



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

**Portland, Oregon  
Chapter**  
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P.O. Box 18206  
Portland, OR 97213

**Volume XXXVII, Numbers 5 & 6    www.MOAAPortland.org    February & March 2021**

**FEBRUARY VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:**

**Saturday, 6 February 2021**

Social Time: 0930; Meeting Starts: 1000

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Video Teleconference

**PROGRAM:**

**Mr. Steven J. Daniels**, the Chairman of Community Outreach, will speak on the “Mission of the *USS Oregon 973*.”

**RESERVATIONS:** Contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 February 2021**. See Michael’s contact information and more info in the **middle of the second column on this page**.

**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/82415013281?pwd=bnZhL3pKb0tLUC9hZ1BkVFdadDJhQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1501 3281 Passcode: 665444

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

+ 1 699 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 824 1501 3281 Passcode: 665444

**MARCH VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:**

**Saturday, 6 March 2021**

Social Time: 0930; Meeting Starts: 1000

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Video Teleconference

**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.”

**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, 3 March 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/81915152822?pwd=ZXVqVGI1a0gxQ0tuaEo0TFFXOWhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 1515 2822 Passcode: 426449

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

+ 1 699 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 819 1515 2822 Passcode: 426449

**DURING FEBRUARY & MARCH MEETINGS:** Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity to be selected at the 4 February 2021 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.

**Reminder:**

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting  
will be held at 0900  
on Thursday, 4 February 2021  
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

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

The **Program Committee** has provided two dynamic and knowledgeable guest speakers for the February and March 2021 chapter meetings. In February, our guest speaker is **Mr. Steven J. Daniels**, the Chairman of Community Outreach for the *USS Oregon SSN-793* Commissioning Committee. (See photo below).



Steven is a native Oregonian, born in Portland, and 1965 graduate of Clackamas High School. He attended Multnomah Junior College until entering the US Navy in July 1966. After boot camp and "A" school, Steven attended Mare Island Nuclear Power School with additional instruction at Idaho's Naval Nuclear Training Facility. Steven served on the *USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623* as Leading Engineering Laboratory Technician.

After leaving the Navy, he attended Clackamas Community College and Portland State University where he earned a degree in engineering. Steven worked for an electrical construction company as Supervising Electrician, and he retired from Clackamas County as Project Coordinator.

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 January 2021:

**COL Marco Oswald, USAR (Ret)**  
and his wife **Chiara**

At its 5 November 2020 Meeting, the Chapter Board of Directors agreed to make the effort to contact all our chapter membership to check on their general well-being; let them know that they had not been forgotten in this virtual, social distancing, and often lonely world; and see if there was anything the chapter could do to help.

As promised, here is the result of that effort. Eight members of the Board attempted to contact 87 Chapter members, which resulted in a mixed bag of results. Over half of the attempts resulted in no response, with a voicemail message having to be left. There were also several address and phone number corrections, but, for those members who answered their phones, they were extremely pleased that the chapter had taken the time to reach out to them. The results indicate that this should be a reoccurring effort every couple of months.

I am writing this paragraph on behalf of the **Special Events Committee**. Each year, the Chapter submits a MOAA/USAA application form which provides \$300 which the Chapter can use in community support. The Board, in the past few years, has used this money to send a JROTC cadet to the Northwest Leadership Conference at Pacific Lutheran University in suburban Tacoma, WA. This year, however, the Leadership Conference has been cancelled. **Major Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, the JROTC Detachment Commander at Oregon City

High School, states that this is a great opportunity for Drill Team Commanders to gain confidence in exhibition drill. The Board has, therefore, decided to support the National Drill Camp being held 11-17 July 2021 at Schreiner University, Kerrville, Texas.

As we begin the New Year, I wish every one of you the absolute best that the New Year can bring!!!



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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**REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER: PAY YOUR 2021 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 healthy and safe New Year!!

As of today, we have **169** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter Of those, **37** regular members have paid their dues for 2021 or later, and **1** Surviving Spouse member has paid her dues for 2021. In addition, **75** regular members still owe \$30 for chapter dues for 2021 and **52** 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 **2021 dues** as soon as possible. Send your **\$30 check**, made out to "Portland Chapter - MOAA" (memo line should read "2021 Dues") and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213.

***SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER***

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

In this New Year of 2021, let us keep our thoughts positive and look forward to meeting again in-person for our MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheons. In the meantime, stay safe and take good care of yourselves.

Our Valentine Luncheon would normally be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 12:00 noon; a decision has not been made regarding the restaurant. If restrictions are eased or lifted and we feel we can meet safely, the restaurant will be chosen. Please remember that Chapter wives are always welcome to attend our luncheons.

