

THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA®

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, October 14th
Veterans' Memorial Building
1626 Willamette Street, Eugene

11:30 Social / 12:00 Lunch / \$20, \$21 with credit card

MENU

Chicken Piccata
Fresh Green Salad with 3 Dressing Choices
Roasted Rosemary Red Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Grandma's Rolls and Butter
Apple Pie



PROGRAM

Jake Pelroy, Former Marine and Public Policy Developer

Guests are always welcome, but they must make a reservation

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2026

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October

03 NOAA Birthday
12 Columbus Day
13 Navy Birthday
14 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
28 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets
31 Halloween

November

01 Daylight Saving Time Ends
03 Election Day
10 Marine Corps Birthday
11 Veterans Day
18 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
18 Board Meeting, 1330, Vets
27 Thanksgiving

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 Liaison	Michael Pace	636-3745



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES of 23 SEP 2026

Excerpts from the Board Meeting minutes. Full minutes 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: Jonathan Landon, Scott Sandgathe and Michael Kennedy. The new U of O ROTC PMS LTC Ryon Skiles was also in attendance. A quorum was established.

OPENING President Bard called the meeting to order at 1205 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jonathan Landon gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 26 August 2026 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT, AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 22, 2026; COLUMBIA 501(c)3 CHECKING ACCOUNT

BALANCE ON HAND (September 22, 2026):

Chapter Operations	\$ 5831.97
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 3122.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 0.00
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2027	\$ 190.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 11310.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 471.20

COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE Sept. 22, 2026 \$ 20926.06

1. Guest Speakers for October and November – Ken, Pat.
 - A. Confirmed: Former Marine Jake Pelroy for October. Dr. Nicole Ingalls for November.
 - B. Probable for 2027: MOAA Remembrance Ceremony in January, and then, sometime in the next months, Robin Brownwood, chef and founder of veteran-oriented feeding program, will speak..
2. POS Update (Do we continue offering credit card use?) – Elaine, Ken.

Four members used credit cards at the September luncheon with a \$1 additional charge. Square charged our account \$3.94 to process. The system will prove itself when electronic invoices are sent in November for dues and donations. Treasurer considers the system a success.
3. Participation in Lane County Stand Down - Floyd.
 - A. Total veteran participants rose from last year, yet homeless vet registration fell. Women veteran registrants rose as new procedures to provide security and privacy were instituted.
 - B. Thanks to Ken Evans and Jonathan Landon for manning the table. Dick Kimbell, Michael Pace and Dick Cheney were also in the area.
4. Veterans Breakfast Thursday Nov 12 at Campbell Community Center - Floyd.

The breakfast is scheduled for 0900-1030 and RSVPs are requested. Details will be in the November newsletter. The Campbell Community Center acknowledged our \$250 donation.
5. VMA/VFW Post 293 Sep 11th event funding - Floyd.
 - A. The program went well, though the organization struggled. MOAA was more involved than anticipated. John Simmons did a nice job on the invocation.
 - B. Threat of protests by homeless was forestalled by addition of two security guards furnished by the Stand Down.
 - C. The VFW there was an overage in their estimation of expenses and will be refunding \$157.22 to our Veteran Services Fund.
6. Thoughts from the Board Articles—Harris

Pat Harris will provide an article for the October newsletter and Michael Pace will provide for November and Chaplain Landon will provide the December article.

“The Emerald Voice”

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
Email: MOAA of Eugene@gmail.com
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 85 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., helping veterans and their families fund emergency residential repairs through local nonprofits. 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 by Pat Harris

A year ago, on September 11th, I had a conversation with the folks I talk to on that day every year. We decided to meet... finally... our first reunion in 25 years. Eleven senior staff members of the over-arching Coast Guard command in the New York area signed up to attend a reunion dinner on the 10th and the command's 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony on the 11th of September, 2026. Within a week we had all reserved rooms in the Navy Lodge at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, the home base for CG Sector New York.

A year later, we all showed up and participated in events for three straight days. We had an excellent dinner at an Italian restaurant two blocks away (the only thing other than Italian restaurants on Staten Island are the pizza joints). The next morning the entire Coast Guard command met at the Overlook, which as you would imagine, overlooks a civil war era fort and Hudson Bay,



From this spot you can see the eight miles to lower Manhattan and the point where this crew orchestrated the evacuation of 500,000 debris-covered people to points of safety in New Jersey, Brooklyn and Staten Island... all in less

than eight hours. This is also the spot at night where you could see the darkened outline of New York City with that evil glow of the burning pile coming from the middle of it.

After the fear of additional attacks gripped the island, we found a flag and displayed it on my office building. While other government agencies were hiding their signs under garbage bags, we made it so everyone who came to Staten Island, on or under the bridge, could see where we were. That flag stayed up for two years... even through Hurricane Sandy.



The crew that made this all happen led these major divisions: Marine Response, Waterways Management, Administration, Engineering, Prevention, and Container and Ship Inspections. And even the Chaplain. Combined, all these divisions had 350 staff members on the 11th; but by the 15th, had 1700 members. Our security detail went from five to 70, plussed up by our Reservists who were members of NYPD. Even our lone Chaplain pulled in

30 more from around the Navy and Marine Corp to escort families to Ground Zero, and our Auxiliaries manned their personal watercraft and patrolled the upper Hudson Bay to keep the lookie-loos out of harms way.

Though these people will always seem super-human to me, all were just regular Coast Guard officers, doing their jobs very well, responding to an extreme emergency where there was no playbook to follow.

