



**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, Numbers 5 & 6 www.MOAAPortland.org February & March 2016

FEBRUARY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 6 February 2016

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000
Hayden's Lakefront Grill
Large Lakefront Room
8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road
Tualatin, Oregon 97062
Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

Mr. Cameron Smith, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), will speak on “**Veterans' Issues in Oregon.**”

MENU:

Quiche with Ham and Tillamook Cheese
Home Fried Potatoes
Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint
Assorted Muffins, Pastries, and Bagels with Creamed Cheese
Biscuits and Gravy
Assorted Juices
Coffee, Tea, Milk

COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)
Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 3 February 2016.** See Dave's contact information and more info at the bottom of the second column on this page.

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

Major James F. Simpson, USMC (Ret)

MARCH CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 5 March 2016

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000
Hayden's Lakefront Grill
Large Lakefront Room
8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road
Tualatin, Oregon 97062
Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

Ms. Janice Collee, Director of Programs, will speak on “**The Mission of Operation Homefront.**”

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Chives and Tillamook Smoked Cheddar Cheese
Home Fried Potatoes
Pepper Bacon and Breakfast Sausage
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint
Assorted Muffins, Pastries, and Bagels with Cream Cheese
French Toast with Maple Syrup, Strawberries, and Whipped Cream
Assorted Juices
Coffee, Tea, Milk

COST: \$25.00 per person (includes 21% gratuity)
Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **LCDR David Bredemann, USN (Ret)** at **503-974-9335** or **dbredemann@comcast.net** or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 2 March 2016. 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 FEBRUARY & MARCH MEETINGS: Raffle tickets are available for bottles of fine wine to benefit Operation Homefront. And, please bring in your old cell phones and packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront.**

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

By LTC Roy E Raat, USA (Ret)

- 55 members and guests attended the dinner at **The Monarch Hotel** on **1 December 2015**. Chapter President, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, called the meeting to order at **1832**. She welcomed those attending the Chapter's Annual Holiday Party whose program would include The John Bennett Trio who would provide music for listening, caroling, and dancing.
- **President Mayer** introduced **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)**, the Senior Army Instructor for the Army JROTC Program at Oregon City High School, and welcomed cadets **Riley Challenger, Levi Schweiger, Reilly Fish, and Kyler Baker** who would perform the night's duties as color guard.



The JROTC cadets from Oregon City High School posted the colors.

- Before posting the colors and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, chapter member **Major William J. Tidd, USAF (Ret)** gave a special reading, "Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance" by Red Skelton. The Color Guard from Oregon City High School, Army JROTC Program, then posted the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem followed. Chaplain **LTC Grant**

McAllister, USA (Ret) gave the invocation. (See picture below.)



- In remembrance of the 74th Anniversary of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 7 December 1941, **LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret)** read "FDR's Pearl Harbor Day of Infamy Speech to the U.S. Congress on December 8, 1941."
- **President Mayer** closed the reading saying that we will never forget the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bravery of our military forces then, and the steely resolve of their families. The selfless courage of these World War II warriors reminded her of a definition of a "veteran" that she recently heard. A "veteran" (whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve) is someone who at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including his/her life." She then introduced **CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)** who played "Taps" to honor those who served and who lost their lives in the war.
- Chapter Treasurer **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)** reported currently 44 of the 142 regular chapter members have paid their dues for 2016. Those who have not yet paid were encouraged to pay their dues to her or send a check for \$25 to the chapter post office box by the end of the month.
- **President Mayer** reported that the *Chapter Directory* should be printed in time for the February 2016 meeting. She mentioned that the Portland Grotto is celebrating Military Appreciation Night in conjunction with its Christmas Festival of Lights on **Monday, 7 December 2015**. All active and retired

service personnel showing their ID card will receive complimentary admission to the Festival that date only. For the other days of the Festival, the Grotto offers military discounts.

- Save the dates for the following: (1) **ODVA Advisory Committee Meeting** held on Wednesday, 2 December 2015 at 0930 at the Hillsboro Civic Center Complex (Two Advisory Committee members will transition off the board, and two new Advisory Committee members will be introduced); (2) the **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting** on Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 1230 at the 50+ Senior Center in Salem, OR; and (3) the next **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting** at 0930 on Thursday, 4 February 2016 at the Colwood Golf Course. All board members were encouraged to attend; there are only four board meetings a year, and member inputs are valuable.
- **President Mayer** gave the Membership Committee Report by stating that the chapter had a new member, **Col George Van Hoomissen, USMC (Ret)**, a Senior Associate Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, and his wife **Ruth**.
- Special Events Committee Chair, **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)**, reminded the members that the chapter will continue to participate in the Gold Bar Program for 2016 for the AFROTC and AROTC commissioning cadets at the University of Portland. Those interested in receiving the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal are asked to contact him.
- **President Mayer** made another appeal asking members who are receiving their chapter newsletters via (post) mail to receive them by email. Presently about 61 newsletters are mailed each time at a cost of \$538 annually. Those receiving by post are

asked to contact her to start receiving the newsletters via email.

