

MOAA®

THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Emerald Empire Chapter holds no general membership meetings in July or August.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 7

JULY 2024

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The Board of Director's nominating committee has started its search for next years leaders. officer positions, as well as board and committee member positions, are available. Now is the time to find out what is involved. Contact Dick Norton at 541-915-5696.

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		

The picnic was our last general membership meeting until September 11th. Have a great summer.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 26 Jun 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, Scott Sandgathe, Jonathan Landon, Michael Pace and Tom Kulick. Members Dick Norton was also present. A quorum was established.

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the 22 May 2024 board meeting were reviewed and a change to Item 2 of New Business was recommended; Dick Kimbell is not working on a draft letter, Ken Evans has taken this for action. Revised minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for May 22 – June 25, 2024 was approved.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP JUNE 1, 2024 – JUNE 25, 2024

Umpqua Account	\$ 100.00
Benton Community Foundation Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
TOTAL FOR THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE	\$ 100.00

UMPQUA ACCOUNT

Chapter Operations:

Beginning balance as of May 22, 2024	\$ 6839.52
Deposits: to Chapter Operations	\$ 0.00
Expenses include PO Box annual fee	\$ -256.00

Chapter Operations as of June 25, 2024 **\$ 6583.52**

Special Projects Fund: added \$10 in donations \$ 4508.05

ROTC Scholarship 2025 Drive: added \$100 in donations \$ 100.00

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund Residual **\$ 4478.84**

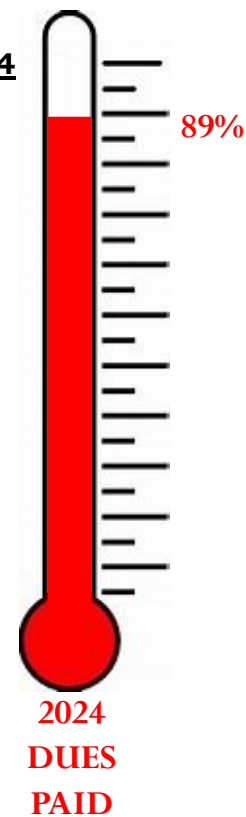
Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$0 in donations \$ 434.30

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total on June 25, 2024 **\$ 16134.71**

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance Forward (March 31, 2024)	\$56299.47
Change in Value of Investments	\$ -1989.95
Administrative Costs	\$ -120.54
BCF Balance (April 30, 2024)	\$ 54188.98



NOTES: The ROTC Scholarship Drive for 2025 has now begun as of June 1, 2024. The 2024 contributions and the residual funds are now combined under the ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund. \$1000 will be sent out to the recipient in September, the start of the Fall Term.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ROTC update, Veterans History Project - LTC Joe Snyder. No report. The board asked if there was any other way for our members to participate in the Library of Congress program to capture veterans' stories.

“The Emerald Voice”

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
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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 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/>. 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.)

2. Dues deadline and luncheon payment status - Elaine Callahan, Ken Evens. No new dues payments. Elaine is still looking for picnic receipts from John Toensing.
3. 2024 "Thoughts from the Board": Ginger Banks will provide an article for the July newsletter article and Floyd Bard will do one for August. After that, Pat Harris will do September, Dick Kimbell October, Michael Pace November and Michael Kennedy will close out the year and his reign in December.
4. Continue discussion on the option of opening a second foundation fund with lower costs - Dick Kimbell, Ken Evans, and Eric Watkins. Nothing more to do on this issue until our 501(c)3 is established. Evans and Watkins to confer. Could be done by November in time for members to do RMD gifts.
5. Eugene Mission Support - Michael Kennedy. (see attached after action report): President Kennedy suggested we gauge membership interest in participation in academic support or field trip leadership AFTER we see how chaplain led bible study meetings go. We should shoot for an additional program around September. Floyd Bard expressed a need for us to be seen supporting in the community rather than just delivering donations to increase MOAA visibility. Michael Pace will get a copy of the Mission's curriculum to see if we can build interest in the membership.
6. Discuss letter campaign to our congressional reps from this chapter, emphasis on MOAA's action items. This would prop up our involvement with that measured item in the LOE application. Ken Evans, Legislative Chair, will draft letter for President's signature.
7. Elected board members for 2025 - Dick Norton says we are in pretty good shape for new President and new 1st Vice President. He still has a few board members to confirm their future plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

June 8th Annual Picnic evaluation: Sundays in June are good. We do need a new person to run it in 2025.

1st Vice President Report: Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison, House Committee, Newsletter, Website: Webmaster reports 68 hits on the website last month. Floyd Bard said he googled local military support organizations, and our chapter came in close to the top. He listed our meeting speakers as Pat Harris in September, Steve Yamamori of the Standdown and Reveille Foundation in October, and Richard Grover of Goodwill's Veterans Programs in November.

