

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Wednesday, October 13th
Veterans' Memorial Building
1626 Willamette Street, Eugene
11:30 Social / 12:00 Lunch
\$18 each



MENU

Chicken Picatta
Fresh Green Salad with 3 Dressing Choices
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Grandma's Rolls and Butter
Chocolate Dipped Macaroons

PROGRAM

Chris Quaka, President of the Benton Community Foundation
where our ROTC Scholarship Funds are building

We will also be announcing the slate of officers and directors for 2021

Guests are always welcome.


VOLUME 57, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2021

In this issue:		<p style="text-align: center;">2022 DUES AND BOOSTERS</p> <p>Now accepting 2022 annual dues: \$25 Pay the Treasurer by mail at: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440 Early payments will be well received!</p> <p>Also accepting donations toward the 2022 ROTC Scholarships and sponsorships for the cadet dinners at the annual banquet</p>
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MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2021 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Ken Evans	914-6235
1st Vice Pres	Dick Norton	915-5696
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Jim Koch	719-440-9036
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Mike Kennedy	463-7951
Newsletter	Pat Harris	942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336

REMEMBER: 

If you make a luncheon reservation, you will be charged unless you cancel it by Sunday, Oct 10th.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES of SEP 22, 2021

PRESENT: Officers: President Ken Evans, 1st Vice President Dick Norton, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Secretary Jim Koch, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Eric Watkins and Tom Kulick. Committee members: Pat Harris. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Evans called the meeting to order at 12:03 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Norton gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 25 August 2021 board meeting were reviewed. Motion by Dick Kimbell and seconded by Elaine Callahan to accept. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

TREASURER'S REPORT for 25 August-21 September 2021

UMPOUA ACCOUNT

Club Operations:

Beginning balance as of 25 August 2021	\$ 5133.89
Deposits: to Club Operations	51.11
Expenses: Stamps	-29.00
Club Operations as of 21 September 2021	\$ 5156.00

Special Projects Fund: added \$ 50 in donations	\$ 2468.05
VAGT added \$ 0 and dispersed/donated \$ 521.11	00.00
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$150 in donations	500.00
UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT grand total as of 21 Sept 2021	\$ 8124.05

OCCU ROTC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance as of 31 July 2021	\$ 4005.86
Interest	0.51
Scholarship Disbursements (2)	-2000.00
OCCU Total Balance as of	\$ 2006.37

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Previous balance as of 31 July 2021	\$ 51333.46
Change in Value of Investments minus Administrative Costs	+848.92
Scholarship Disbursement	-1200.00
BCF Balance as of 31 August 2021	\$ 50982.38

NOTES:

Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament Fund is now zeroed out. \$520.00 is sent to St Vincent de Paul, and the remaining \$1.11 is transferred to Club Operations.

The Annual ROTC Booster Fund Drive, 01 June 2021- 01 June 2022, is \$1500.00: \$ 500.00 in the Umpqua ROTC Booster Fund and \$ 1000.00 in the Benton ROTC Endowment, as a donor has contributed directly to BCF. The BCF donation will be reflected in next month's report.

"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 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/>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

All Scholarships (3) have been disbursed to the Cadets' University of Oregon Accounts; Benton Community Fund disbursed \$1200, and MOAA disbursed two \$1000 scholarships.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Annual Membership Picnic - 34 Members were in attendance. Everything went well, great conversations were had, and it was an enjoyable event. The calling committee worked well in contacting members. More or larger magnets will be needed next year to hold up the flag.
2. Membership -
 - a. Cecil Hodges passed away. Ronald Schmaedick is in memory care due to Alzheimer's Disease.
 - b. More requests will go out to members who have not paid dues.
3. Pat Simpson Resolution - Did not make it through last State Legislative session. It will be re-introduced and hand-walked through the next session.
4. Luncheon 13 October -
 - a. Veteran's Building will be available. Meal price is going up from \$17 to \$18.
 - b. Ceremonial Checks will be presented to Zack Goodenough (St. Vincent De Paul) and Cadet Akey (ROTC).
 - c. Guest speaker may be Chris Quaka (BCF) or Chris Warren (ROTC).
5. 2022 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors Nominations - Attached (see page 9).

