



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)**
Brass Bulletin Newsletter
"One Powerful Voice"

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

Volume XXXI, Number 2

www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2014

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Our MOAA family in Oregon is getting bigger! BG Dennis Merrill, USA (Ret), our MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters President, recently announced that MOAA is establishing a new chapter in Newport, Oregon. The chapter will be designated as the *Oregon Coast Chapter*, and will be holding its **Chartering Meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1145** in the Banquet Room at the **Embarcadero Hotel Resort on the Bayfront** in Newport, Oregon. VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA, will be the keynote speaker at this luncheon. Cost of the luncheon buffet is \$15 per plate and may be paid for at the door (cash or check). The dress for this occasion is "Service Dress" for active duty; retired/non-active may choose to wear their Service Dress Uniform or Business Casual. If you wish to attend, please **RSVP NLT 29 September 2014** by contacting **CAPT Bill Bain, USN (Ret)**, President of the Oregon Coast Chapter, at bill@yaquina.com or **541-265-3012**.

At the 3 September 2014 Advisory Committee Meeting, **ODVA Director Cameron Smith** announced that the **Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles** has been recognized as the first and only state veterans' home nationally to ever earn the Gold Excellence in Quality Award for superior performance in the long-term and post-acute care profession by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living. This award has been presented only 24 times since 1995. And, the wait is over! **The Lebanon Veterans' Home** is scheduled to be finally completed by Monday, 13 October 2014. First resident admissions will start on Monday, 20 October 2014. However, dedication of the new facility is set for **Saturday, 20 September 2014 from 1100 to 1300 at 600 North 5th Street**. To learn more, please visit the following website: www.lebanon.oregonveteranshomes.com

**Interested in Volunteering to
Work at the PDX USO Center?**

**If so, please contact
Christine Vu, Center Director, at
pdxmanager@usonw.org, 503-928-2738 (cell),
or 503-282-2262 (office)**

OCTOBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 7 October 2014

Social: 1700; Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, OR 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

LTC Alisha Hamel, ORNG, Executive Director of the Historical Outreach Foundation (HOF), will speak on the **"Oregon Military Museum"** at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, OR.

MENU:

Roast Turkey Breast

Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Oven Stuffed Dressing and Cranberry Relish

Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls with Butter

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Iced Tea

COST: \$26.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)

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

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **LTC George M. Peters, USA (Ret)** at **503-659-0834** or george.m.peters@gmail.com **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 1 October 2014.**

No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows. (*Note: Tell George if you have any dietary restrictions.*)

DURING THE OCTOBER MEETING: A Silent Auction for a special American flag will be held, and raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the **PDX USO Center!** And please bring your packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.**

***PROFILE ON OUR GUEST
SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER--
LTC ALISHA HAMEL, ORNG***



Alisha Hamel, the Executive Director of the Historical Outreach Foundation (HOF), is an experienced historical presenter. She is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Oregon National Guard, and, as such, was tasked to develop a Lewis and Clark presentation to take to schools during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. The program proved to be so popular; she continued it after the bicentennial and expanded it to include "Oregon's Role in World War II." This program was adopted nationally by the National Guard, and, after the Oregon National Guard could no longer fund this education program, Alisha started a non-profit, The Historical Outreach Foundation, to continue to take these history programs out to schools and organizations throughout Oregon and into neighboring states. Alisha has also finished a documentary about the 41st Infantry Division during World War II that premiered in Salem on September 18, 2012, and has written many news articles.

The mission of the HOF is to honor the men and women who have served each state and the nation in our armed forces, and provide a comprehensive educational resource for preserving and sharing our rich military history.

The HOF also supports the Oregon Military Museum and has now started a major \$6.5 million capital campaign to build and sustain the Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum and to open it at Camp Withycombe. As a major regional attraction, the museum will showcase and celebrate Oregon's military history from Native American warriors and the founding of the Oregon National Guard through the present day.

***MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIAL EVENTS
COMMITTEE CHAIR***

By MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

It was a pleasure for me to present the **Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal** to our fellow MOAA Portland Chapter member **CAPT Douglas W. Brown, USCGR (Ret)** at the 6 September 2014 brunch meeting.



MAJ Sampson (left) presents CAPT Brown (right) with an Honorable Service Medal and Certificate

I would encourage all MOAA Portland Chapter Members who have the Medal to wear it with pride to all of our chapter meetings! And, for those of you who would like to receive this medal, just contact me for more information.

