

THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA®

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

2025 ANNUAL MEETING-TIME TO VOTE

Wednesday, November 12th—1130 Social / 1200 Lunch

Vet's Building, 1626 Willamette

YOUR LUNCH IS "FREE" (See page 3)

MENU

Roasted turkey breast served with cranberries

Mashed potatoes with turkey gravy

Seasoned stuffing

Green Beans and Onions with Bacon

Mac's Caesar salad

Grandma's rolls & butter

Pumpkin pie with whipped cream



PROGRAM

Guest speaker: Capt Rex Hoffman, recently back from Kosovo

Will speak on his three lives: Guard, school principal, family man

Election of Officers and Board Members

Remember: Guests are always invited, but must make a reservation.

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NOVEMBER 2025

In this issue:

Program	1
2026 Slate of Officers and Directors	2
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	3
Thoughts from the Board	4
Briefs and Boosters	5
Briefs and Notices	6
2026 Meeting Dates & "Cadetsgiving"	7

November

02 Daylight Saving Time Ends
04 Election Day
10 Marine Corps Birthday
11 Veterans Day
12 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
19 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets
27 Thanksgiving

December

04 MOAA Christmas Party, 1800, Vets
13 National Guard Birthday
17 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

CALENDAR

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS (all 541-)

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	John Toensing	345-7535
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	290-0814
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	942-9992
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

VETERANS DAY
November 11th

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EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER ELECTION FOR 2026

The 2026 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors Members

The Emerald Empire Chapter nominating committee has completed its selection of candidates for Officer and Board of Director positions for 2026. These names are submitted to you, the general membership, and will be voted on during the Annual Meeting on November 12th. Nominations will still be allowed from the floor during the meeting for any additional chapter members looking to compete and be voted on. You must be present at the meeting to vote.

OFFICERS

President

Floyd Bard

1ST Vice President

Ken Evans

2nd Vice President

Dick Kimbell

Secretary

Pat Harris

Treasurer

Elaine Callahan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

U.S. Army

Jonathan Landon

U.S. Marine Corps

Frank Balazs

U.S. Navy

Scott Sandgathe

U.S. Air Force

Les Cunningham

U.S. Coast Guard

Tom Kulick

U.S. Public Health Service

Ken Evans

University of Oregon ROTC

LTC Joe Snyder

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Michael Pace

Legislative Affairs

Ken Evans

U.S. Space Force

Vacant

NOAA

Vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Personal Affairs

Michael Pace

Membership

Ken Evans

Programs

Ken Evans

Chaplain

Jonathan Landon

Newsletter

Pat Harris

Website

Ginger Banks

House and Calling Committee

Pat Harris

ROTC and Awards

Eric Watkins

Historian

Eric Watkins

Scholarship Fund

Dick Kimbell

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE 1 JAN 2026, \$35.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 22 Oct 2025

Excerpts from the Board Meeting minutes. Full minutes attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President John Toensing, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members: Jonathan Landon, Frank Balazs, Michael Pace, LTC Joe Snyder, Michael Kennedy and Tom Kulick. New member, Randy Clough, was also in attendance. A quorum was established.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, 24 SEP – 19 OCT, 2025

BALANCE ON HAND (October 19, 2025):

Chapter Operations	\$ 5361.65
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 4919.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 925.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 7829.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 217.40
<u>COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (October 19, 2025)</u>	<u>\$ 19,252.94</u>

NOTES:

- The 501(c)19 Columbia Checking Account is now closed. The remaining funds of \$1000.00 were transferred into the 501(c)3 Columbia checking account under Chapter Operations.
- The Bottle Drop Account currently stands at \$415.73, after \$1200 was moved from this account to the Columbia Account under Veterans Services.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

