

**10 JANUARY 2024 ALL-HANDS MEETING**

**Wednesday, 10 January 2024  
1130 social, 1200 lunch  
Veterans Memorial Building,  
1626 Willamette Street, Eugene  
Lunch \$18**

2

**MENU**  
**Fresh Green Salad with 3 Choices of Dressings**  
**Homemade Meatloaf**  
**Au Gratin Potatoes**  
**Corn with Roasted Peppers and Onions**  
**Chef's Choice Dessert**  
**Grandma's Rolls and Butter**

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The Remembrance Ceremony for those who left us in 2023 will be held during this meeting. See page 5.

2

Ralph Pueschel and Foster Martinez from  
St. Vincent de Paul's Veteran's Family Services  
will be our speakers.

4

Guests are always invited, but must make a reservation

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January 2024

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**Join us on January 10th for our  
Remembrance Ceremony.  
Make reservations by 7 Jan**

Printing graciously provided by  
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**541-762-8000**

**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 Liaison	Michael Pace	636-3745

**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Frank Balazs, USMC	541-485-4379
Dean Dorsey, USAF	925-518-5604
Ken Evans, USPHS	541-914-6235
Tom Kulick, USCG	541-465-4345
Scott Sandgathe, USN	541-510-9194
Jonathan Landon, USA	541-942-9992

*Happy New Year*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 20 December 2023

**PRESENT:** Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President John Toensing, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, and Secretary Jim Koch. Board members: Eric Watkins, Frank Balazs, Ken Evans, Joe Snyder, and Michael Pace. Pat Harris, Dick Norton, Floyd Bard, Scott Sandgathe and Dean Dorsey were also present. A quorum was established.

**OPENING:** President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 12:00 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also gave an opening prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 15 November 2023 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** for 15 NOVEMBER 2023 – 20 DECEMBER 2023 was not available due to illness. A combined monthly and annual report will be presented at the next board meeting.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT for 15 November – 26 December 2023 (inserted on 26 Dec 2023)**

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP 2024 DRIVE**

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 1909.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 2000.00
<b>CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2023 –26 December 2023</b>	<b>\$ 3909.00</b>

### **UMPQUA ACCOUNT**

#### **Chapter Operations:**

Beginning balance as of 14 November 2023	\$ 7118.44
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 1910.00
Expenses include dinner , door prize and incidentals, annual fees to state, VMA building donation, MOAA OR dues	\$ -2384.47
<b>Chapter Operations as of 26 December 2023</b>	<b>\$ 6643.97</b>

<b>Special Projects Fund:</b> added \$255 in donations	\$ 3851.75
<b>*ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund:</b> added \$260 in donations	\$ 1909.00
<b>Cadet Dinner Fund:</b> added 50\$ in donations	\$ 870.00
<b>UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of 26 Dec 2023</b>	<b>\$ 13274.72</b>

### **OCCU ROTC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND (includes \$5 in savings)**

Balance Forward (14 November 2023)	\$ 2015.45
Donations:	\$ 0.00
Dividend Credit: (Yield Earned 0.20%)	\$ 1.65

**OCCU TOTAL BALANCE (26 December 2023) \$ 2017.10**

### **\*BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)**

#### **EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance Forward (14 November 2023)	\$ 48439.35
<b>BCF Balance (26 December 2023)</b>	<b>\$ 48377.18</b>

**\*NOTES:** BCF Statements have been delayed this Fall due to medical leave of a BCF Financial Officer, now returned to duty. This statement is incomplete. Accounting is anticipated to be back to normal next month. \$100 was transferred this month from the ROTC Fund to BCF to be able to finance two scholarships through BCF. In addition, a MOAA member has contributed \$1000 directly to BCF Scholarship Fund this past month.

