



Minutes from the 27 June 2008
Military Officers Association of America
Oregon State Council of Chapters Meeting
(The Oregon Veterans' Home, The Dalles, OR)

1. The meeting was called to order by the Council President, Norb Murray, at 1134-- followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Norb announced that the Central Oregon Chapter had won a **MOAA 2007 Communication Award** (First Runner Up/Category 4 Chapter for Outstanding Web Site). Since Chuck Rosenfeld was in Colorado and not able to attend the Council Meeting, Norb may have to travel to Bend, Oregon to make the presentation.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** The 14 members introduced themselves. The Emerald Empire Chapter, Southwest Oregon Chapter, and Central Oregon Chapter did not have any representatives in attendance.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
LtCol Norb Murray, USMC	Council President	Portland
LtCol Nanci Visser, USMCR	Council 2 nd Vice President	Portland
Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF	Council Secretary/Treasurer	Portland
LTC Gary Zwicker, USA	Council Past President	Willamette
LtCol H. A. MacDonald, USMC	Council Legislative Chair	Willamette
CAPT Woody Tiernan, SC, USNR	Chapter President	Willamette
LTC William O'Neill, USA	Chapter 1 st Vice President	Willamette
Maj John C. (Jack) Herring, USAF	Chapter Air Force Rep	Willamette
LtCol Malcolm LeMay, USMC	Chapter President	Corvallis
Col Douglas Kodak, USAFR	Chapter 1 st Vice President	Southern Oregon
Capt J. L. Patrick, USMC	Chapter 1 st Vice President	Portland
MAJ John Sampson, USA	Chapter 2nd Vice President	Portland
CAPT Rod Leland, USCG	Chapter President	Lower Columbia River
COL John E. Ryan, USA	Visitor	Portland
Mrs. Sharon Kodak	Visitor	Southern Oregon

3. **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 21 March 2008 were presented and approved—with the addition of changes to the Willamette Chapter Report.
- b. **Financial Report:** As of 20 March 2008, the Council had a check book balance of \$699.70. Deposits included: \$17.75 for the Corvallis Chapter on 2 April 2008. The total check book balance as of 27 June 2008 was \$717.45. Dues for CY2008 were due

1 October 2007. Dues are still \$0.25 per member. Auxiliary members are not counted as members for dues. Dues are still pending for the Southern Oregon and Southwest Oregon Chapters.

The AG Edwards Money Market account had a balance of \$4,481.58 as of 31 December 2007. Interest earned was \$35.92. As of 31 March 2008, the money market account had a balance of \$4,517.50. As of 27 June 2008, total assets available were \$5,234.95. The financial report was approved, as presented.

- c. **Updates Requested:** The *Council Directory of Members and Delegates* is being updated; all chapters are asked to send their 2008-2009 Officer Rosters to the Secretary/Treasurer.
- d. **Chapter Activities Reports:** Effective at this meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer is asking chapter presidents (or chapter reps) to send in their reports *via email* before or after the Council Meeting so they can be placed in the minutes.
- e. **RSVPs:** It is very important that you let the Council President **and** the Council Secretary/Treasurer know who will be attending the Council Meetings as soon as possible after receipt of the e-mail notification of the upcoming Council Meeting. Having this information helps in the selection of the meeting room, number of lunches needed, and potentials for carpooling.
- f. **Conference Calls:** There was some discussion that, due to the price of gasoline, we might want to consider having some of our Council Meetings conducted via conference calls. Norb said he would look into how these calls could be accomplished. The consensus seemed to be to continue meeting in person.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Council Web Site (www.oregon-moaa.org):** Cathy Price continues to serve as the webmaster. The web site is not interactive or sophisticated but contains basic information. Not much has been done on the web site, and many of the attendees were not familiar with it. It was decided that the following items should be on the web site: agenda and minutes, council officers, upcoming events, convention information, and links to each chapter's web site. Mary Mayer will contact Cathy to see what can be done about updating the web site.
- b. **Legislative:** "Mac" McDonald discussed the 2009 Legislative Priorities of the **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon** (as of 31 May 2008). See attached.

