion. He concludes that the bill is a case of “crisis opportunism.” Strassel concludes that, instead of voter suppression alleged by the bill sponsors, the real “big lie” is a bill that is “a brazen attempt to rig the game for a permanent Democratic majority.”

Turning to the supposed stimulus/relief bill, *The Oregonian* on March 7th headlined: “Senate approves \$1.9T virus relief bill.” The bill was passed intact except for the Bernie Sanders sponsored

\$15 per hour minimum Federal wage proposal.

This bill is a conglomeration of Democratic wish lists from the preceding four years. Moreover, much of the money involved will not even be spent this year. For instance, of the \$40 billion in the bill allocated to higher education, the CBO estimates that fully 95% will be SPENT in 2022-2028. Indeed, the \$112 billion allocated in the CARES 2020 package to higher education has essentially been untouched. So why does the current package allocate more billions? Good question and not even addressed.

How are the funds allocated in the 2021 bill? Amazingly, just 42% or \$800 billion goes to direct COVID relief. That means that 58% or \$1.1 TRILLION is targeted at what I would call ancillary applications.

By far the largest sum, \$350 billion, goes to states, counties, and cities. Most egregious, the new bill makes allocations on the basis of three-month unemployment rates as of December 2020. This, of course, favors those states which locked down their economies to the greatest extent, notably New York at an 8.2% unemployment rate, and California at 9%. In contrast, South Dakota, at just 3% unemployment, was penalized this year. Previously, funds were allocated on the basis of population. Guess what, the preponderance of funds this time are going to blue states.

Another target for funds, in the amount of \$86 billion, was multi-employer pension plans under the umbrella of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Tell me how that is any way related to COVID. A pure giveaway,

A further \$100 billion gift was made by raising the child tax credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Adding insult to injury, secondary education was awarded \$129 billion, **WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOLS REOPENED FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING.**

Essentially, this bill is a Christmas Tree for favored groups and programs. One of my favorites is \$500 million, a relative pittance--for the arts, museums, humanities, and the like. Clearly a National priority.

I would characterize the “stimulus” bill as a progressive blow-out for the ages. Even the timing is suspect. This was a Biden promise on the campaign trail, and it might have made sense during the Fall. However, the strong employment numbers released in early March suggest that the economy is mending rapidly. Additionally, with major states moving to reopen, the bill seems increasingly unnecessary. And, inflation seems to be building, despite Jerome Powell’s sanguine response in recent testimony before Congress.

I believe that the stimulus bill is poorly constructed, very badly timed, and will not serve the country well. Time will tell!

***VIRTUAL TOWN HALL FOR
 VIETNAM VETERANS
 Hosted by Kelly Fitzpatrick, ODVA
 Director***

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Director Kelly Fitzpatrick will host a live virtual Town Hall for Vietnam Veterans on March 25 at 12:00 noon via Zoom. Vietnam veterans are the largest veteran demographic in Oregon by era of service, with more than one-third of the state’s 300,000 veterans having served in the Vietnam War era.

The live event on March 25 will cover earned benefits and other resources available to Vietnam veterans and their families, including disability compensation, Agent Orange exposure and presumptive diseases, health care, and behavioral health services — as well as more recent changes to benefits such as the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Trained and federally accredited Veteran Service Officers and other benefits experts will be on hand to provide direct assistance to participants, including filing a claim for benefits or an appeal if they have been denied previously.

Fitzpatrick will also be joined by Renaye Murphy, Executive Director of the Portland Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). As Executive Director, Ms. Murphy is responsible for administering over \$130 million per month in compensation and pension benefits to approximately 97,289 Veterans, dependents, and their survivors living in Alaska and Oregon. In addition to providing information, the purpose of the event is for the directors of both agencies to hear directly from Vietnam veterans about their experience accessing benefits and challenges they have encountered.

The Virtual Vietnam Veterans Town Hall will be held at 12:00 noon (PST) Thursday, March 25, via Zoom. You may register online at oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Townhalls.aspx. Submit questions for Director Fitzpatrick or Director Murphy in advance by emailing orvetsbenefits@odva.state.or.us before March 22. Registration is recommended but not required. Callers and questions will be welcomed on a “first come, first served” basis. Live closed captioning will be available for the video portion of this event. If you register, a link to the virtual event will be sent to your email. **To call in for the meeting without registering, dial 877-853-5247, and use meeting ID 811 7856 3418. The passcode is 295308.**

Other Upcoming Engagements by ODVA

Virtual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day: March 29th marks 48 years since the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam in 1973. Unlike veterans of previous wars, the troops returning home from Vietnam did not receive a warm welcome or appreciation for their sacrifices. Oregon will honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their sacrifices on March 30th with a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” which recognizes the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home. Follow ODVA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/odva) for a special virtual event on March 30, as the state honors and recognizes Vietnam War veterans.

2021 Oregon Women Veterans Conference: Save the date! The 2021 Women Veterans Conference will be held virtually May 22. Sign up to receive conference notifications and other women veteran related emails on <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Women-Veterans.aspx>

2020-2021 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**President**

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

First Vice President

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret): 503-739-3334

Second Vice President

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

Recording Secretary

CDR Doug J. Sheehan, USCGR (Ret): 503-653-6058

Reservations Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297
MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret): 503-309-7458

Navy Reps

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

Air Force Reps

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253
Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep: Vacant**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

2020-2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

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

Fundraising and 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
SAVE THE DATES!**

April 6, 2021	Virtual Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations
May 1, 2021	Virtual Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections
<i>May 6, 2021</i>	<i>Virtual Board of Directors Meeting</i>
<i>May 22, 2021</i>	<i>Virtual ODVA Oregon Women Veterans Conference (www.wvc.oregondva.gov)</i>
June 1, 2021	Virtual Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation
<i>July-August 2021</i>	<i>No chapter meetings are scheduled.</i>
<i>August 5, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
September 7, 2021	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 **0945**—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the combined **June 2021 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 May 2021**.