



**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 9

www.MOAAPortland.org

June 2022

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 2022 James M. Roche National Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "Spirit of Volunteerism" Award was recently presented to our own MOAA Portland Chapter Member, **COL Bob Windus, USA (Ret)**, (left in photo below) at the State ESGR Executive Committee Meeting. Presenting the Award was **MG Dennis Klein, USA (Ret)**, the current Oregon State Chair (right in photo below). Only 12 - 15 awards are presented across the nation each year. The recipients are ESGR volunteers nominated by their respective ESGR State Committee Chairs for their exceptional contributions to ESGR's mission over a sustained period of time.



We extend a sincere congratulations to Bob for all his efforts on behalf of the ESGR Program throughout the years!
(Continued on page 2)

**In Memoriam:
May They Rest in Peace!**

**LCDR George H. Bickford, Sr, USN (Ret)
LTC James L. Cook, USA (Ret)
LCDR Robert L. Russnogle, USN (Ret)**

JUNE CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

CDR Jennifer A. Cockrill, USPHS, Regional Administrator, Region X, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, will speak on **"The United States Public Health Service Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic."**

MENU:

Field Greens Salad

Bavette Steak

Whipped Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Garlic Lime Broccolini

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, and Hot Tea

COST: \$32.00 per person (includes 22% 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, 1 June 2022. 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 JUNE MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity selected at the May 2022 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. Please bring in packages of diapers, baby wipes, and other baby items for **Operation Diaper Bag** and **Operation Homefront**—and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM *(cont.)*

The **Program Committee** has provided an extremely interesting and dynamic guest speaker for the June 2022 chapter meeting, **CDR Jennifer A. Cockrill, USPHS**, Regional Administrator, Region X, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, who will speak to us on “**The United States Public Health Service Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.**” *(See photo below.)*



Jennifer Cockrill is a public health practitioner, the Regional Administrator for HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in Region X, and a Commander in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. With ASPR, Jennifer is privileged to lead a team of dedicated and talented professionals who work closely on public health preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.

Jennifer's career demonstrates a commitment to public health and process improvement, with assignments in molecular research, surveillance epidemiology, operations, and management. Her previous positions—uniformed and civilian—have been with the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, the Department of Defense's Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch, the Intelligence Community, the Naval Medical Research Center's Infectious Disease Directorate, and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She has deployed over 25 times, including: Unaccompanied Children in Nogales, AZ (2014); Ebola Response in Liberia (2016); Zika Response in Puerto Rico (2016); Zika Support to the U.S. Olympic Committee (2016); Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Responses in Texas, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands (2017 and 2018); Hurricane Michael (2018); the California Wildfires (2018); COVID (2020-Present); the Oregon Wildfires (2020); and numerous National Special Security Events.

Jennifer is a proud alum of Butler University (Indianapolis, IN) and holds graduate degrees from the University of California Berkeley and Georgetown University. She enjoys everything the Pacific Northwest has to offer, including hiking, skiing, salmon, halibut and (soon!) the Seattle Kraken.

Chapter members, have a great summer, and we will see you again at the September chapter meeting!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)

I am sure that you avid readers of the *Brass Bulletin* will remember this article from the past. The information contained in it is as valid today as it was in 2019: “*I got up bright and early this morning in hopes that I would be inspired with some new words for the Membership Corner. I fixed myself a cup of coffee, put on my coat and went out to the porch and sat down. The lake was just losing its morning haze and was as flat as a mirror. The male mallards were attacking the female mallards with increased vigor. Then the idea dawned on me – It was the beginning of spring; time for new beginnings.*”

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of year. The landscape is shaking off the effects of winter, turning from a brownish, grey paler to a brighter shade of green, trees are showing the first signs of budding, and the daffodils are every ware. By now you may be asking what all of this has to do with membership. It means that each and every one of us needs to get revitalized

and make a conscientious effort to obtain at least one new member for the chapter. Just look at how much MOAA has been able to accomplish over the past year with the support of over 350, 000 members.

- *MOAA actively lobbied for the full pay raise of 2.6 percent.*
- *MOAA made significant progress in getting the widow's tax eliminated.*
- *MOAA defeated the 1percent COLA reduction for retirees*
- *MOAA defeated proposals to establish TRICARE for Life premiums.*

I could go on, but I am sure by now you get my drift. Basic, Premium, and Life members are the lifeblood that gives MOAA its hammer at the Capital. It is imperative that we keep the numbers strong so that MOAA National can continue to advocate for all military members and their families. Therefore, go brush your teeth, comb your hair, and put on your best smile. It's time to venture out and find some new members for our chapter. You can only fail if you don't try."

