



**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 XXXVIII, Number 7

www.MOAAPortland.org

April 2022

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

It looks as though we are finally turning a corner in the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will now be able to conduct our 5 April 2022 chapter meeting *IN PERSON* at The Monarch Hotel. Many of us have been missing the camaraderie and fellowship in meeting with our fellow chapter members and their spouses.

I recently conducted an informal survey of 35 chapter members. Of the 28 people who responded, 26 said they wanted to meet in person, and two said that they were not yet ready. However, the overwhelming majority wanted to ensure that anyone attending our chapter meetings would have to show proof of vaccination. Others said, regardless of the guidance at the time of the chapter meetings, that they wanted to wear their masks.

So, we are going to ask everyone attending the 5 April 2022 chapter meeting to bring with them their “COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card.” And we will follow all the pandemic protocols in effect on that day.

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend this first in-person meeting in two years! As you know, the Membership Committee challenged all of you to bring a potential new member to this in-person meeting. During this pandemic, we have not been able to do any recruiting, but now is our chance to introduce other officers to our dynamic and award-winning chapter.

(Continued on page 2)

**IN MEMORIAM:
May She Rest in Peace!**

Mrs. Maureen Richardson,
Wife of Captain Herb Richardson, USMC (Ret)

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 April 2022

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

Columbia Room, The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret),
Former Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division
(OPNAV N95) and Chapter Board Member, will
speak on “**Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, and the
West: Violent Revisionism.**”

MENU:

Caesar Salad

Peruvian Split Chicken

Mushroom and Parsley Risotto

Roasted Herb Carrots

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Tea, or Iced Tea

COST: \$29.95 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** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 31 March 2022. 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.)**

DURING THE APRIL MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity to be selected at the 5 May 2022 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (cont.)

The **Program Committee** has provided an extremely interesting and very popular guest speaker for the April 2022 chapter meeting. He is an experienced warfighter and MOAA Portland Chapter board member, **Major General Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** (See photo below).



Major General Owens grew up in Eastern Oregon, graduated from Portland State University, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1982. Following flight school and qualification in the AH-1 helicopter, he served in several tactical squadrons, as a flight instructor, weapons and tactics instructor, and as a forward air controller.

General Owens commanded Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea. He participated in various overseas operations--including Restore Hope, Vigilant Warrior, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom.

General Owens attended USMC Command and Staff College, The Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), and the Marine Corps War

College. He later served as Director of SAW.

Staff assignments included I Marine Expeditionary Force Pacific Region Plans Officer; Chief of Staff, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate in Joint Forces Command; Chief of Staff, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO; and Chief of Plans, Policy and Strategy for United Nations Command, ROK-US Combined Forces Command, and US Forces Korea. In his final assignment, General Owens served on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Expeditionary Warfare Division (OPNAV N95). He retired in September 2017 and is currently a doctoral student at Portland State University.

SAVE THE DATE! You are cordially invited to an evening where we honor those who sacrificed everything. The **Oregon Vietnam War Memorial Gala Event** will take place on **Saturday, 7 May 2022** at 6:00 pm (dinner begins at 7:00 pm) at **NW Events** in **Hillsboro, Oregon**. The featured speaker is **General James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret)**, Secretary of Defense from 2017 to 2018. (See photo below.)



Proceeds benefit the Oregon Vietnam War Memorial Fund. Learn more about table and pricing options at www.VietnamWarMemorialFund.org.

For more info, contact **Dan Mason** at mason701@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

*By Major William J. Tidd, USAF
(Ret)*

Well, maybe there is a light at the end of the tunnel. All indications point to the fact that Oregon is going to drop the mandate for in-door masks by the middle of March. This decision should provide us many more opportunities to get out with our friends and relatives. Now that we have the chance to see the people surrounding us, we should be able to strike up more conversations and perhaps generate some new membership conversations. Therefore, I would recommend that you hone up on your elevator speech.

In case you don't remember the primary points, I have listed them below:

- Make yourself heard.
- Give back to the community.
- Value added to chapter members' lives.
- Networking with fellow officers.
- Staying informed.
- Influencing state legislation.
- Camaraderie with a purpose.

With the high probability of meeting in person for our 5 April meeting, it is quite conceivable that the May and June meetings will also be held in-person. It is time to get off the couch and rejoin your friends. Watch for announcements as the Chapter makes its final decisions.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The Chapter Board of
Directors Meeting will be held
on Thursday, 5 May 2022
either in-person or via Zoom.
Decision to be made later.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)

As of 6 March 2022, the **MOAA Portland Chapter** has **\$22,931.20** in assets and **163** members:

- 113 Regular Members
- 47 Surviving Spouse Members
- 3 Honorary Members

Of the 113 regular members, 56 members have NOT paid their 2022 dues. Dues are the lifeline of the chapter.

2022 Annual Chapter dues are \$30 covering the calendar year and are due on or before 1 January every year. There are several ways you can pay this year:

- mail a check to our post office box (P.O. Box 18206, Portland OR 97213),
- have your bank mail us a check, or
- you can have your bank send dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at (971) 226-7103 for the necessary account and routing information.

