



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

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

Volume XXXII, Numbers 7 & 8

www.MOAAPortland.org

April & May 2016

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 April 2016

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, OR 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

Col Paul Fitzgerald, USAF, Commander, 142nd Fighter Wing, will speak on "The Mission of the 142nd Fighter Wing at the Portland Air National Guard Base."

MENU:

Spinach Salad with Huckleberry Vinaigrette
Roasted Pork Loin Finished with Apple Demi-Glace
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Rolls with Butter
Harvest Carrot Cake
Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST: \$26.00 per person (includes 20% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: Contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret) NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 30 March 2016**. See Dave's contact information and more info at the **bottom of the second column on this page**.

IN MEMORIAM:

May They Rest in Peace!

**CAPT Roy E. Dash, USCG (Ret)
Chapter President 1994-1996**

COL Richard E. Nichol, AUS (Ret)

Mrs. Betty Harris, Surviving Spouse Member

MAY CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 7 May 2016

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

Mrs. Mary Jaeger, Aging Veterans' Services Director at ODVA, will speak on "Programs and Services Available for Aging Vets in Oregon."

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Cheese
Breakfast Potatoes
Grilled Bacon and Sausage
French Toast Served with Maple Syrup, Strawberries, and Whipped Cream
Caesar Salad with Garlic Croutons
Broccoli Salad with Light Mayo Dressing
Market Pasta Salad
Assorted Chilled Fruit Juices
Coffee, Tea, Decaf Coffee, and Milk

COST: \$21.00 per person (includes 20% gratuity)

Please make checks payable to PDX-MOAA.

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR Dave Bredemann, USN (Ret)** at **503-974-9335** or dbredemann@comcast.net or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 4 May 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 APRIL & MAY MEETINGS: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the Operation Homefront Back-to-School Backpacks Project. And, please continue to bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes for **Operation Homefront**--and old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

Thanks to the Programs Committee, under the leadership of **Larry Roberts**, we have had an exceptional range of guest speakers thus far this program year. And, the last three months are no exception.

Speakers: On 5 April, **Col Paul T. Fitzgerald**, the Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, OR, will speak to us 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.



Colonel Fitzgerald was commissioned in May of 1990 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Upon completion as distinguished graduate of Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1991 from Reese Air Force Base, Texas, he was assigned as a Civil Engineer at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Upon return to flying duties in 1994, he was the distinguished graduate from Fighter Lead in Training at Randolph Air Force Base,

Texas. He then completed initial F-15 training in 1995 as a distinguished graduate from Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. His first operational F-15 tour was at Kadena Air Base, Japan where he served for two years. In 1997 he was assigned to the 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, VA where he served as a Flight Commander, Mission Commander, and a Functional Check Pilot. Colonel Fitzgerald separated from active duty in January of 2000 and joined the Oregon Air National Guard where he has served as a Maintenance Squadron Commander, an Instructor Pilot, Chief of Wing Safety, and Chief of Scheduling.

In 2009, Colonel Fitzgerald was selected for the Air National Guard Internship Program where he served as a member of the Plans and Programs Directorate at the National Guard Bureau. He was responsible for the programmatic actions affecting all Air National Guard Air Superiority program elements affecting over 4,500 Air National Guard personnel. He managed the integration and execution of over \$2.8B in programmed funding into the Department of Defense Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution system across the Future Years Defense Program. Colonel Fitzgerald is a command pilot with over 2,200 flight hours in F-15 A-D fighter aircraft. He is a member of the National Guard Association of the United States and the Allied Pilots Association of American Airlines.

On 7 May, **Mrs. Mary Jaeger**, the Aging Veterans Services Director at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), will speak to us on "Programs and Services Available for Aging Veterans and Their Families in the State of Oregon." Mary has spent many years in this field, and she is a wealth of knowledge and information—an acknowledged expert.



For six years, Mary Jaeger was the ombudsman at the Oregon Office of Long-Term Care and has been a champion for older adults living in senior-care facilities.