Throughout the years I have tried to come up with motivational articles and informational guidelines to assist each one of you in your efforts to recruit new members. The bottom line, however, is that you are the only ones with the opportunity to make future contacts. I look forward to seeing the results of your recruitment efforts at our next meeting.

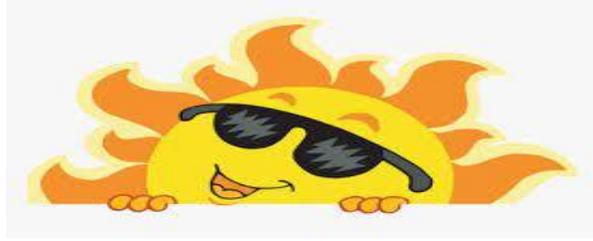
TREASURER'S REPORT

By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)

As of 12 May 2022, the **MOAA Portland Chapter** has **162** members:

- 110 Regular Members
- 49 Surviving Spouse Members
- 3 Honorary Members

Of the **110** regular members, **13** members have NOT paid their 2022 dues.



SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

Welcome to June! I hope everyone will have a wonderful Summer Vacation! With the mask mandate lifted, I imagine many exciting trips are in the summer plans. Enjoy!

Here are the particulars for our first **Surviving Spouse Luncheon** in two years:

- **Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2022
- **Time:** 12:00 noon
- **Location:** Claim Jumper Restaurant, 18000 SW Lower Boones Ferry Road, Portland, OR 97224 (Exit 290 off I-5)(Phone: 503-670-1975)

To make reservations to attend the SS Luncheon, please call Mrs. Jean Hillman at **503-819-1042** or text or call her at **503-819-1042**.

While looking for some new information for our Surviving Spouses, I went onto the **MOAA Website** again! As you enter the website, you will see **I am a _____ View my resources**. List **Surviving Spouse** and it will take you to several helpful articles. Under the **Surviving Spouse** section there were 21 articles. Under **Scams** there were 6 articles. If you need to reach the **MOAA Service Center: 800-234-6622**. Information is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You may e-mail our **Surviving Spouse Council** for questions and information: **SSComm@moaa.org**

Our local Senior Centers are great sources of information and activity now that the mask mandate has been lifted. Check your local area to see if you have a center nearby. I went to our local Senior Center here in Tualatin on a three-mile hike at Champoeg State Park. It was very enjoyable.

***AN OPINION PIECE:
MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION,
REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS***

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

“War Drains Russia’s Arms Supplies:” The above headline is borrowed from an April story in the *Wall Street Journal*. That paper has been an excellent source of information not generally covered by daily papers, and it puts a different perspective on the conflict. This article derives from the *Wall Street Journal* story, with additions from other sources. I utilized their headline because I thought it reflected the gist of the situation and provides an insight into the implications of the Ukrainian defense on the outlook for Russia.

As we all know, the Russian Army has suffered massive losses in their initial assault on Ukraine. It is estimated that, as of mid-April:

- Fully 25% of the initial Russian combat force committed to the invasion has been lost. Clearly, that carnage has continued to rise. Also, leadership has been decimated by the killing of 7 Generals. Note that the Russian Army is deficient in the number of senior seasoned enlisted personnel, is weak in the junior officer area, so there is a wide communications gap between senior leadership and actual fighting personnel.
- Some 3,000 pieces of large equipment, such as tanks, have been lost or abandoned according to an open-source intelligence tracking service.
- Losses include 500 battle tanks, while Russia has recently been building about 250 tanks per year. Given the sanctions imposed by the international community, a loss of the

magnitude incurred is probably 4 or 5 years of production.

- Loss of the Black Sea flag ship, a guided missile cruiser with formidable offensive capabilities is a major setback. Especially galling to Russia is the admitted loss of 443 personnel on the ship out of 500 total. Given that the ship did not sink for considerable time after it was put in tow to port, such a loss is almost unthinkable. The sinking must also have an outsize impact on senior Navy staff and the command-and-control function. The Ukrainians have also sunk several smaller warships.
- *Even without an air force to defend Ukraine, Russia has lost over 20 jet fighters and 30 helicopters.

So, what are the implications of the losses incurred during the invasion?

