

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Wednesday, October 12th
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
Rice Pilaf
Green Beans with Onions
Grandma's Rolls and Butter
Apple Pie

PROGRAM

Sean Furney, US Air Force Veteran
Veterans Employment Services for Easter Seals Oregon
Will be talking about suicide prevention

Guests are always welcome.

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 10 **OCTOBER 2022**

In this issue:		2023 DUES AND BOOSTERS
Program	1	Now accepting 2023 annual dues: \$25 Pay the Treasurer by mail at: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440 Early payments will be joyfully received! Also accepting donations toward the 2023 ROTC Scholarships and sponsorships for the cadet dinners at the annual banquet
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MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Mike Kennedy	541-463-7951
1st Vice Pres	Dick Norton	541-915-5696
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	541-915-0405
Secretary	Jim Koch	719-440-9036
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	541-968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	541-946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	541-914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	541-942-5274
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	541-484-3336

REMEMBER:

If you make a luncheon reservation, you will be charged unless you cancel it by Sunday, Oct 9th.

Printing graciously provided by


541-762-8000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES of 28 SEP 2022

PRESENT: Officers: President Michael Kennedy, 1st Vice President Dick Norton, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Tom Kulick, Michael Pace, Eric Watkins, Ken Evans, Ginger Banks and Frank Balazs. A quorum was established.

OPENING: President Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1215 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 24 Aug 2022 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT for 25 AUGUST – 27 SEPTEMBER 2022: Reviewed and approved.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROTC SCHOLARSHIP

Umpqua Account ROTC Scholarship Fund	\$ 600.00
Benton Community Foundation ROTC Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00
CONTRIBUTION TOTAL 1 JUNE 2022 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2022	\$ 600.00

UMPOUA ACCOUNT

Club Operations:

Beginning balance as of 24 August 2022	\$ 5705.24
*Deposits: to Club Operations	\$ 425.00
Expenses: Jasper Pk Reservation	\$ -58.00

Club Operations as of 27 September 2022 **\$ 6072.24**

Special Projects Fund: added \$50 in donations. \$ 3129.05

ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund: added \$50 in donations \$ 600.00

Cadet Dinner Fund: added \$50 in donations \$ 212.00

UMPQUA CHECKING ACCOUNT Grand Total as of 27 Sept 2022 **\$ 10013.29**

OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION (OCCU) BUSINESS MONEY MARKET (includes \$5 in savings)

Balance Forward (24 August 2022)	\$ 4651.91
**Grant Disbursement to Cadet U of O Acct	\$ -1000.00
Disbursement ROTC funds to Benton Community Fund	\$ -1644.00
Dividend Credit: (Yield Earned 0.20%)	\$ 3.95

OCCU TOTAL BALANCE (27 September 2022) **\$ 2011.86**

BENTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

EMERALD EMPIRE MOAA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance Forward (24 August 2022)	\$ 46788.21
Change in Value of Investments	\$ -1487.04
**Grant Disbursement to Cadet U of O Acct	\$ -1000.00
MOAA Contribution (from OCCU Acct)	\$ 1644.00
Administrative Cost	\$ -75.95

BCF Balance (27 September 2022) **45869.22**

"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 MINUTES (Cont.)

NOTES: The Jasper Park picnic was cancelled due to the smoke from local forest fires. The expenses have not yet been recorded and reimbursed to the contributing members. We are seeking a refund for the reservation.

*Club Operations received donations from several members specifically to pay for the member meet and greet with the National MOAA representative on September 28, 2022.

**As of September 26, BCF statement reflects only one disbursement of \$1000. EEMOAA has disbursed a second grant to University of Oregon for \$1000. A third is pending from BCF.

NEW BUSINESS:

ROTC: LTC Snyder reported they are in the first week of school and started 62 students in PE today. They are preparing for Veterans Day. Branch Assignment Day is 30 Nov and they want to make that a significant event; more on that as plans develop. The Chili Cookoff is 2 Dec; we have been challenged. There will be a commissioning ceremony for some winter graduates on 14 December.

Ron Sticka announced a PTSD seminar on 15 Oct. He is also looking for a chapter coordinator for the local chapter of Guitars for Vets. Details on the symposium will be attached to the newsletter email.

Floyd Bard announced that the Lane County Stand Down set-up is tomorrow with the actual event on Friday, 30 Sep. This will be the first full-sized stand down in three years and they are expecting about 500 veterans. They have 50-55 exhibitors and volunteers but would really appreciate set-up help on the 29th.

