



**Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)
Brass Bulletin Newsletter**
"Never Stop Serving"

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

Volume XXXII, Number 3

www.MOAAPortland.org

November 2015

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

On Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 September 2015, I attended the **Oregon Military Community Workshop and Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention**, sponsored by the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters and Oregon State University in Corvallis. The event was a great success, and I am proud to report that there were 6 members from our chapter who attended.

On 29-31 October 2015, the **MOAA Annual Meeting** will be held in Orlando, FL! I will be attending to represent the MOAA Portland Chapter and receive the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award in the form of a streamer to place on our chapter flag at our November meeting. And, I will be bringing back the latest information on MOAA initiatives to keep you informed about what MOAA is doing for us every day.

Women veterans, save the date for the next **Oregon Women Veteran's Conference 2016!** This biennial event will again be sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and will be held from 0800-1600 on Friday and Saturday, 18 and 19 March 2016 at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. There is no cost for participation. Registration will begin in November 2015. More information on this conference can be obtained on: orwomenvets@odva.state.or.us

We need more involvement from chapter members across the board! Please "step up to the plate" and volunteer to serve as:

- **Air Force Representative:** We need a second Air Force Representative on the chapter board of directors.
- **Membership Committee Member**

Be part of a winning and dedicated team! Contact me via cell at 310-897-1902 or via email at maryjmayer@yahoo.com

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST
MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER MEMBER!**

CDR Alan M. Kellogg, USNR (Ret)

NOVEMBER CHAPTER BRUNCH MEETING:

Saturday, 7 November 2015

Social: 0900, Brunch: 1000

Century Room in Century Hotel

(Adjacent to Hayden's Lakefront Grill)

8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone: (503) 885-9292

PROGRAM:

MAJ Doug Thomas, USA, Senior Army Instructor for the Army JROTC at Oregon City High School, will speak on "**The JROTC Program.**"

MENU:

Scrambled Eggs with Green Chive and Tillamook Smoked Cheddar Cheese
Blintzes with Marionberry Topping
Home Fried Potatoes
Breakfast Sausage and Pepper Bacon
Fresh Fruit Bowl with Mint
Assortment of Muffins, Pastries, and Bagels with Cream Cheese and Assorted Juices
Stumptown Coffee, Numi Hot Tea, Milk

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

*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

RESERVATIONS: To make your reservations, please contact **CDR David Bredemann** at 503-974-9335 or dbredemann@comcast.net or online at our chapter website **NLT 1100 on Wednesday, 4 November 2015**. **No late reservations**, and please call if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows. (*Note: Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions.*)

DURING THE NOVEMBER MEETING: Raffle tickets are available for several bottles of fine wine to benefit the JROTC Programs at Oregon City High School and Reynolds High School. For **Operation Homefront**, please bring in packages of diapers and baby wipes. Finally, please donate your old cell phones to the **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program**.

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 3, 2015 BRUNCH MEETING

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret), Acting Recording Secretary

- 42 members and guests attended the brunch meeting at **Hayden's Lakefront Grill** on **3 October 2015**. Chapter President, **Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, called the meeting to order at **1000**.
- Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem, Chaplain **LTC Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)** gave the invocation.
- **President Mayer** made a few brief opening comments. She will represent the Chapter in Orlando at the MOAA Annual Meeting in late October. The Chapter will be honored with the presentation of the 2014 Five Star Levels of Excellence Award, along with the Oregon Council of Chapters, which she will also represent.
- **President Mayer** also reported on the Oregon Military Community Workshop and Biennial MOAA Oregon State Convention held from 25-26 September 2015 in Corvallis. Over a weekend, some 50 attendees brainstormed ideas related to the issues facing the Oregon Military Community--in areas including transitional education, mentorship, and recreation. The meeting was very successful, with the MOAA Portland Chapter being well represented with 6 attendees (**Jim Asaph, Roy and Susan Raat, Myrna Trull, Mary Mayer, and Jean Hillman.**)
- At the MOAA Convention portion of the meeting, the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters honored **Lt Col Thomas F. (Tom) Majchrowski,**

USAF (Ret) with the **KAY WYNN MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD** (*see picture below*) designed to recognize a chapter member who demonstrates the highest degree of volunteer service in support of the MOAA mission at the local, state, and national levels. Tom was especially lauded for his superb leadership as chair of the very successful MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Biennial Convention which took place in Bend in 2013.



