



MOAA®

THE EMERALD VOICE

FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

13 APRIL LUNCHEON

**Veterans' Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette
11:30—12:00 Social / 12:00 Lunch \$18.00**

- Salad of Fresh Greens with 3 Dressings**
- Meat Balls with Marinara Sauce**
- Au Gratin Potatoes**
- Corn With Roasted Peppers and Onions**
- Grandma's Rolls and Butter**
- Berry Cobbler**

Speaker: Lorie Perkins, Housing Our Veterans

Reminder— If you make a reservation for lunch/dinner, you are expected to pay for the meal, even if you do not attend.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2022

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**Don't forget the
ROTC
Recognition
Dinner on
May 11th**

(Details on page 7)



Easter, 17 April

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Mike Kennedy	463-7951
1st Vice Pres	Dick Norton	344-5696
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Jim Koch	719-440-9036
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

**Luncheon reservations must be received by
5:00 PM Sunday, April 10th**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 23 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Dick Norton, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan, and Secretary Jim Koch. Board members: Tom Kulick, Ken Evans, Eric Watkins, and Frank Balazs. A quorum was established. Pat Harris, Chris Warren, and LTC Joe Snyder, Chris Warren's replacement, were also present.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1157 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 26 February 2022 board meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Eric Watkins and seconded by Tom Kulick. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for 23 FEBRUARY – 22 MARCH 2022:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 2257.00
*Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 3000.00
CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2021 – 22 March 2022	\$ 5257.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Club Operations:

Beginning balance as of 22 February 2022	\$ 6616.69
Deposits: to Club Operations (lunch, dues, donations)	\$ 819.00
Expenses: liability insurance, door prizes, luncheon, luncheon award	\$ -1028.12
Club Operations as of 22 March 2022	\$ 6407.52

Special Projects Fund: added \$ 152 in donations. \$ 3579.05

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$195 in donations
with -\$500 (transferred to BCF) \$ 2257.00

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT grand total as of 22 Mar 2022 **\$12243.62**

OCCU ROTC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance as of 31 January 2022	\$ 2007.73
Interest	\$ 0.23
OCCU Total Balance as of 28 February 2022	\$ 2007.96

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Previous balance as of 31 January 2022	\$50916.46
Transfer of funds from Umpqua ROTC	\$ 500.00
Change in Value	\$ -1150.61
Administrative Fees	\$ -82.67
BCF Balance as of 22 March 2022	\$50183.18

NOTES: *Decrease in Umpqua ROTC Account reflects a \$500.00 transfer to Benton Community Foundation Endowment Fund so that two scholarships can be awarded through BCF this year, with the third coming from MOAA funds.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (continued)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Membership:
 - a. Ken Evans has sent out approximately 20 letters to active members who are delinquent on current dues – 2 have responded. Letters to associate members to follow.
 - b. No further information or feedback from members.
 - c. Karen Anderson of the Corvallis Chapter MOAA has been contacted about our possible recruiting of their members.
2. ROTC Recognition Dinner:
 - a. Scholarships: Per Chris Warren, information was given to all cadets. BCF received two applications. Presently BCF awards two and we award one. Eric Watkins recommended that we should award it to the top 3rd year Cadet. The board thinks that the President should designate committee members to screen applicants and forward recommendations on who should receive all three scholarships.
 - b. Pat Harris presented the medallions that will be awarded to all MS-IV. It was decided that they will have engravings on both sides and will include red/white/blue ribbons.
 - c. Senator Manning will give five-minute presentation on the Pat Simpson Resolution. Pat Harris will send out invitations to the family members.
 - d. General Hoffman will be the guest speaker. There will be no flag history presentation. We have enough donations to pay for the Cadet meals; approximately 20.
3. Dick Kimbell will submit the LOE Award paperwork before the cutoff date of 1 May.
4. Michael Kennedy checked out our storage shed and more discussion will follow about how to rid it of unneeded items and downsize to a smaller storage area.
5. National MOAA will be conducting a virtual Advocacy in Action (AiA) Training Webinar on 24 Mar 2022. Several board members will participate.
6. VMA discussion will be carried forward to April's board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A \$1,200 donation has been made to the chapter by one of our members. Per request by the donor, a motion was made by Ken Evans and seconded by Dick Norton to donate \$1,000 to CAHOOTS and \$100 to Honor Flight. Motion passed. Ken Evans also recommended that the chapter from this time forward would accept and distribute donations made to the chapter, to the specifically requested non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that serve uniform services and veterans. The specifically requested funds go through and on behalf of Emerald Empire MOAA.
2. Calling Committee: In addition to emails reminding members of our luncheons, calls are made to get an accurate count of who will attend our luncheon. If you do not wish to be called, ask to have your name removed from the calling list.

