

There will be no August general membership meeting.



It's
SUMMER
Time



**The Emerald
Empire Chapter
is on vacation**

**We look forward to seeing
you all on September 10th**



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NOMINATIONS

for 2026 Officers and Board Members

ARE OPEN

Talk to John Toensing

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS (all 541-)

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	John Toensing	345-7535
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	290-0814
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

The picnic was our last general membership meeting until our luncheon on Wednesday, 10 September. Have a great summer.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I cannot tell a lie, I am sitting here on my computer trying to figure out where to start with my article. Wow, as much as I like to talk, and I cannot even put thoughts on a piece of paper. Does anybody else have this problem? As a speaker and a Distinguished Toastmaster, I learned to know my audience and be knowledgeable in the subject of my speech. Oh, and to not use fillers, such as, um, but, ah, etc.

First, I firmly believe our Chapter is the best managed Veteran's organization that I have been involved with. The awards and recognition by MOAA National is indicative of this fact. Being a Five Star Chapter for many years and receiving the 2024 Level of Excellence (LOE), and the 2024 Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards for both our Website and Newsletter is an accomplishment only achieved by our Chapter in Oregon. Central Oregon Chapter received the LOE and COMMS Newsletter, and Portland and Lower Columbia River Chapters received the LOE.

This does not happen without the hard work, dedication, and commitment from many of our officers, board members, committee chairs, and volunteers. This is definitely not new to any of you reading this article, being an officer in your branch of service and progressing your career to a level of responsibility and authority. BG Douglas A. Pritt, Commander, Task Force Phoenix V, Afghanistan (2006-2007), who I served as a Liaison Officer in March and April 2007, taught me, to be successful, you need to surround yourself with the best of the best, because you cannot do everything yourself.

With that being said, the bottom line is our members and the participation in our luncheons (Monthly General Meeting), and our activities (i.e., board meeting, picnic, ROTC Graduation and Dining-out, Christmas party, etc.), is where the "boots hit the ground or rubber meets the road". I really enjoy our activities and getting to know many of our members I don't get to visit with very often. I am looking forward to our next Luncheon on September 10. See you then.

Floyd Bard, CW5 (R), USA, ORARNG

NEW RULES FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2026

The newly enacted Federal Tax-and-Spending package has some subtle changes to how the IRS treats your contributions. It affects non-itemizers and itemizers, cash gifts and non-cash gifts. So at the end of this year, check with your financial advisor on how this may affect your return.

Your Board of Directors had a suggestion that we try running an advertisement in the Register-Guard. It could look like the ad below, about the same size and run for three days.

Do you have an opinion?

Let us hear it.

Email us at: MOAAofEugene@gmail.com



Army, Navy, Air
Force, Marines,
Coast Guard,
Space Force,
USPHS, NOAA

Were you a military officer?

The Emerald Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is looking for you.

If you were an officer in one of America's eight uniformed services, you can meet others like yourself at one of our monthly meetings... and lunch is free.

If you are interested, check out our website at

EmeraldEmpireMOAA.org or contact us at

MOAAofEugene@gmail.com



We've never stopped serving.

NEW WEBSITE PROJECT

Our webmaster has a goal to add pictures of Chapter members who volunteer their time in the community to the LOCAL NEWS page of our website. She hopes that we can capture this information for the interest of the entire chapter and even use it to strengthen our Levels of Excellence (LOE) award submissions.

In the past we have included with our LOE nomination a list of our members' involvement in

community activities to substantiate our claim that we are "consistently involved in community activities as members of other organizations." This statement has also been used to strengthen our testimony to the Oregon legislature as we strive to find some support for income tax relief for military retirees.

So, I ask, if you have been involved in a community activity outside of our chapter, please reply to this email stating: organization, position held and/or activity and description of organization if it is not obvious, e.g., a church, VFW or Scout troop. Pictures would also be appreciated.



Our Webmaster, Ginger Banks...
Always computing.

Examples: Sunday School Teacher, 1st Baptist Church; Treasurer, Lane County Ping Pong Tournament; speaker at annual homeless shelter fund-raiser.

I am most interested in what you have been involved in recently, but if you have past activities that show your depth of involvement in the community, I would be very interested in including those as well. NOTE: For those who have provided this info in the past, be assured that I still have it. But an update since 2023 would be nice.