John Toensing announced that he has found a beautiful American flag that he would like our members to purchase and sell to neighbors. The cost will be about \$75 for a 4' X 6' and about \$55 for a smaller flag. The chapter would receive about \$15 for the sale of each flag. Pole kits are also available. The flag was on display. John also mentioned that he would be taking all the returnables brought in to the BottleDrop. He also made collection bags available to the members.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

Personal Affairs (Health, Welfare, Surviving Spouse), House Committee. Newsletter, Website: Dick Norton announced the need for a Surviving Spouse Liaison as Carol Norton is unable to continue. He has materials available for anyone interested.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

Membership, Awards (General & Levels of Excellence), Legislative, Benton Community Fund (BCF): No report.

Next General Membership Meeting: 12 Oct 2022 Social 1130, Lunch 1200, Veterans' Building

Next Board Meeting: 26 Oct 2022 1200 hours, Veterans' Building

Meeting adjourned 1235 hours
Patrick Harris, Acting Secretary

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

COMMENTS FROM NATIONAL MOAA SPEAKER

At the 28 Sep Board Meeting, CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Program Director of national MOAA's Council and Chapter Affairs, addressed the 25 members in attendance about their three main areas of effort: Membership, Grassroots Advocacy and Community Engagement. He congratulated our chapter on its Five-Star achievements in the Levels of Excellence and Communications awards (both newsletter and website).

Membership: He asked if we realized that of the 356,000 national MOAA members, there are only 40,000 members in the nearly 400 chapters. He further noted that the average age of all MOAA members is 63 years old, but in the chapters the average is 75. That is why they are concentrating on recruiting in the 40-60 year age group... those who are transitioning from the military into the civilian sector. They are also trying to find ways to better help the chapters recruit that 89% of national members who are not chapter members.

Grassroots Advocacy: This area of concentration used to be called "Storming the Hill" and entails meeting personally with members of Congress and their staffs. Though it has been done remotely for the last two years due to covid, they hope to perform in-person visits this year.

Community Engagement: CAPT Michael commended us on our close relationship with the U of O ROTC program. He is also aware of our contributions to Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent de Paul veterans programs.

LOE Changes: MOAA has made some changes on how chapters and councils are graded for the Levels of Excellence award. The award criteria established a new level 3 award to recognize the efforts of chapters who are working well but have not yet reached the 4- or 5-star level. The new criteria will now take into consideration the evaluations of national MOAA and council visits, and will rely more heavily on subjective evaluation topics.



Virtual Chapters: MOAA currently has six virtual chapters that meet electronically and connect members who share common interests. The current chapters are Nurses, Surviving Spouses, USPHS, Chaplains, Women and Families. Learn how to join or start a virtual chapter in the Councils and Chapters pages of the national MOAA website.

MOAA Board: National is currently running a "Board School" for the 12 new board members recruited this year. National changes out a third of the board's members every year, so opportunities are available every year.

NOMINATIONS

Call Dick Norton at 541-915-5696

ARE OPEN

The list of candidates for 2023 officer and board member positions on page 7 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 9 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).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am sorry that we had to cancel the picnic this year. It was always good to see each other face to face since we haven't had Wednesday lunches during the summer. It is good to gather socially and get caught up on everyone's summer activities, meet spouses, and to acknowledge that another year has begun.

I guess that with all that has gone on over the last several years, we have gotten good at change, or, at least, we have learned to endure it. In fact, I find that I seem to be averse to change now, whereas in the past I used to welcome it. Perhaps this is a sign that I am growing older.

I have mentioned before in this column that as former members of the armed forces we have had to put up with change as a matter of course, changes in duty stations, changes in personnel during any given duty station, even changes in policy at the national or base or CO levels. Change is always a part our lives.

Last week our oldest grandchild moved in with us so that she can go to LCC and then to the U of O (sorry, I just cannot change enough to call it the UO). We are quite pleased to have her with us, but it has meant significant change for my wife and me. Although her presence was anticipated and enjoyed, it still requires us to function in a different manner after 20 years of life with just the two of us.

If there is one thing certain in life, it is change! May your times of change be times of growth and insight knowing that change is inevitable. Now we look forward to gathering together at our monthly meetings and next year's picnic.

Submitted by: Michael Kennedy, President

Halloween 2022 and Military Festivities

Halloween will be celebrated on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

The holiday season is often a tough time for military members, families, veterans, and friends. Most associate this struggle with Thanksgiving and Christmas, but Halloween is really the start of the fall/winter holiday season, and military communities know that for some-especially military parents separated from their children at this time of year-there should be some form of military community activity and outreach.



