



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

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

Volume XL, Number 8

www.MOAAPortland.org

May 2024

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

On 17 March 2024, several MOAA Portland Chapter leaders attended the **Virtual MOAA Leadership Workshop** – an event geared towards newer chapter leaders, although a lot of the information was invaluable to more experienced leaders as well. Here are some highlights from that meeting: **First**, the **Levels of Excellence Award** submissions have been graded, and we should be hearing whether our chapter received this coveted award for 2023. **Second**, we learned that MOAA has 363,000 National Members, 35,325 of whom are Chapter Members. The average age of a National Member is 67 years old, and for a Chapter Member the average age is 75. It is recommended that we target and recruit new members who are between 40 to 60 years old. **Third**, we now have 6 **Virtual Chapters** composed of members who have an interest in certain communities: they include Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates, Surviving Spouses, US Public Health Service, Chaplains, Judge Advocates, and Servicewomen and Military Families. **Fourth**, there will be a **MOAA West Workshop** on 15-16 November 2024 in Reno, NV. **Fifth**, MOAA, for the first time, is planning a **MOAA People Conference** on 28-29 October 2025 in National Harbor, MD. The purpose is to build the MOAA brand by spotlighting people issues to a new audience. This conference will be similar to the AFA and AUSA Annual Conferences but will focus on people issues rather than hardware. **Sixth**, MOAA National is planning to send a **Chapter Survey** to all chapter members to see what else they can do to help our chapters succeed! I encourage all of you to respond to this survey with all your innovative ideas. **Seventh**, the next **Virtual MOAA Leadership Workshop** will be held on 14 August and will dive more deeply into topics for more experienced MOAA leaders. I encourage as many of you as possible to “Zoom” into this meeting.

(Continued on page 2)

Reminder:

**The Chapter Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting will be held at 0800
on Wednesday, 1 May 2024
via Zoom Video Teleconference**

MAY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 4 May 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:

Lieutenant Connor A. Russell, USCG, Response Ashore Officer, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, will speak on **“High Crimes and Misdemeanors in the Columbia River Sector.”**

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 **MOAA-PDX**.

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 May 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 MAY 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 May Brunch Meeting, our guest speaker will be **Lieutenant Connor A. Russell, USCG**, Response Ashore Officer, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, who will speak to the chapter members on **“High Crimes and Misdemeanors in the Columbia River Sector.”**



Lieutenant Russell is a Coast Guard Response Ashore Officer with specialties in Search and Rescue and Emergency Management. In his current position, he is an Emergency Management Specialist with Sector Columbia River, managing the Natural and Manmade Disaster Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and Active Shooter Plan. In his position, he is a lead exercise designer and facilitator, putting the Sector's Incident Management Team through a variety of scenarios to qualify in their primary duties and enhance mission readiness.

Lieutenant Russell's previous positions were in the District One Command Center, where he worked as a Search and Rescue Controller for the New England Search and Rescue Region. During his

time as a SAR Controller, Lieutenant Russell was directly responsible for the SAR operations of six aircraft and eleven offshore patrol cutters, and five Coast Guard Sectors. During his time at District One, he was involved in over 200 Search and Rescue Cases, managing Operational Risk Management, and serving as the District Admiral's direct representative.

Lieutenant Russell is a 2018 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, from which he received a Bachelor of Science in Government. He is married to Elizabeth Schwaner, and he and his wife live in Vancouver Washington.

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 or 310-897-1902 (cell). Remember: "Never Stop Serving!"

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

*By CAPT "Chicky" McKinzie, NC, USN (Ret),
Co-Membership Committee Chair*

My apologies for starting this update out this way, but I am saddened to write we have no new members to report these past two months. I know we are all engaged in numerous activities and support our Chapter in so many wonderful and important ways; but we need, including myself, to focus on recruitment and make it a priority. The health of our Chapter and our advocacy depends on it!

Being active and visible in the community is one way to attract new members to our Chapter; and National MOAA encourages activities that contribute to community welfare. Studies have shown that younger generations, in particular, are attracted to organizations that make an impact, and are prone to joining those that offer "activities." They want to do something that makes a difference. Some challenges we have in today's environment can be turned into opportunities. We just need to make it work for us. In your recruiting efforts, think about:

Today's Environment:

- Attitude towards membership differs by generation.

- Varying degrees of awareness of MOAA within the military community.
- Declining paid membership.
- Aging membership.
- Limited engagement in association activities and offerings.

Motivators for Membership:

- All member benefits extend to your spouse.
- Advocacy on legislative issues impacting service members.
- Vetted insurance plans (MEDPLUS, SGLI replacement, etc.)

