



**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 XXXVII, Number 4**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**December 2020**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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

Happy holidays to you and your families! As 2021 approaches and with the coronavirus pandemic in full swing, we need to take time to count our many blessings, and, in a virtual and often isolating and lonely world, make sure that we keep in touch with family, friends, and chapter members. Hopefully, your New Year’s Resolutions will include: (1) attending chapter meetings via Zoom or on your telephone. Starting this month, we will reinstate a “**virtual social time**” before the meeting to connect chapter members to one another. (2) recruiting new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter, and (3) getting more involved in the chapter committees.

For our **1 December 2020 Christmas/Holiday Virtual Chapter Meeting**, I encourage you to do the following:

- (1) Instead of raffling off Christmas gift baskets, we are asking chapter members to contribute to the “Family Support Program Fundraiser” to provide financial support to selected junior enlisted families of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing at the Portland Air National Guard Base. *See page 4 for details.*
- (2) And/or buy Wine Raffle Tickets at \$20 each for some fine bottles of wine; proceeds will also benefit the “Family Support Program Fundraiser.”
- (3) Wear ***festive holiday attire*** to the virtual meeting
- (4) Share your favorite Christmas story, inspirational saying, poem, etc. Please let me know if you would be willing to share at the meeting so I can put you on the agenda.
- (5) Pay your **chapter dues for 2021** no later than the first of January. Dues are **\$30 a year** and cover 1 January-31 December 2021. Please do not wait until the Treasurer sends you an invoice; to find out ways you can pay your dues to the Treasurer, *see page 3.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

**DECEMBER VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 1 December 2020**

**Social Time: 1800; Meeting Starts at 1830**

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom Video Teleconference

**PROGRAM:**

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**

**Amy Almond-Schmid**, 142d Wing Airman & Family Readiness Manager, who will speak on **“The 142d Wing Resiliency Center: Caring for the Needs of Air National Guard Families.”**

**Sharing Christmas Stories, Quotes, Poems, etc.**

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **[mjseiwald@comcast.net](mailto:mjseiwald@comcast.net)** **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 25 November 2020** 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/84344080111?pwd=dlhiQXhCaW56cWhlMGozK1NFMTFhUT09>**

Meeting ID: 843 4408 0111 Passcode: 143382

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

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 843 4408 0111 Passcode: 143382

**PROGRAM:** The program for the December Virtual Chapter Meeting will include: (1) Remembering Pearl Harbor, (2) chapter members telling their favorite Christmas stories, inspirational sayings, poems, etc. and (3) receiving a presentation from **SMSgt Amy Almond-Schmid, ORANG**, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing Human Resources Advisor (since June 2019) and Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager (since July 2020), on **“The 142nd Wing Resiliency Center: Caring for the Needs of Air National Guard Families.”**



As the Human Resources Advisor (HRA) to the 142nd Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Oregon, **SMSgt Almond-Schmid, ORANG** supports the professional and personal development of Airman, normalizing diversity and inclusion within the Guard. She works alongside Senior Leaders coordinating key lines of effort initiatives, directly impacting organizational culture and ensuring the effective utilization of Airmen assigned. Sergeant Almond-Schmid trains to strengthen team effectiveness, increase innovation and resiliency through interactive curricula.

As the Airmen & Family Readiness Program (A&FRP) Manager (GS-11), her

mission is to provide ongoing effort to focus extensively on Airmen and Family support and services that contribute to the mission readiness and the well-being of the Air Force community. The A&FRP supports and maintains mission readiness by assisting Service members and their families with resources and skills to assist in adapting to the challenges and demands of expeditionary operations and the military lifestyle. This initiative will increase and enhance a sense of community at the unit by achieving standards to promote personal readiness, economic viability, and overall satisfaction with life in the Air National Guard by members and their families.