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing to add.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: A "Thinking of You" Card will be sent to Clay Robson. The next newsletter will be out on 1 Oct. Ginger Banks reports 9 visits to our website.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: The 2022 Level of Excellence Award will be discussed at the next meeting. After approval of Board Minutes the Secretary must sign to make them official.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: Veteran's Home in Lebanon is not opened for activities, hence, there will be no Council of Chapter Presidents meeting. Ken will send out informational emails about National MOAA. Eric brought up joining Veterans' Memorial Association with the VFW and American Legion, more to follow.

Chapter Luncheon Meeting: 13 October 2021 Veteran's Building

Next Board Meeting: 27 October 2021 Veteran's Building

Meeting adjourned 13:10 hours

<p>NOMINATIONS</p> <p>Call Dick Norton at 541-915-5696</p> <p>ARE OPEN</p>	<p>The list of candidates for 2022 officer and board member positions on page 9 of this newsletter is just a proposed list of those who have raised their hands and said they would be willing to take on those responsibilities. That list is not final, which gives any other member the opportunity to raise their hands or to be nominated by someone else. The list will be finalized and published in the November newsletter, which according to our By-Laws, must be published at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting; scheduled for 10 November. So, if you would like to stick your toes in the water and re-ignite your leadership skills, pick up the phone and call Dick Norton (listed on the cover page).</p>
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC AT JASPER PARK



James Secre-

FROM TOP LEFT, THEN CLOCKWISE: Our hosts, organizers, shoppers and chefs, Lynn and John Toensing; 2nd Vice President and Past President Dick Kimbell with new members Mike and Burmah Rainbolt; President Ken Evans and Treasurer Elaine Callahan; 1st Vice President and Past President Dick Norton and Floyd Bard; new member Rick and Linda Cheney; Past President BG Norm Hoffman; Board Member Frank Balazs and recently resurfaced member Rick Edwards; Board Member Mike Kennedy; Chapter Secretary Jim Koch: Roberta Cooper filling in for her son and our usual Chef Chad Cooper who had to work; Past President Dick Heyman; Geri Harris, Carol Norton and Barbara Heyman; and member Clay Robson.

Koch, tary



Just some of the 34 attendees.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Call me crazy but, it's October already? I knew it was coming, but now it is here. The one thing that makes getting to October okay is having the chapter kickoff picnic in September. It was wonderful to have the picnic on a beautiful day with chapter members whom we have not seen face to face in some time. Conversation was nonstop, energetic and fun. Thank you all for your attendance. I understand that the picnic was not able to be attended by many, but hopefully, come October, more of us can get together.

Speaking of October, we are full ahead on planning for a lunch meeting on Wednesday, October 13th. We will have several guests to recognize and a presentation from Benton Community Fund (BCF) on current operations and related fund enhancement thoughts. The chapter has made a solid move to invest with BCF for our continuing support of ROTC, and this presentation will keep members informed and up to date.

I would also like to thank all those members who have kept active and up to date in their dues, donations and interactions with us during the past 18 months. With so many fits and starts to

any and all activities, the uncertainties and the mandates, it is to your credit to remain steadfast and positive for the benefit of our members, ROTC and the recipients of our special projects. Thank you so much and may you remain healthy, active and happy. See you on the 13th.

Submitted by Ken Evans, Emerald Empire Chapter President



OREGON
We live in beauty

I.D. Cards Out of Date? There are no more ID card extensions for COVID. See the article in the 30 September online MOAA Newsletter. The link to the article is included on our newsletter's distribution email. Page ii of our member directory tells you where to get your cards renewed.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Your Legislative Affairs Committee recently noted that the Oregon House and Senate had both sent bills to Finance and Revenue directing the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs (ODVA) to "study and make recommendations for policy proposals for the tax treatment of veterans' retirement benefits." The legislature is looking for a report by January 1, 2023.

We brought the issue to the attention of Col Mary Mayer, USAF (Ret), Chair of the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO), who has tasked her Legislative Committee chairs, who are in constant contact with ODVA, to check out those bills. Their goal is to find out the path forward with this report and invite ourselves into whatever study process is initiated.

THE HOLIDAY FARM FIRE UPDATE: How are our evacuees doing?

One year ago, the McKenzie Valley experienced the most horrific natural disaster that Lane County has ever faced. The Holiday Farm Fire took homes, memories, family traditions, businesses, pets and – most tragically – it took a life. It also stole the sense of safety and security that many people felt living in such a beautiful place.

