

*Minutes from the 5 April 2016 Dinner Meeting*  
*By LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret), Recording Secretary*

- **48** members and guests attended the dinner at the **Monarch Hotel** on **5 April 2016**. Chapter President, **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting **to order at 1833**. She hoped the attendees enjoyed a very happy Easter and Passover with their families and friends last month. She welcomed guest speaker, Air Force **Colonel Paul T. Fitzgerald**, Commander of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, who would speak on the “Mission of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at Portland Air National Guard Base.” He was accompanied by his wife **Vanessa**. The Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem lead by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)** followed. **Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)** gave the invocation.
- **President Mayer** reported at the 5 November 2015 Chapter Board of Directors’ Meeting, the members unanimously committed to dedicating the raffle proceeds for calendar year 2016 to the local Operation Homefront for two purposes: (1) **\$2,250** for the purchase of **450 backpacks** (at \$5.50 each) for Portland Metropolitan Area school children served by Operation Homefront for the 2016 back-to-school period; and (2) remainder of funds raised dedicated to utilization in the Operation Homefront Emergency Assistance Program. Thus far \$615 has been raised for Operation Homefront via our raffle at February’s (\$365) and March’s (\$250) meetings.
- **Submission of the Levels of Excellence Award for 2015.** **President Mayer** reported the submission date changed from 1 June to 1 March 2016. The Chapter’s Nomination Package was submitted 24 February 2016 and received by national MOAA the same day. The MOAA Portland Chapter has been awarded the **Five Star Levels of Excellence Award** from MOAA National for the last 8 consecutive years; hope to win it again for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! To date, she has not heard back from national MOAA.
- **Status of Membership Dues:** All budget items were on track, except Membership Dues for 2016. Out of **143** regular members, only **122** had paid their 2016 dues for the period 1 January-31 December 2016. Members are supposed to have submitted dues to the Treasurer by 1 January 2016. *Action Taken:* As is required by the Chapter Bylaws, the Treasurer sent out 44 invoices to all those who had not paid their dues as of 1 February asking them to pay. Our Treasurer then sent out invoices in early March to those who still had not paid. As a reminder, the board authorized the Treasurer to charge an additional \$5.00 in late fees to those members joining after 1 March. There are still **21** members who have **not paid** their 2016 dues. Dues for regular members are \$25 a year; surviving spouse members are not required to pay annual dues but are strongly encouraged to do so.
- **Recruiting New Members for Our Chapter:** **President Mayer** commented that members are the lifeblood of any organization, and our chapter is no exception. We need the members’ help to educate their eligible friends and colleagues about the benefits of being a MOAA Portland Chapter member. Bring a potential member to every meeting. And, don’t forget to use the award-winning website and newsletter as recruiting tools, as well. **President Mayer** continued to **challenge** the members to bring at least one guest to the next chapter brunch meeting on **Saturday, 7 May 2016** at the **Monarch Hotel**.
- **Report on Oregon Women Veterans Conference 2016:** The conference was sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and held on Friday/Saturday, 18-19 March 2016, at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, OR. It was attended by about 300. Our MOAA Portland Chapter members included Sharon Sebbio, Betty Fish-Ferguson, Barbara Brooks-Lacy, and Mary Mayer. **It was an excellent Program.** Guest Speakers included: **Gert Boyle**, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Columbia Sportswear; ODVA Director **Cameron Smith**; Oregon State Senator **Laurie Monnes-Anderson**; Oregon State Representative **Carla Piluso**; **Major General Julie Bentz, USA**, Vice Director of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Agency; **Elizabeth Estabrooks**, the new Women Veterans Coordinator at ODVA (our March minutes gave her biography); and **Colonel Leah Sundquist**, Chief of Staff, Joint and Domestic Support Command, Oregon National Guard. The 12 workshops for attendees’ participation at the conference included: VA Benefits, Women’s Health, Tips & Tricks for Finding the Perfect Job, VA Home Loans, Retirement, Every Day Financial Success, Effective Search Methods for Landing a Government Job, Guided Meditation, Military Sexual Trauma/PTSD, Starting Your Small Business, Coping with Trauma, and Yoga.
- **President Mayer presented Save-a-Date:**
  - **United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting** on Saturday, 9 April 2016, 1230, at 50+ Senior Center in Salem, OR. The Group has been reinvigorated with Ron Morgan serving as Legislative Representative.
