



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

**Portland, Oregon
Chapter**
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**P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268**

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www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2018

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

The Chapter Board of Directors met on 2 August 2018 to start off the new program year. One of the top priorities was to review the EOY financials and pass the 2018-2019 budget. I am happy to report that we ended the 2017-2018 year in the black. However, once again, the membership dues area is where we are losing revenue.

Fortunately, the Board was able to pass an essentially balanced budget for 2018-2019, due to a generous donation by one of our members who prefers to remain anonymous. But, serious shortfalls remain. So, after a lengthy discussion on how to raise revenue, it became obvious that we needed to raise our dues from **\$25 to \$30** a year, starting **1 January 2019**. Dues have not been raised since at least 2006, and costs have done nothing but go up. It was time to make this difficult but necessary decision.

To cushion the blow, the Board decided that regular chapter members who pay their 2019 dues before 1 January 2019 will pay at the \$25 rate; they may also pay dues at the rate of \$25 for up to 5 years in advance if they choose to do so—if they are paid before 1 January 2019. **Any dues paid on or after 1 January 2019 will be \$30.** (NOTE: Surviving Spouses and Honorary Members are still not required to pay dues but are *strongly* encouraged to do so.)

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SAVE THE DATE!

**The Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
will be held at 0945 on
Thursday, 8 November 2018
at the Colwood Golf Center
(Full Breakfast will be served at 0900.)**

OCTOBER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 6 October 2018

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

Hayden's Lakefront Grill

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

Colonel Scott D. Peel, USAF (Ret), former Commander of the AFROTC Detachment at University of Portland, will give us "**An Update on the United States Space Program.**"

MENU:

Eggs Benedict

Home Fried Potatoes

Waffle Station w/Berry Sauce and Whipped Cream

Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage

Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint

Chilled Orange Juice

Freshly Brewed Stumptown Coffee

Assorted Hot Teas

COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Michael J. Seiwald, USN (Ret)** at mjseiwald@comcast.net or **503-381-2620** NLT **1100 on Wednesday, 3 October 2018**. **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 OCTOBER MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the second endowment of the Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship. And please continue to bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes--and donate your old cell phones.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

Our MOAA Portland Chapter needs to grow if we are to provide more quality programs and services for the military community in the greater Portland Area. Our goal for this year is **30** new members, and not losing more than **11**. Since January 2018, our chapter membership has recruited only **6** new members, but, unfortunately, we lost **9** members through death and **12** for failure to pay their 2018 dues.

So, please be proactive in contacting potential members, bring them with you to the chapter meetings, and don't be afraid to **ASK** them join—by filling out the MOAA National and Portland Chapter Membership Application Forms and paying their dues. Or, if you prefer, ask Second Vice President and Membership Chair, **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**, to send a prospective member a recruiting package—either by mail or email. Bill's email address is wtidd96218@aol.com. We **can** make our membership goal---if all of us work together as a team!

As your Chapter President, I am extremely grateful for the dedicated and enthusiastic team of officers, board members, and committee chairs with whom I have the pleasure of working during the 2018-2019 program year. However, we still need volunteers to help in filling the following:

- **Membership Committee:** Bill Tidd needs several more volunteers to help recruit new members to the chapter.

Bottom line: I am making an ardent appeal for more chapter members to “step up” and serve on our various committees. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or **310-897-1902** (cell). Remember MOAA's motto: “Never Stop Serving!”

Turning to the Program for the October brunch meeting, our guest speaker is the dynamic and very accomplished **Colonel Scott D. Peel, USAF (Ret)** (*see picture below*)



After receiving his bachelor's degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri-Rolla, Colonel Peel entered the Air Force in 1989. A career space and missile officer, Colonel Peel has served in various assignments conducting tactical and strategic nuclear missile launch operations, space-based and ground-based missile warning operations, space surveillance activities, and space lift range operations. He has served as a staff officer in two joint commands—United States Space Command and at United States Strategic Command—and has experience as an operations officer, squadron commander, and deputy operations group commander. As his last assignment, Colonel Peel took command of the AFROTC Detachment 695 at University of Portland in July 2014 and retired in August 2018.