Any military base overseas that allows "accompanied tours", where spouses and dependents are welcome, usually has some form of the usual Halloween trick-or-treat activities among the base community. In places where there is family housing, the neighborhoods will likely resemble any other American street, with costumed kids and family members going door-to-door. And sometimes, these occasions turn into a cross-cultural learning experience.

Update your Directory listing

We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2023. 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 have changed address, any phone numbers, spousal status or email address since joining should also respond. If anything needs to be added or corrected, please contact Pat Harris, at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com or call at 541-942-5274.

If you do not have access to the old directory and have changed any contact information in the last year, please send that info to Pat.



BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

Your RMD and Emerald Empire Scholarship Funds: It's that time of year for the Required Minimum Distribution from your IRAs. Consider reducing your taxable income with a qualified charitable contribution to the Benton Community Foundation (BCF). BCF administers the designated funds for the Emerald Empire MOAA Scholarships. Please contact your financial advisor for the proper forms. The check must be made out to BCF to qualify. Note on the check memo: Emerald Empire MOAA Scholarship Fund.

If you wish to make other donations to the scholarship fund, we have self-addressed envelopes to BCF. Thanks for your support of the ROTC cadets at the University of Oregon.

MOAA Polo Shirts Available to Order: We are putting together an order for the navy blue polo shirts with the MOAA logo. These shirts are the same ones we ordered about three years ago and will go for less than \$30 each. We need a minimum order of 12 shirts to keep the price down. If you are interested, contact Pat Harris at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com.

PTSD Symposium, 15 Oct: The fifth annual PTSD symposium will be held on 15 Oct at the Shedd from 0830 to 1200. See the flyer attached to the newsletter email for speakers and other details. Much more information is available at the website www.ptsdmusicarts.org. Click on the menu at the upper right of the page, then to the PTSD Symposium section and register through the link to an email address. Seating is first come-first served. The doors will be open at 8:15 a.m. and a musical prologue will begin at 8:30. The main event kicks off at 9:00 a.m. with a live play of Neuroplasticity which will be dedicated to law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and all in uniformed service tasked with keeping us safe. Then the program will be turned over to the main speaker for a very lucid discussion of neuroplasticity and the importance of music as therapy.

Ron Sticka is also looking for help with Guitars for Vets. If interested call him at 541-693-1342.

Chapter Bottle/Can Return Program: Thank you to all who brought returnable cans and bottles to the September board meeting. John Toensing transferred all the returnables into the special green bags and turned in 13 bags, netting about \$8 per bag for our Special Project fund. The easiest way for this program to work is for you to just save your returnables in these green bags, which John will have available at the 12 October general meeting. Once your bag is full just bring it to your next meeting and we will make sure it gets turned in for the refund.

This has to be a group participation program and John needs some assistance in sorting and making the returns to the recycle business in Springfield. It won't take much time, but will be of great assistance in financing our Special Projects programs in the future. Call John if you need further information at 541-232-3401 or email him at jtoensing@gmail.com.



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 2022 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2023 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2023 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Frank Balazs, 1st Lt, USMC (Fmr)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USNR (Ret)	Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Mark Schibler, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Thomas Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Clay Robson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT, USN (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.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Members for 2023

OFFICERS

President	Michael Kennedy
1 st Vice President	John Toensing
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	John Toensing
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon
Personal Affairs	Jonathan Landon
Newsletter	Pat Harris
Webmaster	Ginger Banks
Legislative	Ken Evans
Membership	Ken Evans
House and Calling	Pat Harris
ROTC and Awards	Eric Watkins
Scholarship Fund	Dick Kimbell
Annual Picnic	John Toensing
Audit/Historian	Eric Watkins
Surviving Spouse Liaison	VACANT
ROTC Liaison	Joe Snyder
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 9 Nov 2022.



National MOAA Article

What You Don't Know About Your VA Home Loan Benefit Could Cost You; By: Kevin Lilley

The VA guaranteed more than 1.4 million loans in FY 2021, and if you're thinking about joining the club in the coming months or years, it's best to start your homework. Maybe you're looking to downsize as retirement approaches. Maybe you're looking to move to be closer to family, or relocating to your dream job after leaving service. Maybe the home you've been eyeing throughout the recent housing price spike has finally returned to your price range. Whatever the reason, it's time to hit the market, and your VA home loan benefit is a critical part of your home-hunting toolkit. Start your prep work with a live MOAA webinar featuring special guest Heather Walrath, AFC®, financial educator at the Navy Mutual Aid Association. She'll join Lila Quintiliani, ChFC®, AFC®, MOAA's program director for financial benefits education/counseling, to help you successfully navigate a volatile housing market and clear up some common misconceptions.

