



**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 1

www.MOAAPortland.org

September 2023

PRESIDENT’S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Program Year! I can hardly believe that the summer is almost over; it has gone by so quickly. As your Chapter President, I look forward with anticipation to working with the talented, loyal, and enthusiastic team of officers, board members, committee chairs, and others to continue to keep our chapter engaged, active, growing, and relevant.

We have had a few changes to the Chapter Officers and Committees. For the next Program Year, there will be Co-Treasurers, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)** and **CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret)**, and Co-Recording Secretaries, **Lt Col Anneke Abma, USAF (Ret)** and **Major Paul Granada, USAF (Ret)**, who will take minutes for the chapter meetings and Board meetings, respectively. **CAPT “Chicky” McKinzie, USN (Ret)** will serve as Co-Chair of our Membership Committee, along with **Major Bill Tidd, USAF (Ret)**. Finally, **Reverend Karyn Dix** will serve as our Board Chaplain, while **LCDR Betty Fish-Ferguson, USN (Ret)** will do the invocations at the Chapter Meetings! Thanks to all these members for volunteering to take on these responsibilities.

At the 2 August 2023 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, the Board selected a new chapter charity, the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** to be built on the grounds of the Capitol in Salem, Oregon. We have committed to raising/donating **\$5,000** for the memorial by June 2024.

(Continued on page 2)

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

Mrs. Eleanor Drenkhahn,
wife of
CWO4 Albert Drenkhahn, USAF (Ret)

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Social Time: 1730, Meeting Starts: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: 503-652-1515

PROGRAM:

Captain J. Pearce Beissinger, MS, PA-C, DiMM, ORANG, 142d MDG Det-1, 102d Oregon CBRNE-CERFP, Assistant Medical Director, Portland Mountain Rescue, will speak on “Military Operations and Collaboration in Mount Hood Rescues.”

MENU:

Field Greens Salad

Bavette Steak with Onions and Peppers

Whipped Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Garlic Lime Broccolini

Baguette with Butter

Coffee, Decaf, and Hot Tea

COST: \$44 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, 30 August 2023. 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 SEPTEMBER MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit the chapter charity, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 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 (continued)

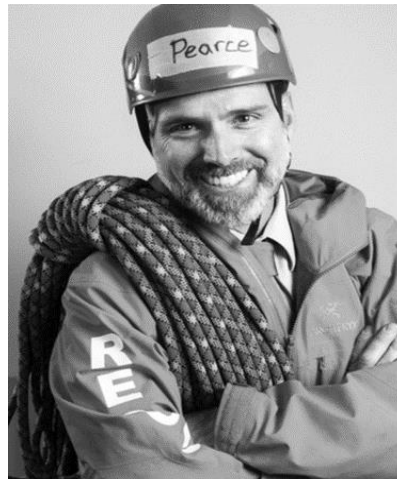
Program: Turning to the **Program** for the September Dinner Meeting, our guest speaker will be **Captain J. Pearce Beissinger, MS, PA-C** (Cardiac Surgery), DiMM, ORANG, 142d MDG Det-1, 102d Oregon CBRNE-CERFP, Assistant Medical Director, Portland Mountain Rescue, will speak on **“Military Operations and Collaboration in Mount Hood Rescues.”**



Pearce is a California native who grew up on the East Coast. With previous experience in orthopedics, he has spent the last decade serving as a physician assistant in cardiothoracic surgery and emergency medicine. "Going vertical" has been a life-long pursuit for Pearce. Pearce is a Fellow in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (WMS) and an AMGA Certified Single Pitch Instructor (SPI). After having completed his Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DiMM), he has continued to provide locums instruction at the University of New Mexico International Mountain Medicine Center. He has served on the board of directors for the Appalachian Center for Wilderness Medicine (ACWM) and has dedicated many years of

service to search and rescue teams across the country.

