



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

**Portland, Oregon  
Chapter**  
--  
**P.O. Box 68959  
Portland, OR 97268**

**Volume XXXIV, Number 4**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**December 2017**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

**By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**

Happy holidays to you and yours! As 2018 approaches, we should take time to count our myriad blessings and make some meaningful resolutions for the coming year. Hopefully, two of those resolutions will be to: (1) recruit new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter and/or (2) volunteer to serve on one or more of the chapter committees listed on page 7.

I want to thank **Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)** for volunteering to serve on the Chapter Board of Directors [replacing **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)**], as Special Events Chair [replacing **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**], and as a Legislative Committee member. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Boyd** and **John** who have served this chapter so faithfully over the years in a variety of critical positions.

I also want to thank **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** and the Membership Committee for all the hard work in providing aids to help current chapter members recruit new chapter members. Remember: it is everyone’s business to recruit new members! Our goal is 30 this year, and we have recruited 19 so far! We can do it yet! And, at our December chapter meeting, Bill will bestow the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chapter Recruiter of the Year Award + \$50 coupon to the chapter member who brings in the largest number of new chapter members for calendar year 2017.

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs is holding its **10<sup>th</sup> Oregon Women Veterans Conference** from **26-28 April 2018** at the **Sunriver Resort** in **Sunriver, OR**. The event is open to women veterans ONLY and is free to attend. I hope every woman veteran in this chapter plans on going. *See how to register and make hotel reservations on page 7 of this newsletter.* The goal is to have 400 women veterans in attendance—so register today & encourage others to do so!

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WISHES ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES  
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

**DECEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 5 December 2017**

Social: 1700; Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

**PROGRAM:**

**The John Bennett Trio** will once again play for our singing, listening, and dancing pleasure!

**Raffle tickets** are available for ten gift baskets and wine which will benefit the **2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference**.

Please bring your packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

**DRESS:** We encourage you to wear your Service Dress Uniform or festive holiday attire to the meeting!

**MENU:**

London Broil Finished with Pinot Noir

Demi-Glace

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Spring Greens, Pears, Hazelnuts, and Feta Cheese

Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette

Chef’s Assorted Desserts

Rolls and Butter

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, and Iced Tea

**COST: \$27.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**

*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR David Bredemann** at **503-974-9335** or **dbredemann@comcast.net** or call **LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret)** at **503-723-5175 NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 29 November 2017**. **No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.**

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined in the last month:

**LTC Dina Marie, USA (Ret)**

**Lt Col Angelica Pilato, USAF (Ret)**

When I first sat down to write this article for the Membership Committee's input to the *Brass Bulletin*, I was stumped for a new theme or subject. I could restate the need for volunteers, quote how many new members we had secured during the year, or once again challenge the membership to get out there and sign-up some more new members. I decided not to do any of the above.

As the last few days of 2017 draw near, one word came to mind: **reflect**. With the New Year fast approaching, it is time for a fresh beginning, a chance to start over, and a time for change. During these last days of December, we will all rush to decide what resolutions we are determined to take on in this New Year, but what if, instead of rashly choosing something to aim for, we take a few minutes to reflect on what we have learned from 2017?

The MOAA Portland Chapter has become a significant and influential player in the Oregon Legislative process, thanks to the tireless efforts of the Legislative Committee. Our membership has contributed monies for our on-going MOAA scholarship fund, contributed to the USS Portland Commissioning fund, volunteered to support Senator Merkley's staff in the selection process for applicants to the US Military Academies, and supported the JROTC/ROTC detachments. As I reflect on our accomplishments, I am proud to be an

active member of the Portland Chapter and believe we have had a very productive and rewarding year. To one and all, I wish you the best for the holidays!

**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2018 DUES!**

**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Treasurer**

As of 4 November, the MOAA Portland Chapter has **210** total members:

- 125 members have paid chapter dues through 2017
- 23 members have paid chapter dues through 2018
- 1 member has paid chapter dues through 2019
- 1 member has paid chapter dues through 2020
- 1 member has paid chapter dues through 2021
- 10 Surviving Spouse members paid 2017 chapter dues
- 44 Surviving Members have not paid 2017 chapter dues (not required)
- 3 Honorary Members (do not pay annual chapter dues)
- 2 Voices for America's Troops who have paid 2017 annual chapter dues

2018 Annual Chapter dues are **\$25.00** and are due on **1 January 2018**. There are several ways you can pay: in cash or check at a meeting, mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 68959, Portland, OR 97268), having your bank mail us a check, or you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.



