



**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 9

www.MOAAPortland.org

June 2016

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

The MOAA Portland Chapter can be very proud of its accomplishments this year. We won the **MOAA National Five Star Levels of Excellence Award** for the eighth consecutive year. We pledged \$2,250 and donated \$1,180 to the **Operation Homefront - Pacific Northwest** for the purchase of 450 backpacks for Portland Metropolitan Area school children for the 2016 back-to-school period. We will provide \$500 each to the **Oregon City High School JROTC** and **Reynolds High School JROTC**. We provided ROTC scholarships of \$500 each for the AFROTC cadet and AROTC cadet who won the MOAA National Awards for Outstanding Leadership at the University of Portland. We gave a set of Gold Bars to each of 37 commissioning AFROTC and AROTC cadets at the University of Portland. Our members continue to donate to the **MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund**, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Our chapter leadership helped plan and execute the Oregon Military Community Workshop with Oregon State University personnel to brainstorm solutions to the unique issues experienced by military families and veterans in Oregon and conducted the MOAA Oregon State Convention. We have heard from a variety of diverse, interesting, and educational guest speakers at our brunch and dinner meetings. We welcomed *eight* new members to the chapter. The Surviving Spouse and chapter members continue to support Operation Homefront through donating diapers

(continued on page 2)

Reminder:

**The MOAA Portland Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, 26 May 2016
0845: Breakfast; 0930-1200: Business Meeting
Colwood Golf Center**

JUNE CHAPTER DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, 7 June 2016

Social: 1700, Dinner: 1830

The Monarch Hotel

12566 SE 93rd Avenue

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-9760

Phone: (503) 652-1515

PROGRAM:

Major General Richard C. (Buck) Marr, USAF (Ret), MOAA Board of Directors member and Chair, Government Relations Committee, will speak on "**MOAA Legislative and Programmatic Initiatives Taken on Behalf of the Membership**" and will install the 2016-2018 Chapter Officers.

MENU:

Northwest Salad

Beef Bourguignon

Potatoes Au Gratin

Sautéed Green Beans

Rolls and Butter

Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST: \$26.00 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 on-line at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 1 June 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 THE JUNE MEETING: 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 wipe for **Operation Homefront**—and donate your old cell phones for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM (continued)

and wipes—and by providing old cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program which has ensured pre-paid phone cards are distributed to our local Air National Guard troops so they can keep in touch with their families while deployed.

Many thanks to my fellow officers, board members, and committee chairs for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of our chapter programs this year! Also, I wish to express my deep appreciation to those officers who have elected to continue serving for the next two years and welcome **LTC Jim Asaph, USA (Ret)** to his new position as Second Vice President and Membership Chair. A special thanks to **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)** for continuing to serve on the board in his new position as director-at-large—and to **LTC Gary Battles, USAR (Ret)** for volunteering to serve as our chapter “advocate” – ensuring that our members are kept up-to-date on state veterans’ legislative initiatives and that our members’ voices are heard in Salem.

Deeply honored by your vote of confidence in my leadership, I look forward to continuing to serve as your chapter president for the next two years and leading our dynamic and innovative chapter leadership team. However, “many hands make light work,” and I would like to see more members “step forward” to help on our various committees.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or **310-897-1902** (cell). Never stop serving!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

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

Captain Rick Pasha Horiuchi, USAF (Ret)

Ms. Karyn Dix
Voices for America's Troops Member

To continue to be awarded the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award, we need to have a balanced budget and a healthy membership base.

Status of Membership Dues: All budget items are on track, except membership dues for 2016. Out of **145** regular members, **129** have now 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. As is required by the Chapter Bylaws, the Treasurer sent out invoices to all those who had not paid their dues in February and March 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: Members are the lifeblood of any organization, and our chapter is no exception. We need your help 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!

The Membership Committee needs your help to ensure that members pay their annual dues on time and recruit new members to the Chapter. Our Chapter President has a goal of 40 new members for this year. So, I continue to challenge all of you: Bring at least one guest to the next chapter brunch meeting on **Tuesday, 7 June 2016** at the **Monarch Hotel**. If you have any questions, please call me at **503-702-3812**.

