

THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA®

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

CHRISTMAS PARTY, 5 DECEMBER 2024

Thursday, December 5, 2023 – 6:00 Social / 7:00 Dinner

Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette

A No-Host Bar Will Be Available

Dinner - \$36.00 per person

MENU



First Course

Mixed Greens with Candied Walnuts, Feta Cheese, Dried Cranberries and Balsamic Vinaigrette
Grandma's Rolls and Butter

Second Course (Choice of one entree)

Chicken Cordon Bleu with a Light Dijon Cream Sauce

OR

Slow-Roasted Beef Tri-Tip with Mushroom Hunter Sauce
Twice Baked Potatoes and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables



Third Course

Dark Chocolate Mousse Flavored with
Myers Dark Rum

Beverages

No-Host Bar Service Available

Program

The Downing Street Singers

Installation of 2025 Officers

Holiday Raffle

Business Dress; Uniforms Encouraged

As always, guests are invited, but they must have a reservation.

It's getting dark pretty early.
Would you like a ride to the party?

Let us know when you RSVP. We'll try to work something out.

DECEMBER 2024, VOLUME 60, ISSUE 12

In this issue:

Program	1
Board Minutes	2,3,4,6
Annual Meeting and Announcements	4
President's Corner	5
Briefs	6-7
ROTC Chili Cook-Off	8
2025 Calendar of Meetings and Boosters	9

Toys for Tots
See page 7 for details

LAST CHANCE
Update your directory
See page 6

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Michael Kennedy	463-7951
1st Vice Pres	Floyd Bard	688-4172
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	942-5274
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

Christmas dinner reservations and entrée selection must be received by Monday, December 2nd
If your reservation is made late, you may not be offered an entree selection.

Hayes
Insurance Group
541-762-8000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 20 NOV 2024

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Floyd Bard, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Ken Evans, Frank Balazs, and Scott Sandgathe. Members John Toensing and Dick Norton were also present. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1202 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 23 October 2024 board meeting and the 13 November Annual Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

TREASURER’S REPORT for October 23 – November 19, 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2025 DRIVE

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 742.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2024 –November 19, 2024	\$ 742.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Chapter Operations:

Beginning balance as of October 22, 2024	\$ 6604.49
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 1098.00
Expenses include Luncheon, Door Prizes and Plaque	\$ -856.08
Chapter Operations as of November 19, 2024	\$ 6846.41

Veterans Services Fund: added \$8 in donations, and

*Donations to Honor Flight and Housing Our Veterans

	\$ 2068.05
--	------------

ROTC Scholarship 2024 Drive: added \$50 in donations

	\$ 742.00
--	-----------

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund

	\$ 3478.84
--	-------------------

Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$0 in donations

	\$ 539.30
--	-----------

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of Nov 19,2024

	\$ 13674.60
--	-------------

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance Forward (August 31, 2024)	\$ 58908.49
Change in Value of Investments	\$ +1035.39
Scholarships Disbursed	\$ -2000.00
Administrative Cost	\$ -94.93
BCF Balance (September 30, 2024)	\$ 57848.95

NOTES

The Bottle Drop Account has \$234.49 as of November 19, 2024. These funds are separate but are collected and used as part of our Veterans Services Funds.

This past month \$ 1200.00 was donated to the South Willamette Honor flight and \$1500.00 was donated to the local Housing Our Veterans organization. From the Veterans Services Fund.

“The Emerald Voice”

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
 PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
 Email: EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com
 Copy of newsletter available upon email request.

The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is a Eugene-based 501(c)(19) veterans organization that meets regularly at the Veterans’ Memorial Building at 1626 Willamette Street. We have 109 regular and associate members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation’s eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of the uniformed services. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military community, e.g., gathering clothing and personal care items for the patients in the VA Hospital in Roseburg. Other areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. An application to join our local chapter or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website’s ABOUT US page.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (cont.)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ROTC update – LTC Joe Snyder
Chili cook-off December 6th. See December newsletter for details.
2. Dues deadline and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan and Ken Evens
Four members have still not paid for the luncheons they reserved but did not attend. Most invoices went out this week; surviving spouses will go out soon.
3. 501(c)3 status - Eric Watkins and Ken Evans: Project still in progress.
4. MOAA Regional Workshop report – Floyd Bard
 - A. Floyd Bard submitted receipts for \$154 in travel expenses.
 - B. MOAA is instituting a new liability insurance policy for additional protection of chapters and national. Costs will be \$2.50 per “active” member; minimum \$250 per policy.
 - C. Government relations focus on (1) veterans benefits and (2) internal MOAA issues.
 - D. National membership over 360,000, with 45,000 spouse and surviving spouse members.
 - E. Floyd will provide a synopsis of the entire workshop for inclusion as an addendum.
5. Veteran Service Fund Project – Elaine Callahan
6. Veterans Memorial Association (VMA) Building Wi-Fi Upgrade: Still working on contacting Hunter Communications.
7. A visit by MOAA National to our chapter: President Kennedy is still working on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. January 8th General Membership Meeting:
 - A. Remembrance Ceremony scheduled for 8 January 2025 with five honorees. Chaplain Landon to chair.
 - B. Ken Evans, Floyd Bard and Dick Kimbell will develop and present a “State of the Chapter” report to the membership at the 8 January meeting. Subjects to cover: chapter donations from Veterans Service Funds, membership, tax exempt status and chapter’s awards.
2. Christmas Party update for 5 December – Pat Harris: Menu and venue set, decorations and poinsettias coming from John Toensing and Ann Watkins. New singing group from Churchill High School will entertain. Dick Kimbell will handle the Toys for Tots donations.
3. Annual meeting was held on 13 November
 - A. The following members were elected as the officers for 2025: President, Floyd Bard; 1ST Vice President, John Toensing; 2nd Vice President, Dick Kimbell; Secretary, Pat Harris; and Treasurer, Elaine Callahan.
 - B. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors for 2025: Army, Jonathan Landon; Marine Corps, Frank Balazs; Navy, Scott Sandgathe; Air Force, Dean Dorsey; Coast Guard, Tom Kulick; Public Health Service, Ken Evans; PMS University of Oregon ROTC, LTC Joe Snyder; Surviving Spouse Liaison, Michael Pace; and Legislative Affairs, Ken Evans.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Floyd Bard - Personal Affairs (Health, Welfare, Surviving Spouse), House Committee, Newsletter, Webmaster, Purchasing Projects)

- A. Floyd Bard heard of a program from MOAA Travel that will give \$100 to the chapter if we display their advertisement in our newsletter and website. Pat Harris to investigate.
- B. We had 42 hits on our website: far more than any other chapter’s websites.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING, 13 November 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1203 on 13 Nov 2024, by President Michael Kennedy who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jonathan Landon gave the invocation.

President Kennedy introduced the slate of 2025 officers and board members and opened the floor for further nominations. None were received and the nominations were closed. A motion was made by Ron Sticka and seconded by Tom Stewart to accept the slate and voted on by the general membership. The following members were elected to the following positions:

OFFICERS: President, Floyd Bard; 1st Vice-President, John Toensing; 2nd Vice-President, Dick Kimbell; Secretary, Pat Harris; Treasurer, Elaine Callahan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, representing: Jonathan Landon, USA; Frank Balazs, USMC; Ken Evans, USPHS; Dean Dorsey, USAF; Tom Kulick, USCG; Scott Sandgathe, USN. No representatives of NOAA or USSF were nominated.

The new officers and board members were congratulated, and the meeting was adjourned at 1207. Patrick Harris, Secretary

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Dick Kimbell - Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BCF)

Dick Kimbell has contacted Habitat for Humanity to remind them that we are still interested to participate in home repair projects for veterans.

Former member Mike Rainbolt requested permission to include the Emerald Empire Scholarship Foundation in his report on various military DAFs to the BCF annual meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Stroda Brothers is again donating five trees for us to sell. John Toensing set the price at \$50. Interested buyers should contact him for a certificate. Pat Harris will broadcast the offer.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thursday, 5 Dec 2024, 1800 social, 1900 dinner; Vets Bldg.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, 18 Dec 2024, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1312 hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

ADDENDUM to BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES – 20 November 2024

Submitted by 1st Vice President Floyd Bard.

1. General Liability Insurance, must have. Does not cover child abuse, medical services for Homeless Veterans events hosted by the Chapters. MOAA is entering into a National Insurance Program to provide this coverage and additional coverage at a cost of \$2.50 per actively involved members, with a minimum cost of \$250.00.
2. MOAA plan for the 119th Congress Legislative issues in the support of Military and Veteran benefits is two tiered:
 - a. Tier 1 - National Issues
 - b. Tier 2 - MOAA IssuesPlan to focus on this year and next year's issues and need to identify advocates and Subject Matter Experts.
3. Membership - Non dues paying members is by far the largest number of MOAA members and

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Corner Newsletter for December 2024 While we were in San Francisco a few weeks ago, we were on an elevator at a local mall, sharing the elevator with a young family. The father and I were comparing our goatees. He said that he was approaching 30 years of age and his goatee was mostly black. I shared that my white goatee was getting totally white as I approached 80. At that point, the elevator stopped and as we began to get out, he asked me to give his boys (ages 7 and 9) a word of wisdom from my many years of experience.

I had not had that question presented to me before, but out of the depths of my consciousness, I said that they should never give up on their goals and plans—they needed to persevere!