1. Donations to Veteran-Centric Non-Profit Organizations – Floyd.
 - ♦ A motion was made by Jonathan Landon to program the expenditure of 75 percent of the Veterans Service Fund each year to specific Veteran-Centric Non-Profit Organizations. The remaining 25 percent will be expended as needs arise.
 - ♦ Dick Kimbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. An additional motion was made by Dick Kimbell to donate \$1200 to Honor Flight to fund a Sponsor. The motion was seconded by John Toensing and was passed unanimously.
 - ♦ Discussion was held to fund (1) Housing Our Vets, (2) Quilts of Valor and (3) Dogs of Valor, in that order, with specific amounts to be decided at the next board meeting.
2. U of O ROTC Report – LTC Snyder, PMS
 - ♦ They have lost two staff members during the government shutdown and they've had to adjust some training to local facilities. Also, no cadets' stipends are being handed out.
 - ♦ The annual chili cook-off will be held 5 December. Details to follow, but the PMS would like to see some MOAA entrees to compete with him for "Old Man Chili Champ."
 - ♦ The PMS plans to take some cadets with him to visit Dick and Barbara Heyman.
3. President Bard attended the 20 October MOAA Oregon Council of Chapters meeting by Zoom. CAPT Frank Michaels, Senior Director of MOAA's Affiliated Councils and Chapters spoke about chapter challenges with recruiting and national MOAA's challenges getting chapter-member support in the Legislative Action Center. The minutes of that meeting will be attached to this report.
4. The Soaring by the Sea Foundation at the Eugene airport now has an A-1E Skyraider and will be getting a UH-1H to restore soon.
5. The Lane County Stand Down decided to disperse their excess funds this year to veteran-supporting organizations such as VFW, American Legion and MOAA. Their offer to us was to buy lunch for members and guests at our November 12th general membership meeting. Enjoy and say, "Thanks."

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from the office of Personal Affairs.

There is an old proverb that says something like, "Better to come from a house of mourning than a house of mirth." I think the author felt that people tend to dwell on happiness which is fleeting versus life issues with their long-reaching affects and needing deep thought...which not many people like to do.

Am I saying we should not celebrate and laugh and enjoy? Of course not. But everything in its time and everything in its season.

A story to illustrate: A prominent ranch owner hired a ranch hand. He knew nothing about him, only a cryptic statement that the man said during the interview, when asked if he was capable of doing the work.

"I sleep well when the wind blows.", the man said.

Confused but desperate, the rancher hired him.

One winter day a storm came. The rain was torrential and the winds were gale force. The ranch owner was beside himself. He could not find the ranch hand anywhere. After a frantic period of searching, he found him snoring in the bunkhouse!

"You lazy fool!", the rancher said. "Did you tie down the horses?"

"Yes," the man replied. "Did you double lock and chain the gates?"

"Yes."

"Well, did you chain the doors so the stock couldn't get out? Did you douse the kerosene lanterns, did you double board the chicken coops?"

"Yes" the man said simply.

"Well what are you doing?" the ranch owner said, somewhat confused.

"I sleep well when the wind blows," was all the man said.

Don't go through storms by yourself. We are here to help. You never left the military and we have taken the watch for you.

Submitted by: Michael Pace, Personal Affairs Officer and Surviving Spouse Liaison

Don't forget... bring TOYS FOR TOTS to the party 4 December



A little history from the Ducks game against Rutgers on Saturday, 18 Oct.

Just as the third quarter was getting ready to start, the two announcers got into a conversation about the lineage of the Ducks. It seems that before they were the Ducks they were known as the Webfoots, and that was also the name of the Massachusetts fishermen who helped get George Washington and his army across the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776. The Battle of Trenton turned out to be a key battle in the Revolutionary War. After the war, a lot of the decedents of those fishermen would move on to Oregon and settle in the Willamette Valley, and that's where the name Webfoots came from.

"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 109 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/>. An application to join our local chapter or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website's ABOUT US page.

BRIEFS AND NOTICES

Eugene Elks Veterans Ceremony & Dinner

Wednesday, November 12th

Join us in celebrating our Military Personnel and Veterans.
Ceremony begins at 5:30pm, and Dinner will follow at 6:00pm.

Menu: Beef Pot Roast or Cordon Bleu:

Please RSVP by: November 6th at: 541-345-8416

Military Personnel & Veterans will eat for FREE, you will need to RSVP

\$16.00 Adults; \$10.00 Children (under 10)

GUEST SPEAKERS and HONORED GUESTS

Oregon Senator James I. Manning Jr., SGM, USA (Ret)

Flag Ceremony: Boy Scout Troop 60 & Pack 60 Cub Scouts, Norm Hoffman, BG, USA (Ret)

Organist: Donna Brant

Military/Patriotic Music Performed by: Meg Graf and Barry Barreau

Honoring All Who Served!