This is not a new request as we have done some semblance of this since at least 2016. However, this time we are asking for photos of your involvement as well.

SEND text and photos to MOAAofEugene@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Pat Harris, Chapter Secretary

541-290-0814

Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 96 regular and surviving spouse members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. An application to join our local chapter and/or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website: www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US.

"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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Lane County Stand Down

Friday, Sept 12, at the Lane Events Center

Set up will be Thursday, Sept 11, between 10 am and 6 pm
Hours for working the tables on Friday will be 9 am to 2 pm
There is no charge for having a table at the Stand Down

The Lane County Stand Down is quickly approaching... and we need your help. The Stand Down is for all veterans of Lane County. It offers encouragement to those who are struggling and support for all. This one-day event requires support from many places and organizations, but needs very little from us. They ask for our helping hand in setting up the event on Thursday, 11 September, from 10-6 or whatever time you can spare: light lifting, some organizational guidance, some straightening and decorating.

On the day of the event, Friday, 12 September, we will have a display table manned by two chapter members, with the goals of letting the veteran community know that there is a local organization of military officers who would welcome them. Eric Watkins and Jonathan Landon were the first to put their hands up to staff the table, but would really appreciate some relief between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm. If you would like to help, drop me a line at MOAAofEugene@gmail.org and I will get you set up. This will help increase our visibility throughout the veteran community.

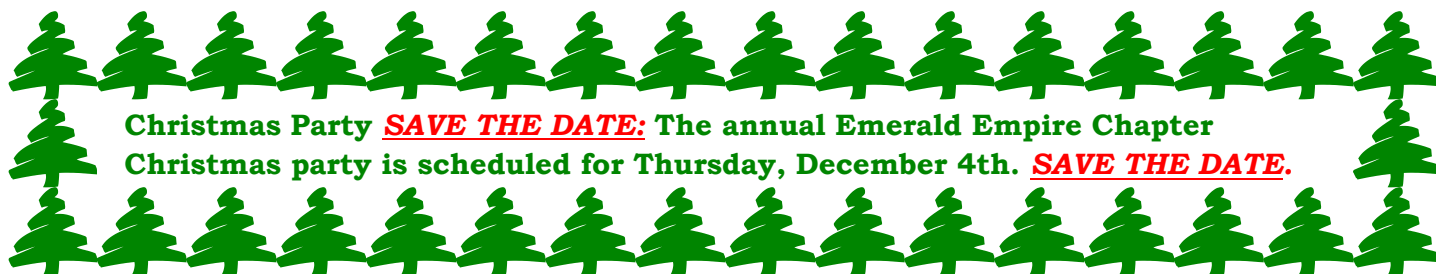
You May Ask: Do we really need to increase our visibility?

The answer is "YES"... before we fade away.

Everyone knows that all organizations are struggling to recruit new members, and we are just like everyone else. Since 2020 we have had 60 members depart. Most either moved or passed away, but some resigned due to health reasons or we simply lost contact with them. That's minus 60 in five years, and we've only been able to recruit 11 new members. It doesn't show a healthy trend. That's why we need to take every opportunity to get our name out there in case an eligible active, retired or former officer strolls by.

For a long time, we relied on National MOAA to provide leads to MOAA members living in our area who were not chapter members. One time this tool was so good that Pat Simpson was able to recruit 17 new members in two years. However, in the past year the pool of candidates has really decreased and we were only able to bring in two new members,

Oregon is not a prime location for retired and former officers, and Eugene is even less so. But they are out there... just look to yourselves to prove it.



Christmas Party **SAVE THE DATE:** The annual Emerald Empire Chapter

Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday, December 4th. **SAVE THE DATE.**

BRIEFS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress

LTC Joe Snyder, PMS of the U of O ROTC, reports that the Veteran History Project will go forward and will pick back up in the Fall with a new required training and audio/visual equipment purchasing. At that point, the Cadets will start scheduling interviews with the great Lane County Veteran Community. When all Cadre and students are back on campus the personnel and energy from the "volunteering" Cadets will return and this project will regain its legs.

The best thing that the Emerald Empire members can do is collect a list of members who would like to be interviewed and their contact information.

So... if you would like to participate and help the Library of Congress preserve the firsthand recollections of the nation's Veterans... namely you... contact the Chapter at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com and we will put you on the list.