AN OPINION PIECE:

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

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

The Free World Responds to the Russian Invasion:
While the television coverage of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been extensive, it tends to focus on the conflict itself and the human-interest stories involved, of which there are many.

However, there is another war under way, one that may have much broader and longer impact than the coverage of bombs, tanks, bombardments, and casualties.

I speak of the unprecedented response of the international business world which has been very widespread, swiftly implemented, and well-integrated. Virtually every international country not allied with Russia has been dismayed by the invasion,

and it has taken action to support Ukraine by deploying changes in business activity that affect both citizens of Russia and the Russian economy.

The impact of these decisions shows how interdependent this world has become. For instance, Apple has shut down exports, sales, and services throughout Russia. One unanticipated impact of that decision was the emergence of long lines that showed up at the famous subway stations since commuters could not pay with their Apple Pay application. Not a major issue, except that it affects citizens far and wide.

Another example of interdependence is the fact that Ukraine is a major source of car parts used throughout Europe in car manufacturing applications. If the electricity is shut off, if the workers are now mobilized or left the country or the factory is destroyed, car manufacturing throughout Europe and Russia will slowly grind to a stop. There is no easy solution, as the parts manufacturing plants need skilled workers. Even if Russia were able to seize the country, angry workers would likely sabotage the manufacturing process.

There are many such implications that need to be considered. For instance, none of the free world airlines are flying into Russia these days. And Aeroflot has essentially shut down international flights because of individual country limitations, and the Russians fear that their planes could be taken over in countries where they would like to fly. An awful lot of commerce and tourist businesses use aircraft on a daily basis. Result, no tourists, or at least a diminished flow, and slower or non-delivery of high value items.

As a result of financial sanctions and corporate responses, the Russian ruble has imploded. Before the increase in invasion rhetoric penetrated the airwaves, the ruble

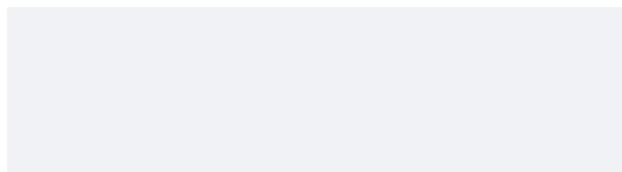
traded around the 80 rubles to the dollar range. Today, the 7th of March, the ruble is trading at 133 rubles per dollar, a reduction in value of 40%, and it continues to fall.

As a result of sanctions, the falling ruble, and corporate decisions on doing business with Russia, J P Morgan projects that Q1 Russian GDP will decline 20% quarter to quarter, AND that the country will enter a “deep recession.” To give you an incomplete compilation of major manufacturers and service companies, I curated a list of actions taken the first week of the conflict.

- On the FIRST day of the incursion, Hewlett Packard Enterprises and Hewlett Packard Inc. halted product shipments to Russia.
- Toyota, General Motors, Harley Davidson, and Honda stopped manufacturing, shipments and sales of vehicles and motorcycles.
- Intel, Taiwan Semiconductor, and Advanced Micro Devices stopped sales, operations, and shipments. TSMC is especially important to the Russian military I am led to believe.
- Cisco Systems and Oracle suspended business and operations.
- Federal Express and United Parcel Express both suspended shipments into and out of Russia.

The above list goes on, but you get the idea. These stoppages are bound to hurt the Russian economy and will provide another series of challenges for Putin to address. The U.S. federal government is initiating numerous financial sanctions on Russia and Russian leadership and is providing munitions and possibly fighter jets, if they can get their act together. On balance, I think that corporate America and our international allies are accomplishing at least as much as the government.

Maybe the combined efforts will bring this carnage to a halt!



“WHY DOES UKRAINE MATTER?”

This is why Ukraine matters. Being the second largest country by area in Europe and with a population of over 40 million, Ukraine ranks **1st in Europe in proven recoverable reserves of uranium ores**

- 2nd place in Europe and 10th place in the world in terms of titanium ore reserves
- 2nd place in the world in terms of explored reserves of manganese ores (2.3 billion tons, or 12% of the world's reserves)
- 2nd largest iron ore reserves in the world (30 billion tons)
- 2nd place in Europe in terms of mercury ore reserves
- 3rd place in Europe (13th place in the world) in shale gas reserves (22 trillion cubic meters)
- 4th in the world by the total value of natural resources
- 7th place in the world in coal reserves (33.9 billion tons)

Ukraine is an important agricultural country

- 1st in Europe in terms of arable land area
- 3rd place in the world by the area of black soil (25% of world's volume)
- 1st place in the world in exports of sunflower and sunflower oil
- 2nd place in the world in barley production and 4th place in barley exports
- 3rd largest producer and 4th largest exporter of corn in the world
- 4th largest producer of potatoes in the world
- 5th largest rye producer in the world

- 5th place in the world in bee production (75,000 tons)
- 8th place in the world in wheat exports
- 9th place in the world in the production of chicken eggs
- 16th place in the world in cheese exports
- Ukraine can meet the food needs of 600 million people