"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

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 141 regular and associate members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's seven 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/>.

BRIEFS, TAPS AND BOOSTERS

Briefs

ROTC DINNER RAFFLE PRIZES: Every year we gather as many raffle prizes as possible for the ROTC dinner in May... concentrating on the types of prizes that students seem most interested in, like gift certificates from restaurants and grocery stores. This year is no different, but with the pro, Bert Toepel, in semi-retirement, we need your help gathering the prizes. If you have the verbal skills to talk someone into donating a gift certificate or two, call Dick Norton at 541-915-5696. He will either add your prize to the pile or take your idea or contact info and go after the prize for you.

HELP

WANTED

Needed, actually!

TAPS

CPT John "Jack" H. Lindstrom, USA (Fmr) passed away on 1 March 2022 due to complications from a fall. Jack served in the Army from 1968 through 1977. He was an active chapter member and meeting attendee.

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 2021 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2022 scholarships. The following donations have been received:

Frank Balazs, 1st Lt, USMC (Fmr)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USNR (Ret)	Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
Richard Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Clayton Robson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Micheal Rainbolt, LTC, USA (Ret)	Thomas Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)
Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Cabot Clark, LTC, USA (Ret)	James Armour, CPT, USA (Ret)
Charles Cole, CAPT, USN (Ret)	Norman Hoffman, BG, USA (Ret)	James Miller, CPT, USA (Ret)
James Paschall, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)	Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	Lynnette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)
William Gutheim, COL, USA Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Erven Kincaid, LCDR, USN (Ret)
James Koch, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Mary Ann Roos, CIV	Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)
James Smurthwaite, 1LT, USA (Fmr)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Michele Mort, LCDR, USN (Ret)
Michael Kennedy, CAPT, USN (Ret)	Don Simpson, LTC, USA honoring LTC Pat Simpson and LTC Mike Reuter	
Alan Keaton, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Earl Hain, LTC, USA (Ret)	Jon Weck, COL, USA (Ret)
Joelle Goodwin, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Helen Cook, CIV
Darren McMahan, CPT, USA (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	William Kellogg, Maj, USMC (Ret)
Edward Gear, COL, USA (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.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was again great to meet together for our luncheon on March 9. And it was very informative to have Berkley Carnine speak to us about CAHOOTS. We have all seen their vans around town and now we have a better idea of what they do to assist needy members of our community. They are very professional.

Several of us were able to attend Jack Lindstrom's memorial service at the Obsidian Lodge. There were quite a lot of people at the gathering and many memories of Jack were shared.

These two events plus the monthly luncheon got me to thinking about the importance of words. We share with others who we have not seen in a long time words of joy and interest as we got caught up after not being able to get together. We also use words to be informed about our local outreach organizations. And, of course, words are used to remember those who have had an impact on our lives.



Berkley Carnine, CAHOOTS

Words and their meanings are part of what makes us humans different from the other animals in our world.

It is important to be aware of what our words mean in the context of where they are used. I ran across a short illustration of that which reflects different ways the various armed forces will respond differently to a particular order - the securing of a communication system.

Based on the branches understanding and background, we might be able to say the following if they are each asked to "Secure a communication system." The Army will guard one; the Navy will close one; the Marine Corps will capture one; the Air Force will buy one; the Coast Guard will rescue one; and the US Public Health Service will order one.

Same words but interpreted differently. No wonder it is often so hard to communicate. How do we overcome this natural bias? It has to do with deep and real listening and walking in the others' shoes. And it all begins by being aware that words by themselves have meaning based on our experience and expectations. Just as different branches understand "secure" in different ways, so do the words that we use fall on ears that are different from ours.

As April begins, let us move into spring and pledge to be aware of our words and their impact on our lives.

Michael Kennedy, Chapter President



1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: The next newsletter will be out the first of April. The website had 19 hits.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: No Report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: None.

April Luncheon Meeting:	13 April 2022	1130 Hours	Veterans' Building
Next Board Meeting:	27 April 2022	1200 hours	Veterans' Building

Meeting adjourned 13:27 hours
James Koch, Secretary

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

TOM MAJCHROWSKI, our Oregon Council of Chapters President, has been working on Oregon's contribution to the Advocacy in Action (AiA) program of communicating with our congressional representatives while they are on recess and working within their states. He and his staff will be contacting our Senators and Representatives to discuss MOAA's agenda on three specific issues outlined below. To become fully familiar with these issues, download the briefing papers attached to the distribution email of our chapter newsletter. You can also download them from the NAT'L MOAA/VA NEWS page of our website: EmeraldEmpireMOAA.org

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SUPPORT COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS BY PASSING THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

Background: Combat-injured veterans forced into early retirement by their injury are not receiving their vested longevity pay. Reducing retirement pay because of a disability is an injustice. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) will correct this injustice.