- Surviving Spouse (formerly Auxiliary) Liaison, **Mrs. Jean Hillman**, mentioned that the next Surviving Spouse Luncheon will be on Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at 1200 noon at Albertina's. Surviving Spouses and wives of chapter members are cordially invited to attend. Donations of diapers and wipes for Operation Homefront and cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program may be brought to the luncheons or chapter meetings.
- **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, Fundraising Chair, announced that **\$620** had been raised for the JROTC Programs at Oregon City High School and Reynolds High School through the ten gift baskets and wine raffles at the December dinner meeting. Thanks to the following who contributed gift baskets: **Dave and Pat Bredemann, Tony and Sharon Sebbio, John and Judy Sampson, Larry and Ann Roberts, Gary and Jan Brink, Carol Patrick, William Tidd, Mary J. Mayer, Jean Hillman, and Robert and Marie Steelman**. And thanks to **Larry Roberts** for contributing the wine.
- Personal Affairs Committee Chair, **President Mayer** announced that **Major James F. ("Jim") Simpson, USMC (Ret)** passed away very suddenly on Thanksgiving Day from a massive heart attack. She will inform the chapter about the memorial service for him when his wife **Terri** gives her the details. **President Mayer** asked that members inform her of any deaths or medical issues among chapter members, spouses, or surviving spouses.
- In the "For the Good of the Order" portion of the meeting, **LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret)** told a joke, ten raffle winners were selected to win the gift baskets, the members participated in singing Christmas carols, and a member got a free meal at the Membership Appreciation drawing.
- In her closing remarks, **President Mayer** thanked **MAJ Doug Thomas, USA (Ret)** and the four Army JROTC cadets; **The John Bennett Trio**; **LTC Bill Kroger, CAPT Jim Main, and Major William Tidd** for their memorial contribution; **Mrs. Susan Raat** for the beautiful poinsettia arrangements found on the tables; those members previously identified as providing the ten raffle baskets; and the staff of the **Monarch Hotel** for the wonderful meal and service.
- **President Mayer** reminded the members that there will be no chapter meeting in January 2016. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, 6 February 2016** at **Hayden's Lakefront Grill**. The guest speaker will be **Mr. Cameron**

Smith, ODVA Director. The *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* takes a hiatus in January 2016; inputs for the combined *February/March 2016 Newsletter* are due 9 January 2016. **President Mayer** wished all a Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year--and adjourned the meeting at 2035.

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

The Portland Chapter is happy to welcome the following new members:

Major Samuel J. DuPlessis, USA (Ret)
and his wife **Sharon**

Colonel George Van Hoomissen,
USMC (Ret)
and his wife **Ruth**

LtCol Stuart O. Kendall, USMC (Ret)
and his wife **Phyllis**

Our chapter president has a goal of recruiting at least 40 new members this year. Each member can support this goal by bringing in at least one new chapter member. So, spread the word about MOAA, bring potential members to our chapter meetings, and encourage your colleagues and friends to join MOAA this year! If you have any questions, please call me at **503-702-3812**.

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

Our December **MOAA Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** was a joyful time. Everyone was in the holiday spirit. We had ten in attendance. *Marjory Fischer, Pat Lightfoot, Jacqueline Parnell, Carol Patrick, and Edie Rieken* were presented with the new MOAA Surviving Spouse pin. We sang "Happy

Birthday" to *Meredith Bach*, who faithfully brings her mother, *Marjory Fischer*, to our luncheons.

Our Valentine Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland, 97232. We will be in the private dining room, which will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Coffee, tea, and water will be available at this time. We will be served the Heritage Menu at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$24.00, which includes gratuity.** If you have food allergies, please call Albertina Kerr's Restaurant two days before our luncheon at 503-231-0216. Chapter wives are cordially invited to attend. For luncheon reservations, please contact **Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or jymbo@earthlink.net.

Continue to bring diapers and wipes for **Operation Homefront** and used cell phones for the "**Cell Phones for Soldiers**" Program to the Surviving Spouse luncheons and chapter brunch and dinner meetings.