**AN OPINION PIECE:
MY TAKE ON LEGISLATION,
REGULATION, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS**

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Noted Without Comment: (1) The Obama administration will be the first in modern times to have presided over two terms in which not a single year met or exceeded 3% growth. Indeed, the economy notched just a meager 0.5% growth rate in the first calendar quarter of 2016, narrowly missing a decline and falling from a very modest Q4 2015 growth rate of 1.4%. If it were not for housing, which was up 19%, and state and local government spending, up 13%, GDP in the quarter would have been negative. (2) Over almost two terms of the Administration, participation in the Food Stamp program has risen from 33 million to 46 million, an increase of 40% even while the unemployment rate has ostensibly dropped precipitately. (3) The ACA, or ObamaCare, has failed in almost every metric: Enrollment is dramatically under projections (as much as 50%), and the quality of enrollees has been disappointing--leading to insurers dropping out to stem massive losses. Rates are escalating in many parts of the country, including Oregon, where requested rate increases average 25% and top out at an astounding 32% for Moda Health and Oregon Health Co-op. Oregon's seventh largest health insurers lost an unfathomable \$171 million in 2015. Consumer choice is diminishing, exemplified by Alaska, which will have just one vendor in 2017. The program remains unpopular, to the extent that candidate Hillary Clinton vows that she will seek to dismantle parts of the law, including the Cadillac Tax despised by unions. (4) By the time President Obama leaves office in January 2017, the national debt will have roughly doubled to \$20 TRILLION! Whew!

COLA and the CPI: The probability that there will be a COLA in 2017 is improving modestly year to date, but moving the right way. Through March 2016, the CPI was down 0.9%, an improvement from the February figure of 1.2%. With 6 months until the end of the fiscal year and with signs of increasing inflation, it is not unreasonable to forecast a modest COLA increase. We will continue to monitor monthly CPI data and report to you. As has been the case for the last 18 months, the major variables are energy and wages.

"America's Coming Tax Increase:" The above headline is from an OpEd in the *Wall Street Journal* by Edward Lazear, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to the President 2006-2009 and is now a Stanford Business School professor and a fellow at the Hoover Institution.

While Republican candidate Trump avers that he will both cut taxes and reduce the deficit, and Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders unabashedly favor dramatically higher taxes and higher spending, Lazear says that the likelihood is that spending will remain out of control no matter which party is in power, and that the seeds are already sown that will necessitate higher taxes.

Under current law, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) (the same folks that got Obamacare data projections dramatically wrong) project that the deficit will grow to 4% of GDP in 6 years, and to 5% in 10 years. An earlier CBO report postulates that under "reasonable" political process assumptions, the national debt could double to an unimaginable \$20 TRILLION IN TWO DECADES!

He warns that a strong possibility is the instatement of a Value Added Tax, or VAT, which has been in place throughout Europe and all 34 countries in the OECD for decades. He cautions that a VAT hinders economic growth, grows over time, and, as a stealth tax, has numerous bad but stealthy effects.

If the country were able to reduce the "statist government" that has emerged recently, reduced regulations and get back to business, we could raise the GDP growth rate from the below average 2% rate in which we have been mired to the traditional 3.0%+. Good luck on that. So beware of incremental spending and beware of politicians pushing a VAT (such as Ted Cruz).

Crisis: Military Readiness in Question! Testimony before Congress regarding the fiscal 2017 defense budget has shown in sharp relief the ongoing impact on combat readiness of: budget cuts, related drawdowns in personnel levels, increasing demands around the world for American fighting forces, and 15 years of high intensity wars. Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley summed up the situation in his testimony, "The overall status of Army Combat Brigades to mobilize and deploy has dropped." Going further, he said, "Right now, the readiness of the United States Army, ALL COMPONENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY (emphasis added), is not at a level that is appropriate for what the American people would expect to defend them."

Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in his report after hearings said, "Each of our services remains undersized, unready, and underfunded to meet current and future threats." Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James testified "So half of our combat Air Forces are not sufficiently ready for that kind of high-end fight against one of those great powers." She continued, "So we are a much, much smaller Air Force. We have been downsizing for years, and our people are very stressed. This simply needs to stop." Is it any wonder that Putin moves with impunity against a feckless President and a weakened opponent? Or that China builds bases on islands in international waters without fear of consequences? There is much more to this story, but I have too little space and too little time.

Have you heard any mention of this crisis in Presidential debates, or on the national news broadcasts, or in the *New York Times*, et al? Our enemies know what we do not, and that heightens our risks as a nation.