*MOAA Chapter President, Col Mary J Mayer, USAF (Ret) (left) welcomes guest speaker and new member Lt Col Angelica Pilato, USAF (Ret) to the Portland Chapter Brunch Meeting*

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

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

**2018 COLA is in the Bank:** Last month, MOAA predicted the 2018 COLA would be 1.8%, whereas I used a range of 1.7%-2.0%.

The actual figure is **2.0%**, which, though modest, is the best increase in 5 or more years. The September inflation was driven higher by the increase in energy costs, largely resulting from the brutal hurricane season which shut down temporarily both off shore drilling and refining operation on the Gulf Coast.

Higher energy prices will ripple through the economy for some time, and many also expect higher wage increases to affect 2018. Thus, the COLA outlook for 2019 would appear to equal or better the 2018 figure.

A 2% COLA equals a \$20 monthly increase for each \$1,000 of retirement benefits, Social Security benefits and Disability payments. Better than nothing!

**Oregon: Wasting Tax Dollars, Yet Craving Higher Taxes:** *The Oregonian* recently reported that Oregon Health Authority (OHA) had made a \$74 million mistake over several years, a mistake that might need to be rectified by paying back that amount with tax dollars, and possibly/likely more to the Federal Government. This is another example of inveterate wasteful state government over the 17 years I have lived here, including the disastrous Cover Oregon debacle, the Canceled CCC, huge and out of control spending on dubious renewable energy credits, and the like.

In this situation, the OHA bureaucrats right up to the absolute top, used federal Medicaid funds to pay health care organizations, when the outlays actually should have been made by Medicare. In essence, OHA was unable to discern when Medicaid enrollees had reached age 65 and should have been enrolled in Medicare-- or they were erroneously enrolled in Medicaid even when they should have been enrolled in Medicare.

Seems like a simple problem to resolve. Right? Well, our Governor blames it all on the failed Cover Oregon development under her predecessor's regime. Note, however, that Cover Oregon flamed out in 2013 after years of spending, and the current problem started in 2014 and IS STILL NOT RESOLVED.

There is more, and potentially an even bigger hit to taxpayers. OHA also admits to paying an "undetermined amount" related to ineligible individuals, including care for the dead! Now, the Social Security Administration withdrew from my Mother's bank amount her last Social Security payment within 5 business days of her death. Why the state of Oregon cannot work that type of efficiency is a mystery to me. How much might be owed to the Feds on this second item is still to be determined.

The state has already repaid the US \$10 million on the first mistake. It has not sought to recover payments made to health care organizations and does not intend to do. So much for protecting the citizens.

The worst of this situation is that OHA personnel, including up to the Director, knew of the situation at least as early as 2016 and did not divulge the information to either the public or, it is alleged, to the Administration. The Governor supposedly was not informed until October 17th, and then it took two more weeks to inform the public. Accountability does not seem to be a concept embedded in Salem.

Also, after the Cover Oregon collapse, OHA has invested \$166 million and FOUR years in developing an enrollment system that is still not working.

I do not know where this multipart fiasco will end, or when, but it is symbolic of a failure of the state government to spend our tax dollars effectively.

The Governor and the legislature moan about a Revenue problem, when the reality is that the problem

is one of inefficient, wasteful spending. So, the legislature recently spent the entire session putting together tax packages.

State Representative Julie Parrish, whose husband is a member of our chapter, challenged legislative leaders to put the proposed taxes to a vote by the citizens of this state. She was able to round up the requisite signatures to put the issue on a special election ballot scheduled for January. Personally, I would not give another incremental dime to a state government that thoughtlessly and without end virtually throws away our tax dollars.

**Beware the Single Payer System:** The *London Daily Telegraph* recently wrote about the British National Health Service banning patients from surgery indefinitely unless they give up smoking and/or lose weight. Smokers will only be referred for operations if they have stopped smoking for eight weeks, with such patients taking a breathalyzer before referral.

Obese patients will not get non-urgent surgery at all unless they have reduced their weight, except in “exceptional” circumstances.

These rules follow recent experiences where patients have been told their surgeries will be delayed for months, during such time they are expected to lose weight or stop smoking.

Beware a single payer system where you supposedly have National insurance, but you give up your freedoms and succumb to the dictates of bureaucrats.

We in the United States expect to be treated with fast service. That is not the case in the UK, where the better off just buy individual insurance. At least that freedom is allowed.

**Raising Taxes on the Quiet: Medicare Part B Premium Brackets Narrow:** Medicare actuaries estimate that Part B premiums will not change from 2017 to 2018. However, many will find that THEIR premiums rise substantially. This will occur because the 2015 “Doc Fix” Legislation contained a sneaky provision that lowered the upper limits of modified adjusted gross income subject to reduced government subsidies. Thus, do we see effective “Means Testing” or “Means Pricing”?