Sharing MOAA’s Message (What, How, Where):

- What to Say -
 - 1) Legislative wins that MOAA has accomplished.
 - 2) Benefits that MOAA membership can attain for families and spouses of members.
 - 3) MOAA expertise and accomplishments related to officer compensation and insurance.
- How to Say It -
 - 1) WE FIGHT FOR YOU – Language that stands up and fights for members, paired with proven wins and accomplishments.
 - 2) WE SERVE YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES – Serving for members, their families and loved ones, with membership benefits at a low cost.
- Where to Say It –
 - 1) Digitally for younger groups, mail/print for older groups.
 - 2) At events where MOAA can grow membership (info webinars, community service events).
 - 3) At events where MOAA can interact with families (social, family-friendly events).

- 4) Shorter events, especially for Veterans and older groups.

Please communicate with us on any ideas you may have to promote our chapter and/or to visit organizations and groups. I’ll be back in Portland for our May brunch meeting. Let’s all work together to make this happen. Wear MOAA gear and always carry recruiting info with you. Ask questions; share the value of membership with your fellow officers and surviving spouses; and invite others to join!

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

CAPT Douglas W. Brown, USCGR (Ret)

Former Coast Guard Rep on the
Chapter Board of Directors

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

Advocacy in Action (AIA) will take place in April as MOAA members will gather in Washington DC in person or remotely to take our message to Congress. What is in the plan: The Major Richard Star Act to support combat injured veterans and make sure they receive the pay that they deserve. The BAH Restoration Act to restore the full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). Protecting Tricare for life to make sure the benefit is still there for those who serve.

You can also participate when you go to the MOAA website and go to advocacy in action, hit the take action tab and you will be sent to a site that has a pre-developed letter to your Senators and Member of the house. Follow the instructions, and your letters will be sent to your Member of Congress.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

MAY

The part of the *Surviving Spouse Corner* that I enjoy the most is looking up the Historical events of each month. There are so many, I have a hard time deciding.

Mother's Day, May 14. **National Armed Forces Day**, May 20. **Memorial Day**, May 27, 1868 began as Decoration Day honoring those who lost their lives during the American Civil War. John Deere produced the first steel plow May 6, 1833. The first U.S. Navy ship, *USS United States*, is launched May 10, 1797. I will end with **The Day of Prayer** May 4.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC) continues to grow. The content is current and useful for our surviving spouses. If you are interested in joining, please, email: mssvc02@gmail.com.

You may also join the **MOAA's Surviving Spouses Facebook group**. The SSVC Meeting is May 21, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. PST.

There is a **SSVC Book Club** also, but you must join the Virtual Chapter first.

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS

Veterans Service Office: Check for printed materials that list county and state benefits, for surviving spouses.

MOAA Website has helpful articles under the Surviving Spouse section.

Mayor's Office: Visit or call regarding any benefits your city may offer.

Directory:

VA: Office of Survivor Assistance (202) 461-9383
Defense Finance and Accounting Service DFAS (888) 332-7411, www.dfas.mil; U.S. and OCONUS: (216) 522-5955.

TRICARE: <https://tricare.mil/>

***West: 844-866-9378, <http://www.tricare-west.com>**

***Overseas (888) 777-8343, <https://www.tricare-overseas.com>**

***Health beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: <https://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao>**

TRICARE for LIFE: (866) 773 0404, <http://www.tricare4u.com>

TRICARE Network Pharmacy Program (877) 363-1303,

<https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296, <http://tricare.mil/homedeliver>

We have plans "in the works" for an **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon** this summer. It has been hard for our surviving spouses to attend lunches, but we're hoping that the weather will be warm and welcoming. Our last luncheon was small, but friendly, full of conversation AND delicious food. Information will be sent out as soon as we confirm. If you have any suggestions that may help in our decisions, please contact: **Jan Brink** 503-740-3346, jgbrink@comcast.net or **Jean Hillman** 503-819 1042 budjean@aol.com

Organizations **MOAA Portland Chapter** assist during the year: **Operation Homefront** with baby diapers and wipes; **Operation Diaper Bag** (VA program) gathers many baby items. Call 503-273-5042 for an itemized list of what is needed. **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**: Check with family and friends that may have received new cell phones. Bring old cell phones to Col Mayer.

***MINUTES FROM THE 6 APRIL
2024 CHAPTER MEETING***

***By Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF
(Ret), Recording Secretary***

- **25** members and guests attended the **MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing** in Clackamas, OR. Chapter President **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting to order at **0930**.
- **President Mayer** made opening remarks, hoping that members had celebrated National Vietnam War Veterans Day on 29 March 2024 and “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans’ Day” in Oregon on 30 March 2024.
- **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker and Marine Corps Rep on the MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors, **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)**.
- **President Mayer** led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem led by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**
- **President Mayer**, filling in for the chapter meetings chaplain, **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)**, gave the Invocation.
- Brunch was served.