Who or what is to blame? Basically everyone from Congress, the Administration, the President in particular, and senior management in the Department of Defense. I am generally impressed by current Secretary of Defense Ash Carter who seems to have a spine and is having an effect, albeit an effect weakened by the White House living in its alternative universe. More to come on this subject, I promise.

REPORT ON MOAA'S STORMING THE HILL IN 2016

By Brigadier General Dennis C. Merrill, USA (Ret), MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters President

During the week of 11 April, I attended MOAA's Council and Chapter Presidents' Seminar in Alexandria, VA. The primary purpose of this conference was for the attendees to participate in MOAA's annual "Storming the Hill" event. On 13 April, MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents, board members, and staff visited the offices of the 50 state delegations to discuss legislative issues of importance to service members, veterans, and retirees.

Two primary issues were highlighted: MOAA's opposition to disproportional TRICARE fee hikes and fixing the SBP-DIC offset or Widow's Tax. Information brochures for these issues are posted on the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters website at <http://moaaoregon.com> under "Documents." You really must read these brochures—they provide an outstanding discussion of the issues.

During the visitations, I was accompanied by **Brigadier General Dave Price, USAF (Ret)**, member of the MOAA National Board of Directors and the Central Oregon Chapter, as well as **Ms. Rita Owens** and **Ms. Nerissa Custer**, both members of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee—all native Oregonians.

We visited the offices of each member of the Oregon delegation. We were able to meet personally with Congressman Walden, Congresswoman Bonamici, and Congressman Blumenauer. In all other instances, we met with the member's legislative counsel and/or assistant.

In all, the entire Oregon delegation was very supportive of the two issues. In particular, they all agreed something needed to be done to address the Widow's Tax (SBP-DIC). Everyone we met with was very appreciative of our efforts and recognized the great work of MOAA overall.

According to **Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)**, the new MOAA President and CEO, the storming effort provided a huge boost to MOAA's legislative agenda; there has been a 16% overall increase in co-sponsorship of the SBP-DIC bills—with more co-sponsors likely to step forward in the next few weeks.

MOAA is a premier advocacy organization, and your membership truly makes a difference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at dcmerrell@ykw.net

**AGING AND DISABILITY
RESOURCE CONNECTION
(ADRC) OF OREGON: A
RESOURCE FOR SENIORS AND
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
*By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF
(Ret), Personal Affairs Committee*

During her presentation at the 7 May 2016 meeting, our guest speaker Mrs. **Mary Jaeger**, the Aging Veterans' Services Director at ODVA, mentioned the **Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) of Oregon** as a viable tool to "get connected to local information and services for seniors and people with disabilities."

The ADRC can help you and your family find needed services and supports, including: (1) Family Caregiver Support; (2) Legal Assistance Programs; (3) Meals and Nutrition Services; (4) In-Home Care; (5) Alzheimer's and Dementia Resources; and (6) more! The ADRC staff are

available to help you explore your options.

Check out the ADRC website at <https://adrcforegon.org/consite/index.php> or call them at 1-855-673-2372.



Chapter President Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) (left) welcomes guest speaker Mary Jaeger and her husband Jerry Walker to the chapter brunch meeting on 7 May 2016 at the Monarch Hotel

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

A joyful luncheon, as usual! There were eleven ladies in attendance at our April 19th luncheon at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant. A report was given on health issues of those unable to attend, and a discussion ensued that it was definitely worthwhile for the Surviving Spouses and others to send in the letters and postcards found in the *Military Officer Magazine*. Many of the ladies in attendance have received a letter from Representative Suzanne Bonamici (and others) after sending in their postcards—telling them she had received their correspondence and detailing her position on the topic in question.

The highlight of our luncheon was the celebration of two birthdays for **Marjory Fischer** and **Pat Lightfoot**. Being tactful, we would normally not list the ages of

our ladies, but, with one, we must. **Marjory** was celebrating her **99th birthday!!** We are so blessed that she can attend our luncheons—thanks to her daughter, Meredith.

The date of our next luncheon is: **Tuesday, June 14, 2016** in the **Private Dining Room at Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland 97232. Our meal, which is the **Heritage Menu**, is served at **12:00 noon**. The cost is **\$24.00**, which includes the gratuity.

The dining room is open from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. You may have tea, coffee, or water if you like. If you have dietary restrictions, please call Albertina Kerr's Restaurant at **503-231-0126** two days before the luncheon. They are more than happy to work with you on a viable menu.

If you plan to attend, please contact **Carol Patrick** at **503-654-1511** or **jymbo@earthlink.net**. **Wives** are cordially invited to attend.

