



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

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

Volume XXXIX, Numbers 7 & 8 www.MOAAPortland.org April & May 2023

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 4 April 2023

Social Time: 1700; Meeting Starts: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, OR 97015-9760

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret),
Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Portland
State and Western Oregon Universities, will
speak on "Tensions over Taiwan."

MENU:

Field Greens Salad

Chicken in Apple Brandy Cream Sauce
with Linguica

Whipped Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Chef's Roasted Vegetables

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, and Hot Tea

COST: \$44.00 per person (includes 22% gratuity)

Please make check payable to: MOAA-PDX

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 29 March 2023.** See Michael's contact information and more info in the middle of the second column on this page.

Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0800
on Wednesday, 3 May 2023
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

MAY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 6 May 2023

Social Time: 0900; Meeting Starts: 1000

The Aerie at Eagle Landing

10220 SE Causey Avenue

Happy Valley, OR 97086

Phone: 503-698-8020

PROGRAM:

**Lt Col Ryan L. Barton, USAF, Deputy
Commander, 142 Mission Support Group, Portland
Air National Guard Base, will speak on "QUGVs
(Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicles)
(Robotic Dogs)"**

MENU:

Quiche Lorraine/Vegan Quiche

Potatoes O'Brien

Bacon

Breakfast Sausage

Seasonal Sliced Fruit

Assorted Pastries

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, and Orange Juice

COST: \$33.00 per person (includes 23% gratuity)

Please make check payable to: MOAA-PDX

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 May 2023.** *If Michael has not confirmed your reservation in two days, please follow up with him.*

DURING APRIL & MAY MEETINGS: Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity, 2023 Oregon Women Veterans' Conference, hosted by ODVA on 20-21 May 2023 in Salem, OR.

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 2023 chapter meetings. In April, our guest speaker is **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** (See photo below).



Christopher Owens grew up in Oregon. After graduating from Portland State University in 1982, he earned a commission in the Marine Corps. As a career aviator and strategic planner, he served for 35 years in a variety of assignments in the US and abroad, including Somalia, Iraq, the Philippines, Italy, Japan, and Korea. He commanded a light/attack helicopter squadron, an air group, a brigade, an air wing, and a service component headquarters.

In addition to brigade and wing command, Owens' general officer assignments included Chief of Plans, Policy, and Strategy for US-ROK Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command in Seoul, ROK, and Chief of Staff, Naval Strike and Support Forces, NATO in Naples, Italy. His final assignment was Director of Expeditionary Warfare Division, OPNAV N95. He has

accumulated over 4000 flight hours in a variety of type/model/series aircraft.

Owens retired from the Marine Corps in 2017 as a major general. Over the past several years he has taught a number of political science courses at Portland State and Western Oregon Universities as an adjunct professor. He is also active in several local non-profit organizations and city-community advisory boards.

In May, **Lt Col Ryan L. Barton, USAF**, Deputy Commander, 142 Mission Support Group, Portland Air National Guard Base, will speak on **"QUGVs (Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicles) (Robotic Dogs)."** (See photo below.)



Lt Colonel Ryan L. Barton is the Deputy Commander, 142nd Mission Support Group, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon. He oversees over 400 personnel, in order to provide support to the installation through communications, force protection, construction, personnel, services, environmental and contracting operations. He is an advisor on the execution of a \$15M budget for facility construction, base sustainment, facility repair, and daily operations and maintenance. Additionally, he provides advisement and oversight to the Oregon National Guard Response Force (NGRF), Fatality Search and Recovery Team and the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability system, maintaining and providing domestic operations capability for the state of Oregon.

Lt Colonel Barton enlisted in the Air Force in September 1995 and was a Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) until 2002 when he was selected for the Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program. He commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in June, 2005. His officer career has included duties at the squadron, group, Direct Reporting Unit and on a Joint Staff. Prior to his current assignment he was the Commander, 142nd Security Forces Squadron, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon where he led 90 Air National Guard, civilian, and State contract guard personnel in the safeguarding of \$735 Million in DoD assets including an Aerospace Control Alert mission. He was also the Oregon NGRF Commander, where he led a joint team of 350 Air and Army National Guard members in rapid response for domestic and civil disturbance operations.

***REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER:
PAY YOUR 2023 CHAPTER DUES!***
By ***LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
Chapter Treasurer***

As of today, we have **163** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter Of those, **77** regular members have paid their dues for 2023 or later, and **6** Surviving Spouse members have paid their dues for 2023. In addition, **33** regular members still owe \$30 for chapter dues for 2023 and **44** Surviving Spouse members have elected not to pay any dues so far. Like Surviving Spouse members, the **3** Honorary Members are not required to pay dues but are encouraged to do so.

If you have not done so already, please plan to pay your **2023 dues** as soon as possible. Send your **\$30 check**, made out to “Portland Chapter - MOAA” (memo line should read “2023 Dues”) and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213.

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*:

Captain Casey Norlin, ARNG
And wife **Karlee Mae**

CDR Colin Kliewer, NOAA
And wife **Julie**

Mrs. Tammy Boyce (Surviving Spouse)

Happy Spring, everyone! Our landscape is coming to life, the sun is stronger, temperatures are rising, and the days are growing longer. The animal kingdom is getting active, which includes us humans. Over the past 3 years, the Covid pandemic has taken a toll on our members and membership. It’s time for us to rally and recruit new members - seriously!

To give us some direction and assistance in recruiting members, the following paragraphs are taken from the *MOAA Chapter Recruiting Program Guide*: You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you’re talking to a potential new chapter member, it’s important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA’s chapter system. Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member. Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them.

1. **Make yourself heard.** MOAA’s chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA’s national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what’s on their minds and open doors for MOAA’s legislative team in Washington, D.C.
2. **Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA’s ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
3. **Value added to chapter members’ lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities

to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

4. **Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired servicemembers who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

5. **Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

6. **Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.

7. **Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as Surviving Spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

This year, our chapter won the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National for the fifteenth year in a row! This award is only given to the best chapters in MOAA, and I doubt any other chapter has gained that recognition for as long as we have. We are so fortunate for the dedication and superior leadership we have in our chapter and for our many members that come forward to "give back to the community" and make a difference in so many lives and organizations.

Membership is so very important to support MOAA nationally and locally. This is a team effort. We need to increase our membership, so we are reiterating our

charge that EVERY member recruits a new member this year. WE CAN DO THIS!

AN OPINION PIECE:

MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

The World is Always Changing: For the 83 years that I have been alive, there is only one country that was accepted as having the largest population - CHINA. Well, that situation is about to change!

This year, the population of INDIA is projected to pass China, and should continue to grow faster than China for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the population of India is much younger than China, and is expected to widen that gap as China continues to struggle with changing the adverse birth statistics that were caused by the single birth mandates of prior decades.

Also, India is steadily becoming "less poor." The International Monetary Fund projects that economic growth in India will average 6.5% for 2023 and 2024. That is the fastest growth rate expected among the top 30 major economies.

You might be surprised to know that India displaced the United Kingdom as the world's 5th largest economy in 2022, which escaped my eyes until just recently.

By the way, you would most likely be very surprised by the number of start-up executives and senior leaders with Indian backgrounds currently leading technology firms, particularly in Silicon Valley. That situation was visible as long as 20 years ago, and it persists today. It is a uniquely connected and supportive community of executives who look after each other.

There is a much broader story beyond sheer numbers and growth rates that needs to be understood when assessing future leadership in technology possibilities. China is impressive, but it faces substantial obstacles as its population ages. It will be an interesting next 20 years or more.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



**APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY
FLOWERS**

We hope this article finds everyone back in good health enjoying life again. We miss meeting together of our MOAA Surviving Spouse Luncheons and hearing what everyone is planning.

Traveling is back and very popular. Check on the **MOAA Website** under **Tours and Trips**. You can watch their presentations on your computer, then make your plans. They are very helpful. One very popular trip is a cruise to Normandy.

Continue to support **Operation Diaper Bag** at 503-273-5042 with baby items. **Operation Homefront** needs diapers and baby wipes. Check with families and friends for old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

Please email me at budjean@aol.com or **Mrs. Jan Brink** at jgbrink@comcast.net and let us know your thoughts and ideas for luncheons, a get together, a book you are reading, volunteering ideas, and any other ideas or issues you would like to share.



**REGISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL
VETERANS' WHEELCHAIR GAMES OPENED
FEBRUARY 1: VA AND PVA TO HOST
WHEELCHAIR GAMES JULY 4-9, 2023**

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America will co-host the **42nd National Veterans' Wheelchair Games** in Portland from July 4-9, 2023. Eligible Veterans interested in competing may submit applications at www.wheelchairgames.org from February 1 until April 2.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a sports and rehabilitation program for military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or other neurological conditions.

Each year, 650 to 700 Veterans train and travel from around the country to compete in the games, the world's largest annual multi-sport wheelchair competition for Veterans. Festivities will kick off July 4 with a festive opening ceremony--and end with a closing celebration on July 9.

More than 20 Wheelchair Games events: Veterans with similar athletic ability, experience, or age will compete in more than 20 events:

- Adaptive e-sports
- Adaptive fitness
- Air pistol and rifle
- Archery
- Basketball
- Boccia
- Bowling
- Cycling
- Disc golf

- Field events
- Nine-ball
- Pickleball
- Power soccer
- Wheelchair rugby
- Slalom
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table tennis

Registration has been open for athletes and volunteers since February 1, 2023 and will close on April 2, 2023

- There is a need for 3,800 volunteers to help with this event. Each shift for a volunteer is 4 hours
- Hopefully, every member of the MOAA Portland Chapter will volunteer to do at least one shift of 4 hours
- To register and for additional information, visit www.wheelchairgames.com
- Point of contact is MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret) at 503-309-7458 or shaun.benson@va.gov

Be sure to follow VA Adaptive Sports on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @Sports4Vets for all the upcoming National Veterans Wheelchair Games action.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2023 OREGON WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE
By Jessica Bradley, ODVA Women Veterans Coordinator

Registration is now open for the 2023 Oregon Women Veterans Conference, which will be held on May 20 and 21 at the Salem Convention Center. Hosted by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, this free, biennial event is the largest gathering of women veterans in the state.

Women veterans from every branch of military service, era, and background are invited to attend this free event celebrating the service and contributions of women who answered the call to serve throughout history. The conference will include informational workshops, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities.

This year's theme, "Stronger Together — Voices of Service" is a testament to the continued strength, diversity, and community of our women veterans, said ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick, who is an Army veteran and the first woman to lead the state agency. "Oregon continues to be a leader in recognizing, remembering, and honoring the outstanding contributions of women who have served their country, and we are proud to be able to host this year's conference in person again," Fitzpatrick said. "Together, our collective voices achieve more, overcome challenges, and allow our stories to be shared."

Women veterans make up one of the fastest-growing segments of the Oregon veteran community, with an estimated 25,000 women veterans living in the state today, representing nearly one-tenth of overall veteran population. The first Oregon Women Veterans Conference was held 25 years ago in 1998.

"The camaraderie and shared calling of service is what inspires our lives and is what continues to unite women veterans across every generation and era of service," said ODVA Women Veterans Coordinator Jessica Bradley. The conference is an opportunity for women veterans to socialize, connect to resources, learn about their earned veteran benefits, and celebrate their service.

Attendance is free, but registration is required. Please visit wvc.oregondva.com to register and find additional event information on lodging and sponsorship and vendor opportunities.



2022-2023 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

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Army Reps**

COL Bill Crist: 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**Vacant**

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

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

Coast Guard Rep: CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS Rep: *Vacant*

NOAA Rep: CDR Colin Kliever: 410-212-3501

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 USPHS)

LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret): 508-963-1470

2022-2023 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Membership: Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)
CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (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. Jan Brink

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)
Mrs. Nancy Menagh

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

Special Events: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)

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

Chaplains: Reverend Karyn Dix
LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)
Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)
LTC Grant McAllister, USA (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

April 4, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 6, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Aerie)
<i>May 3, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)</i>
June 6, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2023</i>	<i>No chapter meetings are scheduled.</i>
<i>August 2, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)</i>
September 5, 2023	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 **0800**—and **are open to all members!** Meetings are held virtually.

NOTE 3: All articles for the ***June 2023 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at **marvjmayer@yahoo.com** by 8 May 2023.