What the fire did not take was the strength and resilience of the people of the McKenzie Valley. Five of our chapter members were forced to evacuate that night and two lost their homes. What follows are the inputs that they have chosen to provide:

Lt Col Clay Robson, USAF (Ret), evacuated with only moments to spare from his home in Vida. He and his wife Ann lost their home and have since moved to Eugene. They do not intend to rebuild.

CW3 Tommy Albert, ARNG (Ret) and his wife Kathy had to make an immediate evacuation from their home in Vida and also lost everything. They stayed in Eugene just long enough to deal with their insurance, FEMA and Lane Public Works, then packed up everything they owned in the glove compartment of their pick-up and moved to Texas. Tommy sends the following:

Fire and Ice...

Howdy y'all, from Texas. For future reference, don't make a move during a pandemic. Orders, if they can even be filled, take up to half a year to arrive. Restorations, due to lack of materials, take forever as well. We are "finally" settled in our new home and as usual, Kathy has done her magic and the newly renovated home is comfortable and attractive. The weather, well... this is Texas and other than the historic ice and snow event, it is hot as H...e... double L.

Must say we very much miss the river and our fine friends back in Oregon. Poor Tizzy (our cat) looks at us with disdain and we know he is saying, "Why did we leave my river?" Once the dust settles, we do plan to visit and look forward to seeing all of you again.

**And to add another bit of information: MOAA chapters in Texas do not hold even a match flame to the fine Eugene Emerald Empire Chapter and its fine members and executive staff. We do truly miss everyone.

MAJ Lynnette Campbell, USA (Ret) and her husband John Hidalgo had to evacuate as the fire approached their home in northeast Springfield. Lynnette says:

John and I were lucky last year, we didn't lose our home and property, and we feel blessed. It is jarring to know that if there hadn't been a shift in the wind's direction we would have lost our house, it was just luck and no amount of preparation could have prevented it. But as a result of last year's experience we are better prepared this year. One of the first things I did was to increase my home insurance coverage. February 2020 we completed a major renovation and so cost to replace in the event of a total loss needed to reflect those upgrades. We bought a generator and had an electrician hook it up to the house so that bare necessities will be powered. We updated our phones with our new neighbors' phone numbers. And we recently downloaded NextDoor, an application similar to Facebook but limited to our neighborhood. So now we're inundated with notices of missing dogs, wandering goats, etc., but in an emergency it could help us keep up with events.

I was touched beyond words by the number of friends and acquaintances who offered us their hospitality. We decided to stay in a hotel and not impose but suggested that they could bring us dinner if they wanted to help. One couple gave us a basket of food complete with tablecloth, wine, glasses, and candles!

My takeaway is twofold: If you know someone who has been evacuated, offer to bring them

THE HOLIDAY FARM FIRE UPDATE (continued)

readymade food whether they are in a hotel, campground or at someone's house. The people offering them hospitality will appreciate a break from having to cook for guests. And for me personally, instead of declining hospitality I should have asked if they had room in their freezers to take in pounds upon pounds of frozen berries, tomatoes, pies, etc. Clearly the frozen food is the last priority, and this assumes the evacuation is not rushed. (That said, many friends were devastated come Christmas time when they didn't get their annual jar of raspberry syrup!)

CDR Scott Sandgathe, USN (Ret) and his wife Gail also had to evacuate their home in north-east Springfield. Scott offers the following advice:

We have since carefully updated our emergency evacuation list. It consists of photos, memorabilia, and important papers. We are also planning to remove all the bark mulch from around the house as it was one of the deciding factors in homes that burned. You can get the same effect from red cinders without the fire risk.

Thankfully, all we lost in the fire was some of the fruit and vegetables in our freezer. But interestingly, we have also lost a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables both last year and this year. The fire drove a family of deer down onto our property and they have resisted all our efforts to get them to leave. They are eating things that deer have never bothered before, foiling previously very successful prevention measures, and cleaning out flowers, vegetables and fruit. They eat very little outside of our property and our neighbor's.

Scott added the following just last week: Just drove up 126 yesterday. Lots of construction going on, but still, lots of devastation. Passed 16 log trucks headed out in a 45-minute drive.

