



**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 4**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**December 2021**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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

Happy holidays to you and your families! As 2022 approaches and with the coronavirus pandemic still with us, we should 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, colleagues, and chapter members. Hopefully, your New Year’s Resolutions will include: (1) attending chapter meetings via Zoom or telephone, and, when conditions allow, in person. Remember that, prior to our virtual meetings, we conduct a “**virtual social time**” before the meeting to connect chapter members to one another. These virtual socials have been well-received. (2) recruiting new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter, and (3) getting more involved in the chapter committees and/or activities.

For our **7 December 2021 Christmas/Holiday Virtual Chapter Meeting**, I encourage you to do the following:

- (1) Instead of raffling off Christmas gift baskets, the chapter is donating 10 \$250 Fred Meyer gift cards to the “Family Support Program” to provide financial support to 10 junior enlisted families from the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. *See page 4 for details.*
- (2) Buy Wine Raffle Tickets at \$20 each for some fine bottles of wine.
- (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 2022** no later than the first of January. Dues are **\$30 a year** and cover 1 January-31 December 2022. 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.*

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

**DECEMBER VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 7 December 2021**

Social Time: 1800; Meeting Starts at 1830

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom Video Teleconference

**PROGRAM:**

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**

**Video: “MOAA: 2021 Year in Review”**

**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, 1 December 2021** so he can advise the Zoom Host to allow you access to the virtual meeting. *If Michael has not confirmed your reservation in two days, please follow up with him.* Once you have reservations, join the Zoom Meeting one of two ways (see below).

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81874730391?pwd=dTlON0lCMFbVUGdsUFVDaDZ4cFBXUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 7473 0391 Passcode: 379096

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

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 818 7473 0391 Passcode: 379096

**NOTE:** If you have any problems joining the meeting, please call our Zoom Host, **CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)**, at **503-410-1843 (cell)**.

**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) viewing a video on “MOAA: 2021 Year in Review.”

So, join the spirit, wear your best holiday outfits, share your special story about Christmas with your fellow chapter members, and support the wine raffle which will help 10 junior enlisted families from the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River.

On the **MOAA National front**, I want to let you know about several items:

**MOAA PRESIDENT AND CEO LEAVING:** It was announced at the MOAA Board of Directors Meeting in October 2021 that the MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)**, will be completing his contract and retiring in January 2023. Many of you have met Gen Atkins, and I think we can all agree that he has been an outstanding ambassador for MOAA and has brought the Association to a new level of professionalism, advocacy, and financial stability. We will miss him but wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life with his wife **Laura**.

**RECRUITING NEW MOAA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:** The MOAA National Board of Directors is composed of 36 members for a one-time six-year term. Every two years, 12 members leave the Board, and 12 members are brought onto the Board. The Class of 2016, of which I am a member, will be leaving the Board in October 2022. So, in the January 2022 edition of the *MOAA Military Officer Magazine*, there will be an article asking that MOAA members seriously consider nominating themselves for a six-year term and providing all the information needed

to submit a nomination package. I highly encourage each of you to consider service on the MOAA National Board. Currently serving as the Governance Committee Chair – and having served on the Finance and Audit, Membership, Governance, Council and Chapter Affairs, and Strategic Planning Committees in my five years on the Board--I have learned a great deal and believe that I have contributed, to the best of my ability, to making things better for the Association. So, please consider service on the MOAA National Board!

**LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD:** On October 15, 2021 at the MOAA Levels of Excellence (LOE) Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Arlington, VA, our Second Vice President and Membership Chair, **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)** and I represented the MOAA Portland Chapter.

It was my pleasure to accept the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award on behalf of our chapter. This award is proof that we have one of the best chapters in MOAA. Congratulations to all chapter members who have made this coveted award possible for the chapter over the last 14 consecutive years! We are a great team who “never stop serving.”

In the photo below, you will see MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)** (*left*) and MOAA Chairman of the Board, **GEN Walter Sharp, USA (Ret)** (*right*) presenting me, as the MOAA Portland Chapter President, with the LOE Award.



**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

When I first sat down to write this article for the December *Brass Bulletin*, I couldn't think of a new way of expressing the need for new members. Of course, 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. I decided to talk about my last year.

The last year was extremely trying, both with my feelings, emotions, and my personal life. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed my outlook on life forever. Our political upheaval has left us with an angry and fractured nation, and our democracy could be on the verge of collapse as we know it. Regardless of the facts, I still believe we are lucky to be alive in this great nation.

As I look out over the lake, I realize just how peaceful and placid the lake is in the morning. The water gently laps on the shore, fish are broaching the surface looking for their morning meal, several Mallards are nestling in the weeds, and my resident otter is joyfully playing at the end of my dock. They are oblivious to the world around them, and just watching them gives me hope for the future. 2021 taught me to not neglect the power we have to make our own lives what we want them to be.

