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A FIVE STAR CHAPTER

















FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, 14 February 2024

1130 social, 1200 lunch, \$18

Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street, Eugene MENU

Tomato and Cucumber Salad Boneless Chicken Breast with Marsala Mushroom Sauce

Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans with Onions
Grandma's Rolls and Butter
A Special Chocolatey Valentines Dessert

PROGRAM

Mike Tardie from the Eugene Mission, speaking on the work they are doing for Veterans in our community

Remember, if you make a reservation and do no cancel it by Sunday, 11 February, you are responsible for the cost of the meal.

Guests are always welcome, but we must have a reservation.

Happy Valentine's Day

Volume 60, Issue 2

February 2024

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2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

541-485-4379
925-518-5604
541-914-6235
541-465-4345
541-510-9194
541-942-9992

Your Board members are chosen to represent you and your service. Reach out to let them know your concerns or to answer your questions.

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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		



Feb 19th

Printing graciously provided by



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—24 January 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, Jonathan Landon, LTC Joe Snyder and Michael Pace. Members John Toensing and Dick Norton were also present. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 20 Dec 2023 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for 27 December 2023 – 23 January 2024 was approved.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2024 DRIVE

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund

Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund \$ 2000.00 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2023 –23 January 2024 \$ 3224.00

UMPOUA ACCOUNT

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2024 DRIVE

CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2023 –23 January 2024	\$ 3224.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 2000.00
Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 2224.00

UMPOUA ACCOUNT

Chapter Operations:	
Beginning balance as of 27 December 2023	\$ 6643.97
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 1290.00
Expenses include luncheon, door prizes, office supplies, plaque.	\$ -1031.67
Chapter Operations as of 23 January 2024	\$ 6902.30
Special Projects Fund: added \$374.75 in donations	\$ 4226.50
*ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$315 in donations	\$ 2224.00
Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$75 in donations	\$ 945.00
UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of 23 Jan 2024	\$ 14297.80
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OCCU ROTC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND (includes \$5 in savings)	
Balance Forward (26 December 2023)	\$ 2017.10
Donations:	\$ 0.00
Dividend Credit: (Yield Earned 0.20%)	\$ 1.71
OCCU TOTAL BALANCE (31 December 2023)	\$ 2018.81

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of 23 Jan 2024	\$ 14297.80
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OCCU TOTAL BALANCE (31 December 2023)	\$ 2018.81

*BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF) CORRECT	TED
EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMEN	T FUN

Balance Forward (31 September 2023)	\$ 475	539.35
Contribution	\$	900.00
Change in Value of Investments	\$ -10	061.26

"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 107 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 all 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.

2024

DUES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (continued)

Administrative Cost	\$ -100.91
Balance Forward (31 October 2023)	\$ 47277.18
Contribution	\$ 100.00
Change in Value of Investments	\$ 3277.52
Administrative Cost	\$ -77.01
Balance Forward (30 November 2023)	\$ 50577.69
Change in Value of Investments	<pre>\$ not available</pre>
Administrative Cost	<pre>\$ not available</pre>
BCF Balance (31 December 2023)	<u>not available</u>

^{*}NOTES: BCF December 31 Statement has not yet been issued. Previous monthly balances are corrected. Format of reporting balances henceforth will be dependent on the monthly statement to show market losses and gains more accurately. The monthly statement however is taking 4-6 weeks to be issued, due to personnel issues at BCF. My understanding is that this should improve.

OLD BUSINESS:

ROTC update - LTC Joe Snyder

- 48th General Officer to graduate from the UO has been promoted to Brigadier General. BG
 Brandon Anderson is from the UO Commissioning Class of 1996. He holds the distinction of
 being the only current Active-Duty General Officer from UO. He is finalizing his travel schedule
 but will tentatively begin visiting this Spring.
- Thank you to Eric Watkins for Guest Lecturing on UCMJ to the Senior Class.
- The Veterans History Project is gaining some new traction with the freshmen class. Will be providing a flyer to show MOAA members how to schedule an interview to share their Veteran story.

ROTC WWII Veterans Book Signing

• Andrew Biggio, author of "The Rifle," the book of stories about WWII veterans, will make a presentation at the Veterans Memorial Building on February 29, 2024, at 1500. The book is about those soldiers who have carried the M-1 rifle. See the flyer in the February newsletter.

Dues and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan

• Only one person still needs to pay for the meal they reserved but didn't show up for.

2024 "Thoughts from the Board" openings for November and December

• Membership and Legislative Chair Ken Evans has submitted an article for this month's newsletter.

Submission for Levels of Excellence and Communications awards - Dick Kimbell

• The 2nd VP updated the Board on LOE status and asked several members for data to include in the submission.