Update Your Directory Listing... Please

We plan to publish an update to the Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2026. To make this update as accurate as possible, we ask that everyone look at the last edition 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 an old directory and have changed any contact info in the last couple of years, please send that info to Pat.



Save \$5 Save \$5.00 by paying your annual chapter dues BEFORE 1 January 2026. After that date the dues goes up to \$35.00.

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 2025 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2026 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret) Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret) Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)

Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret) Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret) Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)

Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (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.

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

Our October speaker, Alan Ezelle, was as dynamic as BG Norm Hoffman said he would be. He explained that LCC's Maxwell Student Veteran Center is the hub for all veterans currently enrolled in LCC, helping them maximize their veterans' benefits and succeed in school. Alan explained that the center has doubled its veteran enrollment since 2021, and is now serving 302 vets... about 5-6 percent of the student population.

Mr. Ezelle explained that the center is funded through LCC and the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs, with some support from organizations for disabled veteran. He and his staff do outreach to Lane County military units such as the Marines and Navy Reserves, the Army National Guard and the Coast Guard in Florence.

Alan noted that there are about 30,000 veterans living in Lane County; about ten percent of the population. Of that population, about 1,000 are currently serving in the military, with 250 on active duty.

Alan says that tours of the Maxwell Center are always available and that they are having a Veterans Day observance on 10 November between 1100-1300 at the Center (Building 1, Room 201), with a panel discussion on transitioning from the military to civilian life. The Center takes donations of shelf-stable foods that they can give to student veterans in need.



Alan Ezelle (L) with the Treasured Double Eagle presented by Chapter President Floyd Bard



Alan Ezelle, definitely a dynamic speaker.

VETERANS DAY



NOVEMBER
11TH

Open Season for 2026 dental and vision insurance through FEDVIP is November 10th through December 8th. Go to benefeds.com and choose [Shop FEDVIP Plans](#) near the top of the page, then select [Dental](#) or [Vision](#) and follow the prompts to get to the [Plan Compare Tool](#). If you don't want to make any changes, you don't have to do a thing.



SAVE THE DATE

The MOAA Christmas Holiday Party is now on a Thursday, December 4th.

We chose this date to eliminate the upstairs noise and to make more parking available.

Social hour starts at 6:00 pm with bar service available.

Dinner is at 7:00 pm.



2026 MEETING DATES

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER CALENDAR FOR 2026

January:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting	July:	22nd Board Meeting
February:	11th Luncheon 25th Board Meeting	August:	26th Board Meeting
March:	11th Luncheon 25th Board Meeting	September:	9th Luncheon 23rd Board Meeting
April:	8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting	October:	14th Luncheon 28th Board Meeting
May:	13th ROTC Recognition Dinner 27th Board Meeting	November:	11th Luncheon 18th Board Meeting
June:	13th Chapter Picnic 24th Board Meeting	December:	3rd Christmas Dinner 16th Board Meeting

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons and dinners will be held in the Colonial Room and Board Meetings will be held in the Veterans' (Board) Room.

Unless otherwise arranged, luncheons will start at 11:30 am (serving at noon) and end by 2:00 pm. Dinners will start at 6:00 pm (serving at 7:00 pm) and end by 9:00 pm. Board meetings will start at noon until 2:00 pm.

You are invited to CadetsGiving (Thanksgiving for Cadets): Member LTC Joe Snyder, PMS of the U of O ROTC, started a program for cadets who are staying on campus during the short Thanksgiving break. Joe, his staff and the stranded cadets get together the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (26 November) at the Agate Auditorium and share a potluck of traditional family dishes. If any MOAA member would like to bring their Grandma's and Grandpa's world famous family dish and join the Cadets for the meal, be there at 1300.

Please bring a new,
unwrapped toy or check to our
Christmas party to help



Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 93 regular and surviving spouse members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. An application to join our local chapter and/or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website: www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US.

MOAA... What We Do

We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of all the uniformed services. Our main areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military and veteran community, e.g., supporting the programs of Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent de Paul targeting the Lane County veteran population.

**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.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES
NOVEMBER 10TH**