In order to receive the Legislative Priorities from the United Veterans' Groups, contact Captain Jeff Bodenweiser, USMC (Ret) at bodenweiser1@msn.com or 503-364-6666. To receive the ODVA Bill Digest, contact Mr. Jim Willis, Director of ODVA, at 503-373-2388.

In addition, there is a bill in the United States House of Representatives and Senate recommending that MOAA become a Congressionally-mandated organization. This has been a goal of Admiral Ryan ever since he took over as president of MOAA. Most other members of the Military Coalition are Congressionally-mandated organizations. In Oregon, to be nominated for a position on the ODVA, the organization must be Congressionally-mandated.

If you have an idea for a bill, please work through “Mac” or the ODVA. ODVA usually asks “Mac” for his input. Vets shouldn’t compete against one another. “Storming the Hill” is very effective; it makes a big difference when you personally contact our legislators. If you write to your State legislators, don’t send the same letter—tailor it. If you have questions on legislative issues, please contact “Mac” or the ODVA.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **State Convention 2009:** Doug Kodak from the Southern Oregon Chapter said the planning was underway for this event and provided the following report.

Where: Ramada Inn Convention Center, Medford, Oregon (The hotel is being remodeled and is co-located with the Convention Center.)

When: 25-27 September 2009 (Friday-Sunday)

Tentative Format:

Friday afternoon: Registration

Friday evening: No-Host “Icebreaker” Cocktails in the Convention Center
Attendees are on their own for dinner

Saturday morning: Honor Guard (CAP or Young Marines?)
Business Meeting
Program designed for both members and their spouses

Saturday Buffet Lunch: Served in the Convention Center

Saturday afternoon: Business Meeting

Saturday evening: Sit-down dinner in the Convention Center

Sunday morning: Business Meeting with follow-on State Council of Chapters Meeting

Tentative Speakers:

Opening Remarks on Saturday: Mayor of Medford (?)

Saturday Lunch: MG Raymond F. Rees, Oregon Adjutant General

Saturday Dinner: Congressman Greg Walden

Session Topics:

Legislative Update, ODVA (Jim Willis), Recruiting, Fundraising, TRICARE, TOPS

Motel Room Rates:

Single king: \$63.00 plus tax per night for one person. \$5.00 more for each extra

person.
Double queen: \$72.00 plus tax per night for one person. \$5.00 more for each extra person.

Activities:

Feedback from the Council members indicated that two events should be planned for Friday: a golf tournament and a play.

Attendees might consider either coming earlier or leaving later to attend the plays in Ashland, Oregon.

Chamber of Commerce should be approached to provide information on activities in the local area.

“Seed Money”: If the Southern Oregon Chapter wants \$2,500 in “seed money” for the Convention, they must request it in writing from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Registration Packets: Will be sent out in March 2009.

Save the Date:

All chapters should put the dates for the convention in their chapter newsletters.

Norb Murray will contact MOAA National and the ODVA to give them the dates of the State Convention 2009.

- b. **Oregon Federal Retiree Taxation:** MOAA and the other United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon don’t stand a chance to pass legislation to exempt federal retirement pay unless the State Employees Union takes the initiative. The Retired Enlisted Association decided to drop its efforts as this initiative does not have the support of state employees. Gary Zwicker said the current mood towards this initiative is “move to another state if you don’t like it.” Bottom line: This seems to be a dead issue.
- c. **“Give Me 10” Membership Campaign:** The 2008 Give Me Ten! Campaign is taking off—to date MOAA has recruited over 890 new members. In the State of Oregon, only the Emerald Empire Chapter shows an increase in membership. As for membership forms, dispose of any old green, yellow, and life membership 2007 application forms. The 2008 forms have either a F08 or M08 code in the lower right hand corners of the forms—the green form first three digits are M08, the yellow form is F08, and the life member form is M08. The key is all forms include 08 in their code. MOAA suggests recruiting newly-commissioned ROTC graduates, and remember that active Guard and Reserves enjoy free memberships.
- d. **Chapter Health:** Nanci Visser indicated that 2008-2009 is the Year of the Chapter. The Southwest Oregon Chapter was visited by MOAA National’s Col Lee Lange on 24 May 2008. Norb Murray will contact Lee to find out what his impression of the chapter is at this stage and determine how we can help.
- e. **Chapter Visits:** The Council concurred with the dates and locations of the next two Oregon State Council of Chapters Meetings: Wednesday, 22 October 2008 in Corvallis, OR and Wednesday, 11 March 2009 in Salem, Oregon. Malcolm LeMay will find a

