



**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 XXXVI, Numbers 5 & 6 www.MOAAPortland.org February & March 2020

FEBRUARY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 1 February 2020

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 General Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret), Former Director of Expeditionary Warfare Division (OPNAV N95), will speak on **"Tension in the Pacific."**

MENU:

Eggs Benedict
Muffins and Pastry
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 Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Thursday, 23 January 2020**. 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, 6 February 2020
at the Colwood Golf Center
(Full Breakfast Starts at 0900)**

MARCH CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 7 March 2020

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:

Scrambled Eggs with Green Chives and Tillamook
Smoked Cheddar Cheese
Muffins and Pastry
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: 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 Thursday, 27 February 2020**. **No late reservations**, and please call if you must cancel as we must 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 6 February 2020 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 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 2020 chapter meetings. In February, our guest speaker is a knowledgeable warfighter and MOAA Portland Chapter board member, **Major General Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** (*see photo below*).



Major General Owens grew up in Eastern Oregon, graduated from Portland State University, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1982. Following flight school and qualification in the AH-1 helicopter, he served in several tactical squadrons, as a flight instructor, weapons and tactics instructor, and as a forward air controller.

General Owens commanded Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea. He participated in various overseas operations--including Restore Hope, Vigilant Warrior, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom.

General Owens attended USMC Command and Staff College, The Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), and the Marine Corps War College. He later served as Director of SAW.

Staff assignments included I Marine Expeditionary Force Pacific Region Plans Officer; Chief of Staff, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate in Joint Forces Command; Chief of Staff, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO; and Chief of Plans, Policy and Strategy for United Nations Command, ROK-US Combined Forces Command, and US Forces Korea. In his final assignment, General Owens served on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Expeditionary Warfare Division (OPNAV N95). He retired in September 2017 and is currently a doctoral student at Portland State University.

In March, **Major Kelly Fitzpatrick, USA (Ret)**, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and MOAA Portland Chapter member, will speak on an **"Update of Veterans' Issues in Oregon."** (*See photo 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new member who joined in December 2019:

LTC Mark Johnson, USA (Ret)
and his wife **Elizabeth**

2019 turned out to be a relatively successful year for obtaining new memberships. As the year closed in December, the chapter had increased its membership by **13**. The following individuals were instrumental in our success: **Mary J. Mayer** (4), **Bill Tidd** (3), and the following (who brought in one new member each): **Allen McDevitt, Myrna Trull, Jim Warnock, Tony Sebbio, Michael Mosso, and Jay Jewess**. **Colonel Mayer** was recognized as the "Recruiter of the Year" and awarded a gift certificate for \$50 at the December chapter meeting.

The 2020 recruitment challenge is already underway. If we put our minds and our efforts to the task, I am sure that we can surpass the number of 13 from last year. So, get out there and start shaking hands. You have the recruiting aids provided on the Chapter Information Table, and I have business cards and "Welcome Packages" for your use. With the revamp of the "Potential New Member Listing" to a monthly listing, I can provide a more comprehensive attempt of establishing communications with the potential members.

This is a double issue that covers both February and March. Therefore, I expect each of you to embrace someone you love and give them a big kiss on Valentine's Day. As for March, I guess we will have to see if she comes in as a lamb or a lion.

Happy New year to One and All! 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

A New Year! 2020! What new adventures will we have? It can be as wonderful and exciting as we ourselves make it. Our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses** finished 2019 with a wonderful sharing Christmas Luncheon and now look forward to our first luncheon in 2020.

Our **Valentine Luncheon** will be held on **Tuesday, February 18, 2020 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 for the luncheon, please call or e-mail **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or jymbo@earthlink.net

Remember to bring old cells phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program and diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront!

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

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

REAL ID Licenses Coming This Year: On October 1, the Real ID program will take effect. The State of Oregon is one of only two states that are not already compliant with the Law, which is likely to create chaos this summer and even more chaos during the fall. To reiterate a Boy Scout motto, “BE PREPARED!”

