



APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, 8 April 2026

11:30—12:00 Social / 12:00 Lunch, \$20

Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street

MENU

Fresh Green Salad with 3 Dressings

Southern Fried Chicken

Mashed Potatoes and Chicken Gravy

Green Beans with Onions and Bacon

Grandma's Rolls and Butter

Carrot Cake Squares



PROGRAM

COL Monique DeSpain, USAF (Ret)

Air Force JAG, Oregon National Guard and MOAA member

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not cancel it by Sunday,

5 April, you are still responsible for the cost of the meal.

Guests are always welcome, but we must have a reservation.

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

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April

- 05 Easter Sunday
- 05 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 08 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
- 15 Tax Day
- 22 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

May

- 06 ROTC Recognition Dinner, Vets, 6:00 social, 7:00 pm dinner
- 10 Mothers Day
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Memorial Day
- 27 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

CALENDAR

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	Ken Evans	914-6235
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	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse	Michael Pace	636-3745
Liaison		

Don't forget the ROTC Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, May 6th

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541-762-8000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 25 MARCH 2026

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

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President Ken Evans, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members Les Cunningham, LTC Joe Snyder, Tom Kulick, Scott Sandgathe, Jonathan Landon and Michael Pace. Former board member Ginger Banks was also in attendance. A quorum was established.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, FEB 25 – MAR 24, 2026

BALANCE ON HAND (March 24, 2026):

Chapter Operations	\$ 6974.84
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 1902.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 2481.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 9329.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 1062.40

COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE as of Mar 24, 2026 \$ 21750.13

Note: A member has donated \$200 to be used “to support the luncheon expenses, or where it is needed most” and another \$200 to be used “where it is needed most.” It is placed in Chapter Operations until the Board decides. (See NEW BUSINESS below)

ROTC REPORT: LTC Joseph Snyder

Upcoming events:

- 25 Apr; Spring Game.
- 28 May; Dining Out.
- 30 May; LTC Snyder retirement party.
- 16 Jun; Commissioning.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Enrolling Members into MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC)

- To entice members to join MOAA's LAC, Ken will prepare a series of “Here's Why” and “How To” articles for the newsletter.
- Ken will also address members at general membership meetings and lead discussions.
- Webmaster Ginger Banks will study making links to the LAC page more up front (noticeable) on our website.

2. Accepting credit cards/adding donations page for website

Ginger Banks led a discussion on two options: establishing a PayPal account for the chapter or establishing a GoDaddy account for the website. The issues are cost per transaction, necessary additional accounting burden, speed of access to funds, Point of Sale (POS) options and complexity for members. Ginger will continue research and get back to the board

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MOTION to transfer funds:

A motion was made by Elaine Callahan to take the \$200 donation out of Chapter Operations that was given for “where it is needed most” and transfer it to the Veterans Services Fund. The motion was seconded by Dick Kimbell and passed unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Richard Heyman memorial service is being planned for late May by the family.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Wednesday, 8 Apr 26, 1130 hours, Vets Bldg.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, 22 Apr 2026, 1200 hours, Vets Bldg.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

OUR NEWEST MEMBER AND APRIL SPEAKER

Monique DeSpain is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, mother of twin boys, and public policy advocate who resides in Eugene, Oregon.

Monique served our nation for 30 years in the United States Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, and the Oregon Air National Guard, retiring with the rank of Colonel. For 20 of those years, she served as a lawyer with the Judge Advocate General's Corps in various locations and deployments, including Singapore, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cypress, Italy, the Pentagon, and Oregon, developing policy, handling investigations, managing litigation, and advising senior commanders on military justice and ethics.

Concurrently with her military service, Monique worked as a legal consultant for a full spectrum of business and family matters including policy development, Veterans' affairs, litigation, and alternative dispute resolution. She volunteered for ten years as a Board Member, President, and Mediator with the Center for Dialogue and Resolution in Eugene, Oregon.

Following her retirement from the military in 2019, Monique joined the Kevin Mannix Law Firm and pursued legal causes fighting for the rights of crime victims, business owners, and other Oregonians. In 2022, she joined the non-profit Common Sense for Oregon, where she worked to formulate policies that would better serve Oregonians and improve public policies to address rampant homelessness, addiction, and crime in Oregon communities.

Monique joined the Emerald Empire Chapter in March 2026, and is a Premium member of National MOAA.



SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, 13 June: This is the date of our Annual Membership Picnic. Remember, we decided to move it from September after we got smoked out a couple of times. The annual weather patterns (at least, according to The Farmer's Almanac) are the same for June and September, so we are betting that this will be a successful event. More details to follow in the June newsletter, but put the picnic date on your calendar for 13 June.

Friday, 11 December: Between conflicts with the Veterans Association Building calendar, and a strong desire not to have our Christmas party too early in the month, we are moving our party to Friday, 11 December. This should make more parking available and minimize the noise level from the ballroom upstairs. So, put it on your calendar: plated dinner, poinsettias, holiday entertainment, joyous conviviality with friends of the military persuasion.