Big Y Storage payment - Michael Kennedy

• President Kennedy stated that he made the annual payment to Big Y Storage for our locker. The Treasurer requested a receipt for the \$0.01 expenditure.

Remembrance Ceremony review and comments - Michael Kennedy

- Jonathan Landon was congratulated on a job well done.
- Jonathan noted that the computer glitches have been resolved. He further suggested that a second speaker not be added to the program during meetings of this type. The board agreed and resolved to continue holding this annual event.

MESSAGE, Continued on page 4

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

by Ken Evans, Membership and Legislative Chair

As you have heard the chapter Board of Directors has taken over the President's corner to present the duties and activities that each of the Board members engage in during the year.

I have taken on the duties of membership as well as legislative. Each of these topics have many facets to them and increasing my knowledge has been interesting. One of the first things learned is that National MOAA is deeply engaged in advocating for all members of the uniform services, at all ranks and all status.

MOAA has been working to revamp their member data system to be more helpful to chapters to locate and communicate with national members so that we may offer them the opportunity to join our local chapter. Although this database is important and helpful it is also through our members, through your daily activities and conversations, that we hear of officers that are eligible to join. I invite you to let me know of potential members so that I might answer any questions that they may have. We would love to have them join us. Looking to the long term we have worked with the ROTC program to encourage newly commissioned officers to sign up for the MOAA Basic membership. Although this is a long-term effort to develop members, we believe it will bear fruit.

There are many activities in the legislative category that I am coming up to speed with. Recently I have attended two virtual meetings with MOAA on legal, legislative, and general information topics. The Oregon Council of Chapters has a person, Marco Oswald, that will be focusing on the Oregon State Legislature veterans' affairs activities. I will be engaging with Marco as this activity develops. I am also learning of the Defense State Liaison Office which tracks what is going on in state legislatures. We will also keep track of issues that we can communicate to MOAA that can be a part of their annual Advocacy in Action campaign. This will ensure all state congressional representatives and senators are contacted to inform them of important issues and provide educational information so that decisions on uniform services can be better made.

As I continue to work in these two areas, I realize there is a lot more that I can say. We will be looking to fit in articles in the newsletter going forward that we hope you find informative and useful. Thanks for your membership and I'll see you at the next meeting.



MINUTES Continued from page 3

Business card for chapter - Pat Harris

• We have over 500 business/recruiting cards on hand. However, President Kennedy pointed out that our cards are using an outdated seal and should be redone.

Annual Treasurer's Report - Elaine Callahan

• The annual calendar year Treasurer's report will be presented at the next board meeting to allow the gathering of up-to-date data from BCF.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Agenda Item Submission form Ken Evans
 - Ken Evans suggested that we need to focus our donations better so that we can make an impact on those programs we want to support the most. It was proposed to select a committee to recommend the programs and to determine how our available funds should be divided up, leaving a portion to be available to be spent as a need is identified.

MINUTES Continued on page 8

NEW PROJECT AND BOOSTERS

We want your photo

know you are wondering why... well, I have the answers. But first, this is what we want. We would like a picture of you in uniform, or standing with your uni-

> formed spouse, AND a current picture of you so we can recognize you as you are today. I know some of you look just like you did when you were 25, but not all of us are so fortunate.

You can get these photos to us by scanning them and sending a .jpg file to us at moaaofeugene@gmail.com. If you would rather, you can bring the photos to a meeting or mail them to our PO Box (see the back page of this newsletter) and I will copy them and get them back to you.

We are collecting these photos for possible future projects, e.g., to enhance the directory or for inclusion with your bios.

Chapter Dues for 2024: Dues for 2024 were due as of 1 Jan 2024. So far, about 80 percent of our members have paid their \$25 dues. If you have not already paid, please do so soon. Notices were sent out in mid November. Second notices will be coming out very soon. Send a check made out to Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA, (or just "MOAA") to P.O. Box 767, Eugene, OR 97440, or plan to pay at the next general membership meeting.