- In addition, **Brig Gen David Price, USAF (Ret)**, MOAA National Board of Directors member, installed the MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters officers (*in the picture below*) for a two-year term: (*left to right*) **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, Secretary/Treasurer; **BG Dennis Merrill, USA (Ret)**, President; **CAPT John Stensland, USN (Ret)**, Second Vice President; and **Lt Col Richard Norton, USAF (Ret)**, First Vice President.



- **President Mayer** noted that the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at 0930 on Thursday, 5 November 2015 at Colwood Golf Course; the meeting is open to all.
- **President Mayer** noted that 2016 annual dues of \$25 are due 1 January 2016 and urged members to pay them now while they are thinking about it. She noted that Surviving Spouse members (renamed from Auxiliary members) are encouraged to pay dues, but are not required to do so.
- During his report, **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)**, Membership Chair, introduced prospective member **LTC Jeffrey D. Martuscelli, USA (Ret)**--and urged all members to seek out new members, the lifeblood of the chapter.
- After an excellent brunch, **President Mayer** introduced speaker **COL Joe Williams, USA (Ret)**, Chairman of the Board of the Portland USO, and a Director of the Pacific Northwest USO. The Portland USO at Portland International Airport opened in June 2014, 41 years after its predecessor in downtown Portland closed its doors. It has seen a steady increase in utilization, especially after obtaining signage at the airport three months ago. The initial goal was to serve 10,000 visitors annually, and it looks as if that goal will be exceeded in calendar 2016.
- The USO Center is located on the mezzanine level of the airport, above the shopping concourse and food court. It is open from 0500 to 2100 daily throughout the year. It serves military personnel, their families, veterans, and retirees. It provides a space to relax in comfort in between flights, use communications and computing facilities, catch a snack,

entertain children, and so on--all for no charge.

- The USO also engages in extensive outreach, participating and supporting deployments and return ceremonies, Fleet Week during the Rose Festival, Family Days, and World War II Honor Flights throughout the state. Joe estimated that such outreach touched 18,000 persons a year!
- Members may recall that the Chapter committed to raise \$2,500 to assist in the buildout of the USO facility. We exceeded that figure, eventually contributing over \$2,600 to the cause. We can rest assured that the contribution has made a difference to the thousands of individuals who have and will utilize the USO facility and have been touched by the USO outreach!
- **COL Williams** noted that the USO has 100 volunteers engaged today and has a goal of reaching 200 volunteers. He noted that "we can ALWAYS use more volunteers!"
- After his presentation, President Mayer thanked **COL Williams** and presented him with a thank you gift of wine. *(See picture below.)*



- **Committee Reports** then continued. Special Events Committee Chair, **MAJ. John Sampson, USA (Ret)**, reported that the Chapter will once again provide Second Lieutenant "Gold Bar" insignia to newly commissioned officers graduating from the University of Portland Air Force and Army ROTC programs in spring 2016.

- He also spoke about the Reynolds High School Annual Living History Day scheduled for all day on Friday, 6 November 2015. Registration forms are available from John.
- Legislative Committee Chair, **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**, noted that Tricare pharmacy companies had risen a huge 60% in the past 4 years. Moreover, the DOD-submitted budget for fiscal year 2016 calls for a potential tripling of co-pays in the next decade. Larry suggested letting your legislators know this is outrageous.
- **Mrs. Jean Hillman**, the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee Liaison, noted that the next Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 at noon at Albertina's. Members and wives of chapter members are cordially invited. Cost is \$24 per person, gratuity included. Call or email Carol Patrick. Jean also reminded the meeting that diaper donations for use by Operation Homefront can be made at all chapter membership meetings, and that old cell phones can be donated at the same meetings.
- **President Mayer** asked that members inform her of any deaths or medical issues among the members or spouses and surviving spouses. She noted that no deaths had been reported in the last month.
- **Raffle**: Proceeds from the wine raffle came to **\$310** and will be provided to the Portland USO to support its support of the Honor Flight Program. Captain Roberts pressed his continued appreciation for the generous support provided by chapter members to our various beneficiaries.

- **Closing Remarks**: President Mayer thanked guest speaker, **COL Williams; Mrs. Jean Hillman, Mrs. Pat Bredemann, and Jim Dixon** for the lovely centerpieces; all those who came out; and the staff of the Hayden's Lakefront Grill for the outstanding food and service. The next meeting will be a brunch on Saturday, 7 November 2015 at Hayden's.
- The meeting was adjourned at **1200 noon**.