The Christmas tree drive generated \$150 to the Special Projects Fund.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (continued)

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. ROTC Update: Fall Commissioning resulting in one new 2LT alumni of the Webfoot Warrior Battalion, 2LT Yecharn Kang. Currently enjoying the Winter Break, classes begin again on Monday, January 8th, 2024. Dining Out will be on May 30th at the EMU Ballroom. Newest General Officer from the University of Oregon, and an ROTC Alumnus, BG Brandon Anderson, has been named Deputy Commanding Officer, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea (ROK), US Combined Division.
2. Four no-shows have not paid for Christmas Dinner. Notices will be sent for payment.
3. Monthly newsletters will include "Thoughts from the Board" submitted by a different board member each month, starting in February.
4. Submission for Levels of Excellence and Communications Awards are due in mid-February. Emphasis is on mission and activities of the chapter.
5. The Flying Duck award has been mounted on our flag storage box in the Vet's Bldg.
6. Our Christmas Party was a great success. The Dublinaires Choral Group was excellent and the interaction between the students and our members was terrific. We hope to have again them next year.
7. Ken Evans and Elaine Callahan attended the Portland MOAA Chapter Christmas Party. 75 people attended, including LT Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (ret), MOAA President and CEO. He was very impressive and non-political in his talk regarding MOAA's mission and activities.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. New EEMOAA Business Cards with a QR Code on the back, which would take a person to our website, were suggested. Ken Evans and Pat Harris will check on design and cost to produce, then will present their findings at the next board meeting.
2. A motion was made by Dick Kimbell and seconded by Floyd Bard to adopt a business card to be used by the chapter to help with recruiting new members.
3. A remembrance ceremony will be conducted by Jonatham Landon at the January 2024 luncheon.
4. Two guest speakers from St. Vincent DePaul will be present at the January luncheon. They will be speaking about their Veterans Programs.

## 1st Vice President Report:

Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison, House Committee, Newsletter, Website: \$150 has been earned from flag sales and two flags are left. The flag sale program has ended. \$200 has been earned from bottle and can returns. They must be donated in blue bags only, which John Toensing will provide. The website had 48 hits this past month.

## 2nd Vice President Report:

BCF has \$ 1,900 available for the scholarship fund. This is an increase of \$ 200 over the last

### "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

**Levels of Excellence Award:** Yours truly accepting the Emerald Empire Chapter Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award from MOAA President/CEO General Kelly the evening of 5 December 2023.

As you may recall, MOAA is trying to award more LOEs “locally,” in front of the chapters and members that earned it. This is an effort to better personalize the award, and to reduce the cost of the annual awards banquet.

Elaine and I found General Kelly to be very knowledgeable and personable. He was straight up on topics and offered his thoughts on others that may not currently be known to members outside the beltway.

MOAA now has 364,000 members, of which approximately 190,000 are at the Basic level. He did say that the vast majority of growth was in the Basic membership, so it is possible that the increase is responsible for the new 364,000 member number.

We were lucky enough to meet up with the General and 10 other chapter persons for breakfast the next morning where the General shared more thoughts. Informative with no stress. It was a good breakfast.

Submitted by Ken Evans, Chapter Membership and Legislative Chairs



National MOAA President and CEO Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) on the left with our Membership and Legislative Chair CAPT Ken Evans, USPHS (Ret)

**ROTC Chili Cook-Off Report:** Though a little smaller than events past, this year’s cook-off was not low on enthusiasm. Various-colored chilis (red, brown, white... really?) were offered and the crowd had to choose from 11 very different entries. Several MOAA members attended the gathering to lend some experience to the judging public, including John Toensing, Frank Balazs, Joe Snyder, Tom Stewart, Jim Koch, Jonathan Landon with his mom and family and yours truly (a real “I learned to cook chili at the Houston Fat Stock Show in 1980 and I know what real chili is supposed to taste like... and there’s no dang beans” kinda guy). Much to my surprise a white chili really stood out with well-developed flavor and the right level of heat (for Oregon, anyway). The winner turned out to be LTC Joseph Snyder, a MOAA member and the ROTC leader... so we all won.

