



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

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

**Volume XXXIV, Numbers 5 & 6    www.MOAAPortland.org    February & March 2018**

**FEBRUARY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 3 February 2018**

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000  
Hayden’s Lakefront Grill  
Large Lakefront Room  
8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062  
Phone: (503) 885-9292

**PROGRAM:**

**Ms. Sherrone Blasi**, Acting Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA), will speak on an **“Update on Veterans’ Issues in Oregon.”**

**MENU:**

Ham, Zucchini, and Gruyere Frittata  
Biscuits and Gravy  
Home Fried Potatoes  
Breakfast Sausage and Pepper Bacon  
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint  
Assorted Juices  
Stumptown Coffee, Numi Hot Tea, Milk

**COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**  
*Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.*

**RESERVATIONS:** Contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 31 January 2018.** See Dave’s contact information and more info at the **bottom of the second column on this page.**

**Reminder:**

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting  
will be held at 0945  
on Thursday, 1 February 2018  
at the Colwood Golf Center  
(Full Breakfast Starts at 0900)**

**MARCH CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 3 March 2018**

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000  
Hayden’s Lakefront Grill  
Large Lakefront Room  
8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road  
Tualatin, Oregon 97062  
Phone: (503) 885-9292

**PROGRAM:**

**Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley, will speak on her **“Perspectives on the Federal Government.”**

**MENU:**

Eggs Benedict  
Muffins and Pastry  
Home Fried Potatoes  
Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage  
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint  
Assorted Juices  
Stumptown Coffee, Numi Hot Tea, Milk

**COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)**  
*Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.*

**RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, please contact **CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)** at **503-974-9335** or **dbredemann@comcast.net** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 28 February 2018.** **No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows. (Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.)**

**DURING FEBRUARY & MARCH MEETINGS:** Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the 2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference to be held on 26-28 April 2018 in Sunriver, OR. And, please bring in your old cell phones and packages of diapers and baby wipes!

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

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

I'm hoping that all of you and your families enjoyed the Christmas and New Year's holidays and have made your resolutions for 2018! Hopefully, those include getting more involved in your chapter's activities and recruiting efforts.

Late last year, the Decorations Committee Chair, **Mrs. Edie Rieken**, resigned her position—after having provided beautiful table decoration for chapter meetings for over 20 years. We are very fortunate that **Mrs. Betty Richard** volunteered to replace Edie. Betty comes to this position with a lot of good ideas and energy for 2018. Thanks to **Edie** for all her support over the years and to **Betty** for stepping up!

The **Program Committee** has provided two extremely interesting guest speakers for the February and March 2018 chapter meetings. In February, **Ms. Sherrone Blasi**, the new Acting Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, will speak on an **"Update of Veterans' Issues in Oregon."** (See picture below.)



On December 13, 2017, Governor. Kate Brown announced the appointment of **Sheronne Blasi** (pronounced "Share-ON

Blaze-ee"), a 14-year Navy veteran, to serve as the next Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, pending Senate confirmation in February 2018. Once confirmed, Blasi will become the first woman veteran to head the agency in its 72-year history. Prior to joining ODVA as its Assistant Director of Statewide Veteran Services in 2017, Blasi worked as a performance auditor for 15 years with the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division. She managed performance audits which looked at the efficiency and effectiveness state agencies and their programs, and made recommendations for improvements to programs and services for Oregonians. Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Blasi served 10 years as an enlisted sailor before accepting a commission as a Supply Corps officer through the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Upon leaving active duty, she earned a Master of Public Administration from Portland State University. Blasi replaces Cameron Smith, who has served as Director of ODVA since 2013 and was appointed the new Director of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. Blasi is a longtime resident of Salem, where she is very active in the community. She serves on the Salem-Keizer School Board, the Salem Planning Commission, and is a board member for the Mid-Valley Habitat for Humanity. She also co-founded a nonprofit that throws birthdays parties for children living in local homeless shelters. Blasi's first day as Acting Director of ODVA was December 21, 2017

In March, **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley, will speak on her **"Perspectives on the Federal Government."** In her role she helps Oregonians get the help they need with concerns relating to the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies. Kelly is a retired Army major, and her military career included command and staff assignments at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Stewart, Georgia; and the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, as well as overseas locations. She most recently served as a senior executive at the Pentagon, where she led the congressional affairs team for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and advised the Defense Secretary's legislative affairs office on congressional issues relating to intelligence. She has a Bachelor's Degree in journalism from Boston University, a Master's Degree in philosophy from the Johns Hopkins University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.