- facility for the meeting in Corvallis, and Gary Zwicker will find a meeting place in Salem.
- f. **MOAA Officer Placement Service (TOPS) State Network:** John Hill from the Portland Chapter is the coordinator for the State of Oregon. This topic will be on the agenda for the next Council of Chapters Meeting and at the State Convention 2009.
 - g. **Recognition:** Norb Murray described two methods of recognizing our outstanding chapter volunteers. First, a chapter may send a nomination of an outstanding chapter leader for the Chairman's Award to the MOAA president. Second, the chapter may nominate an outstanding chapter member for the MOAA Gold Label Pin and Letter of Congratulations. This new MOAA award recognizes the council and chapter officers who have made an exceptional contribution to their chapter, council, or national MOAA with a gold lapel pin and a letter of congratulations from MOAA President, Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret). Nominations should be in the form of a letter from the nominee's council or chapter. Mail nomination letters to: Director, Council and Chapter Affairs Department, MOAA, 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Courtesy copies of the nomination letters from a chapter should be forwarded to council presidents in states where there is a council.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **MOAA Zip Code Project:** During the Year of the Chapter, MOAA will be emphasizing the importance of recruiting. MOAA is counting on council and chapter leaders to provide them with a list of accurate ZIP codes that fall into their chapter's jurisdiction. It has been almost three years since MOAA last updated assigned and unassigned chapter ZIP codes. If you haven't already done so, please submit the ZIP code information for your council or independent chapter now. MOAA is planning several major recruiting efforts in the next few months, which will require accurate ZIP code information. If you need assistance with the review and updating of files, please call Carol Robertson at 1-800-234-6622, ext. 118, and she will be happy to assist you.
- b. **Chapter Presidents' Symposium:** This event for chapter presidents, first vice presidents, and personal affairs officers will be held 16-19 October 2008 in Lake Tahoe. Lodging will be provided for those authorized, but transportation is "out of pocket."
- c. **National MOAA**
 - (1) **Council and Chapter Visit:** Lee Lange or Barry Wright would like to come to one of our Council of Chapters Meeting—and also attend one of the chapter meetings on or near the date of that council meeting. Norb Murray will discuss potential dates with Victoria Twyne, Visit and Awards Coordinator, Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA, at 1-800-234-6622, ext. 120.
 - (2) **Life Membership Incentive:** Tell your chapter members that effective 1 April 2008, they can now call the MSC at 1-800-234-6622 and receive a 10% discount when they convert to a MOAA Life Membership. The chapter will receive Give Me Ten! incentive credit for this conversion and the members receives the 10% discount. Members must specify their chapter affiliation when they call in.
- d. **ODVA Networking:** We have over 365,000 veterans in the State of Oregon, and it is important for all veterans and veterans' organizations to support veterans bills. All

veterans are asked to write personal letters to their legislators—asking them to support veterans’ bills.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”