GUEST SPEAKER

- After brunch, President Mayer introduced the guest speaker **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)** who is currently an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Portland State and Western Oregon Universities. MajGen Owens spoke on “Nuclear Politics” beginning with a history of policy and strategy of nuclear weapons, from a possible replacement for conventional weapons to a method of deterrence, noting the importance

of capability, credibility, and communication between nation states. After the presentation, there was an extensive question and answer session.

BUSINESS SESSION

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- **President Mayer** provided highlights of the **ODVA-Tri-County Veteran Service Office’s Women Veteran Luncheon** held on 19 March 2024. Guest speakers were all Army veterans, which included the new ODVA Director, Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels.
- **President Mayer** also reported on the 17 March 2024 **Virtual MOAA Leadership Workshop** which included 268 members and focused on critical issues for newer leaders. The next Workshop is scheduled for 14 August 2024 and dives more deeply into topics for senior leaders.
- It was noted that judging is complete for **National Awards** (including the Levels of Excellence Awards), and some awards will be presented during the MOAA National Advocacy in Action Week from 15-18 April 2024 in Washington, DC. Others will be presented at local events.
- A Chapter Survey is being planned by MOAA National.
- **President Mayer** reminded members of several upcoming events:
 - **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**, 13 April 2024 (Virtual)
 - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**, 1 May 2024 (Virtual)
 - **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting**, 13 Apr 2024 (Virtual)
 - **MOAA West Workshop**, 15-16 November 2024 in Reno NV
 - **MOAA People Conference**, 28-29 October 2025, National Harbor MD.

Membership Committee Report: Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret) noted that the MOAA Portland Chapter is putting together a member survey to see how the chapter leadership can better serve our members. He also pointed out the information tables get updated each month with items of interest for members.

Fundraising Committee Report: **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** stated that we were close but may not meet the June deadline for our committed \$5,000 towards the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Grounds of the Capitol in Salem, OR.

Legislative Committee: **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)/CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**. LTC Battles noted that Congress had passed a continuing resolution until September 2024.

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

In the last few days, **President Mayer** was made aware that **CAPT Doug Brown, USCG (Ret)**, the former Coast Guard Rep on the Chapter Board of Directors, passed away in February 2024.

Special Events Committee: On behalf of **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)**, **President Mayer** reported that the Chapter will continue to present Gold Bars to AROTC and AFROTC commissioning cadets from the University of Portland. This year there were sets ordered for 30 commissioning cadets.

President Mayer also reminded members of two upcoming ROTC events at the University of Portland.

- **Joint AROTC/AFROTC Military Ball**, 16 April 2024. **MG Curtis Loop, USA (Ret)** and **COL Bill Crist, USA (Ret)** from the chapter will attend.
- **Joint AROTC/AFROTC Awards Ceremony**, 18 April 2024. **President Mayer** will present the **MOAA Leadership Awards** and **\$300 scholarship checks** to two cadets. **LCDR Christopher Gale, USCG (Ret)** will present the Gold Bars to

the AROTC and AFROTC commissioning cadets.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- The wine raffle raised **\$215**. Raffle winners were **CDR Michael Seiwald, USN (Ret)**; **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)**; **LTC Gary Battles, USA (Ret)**; **CPT John Sweeny, USA (Ret)**; and **Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret)**.
- **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** presented a joke.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

- **Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** thanked our guest speaker, **MajGen Christopher Owens, USMC (Ret)**; all those in attendance for coming; **Mrs. Nancy Menagh** for providing the table decorations; and the staff of The Aerie at Eagle Landing for the delicious meal and excellent service.
- The next chapter meeting will be held on **Saturday, 4 May 2024** at **The Aerie at Eagle Landing**. The guest speaker will be the Commander of the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River.
- **President Mayer** reminded members that inputs for the May 2024 Newsletter are due no later than 7 April 2024 at midnight.
- **President Mayer** ended the meeting with a thought for the month by **Helen Keller**: “I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can.”
- The meeting adjourned at **1124**.



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

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

2023-2024 CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program: CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

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

CAPT "Chicky" McKinzie, USN (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. Jan Brink

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)

Chaplains: Reverend Karyn Dix

LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (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

<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	Dinner 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>
September 3, 2024	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 5, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
November 2, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)

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 **June 2024 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **6 May 2024**.