Also, I am looking for a chapter member to assist me in working with the local Army JROTC Detachments. If you are interested, contact me at **drj-jks_12@comcast.net**

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

*By Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF
(Ret)*

Recruiting new MOAA National and Portland Chapter Members to join MOAA's "One Powerful Voice" with the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in representing the best interests of active duty, former, retired, National Guard, and Reserve military members, their spouses, and families is critical!

Recruiting a new member is as simple as two words, "JUST ASK." At our 6 September 2014 brunch, I asked our guest speaker, **LTC Matt Little, USA**, if he was a MOAA member; he said "no" but expressed an interest in learning more. I gave him information on MOAA National and our Chapter Membership Application. Before he left the brunch, LTC Little said he was committed to joining.

Basic Membership: MOAA has a basic (email) membership that is free to all those who would like to try out our Association and become familiar with its mission and programs.

Remember: It is every chapter member's responsibility to bring in new MOAA National and MOAA Portland Chapter members. I encourage you to do so at every opportunity you can. We all have friends, retired and active duty, that are potential new members. Let your friends and colleagues know what MOAA is doing for active duty, veterans, and retirees. And, most importantly, always carry some membership forms with you.

Bottom line: So, "JUST ASK" and refer any prospects to www.moaa.org. Invite and bring a prospective member to one of our chapter meetings. If you cannot afford to pay for his/her meal, I will pay. Or, if you have a lead on a new member and would like me to follow up, please

contact me at **503-702-3812** or **b.yaden @comcast.net**

AUXILIARY CORNER *By Mrs. Jean Hillman,
Auxiliary Member Liaison*

The backpacks, school supplies, diapers, and wipes donated at our June 2014 Auxiliary Luncheon and the MOAA Portland Chapter dinner have been delivered to **Operation Homefront**. Articles were delivered in time for the **Back-To-School Brigade** in August. Much appreciation was expressed at our generosity.

Our Fall MOAA Auxiliary luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 28th, 1:00 p.m., at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232.** Wives of chapter members are welcome to attend. We plan to give each one a few minutes to tell of an interesting event from their summer. Please call or e-mail **Mrs. Carol Patrick** by **Friday, October 24th** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**

We continue to collect baby diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**. If you have backpacks and/or school supplies, please bring them to the chapter meetings as Operation Homefront will continue to give them to military school children.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS 101

By CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)

One of MOAA's primary missions is to serve "as the most effective organization shaping relevant government policy." The MOAA website goes on to say that "the association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as a tax-exempt veterans' organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties."

If you would like to EASILY support MOAA's efforts to influence legislation, here's how to get started. First,

go to MOAA's website (www.moaa.org) and Login. If you're new to the website, click on "Login", then click on "Create a web login" and follow the instructions. Once you're logged in, go to the "Take Action" tab at the top, select "Weekly Legislative Update," click on "Subscribe to our weekly legislative update" and follow the instructions. Great! Now you'll be 'in the know.'

Do you have just a little bit more time? If so, go to the "Take Action" tab and select "Contact Congress." As I write this (14 September), the Featured Alert is [Don't Cut the Troops' Pay Raise](#), and the narrative reads, "*The President announced on August 29 he will use his executive authority to limit the 2015 military pay at 1 percent, rather than the 1.8 percent provided under current law. This is the second consecutive year of capping military pay. Ask your legislators to preserve the 1.8 percent military pay raise.*" Click on the blue "Take Action" button, and you'll see a pre-populated, editable letter suitable for emailing (or printing and snail mailing) to your Senators and your Representative! Edit the letter if you'd like; then simply fill in your sender information, preview your letters, and click on "Send Message."

Congratulations—you have just exercised your voice in the political process! Thanks for your contribution to one of MOAA's most important missions. ☺

AN OPINION PIECE: MY TAKE ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Executive Order Reshaping Federal Employment Policy: Our duly-elected legislators are enjoying a month long recess as I write this, and the President left for another vacation. However, before he departed Washington, he signed an unheralded executive order that

unilaterally reshapes federal employment policy, creates negotiating leverage for labor unions, and other mischief.

Under the order, signed the first week of August, federal contractors and subcontractors which receive more than \$500,000 in federal money, must report to federal agencies any labor-law violations going back three years from the date the entity applied for the contract. Given the length of time required to let contracts, this could mean possibly going back five years or more. The new order applies to some 24,000 businesses employing about 28 million workers, so this is no small requirement.

Under the executive order, the government may revoke contracts if violations are uncovered or reported after the fact, punishment above and beyond remedies prescribed by the NLRB, yes the same NLRB that the Administration attempted to seed with commissioners when Congress was still in session.