A healthy, happy, safe, and prosperous New Year to all of you,

*Mary*

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**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

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

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

**LCDR Thomas N. Amano, USN (Ret)  
and wife Stacey**

The 2017 year ended with a great Christmas party and a lot of fun. We were fortunate to have acquired 19 new members during the calendar year, and I was proud to announce that **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** won the "Recruiter of the Year" Award. I would also like to recognize the following who contributed to our membership drive: **Tony & Sharon Sebbio, Roy Raat, George Van Hoomissen, Jean Hillman, Mary Mayer, Edie Rieken, Bill Kroeger, Jim Asaph, and Rick Gano.**

The beginning of the year has started out with receipt of the new *2018 Chapter Recruiting Program Guide* from National MOAA. The basic incentives and programs have virtually remained unchanged; however, there were a couple of changes worth mentioning. In the past, the Membership Chair was required to send a year-end report on the number of new members acquired throughout the year. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Membership Chair will be required to send a "New Members Gained" report EACH TIME a new member is signed. The reason is that National MOAA has instituted a new "Recruitment Tracker Report" which tracks the chapter membership and whether the member has also applied for national membership. Monitoring this report on a monthly basis

will assist the Membership Chair in determining the reimbursement eligibility due the chapter. *It is important to note that, if a new member does not sign-up with national, then the chapter **does not** receive funds for that new member at year end.*

The new membership drive has already been in effect for more than a month, so I challenge each and every one of you to get out there and find at least one new member this year.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at [wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com) or **443-996-1011** (cell).

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

A small, but engaging luncheon, our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** had seven in attendance. It was a joyful time as all tables at Albertina's Restaurant were full of those celebrating the holidays. Shopping was inviting as all Christmas items were 30% off. The "Albertina's Closet" model always adds fun to our luncheons.

We welcomed our two guests; **Mrs. Judy Ervin**, who was presented her Surviving Spouse pin, and **Mrs. Jan Brink**, who won the "special gift."

We look forward to our **Valentine's Luncheon** on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018** at **12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232** in the main dining room. Chapter wives are cordially invited.

To make reservations, please contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or [\\_jymbo@earthlink.net](mailto:_jymbo@earthlink.net). If you have food allergies, please call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at 503-231-0216 to make arrangements for an alternate menu selection.

Continue to bring diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront**. And, if you received a new cell phone for Christmas, please bring in your used cell phone for the **"Cell Phones For Soldiers Program."**

***AN OPINION PIECE: MY TAKE  
ON POLITICS, LEGISLATION,  
AND REGULATION ISSUES***

***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***

**State Tax Rates -So You Think California is a High Tax State:** *The Wall Street Journal* published an editorial on state tax rates directly after passage of the Tax Reform Bill. The first salient piece of information is that Oregon, where government and legislative leaders cry incessantly about a “Revenue Problem,” has the **THIRD** highest tax rate in the entire nation. Oregon is surpassed by only California at 13.3% and New York at 12.7%. We can note that our taxes are high, but not really as high compared with those spendthrifts to the South and East of us. Oregon’s highest rate is 9.9%.

But wait, the story is far worse than a single data point. Oregon’s rate jumps to 9% at a mere \$16,300 of income for a married couple filing jointly, whereas a California couple is paying at a 2% rate at the same income level. Indeed, California rates reach 9.3% only at the \$103,000 level of income, having gradually escalated in 2% steps every \$20,000 to \$30,000 of income.

The California rate rises to 11.3% at \$500,000 income, then to 12.3% and 13.3% at income of \$1 million and \$1.05 million levels. However, the vast majority of our citizens are well below income of \$500,000. So, the average Oregon taxpayer at under \$100,000 income is paying roughly double that of a comparable California couple.

The kicker is that one tax expert consulted by the *Journal* estimated that high wage earners in states where the top rate exceeds 6.6% could see their tax bill increase, despite the reduction in federal rates in all but one bracket. Interestingly, high tax states have been exporting high earning citizens for some time--especially

Illinois, New York, and New Jersey. That does not seem to be the case in Oregon, although that could change any time. Beware the bleating of our state leaders for more revenue, especially given the continuing ineptitude in spending our money.

**Legislation Through Deregulation:** Much has been made in the first year of the Trump Administration on the paucity of major legislation that has been enacted. That concern was partially addressed by enactment and signing into law of the Tax Reform Legislation in December. Much less noticed, but of significant impact, has been the extent of **DEREGULATION**. Throughout the Federal Government, there has been a tsunami of both canceled current regulations and withdrawals or delayed planned regulations. From January 20, 2017 through the end of the fiscal year, government agencies canceled 67 regulations and instituted just 3 new regulations. Also, a massive 1,500 planned regulations were delayed or withdrawn. This accomplishment was at the agency level, aided by the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Carrying on this assault, the Administration plan in fiscal 2018 is to cancel an additional 448 regulations and add just 131.

Reflective of this reversal of the Deep Regulatory State, the number of pages in the *Federal Register* dealing with regulations dropped from a record 95,894 in 2016 to just 45,678 in 2017 under Trump Agency leaders.

Even the Republican Congress got into the act. The Congressional Review Act, which was last utilized during the Clinton Administration, was used to nullify 14 ObamaCare era rules and one Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule. The American Action Forum estimates that congressional action reduced corporate costs by \$3.7 billion and saved 4.2 million paperwork hours.

Finally, the Administration has re-established adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act, which mandates public comment periods before new regulations are approved. This basic safeguard was routinely ignored in the Obama Administration.

It probably will not surprise you to learn that one expert has estimated that federal regulatory requirements reduced GDP by a non-trivial \$1.9 trillion annually.

And the last good news is that the Administration is targeting a Net Reduction in Regulatory Costs for fiscal year 2018. If this is achieved, it will be a government miracle! We will watch and report.

**Beware of What You Wish for Regarding Single Payer Health Care (From a report in *London's Daily Telegraph*, January 3, 2018):** Bernie Sanders and many others tout government-run health care as a panacea for high and rising health care costs. Supposedly, such a scheme would eliminate the profit motive, thus reducing costs and enhancing efficiency. However, can you think of a single area in which more government involvement has raised efficiency or quality? Think the VA hospital and health care system!

At any rate, the United Kingdom has had a single payer system since World War II, although beginning in the early 1970s they allowed for-profit hospitals for individuals that were able and willing to pay higher costs for supposedly better care. To the best of my knowledge, the for-profit medical care industry has done just fine over the intervening 45 or so years.

Not so the National Health Service (NHS). Just this month the NHS Medical Director ordered all NHS hospitals to cancel ALL non-urgent surgeries until AT LEAST FEBRUARY! This meant around 50,000 operations were canceled. The article reported that hospitals were beset by "growing chaos" where frail patients were "facing 12 hour waits and some units running out of corridor space." Further, the NHS trusts were told to "stop taking all but the most urgent cases" and to close outpatient clinics for "weeks." Sounds like a very well-run organization! "Health officials said pressures on the NHS were expected to rise, with flu levels surging." And, the NHS has had over seven decades to get it right.

No comment necessary. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact: **Larry Roberts** at 503-722-1897.

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***AN OPINION PIECE: IF THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO BUILD NATIONS, CHINA WILL!***

***By CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)***

Having just returned from a trip to the South Pacific Islands, China's work to gain influence is growing and was apparent at many stops. In Tonga, the pier where our cruise ship was docked was built by China. A monument to the fact resides at the end of the pier. At another island, the guide told us the new road surface was paid for by China. We heard this repeatedly throughout the islands as we toured.

Now that I am home and catching up on my reading backlog, I see that China is constructing its second overseas military base in Pakistan. The facility will be built at Jiwani, a port close to the Iranian border on the Gulf of Oman, according to the Washington Times. Plans call for the Jiwani base to be a joint naval and air facility for Chinese forces, located a short distance up the coast from the Chinese-built commercial port facility at Gwadar, Pakistan. Both Gwadar and Jiwani are part of Pakistan's western Baluchistan province. The Chinese also asked the Pakistanis to undertake a major upgrade of Jiwani Airport so the facility would be able to handle large Chinese military aircraft. Work on the airport improvements is expected to begin in July. The naval base and airfield will occupy nearly the entire strategic peninsula. Reuters recently reported that China's investment has included \$500 million in grants and \$230 million for the international airport. Jiwani will be China's second major overseas military base.

In August, China opened its first foreign base in Djibouti, a small African nation on the Horn of Africa. The Pentagon has dubbed China's foreign military basing ambitions the "string of pearls" strategy. The Chinese are planning to set up bases along a line of countries stretching from the Persian Gulf through the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. The military bases are part of a bid by Beijing to protect strategic sea lanes used to transport oil and other resources for China's large energy-consuming modernization. China is also promoting what Beijing calls the Belt and Road

Initiative, a development program of land and sea routes over 60 nations in Asia, Europe and Africa.

While it appears that the U.S. no longer has a long-term plan to project power through nation building, China does. We have gutted our State Department, and China moves in to take our place. As General Mattis said to members of Congress at a National Security Advisory Council in 2013, "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition ultimately."

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**SECOND CHAPTER  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING  
AND CURRENT DESIGNATED  
SCHOLAR**

*By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)*

Without a formalized fundraising effort since the Chapter created the initial Portland MOAA Chapter Scholarship several years ago, individuals have continued to make contributions to the existing fund.

Currently, there is a balance of \$24,000 in the Fund, meaning we are shy only \$600 from completing a second Fund. Once completed, there will be two MOAA Designated Scholars per year benefiting from our specific fund, compared to one currently.

Without affecting our current fundraising activities to benefit the 2018 Oregon Women Veterans Conference hosted by ODVA, we would like to fully fund the second scholarship by the end of this program year. If you are inclined to benefit the children of military officers, just write a check to: **Portland MOAA Chapter Scholarship Fund**, and we will make sure it is mailed to MOAA expeditiously.

On a related topic, Mary Mayer and I had lunch with our current MOAA

Designated Scholar, **Hannah Jewess**, and her mother over the holidays. Hannah is a senior at the Colorado School of Mines majoring in Environmental Engineering, with a minor in Humanitarian Engineering. She is a very impressive young lady, active in school affairs, graduating on time, and continuing the level of excellence we have noted in our previous MOAA Designated Scholars. Of interest, her older brother preceded Hannah as a MOAA Designated Scholar before the family moved to the Portland area.

Hannah's father Jay graduated from the Coast Guard Academy and spent 27 years on active duty, retiring as a Captain. We have invited him to join our Chapter. You can be sure that the contributions we have made to the Scholarship Fund are being put to good use every year.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**  
*By Captain Doug MacEllven, USAF (Former)*

**JROTC Guests at the December 2017 MOAA  
Portland Chapter Dinner Meeting**

Guests at the dinner meeting included four Army JROTC Cadets from Oregon City High School – under the command of our MOAA Portland Chapter member, **Major Doug Thomas, USA Ret**. The four cadets (**Hailey Turner, Kason Eckleberry, Reilly Fish, and Brandon Young**) posted and retired the colors. Dinners for the cadets were paid by our Chapter members: **Mary J. Mayer & Bill Tidd, Gary & Ann Battles, Roy & Susan Raat, and Larry & Ann Roberts.**

**Report of the Northwest Leadership Conference by  
Reilly Fish (USAA Sponsorship Program)**

At the December 2017 MOAA Portland Chapter Dinner Meeting, Oregon City High School (OCHS) **JROTC Cadet Reilly Fish** gave a very positive summary report of his attendance at the 2017 Northwest Leadership Conference at Pacific Lutheran University in suburban Tacoma, WA. OCHS selected him with the honor in recognition of his academic proficiency and his leadership potential. Costs for the multi-day training program were slightly over \$400, but our Chapter received the \$300 maximum grant from the USAA Sponsorship Program for community service projects/programs.

### **University of Portland ROTC Programs**

Each year, our MOAA Portland Chapter makes special presentations of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants' Gold Bars to the newly commissioned cadets in the University of Portland Air Force ROTC and Army ROTC programs. These annual presentations are made at the annual Air Force and Army ROTC Awards Banquets—usually held in April. In the Spring of 2018, the AFROTC will commission 10 cadets, and the Army ROTC will commission 18 cadets.

### **REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER: PAY YOUR 2018 CHAPTER DUES! By LTC Myrna K. Trull, MP, USA (Ret), Chapter Treasurer**

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's celebration!! Wishing you a fabulous New Year!! As of today, we have **211** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter [**153** regular members, **53** Surviving Spouse members, **2** Voices for America's Troops member, and **3** honorary members]. Of those, **43** regular members, **4** Surviving Spouse members, and **1** Voices for America's Troops member have paid their 2018 dues. In addition, **6** regular members are paid up through 2019, and **3** to 2021.

It's that time of year again: MOAA PDX Chapter Dues are due and payable. Please, please, please pay your 2018 dues **prior to 31 January 2018**, so I do not have to spend my time and MOAA PDX's money sending you an invoice. If you want a receipt, I will be happy to send you one!! If you want an invoice, send me an email at [mtrull1@earthlink.net](mailto:mtrull1@earthlink.net), and I will be happy to send you one. Sending you an invoice via USPS costs the chapter about \$2. If I invoice you twice, I will also be adding a \$5 invoicing fee. Let's make it simple this year!!

Send your **\$25 check**, made out to "Portland Chapter - MOAA" (memo line should read "2018 Dues") and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 68959, Portland, OR 97268.

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### ***Portland Chapter Officers***

#### **President**

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

#### **First Vice President**

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

#### **Second Vice President**

Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret): 1-443-996-1011

#### **Correspondence Secretary**

LTC George M. 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): 971-226-7103

#### **Immediate Past President**

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

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### ***PORTLAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS***

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

CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

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

**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

Mrs. Carol Patrick

**Decorations:** 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)

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

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 68959  
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE  
REQUIRED**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mark your calendars!**

<i>February 1, 2018</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
February 3, 2018	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
March 3, 2018	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 3, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 3, 2018</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
May 5, 2018	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: <b>Hayden's</b> )
June 5, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2018</i>	<i>No chapter meetings scheduled</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:** All articles for the combined **April and May 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[marvjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:marvjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **4 March 2018**.