  - **MOAA “Storming the Hill”** is scheduled for 11-13 April 2016 in Washington, DC. The President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, BG Dennis Merrill, USA (Ret), will be attending to represent Oregon or he will send a representative in his stead.
  - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting** on Thursday, 28 April 2016 (this date is a change from the original date of 5 May) at 0930-1200, Colwood Golf Course. It is encouraged all board members and committee chairs attend the meeting.

- **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting** on Wednesday, 1 June 2016, 0930 at Shiloh Inn in Klamath Falls, OR. Any suggestions for agenda items can be emailed to the Advisory Committee at [yaac@odva.state.or.us](mailto:yaac@odva.state.or.us). Include name/organization/contact information, a description of the proposed agenda item, why this item is a concern, and what action would you like to see the Advisory Committee take with regards to this issue. There is a **Public Comment** portion of the meeting where individuals may present their concerns. Encourage all board members and others to come.
- **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting** scheduled on Thursday, 23 June 2016, 0930 Coffee Service, 1000-1430 Business Meeting and lunch. Location is on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Main Dining Room (Colonial Inn) at the Eugene Veterans' Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR (on the corner of Willamette and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue). President Mayer will be attending; Officers and Board members should also plan to attend.
- After dinner was served, **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **Colonel Paul T. Fitzgerald**, Commander of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, OR, who spoke on the complex and vital mission of the wing. He leads over 1,000 personnel in the execution of the F-15 Eagle Aerospace Control Alert mission defending the Pacific Northwest, worldwide deployments supporting national objectives, and domestic operations activities as directed by the Governor. A memento was given to Colonel Fitzgerald from the Chapter President.
- **Presentation of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Veterans Pins:** Presentations made by **President Mayer** and **Col Fitzgerald**. On 25 May 2012, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War—instituting a 13-year program to “honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced.” Beginning on Memorial Day 2012 and ending on 11 November 2025, the President tasked the federal government to partner with state and local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to “honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.”
- Today at this meeting, Colonel Mayer said that the MOAA Portland Chapter would join in that recognition program and present our Vietnam veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard with 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Veterans Pins. Before the pin presentation, President Mayer read a few paragraphs from the President's Proclamation. Colonel Fitzgerald presented the pins to the Vietnam Veterans in attendance. After the presentation, MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret) was thanked for his efforts in obtaining the commemorative Vietnam War Veterans pins.
- **Legislative Committee**, CAPT Larry Roberts. Encouraged the members to read the legislative information in the monthly *MOAA Military Officer Magazine*. **Communications Committee**. LTC Bill Kroger, USAR (Ret) continues to work the Website updates and acts as Public Affairs officer.
- **Surviving Spouse.** Mrs. Carol Patrick for Jean Hillman mentioned the next Surviving Spouse Luncheon will be on **Tuesday, 19 April 2016 at 1200 noon at Albertina's**. Cost is \$24 which includes gratuity; surviving spouse members and wives are cordially invited to attend. For reservations to attend, call or send an email to Carol Patrick. Continue to bring diaper and wipes for use by Operation Homefront and old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program to the chapter dinner or brunch meetings.
- **Personal Affairs Committee:** **President Mayer** reported that, as a result of sending out invoices to collect chapter dues, we have been made aware of the following deaths over the past few years: **COL Richard E. Nichol, USA (Ret), Major John Apelt, USAF (Ret), and Mrs. Betty Harris, Surviving Spouse member**. Members were asked to let her know of any deaths—or any chapter members who are sick or having surgery--so she can engage the Personal Affairs Committee
- The evening's **Raffle** for four bottles of wine conducted by **CAPT Larry Roberts** collected **\$255**; he thanked the members for their generous contributions. LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret), presented the humorous **Joke** involving crows in traffic.
- In her closing remarks, **President Mayer** thanked guest speaker, **Colonel Fitzgerald** and his wife **Vanessa**; the members that came to support the chapter; **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for bringing the decoration on the tables; and the staff of Monarch Hotel for the wonderful meal and service. **Next Meeting:** Brunch on Saturday 7 May 2016 at Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. **Guest Speaker** will be **Mrs. Mary Jaeger**, Aging Veterans' Services Director at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). She'll discuss “Programs and Services for Aging Vets in Oregon”. Reservations must be made by **1100 on Wednesday, 4 May 2016 to CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)**, our Chapter Reservations Secretary. **Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter:** Since we already published and sent out a combined **April/May 2016** edition of the *Brass Bulletin*, President Mayer will send a reminder via email for Chapter members to sign up for the May meeting. The next newsletter will be the **June 2016** edition and will come out in **mid-May 2016**. Inputs for the **June Newsletter** are due **9 May 2016** at midnight.