He is currently the Assistant Medical Director of Portland Mountain Rescue (PMR) and chair of the Rescue Systems Committee. Alongside multiple wilderness medicine publications and his work with the outstanding members of PMR, Pearce serves in the Oregon Air National Guard, 142nd Fighter Wing-CERFP Unit. Pearce is the recipient of the 2017 Warren D. Bowman Award for contributions in service to wilderness medicine and to the Wilderness Medical Society, the 2018 PA-Citizen of the Year Award from the Oregon Medical Association, and the 2019 Founders Award from the Appalachian Center for Wilderness Medicine.



Outside of the hospital, Pearce is involved with church ministry, rowing, cycling, ice climbing, and mountaineering. His greatest adventure and most rewarding pursuit have been enjoying the blessing of his wife, **Heather**, and two children, **Micah** and **Jonah**.

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, USN (Ret), Co-Membership Committee Chair

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

Captain Phil S. Myers, USAF (Ret)
and wife **Mary**

Welcome back from our summer hiatus! I trust everyone had a wonderful summer, although it was a bit too hot for my liking on many of the days. It was nice, though, to get back to doing things we love without wearing masks. Our challenge to everyone over the summer break was to recruit a new member and/or bring a prospective member to one of our remaining meetings in 2023. How’s that going for you? I’ll be checking off names at the door when you arrive at the meetings with your guest or new member. (Ha-Ha! Just kidding!)

Seriously, we’re looking for a banner recruiting year in 2023-2024 and you each play an integral part in that. MOAA members understand what it means to lead; taking the responsibility for the welfare of others - for our troops and their families, for their survivors, and for those who will follow in our footsteps. When you become a member, you’re joining a community of officers who share this understanding. However, to make the biggest impact, numbers count!

All of you know the value of belonging to MOAA and our chapter. But when you’re talking to a potential new member, it’s important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA’s chapter system. Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member. Find

out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Several of our chapter members have told me that their biggest and most successful recruiting tool has been to stress our chapter’s impressive community involvement. Explore what they’re passionate about. We have so many different avenues they can pursue depending on their interests. Refresh yourself on the good work our various committees have done – our Legislative Committee, our Personal Affairs Committee, our Special Events Committee, our Scholarship Committee, and our Fundraising Committee.

Let’s all rise to our challenge that every member will recruit a new member; and yes, that includes me!

Looking forward to seeing everyone again at our September dinner meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

By LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)

As of **31 July 2023**, the **MOAA Portland Chapter** had overall assets of **\$22,751.15** and a total of **167** members. 100 out of 115 regular members have paid chapter dues for 2023, 6 out of 49 Surviving Spouse members have paid dues for 2023 (but are not required). Three Honorary Members have not paid dues for 2023 (but are not required).

MOAA Portland Chapter Account Balances as of 31 July 2023:

- Wells Fargo Checking Account: **\$7,309.17**
- Wells Fargo Business Market Rate Savings Account (Raffle Proceeds): **\$1,038.38**
- PFCU 1-Year CD: **\$9,871.09**
- PFCU 1-Year CD: **\$4,332.01**
- Cash Account: **\$200.50**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

During the month of August, the Chapter Legislative Committee leadership--along with other chapter volunteers-- will make appointments with our Members of Congress (MOC) or their staff to keep up the momentum on the messages we delivered in April during the annual MOAA "Advocacy-in-Action (AiA)" Campaign on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

We will review with our MOC two areas:

1. To urge our MOC to pay full housing costs to service members. Currently, service members who live on base/post get 100% of the Basic Allowance for Subsistence. Service members who live off base/post only get 95% of their BAS. This is a severe loss of income over a career in the military and can have a negative impact on recruitment and retention.
2. To cut costs to the Tricare Pharmacy Network. The Tricare Pharmacy Network was cut nearly 25% this year. This cost cutting creates serious difficulties for those who live in rural areas, the elderly, and individuals with serious or complex medical difficulties.

How can you help? Log on to the MOAA website at www.moaa.org Click on the **Legislative Action Center**. You will be given the opportunity to send a pre-written letter to both Senators and your district House Member.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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



First days of Autumn. A new season, changing colors, hopefully cooler days, getting the rakes and wheelbarrows in good working order, have BenGay on hand for the back!! A fun fact for you: September gets its name from the Latin **septem**, meaning seven, as it used to be the seventh month of the year under the Roman calendar.