SMSgt Almond-Schmid enlisted in the Air Force in November of 1999 through the delayed entry program. She graduated from Camas High School in Camas, Washington in June of 2000 and reported to Basic Military Training (BMT) the following month. Post BMT and Technical School she served her initial active duty tour at Yokota Air Base, Japan. From active duty, SMSgt Almond-Schmid Palace Chased into the Air Force Reserves and later transferred into the Air National Guard. Her background includes vast experience in each of the Services career field core areas; Food, Fitness, Lodging, Readiness Mortuary, and Fatality Search and Recovery.

Additionally, she served as an Airman & Family Readiness Program NCO with deliberate concentration on the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. She was selected as an additional duty First Sergeant and has volunteered for various special duties, details, committees, events, ceremonies and boards. SMSgt Almond-Schmid advanced as an AGR to the Flight Superintendent level with the 142nd Force Support Squadron. She deployed in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and INHERENT RESOLVE and has completed overseas missions in Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, England, and Kuwait.

Her civilian career has focused on Operations, Emergency, and Program Management. She's served as a government contractor both stateside and overseas. She was instrumental in the development and execution of the congressionally mandated call to increase deployment and reintegration support to Guard and Reserve families. She's managed deployment support operations for teams of contract aviators in the area of engagement and directed emergency managers in large scale contingency planning projects stateside.

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter has not recruited any new members since the June 2020 *Brass Bulletin*. However, I have been informed of three potential candidates.

At the 5 November 2020 Chapter Board Meeting, the Board agreed to make an effort to contact all of our chapter membership in order to check on their general well-being, to let them know that they had not been forgotten in this virtual, non-touching, and lonely world, and to see if there is anything the chapter can do to help. We have formed a team whose goal is to contact each and every member by NLT than the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, gather all information provided, and submit a report. I will include the results of the report in the next issue of the *Brass Bulletin*.

I am pleased to report that the attendance at our 7 November virtual meeting increased significantly, providing our guest speaker a nice reception. What was great to see was the addition of members who are normally absent. It is obvious that they have circumvented the perceived difficulties of using Zoom. Three joined the meeting using only their phones. I challenge all of you to just follow the instructions provided in the meeting announcement and attend either by phone or Zoom.

Another new initiative that we are pursuing is to have a 30-minute virtual “Social” prior to the formal meeting. This will be a time where we can exchange greetings, discuss what is going on in the world or in our local communities, and/or share family stories. We will hold our first virtual “Social” at the 1 December chapter meeting.

Until then, I hope you and your families enjoy a great Thanksgiving!

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**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN  
GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2021 DUES!**

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

As of 31 October 2020, the MOAA Portland Chapter had total assets of **\$24,191.46** and a total of **168** members (*12 less than last year*):

- 112 Regular Members
- 52 Surviving Spouse Members (are not required to pay chapter dues but are encouraged to do so)
- 4 Honorary Members (are not required to pay chapter dues)

**2021 Annual Chapter Dues** are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) and are **due on or before 1 January 2021**. There are several ways you can pay this year: mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213), 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.

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

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

**Conformity Among Information Sources:** Recently, I have become more and more aware of the increasing uniformity or conformity on the information made available to the citizens of this country. I was especially appalled by the manner in which the “Hunter Biden Laptop from Hell” story was essentially squashed by the print and broadcast media, the newspapers, the Social Media giants, and so forth. I am not taking a position on the reality of the allegations put forth by the *New York Post*, but I am questioning why the almost universal response by the media, echoed by the major social media sources, was to instantly dismiss the news

so that most casual observers did not know the breadth and seriousness of the allegations. Indeed, if you listen to CNN and their brethren, they use the same descriptors in reporting, almost as if some unseen hand provides a script so that the talking head(s) do not need to think for themselves. This tendency has been more and more evident throughout the year.