- The meeting was **adjourned at 2038**.

***Minutes from the May 7, 2016 Brunch Meeting  
By LTC George Peters, USA (Ret), Correspondence Secretary***

- **42** members and guests attended the brunch at the **Monarch Hotel** on **7 May 2016**. Chapter President, **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)** called the meeting **to order at 0958**. As Congress has officially recognized May as National Military Appreciation Month, she hoped the attendees would display their United States flag, attend a community celebration, or reach out to a military family in need during May and throughout the year.
- She welcomed guest speaker, **Mrs. Mary Jaeger**, the Aging Veterans' Services Director at ODVA, who would speak to the group on the "The Problems of Aging and the Programs and Services Available for Aging Veterans in Oregon." Mrs. Mary Jaeger was accompanied by her husband, **Mr. Jerry Walker**, a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem, led by **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, followed. **Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)** gave the invocation.
- **President Mayer** reported that, thus far, **\$1,180** has been raised for Operation Homefront via our raffles at February's (\$365), March's (\$250), April's (\$255), and May's (\$310) meetings.
- **Submission of the Levels of Excellence Award for 2015**. **President Mayer** reported that, to date, she has not heard back from national MOAA regarding whether or not the chapter had won an award.
- **Status of Membership Dues**: All budget items were on track, except Membership Dues for 2016. Out of **145** regular members, only **129** had paid their 2016 dues for the period 1 January-31 December 2016. There are still **16** members who have **not paid** their 2016 dues. Dues for regular members are \$25 a year; surviving spouse members are not required to pay annual dues but are strongly encouraged to do so.
- **Recruiting New Members for Our Chapter**: **President Mayer** commented that members are the lifeblood of any organization, and our chapter is no exception. In **2016**, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)** has recruited **two** new members and Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret) one. **President Mayer** continued to **challenge** the members to bring at least one guest to the next chapter dinner meeting on **Tuesday, 7 June 2016** at the **Monarch Hotel**.
- **Report on MOAA "Storming the Hill"**
  - On **13 April 2016** in Washington, DC, MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, together with members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, plus members of MOAA's active duty, Guard, Reserve, spouse, and Surviving Spouse Advisory Committees "stormed" Capitol Hill and visited nearly all 535 representatives and senators in support of key legislative priorities.
    - The President of the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters, **BG Dennis Merrill, USA (Ret)**, represented Oregon.
    - This year, the group lobbied to:
      - Reject Disproportionate TRICARE Fee Hikes and Program Changes
      - Eliminate the Widows' Tax (SBP-DIC Offset)
- **President Mayer presented Save-a-Date**:
  - **MOAA Portland Chapter Board of Directors Meeting** on Thursday, 26 May 2016 from 0930-1200 at the Colwood Golf Course. It is encouraged all board members and committee chairs attend the meeting. A full buffet will be served (food out by 0845); so, come early and enjoy!
  - **Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Meeting** on Wednesday, 1 June 2016, 0930 at Shiloh Inn in Klamath Falls, OR. .
  - **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Board Meeting** scheduled on Thursday, 23 June 2016, 0930 Coffee Service, 1000-1430 Business Meeting and lunch. Location is on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Main Dining Room (Colonial Inn) at the Eugene Veterans' Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR (on the corner of Willamette and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue). President Mayer will be attending; Officers and Board members should also plan to attend.
  - **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO) Meeting** scheduled on Saturday, 9 July 2016, 1230 hours. Location is 50+ Senior Center in Salem, Oregon
  - **2016 MOAA Annual Meeting** scheduled Tuesday, 25 October 2016. The Location is Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA. **President Mayer** will be attending, and, hopefully, will receive another Five Star Levels of Excellence Award to bring home to the chapter!
- **Membership Committee Report** by Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret). There was a new member introduction, **Capt Pasha Horiuchi, USAF (Ret)**, by LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret).