Submitted by: Pat Harris

### **Time to Recycle... and make money for the chapter**

We are continuing to ask you to save your recyclable bottles and cans, bring them to a general membership meeting, and help us raise money for the Special Projects Fund. Out of the goodness of his heart, John Toensing started this fundraiser and has been the sole worker bee since day one. You can do one of two things that can make him want to continue this worthwhile program. You can either (1) get some of the new BLUE bags from John, fill them and bring them to a meeting, OR (2) you can help John collect, sort and deliver the bags to the recycler. Neither function takes very much time, and I know you prefer this method of raising money to the garage sales we used to do.



## JANUARY GUEST SPEAKERS

Our January guest representing St. Vincent de Paul are Ralph Pueschel, Community Outreach Coordinator and Supportive Housing Director Foster Martinez, who will actually be doing the speaking.

He will be speaking about the various programs offered by SVdP's Veteran Services.

### **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) connects Veterans experiencing homelessness with the resources they need to become or remain permanently housed.

### **Vet LIFT**

Vet LIFT offers emergency shelter and transitional housing opportunities through close collaboration with the Local Veterans Administration.

### **Veterans' Housing Project**

The Veterans Housing Project (VHP) was developed in 2011 as a collaborative effort of private, public and nonprofit organizations to provide safe and affordable housing to help military veterans transition easily back into the community upon returning from deployment.

### **2024 Chapter Officers Sworn In**

Next year's chapter officers were sworn in at the annual Christmas Party on December 7th by Brigadier General Norman Hoffman, USA (Ret). From left to right: Chapter President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Floyd Bard, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Patrick Harris.



## Emerald Empire Chapter Remembrance Ceremony

At the January 10th luncheon meeting, the Chapter will conduct a brief remembrance ceremony to honor all of our members who have passed or otherwise departed in 2023. President Michael Kennedy will conduct the ceremony with the assistance of Chaplain Jonathan Landon.

- **CAPT John Van Scholten**, USA (Fmr), passed away on 10 January 2023. He served during the Vietnam War era , 1968-1971. He leaves behind his wife Judy.
- **LTC Robert B. Tully, Jr.**, USA (Ret), passed away on 17 November 2022. He served from 1972 to 1992 and joined MOAA immediately after retirement. He leaves behind his wife Patricia
- **Patricia Flake**, 94, passed away on February 27th. She was the surviving spouse of LTC Vernon Flake, USA (Ret), who passed away October 1, 1991
- **CAPT Charles W. Cole**, USN (Ret), passed away July 21, 2023 in Bend, Oregon at the age of 94. Charlie, as he was known around here, was chapter president in 1983 and again from 2003-2004. He served from 1946 until 1979, specialized in naval engineering and serving during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Charlie was the CO of the Battleship USS Missouri when it was decommissioned in Bremerton, Washington.
- **CDR Uriel V. "Vince" Manion**, USN (Ret) passed away at the age of 98 on 22 October 2023, leaving behind his wife of 73 years, Donna. Vince was a "three-war-sailor." He completed his doctorate after retiring from the Navy and became a college professor.
- **Geraldine Brooks**, surviving spouse of LT Peter Brooks of the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR), passed away on 15 November 2023 in Roseburg. LT Brooks was an honorary member of the Emerald Empire chapter until he passed away in December 2015.

# BRIEFS AND ROTC BOOSTERS

**MOAA Name Tags:** Send the name you would like on tag and your service affiliation to Frank Balazs. balazsfd@comcast.net or 541-515-3137. He will get them made and deliver them to our Treasurer who will have them at the luncheon check-in desk for pick up. Cost \$5 each. Be sure to designate whether pin or magnetic backing. Also, if the tag is for a spouse, say either Army (or other service, of course) Spouse or Wife or Husband.



## Update to the 2023-2024 Directory has been mailed

We have published and mailed the one page update to the Chapter Member Directory. You should have it by the first of the year.

Please keep us posted on any changes to your contact information, e.g., mailing addresses, email, phones, etc. We will print a new directory in January 2025. If you need to make any corrections, please contact Pat Harris, at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com or call at 541-942-5274.