For more information about this project, go to: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/about-this-program/>

**** NEW FEATURE ****

Emerald Empire Chapter Calendar

August

3 USCG Birthday
14 Navajo Code Talker Day
27 BOD meeting, 1200, Vets

September

1 Labor Day
10 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
11 Stand Down set-up, 10-6
12 Lane County Stand Down, 9-2
18 USAF Birthday
24 BOD meeting, 1200, Vets

October

8 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
13 USN Birthday and Columbus Day
22 BOD Meeting
31 Halloween

Why do we care about your military history? Because it is your legacy and the legacy of all military officers. Think of it as an opportunity to show the next generation that **service** to our country has meaning and is something to be proud of.

Telling our story shows our willingness to **serve** and shows the value of the veteran throughout our communities – no matter what phase of **service** we are in, whether active duty, retired or citizen soldier in the National Guard or Reserves.

The act of service was the key to human civilization.

Ira Byock, American physician and author (born 1951), tells this story:

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized."

OUR CHAPTER'S AWARDS AND BOOSTERS

National MOAA Awards for 2024

These awards were for our activities during the calendar year 2024 and were awarded to us this year. Congratulations to all who contributed to this stellar effort.



The Emerald Empire Chapter earned five stars for all three awards.



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 2025 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2025 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret) Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret) Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 23 JULY 2025

NOTE: The following are extracts from the full minutes which are attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Frank Balazs, Jonathan Landon, LTC Joe Snyder, Michael Kennedy, Scott Sandgathe and Tom Kulick. Member Eric Watkins was also present. A quorum was established.

TREASURER'S REPORT for June 25 – July 22, 2025

Chapter Operations as of July 22, 2025	\$ 4149.82
Veterans Services Fund: transfer of 501(c)19 funds	\$ 2669.05
ROTC Scholarship 2025 Drive: added \$500 in donations	\$ 650.00
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: transfer of 501(c)19 funds	\$ 6829.84
Cadet Dinner Fund: transfer of 501(c)9 funds	\$ 187.40
501(c)3 UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Total as of Jul 22,2025	\$ 14486.11

NOTES: The funds in the 501(c)19 account have now been transferred to the 501(c)3 account, except for \$1000.00 in Chapter Operations. This is to cover any possible outstanding charges/debts applicable to the 501(c)19 operations. After 2 more months, all funds will be moved to the 501(c)3 account, and the 501(c)19 account will be closed.

The BottleDrop Account is at \$1218.18 as of July 22, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Membership: Complementary luncheon (New member/Proposing member) – Floyd.

- After discussion it was agreed that the chapter paying for a prospective member's meal, and only the prospective member's meal, when they attended a general membership meeting for the first time, was still appropriate. (2019).
- The board also agreed that giving the new member (application and dues received) a MOAA/Service lapel pin (2022) and a name tag (2024) when introducing them to the general membership, was also still appropriate.
- The board also agreed that new members applying on 1 Sep or later would have their dues applied to the next calendar year and would owe no dues for the remainder of the application year. Those new members applying before 1 Sep will pay a full year's dues.

2. Appoint the Nominating Committee Chairman with a committee – Floyd.

- Prior to the meeting, John Toensing stated that he would chair the committee if he had a committee to work with. Michael Kennedy volunteered and President Bard said he had been talking to Jim Brann and would ask him to join the effort.
- The Nominating Committee is required to present a slate of officers and board members for 2026 to the Board of Directors by 14 October, which is 30 days before our Annual Meeting scheduled for 12 November.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Provide a table at the 2025 Lane County Stand Down on 12 September – Floyd.

- All members are invited to help set up the Stand Down on Thursday, 11 Sep. Details will be in the forthcoming newsletter. With the Stand Down moving to the Performance Hall of the Lane Events Center, they expect some growing pains during this first set-up.
- The board decided to staff an information table at the "candy store" area of the Stand Down on 12 September. They provide tables and chairs, and we provide the hand-outs, our blue tablecloth and banner. Eric Watkins and Jonathan Landon volunteered to help staff the event.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday, 10 Sep 25, 1130, Vets Bldg

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, 27 Aug 2025, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

**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.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
COAST GUARD
August 4th**

**235 years old
and still growing**