UNDERSTANDING THE STAR ACT

The Major Richard Star Act would support over 50,300 combat-injured veterans, 603 in Oregon alone, by allowing concurrent receipt of vested longevity pay and VA disability. These individuals, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. In some cases, their retirement pay is completely eliminated.

MOAA'S POSITION

Our combat-injured veterans earned their vested retirement pay for dedicated years of service and earned their disability compensation through extraordinary personal sacrifice. To reduce retirement pay because of a combat injury is an injustice.

MOAA remains committed to working with Congress to find solutions consistent with previous efforts to enable these retirees to receive the compensation they earned through both their service and their sacrifice.

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MILITARY PAY AND BENEFITS: BACKBONE OF THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE

Issue: Competitive military pay and benefits are essential to recruiting and retaining an all-volunteer force. However, some claim our servicemembers and retirees are paid too much.

Background: The National Defense Strategy (NDS) acknowledges "an increasingly complex and global security environment characterized by overt challenges to the free and open international order and the re-emergence of long term, strategic competition between nations."

A focus outlined in the strategy is to build a more lethal force to preserve peace through strength and win America's wars when necessary. To that end, the strategy states "recruiting, developing and retaining a high-quality military force is essential for warfighting success."

The challenge is clear: We need our nation's best, and we must compete with companies who have flexible schedules, telework, and varying compensation options – competitive factors military

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (continued)

recruiters do not have. And with over 50% of parents discouraging military service along with a dwindling pool of qualified, eligible individuals who would even consider military service, it is vital we maintain compensation and benefits to have a chance at these recruits.

MOAA's Position: Support a minimum 4.6% pay raise across all ranks per the Employment Cost Index (ECI).

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Making Mental Health Care Affordable for TRICARE Beneficiaries

Background: TRICARE Mental Health Copay Increases. TRICARE copayments for mental health visits more than doubled from 2017 to 2018 and continue to rise. The TRICARE Prime retiree copay now stands at \$33, nearly triple the \$12 copay in 2017. TRICARE Select copays for mental health visits are even higher – \$38 for most active duty families and \$50 for most retirees.

Military families, retirees and their families, and survivors deserve a high quality, comprehensive health care benefit, yet TRICARE beneficiaries pay far more for mental health care than those covered by commercial plans. One example: The average mental health copay for Federal Employee Health Benefits Program plans is \$20, considerably lower than TRICARE mental health copays ranging from \$28 to \$38 for active duty families on Select and \$33 to \$50 for retirees and their families.

Because mental health treatment typically requires multiple visits, the cumulative impact of TRICARE's mental health copay increases creates a potential barrier to access, particularly for retirees and their families who face the highest out-of-pocket costs. DoD has made great effort to reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health care, but these advances are undermined by cost-prohibitive copays.

THE SOLUTION: THE STOP COPAY OVERPAY ACT

The Stop Copay Overpay Act (H.R. 4824) is a commonsense solution. If enacted, the bill would reduce TRICARE mental health copays by capping them at the level paid for primary care visits. It would not cut mental health provider reimbursements, instead shifting part of the cost of mental health care from military families back to DoD.

Costs associated with a TRICARE mental health copay reduction should not come at the expense of those who've earned their benefits: MOAA opposes funding this expansion by raising TRICARE fees or cutting other uniformed services programs



The **ROTC Recognition Dinner** is scheduled for Wednesday, 11 May at the Veterans Memorial Building. The social starts at 6:00 PM and the dinner at 7:00 PM. There will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and bar service will be available. The buffet dinner entrée will be Mac's flavorful pot roast. We will be presenting our scholarships to three MS III cadets and medallions to the MS IV graduates. Honorary member Senator James Manning will make a special presentation to the family of LTC Pat Simpson.



APRIL LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

Lorie Perkins is a one-woman force for ending veteran homelessness in western Oregon, a task she has pursued for more than a decade.



An Army of One: Housing Our Veterans

As he was dying from liver cancer in 2007, Lorie Perkins' husband encouraged her to return to the work she loved: housing the homeless. It had been the couple's passion before his illness intervened. Perkins purchased her first home about a year later, and today she's a one-woman force for ending veteran homelessness in western Oregon.

"She keeps about four dozen veterans housed at any one time and is continually on the lookout for more homes she can retrofit," says Tod Schneider, who retired as veteran homelessness analyst for the City of Eugene in late 2015. "Where nobody else is giving them a break, she's stepping in."