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

**UPDATE ON EMPLOYER
SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND
RESERVE (ESGR)
By COL Bob Windus, USAR (Ret)**

On Wednesday, 30 March 2016 ESGR, in partnership with the 142nd Fighter Wing, hosted this year's Employer Appreciation Day at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Approximately 125 employers spent the entire day with employees who are also currently serving Reservist and National Guard members. The day started at 0700 with registration and breakfast. This was

followed by a short ESGR brief by State ESGR Staff, and an introduction and review of ORANG activities and missions by the 142nd Wing Commander. The group was then divided up by chalks for aerial tours and base tours. Two KC-135s from Fairchild AFB in Spokane, and one CH-47F from Pendleton were on site to conduct the aerial tours. Each flight lasted approximately 2 hours. Those flying in the morning session rotated to base tours in the afternoon, and vice versa. As an example, the KC-135s launched right after the 142nd F-15Cs took off. The KC-135s and F-15s then coordinated aerial refueling over the Oregon Coast following intercept and aerial combat exercises over the Pacific. Once completed, the KC-135s then flew around Mt. St. Helens for photographs. Base tours included aircraft maintenance, jet engine repair/maintenance, chemo/bio and nuclear response team brief, and a static F-15C and emergency operations mobile EOC display.

On 4-6 April 2016, the Oregon State ESGR Committee held their Annual Planning Conference at Mt. Bachelor Village Conference Center and Resort in Bend, Oregon. The new State Chairman, MG Dennis Klein, USA (Ret), was introduced to the membership. He will replace BG Norm Hoffman, USA (Ret) who will conclude his term in October. The annual volunteer awards banquet was held on Monday, 4 April 2016. This was followed by an awards banquet for Oregon Employers being recognized with National ESGR/DOD awards for their continued support of military service members in Oregon. Maj General Michael E. Stencel, USAF, the Adjutant General (TAG) for Oregon, presented these awards. Briefings from the TAG's staff and other military units were provided to the ESGR Committee. The conference was very successful.

One item of note is the decision by the National Chamber of Commerce to no longer support and conduct large regional Jobs Fairs. This task is being pushed down to the State ESGR Organizations, DOL, and state labor departments. It is anticipated that future Jobs Fairs will be smaller in scale and more directly focused on the needs of those seeking employment. Current job statistics indicate that there are more jobs available than there are applicants. One problem continuing to be seen within the military is the number of service members who do not seek employment following deployments. Benefits, education, and no

real desire to find immediate work tend to keep the numbers of job seekers down.

ELECTED 2016-2018 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Congratulations to the following retired chapter members who were elected as Chapter Officers on 7 May 2016 and will be installed on 7 June 2016 by **Major General Richard C. (Buck) Marr, USAF (Ret)**, member of the MOAA National Board of Directors:

President:

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF

First Vice President:

CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR

Second Vice President:

LTC James Asaph, USA

Correspondence Secretary:

LTC George Peters, USA

Recording Secretary:

LTC Roy Raat, USA

Reservations Secretary:

CDR David Bredemann, USN

Treasurer:

LTC Myrna Trull, USA

Immediate Past President:

LTC Gary Brink, USA

2016-2018 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

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)

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

PORTLAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

CAPT Tony Sebbio, USN (Ret)

Membership: LTC James W. Asaph, USA (Ret)

CDR Robert Ervin, USN (Ret)

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

LTC Gary D. Battles, USAR (Ret)

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

Communications: LTC William Kroger, USAR (Ret)

Surviving Spouse: Mrs. Genevieve (Jean) Hillman

Decorations: Mrs. Edie Rieken

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

Special Events: MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

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

COL Robert L. Windus, USA (Ret)

Chaplain: LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)

Lt Col James Warnock, USAF (Ret)

Note: More contact information on Chapter Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs may be found on the chapter website, www.moaaportland.org

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

<i>July and August 2016</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meetings</i>
<i>August 18, 2016</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>September 6, 2016</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>October 1, 2016</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)</i>
<i>November 3, 2016</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
<i>November 5, 2016</i>	<i>Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)</i>
<i>December 6, 2016</i>	<i>Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)</i>
<i>January 2017</i>	<i>No scheduled chapter brunch or dinner meeting</i>

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 ***September 2016 Brass Bulletin Newsletter*** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at maryjmayer@yahoo.com by **6 August 2016**.