Colonel Peel has earned Master of Science in Business Management and Industrial Production from Central Missouri State University, a Master of Military Art and Operational Science from Air Command and Staff College, and a Masters of National Securities and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The MOAA Portland Chapter has had **NO** new members join since the September 2018 issue of the *Brass Bulletin*.

As we head into the fall, we now have to increase our efforts to recruit new members. I have said many times, here in the Membership Corner, that new members and the retaining of current members is the life blood of this chapter.

At the September Board Meeting, the board members decided that they had the responsibility to – lead by example. Each member has agreed to recruit at least two new members during the 2018-2019 year.

Therefore, I issue the following challenge: if the board can step-up and find two members each, you, as a dedicated military officer, can find at least one new member during the same period. The gauntlet has been presented – who is going to pick it up?

Here are a couple of thoughts that may help in your attempt to recruit a new member.

- A good way to recruit new members is to invite old members back! Their circumstances may have changed, they might have more time now, or their financial circumstances may have changed.
- Retaining engaged, happy members is key to increasing membership. This is common sense, but it should not fall to the wayside in favor of recruiting new members: people stay in a chapter where they feel like they belong and when it adds to their life.
- Offering a personalized experience is a great way to get a potential new member engaged. Just consider the statistic that emails are 22.2% more

likely to be opened with a personalized subject line. Using the member's first name in both the subject line and body of the email will make the member more likely to pay attention to it

Wishing you luck and good hunting!

AN OPINION PIECE:

**MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

State Spending - No Accountability: Every few months, as State of Oregon spending scandals are revealed or revisited, I scratch my head and ask how that can happen repeatedly and throughout the bureaucracy. The spending revelations are not minor, several hundred million dollars for the Columbia River Crossing that has yet to be built, another \$300 million for the health insurance exchange that never enlisted a single soul into ACA, the deeply flawed Medicaid rolls that required that the State reimburse the federal government, and on and on.

After all, the legislature in 2005 passed a law requiring that state agencies of a certain level of employment and spending create an Internal Audit function that would ostensibly ferret out misguided and excessive spending, assessing internal control functions as in almost any business. 30 state agencies fit within the parameters of the law. Remember, these are the largest spenders within the state, a state that expends roughly \$1 billion annually, not including PERS payments.

As of the end of 2008, ten years ago, there were all of 53 individuals employed in the internal audit function. Today, there are a mere 32 so employed, essentially, one individual per agency. That compares with 137 internal auditors in North Carolina, a similar state by expenditures. To equal North Carolina, Oregon would need to expand the internal audit function by a factor of 4. Moreover, several agencies have open internal audit position, openings that stay open, ensuring no internal oversight.

The fact is that nobody is looking for fraud, waste, and the like--so the Department of Energy has been

defrauded in the area of clean energy credits. Likewise, no one looked closely at the Medicaid rolls to detect ineligible enrolled individuals.

An audit of internal audit functions by the Secretary of State just noted that state agencies understaffed, undervalued, and neglected the internal audit function. Even the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), according to the audit, failed to take a strong leadership and oversight role--which is one of its primary duties relative to other agencies. Indeed, the audit made 16 specific recommendations to DAS, which then responded by delaying the implementation of 9 of the recommendations for over 2 years.

Such intransigence compares with the stated commitment on the Governor's website "to using every taxpayer dollar wisely." The words are the antithesis of the action.

Note that the Governor was Secretary of State from 2009 to 2015 and Governor since then. She could have recognized the consequences of denuding the internal audit function, but she did nothing--leading to the financial scandals with which we are so familiar. I should also note that the legislative bodies in Salem are complicit in not enforcing the law through the budget making process. As citizens, we pay the price of the mentality in Salem and in State Government. Expect more scandals involving OUR money!

Avoiding Reality in Oregon Public Education: This being an election year for the governorship, and since the race supposedly is close as this is penned, Governor Brown has created a white paper outlining her plan for improving public education in the state. Among other items, she proposes adding free preschool opportunities for up to 10,000 children.

Amazingly, *The Oregonian* came down on her "plan" pretty hard, labeling it "an exercise in theoretical" rather than a real plan. In other words, *The Oregonian* believes this is purely political and not intended to promise anything. They point out that the Brown "plan" has zero dollars attached to any of the components, or even a source of such dollars--if they are to be considered by the legislature. To be fair about it, the editorial board notes that the Republican candidate for Governor has his own plan, also without dollar figures to implement the plan. More importantly than the reality of both plans, neither candidate is addressing the elephant in the room: the continuing PERS debacle is eating up an increasing portion of the education budget and will continue to do so for several biennia before leveling out.