**Dublinaire Gift:** After a great performance and a rousing all-hands singing fest, President Kennedy handed a check for \$200 to Dublinaires Director Megan Perdue... and \$238.00 in cash from the hat that was passed around during their performance. The money will be used for the group's transportation and for helping fund sending individual singers off to invitational performances.

**Chapter Dues for 2024:** Dues for 2024 are due as of 1 Jan 2024. So far, about **65 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. Send a check made out to Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA, (or just "MOAA") to P.O. Box 767, Eugene, OR 97440.

**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 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:

Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
Cabot Clark, LTC, USA (Ret)	Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)
William Kellogg, Maj, USMC (Ret)	Helen Cook, Surviving Spouse	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)
John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Joelle Goodwin, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)
John Abele, Capt, USMC (Ret)	Edward Gear, COL, USA (Ret)	Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret)
Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret)	James Miller, CPT, USA (Ret)	Lynnette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)
James Koch, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Michael Lee, COL, USA (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC), USN (Ret)
Michele Mort, CPT, USA (Fmr)	Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse	Wilson Muhlheim, CPT, USA (Fmr)
Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse	Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Bert Toepel, COL, USA (Ret)	Darlene Tomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
James Armour, CPT, USA (Ret)	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	

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

**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,

# THE “NEW” PRESIDENT’S CORNER IS COMING

The end of the year brings a very busy time into each of our lives. I am writing this on December 21, the beginning of winter. So far, it does not appear to be too “wintery.” But, you never know what will come next.

I am also beginning my third year as president of the chapter. The one task that takes the most time to plan and do is the President’s Corner. However, I have had a great time reflecting on various topics. When we were looking for officers for the next year, I thought that it would be interesting and enlightening to get some other perspectives on topics that will expand our understanding of what our chapter is doing.

Pat noted in his comments in the last newsletter that this was going to be an experiment for the next year and he gave several ideas on topics that could be covered. He also encouraged members to request a board member to address issues dealing specifically with their board position or service-specific questions.

We are going to call this modified column “Thoughts from the Board”. I look forward to what will be covered by our outstanding board members.

I hope you all have a safe and prosperous New Year!

Michael Kennedy, Emerald Empire Chapter President

## New Monthly Column

Next month the President’s Corner will be renamed “**Thoughts from the Board.**” Each article will be authored by a different member of the Board of Directors and will cover a topic of their own choosing.

January	- Michael Kennedy	July	- Ginger Banks
February	- Ken Evans	August	- Floyd Bard
March	- Eric Watkins	September	- Pat Harris
April	- Joe Snyder	October	- Dick Kimbell
May	- Michael Pace	November	- Open
June	- Elaine Callahan	December	- Open

## MOAA’s Legislative Action Center

It’s easy to become a participant in MOAA’s virtual advocacy community, the Legislative Action Center. MOAA has a new way to post your support for topics and legislation directly to your Congressional Senator and Representative... and it doesn’t require postage! First open the MOAA.org website. No need to log-in, the site is open to anyone. Next, open the Advocacy page; the Legislative Action Center (LAC) is listed along the left border. Once the LAC is open, you can explore headings for Key Issues, MOAA Supported Legislation, and Elected Official Locator. There are a number of formatted letters on current legislation that are ready for submission. To join the network, complete the personal data page and submit. The letters will automatically carry your signature.



scholarship year. We now have 80 members in our chapter.

Comments from the President: None

Chapter Luncheon: 10 January 2024, 11:30 hours, Vet’s Building

Next Board Meeting: 24 January 2024, 12:00 hours, Vet’s Building

Meeting Adjourned: 13:19 Hours

James Koch, Secretary

**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Website:**

[www.emeraldempiremoaa.org](http://www.emeraldempiremoaa.org)

**E-mail:**

[MOAAofEugene@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Jan 4, 1889:

Birth of the

**USPHS**

**Commissioned**

**Officer Corps**

