

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 XXXII, Number 2

www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2015

PRESIDENT'S FORUM By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

This is your last chance to register to attend the **Oregon Military Community Workshop and Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention**, sponsored by the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and Oregon State University. The event will be held on Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015 at the Life Community Church in Corvallis, Oregon. The registration fee is \$60, and you need to register ASAP at http://www.oregonmcw.com/home.html If you need lodging, there are suggested hotels on the same website. Details can be found on page-5-6 of this newsletter. We would like to have at least 15 attendees from our chapter!

On 29-31 October 2015, the **MOAA Annual Meeting** will be held in Orlando, FL! This venue is open to all members, and I encourage you to consider attending. MOAA National is hosting seven great events: Military and Spouse-Friendly Career Fair, Informational Workshops, MOAA Partners and Exhibitors Expo, Community Heroes Awards Night, MOAA Annual Meeting, Chairman's Luncheon, and Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards. For more information--and to register online--visit **www.moaa.org/2015annualmeeting**

I am again asking some of you to volunteer to fill some of the following critical positions in the chapter:

- **Air Force Representative**: We need a second Air Force Representative on the chapter board of directors.
- Membership Committee Members: We need some help reaching out to MOAA national members in the area and getting them involved in the MOAA Portland Chapter.
- Start a new initiative: Send me your ideas!

Many hands make light work—step up to the plate and be part of a winning and dedicated team! Please contact me via cell at 310-897-1902 or via email at maryjmayer@yahoo.com

IN MEMORIAM: May She Rest in Peace!

Mrs. Dorothy Boyles
Auxiliary Member

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Saturday, 3 October 2015

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000 Hayden's Lakefront Grill

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062 Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

COL Joe Williams, USA (Ret), Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the USO Northwest Portland Center, will speak on "The Status of the USO at the Portland International Airport (PDX)."

MENU:

Eggs Benedict

Waffle Station w/Berry Sauce and Whipped Cream Home Fried Potatoes

Breakfast Sausage and Pepper Bacon

Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint

Assortment of Muffins, Pastries, and Bagels with

Cream Cheese

Assorted Juices

Stumptown Coffee, Numi Hot Tea, Milk

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

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact CDR David Bredemann at 503-974-9335 or dbredemann@comcast.net or online at our chapter website NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 30 September 2015. No late reservations, and please call if you must cancel as we have to 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 **USO Northwest Portland Center** at PDX. For **Operation Homefront**, please bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes. Finally, please donate your old cell phones to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.**

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 DINNER MEETING By LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret), Recording Secretary

- 48 members and guests attended the dinner meeting at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. This first meeting of the 2015-2016 program year was convened by Chapter President Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) at 1833--followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem, and invocation by LtCol Norb Murray, USMC (Ret). A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of the 14th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks upon our homeland.
- President Mayer welcomed guest speaker, CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret), and introduced his son Mr. Patrick Sheehan and friend Mr. Mike Meyer.
- congratulated the She **MOAA** Portland Chapter for winning the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from **MOAA** National Exceptional Performance in 2014 (the Chapter's eighth consecutive award) and recognized the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and the Emerald Empire Chapter for winning the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award and the Willamette Chapter for winning the Four Star Levels of Excellence Award.
- Since the 2015-2016 program year began with this meeting, President Mayer introduced the officers and other members of the Board of Directors to the membership; these individuals are found on page 7 of this Brass Bulletin. Due to the death of Lt Col Richard Lightfoot, USAF (Ret), President Mayer is looking for a second Air Force Representative on the Board of Directors to replace him.