As I pondered my reflexive “words of wisdom,” I realized that I had accidentally proposed a concept that I had used in my own life and had seen its importance discussed in many contexts. I thought of the years I had spent learning to play the clarinet. Less years spent, perhaps, but just as difficult to understand as I learned algebra and calculus. It also hit me that so many things in life were conquered by persistence and practice.

That truth could also be applied to being on active duty and a MOAA member. It took years for us to understand and to be competent in whatever the job we were placed in by “Uncle Sam.” And then we would get orders to a new duty station. Inevitably, there would be new data to grasp, new projects to develop, and new areas where we needed to, again, persevere in our learning. And, now, even as civilians, new areas were opened for us in many places, including MOAA.

I told my wife when I first agreed to serve a year as president, that it would not really make sense to only be there for one year. Serving for 2 years would allow me to use the skills I had used for the one year. So, when my 3 years were served, I have felt that my growth in persistence enabled me to get more done, utilizing all that I have learned.

So, whatever you may want to achieve, remember that only by following the admonition: “If at first you do not succeed, try, try again.” This will increase your odds of success!

I have enjoyed my 3 years of being your president and we all can look forward to the leadership of Floyd Bard.

Michael Kennedy, Chapter President 2022-2024

Chapter Dues for 2025: Dues of \$25.00 are due on 1 January 2025 (separate from national MOAA dues). A few members have already paid for next year; early payments will be graciously received. Invoices were mailed out around 1 November.

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE. 1 JAN 2025, \$25

Dental and Vision Insurance Open Season Ends December 9th: Now is the time to sign up for or change your FEDVIP dental or vision insurance selections. Go to benefeds.com to check your eligibility, compare plans or make changes to your current plan selections. Don't delay.

BRIEFS

Update Your Directory Listing

We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2025. To make this edition as accurate as possible, we ask that everyone look at the last edition (white) and make sure your information is complete and accurate. New members who have changed address, any phone numbers, spousal status or email address since joining should also respond. If anything needs to be added or corrected, please contact Pat Harris, at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com or call at 541-942-5274.

If you do not have access to an old directory and have changed any contact info in the last couple of years, please send that info to Pat.

ALSO... What's your number? With many people dropping their landlines and having two or three cell phones in the house, we've noticed that it may be better to list phone numbers in our directory as either PRIMARY or SECONDARY. So, ask yourself, "What number do I want other MOAA members to call to reach me?"

If the answer to that question is the cell phone listed in the directory, tell me you want that to be your PRIMARY number and I will make that happen. I will list your other number as SECONDARY.

If the answer is the HOME number listed in the directory, you don't have to tell me anything. I will just make that your PRIMARY number and any other number SECONDARY.

If you now only have cell phones and no landline, just tell me which phone you want listed as the PRIMARY; others will be SECONDARY.

If I don't hear from you, your current HOME phone will be listed as PRIMARY and any other phone will be listed as SECONDARY.



MINUTES, continued from page 4

the National Office is going to work the issue of the Chapters to obtain contact information for these members to actively promote them to become Chapter and Life members. The National Office is also working on getting the same information on those serving on Military Facilities in the local area of the Chapters.

4. MOAA National is working on the "Branding" of MOAA to improve our visibility to the public and other areas where membership can improve. Currently MOAA membership is just over 360,000, with Surviving Spouse and Spouse membership at 45,000.
5. Health and Effectiveness of MOAA Chapters:
 - a. Health - Sustain the Chapter over time.
 - b. Effectiveness - Meets the Chapter and MOAA mission (our mission statement is on the back page of every newsletter).
6. MOAA will be providing an updated "Leaders Checklist" to review policy and procedure guidelines, etc.
7. Tools for Chapter Leaders:
 - a. Electronic support messages, postcards, and "hard to get" contact information for non-Chapter members.
 - b. White Label Newsletter available on MOAA Website.
 - c. Total Force + will be coming soon to assist in the Health and Effectiveness of MOAA.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

BRIEFS

Briefs:

Be sure when making your reservation for the Christmas Dinner that you indicate which entree you want; Chicken Cordon Bleu or Roast Beef Tri Tip.

Reservations must be received by the end of the day, Monday, 2 December. Reach out to your caller, or send an email to MOAAofEugene@gmail.com. If you commit to attend the Christmas Dinner you are expected to pay even if you cannot attend. The cost of a dinner is too much for the Chapter to absorb.

Don't forget... TOYS FOR TOTS



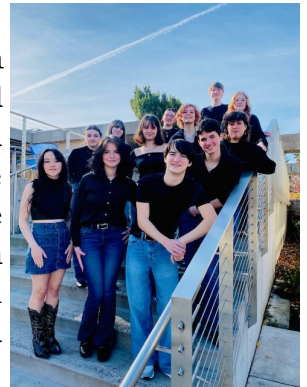
There are two ways to donate:

Bring new, unwrapped toys (**no bicycles or other large objects, please**) to the Christmas Dinner for the Marines' "Tots for Tots" drive, OR, make out a check to LANE COUNTY TOYS FOR TOTS, put it in an envelope and bring it to the party. We will have a specially marked place in the toy barrel for your checks.