For example:

'I've Done This Already': Many military retirees have used VA loans to purchase one or more homes and feel comfortable with the process. However, the benefit has changed in recent years, with new fee structures, a new loan limit setup, and additional provisions for Purple Heart recipients. The webinar will cover all of the above in detail.

'My Realtor/Adviser Will Handle It': While many Realtors, lenders, and financial professionals are very familiar with the VA loan process, some may deal with it infrequently, especially those in areas with a small veteran population. The Sept. 20 webinar will get you up to speed on all the details, including ways to make your VA-backed offer more competitive.

'I Don't Need Cash': Some buyers, especially first-time VA loan users, believe that because the VA loan doesn't require a down payment, they'll be able to navigate the homebuying process without bringing funds to the table. Then come the closing costs. The webinar will discuss this and other misconceptions about the program.

'I'm Sure I Can Afford This': Qualifying for a loan and being able to afford a new home are two very different things – the webinar will walk attendees through what they need to know about maintenance costs, taxes (including available exemptions), home insurance, becoming a landlord, and more financial considerations you'll need to make before signing that mortgage.

Visit MOAA.org/finance for more on your money, including other upcoming webinars, tax and retirement-account advice.

Annual Summit Connects Military Families With Lawmakers, DoD Leaders; By: Jen Goodale

"The strength of our military is drawn from the strength of our military families," said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) when announcing the 2022 Congressional Military Family Summit. This in-person event aboard Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., was livestreamed Aug. 17 – and MOAA was tuning in. The Congressional Military Family Caucus sought to educate members of Congress and their staff on resources the military has for families, specifically in the areas of education, child care, health care, spouse employment, and the effects of multiple deployments. Since 2009, the caucus has hosted the annual Military Family Summit to connect servicemembers and their families with DoD leaders and military family support organizations to collaborate on ways to address the top issues affecting military family well-being.

Summit, continued on page 9

BIO OF OCTOBER MEETING SPEAKER

Sean Furney, US Air Force Veteran

Veterans Employment Services for Easter Seals Oregon

Sean is a relative newcomer to his role advocating and helping veterans. As an Air Force veteran, he wanted to do it starting in 2021 with an opportunity to plan a fundraising event for a local non-profit that supports veterans with PTSD, Dogs of Valor. Through that event he connected with St. Vincent DePaul's Supportive Services for Veterans Families housing program and Easterseals Oregon's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

Luck would have it that shortly after that, Easterseals Oregon was hiring which gave him the opportunity to start working daily with veterans in need in our community. In this role, he had the opportunity to utilize his business networking skills to improve visibility of the HVRP program in the community and start making new connections with businesses, governmental and other non-profit organizations to reach more veterans in Lane County.



During this time, he also supported a non-profit, the Ohana Homefront Foundation, as PR director. This newly formed organization is focused on creating a national network of counselors for military members, veterans, their dependents and caregivers. This network brings volunteers together to provide these services for free to those in need.

Additionally, he has been consulting with the Reveille Foundation who is working on bringing veteran housing to Eugene and Lincoln City. This housing will provide on-site behavioral health support, case management, work opportunities on the property, career training and job placement support.

Whether it is going into homeless camps to find veterans in need or meeting with government and business leaders in the community, Sean and the team at Easterseals is doing everything they can to connect veterans in need to the resources in the community. There are two phrases that lead his mission, **“We might not know them all but we owe them all”** and **“No man left behind.”**



This year's theme was “Military Families are Mission Critical.” Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) joined McMorris Rodgers to discuss issues including pay and benefits, community integration and transition, and the health and well-being of families and children. The event featured panels addressing education and the Exceptional Family Member Program, as well as economic security, to include food security, military spouse employment, housing, and child care. Panelists such as Olivia Burley (Military Spouse Liaison, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs) and Tammie Perreault (Northwest Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office) provided insights into the status of state-level initiatives underway to address these issues. This was an excellent opportunity to hear from stakeholders and bring back ideas to your community to enhance the quality of life for military families. Transcripts and/or recordings of the event should be available on the Congressional Military Family Caucus Facebook page.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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 356,000 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**