- Preedback from August 6, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting: President Mayer stated that LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret), the Chapter Treasurer, had collected \$4,610 in 2014 and 2015 dues, and, thus, the chapter ended the year in the black. Total chapter assets are \$16,932.73 (as of 31 July 2015); there are 206 total members in the chapter. The board of directors passed a balanced budget for 2015-2016. Since the budget is membership driven, all members are asked to recruit new members so the chapter can initiate new programs for the military community.
- President Mayer encouraged the membership to attend the Oregon Military Community Workshop and MOAA Convention to be held Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015. Details are found on page 5-6 of this newsletter.
- There are several other significant events taking place: The ODVA Advisory Committee Meeting (Wednesday, 2 September 2015 at 0930 at the Chamber of Commerce in Hermiston, OR), United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting (Saturday, 17 October 2015 at 1230 at the 50+ Senior Center in Salem, OR), MOAA Annual Meeting (29-31 October 2015 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando, FL), and the next MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting (Thursday, 5 November 2015 from 0930-1130 at the Colwood Golf Course).
- President Mayer touched on the subject of **2016 Annual Chapter Dues.** Dues are the chapter's primary source of income, and all are encouraged to pay them in a timely manner. Cost is only **\$25** a year for regular members (1 Jan -31 Dec 2016) and are to be paid by 1 January 2016; auxiliary members are not required to pay dues but are strongly encouraged to do so.
- Membership Committee Report: Committee
 Chair Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret) introduced
 CDR Alan Kellog, USNR (Ret), who was
 encouraged to come to the chapter meeting by Lt
 Col Lightfoot. Alan has indicated that he will join
 the chapter.
- Fundraising Committee Report: Committee Chair CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) stated that the committee was going to continue to raffle tickets for bottles of fine wines to garner funds for the chapter fundraising projects. Currently, we are raising \$1,000 for the JROTC.
- After dinner, President Mayer introduced the guest speaker, CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret), who

gave a presentation on "The Story of Coast Guard Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, the Hero of Guadalcanal." Commander Doug Sheehan is the nephew of Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, the only member of the Coast Guard ever awarded the Medal of Honor. Signalman Munro was killed in action at Guadalcanal in World War II. Sheehan has been participating in ceremonies honoring his uncle for over 60 years, and is a member of our MOAA Portland Chapter. Sheehan presented history of the Coast Guard that started in 1790, its mission and operations, and its linage to present times.



CDR Doug Sheehan, USCG (Ret) shows a replica of his uncle's Medal of Honor to Chapter President Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

- **Special** Committee: **Events** Committee Chair **MAJ** John Sampson, USA (Ret) was not present as he was undergoing medical testing; President Maver asked membership to keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers. However, President Mayer indicated that, if anyone would like to receive the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal, he/she should contact MAJ Sampson.
- Fundraising Committee: Committee
 Chair CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR
 (Ret) mentioned that, over the past

- few years, our Chapter has raised about \$30,000 in scholarship funds benefitting Portland area children of MOAA members.
- Communications Committee: Committee Chair LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret) had no specific report, but indicated that the website had been updated.
- Auxiliary: Mrs. Jean Hillman reported that the next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, 13 October 2015, at 1200 in the Private Dining Room at Albertina's; lunch cost is \$24 a person (which includes gratuity). Auxiliary members and wives are cordially invited to attend. For reservations, please call or email Mrs. Carol Patrick. Jean also encouraged the membership to continue to donate diapers and wipes to Operation Homefront and old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program and bring them to the chapter meetings.
- Personal Affairs Committee: Committee Chair, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), indicated that there had been two deaths since the last meeting in June 2015: Lt Col Richard G. Lightfoot, USAF (Ret), one of our two Air Force Representatives on the Chapter Board of Directors, and Mrs. Dorothy Boyles, Auxiliary Member.
- "For the Good of the Order:" First Vice President and Program Chair CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret) reported to the membership that several chapter members had toured the 142nd Fighter Wing at the Portland Air National Guard Base and found it very interesting. If anyone is interested in going on a similar tour, please contact Larry and he will set it up. A Membership Appreciation Drawing was conducted by Second Vice President and Membership Chair, Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret), and a member won a free meal for the evening. CAPT Roberts then announced that he had raised \$285 in raffle funds for the JROTC Program and conducted drawings for three bottles of wine. Finally, the "London Joke of the Year" was presented by LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret).
- President Mayer thanked the guest speaker, those attending, Mrs. Susan Raat for the flower arrangements, and the staff of the Monarch Hotel for the wonderful dinner and service. She indicated that the next meeting would be a brunch on Saturday, 3 October 2015 at Hayden's Lakefront Grill; the guest speaker will be Ms. Christine Vu, USO Northwest Portland Center Manager. Reservations must be made by 11:00 a.m. on