On 7 June, we have asked **Major General Richard C “Buck” Marr, USAF (Ret)**, a MOAA National Board of Directors member and Chair of the Government Relations Committee, to speak to us on the “MOAA Legislative and Programmatic Initiatives Taken on Behalf of the Membership” and install the newly-elected chapter officers.



Award Submission: Just wanted to let you know that I submitted the chapter for the MOAA National Levels of Excellence Award on 24 February 2016. The chapter has won the highest “Five Star” level of this Award for eight years in a row—and we hope to make that nine. The Portland Chapter continues to show that it is one of the best in MOAA! I will keep you posted on the results of the competition.

Need Your Help. First, **CAPT Sharon Sebbio, USN (Ret)**, the **Women in Service Rep** on the Chapter Board of Directors, has indicated she would like to step down at the end of the year. I need a chapter military woman to come forward to volunteer to fill this critical position.

Second, I need your help in **recruiting new members** for the MOAA Portland Chapter. We all know individuals who are eligible for chapter membership, and I challenge each of you to bring in at least one new member this year! Start by bringing them to chapter meetings so they can get to know us!

Advisory Committee: I have now completed my term on the ODVA Advisory Committee, and it was the experience of a lifetime and a labor of love working to improve the lives of veterans in the state of Oregon. It was an honor to have the ODVA Director and new Portland Chapter member, **Cameron Smith**, present me with a letter of appreciation and a special gift from Governor Kate Brown in front of my wonderful Portland Chapter colleagues (*see picture below*).



For your information, as of March 2016, there are *five* vacancies on the Committee; I encourage you to consider “putting your hat in the ring” to serve on this important nine-member committee.

I am delighted that Cameron has asked me to continue to serve my fellow veterans here in Oregon by being one of the initial three directors on the new Oregon Veterans Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) that will allow individuals to give tax-free donations for veteran services, programs, and research which the ODVA budget and other sources have not been able to finance.

Lottery Initiative: There is some very good news out of the Oregon Short Legislative Session! House Joint Resolution 202 EN was passed unanimously by the House and the Senate. It proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to require **1.5 percent** of lottery revenues to be expended for the benefit of veterans. ***Oregonians will vote on this proposal as a ballot measure in November 2016.*** Some of you will remember that **Oregon Representative Julie Parrish** was collecting signatures to put an initiative on the ballot for 5% of the lottery to be spent on veterans. Since the 1.5% initiative passed, Julie is withdrawing

her proposal so as to take advantage of that which was blessed by the legislature, the 1.5% solution.

A member of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management, Julie will speak to our chapter in September 2016 on “Veterans Issues and Legislation in Oregon.”

Hope to see you all at the April meeting! We will be **honoring our Vietnam War veterans** with a very special presentation—come and celebrate with your colleagues.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

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

Cameron Smith, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and his wife **Linh Trieu**

LTC Joseph B. Evans, USA (Ret) and his wife **Mary**

The Chapter needs to bring in new members! The Membership Committee members cannot do it alone; they need your help! It is the responsibility of each chapter member to educate your eligible friends and colleagues about the benefits of being a MOAA Portland Chapter member. Bring potential members with you to every meeting! And don’t forget to use our award-winning website and newsletter as recruiting tools, as well! So, I challenge all of you: Bring at least one guest to the next chapter dinner meeting on Tuesday, 5 April 2016 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon!

AN OPINION PIECE:

MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

COLA Update: Let’s start with fairly benign information, before we get to the gnarly subjects. The January CPI announcement was relatively favorable, in that the CPI did not plummet; in fact, it made a minuscule advance. Year to date the CPI is down 1.4%, whereas last year at the same time it had declined about 2.5%. Still weighing on the CPI are energy prices, although oil seems to have hit a bottom and rebounded modestly. You can almost judge the direction of overall prices by watching gasoline prices, which are fairly mirrored by natural gas prices.

It appears that wages are rising in the 2%-2.5% range and should continue to improve, which helps the specific CPI index used in computing cost of living adjustments.

With 8 months of data still to be received, there is a reasonable chance that there could be a modest COLA increase in 2017. All bets are off, however, if energy prices roll over and slide into the \$20s again, as they did the early part of this year.