The government subsidy for Part B premiums ranges from 75% for individuals under \$85,000 income, to just 20% for those with income over \$160,000. That means that lowest bracket individuals pay just \$134 per month, whereas individuals in the highest bracket pay \$429 monthly. The disparity is a 3.2 times cost versus a much smaller 1.9 times higher income level. That is what we call very progressive.

With premiums stable, what is happening in 2018 compared to 2017? Easy! They compressed brackets considerably. The middle-income bracket this year ranged from \$107,000 to \$160,000. In 2018, the upper limit is reduced by \$26,500 to \$133,500, effectively moving many individuals to pay an extra \$80 per month.

Similarly, the next higher bracket upper limit was reduced by \$54,000 to just \$160,000, resulting in a \$80 increase in monthly premiums to \$348 from \$268.

So, we get a 2% COLA increase, enough for several lattes per month, and many will see \$80 monthly premium increases. Not a good trade off.

Additionally, for those above age 70.5 and owning an IRA or 401K, Required Minimum Withdrawals come into effect, whether or not the taxpayer needs the money or not, pushing individuals into higher tax brackets. By the way, a RMD reaches 5% of retirement assets by the time you reach age 79. It is hard to grow assets if you are required to distribute 5% of those assets annually, a percentage which grows each year you live.

So, our legislators have a number of surreptitious methods to extract revenues from us taxpayers.

I suggest you check your adjusted MAGI before the beginning of 2018 so as to be prepared if your premiums go up unexpectedly.

***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***

*By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison*

Our **MOAA Surviving Spouse Luncheon** on 17 October 2017 had ten in attendance. All agreed that it was wonderful to be meeting again after our summer vacation. We welcomed our newest surviving spouse, **Mrs. Sandra Soland** of Scappoose. Our scheduled speaker; **Jill Murphy**, could not attend as she was called away on emergency to assist after Hurricane Harvey. **Mrs. Carol Patrick** filled in as our speaker and told about her trip to Iceland, but, before leaving on her trip, she did a tandem jump from an airplane!

Our next luncheon is our **Christmas Luncheon** on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017** at **12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, 97232, in the main dining room. Chapter wives are cordially invited.

Please contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or [jymbo@earthlink.net](mailto:jymbo@earthlink.net). If you have food allergies, please call Albertinas' two days before the luncheon at **503-231-0216**. Continue to bring diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and used cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.



*Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison (right), discusses plans for the group with co-liaison, Mrs. Carol Patrick (left), at a chapter brunch meeting*

***SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT***

*By Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)*

**Special Events Committee Table at area Veteran Stand-downs:** Stand-downs are often organized by such entities as ODVA, Work Source Oregon, etc. They provide food, clothing, and equipment to homeless vets. Also, they provide basic health screening for vets and pets. A hot lunch is served. Often, social service agencies are present to assist all vets, and, sometimes, employers are present.

My spouse (Kathryn) and I have staffed MOAA tables at two area Stand-downs (Saint Helens [The Elks volunteering] and Troutdale [a church volunteering]). Half of our table displayed MOAA literature including PDX Chapter membership forms. Thinking that there might be veterans who plan to attend college and join an ROTC program, I asked Oregon ROTC programs to send literature to me (potential future MOAA members?). Being the only stand-down source for ROTC information, half of our table displayed U. of Portland & OSU information (only two colleges responding to me) as well as listings of all Oregon ROTC programs.

In approximation, I summarize numbers below (SH = Saint Helens; T = Troutdale):

- Veterans attending: SH = 50; T = 225
- Tables (vendors) offering social services & info: SH = 25; T = 35
- General public attending: (often older family members seeking info for the younger generation): SH = 25; T = 50
- Total of persons who stopped to talk at our "officers' table": SH = 25; T = 50
- Former officers asking about MOAA: SH = 6; T = 5 (**NOTE:** about half were from the vendors present; about half were former or retired officers at a grade of Army Captain or below)
- Officers requesting subsequent info about MOAA-PDX: SH = 1; T = 1
- Persons seeking ROTC information: SH = 10; T = 10 (Note: most were grandparents seeking info about ROTC & military medical careers)

Most former officers had not heard of MOAA, and very few former enlisted personnel had heard of MOAA--including those from other veterans' organizations. After explaining the purpose of MOAA

to one vet, he said: “I see; you are our voice!” Knowing that the percentage of stand-down attendees who are officers is quite small, we do think that it is good to be out in the community to meet those few officers, to inform those college-bound about ROTC, and to make all vets aware of the value of MOAA. Planning for the 2018 “stand-down season”, the Special Events Committee will be teaming with the Membership Committee (**Major Bill Tidd**, USAF [Ret]) to attend more stand-downs.