Wednesday, 30 September 2015 to CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret). Inputs for the October Brass Bulletin Newsletter are due to the editor by Saturday, 3 September 2015. The newsletter will be mailed or emailed to the membership o/a 5 September 2015 and can also be found on the chapter website,

www.moaaportland.org.

- President Mayer reminded the chapter to fly the U.S. flag on the following days: Labor Day (7 September), Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance (11 September), U.S. Constitution Approved in 1787 (17 September), and POW/MIA Recognition Day (18 September). She also wished a happy 68th birthday to the U.S. Air Force, established on 18 September 1947.
- The meeting was adjourned at **2033**.

AN OPINION PIECE: MY
COMMENTARY ON NATIONAL
AND STATE AFFAIRS
AFFECTING ALL OF US
By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
Legislative Committee Chair

"This is No Time to Cut the U.S. Army:" In the past month, both the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, and the Army Chief of Staff, General Ray Odierno retired and were replaced. In the last Brass Bulletin, I highlighted some of the testimony of the incoming Chairman of the JCS, showing that he is more than aware of the challenges facing our military services. Coincident with his retirement, General Odierno penned an op/ed published in the Wall Street Journal the title of which is shown above.

While the General's message is delivered in measured tones, the point is simple and direct. "As the velocity of world-wide instability rises, the demand for the U.S. Army escalates around the

globe." He goes on, "The current environment demands a modern and ready, globally engaged land force. To achieve this, in my (his) view, the optimum size of the active duty Army is 490,000 troops." The current size of the active duty Army is 450,000, a shortfall of 9%. Even more alarming, he continues that "If sequestration continues, we will be forced to reduce even further. At that point, the Army will be unable to fulfill its mission."

I wish he had written that piece while he was still on active duty, but at least he was willing and able to make his voice heard upon his departure. My bet is that the leaders of the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard would voice similar thoughts. Republican leaders in Congress should act forcefully to challenge the Administration. And reverse the decline. At the very least, each of us should undertake to communicate to our Representatives and Senators our dismay at the drawdown in military spending and readiness while the world becomes an ever more dangerous place

The Ukraine as a Case in Point: In the quiet of summer, and almost unnoticed by the major media, Russia/Putin, with whom the Administration said previously we had reset and broadened our relations, escalated its shelling of Ukrainian positions. comes in spite of the February accord to cease hostilities, establish a buffer zone, and withdraw heavy weapons. The Ukraine's Armed Forces Chief of Staff reports that Russian violations range as high as 80 to 100 per day. They include covert infiltration, small arms fire, and heavy shelling. Meanwhile, the U.S. and Western European countries place pressure on the Ukraine to abide by the February agreement. Our feckless Administration refuses to provide the Ukraine with lethal assistance, and even non-lethal previouslypromised radar systems remain ready for shipment but still not delivered. Is it any wonder that Putin is emboldened, even as his country sinks deeper into recession? Sanctions are nice, but direct assistance is even better. Yet another "red line" is crossed, with no response on our part. How tragic for world order.

Coming Attractions As Congress Reconvenes: Legislation is in the air, and we stand ready to report. Despite clear antipathy toward the Iran Nuclear deal by the populace, I do not believe there will be real fireworks in Congress. Likely, both Houses will reject the deal, which will elicit a veto from the President, which will be sustained in Congress. And that will be

the end of the first chapter of what likely will be a replay of deals entered into with the North Koreans. There will be small and large violations by Iran, there will be clucking by the world powers, but there will be no sanctions applied. Iran will have a nuclear capability sooner rather than later. Then there will ensue a race by other players to add their own nuclear capability. Welcome to a further destabilized world.