The February CPI report will be issued March 16th. We will update you in the next *Brass Bulletin*.

Fiscal Year Budget Proposals Affecting Tricare for Life (TFL): DOD and the Administration continue to propose onerous, almost preposterous, changes to TFL, but MOAA is already on the job. You will find in the most recent edition of *Military Officer Magazine* post cards for you and your spouse (if you have a spouse) to sign and mail to your Congressman/woman and both Senators. Please sign and mail. Ours are already in the mail, with a hand written P.S. at the bottom.

The budget proposal introduces ENROLLMENT FEES for TFL participants starting in January 2017 for new enrollees. While relatively small the first year at 0.5% of gross retired pay, capped at \$150, the fee increases annually to 2.0% in 2012, capped at \$632 per couple. You can see where this is going. Expect substantial increases and expanded caps!

MOAA correctly points out that this is the first instance of means testing, and that no other employer means tests retirees for health benefits. Also, this proposal adversely affects those military personnel who are successful and have a long career, as their costs will be higher due to their success.

MOAA points out that the proposals are nonsense since TFL incurred costs have DECLINED DRAMATICALLY from \$11 billion to an expected \$6.4 billion in fiscal 2017.

Further, retirees under age 65 are proposed to experience a big enrollment fee increase in 2017 rising for Tricare Prime from \$283/565 individual/couple today to \$350/700. Stick it to the military seems to be an annual effort!

Oregon Leads the Way -- Special Interests Pummel the Legislature: As this article is being written, the Oregon legislature is days away from concluding a 35 day session in which a bill of huge significance is being pushed through affecting each of us in ways we have yet to see assessed and considered. House Bill 4036, which has morphed into SB 1547, proposes to dramatically change the way electricity is generated and used by Oregon businesses and consumers. It is titled the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan, and was created in secret by the two major Oregon utilities and a clutch of environmental/green groups. The bill requires utilities to gradually stop selling electricity generated by coal burning plants, and to require that half of all the electricity they sell be generated by renewable resources by 2040.

There are several problems with the bill:

- No one has studied or knows whether or not the plan is technically feasible
- No one knows how much implementing the plan may or will cost

- No one knows whether or not this will adversely affect the power distribution grid
- There are not even estimates as to how the bill will affect electricity prices
- The Public Utilities Commission, which is charged with protecting the public, had not even seen the plan prior to its publication, and was muffled by the Governor in making comments on it.

Republicans in the legislature are completely outnumbered by the Democrats, but have been effective in at least slowing progress on the bill, but they may get rolled at the last minute.

Even *The Oregonian* has weighed in against passage of the bill in a short session, writing editorially "[Oregon Senate President] Courtney and his colleagues know perfectly well that this bill is an affront both to government transparency and the ostensible purpose of short sessions....Courtney must be appalled. If so, he should do the right thing and put [the bill] on a high shelf."

In a previous article, *The Oregonian* said that the bill was "a sweet deal for the utilities, bad for consumers and ineffective for the environment."

Public Utilities Commissioner John Savage summed up his assessment as "This bill is absolute crap, a shell game that will result in no actual emissions reductions and higher rates for Oregon customers."

Chairwoman of the PUC, Susan Ackerman, echoed Savage's commentary, saying "the ban on coal-produced electricity will raise customer rates and not actually reduce the amount of carbon emitted." She called the plan "an accounting scheme."

What bothered me about this bill, other than its ultimate impact on the economy, is that it was created in secret, without the input of major stakeholders such as consumer-owned utilities and industrial users (think Intel), with the active behind the scenes support of the Governor, and was not allowed an appropriate amount of time for consideration by the people who ostensibly work for us, our legislators.

So not all of my ire is aimed at Congress and the Administration. There is plenty of funny business going on in our own state!

Some Interesting Good News on the Military Front: The Tomahawk Missile, a mainstay in our arsenal since the Gulf Wars, and a weapon that has continuously evolved and added capabilities, is now being modified for use as an anti-ship weapon. It will commence testing in 2021 and be installed first on surface ships and then on submarines, giving our ships a long range, programmable in flight anti-ship capability.