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We are having a **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Luncheon** this month. It will be wonderful to get together again, share our stories, and tell of trips and adventures we are planning.

Restaurant: de Fuego Taqueria at the Monarch Hotel (Specializing in authentic South American street food)

Address: The Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, OR 97015

Date/Time: Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 at 12:00 noon

A reminder: Chapter wives are always welcome at our luncheons!!

Please call or text: **Jan Brink: 503-740-3346, jgbrink@comcast.net or Jean Hillman: 503-819-1042, budjean@aol.com**

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Now that our lives are getting back to an assemblance of normal, we should remember those we generously need to help with a donation: (1) **Operation Homefront** needs baby diapers and wipes. If it is easier to give through the website, use the following: **donate.operationhomefront.org**; (2) **Operation Diaper Bag** is a local program sponsored by the Portland Veterans Administration for new military

families. To know what items are needed please call: **503-273-5042**; and (3) Be sure to ask family and friends to save their old cell phones and bring them to Col Mayer at our chapter meetings so she can send them to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
 VETERANS' WHEELCHAIR
 GAMES**

By MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret)

- The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America hosted the 42nd National Veterans' Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Portland from July 4-9, 2023.
- The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a sports and rehabilitation program for military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or other neurological conditions.
- The Portland VA Medical Center and Oregon PVA (now Tri-State PVA) started this journey in July 2018, when Portland, Oregon was selected to host the 2020 NVWG.
- COVID changed that to a NVWG at Home event, and Portland went back into the que for hosting: 2021 (New York City, NY), 2022 (Tempe, AZ), and 2023 (Portland).
- This was the first time since the 2019 games in Louisville that we were able to hold the Opening/Closing Ceremonies, which included the Parade of Athletes.
- This year we started with 500+ athletes signing up; however, they still had to receive medical clearance to travel. More than 350 actually arrived along with their coaches and families from around the world to compete in the games, the world's largest annual multi-sport wheelchair competition for veterans. Festivities kicked off on July 4 with a festive opening ceremony--and ended with a closing celebration on July 9.

- More than 20 Wheelchair Games events: Veterans with similar athletic ability, experience, or age competed in more than 20 events, including: Adaptive e-sports, Adaptive fitness, Air pistol and rifle, Archery, Basketball, Bass Fishing, Boccia, Bowling, Cycling, Disc golf, Field events, Nine-ball, Pickleball, Power soccer, Wheelchair rugby, Slalom, Softball, Swimming, and Table tennis
- The event was held largely at the Oregon Convention Center and four great venues: (1) Portland International Raceway: Handcycling, (2) Mt Hood Community College: Swimming, (3) Oregon Museum of Science and Industry: Motor rally, and (4) Beaverton King Pin Lanes: Bowling
- Through a fantastic recruiting effort among our VSOs and the community, we had a great volunteer turnout:
 - 1,129 volunteers, signed up for 2,520 4-hour volunteer
 - Served 15,171 volunteer hours
 - \$101,000 in-kind donations
- Shout outs:
 - OPVA and locally Tri-State PVA were a co-sponsor for this event
 - MOAA Portland Chapter sponsored the Challenge coins that each of the athletes received
 - DAV sponsored breakfast for the athletes and volunteers at the Handcycling event
 - DAV also stepped up to provided short notice transportation for a couple of athletes that needed transportation to the medical center and Portland during the week of the games.
- For additional information, visit www.wheelchairgames.com
- Video: (166) 2023 National Veterans Wheelchair Games | Portland Cut – YouTube
- Point of contact: MAJ Shaun Benson, USA (Ret) at 503-309-7458 or shaun.benson@va.gov



*Chapter First Vice President Gary Battles
 cheers on the NVWG athletes!*

REQUEST FOR EVALUATORS FOR VETERAN GRANTS

***By Brenna Bandstra, ODVA Grants
Coordinator/Strategic Partnerships***

The 2023 Oregon State Legislature approved \$1,000,000 for the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant (CVRC Grant) and \$947,556 to continue funding for the Veteran Services Grant (VS Grant) Program. The VS Grant and the CVRC Grant are to each award multiple one-time grants on a competitive basis.