- a. **Uniform Use:** “Mac” MacDonald says that veterans’ uniforms he has been collecting are being put beside caskets at funerals; he encourages all Council members to donate their old uniforms for various types of veterans’ events.
- b. **Military Veterans Appreciation Days:** The Oregon State Fair is once again recognizing servicemembers and veterans. Veterans Appreciation Days are slated for Friday, 22 August 2008 and Saturday, 23 August 2008. The Fair in Military Veterans Appreciation Days Salem runs through 1 September (Labor Day) and features free parking for all eleven days.
- c. **Deschutes County Fair Free for Vets:** Deschutes County Fair officials will be honoring the service of all veterans by offering them free admittance to the fair (30 July-3 August 2008) in Redmond, Oregon.
- d. **Veterans Services Task Force to Hold Town Halls:** The Governor’s Task Force on Veterans Services will hold town hall meetings in 17 Oregon Cities to take input from veterans and the community regarding veterans services, gaps in those services, and improvements that can be made for Oregon veterans. The Task Force will hold a public town hall meeting in Myrtle Point on Monday, 30 June 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Coos Bay County Fairground in the Oaks Pavilion, 115 Fourth Street. A public town hall meeting will be held in Roseburg on Tuesday, 1 July 2008 at the Roseburg National Guard Armory, 111 NW General Avenue. A “priority list” will be given to the governor as to what is to be addressed for veterans in the next legislative session.
- e. **Celebrating America’s Heroes at the Military Gala:** Ten Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from around the United States will be guests of the second annual Oregon All Military Gala—an evening of honor and gallantry, 23 August 2008, at the Salem Convention Center.
- f. **President Signs Heroes Bill:** President George W. Bush has signed House Resolution 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008, which among other things secures Oregon’s state veterans’ home loan program.
- g. **Tri-West Regional Roundtable Meeting:** Nanci Visser reported on the TriWest Portland Regional Roundtable held on 17 June 2008, which she attended in place of MOAA State Council President, Norb Murray, who was unable to attend. The event was held at the Westin Portland, and members from TriWest’s senior management and local TriWest team, Congressional office representatives, members of the military community, and local beneficiary associations and military spouse groups also attended. Among the National Military Association attendees from Washington, DC, (who were in Portland as part of a tour of TRICARE in the TRICARE West Region to seek feedback on the TRICARE program), were representatives from the National Military Family Association, National Association for Uniformed Services, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, Fleet Reserve Association (represented by Portland MOAA Chapter’s George Bickford), Gold Star Wives, and MOAA (represented by John Class).

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is under contract with DoD for the managed care support of TRICARE in the 21 states in the TRICARE West Region. As part of its efforts to reach out to TRICARE stakeholders in the West Region, TriWest periodically conducts these “regional roundtable” discussions. According to Dr. Kenneth Farmer, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for TriWest, “the roundtables have proven to be an invaluable opportunity for TriWest and the leadership of local beneficiary associations, military units, Congressional offices and Military Treatment Facilities to discuss issues relative to the TRICARE program in that area.”

After a brief buffet lunch, Dr. Farmer provided a quick overview of TriWest and current TRICARE issues, and then invited John Class from MOAA to speak on behalf of all of the National Military Associations present. Military medical leaders were also given the opportunity to present updates. Most of the time, however, was devoted to discussing TRICARE issues and fielding questions from stakeholders in the area. The main issues were Medicare/TRICARE fee cuts, reduced access to doctors who accept TRICARE, pending legislation on tax credits for doctors who accept TRICARE, and the reason why TRICARE Service Centers (TSC’s) can’t accept phone calls. They only take walk-ins. Here are the TSCs in Oregon:

Oswego/Portland (NCP), OR	TRICARE Service Center 5285 SW Meadows Room # 194 Lake Oswego, OR 97035	M-F: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
USCG Astoria, OR	TRICARE Service Center USCG Group Astoria 2185 SE 12th Place Warrenton, OR 97146-9693	M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m
USCG North Bend, OR	TRICARE Service Center 1684 NW Ocean Blvd. Coos Bay, OR 97420	M-F: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- h. **Tri-State Women Veterans’ Conference:** Mary Mayer reported that she attended the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA)’s first-ever Tri-State Women Veterans Conference from 18-19 April 2008 in Pendleton, Oregon. She met many wonderful women veterans—more than 360 in all—from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Arizona and received lots of valuable information on benefits for women veterans! The most emotional moment involved her—along with many more in attendance—being awarded the Oregon State Honorable Service Medal. It is the objective of The Veterans of Oregon and members of the community to present a *FREE* medal to every veteran who desires it, in order to publicly acknowledge the sacrifice and willingness of our soldiers who risk their lives to protect the freedoms we so readily enjoy. This medal is designed to be presented to every veteran within the State of Oregon who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America with an honorable discharge. The ceremony is not held in private, but publicly to say "thank you" to our soldiers with every eye watching and ear listening, that we might begin to understand the depth of commitment that every veteran undertakes. “Mac” MacDonald was there and set up the impressive uniform display.

