



**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 XL, Number 5**

**www.MOAAPortland.org**

**February 2024**

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

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

Happy New Year! For those of you who did not attend the 5 December 2023 MOAA Portland Chapter Christmas/Holiday Party, you missed a spectacular event where chapter members and special guests were able to celebrate the season and bring in the new year! A highlight of the event, of course, was the fact that our new MOAA President and CEO, **Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)**, was our dynamic and knowledgeable guest speaker who talked to us on the history of MOAA and its continuing relevant mission to ensure our military earned benefits are available for all those who have served, are serving, and will serve. General Kelly personally thanked me for “facilitating an incredible experience during my visit to the MOAA Portland Chapter for your Christmas Dinner Party and leadership meeting; the visit helped me better understand the vital importance of our affiliate system and our volunteer leaders.” MOAA National recognizes the MOAA Portland Chapter as one of its most effective affiliates, as evidenced by the chapter being awarded the Five Star Level of Excellence Awards for sixteen consecutive years. In 2024, let’s all of us recommit to keeping our chapter activities in the forefront of our local community, state, and national levels. A special thanks to all who have supported the chapter during this past year; I look forward to collaborating with you again this program year to keep our chapter strong, relevant, and active. And to those who have not stepped up yet, I encourage you to get involved. Remember: “Never Stop Serving!”

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Reminder:**

**The Chapter Board of Directors Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800 on Wednesday, 7 February 2024 via Zoom Video Teleconference**

**FEBRUARY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:**

**Saturday, 3 February 2024**

Social Time: 0830, Meeting Starts: 0930

The Aerie at Eagle Landing

10220 SE Causey Avenue

Happy Valley, Oregon 97086

Phone: 503-698-8020

**PROGRAM:**

**CDR James A. Steele, USN**, Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland, will speak on “**Military Recruiting in Today’s Challenging Environment.**”

**MENU:**

Scrambled Eggs with Tillamook Cheese

Roasted Potatoes

Bacon

Breakfast Sausage

Seasonal Sliced Fruit

Assorted Pastries

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Team, and Orange Juice

**COST:** \$33 per person (includes 23% 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](mailto:mjseiwald@comcast.net) or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 31 January 2024. 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 THE FEBRUARY MEETING:** Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity, the **Oregon Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation Homefront** and **Operation Diaper Bag**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

**PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)**

**Program:** Turning to the **Program** for the February Brunch Meeting, our guest speaker will be **CDR James A. Steele, USN**, Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland, who will speak on “**Military Recruiting in Today’s Challenging Environment.**”



**CDR James A. Steele, USN**

Raised in Wasilla, Alaska, **CDR James A. Steele** enlisted in the Navy in 1997 as a nuclear electrician’s mate. While serving aboard USS Parche (SSN 683), he was accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). He graduated from the University of Washington in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. In 2009, he earned a master’s degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University.

His sea tours include serving as the anti-submarine warfare officer aboard USS Momsen (DDG 92); reactor controls division officer aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65); operations officer aboard USS

Ford (FFG 54); and reactor training assistant aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73).

Ashore, he served as the reactor dynamics and core characteristics division director at Naval Nuclear Power School and as the rotational global force management division director for U.S. Africa Command.

His previous assignment was executive officer, USS Kansas City (LCS 22) and then NTAG Portland, Oregon. CDR Steele assumed duties as Commanding Officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland, on January 12, 2023.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and various unit and campaign awards.

As I close my comments, I would like to see members “step forward” to volunteer with a myriad of chapter duties and responsibilities. If you would like to help the chapter, please contact me at [maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com) or **310-897-1902** (cell). Remember: “Never Stop Serving!”

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**MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

*By CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret), Co-Membership Committee Chair*

The MOAA Portland Chapter is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined since the last issue of the *Brass Bulletin*:

**Lt Col David Kingsella, USAF (Ret)**  
And wife **Sharon**

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone! Here’s to a Happier, Healthier, and more Peaceful 2024 for all! Lately, that’s been a lot to ask of this world, but let’s be optimistic and full of hope and confidence this year that we, as a global society, can come together in peace and harmony.