The Real ID Program requires that all drivers’ licenses be reissued with improved security features before they can be used to board domestic airline flights or gain access to secure federal facilities and military bases.

Oregon has obtained extensions from the federal government but must be compliant by October 1st. The problem is that the state will not even begin issuing licenses until July 6th, less than 3 months before the program takes effect! If you think that DMV lines are long today, wait until July 6th and beyond! And, the licensing procedure requires that applicants bring with them several types of documents to “prove” they are who they say. My guess is that innumerable applicants will require more than one trip to the DMV to satisfy the requirements, further exacerbating the long lines.

The good news is that there are workarounds to enable those without the new drivers’ licenses to board airplanes and access facilities. Our chapter members likely have current passports and military identification cards, both of which will suffice. A passport “card,” whatever that entails, will also work. So, if your passport needs renewal, get on the stick.

Also, remember that passports/ID cards will work at such locations as Joint Base

Lewis-McChord, Camp Withycombe, and the like. But, how many of us carry our passports on a regular basis? There are other means of identification that will work as an alternative. It is easy to get these items on the web.

To obtain a Real ID license, one needs to bring with you to the DMV the following:

- Passport or an original or certified copy of your birth certificate
- Proof of your Social Security number such as a Social Security Card, a W-2 or 4, or a 1099
- TWO proofs of your residence such as utility bills, property tax bills, and the like.

Good luck. If there are updates, I will include in future *Brass Bulletins*.

Economic Reality versus Rhetoric: As the country edges ever closer to the November election, I find it fascinating to hear candidates on the national stage trumpeting with great vigor a picture of the economy that does not correlate with economic reports issued monthly and periodically.

The rhetoric stipulates that the economy is rigged such that the figurative 1 percent of the populace and large corporations are taking home the bacon. This leaves virtually everyone else with economic remnants. The proposed solutions include government run health care, higher taxes on the most productive of citizens and successful world-wide corporations, criminal penalties for mistakes, re-regulation where we recently have exorcised the stultifying regulations from 2010-2016, cost controls, and on and on.

Then, I reviewed the November jobs report and the very good news it held. It was as if we were talking about two totally different nations. Are the people of this country going to believe the rhetoric or the reality? I do not know, but I hope our collective intelligence will prevail as a country.

What we have today is a robust, dynamic, broad-spread economy in which more people are participating in the good times, and the numbers continue to beat expectations. Luckily for the economy, the Federal Reserve quickly realized that raising interest rates was misguided and hampering growth. They reversed course, brought rate expectations down, and seemingly have decided to leave the rates as they are for some time.

So, we went from a slowing economic expansion to a better outlook. What are the indicators?

Well, the November Jobs Report puts the situation in perspective. Job gains expanded to 266,000 AND the reported numbers for September and October were revised upward by 41,000. This was a phenomenal series of numbers this late in an economic expansion. Through the first 11 months of this calendar year, job creation has averaged 180,000 per month. We now have more unfilled jobs than unemployed individuals.

As a result, the jobless rate was just 3.5%, a 50-year low. Also, jobless rates for blacks and teenagers were 5.1% and 12% respectively, another 50-year low. And, the number of individuals unemployed but not even looking for jobs dropped 27% from 1,200,000 to just 768,000.

Of course, for numerous reasons, people lose jobs. Just look at the store-based retail industry. It is hard to find retail clerks at many retailers these days. But only 21% of the unemployed were out of work for over 27 weeks in November. This compares with 25% just before the change of administrations and a 45% high in September 2011.

These figures say we are successfully integrating the 1 million legal immigrants admitted annually.

Is there a benefit to workers? Well, wages overall are up 3.1% from a year ago. Production worker wages rose 3.7%, and leisure and hospitality wages increased 4.3%. All three of those numbers exceeded the rate of inflation.

So, the result of deregulation, tax reform (lower rates), and energy exploration--plus investment in productivity improvements--has created an environment favorable to basically all.

Does the reality suggest that programs to raise taxation dramatically, eliminate fossil fuels, take government control of the health care industry and so forth sound like a plan to continue economic progress? It is up to each of us to decide.