Already, Oregon students are receiving a FULL YEAR LESS OF INSTRUCTION TIME over a 12-year period than do students in the State of Washington. With an increasing portion of the education budget going to meet PERS needs, that one-year gap will more than likely rise in the future.

The 2019-2021 budget cycle is expected to include \$1.3 billion of PERS expenditures, up \$375 million or an awful 41%, and accounting for fully 18% of education payroll outlays. The 2021-2023 PERS outlay is also projected to "surge" despite whatever positive happens in the securities markets. Assuming another 40% rise in the next budget cycle, the outlay for PERS would rise \$520 million to \$1.82 billion.

And yet, the legislature and the Governor steadfastly refuse to address the PERS issue. It was ruled out for discussion in the short 2018 legislative session, and there is no visible discussion to date leading up to the longer 2019 session. Ignoring the issue is not going to make the problem go away, mortgages the future of our state with one of the bottom of the barrel high school graduation rates, and hurts all of our next generation children--other than those that can afford a private school.

Basically, this is a failure of leadership of the first order. The lack of responsible leadership by all parties involved should be of great concern to all of us.

A Primer on the New Dental/Vision Insurance Program: On January 1, 2019 the Federal Employee

Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will replace the current Delta Dental Program for most TRICARE-eligible retirees/survivors. If you are enrolled in Tricare for Life, you are eligible for Vision coverage.

FEDVIP provides a welcome change from the one-size-fits-all approach of Delta Dental with a range of insurers and benefits and insurance coverage. Additionally, it offers Vision Insurance for the first time. Beneficiaries can tailor their coverage to their needs, choosing among 7 or more dental insurers and 4 or more Vision insurance providers. Additionally, certain insurers offer a choice of coverage options.

Included among the insurers are familiar names--including Delta, Aetna, Met Life, and United Health. My dentist deals with all the insurers, and reports that the easiest company with which to work from the providers standpoint is Delta. You might want to check with your own dentist.

Please note that current coverage through Delta Dental expires December 31, 2018!!!! Coverage WILL NOT transfer automatically to FEDVIP!!!!

The way forward looks like this:

- The web site for FEDVIP is tricare.benefeds.com. At this location, you will be able to see plan information, select your plan(s), and arrange for payment.
- Currently, you may go to the site to see brief answers to frequently asked questions, to get updates on information, and to get insurer comparisons for 2018 offerings. Such comparisons are basic and do not give one a significant head start on the selection process.
- In October, hopefully early in the month, detailed information on

insurer coverages and pricing will be available on the web site. Supposedly, you will be able to compare up to three insurers side by side.

- Then, **open enrollment** commences **NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 10**. YOU MUST BE ENROLLED BY THE December 10 date to receive benefits on January 1st. If you miss the enrollment date, you are out of luck for a year.
- Payment for the new program will generally follow the earlier plan, where monthly deductions will be made from your DFAS payments. Alternatively, one can sign up for monthly Automatic Bank Withdrawals. You cannot pay by check or credit card.
- One can test for eligibility on the above site. Access the FAQ page on eligibility, and, in the middle of the page, there is a button accessing the FEDVIP Eligibility Tool. I did not try it.

If issues come up on this program during October, I will be in Maui virtually all month. However, send me an email, and I will see if I can be of assistance. Let's hope that the reality reflects the promise.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

I hope you are looking forward to our **Fall Luncheon!** It will be held on **Tuesday, 16 October 2018** at **12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97232 in the **Main Dining Room**. This luncheon will be our first since June, and it is the first of the 2018-2019 program year.

I do hope you had a good summer. If you went to a special place or country or did something of interest you think others would enjoy hearing about, please plan to share it at our luncheon.

On 17 August 2018, **Mrs. Jacqueline Parnell, Mrs. Carol Patrick, and Mrs. Jean Hillman** volunteered for the **Operation Homefront "Back-to-School Backpack Brigade"** at Camp Withycombe." It was a very

enjoyable evening, seeing the students pick up their new backpacks and then fill them with school supplies.