OPERATION HOMEFRONT: NEW
BENEFICIARY OF RAFFLE PROCEEDS
By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret),
Fundraising Committee Chair

Over the past few years, the Chapter has focused its giving through membership meeting raffles on:

- The Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund
- The World War II Memorial
- Build out of the PDX USO
- Supporting the Oregon High School and Reynolds High School JROTC programs

All of these have been worthy projects, and have been generously supported by the membership. The Surviving Spouse (formerly Auxiliary) members, through the same period, have supported Operation Homefront. They suggested that the chapter might investigate and consider Operation Homefront as a beneficiary of our charitable giving.

Operation Homefront personnel made a presentation to the Chapter Board of Directors, and we followed up with a visit to their offices, perusal of the national website, and conversations with their local leadership.

At the November 2015 Chapter Board Meeting, it was proposed and unanimously agreed that the next focus of our giving would be to Operation Homefront.

Operation Homefront is a national organization, but we are able to target our giving on their Portland area activities. Specifically, we will raise funds for their annual program to provide backpacks and supplies to local military children in need of such support before returning to school in the fall. There is a large and growing need for these backpacks in the metropolitan area, and Operation Homefront partners with a backpack manufacturer and Fred Meyer to accomplish their goals in a very money-efficient manner.

I will provide more information on Operation Homefront in future *Brass Bulletin* articles. The Board of Directors is pleased to be supporting this organization and this specific program.

***AN OPINION PIECE: MY TAKE
ON POLITICS, LEGISLATION,
AND REGULATION ISSUES***

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Largely Obliterated Legislative Process: When I first took on the task of preparing legislative updates, there was a process used by both Federal and State governments to create the laws by which we are governed. Over the past 7 plus years, that process has in large part been obliterated. Now we are governed by euphemistically termed "executive orders," and gargantuan regulations and dictates from the likes of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services. This rush to impose control without authorizing legislation, and often contravening established laws, causes innumerable lawsuits up and down the judiciary, and considerable consternation among the governed.

This trend was brought home on January 8 by a headline and article in *The Oregonian*. It heralded an agreement

among the most special of "special interest" groups to effect "a radical overhaul to the state's electricity supply, agreeing to double the renewable energy mandate by 2040 and eliminate the use of coal by 2035." See "Power deal would boost renewables, kill coal." The proposed plan was reached behind closed doors, has never been previously exposed to the citizens of the state, had no input from the Oregon Public Utility Commission, the Oregon Legislature, the Governor's office, the Governor, or many other interested parties. Instead, this agreement, which will be presented to the legislature in its short 2016 session, was crafted by representatives of: Utilities (Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp) and Green Advocacy Groups (NW Energy Coalition, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Renewable Northwest and the Sierra Club). The utilities are interested in growing profits by enlarging their rate base, improving cash flow to support higher dividends, and protecting their market territory. The advocacy groups are focused on imposing their ideological agenda on the state without allowing debate, killing coal, and restructuring the utility business to their liking.

Who has been left out of these deliberations? All of us, from the Governor on down. Interestingly, Ted Sickinger, reporter for *The Oregonian*, states that: (1) The proposal has not been independently vetted, (2) It comes with no cost estimates, (3) In practice, it is not technically feasible today without undermining the reliability of the grid, and (4) Achieving it would rely on development of new energy storage technologies and a more unified transmission system. Does this bring to mind other disasters such as CoverOregon, the Columbia River Crossing, and on and on? Sickinger also notes that the plan "would also be a boon for utilities and their shareholders." Hold on to your wallets! For lawmakers, the proposal comes with short notice, and there are supposedly only a few legislators with any understanding of the electricity industry. They also will be subject to heavy lobbying by representatives of all the above mentioned insiders and their brethren. This is a formula for fiscal disaster for ratepayers. And, if the needed advances in technology do not magically appear, it could very adversely affect the state economy. Just the fact that such an agreement was created behind closed doors in absolute secrecy should provide ample warning to each of us that this half-baked proposal is unlikely to benefit any of us

except the parties that created it. We really do need legislatures that legislate, despite how awful it appears on the outside

Looking Forward to a 2016 COLA, or

Not: While we are several weeks away from receiving December CPI numbers, the price of oil suggests to me that the likelihood of a COLA upward adjustment a year from now is more and more remote. As I sit writing this column, in less than two weeks of trading since the first of the year, the price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil has declined by 14%. While literally anything can happen to goose the price of oil, it continues to decline in the face of geopolitical tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. One would believe that such tensions would cause an upward spike in pricing, but that has not occurred. Further, the price seems indifferent to continuing weekly decreases in rig counts in the United States. We will keep you informed

We Need More Navy Ships (And Probably More Planes, Tanks, People, etc.):