We, as military custodians of our nation, have the duty to preserve the fundamental foundations of our democracy. We can do that by our consistent support of the goals and initiatives of MOAA National in their advocacy for our military service members and their families, promote our chapter whenever the opportunity arises,

be proactive in our local community, and never stop serving our nation.

**CHAPTER OUTREACH:** Many people are feeling isolated and are lonely during this virtual world in which we live – due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it is important for the chapter to maintain contact with our chapter membership on a regular basis. At the 4 November 2021 Chapter Board meeting, it was decided that the Membership Chair would assign Board members with a selected listing of regular chapter members to call in January 2022 -- finding out how they are and asking if the Chapter can do anything for them. Hopefully, we can let them know that in-person chapter meetings will resume in February and remind them to pay chapter dues. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** I would also like to solicit volunteers from our chapter membership who would be interested in contacting their fellow members. If interested, please contact me via email at [wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com), and I will provide you a listing of fellow members to contact.

To one and all, I wish you the best for the holidays!

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**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN  
GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2022 DUES!**  
**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret), Treasurer**

As of 31 October 2021, the MOAA Portland Chapter had total assets of **\$23,640.49** and a total of **163** members (*5 less than last year*):

- 113 Regular Members
- 47 Surviving Spouse Members (are not required to pay chapter dues but are encouraged to do so)
- 3 Honorary Members (are not required to pay chapter dues)

**2022 Annual Chapter Dues** are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) and are **due on or before 1 January 2022**. 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.

***THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY: 2021 CHAPTER HOLIDAY GIVING PLAN TAKES SHAPE***

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

You may recall that our in-person annual Christmas/Holiday Chapter Meeting was cancelled last year as we weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and held our meeting virtually. We utilized assets in our charitable giving account to acquire \$250 gift cards and distribute them to junior enlisted families in the Air National Guard 142nd Wing. Thus, 10 families benefited from our largess, and our program was appreciated by the ANG leadership.

We had hoped to reinstate in person meetings this December so we could enjoy our annual party. However, that was not to be, so we reconsidered undertaking a second Gift Card distribution this year.

We are pleased to announce that in 2021 we will again purchase 10 \$250 Fred Meyer Gift Cards to distribute to 10 junior enlisted families in the U. S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia. The Sector is a vast assembly of Coast Guard units ranging from Astoria through the Columbia River and up the Snake River. We were privileged to have the Commanding Officer of the Sector as our speaker at the recent November Zoom meeting. **Captain Scott Jackson** is very positive regarding our gift card plan, and the members attending the meeting were impressed with the scope and range of activities for which he leads some 750 personnel.

The preponderance of Sector personnel is located in Astoria and Portland, both areas served broadly by Fred Meyer, so recipients of the gift cards will find it convenient to convert the cards into

needed items for their families during the holiday season.

Through wine raffles held at each Zoom meeting throughout the program year, we have accumulated sufficient assets to support this \$2,500 outlay. Thanks to our wine raffle participants for supporting our charitable efforts.

One of the positive aspects of the gift card program is that the Sector leadership takes responsibility for identifying recipients with the greatest need. **Captain Jackson**, the Commanding Officer, has appointed the Command Master Chief to administer the program, so you can see that there is interest at the highest level.

Another example of the MOAA motto, "Never Stop Serving!"

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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***

**Prescription Copays to Soar:** Once again, Tricare is gouging beneficiaries by raising Prescription Drug costs far beyond the expected COLA increase in the coming year. Actual prices have been published elsewhere, but the percentage increases have not appeared in any publication that I have reviewed. And there is no justification provided or even mentioned for the continued upward movement in pricing.

We can expect a COLA increase in the 5% range in calendar 2022, unless Congress decides to rip off beneficiaries, as they have done several times in the recent past.

In contrast, pricing for the most utilized drugs, those defined as generic, will rise 20% through the mail order program and 8% through retail pharmacies. Why the dramatic difference between the two channels is not explained.

**Mail % Increase - Price**

Generics	20% -/ \$12
Brand name	15% - \$34
Non-formulary	13% - \$68

**Retail Pharmacy % Increase - Price**

Generics	8% - \$14
Brand name	15% - \$38
Non-formulary	13% - \$68

Read it and weep! It was not that long ago that generic drugs cost ZERO per prescription. Just watch your earned benefits eroded by faceless bureaucrats with no rationale, not even a whisper. This is one way to reduce drug prices, albeit without explanation or disclosure. A 20% increase in the most utilized drugs? Unbelievable!

***SENATOR MERKLEY'S SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION INTERVIEW PANELS CANCELLED IN 2021!***  
 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 has traditionally invited military veterans from diverse backgrounds to advise him by participating in interviews of selected applicants from Oregon. In 2020, MOAA Portland Chapter members made up the majority of interview panelists, and we had intended to duplicate that success this year.