With this order, if a company decides to fight a union unfair labor practice charge, the company faces not only civil penalties, but the risk of having its federal contracts revoked or suspended. In the extreme, this could put companies out of business or into bankruptcy, and it surely provides significant leverage to unions in contract negotiations.

The new landscape in effect rewrites labor laws from the Fair Labor Standards Act to the Americans with Disabilities Act and others--each of which have specific remedies for violations, such remedies and penalties having been written and passed by Congress and signed into law by the Executive Branch, meaning the President in the White House at the time.

One asks what provides the Administration with the legal authority to add remedies for violations of labor laws that already have penalties in place.

Notably, Bill Clinton tried a similar tack with an executive order that barred the government from entering into contracts with firms that had hired permanent replacement for striking workers. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down that effort on the grounds that the order violated the National Labor Relations Act.

The Administration continues a policy of arrogating to itself in a conscious way the power to effectively legislate changes to existing law without the advice or even input of Congress.

This is not a partisan issue, but a Constitutional issue concerning the separation of powers. One might expect the Courts to once again weigh in.

Reviewing Old Legislation--Cash for Clunkers: After a five week summer recess, Congress is back in session, although not for long, as there are two substantive recesses scheduled for October and December. Not that much gets done during the periods they are in session; remember that the Senate left for the summer recess without addressing the immigration issue and the President's call for an emergency \$3.7 billion in immigration funding. The House passed and forwarded to the Senate a bill on the subject that cut funding by about 2/3 from that requested, but the bill has not been addressed by the Senate, since they are not in town.

Since there is no legislating going on, it might be helpful to review the fruits of prior legislation which have passed from view.

You may recall that in 2009, after passing a huge stimulus bill, which was in large part a payoff to unions and constituencies, Congress at the behest of the Administration passed a smaller bill of \$3 billion that dispensed vouchers to consumers for as much as \$4,500 if people turned in their old cars, which were then destroyed, and bought a new car which featured greater fuel economy.

The Administration hoped that the program would stimulate demand for new vehicles, demand badly needed by the automotive industry, and would please the green lobby by putting more fuel-efficient cars on the road.

Indeed, then Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers Christine Romer said that Cash for Clunkers was "very nearly the best possible countercyclical fiscal policy in an economy suffering from temporarily low aggregate demand."

The program ran through all of its money in several months, and was extended and expanded once the money ran out. You may recall that any car turned in, whether or not it was serviceable, was rendered inoperable permanently.

Well, years later, a study by economists at Texas A&M, in conjunction with the National Bureau of Economic Research, found that the program actually SUBTRACTED between \$2.6 billion and \$4 billion from industry revenues. So, we spent over \$3 billion of tax money and negatively impacted GDP by \$3 billion plus or minus. Now that is legislation at its best.

The researchers found that the subsidy did not create any extra auto business, and buyers were in essence forced to trade in a serviceable vehicle for one that was smaller, with less horsepower and better mileage. One observer writes that if "Cash for Clunkers" was "the best possible stimulus," maybe that helps explain why the economy is still limping along six years later."

NOTE: All comments on my column are gratefully accepted, even and especially criticisms! We aim to inform and to explore.

CLACKAMAS DEERS ANNOUNCEMENT!
By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Just wanted to let all the MOAA Portland Chapter members know about the announcement of the opening of the newest DEERS Branch Office located in the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas. This is a full service DEERS facility offering Common Access Cards (CAC) for all branches of military, federal technicians, and civilian and DOD contractors. In addition, they provide I.D. cards for dependents, retirees, and Disabled American Veterans.

Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 0800 to 1600 and Friday from 0800 to 1400. The office is closed from 1200 to 1300 for lunch. Appointments are taken on Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Fridays; with walk-ins welcome on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On occasion, the DEERS Office will be open on selected drill weekends; please call for specific times and dates.

The POC is SSG Todd M. Neiss, DEERS Verification Official, at 503-683-4900 or todd.m.neiss.mil@mail.mil.

REMINDER TO PAY 2014

MEMBERSHIP DUES

**By CAPT Jim Main, SC, USNR
(Ret), Chapter Treasurer**

I want to take this opportunity to remind members who never got around to paying their 2014 chapter dues, that the Chapter Board of Directors has a policy that allows members to pay \$12 for the current year, if they have not paid full dues by 1 September, when they combine the dues with the next year's dues payment. Therefore, if you have not paid 2014 dues yet, you can write a check to "MOAA-PDX" for \$37, which will cover membership dues for the 2014 and 2015 program years. That way, you have taken care of your dues, and you don't have to wonder next January whether you have paid your dues and are a member in good standing.