One more time Congress will man the ramparts to negotiate a higher debt ceiling, and it will again come down to the wire with great posturing and deal making, led by that crafter of dubious deals, Mitch McConnell. Of greater importance is passage of fiscal year 2016 Authorization Bills, especially Defense Department bill, where the Pentagon will continue trying to stick it to retirees and active duty alike. Watch for movement on restructuring the retirement system, as there will be many moving parts to consider, with both short term and long term implications

COLA Watch 2016: As of the June reading, as reported in the last Brass Bulletin, it appeared reasonably certain that there would be a modest cost of living increase hitting Social Security, retirement check, and the like in 2016. Then, oil prices collapsed some 20%, other commodity prices followed suit, and wages failed to increase substantively. As a result, the relevant CPI index failed to move at all in the month of July, which was reported mid-August. Thus, the CPI index remains 0.2% below the breakeven mark, with two months of data left to report. With economic data fluctuating significantly, it is hard to predict where we may end up at the end of the September fiscal year. It appears to me that there may be a miniscule miss, so that a COLA will not occur until January 2017, or there could be a miniscule increase, say less than 0.5%. As always, we will watch the data and keep you informed.

Oregon Looking Forward: We are indebted to State Representative Julie Parrish, wife of Chapter Member Colonel Mark Parrish, USAF (Ret), for a piece she recently published highlighting the fiscal challenges facing the state in the forthcoming 2017 budget. She points out that our legislators pointedly ignored already visible challenges of significant magnitude. Among them are:

- A \$1.7 billion liability stemming from both the Oregon Supreme Court decision overturning previously passed PERS reforms, and the adverse impact of a more conservative (realistic) actuarial analysis of current liabilities.
- Medicaid expenses of an estimated \$1 billion per biennium previously absorbed by the federal government in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) bait and switch. Ex-Governor Kitzhaber had postulated that such outlays would be ameliorated by the favorable impact of ACA-mandated Coordinated Care Organizations, which now seems unrealistic.
- Further, the Legislature voted to raise more than \$1 billion in new debt, which then incurs annual outlays of some \$40 Million annually

So, we should have some interesting issues to address in the next legislative session. It seems that kicking the can down the road is a favorite past time of both state and federal governments. Julie also issues a warning that unions are preparing a ballot initiative to raise \$5 billion annually by taxing large employers. Now, that will really help in attracting new employers to our state, will it not? All comments, suggestions and reflections are welcomed; please contact me.

LAST CALL! REGISTER TO ATTEND THE OREGON MILITARY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND MOAA BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

- In addition to the regular Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention, there will be an Oregon Military Community Workshop
- **Sponsored by**: MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and Oregon State University

OREGON MILITARY COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP AND MOAA BIENNIAL STATE
CONVENTION (continued)

- **Dates**: Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015
- **Location**: Life Community Church, 4900 OR-99W in Corvallis, OR
 - Purpose: To brainstorm solutions to assist the Oregon Military Community. Oregon is unique in the fact that we do not have a major military installation in Oregon. This creates unique issues for veterans and military families in Oregon that will be discussed, starting with brainstorming concepts on transitional education, mentorship, and recreation for the Oregon Military Community. The **end goal** from the workshop is to have personnel commit to a 5 year collaborative vision, committing to follow-on surveys to build data prior to a 2016 workshop. At the 2016 workshop, the need/product for Oregon will be presented.
- The workshop will be held over two days, Friday and Saturday. During these days we will have brainstorming by assigned tables, table discussions, and guest speakers. Additionally, there will be MOAA break-out sessions in the afternoons.

• Friday agenda:

- o 0800-1500: Workshop
- 1500-1800: MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Biennial Convention
- Evening OSU Home Football Game!