Ukraine is an important industrialized country

- 1st in Europe in ammonia production
- Europe's second and the world's fourth largest natural gas pipeline system
- Third largest in Europe and eighth largest in the world in terms of installed capacity of nuclear power plants
- 3rd place in Europe and 11th in the world in terms of rail network length (21,700 km)
- 3rd place in the world (after the U.S. and France) in production of locators and locating equipment
- 3rd largest iron exporter in the world
- 4th largest exporter of turbines for nuclear power plants in the world
- 4th world's largest manufacturer of rocket launchers
- 4th place in the world in clay exports
- 4th place in the world in titanium exports
- 8th place in the world in exports of ores and concentrates
- 9th place in the world in exports of defense industry products
- 10th largest steel producer in the world (32.4 million tons)

Ukraine matters. That is why its independence is important to the rest of the world. These resources are why Russia is chomping at the bit to take it.



***SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
REPORT By Colonel Mary J. Mayer,
USAF (Ret)***

I am happy to announce that **LCDR Christopher Gales, USCG (Ret)** has volunteered to fill the position as **Special Events Committee Chair**, replacing **Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)** who resigned in June 2021.

The Air Force ROTC Annual Awards Dinner will be held at the University of Portland Bauccio Commons on Tuesday, 12 April 2022.

- **Award** – Chapter President, **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, will present our MOAA Award (Medal, ribbon, and certificate) to **Cadet Konnor J. Hathaway**.
- **Gold Bars** - **Col Mayer** will present the **16** commissioning cadets their first sets of Gold Bars. Those commissioning will be: **Chasyn Aipoalani, Marcus Ariel, Seth Bohn, Jessica Desmarais, William Hunter, Kevin Liang, Paul Meister, John Menor, Kaisen Nakagawa, Dennis Pham, Abigail Reeves, Isaac Reinhard, Jordan San Agustin, Angela Schuster, Richard Torres, and Geryl Vinoya**.

The Army ROTC Dining-Out and Awards Ceremony will be held at the McMenamin's Edgefield on Thursday, 28 April 2022.

- **Award** –Our Chapter Special Events Committee Chair **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** will present our MOAA Award (Medal, ribbon, and certificate) to **Cadet Kaylee Ocheltree**.

- **Gold Bars** - **LCDR Gale** will present the **18** commissioning cadets their first sets of Gold Bars. Those commissioning will be: **Soren Wolf De Gavia, Matthew Aguayo, Brody Richards, Calvin Strong, Matthew Le, Dede Apenyo, Liana Bloom, Mya Fuller, Dane Uhlman, Kaleb Bang, Brandon Bea, Colton Michael, Lincoln Miller, Mikhenna Miller, Andrew Moran, Antonio Neri Wong, Yesenia Ramos Pacheco, and Conor Underwood**.

Junior ROTC (JROTC) Award Presentations

- **Oregon City High School:** Detachment Commander and Chapter member **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**. The Army JROTC awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, 7 April 2022. **LCDR Gale** will present our MOAA Leadership Award (medal & certificate) to the nominated cadet (name to be available for our next issue).
- **Reynolds High School** Detachment Commander – our Chapter member **LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)**. The Army JROTC awards ceremony will be held **TBD**. **LDR Gale** will present our MOAA Leadership Award (medal & certificate) to **Cadet Mason Gram**.
- Each JROTC Detachment Commander will receive **\$300** from the Chapter to apply towards JROTC activities.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



*Don't sit down
And wait for the
Opportunities
To come. Get up
And make them.*

--Madam C.J. Walker

HELLO, APRIL! A beautiful time of year. The many colors will put a smile on your face. Yes, we want to see your beautiful smile once again!

MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses: are you taking advantage of all the helpful information on the MOAA website? Contact the Surviving Spouse Center at 800-234-6622, surf the website: <http://www.moaa.org>, or check out MOAA's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

If you would like to meet and get to know our Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, go to the Surviving Spouses Resources on the MOAA Resource page. They will be able to answer questions and give information that you may need. The latest Advocacy news is always kept up to date. Surviving Spouses are encouraged to participate at the National, State, and local Chapter levels.

While you are online, be sure to check the MOAA **Member Benefits**:

- **Vacation information**: check the latest travel packages. I had visited the "Train trip across Canada." It sounded wonderful!
- **Perks Marketplace** : Products and services, for example: appliances, car rental, lodging, movies and more.
- **Memberships and Clubs**
- **Insurance**.
- **USAA**.

I would love to be writing about our April Surviving Spouse Luncheon, but as of this writing, nothing is definite. The mask issue is getting close to being lifted, so we can only wait and see. If in agreement, we can have a ***phone or email tree*** and see how many would like to meet for a luncheon.

Please remember to support **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**.

With the 3G, 5G issue, your family and friends may be purchasing new cell phones. We need used cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

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

Vacant

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

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

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)

Vacant

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**

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Some meetings may be held virtually!

May 5, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)
May 7, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
June 7, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
July-August 2022	No chapter meetings scheduled
August 4, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)
September 6, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 1, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)

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 **May/June 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **8 April 2022**.