Continue to make or purchase baby items for Operation Diaper Bag and diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront. Check with friends and family for old, replaced cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

Always check your *MOAA Portland Chapter Brass Bulletin Newsletter* for information on the upcoming Virtual Chapter Meetings. The next one will be **Saturday, 6 February 2021; social time starts at 0930**, and the **meeting starts at 1000**. Surviving Spouses are always invited to these chapter events, which include highly informative guest speakers. The meetings are held via Zoom Video Teleconference, and I have been pleased to see several of you attending on a regular basis. However, I would like to see more of you join us for our virtual Chapter Meetings—you don't have to drive and can enjoy the meeting from the comfort of your own home.

If you don't have Zoom capability, you can **call in on your phone**. The directions are easy: dial **1-669-900-6833**,

and, when prompted, put in the **Meeting ID and Password**. *The Meeting ID and Password are found on the first page of the newsletter.* For those of you missing the social part of our Chapter Meetings, we are now having a **Virtual Social Time** for 30 minutes before each meeting – come join us!

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***CHAPTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FIRST CHRISTMAS FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM!***

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

Once again, the **MOAA Portland Chapter members** proved their support of the local military community. Congratulations and many thanks from the recipients of our combined efforts.

In little over a month from inception to completion, the membership approved and executed a plan to provide monetary support to **junior enlisted personnel and their families at the Portland Air National Guard Base (PANG) for Christmas**.

From a standing start in early November 2020, the Chapter mobilized its resources to identify and sign up an organization which would be the recipient of target funds, the OREGON Air National Guard 142nd Wing. Then we had to decide how gifts would be transmitted and to what personnel group. By mid- November, we had a mandate; all we needed was funds.

Chapter members responded early and broadly. My initial personal target was to distribute around \$2,500 in gifts and to complete the process by mid-December.

Through individual contributions and wine raffle proceeds, we were able to distribute a total of **\$3,500** in the form of **Fred Meyer Gift Cards** to the families of 10 Airmen and women. The gift cards enabled the families to decide independently whether food, clothing, or gifts were most important to them. The gift cards had no expiration date, and there were no costs associated with utilizing the card. Also, we were able to distribute the gift cards the second week of December so they could be utilized in advance of December 25th.

Senior enlisted personnel from the 142nd Wing made the recipient selections on an individual basis, and the 142nd distributed the gift cards--along with a note

signed by Chapter President Mary J. Mayer--telling the beneficiaries the source of the gift cards.

**Amy Almond-Schmid**, the 142nd Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center Manager, was extremely helpful, supportive, and fully committed throughout the entire process, and she has now allowed the Chapter to display our MOAA Membership Materials at the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing Resiliency Center. **Brigadier General Donna M. Prigmore**, the Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, and **Amy** have both expressed their thanks on behalf of the Wing and the families that benefited.

If Christmas is a season of giving, the Chapter performed admirably. Kudos to all!

Any thoughts and suggestions on how to alter and/or improve what we accomplished in 2020 would be welcomed. And, if you think we should plan further giving programs to active-duty organizations, let your thoughts be made to the Board of Directors.

As a coda, several contributions were received after we had purchased the gift cards, so we have a head start on 2021.

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**AN OPINION PIECE:**  
**LET'S TALK ABOUT AMERICAN**  
**DEMOCRACY!**  
**By CAPT Tony Sebbio, MSC, USN**  
**(Ret)**

We must be able to sit down with one another and have good tough discussions about democracy in America without demeaning each other and each other's views. The current political climate across Western democracies, in particular the United States, has been one marked by increasing ideological polarization.

Since the end of the Cold War, most democracies have not been overthrown externally by violent military coups, but internally through the ballot box and the subsequent capture of political institutions by autocrats. One of the great ironies of how democracies die is that the very defense of democracy is often used as a pretext for its subversion. Historical examples illustrating this point include the rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany, more recently Alberto Fujimori in Peru and Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. Like any game, democratic governance is built upon rules, both formal and informal. However, crises are often utilized by nascent demagogues to bend, or otherwise change, the rules of the game for their own political expediency. In each of these cases, establishment politicians overlooked the warning signs and opened the door for the ascension of such demagogues.

There are four key indicators, or behavioral warning signs, of authoritarian behavior (1) the rejection, in words or action, of the democratic rules of the game, (2) the denial of the legitimacy of political opponents, (3) toleration or encouragement of violence, and (4) a willingness to curtail civil liberties of opponents, including the media. Historically the gatekeepers of American democracy, such as the leaders and bosses of political parties, have effectively marginalized extremists from their parties, both on the left, such as former Governor and Senator of Louisiana, Huey Long, as well as on the right, such as Senator of Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy. However, democracy cannot survive through formal political channels alone. Democracies have written rules (constitutions) and referees (the courts). But these work best, and survive longest, in countries with unwritten rules of the game or "norms". These unwritten rules are referred to as "the soft guardrails of democracy".