My attention was drawn to an October 26 *Wall Street Journal* editorial that laid out a very ugly scenario, which, given the apparent election outcome, is a bit mitigated. It is more efficient to quote from that editorial, rather than to rearrange words: "If the Democrats win up and down the ballot [in the November election], progressives will control the commanding heights of nearly every American elite institution: Congress, the administrative state, Hollywood and the arts, the universities, nonprofits, Silicon Valley, and nearly all the media."

"Yet, instead of playing watchdog for the public, today's progressive partisans devote themselves to attacking anyone who breaks from their orthodoxy. They denounce independent voices...with their Twitter brigades, then unleash reporters who are ideological enforcers masquerading as media critics. They cannot tolerate any opposing political view."

My comment, "Walter Cronkite, where are you when we are in need of your calm, balanced reporting?"

Of course, the election, so far, has failed to bring about a Democratic win up and down the ballot. But the pressure to control the nature of what is reported as news, and how it is interpreted, is undiminished. Add to the media the fact that Facebook, Twitter, Amazon, and Google are actively in the business of censorship and our beloved freedom of expression and freedom of the press are both under attack!

Freedoms are always at risk. Look at Hong Kong, where the freedoms guaranteed by China have been dashed, and the noose continues to tighten. We better make sure we defend Taiwan as we have promised!

Let's hope and work for a broader, more conciliatory communication process within the country.

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***THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY: ANNOUNCING THE OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM AS THE NEW CHAPTER CHARITY FUNDRAISER***  
***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret), Fundraising Committee Chair***

It is now clear that our MOAA Portland Chapter Meetings will be held virtually well into 2021. This includes our Christmas/Holiday Chapter Meeting, which traditionally has been a celebratory party, including raffling off numerous Christmas gift baskets and fine bottles of wine, singing Christmas carols, and listening and dancing to the music of The John Bennett Trio.

At the 5 November 2020 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board members considered how to revamp the December meeting to respond to changed circumstances and to benefit our community. The Board members ended up unanimously voting to create a "Family Support Program Fundraiser" to benefit junior enlisted families within the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) 142nd Wing, located on the Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Base.

The conclusion was that the Chapter should use our current accumulated charity funds, supplemented by wine raffle funds raised at the November and December Chapter meetings, ***PLUS*** any funds raised from chapter members to provide financial support to Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) junior enlisted families in need during this Christmas season. In essence, we are financially supporting local military families who protect us and serve the nation.

We know from conversations with the 142nd Wing Airman and Family Readiness Manager that there is a real need for financial support for young, junior enlisted personnel and their families. Families have lost homes in the recent fires, the pandemic has resulted in lost jobs

or fewer hours worked, and expenses for day care and the like have increased. Right now, the Wing First Sergeants are identifying families that could use our help. How many families we can assist and with how much depends upon our success at raising funds in the next month.

So, the plan is to raise funds within the Chapter, and to use those funds to purchase Gift Cards for distribution to the ORANG families. We are focused on Fred Meyer, but the determination of the source of gift cards is still in process. We have targeted delivery to recipients before mid-December.

Regarding fundraising, each of the 13 Board members at the November Board Meeting committed to making a donation, and those commitments are already coming in! I expect that other Board members, as well as many chapter members, will also sign up.

If it is in your heart to participate in our efforts, please make donations by check, by VENMO, or by Zelle. For VENMO and Zelle, use [moaapdx@gmail.com](mailto:moaapdx@gmail.com).

To mail a check, make it out to "MOAA Portland Chapter" and note in the memo line "142nd. Wing Donation." Mail to:

MOAA Portland Chapter  
Post Office Box 18206  
Portland, OR 97213

Each contributor to the initiative will be entered into the December Wine Raffle, and the raffle itself will be expanded to **THREE** winners from the normal **TWO**. You can also contribute separately to the Wine Raffle for the normal \$20 fee, increasing your chance of winning two bottles of wine. I will deliver the wine to your residence.

We have an excellent partner at the ORANG 142nd Wing with whom we are working smoothly! The guest speaker at

our November Chapter Meeting, **Brigadier General Donna M. Prigmore, ORANG**, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, was grateful to hear that the chapter was supporting her troops and is fully on board!