- Well, Russia has a large stockpile of military equipment from which to draw, most of which is Soviet era. These include “tens of thousands” of military vehicles. However, the estimate is that many are useful solely for replacement parts, and many are in need of maintenance and repair or are otherwise inoperative.
- As a Russian military analyst said, “We don’t have the men, we don’t have the equipment, we don’t have the components.” And acquiring components is going to be increasingly difficult under current and future sanctions.
- So, equipment may not have a huge impact on current operations but will increasingly be an issue if the conflict lingers on.
- Moreover, Russian weaponry is clearly outclassed by U.S. and European defensive weaponry, especially in anti-tank and anti-air sectors.

There is a knock-on effect related to the losses incurred in the equipment area. Russia is the second largest exporter of military equipment in the world. It exports to over 45 countries and has accounted for around 20% of global arms sales. Large scale destruction of Russian military equipment by Western drones, artillery and portable missile launchers is likely to raise concerns in Russian client nation leaders, further adversely affecting the Russian economy. Even if demand remained resilient, there is a question regarding the ability to produce products given the sanctions already in place.

Overall, the rationale for continuing to pursue the conflict seems to have been substantially weakened over the early course of the war. We shall see how events progress, but there are many lessons to be learned on both sides so far.

Defense Funding and Readiness in a Dangerous World: In the last *Brass Bulletin*, there was a piece on clearly inadequate funding in the Administration's proposed Defense budget. That issue becomes more important with each monthly increase in the inflation rate, coupled with the annual problem of relying on Continuing Resolutions rather than timely passing of a NDAA by Congress.

Even now, the country is unable to meet unanticipated demands upon our defense forces! As a case in point, the Chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Tod Wolters, requested that a Marine Expeditionary Unit and Amphibious Ready Group deploy to Europe early to be in place when the anticipated invasion of Ukraine by Russia occurred.

The Navy and Marine Corps were unable to respond to that request. As a result, the forces departed for Europe nearly a month AFTER Russia initiated its invasion. I assume that the transit to Europe took roughly a week or so. This inability to respond occurred while the United States has an active amphibious force of 31 ships. **THE NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS WARSHIPS IS SCHEDULED TO BE REDUCED TO JUST 24 BY FISCAL 2024, A REDUCTION OF 23%! Incredible!**

Diversifying Navy Leadership: The Department of Defense in late April announced an important and interesting series of senior leadership moves. The most important selection was that of Vice Admiral Lisa Franchetti as Vice CNO, with the intent that she will succeed Admiral Mike Gilday in 2023 as Chief of

Naval Operations, CNO. She was also promoted to Admiral. She is the second 4-star female Admiral and will be the first woman to be CNO, assuming that she is confirmed by the Senate

In case you are interested in her progression, she was Commander, Sixth Fleet; Commander U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Commander of Carrier Strike Groups 9 and 15, commander Destroyer Squadron 21, and Commanding Officer. USS Ross (DDG 71).

This officer has done it all! Congratulations! In the announcements of reassignments and promotions, there were 5 Admirals with new billets. Four of the five were Navy Reserve Officer Training Corp. graduates from civilian universities. Admiral Franchetti was a graduate of Northwestern University, with a journalism major.

Only 1 of the 5 individuals who were reassigned and/or promoted graduated from the Naval Academy. That ratio is a 100% change from when I graduated in 1961, which I believe is very positive for the Navy and the country.

OREGONIANS WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS OREGON, SSN 793

by CAPT Tony Sebbio, MSC, USN (Ret)

The commissioning the US Navy's newest nuclear submarine, USS Oregon SSN 793, is set for Saturday, May 28, 11:00 a.m. eastern time, 8:00 am pacific time. Oregonians will be able to view the event in "real time" on May 28th by going to the USS Oregon Commissioning website, <https://ussoregonssn793.org>, at 8:00 am, May 28th, and clicking on the appropriate tab (not yet set up). The USS Oregon is the 20th Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine. She is the newest undersea warfare platform and incorporates the latest in stealth, intelligence gathering, and weapons systems technology. Fast attack submarines are capable of deploying Navy SEAL teams and hunting down enemy subs. Each Virginia-class submarine is 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