Eugene Elks Veterans' Dinner: Eugene Elks Veterans Ceremony and Dinner on November 8th was well attended. Veterans were recognized for their service and were served an outstanding pot roast and chicken cordon bleu dinner. Oregon Senator James Manning, MSG, USA (Ret), was the guest speaker. Meg Graf and Barry Barreau played the Military Branch songs and the Entrance of the Colors. MOAA Chapter President Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC), USN (Ret), gave the invocation. Thanks to all members of the Emerald Empire Chapter for supporting our Veterans. Floyd Bard, Veterans Chairman, Eugene Elks Lodge.

Downing Street Singers, Our Christmas Party Entertainment

Under the direction of Dr. Julian Jones, the Downing Street Singers are a select group of singers from grades 11 and 12 at Winston Churchill High School. Singers from this ensemble have participated in the Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy from the esteemed Oregon Bach Festival, The Shedd Institute productions, and the Summer Vocal Academy from Berklee School of Music in Boston, MA. Others are members of Churchill's own Lancer Band and the CHS Theatre Group. They sing a capella, jazz, musical theatre--anything, really! In 2023, via a recorded audition, they were invited to participate in the Carnegie Hall Choral Concert Series in NYC.



Open Season for 2025 dental and vision insurance through FEDVIP is November 11th through December 9th. Go to benefeds.com and choose [Shop FEDVIP Plans](#) near the top of the page, then select [Dental](#) or [Vision](#) and follow the prompts to get to the [Plan Compare Tool](#).



DATE CHANGE

MOAA Holiday Party
Thursday,
5 December
6:00 pm Social
7:00 pm Dinner

ROTC CHILI COOK-OFF



ROTC

Chili

COOK
OFF

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2024

1130AM TO 1PM AGATE AUDITORIUM

FREE TO ENTER & FREE TO
TASTE
CONTACT
JHARRI15@UOREGON.EDU
TO ENTER A CHILI

THIS YEARS CHILI COOK-OFF WILL BE
HELD IN AGATE AUDITORIUM FROM
1130-1PM. COME COMPETE FOR CASH
PRIZES OR JUST HELP US DECIDE WHO
WILL BE THE WINNER!



Make the
best chili to
win cash
prizes

2025 CALENDAR OF MOAA CHAPTER MEETINGS

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER CALENDAR FOR 2025

January: 8th Luncheon 22th Board Meeting	July: 23rd Board Meeting
February: 12th Luncheon 26th Board Meeting	August: 27th Board Meeting
March: 12th Luncheon 26th Board Meeting	September: 10th Luncheon 24th Board Meeting
April: 9th Luncheon 23rd Board Meeting	October: 8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting
May: 14th ROTC Recognition Dinner 28th Board Meeting	November: 12th Luncheon 19th Board Meeting
June: 7th Chapter Picnic 25th Board Meeting	December: 4th Christmas Dinner 17th Board Meeting

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons and dinners will be held in the Colonial Room and Board Meetings will be held in the Veterans' (Board) Room.

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons will start at 11:30 am (serving at noon) and end by 2:00 pm. Dinners will start at 6:00 pm (serving at 7:00 pm) and end by 9:00 pm. Board meetings will start at noon until 2:00 pm.

We Still Have a Recycling Program... and it makes money for the chapter

We are continuing to ask you to save your returnable bottles and cans, bring them to a general membership meeting, and help us raise money for the Special Projects Fund. Ken Evans has the special blue bags to keep your collection in until you can bring them to us. We won't be collecting at the Holiday Party (too much other stuff moving around, like Toys for Tots, raffle prizes, poinsettias, etc.), but we will be looking for them in January.



ROTC Boosters The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. We have zeroed out the 2024 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2025 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2025 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Pat Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Dick Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)	Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)
Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)
Judy Van Scholten, CIV	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)		

Booster contact is John Toensing (541) 345-7535. Checks may be given to the Treasurer at meetings or mailed to: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

Emerald Empire Chapter
P.O. Box 767
Eugene, OR. 97440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Website:

www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

E-mail:

MOAAofEugene@gmail.com



*Thank You for
supporting MOAA
with your
membership.*

**It's
never
too late
to
become
a MOAA
Life
Member**



Service, loyalty,
honesty and
integrity

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MOAA is the largest veterans' organization for military officers in the United States, with approximately 364,000 members. The organization represents those on active duty, former officers, members of the National Guard, Reserve, Retirees and their surviving spouses.

Chapter Mission Statement:

The mission of the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is to advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