Many thanks for providing our storage for records and material

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"The Emerald Voice"

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
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Copy of newsletter available upon email request.

The Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is a Eugene-based 501(c)(3) veterans organization that meets regularly at the Veterans' Memorial Building at 1626 Willamette Street. We have 86 regular and surviving spouse 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.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

From the pen of the Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse Liaison Office (Michael Pace)

Yikes!

I woke up in a bit of a panic and sweat! Wide awake, I had a startling revelation. I all of the sudden got old!

I thought I had lived such a productive life at the ripe old age of 72 but as I lay awake counting my “should haves” instead of sheep, I realized I had better get busy because I have quite a number of gaps to fill, monuments to build, and promises to keep.

You see, I had put so much off because, without knowing it, I had excused myself from living. And by that I mean, living a life that matters to others. My excuses were that I didn’t go swimming with my grandkids because I had grown a nice comfortable tummy, but I didn’t want to show it off in public. My daily work life was fueled by the need to be perfect in a job that didn’t matter if you were perfect because perfection was fleeting and the bar changed often. I was so busy pleasing others that my kids and I never engaged in radical silliness. We never lay on our backs and looked up at a starry night. I never taught my kids that my heroes were The Three Stooges, Perry Mason, and the Rifleman.

Whatever. It is never too late to heal, never too late to live fruitfully. Start leaving a part of you that you want to be remembered by. Fifty years of struggling at a job can be buried under smiles, rough-housing with grand kids, paying for the coffee of the person in front of you, and volunteering at the passion of your choice. Do some of these. Live as recklessly as a child would...and see if that won’t buy you a good night’s sleep.

We are your liaison staff and we are here to help.

TAPS COL Michael A. Lee, USA (Ret) passed away March 9th, leaving his wife, Judy Good, three grown children and three grandchildren. He was 80 years old. Mike served from June 1968 through June 2005. Though Mike had not attended a meeting since Covid, he continued to pay his dues and support our ROTC Boosters Scholarship Fund until he passed.

MOAA... Who We Are

We have 86 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 .

ROTC DINNER DOOR PRIZES: Every year we gather as many door prizes as possible for the ROTC dinner in May... concentrating on the types of prizes that students seem most interested in, like gift certificates from restaurants and grocery stores. This year is no different.

Last year we scored almost \$600 worth of gifts from eight very generous members, but if more of you chip in we can ease the burden on those few special people,

If you want to donate a gift card or certificate, or any other type of prize, either bring it to the 8 April general meeting or the 22 April board meeting and give it to Pat Harris. This will allow him to make a presentation envelope to help display the gift on the prize table. If you can’t get it to Pat before the 6 May dinner, please call him at 541-290-0814 so he can get an envelope ready.

HELP

WANTED

Needed, actually!

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS



Our **ROTC Recognition Dinner** is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 May** at the Veterans Memorial Building. The social starts at 6:00 PM and the buffet dinner at 7:00 PM. There will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and bar service will be available. The buffet dinner entrée could very well be Mac's flavorful pot roast again. We will be presenting our scholarships to three MS III cadets and medallions to the MS IV graduates.

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)	Carole Applegate, Surviving Spouse	Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret)
Richard Heyman, Col, USAF (Ret)	John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse
Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Lance Englet, COL, USA (Ret)
Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) in memory of LTC Patrick Simpson and LTC Edward "Mike" Reuter		
Bert Toepel, Jr., COL, USA (Ret)	Barbara Gunn, Surviving Spouse	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Lynette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Tom Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Les Cunningham, Capt, USAF (Fmr)
Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse
Larry Senn, LT, USN (Fmr)	James Helbling, LTC, USA (Ret)	Erven Kincaid, LCDR, USN (Ret)
William Gutheim, COL, USA (Ret)	Michael Lee, COL, USA (Ret)	James Koch, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret)		

Booster contact is Dick Kimbell (541) 915-0405. Checks may be given to the Treasurer at meetings or mailed to: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Only work 2-3 days a year.

If additional time is required to get the job done, your pay doubles.

Pay commensurate with highest paid person in the organization, yet remarkably, tax free. Benefits include retirement, if ever, at full pay and 360 days off per year.

Experience in logistics, transportation and culinary arts desired, but not required. Ability to work with other people strongly desired. Ability to work alone at times may be necessary, but definitely not desired.

If interested or intrigued, contact soon-to-be-ex-LTC Joe Snyder about opportunities in the annual picnic field.

541-913-2643

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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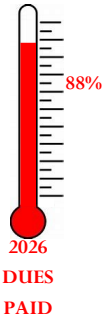


*Thank You for
supporting MOAA
with your
membership.*

**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 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.



GOLD STAR

SPOUSES DAY

April 5th