***IF YOU HAVE NOT READ
FAHRENHEIT 451, IT IS TIME!***

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

Many of you may have read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* in high school or college, I had not. While I knew the book's premise, I felt it was time to pick it up for a read. This prophetic novel, first written and published in the early 1950s, is set in a dystopic future where books, and the ideas they represent and manifest, are burned to prevent disruptions in society. "That's pretty farfetched," you say. Yet, all over the USA, books are being challenged and removed from shelves and classrooms, thanks to new laws that prevent or restrict teaching (or talking about) gender, race, American history, and sexuality. The American Library Association released a statement in November 2021 condemning "acts of censorship and intimidation," citing a significant increase in book challenges, 60% more in September 2021 than September 2020. Reading Bradbury is uncomfortable. In this book, we see that thinking, especially critical thinking, is devalued. Most important, human connection is also devalued. Our leading character, Guy Montag, has a wife who is obsessed with the people and stories in her "wall-screens." Can you say "social media?" People prize entertainment and surface thinking instead of talking, debating, and analyzing. They see the constant overstimulation of entertainment as the "pathway to happiness." Clarisse, Montag's teenage neighbor, asks "do you notice how people hurt each other nowadays?" His conversations with Clarisse pry something open in him. He starts to see the lack of connection and decency toward others, the lack of really seeing them as persons, as fellow human beings. It's hard to read that and not think of how our social fabric has thinned and weakened in recent years; how the lack of caring for one another has come to the point that we are not even willing to do

the smallest, most non-invasive thing, like wearing a mask, to help keep another person safer. How some people cannot have a civil discussion with nuance and intelligence, but resort to childish euphemisms or outright slurs. That is one small part and what is going on in schools and libraries around the country is another. I find it infuriating! Texas House Bill 3979, signed into law on 1 September, prohibits educators from discussing controversial historical, social, or political issues. If these subjects do arise, HB 3979 mandates that teachers "explore such issues from diverse and contending perspectives without giving deference to any one perspective." So, teachers would be required to present "the other side" of the Holocaust...which would be, oh, the Nazi side. In New Hampshire, there is a bill to "ensure teachers are educating students and not indoctrinating them." The bill, as written, would prohibit a teacher from teaching "any doctrine or theory promoting a negative account or representation of the founding and history of the United States of America in New Hampshire public schools, which does not include the worldwide context of now outdated and discouraged practices. Such prohibition includes but is not limited to teaching that the United States was founded on racism." This truth, that books can reflect a reality that is not always attractive, but is real, is one that too many Americans do not want to see or hear. This past week, the Florida education department rejected 54 mathematics textbooks for its K-12 curriculum, citing the inclusion of Critical Race Theory. Mathematic Textbooks? In this era of mass censorship or twisting of curricula, those who would seek to censor don't want people thinking critically. They don't want people learning new things or thinking about things too deeply. The narrower their worldview, the better. The less diversity, the less inclusion, the better. Don't think about anything too "unpleasant" or think about how to connect with others and make the world a better place. As long as it is good for you, that is all that matters, "self-happiness." As I have reported in previous essays, our connections to each other as people are fraying and Americans are losing that sense of basic decency, a sense of community and togetherness. Instead, we see a constant rise of fractures between people, even in our own families. Bradbury emphasizes the eventual effects of this kind of thinking in *Fahrenheit 451*. He illustrates how the desire to suppress thinking and discomfort eventually led to the annihilation of books, of ideas, with no new books to replace them, and as a result, only the shell of a society is left. *Fahrenheit 451* is not just an inventive, classic

book of speculative fiction, it is a dire warning. A warning that gets more prescient every year. We would be wise to take note while we still can.

***SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
PRESENTATION***



Special Events Committee Chair,
LCDR Chris Gale, USCG (Ret) (left)
presents **Cadet Elana Lathrop** with the
MOAA JROTC Leadership Award at the
7 April JROTC Awards Ceremony at
Oregon City High School

***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

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MAJ Shaun Benson: 503-309-7458

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

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Vacant

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Liaison, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Mrs. Jean Hillman: 503-692-5571

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

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

2020-2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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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)

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Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman

Vacant

Decorations: CAPT Sharon Sebbio: 503-936-5896

Mrs. Nancy Menagh: 503-951-8634

Fundraising and Scholarship: CAPT Lawrence W.

Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Special Events: LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)

ESGR Outreach: 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**

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars! Some meetings may be held virtually!

June 7, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>July-August 2022</i>	<i>No chapter meetings scheduled</i>
<i>August 4, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
September 6, 2022	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 1, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>November 3, 2022</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
November 5, 2022	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
December 6, 2022	Dinner Meeting with The John Bennett Trio (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

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 0900—and ***are open to all members!***

NOTE 3: All articles for the ***September 2022 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **8 August 2022**.