That view is shared in other parts of the community. "She's the most committed person to helping veterans in Eugene that I know today," says Chris Wig, counselor for a nonprofit called Emergence, which provides services to the local veterans' treatment court. "Living on the streets is pretty much the most hellish thing that can happen to people. She makes a huge difference."

For Perkins, it's both personal and patriotic. Her late husband was an Army veteran who served in the 1970s. And she was astounded at the number of homeless veterans she encountered when she started doing volunteer work after her husband died.

"The tragedy is that you give up your civilian life to fight for your country, come home, everything you have is gone and you end up sleeping under a bridge," Perkins says. "They've been let down literally by the people in our country."

Perkins now operates 10 homes for homeless people who are clean and sober under her non-profit Housing Our Veterans. Many of her residents are referred to her by the VA, the treatment court and St. Vincent de Paul. A safe, stable home is critical to their future.

"It's really hard to turn your life around so that you can be rehabilitated in the eyes of the criminal justice system if you are sleeping on the streets," Wig says. "Getting housed is one of the most critical first steps."

It's made all the difference for Frederico Reyna. Prone to getting in fights, Reyna spent a total of nine years behind bars. A series of injuries, both in the Navy and working construction, led to the painkiller addiction and heavy drinking that accelerated his downward spiral.

Veterans court set a new course for Reyna. He found a room in one of Perkins' houses after completing court-ordered drug and alcohol treatment at VA facilities in Roseburg and White City, Ore. Today, he's on VA disability, studying construction management in college and making plans to reunite with his family. He has a job as a construction superintendent waiting for him when he graduates. He credits Perkins for playing a major role in his recovery. "I called her on Thanksgiving and thanked her for letting me live in one of her homes and helping me turn my life around," Reyna says.

The men living in Perkins' homes range from post-9/11 veterans in their 20s to Vietnam veterans in their 60s. She also houses some men who need transitional housing after leaving prison in order to help cover her overhead. Perkins provides everything from furniture to bed linens to dish towels and, if needed, cooking lessons.

Each home has seven or eight bedrooms, and the residents who are able to pay a share of the

MOAA President Sounds Warning on Benefit Cuts in 'The Hill' Commentary

By: MOAA Staff

Just months after the end of the war in Afghanistan, and despite the massive buildup of forces in Europe, signs point to pressure on lawmakers to cash in some of the “peace dividend” at the expense of servicemembers, veterans, and their families and survivors. Instead of appreciation for the uniformed services community, such talk is “creating a much different, unsettling message,” wrote Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA’s president and CEO, in a Feb. 9 commentary published by The Hill.

That message: “Thank you for your service and sacrifice, especially after two decades of war, but we need to cut your pay and benefits to modernize.” Atkins addresses the “false choice between bullets and benefits” offered in some corners to justify increasing materiel budgets while leaving personnel accounts flat ... or worse. While this narrative poses a threat to the benefits earned through service, it’s not a new fight, Atkins points out, highlighting budget-driven moves made in the last decade such as:

The “pay gap” from 2014 to 2016, which shortchanged servicemembers and will cause ripple effects in retirement compensation for decades.

Increases to TRICARE pharmacy costs and program fees outpacing retiree cost-of-living adjustments.

The Blended Retirement System, which will reduce the value of a 20-year military career and cost DoD less money, with unclear results beyond readiness issues, as “mid-career service members consider leaving early — and taking their wealth of experience out the door with them,” Atkins wrote.

Only by engaging on these efforts to lessen benefits now will the uniformed services community avoid similar actions in coming years, especially in the face of inflationary pressures and other fiscal threats. “Our economy may fluctuate,” Atkins wrote, “but our resolve on behalf of service members cannot.” MOAA will mobilize this spring for its annual advocacy campaign, with an eye toward protecting military pay along with other critical legislative objectives. Watch for more details at MOAA.org, and bookmark our new Legislative Action Center to keep up with ongoing action items.

rent. Perkins often has to pick up the difference, a cost that has become more and more difficult to bear as she has depleted her savings. Financial support has not followed the outpouring of praise from public agencies and officials.

"It gets pretty discouraging," says Perkins, who invested in a Kettle Korn business in an attempt to improve her cash flow. "If I had the funding, I could get 200 people off the streets."

Schneider echoes her frustration. "She pours all of her time and energy into finding new homes and running what she's got, he says. "She doesn't have a fundraising arm."

But community support will have to manifest itself in more than words of praise if Perkins is to survive.

"While all of your hopes and prayers are appreciated, they aren't going to get people into shelter," Schneider says. "It's donations and renting them rooms. That's where the rubber meets the road."

Ken Olsen

Speaker, continued from page 8

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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supporting MOAA
with your
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**It's
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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 355,000 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.