We have **\$1,320** in contributions on the books currently. I expect that we can end with a total of **\$2,500** or more. Not bad for a first effort.

This program is an example of the MOAA slogan, "Never Stop Serving!"

Thanks in advance for your support.

If there are questions, please call or email:

Captain Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)  
503-722-1897  
[rocketlarry@icloud.com](mailto:rocketlarry@icloud.com)

Colonel Mary A. Mayer, USAF (Ret)  
310-897-1902  
[MaryJMayer@yahoo.com](mailto:MaryJMayer@yahoo.com)

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***CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON  
SENATOR MERKLEY'S SERVICE ACADEMY  
NOMINATION PANELS!***

***By LTC Gary Battles, MOAA Portland Chapter  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair***

Every year, members of Congress are required to nominate individuals to attend the nation's Service Academies. As part of his nomination process, Senator Merkley invites military veterans from diverse backgrounds to advise him by participating in interviews of selected applicants from Oregon. In 2019, MOAA Portland Chapter members made up the majority of interview panelists, and we would like to duplicate last year's success.

The virtual/phone interviews with high school seniors who have applied to the Service Academics and who are seeking Senator Merkley's nomination will take place on **Saturday, 12 December** and **Saturday, 19 December 2020**. Interviews will be conducted from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

**Cristen Hyde**, the Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative for Senator Merkley, is

soliciting volunteers to serve on these interview panels; if you are interested, please contact **Cristen Hyde** at **[Cristen\\_Hyde@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:Cristen_Hyde@merkley.senate.gov)** (phone: 503-326-2906) with the following information *as soon as possible*:

- Provide date(s) you are available: 12 and/or 19 December 2020
- Contact information: name, email, phone number(s)
- Branch of Service
- Brief biography

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***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***  
*By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison*

***CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE,  
 HAPPINESS AND CHEER***



Because of continuing COVID-19 restrictions, our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse CHRISTMAS Luncheon** cannot be planned. We are all sorry, as this has always been a very festive occasion. – but let’s keep good thoughts and say a few prayers that we can get together in person for our next luncheon in February 2021!

And, during the Christmas Season, I encourage you to support our newest charity. **Operation Diaper Bag Care**

**Packages.** These care packages are put together by the Portland VA Health Care Women’s Voluntary Service Staff and Volunteers, then sent to the Veteran by mail or given in person when the notification of a birth is received from the VA medical or social work staff.

**Handmade** items add an extra special touch, so, while you are home more than usual, get out your sewing machine, knitting needles, and handiwork for our new charity program. In addition to handmade items, **new purchased** items are added to the packages.

The following is the list of items that are needed for these packages:

- baby monitors
- diapers in various sizes
- burping cloths
- bibs
- pacifiers
- bottles
- baby wipes
- baby clothes
- small baby toys/rattles
- teething rings
- gift cards from major retailers
- diaper bags
- nursing cover

For more information and instructions on how to donate to Operation Diaper Bag Voluntary Services, go to: [www.portland.va.gov](http://www.portland.va.gov) or call **503-273-5042**.

Also, if you get a new cell phone for Christmas, be sure to save your old cell phone for Colonel Mayer for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**

Take good care of yourselves; we can get through this together!

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**Save the Date:**  
**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**  
**will be held at 0900**  
**on Thursday, 4 February 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**or**  
**In-Person at Colwood Golf Center**

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***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:** *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](http://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!**

**(NOTE: These meetings may be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic!)**

<i>January 2021</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
<i>February 4, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
February 6, 2021	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
March 6, 2021	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 6, 2021	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 1, 2021	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 6, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
June 2, 2021	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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**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:** The newsletter takes a hiatus during January 2021. All articles for the combined ***February & March 2021 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Col **Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **Tuesday, 5 January 2021**.