Our December Chapter Dinner Meeting and holiday party was a huge success with lots of fun and festivities for all those who attended. We were pleased and honored to have MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), as our distinguished guest. Lt

Gen Kelly spoke to us on the “State of the Association” and gave a compelling, yet upbeat, discussion on membership and member responsibilities. As a post note, General Kelly sent a personal note to our Chapter President, Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), thanking her for facilitating an incredible experience during his visit. As quoted from her note: *“From start to finish, you facilitated an extraordinary visit that helped me better understand the vital importance of our affiliate system and our volunteer leaders.”*

As we transition into a new year, let’s refresh, recharge, and hit the start button again. I ask each one of you to help a fellow officer or surviving spouse to find their purpose in joining our MOAA Portland Chapter. As you know, we are heavily involved in the community and in the support of our military families regardless of service or rank. One of the questions we are repeatedly asked is: “Why should I join the MOAA Portland Chapter? I am already a member of National MOAA.” The answer is quite simple. National MOAA has the charter to not only promote the initiatives of the local community and chapter, but also must consider the national interests as a whole. We, at the local level, advocate on a one-to-one basis with our local leaders and support our local military community. We have chapter representatives who are in constant contact with our local and state legislators, we support the commissioning of new officer cadets, and provide scholarship funds to support the local AFROTC and JROTC detachments; just to name a few.

You already know why we do what we do, but you may not recognize just how important the annual membership fee is to the accomplishment of our local community programs. When a member fails to renew their membership, our chapter does not receive any reimbursement from National MOAA.

The reasons why many members elect not to renew their membership, or potential members choose not to join, are widespread going from the pricing of dinners/events, too many personal commitments, too many other organizational involvements, or just don’t want to drive or attend meetings anymore. Please explain the importance of MOAA Portland Chapter membership in your recruiting efforts even though your potential members may not wish to attend our meetings or dinners. The funds we receive from their membership will guarantee our chapter will continue to support the many community programs in which we are engaged. Remember every member counts and contributes to our advocacy and the greater good just by being a member!

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***CONTINUE BEING A CHAPTER MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING! PAY YOUR 2024 DUES!***

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

**2024 Annual Chapter Dues** are **\$30.00** (covering the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) and were **due on or before 1 January 2024**.

There are several ways you can pay this year:

- Mail a check to our post office box (P. O. Box 18206, Portland, OR 97213),
- Have your bank mail us a check,
- Pay via Zelle or VENMO, or
- 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.

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**IN MEMORIAM:  
May They Rest in Peace!**

**COL John H. Hammond, Jr. USAR (Ret)**

**Captain Rick P. Horiuchi, USAF (Ret)**

**Mrs. Lois Lobdell**  
Surviving Spouse

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## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**By LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret),  
Co-Legislative Committee Chair**

Grassroots advocacy is highly effective early in the year. MOAA asks that you get a hold of your members of Congress (MOC) and ask them to support the issues that I will outline below. You can do this via the **MOAA Legislative Action Center** located on the MOAA website ([www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)). Of 363,000 members, only 21,000 have used the action center. Just go to the website and hit "Advocacy," followed by the "Legislative Action Center." You will be directed to your members of congress and will see an already developed letter for you to use.

You can also call the Capital Hot Line toll-free at **866-272-6622**. Make sure you ask to talk to the **military staffer**. If they are not available, leave a message stating you are a constituent, you are a member of MOAA, and that you wish to have them return your call. When you speak to them, please refer to the House Resolution (HR) or Senate Bill (SB) that I have listed below.

Priorities for **2024** are many leftover issues from 2023.

- They include The Major Richard Star Act which provides concurrent receipt for combat injured service members (HR 1282 and SB344).
- Ask you Member of Congress (MOC) to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing in their National Defense Authorization Act [(NDAA) HR 2537 and SB 1823].
- Arlington Cemetery is quickly running out of space. Ask your MOC to support the expanding American National Security Act (HR 1413) which will provide a long-term solution for more space.

- Ask your MOC to support The Respect for Grieving Military Family Act, which recoups the service members last month retirement payment (HR 3232 and SB1588).
- Finally, HR 1045 and SB 956, The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act, will ensure that military kids transitioning to adults have the same health care protection as their peers in civilian families.