However, according to **Jessica Stevens** from Senator Merkley's Office, the virtual/phone interviews with high school seniors who have applied to the Service Academics and who are seeking Senator Merkley's nomination ***WILL NOT TAKE PLACE*** in December 2021. As in many other offices, they have a severe staff shortage because of Covid. Jessica said that the office is so short on staff they could not get to all the applicants. So, they will rely solely on test scores, letters of recommendations, etc. this year.

I will keep in touch with Senator Merkley's office throughout the year and let you all know if the interviews will resume in December 2022. My point of contact is **Whitney Navarro Castillo**, the Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative for Senator Merkley, at **503-326-2731** or [Whitney.Navarrocastillo@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:Whitney.Navarrocastillo@merkley.senate.gov)

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**Save the Date:**  
**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**  
**will be held at 0900**  
**on Thursday, 3 February 2022**  
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***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***  
 By Mrs. Jean Hillman, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*



**The rooms were  
 very still while the  
 pages were  
 softly turned and  
 the winter sunshine  
 crept in to touch the  
 bright heads and  
 serious faces with a  
 Christmas greeting.**

*Louisa May Alcott*

As much as we would like to meet for our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon**, which is always special, there are still restrictions. Let us keep positive thoughts for our **February Valentine's Day Luncheon**. Chapter wives are always welcome to attend.

I was reading through some of the **MOAA Information** that is available. By going through the website (<http://www.moaa.org>) or phone (1-800-234-6622), you can order this information to have on hand to read as you like.

Here are some **items to consider** during this pandemic:

- **Take Care of Yourself: Eat Well.** Maybe a sit-down meal would keep you from over-eating or under-eating. Meals would seem more special also.
- **Exercise:** A short walk, stretches, yoga, swimming, alone or with a friend.
- **Writing:** Keep a journal or diary. Write about a special trip you took. (I kept notes whenever and wherever we went camping.) Now, I get such joy thinking of the fun we had and places we saw.
- A **Regular Sleep Routine** is very important for good health.
- **Indulge Yourself:** Don't ever feel guilty treating yourself. How about a movie you've been waiting to see, a massage or spa treatment, how about a root beer float?
- **Laugh:** Laughter is a great healer. Watch one of the old "Golden Girls" episodes. My daughter and I rented one of the "Pink Panther" movies, and we laughed so hard we had tears running down our cheeks. Your "sense of humor" may be different, but you get the idea.
- **Start A New Activity:** This may be hard because of restrictions but use your imagination and plan a new course of action -- volunteer, make a new friend, start a new hobby!.

**I love the Christmastide  
And yet, I notice this,  
Each year I live  
I always like the gifts I get,  
But how I love the gifts I give!**

*Carolyn Wells*

Speaking of "giving," we continue to gather items for **Operation Diaper Bag, Operation Homefront, and Cell Phones for Soldiers.**

### ***ODVA REQUEST FOR GRANT EVALUATORS*** ***By Jacqueline Kemp, ODVA Grants Coordinator, Statewide Veteran Services***

The 2021 Oregon State Legislature approved \$938,118 for the **Veteran Services Grant** Program. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is sending you this invitation to ask you to consider serving as an evaluator. We are looking for evaluators who will be able to read, evaluate and score grant proposals. Training will be provided on how to use the evaluation tool, in advance. I will also be available throughout the evaluation period to answer questions about the evaluating process.

The **Veteran Services Grant** proposals are due to ODVA on November 17, 2021. I will then review each proposal for completeness and formatting. After that, I will send them out to the evaluators, with a specific timeline for each of the grants. Each proposal will be read and scored by three different evaluators, taking about 2-3 hours per proposal. As you become more familiar with the evaluation process, the time needed to review may be reduced. Each evaluator will be assigned three to five proposals to start. If you are willing to give more time, I can assign additional proposals. All evaluators must attend a 1 ½ hour *remote* training session, to be conducted using M365 Teams. You will receive a link to the meeting once I receive your Interest Form.

**Veteran Services Grant:** Eligible proposals must provide direct services, at no cost to the veteran, that help improve outcomes in areas such as health or behavioral health care, housing security, employment opportunities or stability, education and training opportunities, transportation accessibility and availability, or other critical services within a community. In 2020, a total of 20 organizations received grant awards offering direct services to veterans.

If you are interested, please fill out your interest form by October 20, 2021 by using the following link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ae471f12be784121bb452a0ecc3a525b>

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Jacqueline.kemp@ODVA.Oregon.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.kemp@ODVA.Oregon.gov) or (cell) 503-580-9049.

***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**

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

**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)**

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  
*Vacant*

**Decorations:** CAPT Sharon Sebbio: 503-936-5896

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

**Special Events:** *Vacant*

**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 2022</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
<i>February 3, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
<i>February 5, 2022</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)</i>
<i>March 5, 2022</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)</i>
<i>April 5, 2022</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>May 5, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>May 7, 2022</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>June 7, 2022</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>

**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 2022. All articles for the combined ***February & March 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) by **Friday, January 7, 2022**.