I am sending out this invitation to ask you to consider serving as a volunteer evaluator for one, or both, of these two very important programs, the CVRC Grant or the VS Grant proposal review process. We are looking for professionals and individuals with a background in veteran services, education and/or community social work who will be able to read, evaluate and score the proposals. Training will be provided about how to use the proposal evaluation tool, in advance. I will be available throughout the evaluation period to answer questions about the evaluation process. I can be contacted at (971) 388-8204 or Brenna.BANDSTRA@odva.oregon.gov

The CVRC Grant proposals are due to ODVA on September 4, 2023, and the VS Grant proposals are due to ODVA on October 23, 2023. Each proposal will be read and scored in teams of three different evaluators. Proposal review will take 1-2 hours per proposal. Each evaluator will be assigned four to five proposals to review (per program).

This is what the timeline looks like (total commitment estimated as 8-14 hours per program to include training, the application review, questions/answers, and award recommendation discussion(s)):

- All evaluators to attend a 1-hour remote training session, to be conducted using M365 Teams; you will receive a link to the meeting once Brenna receives your **Interest Form**.

- o CVRC Grant Evaluation Training:
 - Thursday, 8/31 from 10:00 am OR
 - Wednesday, 9/6 from 2:00 pm
- o VS Grant Evaluation Training:
 - Tuesday, 10/17 from 10:00 am OR
 - Thursday, 10/26 from 2:00 pm

- **CVRC Grant** –Proposals will be sent out to evaluators 9/8. Evaluators will then have two weeks to complete the evaluations.

- o Friday 9/22: Evaluations will be due back to Brenna by 11:59 pm.
- o During the week of 9/25: you will take part in a separate remote session(s) to meet with the other evaluators to discuss the proposals. Each session will be 1-1 ½ hours.

- The 1st session:
 - There will be time to discuss your evaluation and funding recommendations.
 - A “Team Leader” will be selected to participate in the second session and represent the evaluations of your group.
- The 2nd session:
 - Scheduled Monday 10/2 at 2:00 pm.
 - Attended by “Team Leaders” will be to develop a funding recommendation for the ODVA Director,
 - Discuss the amount of funding being requested and the total funds available. This may include reductions to total amounts requested, in order to balance with the total funds available.
 - Prepare a list of recommended awards for final approval by the Director of Veterans Services.

- **VS Grant** – Proposals will be sent out to evaluators the week of 10/27. Evaluators will then have two weeks to complete the evaluations.

- o Friday 11/10: Evaluations will be due back to me by 11:59 pm.
- o During the week of 11/13: you will take part in separate remote session(s) to meet with the

other evaluators to discuss the proposals. Each session will be 1-1 ½ hours.

▪ The **1st session**: will be to address the commonalities in the scores of the proposals your team evaluated, and the differences.

- There will be time to discuss your evaluation and funding recommendations.

- A “Team Leader” will be selected to participate in the second session and represent the evaluations of your group.

▪ The **2nd session**:

- Scheduled Monday 11/20 at 2:00 pm. Attended by “Team Leaders” will be to develop a funding recommendation for the ODVA Director.

- Discuss the amount of funding being requested in light of the proposal score and the total funds available. This may include reductions to total amounts requested, in order to balance with the total funds available.

- Prepare a list of recommended awards for final approval by the Director of Veterans Services.

All evaluators are welcome and have the option to attend the 2nd session meeting for both the CVRC and VS Grants regardless of if they were designated as a “Team Leader.”

If you are interested in volunteering as an evaluator for either or both of these programs, please use this to submit your interest form, asap! Should you have any questions, or would like to talk about the work, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to the opportunity of working with you in this important process of grant work at the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Interest Form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/27a2763d161d49049bb8ebda26d38718>

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

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 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

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

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

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

September 5, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 7, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>November 1, 2023</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>
November 4, 2023	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
December 5, 2023	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2024</i>	<i>No meeting scheduled</i>
February 3, 2024	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Aerie at Eagle Landing)
<i>February 7, 2024</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>

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 ***October 2023 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **7 September 2023**.