- **Nominating Committee Report** was given by President Mayer in the absence of LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret). The Chapter's election process is nomination of officers in April; election of officers in May; and installation of officers in June. The nominations presented by the Nominating Committee for 2016-2018 Chapter Officers are:
  - **President:** Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret);
  - **First Vice President & Program Chair:** CAPT Larry Roberts, USN (Ret);
  - **Second Vice President & Membership Chair:** LTC James Asaph, USA (Ret)
  - **Correspondence Secretary:** LTC George Peters, USA (Ret);
  - **Recording Secretary:** LTC Roy Raat, USA (Ret);
  - **Reservations Secretary:** CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret);
  - **Treasurer:** LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret).
- A motion was made to approve the slate of officers; it was approved unanimously by the membership. Due to medical reasons, **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)** will serve as the Director-at-Large next year.
- After brunch was served, **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **Mrs. Mary Jaeger**, who was appointed by ODVA Director Cameron Smith in February 2015 into the newly-created position of "Aging Veteran Services' Director" and is charged with advocating for the unique statewide needs of Oregon's 160,000 (55%) veterans over the age of 65. In this role, she reports directly to the ODVA Director, serves as the liaison to state agencies and community groups serving aging Oregonians, and works closely with legislators who oversee Human Services issues. Mary also oversees the mission, contracts, and \$75 million operations budgets for Oregon's two State Veteran Nursing Homes in The Dalles and Lebanon, Oregon—as well as the Conservatorship Program which manages funds for almost 400 veterans.
- **Presentation of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Veterans Pins:** At the meeting, **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)** presented the veterans pins to all those Vietnam veterans who had not received them at the April meeting and to three Surviving Spouses of Vietnam veterans.
- **Legislative Committee:** CAPT Larry Roberts encouraged the membership to read the legislative information in the monthly *MOAA Military Officer Magazine* and his column in the *June 2016 Brass Bulletin Chapter Newsletter*.
- **Surviving Spouse.** Mrs. Jean Hillman stated that the next Surviving Spouse Luncheon will be on **Tuesday, 14 June 2016 at 1200 noon at Albertina's**. Cost is \$24 which includes gratuity; surviving spouse members and wives are cordially invited to attend. For reservations to attend, call or send an email to Carol Patrick. Diapers and wipes donations for use by Operation Homefront can be brought to this luncheon or the Chapter dinner or brunch meetings. Old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program can also be brought to these meetings; or give them to **President Mayer**.
- **Personal Affairs Committee:** **President Mayer** reported that no deaths had been reported since the April meeting. However, **CDR Ben Tabler, USN (Ret)**, a former Chapter Treasurer, will be undergoing open heart surgery on 17 May 2016 at Providence-St. Vincent Hospital. Please keep him and his wife Barbara in your thoughts and prayers. Jean Hillman sent him a card on behalf of the chapter! Members were asked to let President Mayer know of any deaths—or any chapter members who are sick or having surgery--so she can engage the Personal Affairs Committee
- The morning's **Raffle** for four bottles of wine conducted by **CAPT Larry Roberts** collected **\$310**; he thanked the members for their contributions. **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)**, presented the humorous **Joke** involving a boy telling his dad what his Sunday school teacher had told the class.
- In her closing remarks, **President Mayer** thanked guest speaker, **Mrs. Mary Jaeger**, and her husband **Jerry Walker**; the members who came to support the chapter; **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for bringing the May baskets on the tables; and the staff of Monarch Hotel for the wonderful meal and service.
- **Next Meeting:** Dinner on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Guest Speaker will be **Major General Richard C. (Buck) Marr, USAF (Ret)**, a MOAA National Board of Directors member and chair of the Government Relations Committee. His Topic will be "MOAA Legislative and Programmatic Initiatives Taken on Behalf of the Membership." He will also install the new officers. Reservations must be made by **1100 on Wednesday, 4 May 2016** to **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)**, our Chapter Reservations Secretary.
- **Next Brass Bulletin Newsletter.** The next newsletter will be the **June 2016** edition and will come out in **mid-May 2016**. Inputs for the **June** Newsletter are due **9 May 2016** at midnight. The *Brass Bulletin* will take a hiatus in July and August. The next newsletter will be the **September 2016** edition and will come out in **early August 2016**. Inputs for the **September 2016** newsletter are due **6 August 2016** at midnight.
- The meeting was **adjourned at 1210**.