BG Ray Byrne, USA (Ret) evacuated his home east of Waltermville had a little more time to evacuate and offers the following:

The morning after the fire started, McKenzie Fire and Rescue (MFR) alerted Deerhorn Rd residents to pack up and leave. I loaded my two dogs and three cats into the car, let the chickens out to fend for themselves and checked on some neighbors and went to a friend's house in Eugene for the duration. I am on the board of McKenzie Fire and Rescue so I was able to visit the area during the fire and check on full-time and volunteer staff during the emergency. The team did an exceptional job until being relieved by a surge of assistance over the next several days. Except for lots of ash residue, there was very little cleanup to get done. EWEB did a heroic job of restoring power to the Deerhorn Rd area and power was restored the afternoon I returned. Lessons learned; 1) keep a "go" bag up to date with essential papers; 2) check in with family before you leave telling them your status and where they can find you. I was concerned that Lane County had no plan to determine who was in or out of the fire affected area. I stopped at Thurston High School on the way out to give Red Cross volunteers my information. In my estimation Lane County and other agencies, including MFR, used valuable time and effort searching for people who had left the affected area.

Losing, or even the threat of losing everything you own, things that you have accumulated and lived with for years and years, can be very traumatic. And the old saw that you don't know what you've lost until you've lost it is more true than we can imagine. On a light note, when Tommy and Kathy Albert sat down for their first meal in their new home, after having furnished it with everything from bath towels to frying pans to easy chairs and phone chargers, realized that they didn't even have any salt and pepper shakers. It's not just the big things; it's the small things as well. With luck and rain, maybe we can keep this from happening again.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REACHES MILESTONE

The most recent report from the Benton Community Foundation (BCF), administrator for the Emerald Empire MOAA Donor Advised Fund, indicates a new value exceeding \$50,000! Chapter membership is to be congratulated on reaching this milestone. We started this program in 2010 by re-instating the Chapter 501 (C)(19) status. Then the Board created the foundation and its by-laws. In 2017 we signed an agreement with the BCF to administer the fund investments. Over the years most of the fund growth came from Chapter garage sales, Holiday Bazaar sales, donations of cash, securities, and bequests. "Thanks" to all who participated. However, we have not yet reached a sustainable fund goal of \$80,000. At that level the fund would easily grant the three \$1000 scholarships annually in perpetuity. BCF will present a program at our monthly luncheon meeting in the near future. Please plan to attend and bring your questions.

Submitted by Dick Kimbell, 2nd Vice President

Update your Directory listing

We plan to publish an update to the current Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2022. To make this edition as accurate as possible, we ask that everyone look at the last edition (white) and make sure your information is complete and accurate. New members who were not in the 2021-2022 directory, will be listed in this update. If anything needs to be added or corrected, please contact the Directory Editor, Pat Harris, at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com.

If you do not have access to the old directory and have changed your home or email address or phone numbers in the last year, please send that info to Pat.



TAPS Member Cecil M. Hodges, LTC, USA (Ret), passed away March 2, 2021. He was a U of O ROTC graduate who spent two years in Korea before starting a 19 year career in the Reserves. He was a high school math teacher, a football and basketball coach, and a trainer for the Eugene Emeralds before starting a 27-year tenure at Lane Community College.

ROTC Boosters The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. The 2021 scholarships are being sent to the cadets' student accounts this month. 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, USAY (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Micheal Rainbolt, LTC, USA (Ret)	Thomas Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	

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.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Members for 2022

OFFICERS

President	Michael Kennedy
1 st Vice President	Dick Norton
2 nd Vice President	Dick Kimbell
Secretary	James Koch
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Watkins	Representing USA
Frank Balazs	Representing USMC
Ken Evans	Representing USPHS
Ginger Banks	Representing USAF
Tom Kulick	Representing USCG
Roy Pace	Representing USN

NOAA and USSF Positions are vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS

Programs	Dick Norton
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon
Personal Affairs	Jonathan Landon
Newsletter	Pat Harris
Webmaster	Ginger Banks
Legislative	Ken Evans
Membership	Ken Evans
House and Calling	Dick Norton
ROTC and Awards	Eric Watkins
Scholarship Fund	Dick Kimbell
Annual Picnic	John Toensing
Audit/Historian	Eric Watkins
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Carol Norton
ROTC Liaison	Chris Warren
Special Events	Floyd Bard
Awards	Frank Balazs

Barring any new or additional candidates, the general membership will vote to accept these candidates at the Annual Meeting on 10 Nov 2021.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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*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 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.



**NAVY
Birthday
13 October**