• Saturday agenda:

- o 0900-1300: Workshop
- 1300-1530: MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting
- o Corvallis Fall Festival (1000-1800)

Registration Fee: \$60

 Morning refreshments and lunch are included in the reservation

Register online at: <u>http://www.oregonmcw.com/home.html</u>

- For those who need **lodging**, information is found on the same website—but you need to make reservations ASAP as that weekend is going to be very busy in the Corvallis area.
- **Bottom line**: This is a "roll up your sleeves and get involved" brainstorming activity for our Oregon Military and Veteran Community and their families.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison

In April 2015, the members of the national Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee voted to change their name to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC). These ladies represent us, reporting to the MOAA National President on issues affecting the surviving spouses of military members. During the MOAA Annual Meeting in October 2015 in Orlando, Florida, the name change will become official at both the national and local levels. After October, we will no longer be known as "Auxiliary Members." I will be known as the Surviving Spouse Liaison, and each one of us will be known as a 'surviving spouse' vice "auxiliary member." As a group, we will be known as the MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouses.

Please be aware that there are changes for our October Surviving Spouse Luncheon. It will be held on Tuesday, 13 October 2015 at 12:00 noon in the private dining room at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland OR 97232. The private dining room will be open from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Coffee and water will be available at this time. Our luncheon will be served at 12:00 PM. We will be served the Heritage Menu; the cost will be \$24.00, which includes the gratuity. Wives of chapter members are cordially invited! If you plan to attend, please call or email Mrs. Carol Patrick at 503-654-1511 or jymbo@earthlink.net so she can make a reservation for you at the restaurant. If you have food restrictions, please call Albertina Kerr's Restaurant two days before the luncheon at 503-231-0216 and let them know.

Thank you for your continued support in providing diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.**

PORTLAND CHAPTER MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND: BENEFITING PORTLAND AREA STUDENTS!

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret), Fundraising Committee Chair

\$71,000!!!! In the seven years since the inception of the Chapter Scholarship Fund, that is the total assistance provided to Portland area children of MOAA members. Our total contributions to the fund to date are a bit less than \$30,000, so the impact of those contributions has been enormous

For the 2015-2015 school year, the fund disbursed \$38,500 in zero interest loans and grants to 7 area students. They include 3 individuals from Lake Oswego, 2 from Oregon City, and 2 from Portland. Of interest, there were two sets of siblings, which must warm the hearts of their parents.

Our designated scholar for past two years, Sara Hays, this year was awarded a \$5,000 Senior Grant, which indicates that she was among the elite students entering her senior year in college. Sara remains at Tulane, and intends to apply for medical school this coming spring. She has her sights set on OHSU.

The entire chapter should be proud that we established and endowed our scholarship fund. The impact has been far beyond what we envisioned! Congratulations on a great decision and your support of the initiative! We will contact each of the scholarship recipients to learn of their academic focus, and we will invite them and/or their parents to attend one of our meetings (and join the chapter).

Thanks to all for your contributions over the years. The fund remains open to contributions. If you are of a mind to make this one of your charitable giving targets, it is really easy to do so on line at www.MOAA.org or contact me at 503-722-1897 or Rocketlarry@icloud.com

PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:

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

First Vice President:

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

Second Vice President:

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

Correspondence Secretary:

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

Recording Secretary:

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

Reservations Secretary:

CDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret): 503-974-9335

Treasurer:

LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret): 503-644-7353

Immediate Past President:

LTC Gary 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 Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

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Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

<u>USPHS</u>

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 James Asaph, USA (Ret): 503-292-9622

RETURN ADDRESS:

PORTLAND CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) P.O. BOX 68959 PORTLAND, OR 97268 FIRST CLASS POSTAGE REQUIRED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 3, 2015	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
October 29-31, 2015	MOAA Annual Meeting, Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Orlando, FL
November 5, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)
November 7, 2015	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

December 1, 2015 Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)

January 2016 No chapter meeting scheduled

February 4, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)

February 6, 2016 Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

NOTE 1: All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at <u>0930</u>—and <u>are open to all members</u>! Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the *November 2015 Brass Bulletin Newsletter* must be submitted to the editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at maryimayer@yahoo.com by 3 October 2015.

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS Mark your calendars!