Bring your check to the Chapter Treasurer, Jim Main, at the 7 October 2014 dinner meeting at the Monarch Hotel, or drop it in the mail to: **MOAA-PDX, P.O. Box 68959, Portland, OR, 97268**. Please note that our modest \$25 chapter dues (only \$2.08 a month), support ROTC scholarships at the University of Portland, pay for the luncheons and dinners of our quality guest speakers and their spouses, publish our very informative *Brass Bulletin Newsletter*, maintain our award-winning website (www.moaaportland.org), support the Auxiliary Projects such as Operation Homefront, and contribute to

the veterans and military support activities such as USO PDX and the Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation, and support MOAA efforts to educate our legislators about veterans' needs and issues.

USO AT THE PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: SMALL SPACE. BIG IMPACT

By Christine Vu, USO PDX Center Director

It isn't a huge space. Officially, it has only been open since July 1, 2014. But the USO at PDX has certainly made a huge impression. In fact, since its grand opening, the Center has already welcomed over 1,000 guests!

The USO at PDX is a 650-square-foot lounge on the mezzanine level of the airport terminal for our active-duty military and their families. It is equipped with a well-stocked, self-serve kitchen and offers our military a place to relax while awaiting flights. There isn't just food, though. In addition to the comfortable surroundings, the USO at PDX also offers computers, free wi-fi, cellphone and laptop charging stations, and transportation and local information.

USO PDX Center Director Christine Vu credits the incredible volunteers for the success of the Center and the USO in Portland. "It isn't just the Center we get to staff. We support any event that involves our military. Since June, the USO has proudly been at the Rose Festival for Fleet Week, supported deployments, been a presence at Honor Flights for our Greatest Generation, celebrated with the Coast Guard on their 224th birthday, and assisted Navy Wounded Warriors participating in a Nike training camp – to name just a few events. The USO could never have a presence at these events without our volunteers!"

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact **Christine Vu**, USO Northwest Portland Center Director, at 503-282-2262 (USO Center), 503-928-2738 (cell), or pdxmanager@usonw.org. Find out more information about the USO on the following social media links:

www.usonw.org/pdx

www.facebook.com/usonw

www.twitter.com/usonorthwest

**LETTER FROM OUR MOAA
DESIGNATED SCHOLAR,
SARA HAYS**

On 25 August 2014, Sara Hays wrote the following letter:

Dear MOAA Portland Chapter,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be the Portland Chapter designated scholar once again this year. I'm so grateful for all the support you've given me and can assure you that this scholarship will be put to good use throughout my next year of school. I am honored to be chosen for these two years in a row now and will waste no time putting it toward my education fund so I can remain a strong representative of this tradition. Thank you once again for all your generosity and please let me know if there's anything I can do for this wonderful organization when I return home.

Sincerely,
Sara Hays

Portland Chapter Officers

President

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

First Vice President

Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret): 503-702-3812

Second Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

CAPT James H. Main, SC, USNR (Ret): 503-793-8499

Immediate Past President

LTC Gary S. Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

Portland Chapter Board of Directors

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

Navy Reps

CDR Robert Ervin: 503-657-4322

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

Air Force Reps

Col Rick A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot: 503-476-4891

Marine Corps Rep

Maj James F. Simpson: 503-233-9341

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

Women in Service Rep

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

Auxiliary Member Liaison

Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman: 503-692-5571

USPHS

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

Director-at-Large (in lieu of NOAA)

LTC David E. Hill, USA (Ret): 503-579-9684

Portland Chapter Committee Chairs

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

Decorations: Mrs. Edie Rieken

Membership: Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret)
CDR Robert Ervin, USN (Ret)

Legislative: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR (Ret)

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

Communications: LTC William Kroger, USAF (Ret)

Auxiliary: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman

Fundraising: CAPT Lawrence W. Roberts, USNR
(Ret)

Special Events: MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

ESGR Outreach: COL Herbert L. Hirst, USA (Ret)

COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

Transition Center: Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot,
USAF (Ret)

Chaplain: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)

Note: More contact information 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
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

November 1, 2014	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
<i>November 6, 2014</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
December 2, 2014	Dinner Meeting with the John Bennett Trio (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2015</i>	<i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>
<i>February 5, 2014</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
February 7, 2015	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
March 7, 2015	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
April 7, 2015	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 **0930**—and **are open to all members!** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the **November 2014 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **4 October 2014**.