



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

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

Volume XXXVIII, Number 5

www.MOAAPortland.org

February 2022

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Happy New Year! As a few friends and I welcomed in the new year, we found ourselves yearning for a return to some semblance of normality after suffering two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and its Delta variant—with its restrictions and sometimes fatal consequences. However, that was not to be; as year three of COVID begins, we are now engaged in fighting yet another variant, Omicron, the most highly contagious strain yet which is challenging the efficacy of the vaccinations and boosters.

As I announced at our Christmas/Holiday Party in December, your chapter leaders were planning on holding the February 2022 chapter meeting in-person. But, with the current outbreak of the new variant, it did not seem prudent to meet at The Aerie at Eagle’s Landing, our new venue for brunch meetings. Maybe next month!

One thing I do know is that we should take time to count our many blessings, and, in a virtual and often isolating environment, make sure that we keep in touch with family, friends, colleagues, and chapter members. Hopefully, your New Year’s Resolutions will include: (1) attending chapter meetings via Zoom or telephone, and, when conditions allow, in person. Remember that, prior to our virtual meetings, we conduct a “**virtual social time**” before the meeting to connect chapter members to one another. These virtual socials have been well-received

(Continued on page 2)

Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0900
on Thursday, 3 February 2022
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING:

Saturday, 5 February 2022

Social Time: 0930; Meeting Starts at 1000

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom Video Teleconference

PROGRAM:

CPT Alan Rosenhan, the S5 Civil Affairs Operations Planner for the 2^D Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment., who will speak on “**Rangers Lead the Way.**”

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at **503-381-2620** or **mjseiwald@comcast.net** **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 February 2022** 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/81628270002?pwd=V2lEdysZ Fk2ZnQ4VEJ0Q293NVJtQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 2827 0002 Passcode: 897309

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

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 816 2827 0002 Passcode: 897309

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

(2) recruiting new members into the MOAA Portland Chapter, and (3) getting more involved in the chapter committees and/or activities.

For our 5 February 2022 **Virtual Chapter Meeting**, I encourage you to do the following:

- (1) Buy Wine Raffle Tickets at \$20 each for some fine bottles of wine.
- (2) If you have not done so already, please pay your **chapter dues for 2022**—they were due the first of January. Dues are **\$30 a year** and cover 1 January-31 December 2022. Please do not wait until the Treasurer sends you an invoice; to find out ways you can pay your dues to the Treasurer, *see page 3*.

The **Program Committee** has provided a very dynamic and knowledgeable guest speaker for the February 2022 chapter meeting. He is **CPT Alan N. Rosenhan, USA**, the S5 Civil Affairs Operations Planner for the 2^D Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. (*See photo below.*)



CPT Rosenhan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Middle Eastern Studies/Arabic from Brigham Young University where he commissioned through the ROTC Program in 2011. He was honor graduate of Civil Affairs Qualification Course (CAQC) 02-16 in April 2016. He has

numerous deployments; Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa, serving as a Team Leader, Special Operations Command Forward- Central Africa (SOCFWD-CA) for Operation Observant Compass, and a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Special Operations Command-CENTCOM.

CPT Rosenhan's military education includes; Signal Basic Officer Leaders Course, Army Special Operations Captains Career Course, Civil Affairs Qualification Course, Special Operations Language Training – Egyptian Arabic, Basic Combatives Course, Tactical Combatives Course, Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course, Army Marksmanship Unit Advanced Marksmanship Training, Joint Civil Information Management Course, Cross Cultural Negotiations Course, the Basic Airborne Course, the Military Freefall Parachutists Course, the Air Assault Course, and the Ranger Course.

His awards include three Army Commendation Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Component Achievement Medal (ARCAM), the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Mobilization Device), the Armed Forces Service Medal (2nd award), the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon. He has been awarded the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (Gold, third award), the Parachutist Badge, the Military Freefall Parachutists Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the coveted Ranger Tab.

CPT Rosenhan is married to the former Julie Christiansen. They have four sons: Karl Lawrence Rosenhan, Theodore Gordon Rosenhan, Patrick Shughart Rosenhan, and Edmund Carter Rosenhan.

Thought for the Day:

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

At its November 2021 Meeting, the Chapter Board of Directors agreed to make an effort to contact all of our chapter membership in order to check on their general well-being, to let them know that they had not been forgotten in this virtual, non-touching, and lonely world, and to see if there was anything the chapter could do to help them.

We have formed a team whose goal is to contact each and every member during the month of January, gather any and all information provided, and submit a report. I will include the results of the report in the next issue of the *Brass Bulletin*.

Although we had planned on trying to get together for a February in-person meeting, the aggressiveness of the Omicron variant and the continued Covid-19 crisis has forced the Board to revert to a Zoom meeting once again.

Starting the third year of fighting this pandemic has appeared to have drained the will to solicit new members. Maybe when we can meet face-to-face again, our enthusiasm will return. Until then, I hope you and your families enjoyed Christmas and are all looking forward to a Happier New Year!

**CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER
MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING!
PAY YOUR 2022 DUES!**

**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
Treasurer**

As of 1 November 2021, the MOAA Portland Chapter had total assets of **\$23,640.49** and a total of **163** members (5 less than last year):

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

2022 Annual Chapter Dues are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020) and are **due on or before 1 January 2022**. There are several ways you can pay this year: mailing a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213), having your bank mail us a check, or you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary account and routing information.

**AN OPINION PIECE: MY COMMENTARY ON
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST**

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

Tolls are coming to the Portland Metro Area: In early October, elected officials from both Oregon City and West Linn met with Lucinda Broussard, an Oregon Department of Transportation representative who carries the title of “Toll Program Director.”

In short, her message was that tolls are coming, first to a short portion of I-205, then to the remainder of I-205 and subsequently to all of I-5 from the Interstate Bridge to Boone Bridge at the southern end of Wilsonville. She indicated that this gargantuan project would be completed in 5 years, with tolls implemented first in 2024 or 2025. Such initial tolls would cover a short 7 mile stretch from Stafford Road to Oregon-213. How much will the tolls be? Who knows! No such detail.

Tolls will be “variable,” which is also undefined. What did become clear is that the original tolls will be used to pay in part for the second and third phases of the program. At least, the tolling process will adopt what I call the “Houston model,” where a vehicle does not stop at a toll booth or even slow down. I know the Houston model works because our most recent trip there we inadvertently got on to a toll road, and 2 weeks

later we received a bill in the mail for our rental car. Big brother is watching you!

Of course, the initial phase involves major structural changes to the Abernethy Bridge north of West Linn. This will entail lane changes and lane closures, primarily in the spring and summer months. Just plan for traffic tie ups of varying lengths during the process. My bet is that lots of truck traffic will shift from I-205 to I-5 while work is ongoing during phase one. Then there will be a shift of traffic back to I-205 once the work starts on I-5. Prediction: years of traffic chaos on the two main North/South arteries over as much as a decade.

Oh, by the way, ODOT believes that tolls collected will pay off that portion of work by 2028. However, Ms. Broussard stated that toll collection decisions at that time will be decided by the transportation division. Take that as “of course we will continue tolling!”

At any rate, DOT believes that tolling will take effect on the initial 7 mile stretch of I-205 in 2024. Do not hold your breath. On the other hand, DOT will work hard to get an incremental source of funding, collecting money as soon as possible.

One unanswered question is why the state is rushing to procure more funds from its citizens when the Biden administration is poised to dole out billions through the just passed infrastructure bill?

The net result is that the state bureaucracy is utilizing the citizens of West Linn and Oregon City, and eventually the entire metropolitan area as guinea pigs for its first experiment with toll roads.

Let's at least hope that eventually, perhaps in a decade, the result will be a more effective vehicle transportation

system in place. In the meantime, plan for road delays and higher travel expenses.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Mrs. Edie Rieken, Former Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison



History of the Auxiliary Members of the MOAA

Portland Chapter: Having attended numerous MOAA meetings with my husband Dick, after his death in 2001, I continued going and soon found my “niche” by providing flowers for the tables at each meeting. Then Chapter President Ron Youngman “nailed” me to serve on the Board of Directors--a bit scary for me—but the members were great. Mary Mayer had just joined the Chapter and was also asked to serve on the Board, so then I felt a bit more comfortable!

I'd noticed a lot of women listed in our *Chapter Membership Directory* who did not attend the MOAA meetings, so, with the Board's approval, I sent letters to all the single ladies to see if they'd like to just have lunch out together once a month. The response was very positive, mostly because I'd suggested meeting at “Albertina's” – a favorite place for women to have lunch.

But then, as Auxiliary members, we didn't just “meet to eat”! As a group, in 2009, we gave \$225 to the Scholarship Fund. In 2010, we gave many personal items for TROOP CARE PACKAGES sent to deployed Oregon Service personnel via the 41st Brigade/Family Readiness Support based in Tigard. In addition, that year, at our Fundraising Luncheon for the Scholarship Fund, we raised \$345.

In 2011, we gave \$105 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund and began participating in Operation Home Front, a national group that helped returning soldiers who needed assistance for their families. Baby diapers

became an important need, and we donated those for some time. Also, old cell phones were needed for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program. In 2012, I hosted an outdoor luncheon at my home to benefit the MOAA Scholarship Fund that raised \$300!

Another small but important effort was visiting chapter members who had just lost a spouse. Then for a brief period when several chapter members joined other groups in sewing “cooling neckties” made of sand colored fabric donated by the company where my daughter worked. Ron Youngman made several as did Jim and Carol Patrick. These went to Oregon National Guard soldiers serving in Iraq.

Many thanks are due to our Auxiliary Members in the past for generously supporting so many worthwhile efforts, and to our current Surviving Spouse Members for continuing similar efforts today!

I’m sure all have missed the in-person luncheon meetings during the “COVID Shut-down” as much as I have. My deepest thanks go to **Jean Hillman** for her continuing leadership.

(NOTE: The nomenclature “Auxiliary” was officially changed to “Surviving Spouse” in 2018, by an affirmative vote of the entire MOAA membership.)