The Washington Department of Veterans’ Affairs will conduct its own separate conference in Tacoma, Washington and not participate in a tri-state conference.

8. **CHAPTER REPORTS:** The following highlights were given by chapter representatives in attendance:

a. **Corvallis:** Malcolm LeMay gave the following activity report:

The MOCC held its annual OSU ROTC dinner in May. The event was well attended and provided the opportunity for 55 graduating seniors to share the evening with MOCC members. The July meeting will be the annual BBQ.

The MOCC previously voted to approve a dues increase to \$20/year from \$10/year. The increase will be used to build an endowed fund to support local veterans groups. This endowed veterans support fund will be under the umbrella of the Military Science Scholarship Endowment Fund. A portion of the dues increase will be available for current use.

The MOCC has been collecting contributions and cash to support Operation Love Box. MOCC members also contributed gifts and cash for the Oregon Veterans Home.

The MOCC has been active in seeking new members. The chapter printed business cards which have distributed to potential members. Unfortunately, the MOCC has been losing members at a faster rate. This past month the chapter lost two long-time members.

b. **Emerald Empire:** Although not at the meeting, President Bert Toepel sent the following Summary of Quarterly Activities:

Two more big trips have been made to the Roseburg VA hospital since the last Council meeting. Total value estimated to be \$2000. Donations from MOAA members and local Rotary Clubs were coordinated by our Chapter.

The Chapter hosted the 22 graduating ROTC cadets at our May meeting. Each was presented with a locally-made MOAA medal with the cadet's name inscribed on the reverse side. These graduates will be commissioned at various times between June and December 2008.

The Chapter established an endowed scholarship fund for future support of the ROTC program. Current balance is over \$8,300 for a fund that is less than a year old. For those interested in a similar endeavor, contact Dick Kimbell.

The Chapter awarded \$750 scholarships to each of two ROTC students for academic year 2008-2009. Board and Chapter meetings have been held monthly; however, we will not have Chapter meetings in July and August. Our annual picnic is scheduled for September 14. We would be pleased if some of you could come. Don't worry about bringing food. Hot dogs and hamburgers are a \$5 donation. Everything else is provided. There is a parking fee at Jasper Park, except for those with Oregon disabled mirror tags.

Our Board is working on "purifying" our roster by dropping the non-dues paying members (auxiliary members-widows- are retained for life). We are exploring MOAA national information for recruiting new members as well as promoting MOAA

membership for the 22 graduating University of Oregon ROTC cadets. They are being commissioned between June and December 2008.

Two members were involved with planning committees for holding Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day services in Eugene, Springfield and Portland, Oregon, plus Tri-Cities, Washington. This year's program was supported by several chapter members—one laid a wreath in Eugene & Springfield on behalf of MOAA, another member coordinated wreath laying and a third spoke at all four events. In both Eugene and Springfield, Vietnam era veterans in attendance were recognized with a pin identifying the wearer as a Vietnam Veteran. This recognition was especially well-received by those veterans.

c. **Portland:** Jimmy Patrick gave the following activities report:

The chapter is continuing efforts to reach eligible members by asking Board of Director members to contact previously identified MOAA retirees in our area. Major John Sampson appears to have the "golden tongue" in this effort.

Gary Brink is exploring ways for our chapter to become more active in MOAA's networking program.

We will continue to interact with other veteran organizations in the Portland area with an eye toward the mutual good.

Set a series of goals for our future. Discover how we as an organization can make a positive difference.