### **JROTC Programs Speaking Events:**

- **Reynolds High School – November 8<sup>th</sup>** (Wednesday): On Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, Reynolds High held “Living History Day”, during which veterans are invited to speak about their military experiences to students. I have spoken to a number of interested MOAA-PDX members and been in contact with non-MOAA persons who read our Brass Bulletin. I have provided names of 15 volunteer speakers to Reynolds High. The day’s activities include continental breakfast with briefing (assigning vets to classrooms), 90 minutes to address two sets of students in classrooms (usually done in pairs of vets), a catered lunch, and an “Assembly of Honor”.
  - If you have never spoken at this event and wish to do so in future years, you may contact Reynolds H.S. now as they have a database of more than 400 vets who have participated in this event. The organizer is Deithra (Dee) Archie (Activities Director, Reynolds H.S.): [darchie@rsd7.net](mailto:darchie@rsd7.net). Information needed for her database includes: your name, branch of service, period of service, and address & email.

- **Oregon City High School – November 15<sup>th</sup>** (Wednesday) **and later:**
  - On Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, O.C.H.S. has veterans speaking in classrooms (similar to Reynolds H.S.), and they achieved their maximum number of vets’ commitment/participation at this time. The focus is on “local” vets speaking to classes, and in the evening, there is a “Veterans Appreciation Concert” (seating for about 500; starts at 1900).
  - On November 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be “*OCHS Career Spotlight Day*” for which OCHS is “...seeking industry and community leaders to share their experience and expertise with students....”. The general concept is to offer perspective on many types of “*professional*” careers. The leaders/guests will speak in individual classrooms for about 20 – 30 minutes with students then being able to ask questions about specific career preparations, skills, and benefits. At time of writing, they have a capacity to take in about 10 more speakers. In an effort to be diverse, they are particularly seeking small business owners who are female, African-American, and/or Latino. For more information, please contact Rhea Ledda (Business/Marketing Teacher) at [rhea.ledda@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:rhea.ledda@orecity.k12.or.us).
  - **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret), MOAA Portland Chapter member, and** head of the JROTC at Oregon City High School will be compiling a registry of veterans who can speak to classrooms as the teachers cover specific eras of history and government topics. Please contact him at email: [douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us) or **503-785-8995**.



*New Special Events Chair, Captain Doug MacEllven (right) talks to former Chair, Major John Sampson, USA (Ret) during the Social Hour*

**CALLING ALL WOMEN VETS:  
REGISTER FOR THE 10<sup>th</sup>  
OREGON WOMEN VETERANS  
CONFERENCE (OWVC)!**  
*By Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret),  
OWVC Planning Committee Member*

**Host:** Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, Apr 26, 2018,  
12:00 noon – Saturday, April 28, 2018,  
12:00 noon

**Location:** Sunriver Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Suite 50, Sunriver, OR 97707. Make your own hotel reservations by calling (855) 420-8206. Tell them you are with OWVC to get the best discount.

**Attendees:** This event is open to women veterans only and is free to attend, but every women veteran must register.

**Register** online today at:  
[www.wvc.oregondva.com](http://www.wvc.oregondva.com)

**For any questions,** please contact **Elizabeth Estabrooks**, ODVA Women Veterans Coordinator, at **503-373-2188** or **ORWomenVets@odva.state.us**

---

### **2017-2018 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President:**

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

**First Vice President:**

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

**Second Vice President:**

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

**Correspondence Secretary:**

LTC George Peters, USA (Ret): 503-659-0834

**Recording Secretary:**

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

**Reservations Secretary:**

CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret): 503-974-9335

**Treasurer:**

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 503-644-7353

**Immediate Past President:**

LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

-----

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

**Navy Reps**

*Vacant*

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

**Air Force Reps**

Col Lynn Guenther, 541-354-1771

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

**Marine Corps Rep**

Captain Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

**Coast Guard Rep**

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

**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)**

Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm): 503-397-5253

---

### **PORTLAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Programs:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

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

*Vacant*

**Legislative:** CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

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

**Communications:** LTC William Kroger, USAR (Ret)

**Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman

**Decorations:** Mrs. Edie Rieken/Mrs. Betty Richard

**Fundraising:** 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)

**Chaplain:** LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)

Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

**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!**

<i>January 2018</i>	<i>No chapter meeting scheduled</i>
<i>February 1, 2018</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>February 3, 2018</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)</i>
<i>March 3, 2018</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)</i>
<i>April 3, 2018</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>April 26-28, 2018</i>	<i>2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference, Sunriver, OR</i>
<i>May 3, 2018</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>May 5, 2018</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: <b>Hayden's Lakefront Grill</b>)</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:** The newsletter is taking a hiatus during January 2018. All articles for the combined ***February & March 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) by 6 January 2018.