Two crucially important informal norms that explain the robustness of American democracy, are (1) mutual toleration and (2) institutional forbearance. The first norm refers to the acknowledgement of the legitimacy of one's political opponents to compete for power through the democratic process, so long as they play within constitutional rules. Mutual toleration excludes the use, or even encouragement, of threats and violence to bar political opponents from competing for office. The second norm is closely related to the rule of law; institutional forbearance means that elected officials cannot exercise legal action that intentionally privileges one group of individuals at the expense of another. For

example, the passage of poll taxes or literacy tests, as occurred throughout the post-Reconstruction South, was generally applied across the population, making no reference to race. However, Southern states passed these laws knowing the intended effect would be to disenfranchise African Americans, who voted overwhelmingly Republican, and therefore restore the Democrats' dominance in the South. This example was a violation of institutional forbearance: though it was rule "by" law, it was not rule "of" law.

The reversal of these antidemocratic measures via the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, had a polarizing by-product, generating a partisan realignment among Republicans and Democrats along ideological lines. With the disappearance of conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans after this realignment, areas of overlap between the parties gradually disappeared. Over the past 50 years, discourse among political opponents and between "everyday" Americans has become harsh and less tolerant. People with opposing views are now cast as enemies by political pundits who's only aim is to increase market shares along with their salaries. Social media has also unleashed a whole new set of political dynamics, in which each party increasingly feed slanted information to their ideological base and demean the opponent.

We live in a complex society and protecting democracy is harder than ever. However, perhaps we can take grass roots action and play our part as individuals to make a difference. Treat everyone with respect as well as their views. We do not have to always agree with each other. We can agree to disagree. But we MUST work on those ideals that make this country great -- in particular, tolerance and forbearance! And we MUST demand this of our elected leaders too!

## ***VA PORTLAND STAFF MEMBERS CALLING VETERANS TO SCHEDULE COVID VACCINATIONS***

***By Daniel E. Herrigstad, Public Affairs Officer, VA Portland Health Care System***

If you are a Veteran 75 years of age and older in the Portland or Vancouver area, please listen for a phone call from VA Portland so we can schedule you for a COVID vaccination.

We are expanding the pool of Veterans who can receive COVID-19 vaccinations right now.

The list includes enrolled Veterans 75 years of age and older, especially those with other conditions that put them at higher risk. We are currently contacting Veterans directly, based on age and clinical conditions.

**We are asking Veterans to NOT CALL VA Portland to inquire about vaccinations.** Currently, operators and staff will not be able to schedule Veterans who call in for a COVID vaccination. We encourage people to check for COVID vaccination information updates at [www.portland.va.gov](http://www.portland.va.gov), follow us on [Facebook](#), or call the **VA Portland COVID-Vaccination Information Line at (503) 220-3434**. Anyone can sign up for email updates on our main web page under "CONNECT WITH VA PORTLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM."

We have already vaccinated many Veterans in our long-term care facility, as well as dialysis and chemotherapy patients. VA Portland will soon be expanding vaccinations to other VA Portland clinic locations and ramping up the volume of vaccinations. Watch for updates.

To be informed about the vaccine, we encourage Veteran to read this Pfizer vaccine fact sheet:

[Fact Sheet for Patients and Parent/Caregivers: EUA of Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate for Treatment of COVID-19 in Certain Hospitalized Patients \(va.gov\)](#)

***2020-2021 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS*****President**

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

**First Vice President**

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret): 503-739-3334

**Second Vice President**

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

**Recording Secretary**

CDR Doug J. Sheehan, USCGR (Ret): 503-653-6058

**Reservations Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):**

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

***2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****Army Reps**

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297  
MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret): 503-309-7458

**Navy Reps**

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896  
CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

**Air Force Reps**

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253  
Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

**Marine Corps Rep**

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

**Coast Guard Rep: Vacant****USPHS**

CDR (Dr.) Robert Steelman: 503-333-4565

**Women in Service Rep**

CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret): 503-936-5896

**Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

**Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)**

MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret): 503-951-1805

***2020-2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS***

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

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

**Legislative:** LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)  
CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

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

**Communications:** CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)

**Surviving Spouse:** Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman  
Mrs. Carol Patrick

**Decorations:** Vacant

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

**Special Events:** Capt Doug MacEllven, USAF (Frm)

**ESGR Outreach:** COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)  
COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

**Chaplains:** LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)  
Reverend Karyn Dix  
Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

**Note:** More contact info on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, [www.moaportland.org](http://www.moaportland.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**

**(NOTE: Some or all of these meetings may be held **virtually** due to the COVID-19 pandemic!)**

March 6, 2021	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 6, 2021	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 1, 2021	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 6, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
June 1, 2021	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2021</i>	<i>No chapter meetings are scheduled.</i>
<i>August 5, 2021</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
September 7, 2021	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

**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 2021 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by 7 March 2021.