In May MG Curtis Loop presented MOAA's USA award to Cadet Kyon Choi and Col Mary Mayer presented MOAA's USAF award to Cadet Jack Fine at the University of Portland.

At our May dinner meeting, the guest speaker was Col Michael C. Howard, USMC (Ret). He gave a slide/video presentation entitled "Iraq - The Rest of the Story". This was an excellent presentation and is highly recommended to any chapter looking for a current and informative program. Nanci Visser can advise as to how to contact his aide.

d. **Southern Oregon:** Doug Kodak gave the following activities report: Harriet Harris represented the chapter at the Eagle Point National Cemetery on Memorial Day. A wreath was presented at the ceremony. Those in attendance were: Douglas and Sharon Kodak; Linda and Duane Sindt; John Howard; and Teedie Woodcock. After the ceremony, the group attended the ground breaking for the Central Point Fallen War Hero Memorial. State Representative Dennis Richardson, gave a presentation on the Memorial at our June luncheon. We plan to visit the Oregon Air National Guard in Klamath Falls for our July meeting.

e. **Southwest Oregon:** No report.

f. **Willamette:** Woody Tiernan provided the following report:

(1) <u>Membership:</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>
	92 reg.	95 aux.
	<u>29 aux.</u>	<u>30 aux.</u>

Total 121 125

Picked up four new MOAA and Chapter members at the Oregon National Guard Association Conference in Salem, 19 Apr 08. At that conference we signed up a total of 46 new members for MOAA.

(2) Activities:

- (a) April Officers Call, 17 Apr 08. Guest speaker was Dan Clem, the Director of the Oregon Department of Aviation. LTC Clem is a MOAA member.
- (b) We awarded our Sgt. Donald R. Walters Memorial Scholarship, and the MOAA Leadership Medal to two OUTSTANDING North Salem High School JROTC cadets, at the school's annual Awards Night, 9 May 08.
- (c) Memorial Day, 26 May 08. Mrs. Wilma Phares, our Chapter Auxiliary Representative and I presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter, and MOAA National, at the Memorial Day ceremony held at City View Cemetery, Salem. All Salem area veterans groups were represented at the ceremony, and likewise presented memorial wreaths.

(3) Future Events:

- (a) July Officers Call. Guest speaker will be Bill Wingett, one of the "Band of Brothers" immortalized in Steven Ambrose's book, *Easy Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne, from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*.
- (b) August Officers Call. Speaker will be our own "Mac" MacDonald, who will be discussing the top 20 or so bill of interest to veterans that will be presented to the next session of the state legislature.
- (c) Also in August, we will be helping distribute to veterans ODVA- sponsored vouchers for free admission to the State Fair on Veterans Weekend, 22-24 August. And we also hope to sign up new MOAA and Chapter members at the "Military Uniforms and Artifacts" display area in the Jackman-Long Building at the Fair.
- (d) September Officers Call. This is our Annual Steak Fry and Membership Meeting. Our newly elected slate of Executive Board members will be installed. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Paula Brown, Deputy Director, ODVA.

g. **Central Oregon:** No report.

h. **Lower Columbia River:** Rod Leland offered this report:

The June meeting was held on Father's Day in conjunction with the Sunday market. Exactly a year ago, Terry Finklien, CEO of Columbia Memorial, briefed the chapter on the new addition to the hospital. It opened in May and information was provided on what services are available in the new building, a discussion ensued on the growing problem of TRICARE reimbursement levels.

The chapter does not meet in July and August, so the next dinner meeting will be in

September.

Thanks to Ed Nelson and Jo Robinson, new directories are coming out.

The Coast Guard square-rigger Eagle was in Astoria 12-15 June 2008 at the 17th Street Pier. The visit to the West Coast by this unique "Tall Ship" only comes along every 15-20 years, and the last time she was here it was for a much shorter visit. There were public tours conducted.

The next meeting will be held from 1100-1400 on **Wednesday, 22 October 2008 in Corvallis, OR**. The meeting was adjourned at 1420.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary

MARY J. MAYER, Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Secretary/Treasurer
MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters