



**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 XXXV, Numbers 5 & 6 www.MOAAPortland.org February & March 2019

FEBRUARY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 2 February 2019

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), 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: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Michel Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 30 January 2019.** See Michael’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, 7 February 2019
at the Colwood Golf Center
(Full Breakfast Starts at 0900)**

MARCH CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 2 March 2019

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

PROGRAM:

Mr. Cameron Smith, Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, will speak on **“The Mission of the DCBS.”**

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: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 27 February 2019.** **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 chapter charity to be selected at the 7 February 2019 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 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)

The **Program Committee** has provided two extremely interesting guest speakers for the February and March 2019 chapter meetings. In February, **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, the new Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, will speak on an **"Update of Veterans' Issues in Oregon."** (See picture below.)



Appointed by Governor Kate Brown and confirmed by the Oregon Senate on 26 September 2018, she became the first woman to lead the agency since its founding in 1945. She's been a veteran's case worker, legislative policy supervisor, human resources director, and congressional liaison.

From 2016-2018, Kelly worked for U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, as his constituent services representative for veterans and military affairs. In this role, she fielded calls from veterans or their families who were dealing with various problems, including housing insecurity and health issues. Her work also allowed her to create relationships with the many organizations in the state that work to support military members and veterans.

Kelly joined the Army in 1980 through the ROTC program at Boston University and worked in command and staff positions until 1996. She spent time as an assistant professor at West Point, a human

resources director in South Korea, and a public affairs officer for an infantry division in Georgia. After retiring from the military, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. She then spent a couple years on Capitol Hill, before going to the Congressional Activities Office of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence within the Department of Defense. She worked there from 2004 to 2016, eventually becoming director of that office.

In March, **Mr. Cameron Smith**, Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), will speak on "The Mission of the DCBS." (See picture below.)



Appointed by Governor Kate Brown and confirmed by the Oregon Senate on 15 February 2018, Cameron became the Director of DCBS, Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency.

Cameron comes to DCBS from the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs (ODVA), where he took the helm as director in 2013. From 2009 to 2013, he served as Senior Policy Adviser to Governors John Kitzhaber and Ted Kulongoski, managing a portfolio that covered both veterans' affairs and public safety issues. Prior to state government, Cameron served five years in the United States Marine Corps as a captain, completing three tours of duty in Iraq. He is a graduate of Carleton College in Minnesota.

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The 2019 membership recruitment year is already underway, and, as of today, we have seen no additions to our membership roster. Last year was a dismal failure of both the general membership and the board of directors. During the year we only added a total of seven new members while during the same period we suffered a loss of 12 members. I know we can do better than that considering that we were able to acquire 28 new members in 2017. As Chairman of the Membership Committee, I have consistently urged all of you to support the initiatives of the Portland Chapter and do **YOUR** part in recruiting new members. The next time you venture from home, make it a mandate that you are going to talk to at least one potential new member. Remember the MOAA motto – “Never Stop Serving!”

Last November, during our quarterly board meeting, I informed the members that over the past couple of years, we have seen a definite decline in the ability to obtain new members. This decline -- accompanied by the loss of a sizeable number of our members through death, relocating to other states, and a variety of other reasons -- has shrunk our membership from a healthy 200 plus down to its current level of 188. Considering these facts, the board directed Chapter President Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) to submit a letter to all Surviving Spouse members requesting them to voluntarily pay annual dues. Colonel Mayer stressed in her letter that the additional funds would directly offset the yearly costs of publishing and mailing the chapter's award-winning *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* and the cost of the chapter website, allow some additional latitude in the disbursement of raffle proceeds, and show how much value

Surviving Spouses place on being a member of our chapter.

This initiative has been extremely successful with **14** Surviving Spouses submitting their 2019 dues and one paying dues through 2020. However, as of this writing, we still have a significant number of Surviving Spouses who have neither replied nor paid dues. We urge the Surviving Spouses who received President Mayer's letter to please respond, either positive or negative, as we are also **USING THESE RESPONSES TO VERIFY ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.**

Let's hit the bricks running this year! I would like to have had the opportunity of sending out five Membership Welcome Packages by the time you read this article. You can do it!!

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

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

Our MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon, December 18, 2018, was a festive celebration. Albertina Kerr's Restaurant was completely full of customers, enjoying the holiday. As usual, the service was excellent. There was continual conversation, stopping only long enough to enjoy the delicious meals. As always, chocolate candy was to be enjoyed, placed on our table by **Mrs. Carol Patrick.**

We have the date for our **Valentine Luncheon** on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 12:00 noon**, at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232. If you have food restrictions, call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at 503-231-0216. To make reservations, please call or e-mail **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or jymbo@earthlink.net

We accept diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront and used cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program. *Did you receive a new cell phone

for Christmas? Consider donating your old one to the chapter.



I'm sure you have started listing events on your new 2019 calendars. Remember to add our luncheon information.

Would love to see you there!

***AN OPINION PIECE: MY TAKE
 ON POLITICS, LEGISLATION,
 AND REGULATION ISSUES***
 By ***CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)***

FEDVIP Dental & Vision Insurance Enrollment ALERT: The Open Enrollment Period for new Dental and Vision Insurance programs has been **EXTENDED to MID-MARCH 2019!** It originally expired after December 10, 2018.

Enrollment for both programs missed goals and expectations by a significant margin. The dental plan enrollment was estimated to be "at least 800,000," but December numbers were just 639,000, a 20% shortfall.

MOAA National was tracking enrollment and influenced the Federal Office of Personnel Management to provide an extended period to allow more potential beneficiaries to sign up.

For those who have selected and enrolled in new plans, they will take effect on January 1, 2018.

For those who missed the original deadline, you have an opportunity; you have a 2-month plus period in which to take advantage of the dental and vision programs.

Minor good news, premiums will first be deducted from your account in February, as beneficiaries are billed AFTER each month of coverage.

To enroll online, which is very simple, go to **BENEFEDS.com**, or call **1-877-888-3337**.

The Continued Assault on Tricare for Life (TFL): Over the past several years, the gnomes in the Department of Defense (DOD) have taken direct aim at reducing the benefits and raising beneficiary costs under the retiree health plan, Tricare for Life. The most visible effects of that attack have been the steady and substantial increase in pharmaceutical costs, coupled with strong incentives to acquire prescriptions through the mail order pharmacy.

This year, the new protagonist is the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), coupled with the changed control of the House of Representatives. The CBO recently introduced the ideas of charging enrollment fees for TFL and establishing minimum out-of-pocket requirements, neither of which had been previously explored or recommended, and each of which could add substantial expense for beneficiaries.

Separately, both DOD and Congress have held for several years that health care costs are spiraling out of control, an assertion that has been flat-out shown to be untrue each year by MOAA and its brethren in The Military Coalition.

Using DOD data, MOAA has demonstrated that the spending issue is not that of exploding health care costs, but rather the renewed emphasis on readiness after the decline in readiness engineered by the previous Administration.

Where the Trump Administration stands is unclear, and the departure of Secretary of State Jim Mattis adds another uncertainty.

Despite the facts, the narrative sponsored by DOD, and now abetted by the CBO, poses an existential threat to TFL. MOAA states that the CBO position and continued budget pressures have turned TFL into a target through increased fees.

MOAA is a powerful and respected lobbying organization, and it depends on the membership to supplement and magnify its direct efforts on the Hill.

MOAA has made the defense of TFL its primary lobbying effort for this coming year. They will focus their efforts on Congress, where the responsibility resides. The basic MOAA position is that retirees have paid in full for the benefits accorded them by Congress. The basic premise put forth by DOD is flawed, and the CBO proposal flies in the face of a decade or more of Congressional action.

There is currently a prepared "action" letter on the MOAA web site that takes less than 60 seconds to send to your Representative and both Senators. It is factual and straightforward. I recommend that each of us have that letter sent as soon as possible. For better or worse, your current legislators will be in office the next two years. They all know MOAA, and they have had repeated visits from our members. We will continue to lobby at the local level, buttressing our chapter efforts through individual communications. At the individual level, it is a numbers game, not an eloquence game. You can help, as can spouses, friends, adult children, and the like.

We are in a battle to retain what has been provided to us by Congress. Let's make sure our legislators know that we have a voice and are watching their actions.

Of some interest, I always receive a written response to my letters from Senator Merkley, periodically from Senator Wyden, and never from Representative Schrader.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact: **Larry Roberts** at **503-722-1897**.

PORTLAND CHAPTER MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

This school year, our TWO Chapter MOAA Scholarship Funds supported \$14,000 in zero interest rate loans and grants to our two Designated Scholars. That is amazing, in that our contributions to our two funds were just \$50,000.

Now, \$50,000 is a sizable amount, but distributing \$14,000 annually from \$50,000 requires a 28% annual investment return if the principle is not going to diminish quickly. Of course, we benefit from the fact that the major portion of the distributions are loans, which students begin to repay once they graduate. Given the quality of the recipients and their families, the default rate on MOAA loans are miniscule. This compares with default rates around 20% in the Federal Student Loan programs.

Also, MOAA actively invests the funds on the overall Scholarship Program, growing the corpus of the assets. And, MOAA manages and invests such funds without charging the Scholarship Program.

As I have related previously, this is an outstanding, well-managed program, and we should be proud as a Chapter and as individuals that we are supporting students and families from the military community in the Portland metropolitan area.

One final note, the amount per scholarship this year was increased from \$5,500 to \$7,000 annually, a rise of 27% after a number of years at the lower level. That means a 4-year Designated Scholar receives \$28,000, not a bad assist for most students.

The Chapter is already embarked on funding our third scholarship, including contributing a net \$620 from the Christmas Raffle. We were among a small group of chapters that funded two scholarships, and we will be among an elite group that create three scholarships.

If a member wishes to contribute online, it is easy to accomplish at MOAA.org. It would be helpful to let me know if you donate online, so I can check to be sure it is credited to our Portland Chapter.

Alternatively, checks can be made out to the “Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund” and mailed to MOAA, ATTN: Andrea Read, 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA. 22314.

Congratulations and many thanks from our Scholarship recipients! Contact me with any questions at rocketlarry@icloud.com or 503-722-1897

**REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER:
 PAY YOUR 2019 CHAPTER DUES!**
*By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
 Chapter Treasurer*

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year’s celebration!! Here’s wishing you a fabulous New Year!! As of today, we have **188** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter [**131** regular members, **51** Surviving Spouse members, **3** Voices for America’s Troops members, and **3** honorary members]. Of those, **28** regular members, **14** Surviving Spouse members, and **2** Voices for America’s Troops member have paid their 2019 dues. In addition, **4** regular members are paid up through 2020, **2** for 2021, **6** for 2022, **9** for 2023, and **1** for 2024. Further, **1** Surviving Spouse has paid through 2020.

It’s that time of year again: MOAA PDX Chapter Dues are due and payable. Please pay your **2019** dues *prior to 31 January 2019*, 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 myrnatrull@icloud.com, 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 easy this year!!

Please send your **\$30 check**, made out to “Portland Chapter - MOAA” (memo line should read “2019 Dues”) and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213.

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

Junior ROTC Connections: On 8 November 2018, both Reynolds High School and Oregon City High School (OCHS) held their Veterans Day events, while our MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors met. I attended the Board meeting, while fellow Board member and Special Events Committee member, **Captain Douglas Brown, USCGR (Ret)**, went to the JROTC event near his home (OCHS Annual Veterans Assembly). He reports that the JROTC cadets provided directions to parking and guidance to the pre-assembly hospitality room. Then they led the veterans to the Assembly where each service was honored with their song. Of the 250 veterans present, many were led by **Ken Buckles**, founder of *Remember American Heroes*. Veterans included Native American groups, a Mexican-American group, a representative for “underage veterans,” and **Lt Col Alex Jefferson** (a Tuskegee Airman). Special guest speakers were **Desmond Doss Jr.**, son of Medal of Honor recipient **Desmond Doss**, Army medic (World War II; portrayed in the movie “Hacksaw Ridge”) and **Chris Spence**, Army Special Forces, who was one of the first into Afghanistan (his experience depicted in the movie “12 Strong”). Both urged the students to seek challenges in their own lives and to think of others as they grow older.

JROTC Leadership Camp: **Doug Brown** was able to attend the MOAA Portland Chapter dinner meeting on 4 December 2018. He reports that **Major Douglas Thomas USA (Ret)**, Commander of the OCHS JROTC Detachment and MOAA Portland Chapter member, brought his Color Guard, including **Cadet Command Sergeant Major John Wright**, who told us about the June 2018 Leadership Camp at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). Cadet Wright stated that he has been using skills learned at PLU in his JROTC leadership this school year. Expenses for his attendance were paid by our Chapter and by a grant from the *USAA Sponsorship for MOAA Chapters*. We have applied again this year to USAA for a grant to assist with attendance by a cadet at the June 2019 Leadership Camp.

*Memories from the Chapter
Christmas Party*



Tony Sebbio is "Recruiter of the Year"



The John Bennett Trio



*JROTC Oregon City High School Color
Guard with Major Doug Thomas (left)
and Colonel Mary J. Mayer (right)*

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 Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret): 503-381-2620

Treasurer

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 971-226-7103

Immediate Past President

Vacant

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

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!

February 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 7, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
March 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 2, 2019	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 2, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
May 4, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
June 4, 2019	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2019</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 **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **4 March 2019**.