AN OPINION PIECE: MY COMMENTARY ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

***By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)
Legislative Committee Chair***

Where do our Senators and Representatives Stand? The most recent edition of the *MOAA Military Officer Magazine* has a compilation of Congressional measures of great interest to MOAA members on whether or not our legislators in Washington are sponsors or co-sponsors of these bills.

MOAA has identified six bills addressing Survivor Benefit Plans, Concurrent Receipt, Caregiver Expansion, Veteran Status, Female VA Access, and Military Spouse Employment.

Each of these areas has bills filed in both the Senate and the House. Three pieces of legislation are sponsored by Democrats in both houses, one is sponsored by Republicans, and two are split with Democrats in one house and Republicans in the second legislature.

Senator Merkley is completely absent as a co-sponsor of any bill. Senator Wyden, who is often described as a friend of veterans, is a co-sponsor of the bills addressing concurrent receipt and veteran status of reserve retirees--who are not classified as veterans (how can that be possible?). My Representative, Kurt Schrader, manages one co-sponsorship, that of concurrent receipt. So, out of a total possibility of 18 co-sponsors, my representatives are present in only three, a 17% hit rate.

You can ascertain the position of your own Representative by looking on *page 35* of the October 2015 edition of the magazine.

I will follow these bills to see what votes are cast, if they ever come to the floor.

Please keep in mind this evident lack of interest when you next cast a ballot or come into contact with your elected representatives.

COLA WATCH: It looks more and more as if there will be no Cost of Living adjustment in 2016. The August CPI figure declined 0.2%, bringing the year to date number to a 0.3% decline. You can blame the August figure primarily. On energy costs, which you probably can ascertain solely through purchasing fuel for your vehicle.

Since energy prices have not rebounded thus far in September, as this is being written, we should expect another negative report for the final month of the fiscal year. The best case current scenario is that there will be a modest negative CPI of, say .0.5% for the year, which needs to be made up in fiscal 2016 before we can contemplate an upward COLA in calendar 2017.

142nd Fighter Wing Base Tours: The 142nd Fighter Wing offers base tours covering the base, their aircraft, and functions on approximately a quarterly basis. One has an opportunity to get up close and personal with an F-15, see the maintenance facilities, get a briefing by an active pilot, and tour the base. It is a very interesting opportunity, if you are an outdated submariner like me. You will also be impressed with the quality and professionalism of the personnel with whom you come in contact.

Tours take approximately 2 1/2 hours, from 0830-1100.

Tour dates in the relatively near future are 12/3, 2/11, 4/28 and 6/16.

You can make arrangements yourself or indicate your interest to me and I will compile a list. The base needs full name, date of birth, and driver's license number. Make sure that you have your car registration and proof of insurance when you arrive at the base.

PAO contact is **MSGT Shelly Davison, USAF** at **503-335-4347** (direct line) or **shelly.davison@ang.af.mil** Shelly answers to "Shelly," as well as "Master Sergeant."

USO: The Portland USO has been in operation for just 15 months, and it is an increasingly busy place, both at the airport and through numerous outreach programs. The original business plan called for serving 10,000 visitors annually, a number they will surpass handily in 2016. Traffic at the airport rose almost 60% this summer when they finally got some signage at the airport.

Additionally, the USO touches as many as 18,000 individuals through its outreach programs. These include supporting departing and returning World War II Honor Flights, attending deployment and returning ceremonies, Family Days, and setting up shop to support the crews during the Rose Festival Fleet Week.

Operating the USO requires lots of volunteers. Currently they have 100 plus active volunteers, and they are ramping to 200. If any of our members have an interest in becoming a volunteer, contact Christine Vu, PDX USO manager at 503-928-2738 or email **pdxmanager@usonw.org**.

If you have any questions, please contact me at **503-722-1897** (home phone), **650-346-1586** (cell), or **Rocketlarry@icloud.com**

NEED SOME MEMBERS' HELP!