In addition, the current SM-6 missile defense weapon is being modified to add an anti-ship capability.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

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

Eight ladies were present for our February Valentine Luncheon at Albertina's Kitchen. As usual, a very enjoyable, talkative time. A **Surviving Spouse pin** was presented to **Renate Jordan**.

The subject of our discussion was "**Surviving Spouse Grassroots Involvement in Legislative Issues.**" A list of Oregon Representatives, their phone numbers, and a map of their districts was given to each. Our Senators were also listed. A reminder was given to sign, date, and mail advocacy post cards when included in our *Military Officer Magazine*.

Our next luncheon will be held on **April 19, 2016, Tuesday, 12:00 noon, 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. - 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be served at **12:00 noon.** We will be served the **Heritage**

Menu. The cost is **\$24.00**, which includes the gratuity.

If you have dietary restrictions, please call Albertina Kerr's Restaurant two days before the luncheon at **503-231-0126**; they are more than happy to work with you on a viable menu.

Please call or e-mail **Carol Patrick** if you plan to attend at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**
Wives are cordially invited to attend.

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

Our spring has arrived, **ENJOY!**

CHAPTER FUNDRAISING FOR OPERATION HOMEFRONT!

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

The Chapter has embarked on an effort to fund the purchase of backpacks for the children of military personnel in the Portland Metropolitan Area when they return to school in September of this year. Individuals in the chapter have also volunteered to make pick-ups of supplies from local stores, including Dollar Tree Stores, with the supplies used to fill the backpacks.

Operation Homefront (OH) is a nationwide 501 (c) (3) charitable organization supporting primarily military families of E1 -E6 rank. Our Surviving Spouse organization (previously the Auxiliary) has supported Operation Homefront for many years, and suggested that the Chapter get involved with the organization after we completed our last charitable fundraising effort last fall.

Of interest, and a fact discovered after the Chapter Board of Directors selected Operation Homefront, MOAA National has a collaborative relationship with OH. MOAA coordinates and supports certain OH spouse programs, and publicizes the OH Military Child of the Year Award Program on the MOAA web site.

In light of the recent national adverse publicity surrounding the spending practices of the Wounded

Warriors Project, I undertook to check into the operating practices of Operation Homefront.

The nonprofit organization Charity Navigator gathers information from IRS filings on thousands of charitable entities. They assign "star" rankings, much like Morningstar does for mutual funds, and also publish certain metrics and information on the business practices of the entities.

You will be pleased to know that Operation Homefront was rated four stars on both financial metrics and Accountability and Transparency. In contrast, Wounded Warriors was rated 2 stars for financial attributes, 4 stars for Accountability, and 3 stars overall.

You might be interested to know that the American Red Cross had the same star ratings as the Wounded Warriors.

Probably most importantly, Operation Homefront spent 92.3% of its funds on program expenses. American Red Cross was close behind at 90.3%, and the Wounded Warriors lagged very badly at 59.9%.

I think the Board selected a worthy beneficiary of our charitable giving.

We are meeting our Operation Homefront commitment principally through wine raffles at membership meetings. If any members would like to contribute but do not attend our meetings, please write a check of any amount to "Operation Homefront" and mail it to me: **Larry Roberts, 3490 Cascade Terrace, West Linn, OR 97068**. We will collect and forward contributions to Operation Homefront through our Treasurer, **LTC Myrna Trull, USA (Ret)**. We have selected an excellent beneficiary and will support it monetarily and through volunteer time.

Portland Chapter Board of Directors

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 E. 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

Service Representatives

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

Lt Col Lynn Guenther: 541-354-1771

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Marine Corps Rep

LtCol Herb Richardson: 503-691-6711

Coast Guard Rep

CDR Ron Youngman: 503-439-3014

USPHS

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

Note: More contact info on Chapter Officers, Service Representatives, 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
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MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

April 5, 2016	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker and Officer Nominations (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
May 5, 2016	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</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)
July and August 2016	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meetings</i>
August 4, 2016	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Center)</i>
September 6, 2016	Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
October 1, 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 0930—and ***are open to all members!*** Location is indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the ***June 2016 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **9 May 2016**.