I WORRY ABOUT OUR DOCTORS AND NURSES

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

I sat down to write this letter on Christmas Day, our second affected by the COVID 19. I worry about our healthcare heroes and what they face day in and day out. As of this writing, the US has had 816,533 deaths attributed to

COVID and the number should probably be higher.

During our December 7th Holiday Chapter Meeting held via Zoom, we again listened to the words of President Roosevelt as he directed the rally to respond to the December 1942 attack by Japan. Where is our rally today? COVID, an invisible invader, has taken more lives than World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Yet, factions in our society minimize the danger and work against public health measures (such as mask wearing that works) and vilify public health professionals who ONLY have the safety of the nation’s people in mind.

Oregon has the 7th lowest death rate, 134 per 1000, in the US. This did not just happen. It took a Governor with backbone to keep indoor mask mandates in place. I do not agree with all Governor Brown’s policies, but her position on masking I do support.

We had a Zoom with friends in Tennessee this past week, and, according to them, Tennessee with no mask mandate “is doing just fine.” I guess they do not view 269 deaths per 1000 as problematic. And their neighbor to the south, Mississippi, leads the pack with 334 deaths per 1000 (data from statista.com). We are all tired of COVID, I get it. But too many Americans are leading their lives as if COVID is over, and they have been for a long while.

Since COVID-19 first pummeled the U.S., Americans have been told to flatten the curve lest hospitals be overwhelmed. But hospitals have been overwhelmed. The nation avoided the most apocalyptic scenarios, such as ventilators running out by the thousands, but repeated surges have overrun the capacity of many hospitals, and traumatized countless health-care workers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the health-care sector has lost nearly half a million workers since February 2020. I am sure many health-care workers imagined that such traumas were behind them once the vaccines arrived. But plateauing immunization rates, premature lifts on masking, and the ascendant Delta variant undid those hopes. This summer, many hospitals clogged up again, and, as patients waited to be admitted into ICUs, they filled emergency rooms, and then waiting rooms and hallways. That unrealized promise of some sort of normalcy has made the feelings of

exhaustion and frustration pervasive throughout the healthcare workforce.

And now we have the more contagious Omicron variant. To top it all off, COVID patients are also becoming harder to deal with. Most now are unvaccinated, and, while some didn't have a choice in the matter, those who did are often belligerent and vocal. Even after they're hospitalized, some resist basic medical procedures (like proning or oxygenation), thinking themselves to be fighters, only to become delirious, anxious, and impulsive when their lungs struggle for oxygen. Others have assaulted nurses, thrown trash around their rooms, and yelled for hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin, neither of which has any proven benefit for COVID-19. Once, Americans clapped for health-care heroes, now they are fighting them!

General Colin Powell, USA (Ret)
offered 13 Rules of Leadership in his 2012 memoir, It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership.

- It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
- Get mad, then get over it.
- Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
- It can be done.
- Be careful what you choose: You may get it.
- Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
- You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.
- Check small things.
- Share credit.
- Remain calm. Be kind.

- Have a vision. Be demanding.
- Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
- Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

***LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE
COMMANDER, COAST GUARD SECTOR
COLUMBIA RIVER***

For the second year in a row for Christmas, the MOAA Portland Chapter proved their support of the local military community by donating \$2,500 to the Sector Columbia River's Chief Petty Officer Association (CPOA). The CPOA distributed \$250 gift cards to all its outlying units, and they in turn provided the gift cards to the most junior enlisted personnel and their families from Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. The Sector is a vast assembly of Coast Guard units ranging from Astoria through the Columbia River and up the Snake River. **Captain Scott Jackson**, the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River wrote the following letter of appreciation to the MOAA Portland Chapter:

29 December 2021

To the Portland MOAA Chapter:

Please accept my sincere gratitude for your dedication to our service members! Your financial support of Sector Columbia River's Chief Petty Officer Association (CPOA) enabled our CPOA to provide each of our outlying units with \$250 gift cards. The CPOA in turn delivered these cards to the most junior enlisted members of our workforce. Your gracious gifts enabled our most financially challenged members and their families to have a Merrier Christmas than they otherwise would have had. Your actions had an enormous impact on the morale of our members!

Thank you for your generous contribution and your heartfelt holiday spirit towards Sector Columbia River and the United States Coast Guard!

Sincerely,

M.S. Jackson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

P.S. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for the wine! Scott

2020-2021 PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS**President**

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

First Vice President

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

Second Vice President

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

Recording Secretary

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

Reservations Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Senior Director (in lieu of Immediate Past President):

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

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

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

Navy Reps

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

Air Force Reps

Vacant
Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

Coast Guard Rep: CAPT Doug Brown: 503-631-7769

USPHS

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

Women in Service Rep

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

Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

Vacant

2020-2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

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

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

Communications: CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman
Vacant

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio: 503-936-5896

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

Special Events: *Vacant*

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

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

Note: More contact info on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, www.moaaportland.org

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 18206
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark your calendars!

(NOTE: These meetings may be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic!)

February 3, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)
February 5, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
March 5, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 5, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 5, 2022	Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)
May 7, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
June 7, 2022	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: The newsletter takes a hiatus during January 2022. All articles for the combined ***March & April 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by Monday, 7 February 2022..