The following members need to send their correct email address to the Chapter Newsletter Editor at maryjmayer@yahoo.com

COL Brian J. James, USA

LTC Nathan R. Keith, USA

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS TO PAY
2016 ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES
AND BRING IN YOUR LEFTOVER
HALLOWEEN CANDY!**

**By LTC Myrna K. Trull, USA (Ret),
Treasurer**

Wow, what great fall weather we're having! This is my favorite time of year in the PNW! With another month coming to an end, we are closing in on December, the month our **2016 chapter annual dues** of **\$25.00** are due. There are several ways you can pay: in cash or check at a meeting, mailing a check to our post office box, having your bank mail us a check, or you can have your bank send your dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT must be scheduled with your bank. If you wish to do this, please call me at **503-644-7353** for the necessary routing information.

It is critical that we have your correct contact information for our MOAA Portland Chapter Membership Roster. If you change your address, telephone number, or email address, please do the following: email the changes to Chapter President and Newsletter Editor, Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret) at maryjmayer@yahoo.com and to me at mtrull1@earthlink.net. Doing so is greatly appreciated! Having up-to-date information keeps our chapter roster accurate, keeps your newsletter arriving in a timely manner, and keeps Col Mayer and me very happy!

Also, when you come to our 7 November 2015 MOAA Portland Chapter Brunch Meeting--along with your check/cash for your meal, raffle tickets, and/or dues--please bring your **leftover Halloween candy**. *I collect Halloween candy and send it to our deployed troops!*

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Mrs. Jean Hillman, Surviving Spouse Liaison

As the Holiday Season is fast approaching, our **MOAA Portland Chapter Surviving Spouse Christmas Luncheon** has been scheduled. It will take place on **Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 12:00 noon** at **Albertina Kerr's Restaurant**, 424 NE 22nd Avenue, Portland 97232. We will not be in the private dining room for this luncheon, so you will be able to order from the regular menu.

Wives of Chapter Members are cordially invited to attend the luncheon.

If you plan to attend, please make your reservations by contacting **Mrs. Carol Patrick** at jymbo@earthlink.net or **503-654-1511**.

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

**GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW ADJUTANT
GENERAL OF OREGON NATIONAL GUARD**



Gov. Kate Brown announced the appointment of Air Force **Brigadier General Michael E. Stencel** as the new adjutant general (TAG) of the Oregon National Guard, effective 25 September 2015. Stencel has been serving as acting adjutant general since August. 16, following the promotion of Army **LTG Daniel R. Hokanson** to deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Command and vice commander of U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“Michael Stencel is a proven and accomplished leader. He will make an excellent Adjutant General, and I thank him for his continued contributions to the state and nation,” Brown said.

The adjutant general is the state’s top military leader in command of nearly 8,400 Guard members (more than 6,100 on the Army side and more than 2,200 on the Air side).

Stencel will direct, manage and supervise the administration, discipline, organization, training and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon State Defense Force and the Office of Oregon Emergency Management. He also will be responsible for developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs of the Oregon National Guard in concert with the governor and state legislature. The adjutant general also serves as the governor’s homeland security adviser.

Stencel received his commission in 1984 from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. Upon completion of Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1985, he completed F-4 upgrade training and was assigned to the 123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Portland Air National Guard Base. In 1989, he completed F-15 transition training as part of the 142nd Fighter Wing's conversion to the F-15. His assignments included maintenance officer and state plans and programs officer at Oregon Air National Guard Headquarters.

He has served as commander of the Oregon Air National Guard and chief of staff to the Oregon Air National Guard in Salem. He also has commanded the 142nd Fighter Wing with an interim assignment as battle director in Air Force Central's 609th Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Force Base, Qatar.

PORTLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:

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

First Vice President:

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

Second Vice President:

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

Correspondence Secretary:

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

Recording Secretary:

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

Reservations Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

Immediate Past President:

LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret): 503-659-3347

PORTLAND CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Army Reps

MG Curtis A. Loop: 503-579-6297

LTC William G. Kroger: 971-645-6889

Navy Reps

CDR Robert Ervin: 503-657-4322

CAPT Tony Sebbio: 503-936-5896

Air Force Reps

Col Richard A. Gano: 503-651-2044

Vacant

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 information on the officers, board members, and committee chairs can 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>November 5, 2015</i>	<i>Board of Directors Meeting (Location: Colwood Golf Course)</i>
November 7, 2015	Brunch Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Hayden's Lakefront Grill)
December 1, 2015	Dinner Meeting with Entertainment (Location: The Monarch Hotel)
<i>January 2016</i>	<i>No chapter meeting scheduled</i>
<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)

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 **December 2015 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **9 November 2015**.