The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monice remains the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. We have zeroed out the 2023 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2024 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2024 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Cabot Clark, LTC, USA (Ret) William Kellogg, Maj, USMC (Ret) Helen Cook, Surviving Spouse John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret) John Abele, Capt, USMC (Ret)

Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret) James Koch, MAJ, USA (Ret) Michael Lee, COL, USA (Ret)

Michele Mort, CPT, USA (Fmr) Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse

Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)

James Armour, CPT, USA (Ret)

Helen Cook, Surviving Spouse Joseph Snyder, LTC, ARNG (Act)

Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret) Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret) Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)

Joelle Goodwin, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Edward Gear, COL, USA (Ret)

James Miller, CPT, USA (Ret)

Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)

Darlene Tomasec, LTC, USA (Ret) Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)

Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)

Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)

Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret)

Lynnette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC), USN (Ret)

Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse Wilson Muhlheim, CPT, USA (Fmr)

John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) and donations in honor of LTC Patrick Simpson and LTC Edward "Mike" Reuter, USA

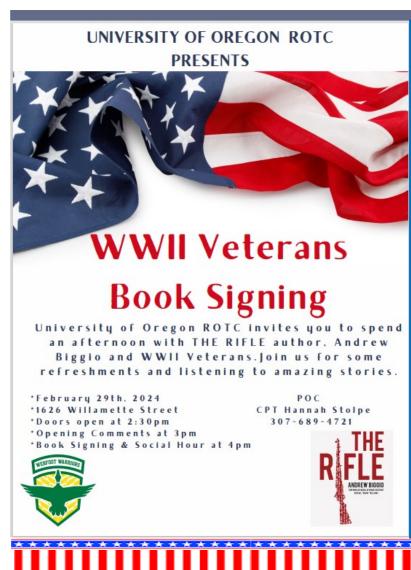
Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Robert Barnes, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret) Norman Hoffman, BG, USA (Ret)

Eric Watkins, Jr., LTC, 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.

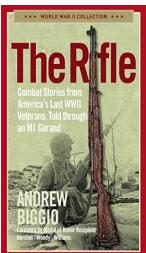
ROTC EVENT



U of O ROTC Announces an event: Andrew Biggio, author of "The Rifle: Combat Stories from America's Last WWII Veterans, Told through an M1 Garand," will be coming to Eugene to host his travelling M1 Garand event and collecting/sharing WWII Veteran stories.

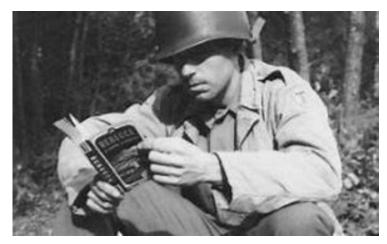
THE RIFLE EVENT: The author, Andrew Biggio, travels with a M1 Garand and gathers remaining WWII Veterans stories and publishes them in his books. The Veterans also sign the M1 Garand that travels with the event.

EVENT DETAILS: 29
February 2024 at
3:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial
Building, 1626
Willamette Street,
Eugene. The doors
will open at 2:30 pm.
Two WWII Veterans
have signed up to
attend so far.



Looking for something to read?

Do you like reading military related stories? Books about combat or tactics and strategy or shipboard life or military family travel or mean old nasty drill sergeants? If you do, and if you have any to share, we would like to set up a place to exchange reading material at our luncheon meetings. So, if you have something to share, bring it in and put it on the designated table. If you see something on the table that you would like to read, just pick it up and take it home. If you have something you'd like to share but would ultimately get back, just leave



a note in or on the book asking that it be returned to you when done reading.

BRIEFS

Thinking of renewing your military ID card by mail?

So, DOD has expanded their ID card renewals by mail system for retirees living in the U.S.. That

would be great news if it weren't so complicated to do. You have to start with a valid, not expired card. Then you go to a website and verify your information and your dependents' information and digitally sign a form. Next, you have to have a photo on file in DEERS, have an email address and a physical address in the continental U.S. (no PO Box) that is saved in DEERS. Once the DMDC mails you the card, you have to get back on the website and acknowledge receipt. Finally you have to either mail back the old card or take it to the local ID card office, where, if you had gone there in the first place you would have had your new card weeks before. For more details, go to MOAA.org and search for "DOD Expands ID Card."



Okay, this system is great for those who just can't get to the local ID card office in Springfield, but if you can, here's the process to get an appointment:

- Google: RAPIDS Appointment Scheduler
- Choose: ID Card Office Online
- Find: ID Card Office Locator & Appointments then click on CONTINUE
- Now, where it says "Enter Location," type in 97477 and click on SEARCH
- To the right of the map, click on SELECT under NRC Springfield OR
- Under NRC SPRINGFIELD OR, click on SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
- Using the arrows in the date line, find a date with available appointments, pick one and click on BOOK AN APPOINTMENT (one appointment for each person needing a card).

Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Springfield, OR is at 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield Tuesday-Thursday: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA Logo, Shield, Patch, Emblem... Something

Wouldn't it be nice to have our very own logo? I mean, national MOAA has the waterfalling stripes shield and their eight-sided seal; but what do we have? Nothing.

National MOAA suggests this:



Cute, but not very unique.