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## **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER**

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

### **Happy Valentine's Day**



**2024 is a Leap year**; adding an extra day every four years, keeping our dates aligned. **Valentine's Day, February 14**, is our most celebrated holiday in February, but we do have **Presidents Day, February 17**, honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. A holiday we do not seem to talk about, but we should celebrate: **Random Acts of Kindness, February 17**.

MOAA **Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Meetings** will start January 16, 2024, 1:00 PM (EST). Go to: [Mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:Mssvc02@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining. This group started with 13 members and has grown to more than 200. The January 16 **Book Club** will discuss *WILD SWANS* at 5:00 PM (EST). Barbara Smith will introduce us to the series of novels Iris Johansson wrote. She chose the first book in the Eve Duncan series titled *THE FACE OF DECEPTION*. If



you would like to send pictures, stories, or information to the

Newsletter Editor: [viwersel@yahoo.co](mailto:viwersel@yahoo.co)

**MilConnect** information comes from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System called DEERS. Surviving Spouses are eligible users. When you register on the website you can: Update DEERS, View or change TRICARE information, find an ID card office, get proof of TRICARE coverage, questions about health care eligibility, technical support; call the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Center: 1-800-477-8227.

Our **Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** in December was small, but very enjoyable, with never a lack of conversation. We would like input for ideas for luncheons. Positive or negative ideas, thoughts, whatever is on your mind.

- Mrs. Jan Brink:  
[jlgrink@comcast.net](mailto:jlgrink@comcast.net)
- Mrs. Jean Hillman:  
[budjean@aol.com](mailto:budjean@aol.com)

We would like to plan a luncheon in the Spring, April, or May. Please let us hear from you.

Organizations MOAA Portland Chapter assist during the year:

- **Operation Homefront** with baby diapers and wipes.
- **Operation Diaper Bag** gathers many different baby items. Call 503-273-5042 for the list.
- Did you receive a new cell phone for Christmas? Bring your old cell phone to Col Mayer for the: **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.**

Thank you for your assistance in supporting these programs.

## MEMORIES OF THE DECEMBER 2023 CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY



*Color Guard from the AFROTC Detachment at University of Portland posted the colors*



*Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), the new MOAA President & CEO, was the guest speaker*

**MEMORIES OF THE DEC 2023  
CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY**



*Lt Gen Kelly presents Chapter President Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) with the 2022 Five Star Levels of Excellence Award*



*Lt Gen Kelly presents CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret) with a MOAA Coin for his sterling work as Chapter Program Chair*



*Lt Gen Kelly presents Maj Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) with a MOAA Coin for his outstanding efforts as Chapter Membership Chair*



*Lt Gen Kelly presents CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) with a MOAA Coin for his superlative accomplishments as Chapter Fundraising and Scholarship Chairs*



*MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret) presents the Chapter President with a Certificate and Gold Medal to thank the chapter for sponsoring the Challenge Coins for the 42<sup>nd</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games*

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### **2023-2024 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

#### **Co-Recording Secretaries**

Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret): 503-698-3612

Major Paul Granada, USAF (Ret): 603-290-0232

#### **Reservations Secretary**

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

#### **Co-Treasurers**

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

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

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

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

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### **2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Army Reps**

COL William R. Crist: 503-705-6886

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**

Maj Gen Dan O'Hollaren: 503-780-4735

Colonel Rick Gano: 503-651-2044

#### **Marine Corps Rep**

MajGen Christopher Owens: 503-951-1805

#### **Coast Guard Rep:**

LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret): 508-963-1470

#### **USPHS Rep:**

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

#### **NOAA Rep:**

CDR Colin Kliewer: 410-212-3501

#### **Women in Service Rep**

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

#### **Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

**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 18206  
PORTLAND, OR 97213**

**FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE  
REQUIRED**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

<i>February 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
March 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
April 6, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>May 1, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
May 4, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
June 4, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
July – August 2024	No chapter meetings scheduled
<i>August 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>

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**NOTE 1:** All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

**NOTE 2:** All Board of Directors Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom at 0800—and ***are open to all members!***

**NOTE 3:** All articles for the **March 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **[maryjmayer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjmayer@yahoo.com)** by **5 February 2024**.