If you would like to attend our luncheon, please contact **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or jymbo@earthlink.net Chapter wives are always welcome. If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina's two days before the luncheon at **503-231-0216** to arrange for an alternate menu selection.

Remember to bring diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for **Cell Phones for Soldiers**.

Hope to see you in the fall!

***SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
 UPDATE by Captain Douglass T.
 MacEllven, USAF (Former)***

Stand-downs: We welcome **Captain Doug Brown, USCG (Ret)** to our committee. He is our newest Chapter Board of Directors member, and, during the summer, we both staffed the MOAA Information Table at the Washington County Stand-down. Seven retired and former officers signed our contact list to receive our MOAA (National & Chapter) membership email package. At stand-downs, we provide information about ROTC programs for college-bound veterans who are thinking of possible re-entry to service through ROTC. After visiting 20 college websites, I prepared a concise guide to ROTC Programs in Oregon. The handout is on our table at the stand-downs and at our Chapter meetings. Upcoming stand-downs are: Portland (9/11), East County (Troutdale – 10/20), and Columbia County (around Veterans day).

VA Benefits Note: I occasionally make handouts for our Chapter meetings regarding veterans' law information. I

began this year with the topic, "VA Surviving Spouse Pension," the little-known VA benefit that slows the drain of financial assets when the surviving spouse is in a long-term care situation.

JROTC Connections: Our involvements with Oregon City High School and Reynolds High School will begin around Veterans Day.

***CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON
 SENATOR MERKLEY'S SERVICE ACADEMY
 NOMINATION PANELS! By Mr. Joel
 Corcoran, Constituent Services Representative &
 State Counsel from the Office of Senator Merkley***

Every year, members of Congress are required to nominate individuals to attend the nation's Service Academies. As part of his nomination process, Senator Merkley invites military veterans from diverse backgrounds to advise him by participating in interviews of selected applicants from Oregon. In 2017, MOAA Portland Chapter members made up the majority of interview panelists, and he would like to duplicate last year's success.

Basically, the event will involve volunteer participants coming to our **World Trade Center Office at 121 SW Salmon, Suite 1400, Portland 97204** on either **Saturday, December 1, 2018** or **Saturday, December 8, 2018** to do phone interviews with young adults who have applied to the Service Academies and are seeking Senator Merkley's nomination.

Our office will run only these two sessions on the two different Saturday mornings this year. Interviewers are asked to report to Senator Merkley's Office at **0830**. Interviews will be conducted from **0900 to 1200 noon**. Each shift will have three panels of two or three volunteers each (so we'd likely be asking for 12 to 18 people to volunteer, so we have alternates in case we lose a couple of folks to illness, etc. at the last minute). Each panel will be asked to conduct 10-15-minute phone interviews with a slate of applicants. Our office will provide complete information on each applicant to be interviewed, and instructions as needed. Of course, some of my colleagues and I will be on hand to orchestrate everything and answer panelists' questions.

The panels' recommendations will inform Senator Merkley's decision on whom to nominate.

We'll have coffee, pastries, a veggie tray, and other snacks during the panel interviews, and we will be ending in time for folks to grab lunch on their own. I'm already planning to contact panelists (once the schedule is firmed up) to see if they would like to grab lunch together afterwards. And if so, I'll make reservations for all of us at a suitable place.

If you have any questions or are interested in serving on one of these panels, please contact me by **31 October 2018** at either **503-326-3386** or at **Joel_Corcoran@merkley.senate.gov**

PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

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

First Vice President

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

Second Vice President

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

Correspondence Secretary

LTC George M. Peters, USA (Ret): 503-659-0834

Recording Secretary

LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret): 503-723-5175

Reservations Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Immediate Past President

Vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

Navy Reps

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

CDR Dave Bredemann: 503-974-9335

Air Force Reps

Col Lynn Guenther, 541-354-1771

Captain Doug MacEllven: 503-397-5253

Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

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)

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

CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

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

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

Communications: LTC William Kroger, USAR (Ret)

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

Decorations: Mrs. Betty Richard

Fundraising: 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)

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 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your calendars!**

November 3, 2018	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<u>November 8, 2018</u>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
December 4, 2018	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2019</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>
February 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>February 7, 2019</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
March 2, 2019	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 2, 2019	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 **November 2018 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **8 October 2018**.