Shouldn't a logo say something about us? What we do, where we're from, who we are? Should it include trees or mountains or ducks or military gear... what? Where would we use it? On envelopes or newsletters or the website or patches or shirts or rings or challenge coins or business cards... the possibilities are endless.

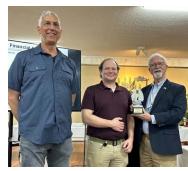
Our logo needs to be recognizable and distinctive. It should say something officer-ish and maybe Lane County-ish or Oregon-ish. Maybe make it in the shape of an emerald. It's up to us.

This is your chance to break out your old drawing pencil and jot down an idea or two. We don't need final, photo-ready art work... just a rough idea. There are some sneaky rules, like no DOD or other official seals or logos, so don't attach so much ownership in your idea that you can't accept some changes. Send us your ideas via email or hand Pat Harris a note at our next meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

February Guest Speaker

Mike Tardie, Community Engagement Manager for the Eugene Mission. Mike has been with the Eugene Mission for three years, after spending 12 years working for the United Way. Mike was in the Oregon Army National Guard for seven years and loves to camp and work in his yard. Mike recently returned from the best vacation: the Barrett Jackson auto auction, which he goes to annually with his father.



January Guest Speaker (s)

Ralph Pueschel, Community Outreach Coordinator (left) and Jay Leffler, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program Manager (center) of St. Vincent de Paul, receivde the coveted "Double Eagle" from chapter President Michael Kennedy after their presentation at our January luncheon. Jay pointed out that St. Vinnie's helps 35,000 people every year and right now they are helping 200 veteran families stay out of shelters and move into more stable housing. They have seven case managers to coordinate benefits aimed to get these families back on their feet.

Our Board of Directors will be discussing how we can best help at our next board meeting.

MINUTES Continued from page 4

- It was suggested laying out this proposal at the next general membership meeting to get more ideas and to see who might be interested in joining or leading the committee.
- The Treasurer promised data on past donations for the next luncheon meeting.
- Floyd Bard asked if there was any interest in setting up an emergency relief fund to help members during emergencies such as wildfires or ice storms.

1st Vice President Report: Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison, House Committee, Newsletter, Website: Nothing additional to report.

2nd Vice President Report: Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BFC): Our draft Levels of Excellence nomination package will be ready for review in the first week of February.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

- We have been offered free one-year memberships to the Oregon Coast Military Museum, a \$25 value. The President will offer the memberships at the next general membership meeting.
- John Toensing reported that Dick and Barbara Heyman just got their power after a week without heat, and they are both fine. He also stated that he is ready to give up the Program Chair; Floyd Bard said he would take that on as the 1st VP. He also reported that Diane Carlson Evans, who spoke with us about founding the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Dick Norton reported that Dean Dorsey has been experiencing some health issues but will remain on the board while his health improves.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 14 Feb 2024, 1200 hours, Vet's Building.
NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 28 Feb 2024, 1200 hours, Vet's Building

Meeting Adjourned: 1324 Hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, 10 January 2024

Brief History of our New Tradition

In 2020 and 2021, we were unable to meet for many months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, we learned of the deaths of seven members of our chapter or auxiliary, and five who had moved away from the area.

Our Board of Directors thought it would be helpful and healing to have an opportunity to commemorate our friends and process those losses as a group. In addition, due to the pandemic, some families had been unable to have any kind of memorial or funeral for their deceased loved ones. By having a memorial ceremony within our chapter, we could minister to their needs as well.

Being unable to predict when it would be safe to meet in person, the Board of Directors decided to conduct a virtual memorial ceremony using the Zoom video conferencing system, on what would have been the date of our January luncheon.

The ceremony was well-attended and family members of our late friends expressed gratitude at the acknowledgment of their loss and expressions of caring. The Board of Directors decided to make it an annual tradition to hold a memorial ceremony at our first chapter meeting each year.

We convene these ceremonies with sadness, but also with the hope that they will offer comfort, promote healing and provide encouragement for the year to come.



John P. Van Scholten, Captain, US Marine Corps (Former)

- •Born 1944
- •Died 11 January 2023



Uriel (Vince) Manion Commander, US Navy (Retired)

- •Born 2 March 1925
- •Died 22 October 2023



Patricia Flake spouse of Vernon Flake, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Retired), who died 1 October 1991

- •Born 25 October 1928
- •Died 27 February 2023



Geraldine Brooks spouse of Peter Brooks, Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, who died in December 2015

- •Born 18 October 1930
- •Died 15 November 2023





Charles W. (Charlie) Cole Captain, US Navy (Retired) Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA President 1983 and 2003/2004

- •Born 21 January 1929
- •Died 21 July 2023

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.