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

REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER: PAY YOUR 2020 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 **180** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter Of those, **55** regular members have paid their dues for 2020 or later, and **3** Surviving Spouse members have paid their dues for 2020. In addition, **71** members still owe \$30 for chapter dues for 2020. 14 Surviving Spouse members volunteered to pay their 2019 dues, and 33 Surviving Spouse members have elected not to pay any dues. Like Surviving Spouse members, the 4 Honorary Members are not required to pay dues but are encouraged to do so.

If you have not done so already, please plan on paying your **2020 dues** as soon as possible. Send your **\$30 check**, made out to "Portland Chapter - MOAA" (memo line should read "2020 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: Oregon City High School (OCHS) JROTC Detachment Commander and MOAA Portland Chapter member, **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, brought his JROTC Color Guard to our Chapter's annual holiday dinner on 3 December. Also, in attendance were his JROTC cadets who were selected to participate in the Pacific Northwest Leadership Conference last June. Our Chapter provides \$700 annually to the OCHS JROTC Program, and USAA contributed \$300 through their USAA/MOAA

Chapter Sponsorship Program. Doug Thomas also spoke about his trip to Europe with 13 OCHS cadets. The following is Major Thomas' report to local media:

“Thirteen cadets from the Oregon City High School JROTC program traveled to England and France from 1-11 June 2019. The main purpose of the trip was to experience European Culture and participate in Ceremonies Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Allied D-Day invasion in the Normandy Region of France. The group experienced a guided tour of London with time to stop at the British Museum and the Tower of London, which included seeing the British Crown Jewels up close. Both are must see cultural stops when in London. The group then boarded a large Ferry to cross the English Channel. Making the crossing with the group were several restored World War II military vehicles and English citizens who were crossing to participate in ceremonies related to the anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

Once in Normandy, the group toured the Brittany American Cemetery, which is a 28-acre cemetery where 4,405 Americans who lost their lives in the World War II invasion that led to the liberation of France are buried. Three of the cadets were honored with being selected to ceremoniously place large floral wreaths during the ceremony. There were about 300 participants from High Schools and patriotic groups from across the United States. The following day the group participated at an even larger ceremony that featured speeches from surviving US Veterans who were part of the historic invasion force. Also, performing were 200 members of the University of Texas marching band, along with a 100-member, all-male choir from Denver, Colorado. The last planned ceremony was the next day in Paris at the Luxembourg Gardens. The event organizers were able

to coordinate time for graduation ceremony for the six Senior cadets. There were several hundred local spectators that observed the ceremony. A French/English translator was provided to recite in French the comments made by Major Doug Thomas (OCHS JROTC Teacher) describing what the cadets have accomplished over the past four years. Mr. Jeff Dahlin (OCHS Teacher) gave some very appropriate comments relating the history to which they were exposed to during the trip and the optimism of the cadets' bright future. Then each cadet was presented with a diploma certificate. The parents and chaperones that traveled with the group were very satisfied with this extremely memorable ceremony as demonstrated by the tears of pride and the many photos taken.”

Memories from the Chapter Christmas Party



Membership Chair Bill Tidd presents Mary J. Mayer with “Chapter Recruiter of the Year” Certificate and \$50 coupon



The John Bennett Trio

Memories from the Chapter Christmas Party



JROTC Oregon City High School Color Guard



(Left) CAPT Peter Troedsson, USCG (Ret) from the MOAA Board of Directors and Andrea Rand, MOAA Scholarship Director (right), honor LTC Jim Asaph and his wife Mary Ann for their generous scholarship contributions over the years



Peter and Andrea recognize MOAA Board of Directors Member, Mary J. Mayer, for starting two MOAA scholarships from personal funds

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

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, USA (Ret)

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

Communications: *Vacant*

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)
Reverend Karyn Dix

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 1, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 6, 2020</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
March 7, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 7, 2020	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 2, 2020	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 7, 2020</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
June 2, 2020	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2020</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 2020 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at marvjmayer@yahoo.com by 7 March 2020.