2nd Vice President Report: Membership, Awards, Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BFC): No report.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday, 11 Sep 2024, 1200, Vets Bldg.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Wednesday, 24 Jul 2024, 1200, Vets Building

Meeting Adjourned: 1252 Hours

Patrick Harris, Secretary

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD by Ginger Banks

Greetings from your Webmaster!



Our little webmaster when she first got the job

Let me begin by saying that when I entered the room where the chapter's Board of Directors held their meetings, the last thing I ever thought about was that I would come away with a huge project like this. Let me set the stage: there were probably ten men of varying ages ready to discuss the board agenda that day. One of the New Business topics was about how the national MOAA headquarters was requesting that chapters consider establishing an internet presence. Then the question was asked, "Anyone know how to build a website?" There was a pregnant pause before one after another replied, "Not me, negative, nope, I can't find my way out of my email account, what is a website? NO!" Mind you, as an organization we were still writing checks for fees, making phone calls when we wanted information, taking Xerox copies of handwritten notes, and sending out the Newsletter by mail.

Then it was my turn to reply. I considered lying, but I reveal way too much in body language to be believed when a lie. Besides my past 13 years in healthcare informatics gave me ample opportunity to delve into a fledgling website platform, and once I was managing the content, led to developing a hospital newsletter that became a published system-wide site. So, I quietly (so unlike me) said that I had a "little" experience.



Down came the gavel... and the motion was approved and seconded that I would begin building the EEMOAA website.

I was frantic! Where do I go to even start to understand building a non-medical, military-focused, web-based internet site that was based on our chapter? Let me simply say that between the time of that board meeting in November and March of the next year, a LOT of TUMS were consumed late at night until I could send out a partial web address to the board. I must add that I brought my laptop with me in March so those on the board who were less experienced in accessing the internet, could see what I had been working on so diligently.



Our little webmaster after reality sunk in

In my third year as Webmaster, I was sent a notice by our website host that all the content in our website would have to be transferred over to their new (and security-improved) platform. Another three months of TUMS consumed. However, I am proud to say that from that first day of going live on the web, our chapter has annually submitted the website (along with the Newsletter) for the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Program and has received a 5-Star award each year. Not an easy process by any means, but Pat Harris and I work diligently to bring you news about the chapter and all the organizations EEMOAA stays active with... but something we are committed to do.

You will find when you visit our website that I am extremely committed to providing veteran resource information that is legitimate and specific to our county and state. There are pages committed to providing local and VA information, the most recent disability conditions and PAC ACT claim progress, and even a tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters listed on the "In Memorium" page. Go ahead... visit our website and see what you think. <https://emeraldempiremoaa.org/>

Do you know how this chapter works? Who decides how we generate income and disperse it? What must be voted on by the general membership and what power can the Board of Directors wield on their own? Sit in on a meeting. See the Board Minutes on page 3 to find out when and where the next meeting will be held.

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

John and Lynne Toensing did it again... the planning, the shopping, the gathering, the transporting and the cooking... not to mention the set-up and break-down. They did it all... and a lot of people pitched in to make it happen: Ken Evans and Elaine Callahan brought a grill and helped set up and cook; Lynnette Campbell, Rick Cheney, Eric Watkins, Floyd Bard, Dianna Clark and Geri Harris all helped in the “kitchen”; and many hands helped to unload and load, and put this here and put that there.

We had hamburgers, cheese burgers, hot dogs, fresh corn on the cob, potato chips, beer, soft drinks and water provided by the chapter; and a wide variety of salads and desserts ranging from the ultra-healthy to the not-so-healthy-but-very-tasty variety.



As predicted, we had great weather (mid-70s), very few flies and no “bees”.

All-in-all, a very successful picnic, with only one small hiccup... someone (again) bought bottled beer without a twist-off top. Luckily, Ken Evans found an opener from his truck and saved the day.

See you next June.



Atomic Veterans Day, 16 July

July 16 is National Atomic Veterans Day, honoring the brave service and sacrifice of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who participated in nuclear tests or were exposed to radioactive material from 1945 to 1962. On this day, Americans are called upon to remember the service of these brave individuals and to honor their sacrifices made for the safety and security of the nation.



MOAA Board Member Eric Watkins on the ROTC Commissioning:

Frank Balasz and Eric Watkins joined LTC Joe Snyder at the commissioning rehearsal and presented each of the eight commissionees with a set of gold bars and welcomed them to the officer corps. The presenters spoke about the military organizations, including MOAA, which the new lieutenants were eligible to join and encouraged them to find a lifelong home with them.



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) Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (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**

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**It's
never
too late
to
become
a MOAA
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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!*



On the other
hand, the USPHS
Commissioned
Officer Corps'
birthday is
January 4th.

**U.S. Public Health Service
July 16th**