Seth Cropsey, a former Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy and current Director of the Hudson Institute Center for American Seapower, recently penned a piece contrasting the rising challenge to American supremacy on the seas. As he points out, China is currently undertaking to build its first aircraft carrier from scratch, giving it two in several years. Moreover, the Chinese submarine fleet, which includes nuclear fast attacks as well as stealthy diesel boats for littoral combat, will number 70-80 boats by 2020, while US forces (including our FBM deterrent force) will total only 70. During the Cold War, we typically fielded about 100 submarines, while the Soviets may have had 120, but of inferior quality. Given the proliferation of submarines in more and more navies, Cropsey postulates the need for at least 90 boats. The submarine shortage is mirrored in the fleet at large. The number of active ships today is 272,

less than half the number we had at the conclusion of the Reagan administration some 30 years ago. I doubt that one can argue responsibly that the world is a 50% safer place today than it was 30 years ago. Cropsey argues that we need an aircraft fleet of 16 rather than the 11 we have today, in order to keep a battle group continuously on station in the Persian Gulf, WestPac, and the Med. We have no plans to accomplish that growth. Reagan saved us from the degradations of the Carter administration regarding military spending. Who will perform the same feat in 2017 and beyond? Remember, from inception to commissioning of a large combatant (even a submarine), the time frame is typically 15 years or more. We are way behind the power curve while our competitors are ramping up quantitatively and qualitatively.

MOAA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AND IRA CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret), Chapter Scholarship Fund Chair

As you may recall, the Portland Chapter raised over \$27,000 over a 4-year period to fund our initial Chapter Scholarship Fund. That first scholarship has funded \$5,000 grants or zero interest rate loans to Portland area students each year for 7 years, at this point, and will continue to do so in perpetuity, as the fund is structured as an "evergreen investment," meaning that loan repayments pay for new scholarships on an aggregated basis. Over the past several years, we have not made continuing contributions to the fund as a chapter, but individual members have continued to add assets to the corpus. Thus, at this point the fund is about \$17,000 shy of getting a second scholarship fully funded.

I mention this because Congress recently made permanent a provision that allows Individual Retirement Account owners to make "Charitable Contributions" from their IRA with favorable tax provisions. This provision applies to individuals of age 70.5 years and older (be careful on exact age, because I missed by less than a week and got dinged by the IRS). You may make a charitable distribution either as part of a required minimum distribution or as a separate distribution supplemental to the Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). Charitable distributions are not counted as ordinary income as compared to other IRA distributions. Therefore, they minimize your RMD and your taxable income. Offsetting the taxable income

advantage is the fact that a charitable distribution cannot be double counted as a charitable contribution. Overall, a charitable IRA distribution is best perceived as a more efficient way of managing RMD.

To make a charitable distribution, you must have the IRA administrator (Vanguard, Fidelity, or the like) write a check directly to the charity, mail it to you, and you forward to the charity. This is very easy to execute. Vanguard sends me a check made out to XYZ church. I then give the check to the church. To effect this with the Chapter Scholarship Fund, have your administrator cut a check to the "Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund" and send the check to you. Then, ask either Chapter Treasurer, Myrna Trull, or me to give you the mailing address for MOAA—or forward the check to Myrna, and she will handle the mailing to MOAA for you.

The Portland Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund is a wonderful charity of direct benefit to Portland area children of military officers, and the Charitable Contribution is a tax efficient way to support the fund. If you have any questions, consult your tax advisor or call me at **503-822-1897**.

***REMAIN A CHAPTER MEMBER:
PAY YOUR 2016 CHAPTER DUES!
By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
Chapter Treasurer***

As of today, we have **201** members in the MOAA Portland Chapter [138 regular members, 58 Surviving Spouse (formerly Auxiliary) members, 1 Voices for America's Troops member, and 4 honorary members]. Of those, **58** regular members, 7 Surviving Spouse members, and 1 Voices for America's Troops member have paid their 2016 dues.

Annual chapter dues should have been paid by 1 January 2016. On 31 January 2016, I have to invoice all of the chapter members who have not paid their 2016 dues. Invoicing costs the chapter over \$1.00 per member and causes me a great deal of extra work. So, if you want to save the chapter money and keep your Treasurer happy, please pay your dues now. Surviving Spouse members are not required to pay dues, but are encouraged to do so.

Send your **\$25 check**, made out to "Portland Chapter - MOAA" (memo line should read "2016 Dues") and mail it to: Portland Chapter – MOAA, P.O. Box 68959, Portland, OR 97268.

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

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

Correspondence Secretary

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

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**

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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

<i>February 4, 2016</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
February 6, 2016	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
March 5, 2016	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
March 18-19, 2016	Oregon Women Veterans' Conference 2016 (Location: Camp Withycombe)
April 5, 2016	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>May 5, 2016</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
May 7, 2016	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Elections (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
June 7, 2016	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Installation (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 combined **April and May 2016 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by 7 March 2016.