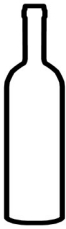
This is the group on the right. Almost all retired as O-6s, except the three on the far right, who had seven stars between them.

Submitted by Pat Harris



BRIEFS

Chapter Recycling Program Puts Money in our Veterans Services Fund



Many thanks to all who have brought in their returnable bottles and cans during the past three years. We have raised close to \$4,000 from simply collecting and returning bottles and cans. The program, started by John Toensing and now run by Ken Evans, has most recently been used to support Housing Our Veterans, Honor Flight, Quilts of Valor and Habitat for Humanity. Ken has ordered more of the **special BLUE bags (no more green bags)** and labels and will have them available at all luncheon meetings.



Call Ken if you need further information at 541-914-6235 or email: ken@eugenegenerals.com. And Ken, please pass our gratitude along to the Rink Exchange for their collection help.



Three Veterans Organizations Honor Those Fell on 9-11 and Oregonians Who Fell During the Wars

The VFW Post 293, with partnership from American Legion Post 3 and Emerald Empire Chapter - MOAA was instrumental in the planning and participation of the 9-11, 25th Anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, Pentagon, and Flight 93 crash at Shanksville Pennsylvania. The event was held on Saturday, September 12th at 0830 until about 1130. There were guest speakers, including Jeff Crane, Post Commander VFW Post 293, BG (R) Norm Hoffman, EEC-MOAA member, and EEC-MOAA President, Floyd Bard. Chaplin, Lt Col (R) John Simmons from our Chapter (EEC-MOAA) gave the invocation. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Eugene Elks served a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, sausage, and coffee. Floyd Bard and Don

Lanini cooked the items at Eugene Lodge on W. 11th, then served the breakfast along with Isabelle Johnson. Her husband is Jerry Johnson, member of our Chapter and a life member of MOAA.

If you would like to see all of the pictures and videos of the event you can click on the facebook link - <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18KN1YoVCD/>

Our own Pat Harris was recognized for his actions to secure the New York Harbor after the attack on 9-11. His unit evacuated over 500,000 people from lower Manhattan Island. Pat and Geri were at New York City during the 25th anniversary of 9-11, and were able to visit the 9-11 Memorial at Ground Zero and tour the Museum.

Submitted by Floyd Bard



TRICARE OPEN SEASON will run from Nov 9 to Dec 9, allowing beneficiaries to make changes to their plans that will take effect at the start of the new year.

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance (FEDVIP) plan participants have a similar window to make changes (Nov. 9-Dec. 7). More information is available at BENEFEDS.gov.

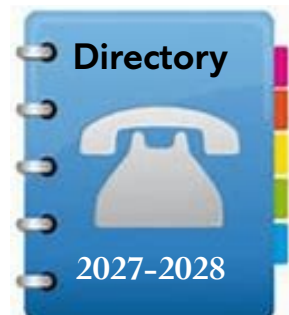
Medicare's open enrollment period runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 annually.

Details on 2027 plans have not as yet been released.

Get Ready to Update Your Directory Listing

We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2027. To make this edition 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 541-290-0814.

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.



BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

Your RMD and Emerald Empire ROTC Scholarship Fund

It is that time of the year for Required Minimum Distributions from your retirement account. This year please consider making a contribution to your **Emerald Empire MOAA ROTC Scholarship Fund**. It eliminates the federal tax on your distribution and helps support the ROTC cadets with the Chapter's annual scholarship awards.

We are now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your financial advisor will assist you with the donation. All they need is:

EIN #99-4901005
Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA
ATTN: The Emerald Empire ROTC Scholarship Fund.
PO Box 767
Eugene, OR 97440

Our Chapter (Emerald Empire) should always be in the correspondence to avoid confusion with the National MOAA organization. Suggest you have your advisor send the check to your address, make a copy of it, then mail the original check to our treasurer. Thank you for your support of the cadets at the University of Oregon and Southern Oregon University.

Lane County Stand Down: Better and Better Every Year

The 2026 Lane County Stand Down was a success again this year, held on Friday, Sept 11th. We were hoping for over 450 Veterans, Active Duty personnel, and family members this year. Our registered attendance was 378, which was 27 higher than last year. The Homeless attendance went down from 72 to 48. Again, this year women Veteran attendance went up.

Our Chapter had a table for the second year in the "Candy Store" area. Ken Evans and Jonathan Landon worked the table and Michael Pace dropped off some stuff for our table and helped for a while. The items that were provided for the Veterans varied from knitted and fleece blankets, clothing, stuffed animals, and miscellaneous items.

Jonathan gave the invocation prior to the serving of lunch and at the Veteran Invocation at the Ceremony at 1230 hours. Great job to ALL of you.



Serving and Honoring our Heroes

Submitted by Floyd Bard

CHRISTMAS PARTY SAVE THE DATE: The annual Emerald Empire Chapter Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, **December 9th at 1:30 in the afternoon**. This should keep us from having another party in the ballroom above us, give us better parking availability, and get us all home before dark.

SAVE THE DATE: December 9th



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 2026 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2027 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2027 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

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Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret) Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret) Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret) Frank Balazs, 1stLT, USMC (Fmr)
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 97440-0767.

JAKE PELROY, OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

I grew up in Veneta, in a small business household. My Dad had a struggling small business during my early childhood. After my brother was born he began looking for steady work, ultimately finding a job as a garbageman. In 2000, he decided to start his own waste hauling business, which is still running strong today. During my high school years and until I joined the Marines in 2005, I worked various jobs for my family's small business.

I joined the United States Marine Corps in January 2005, with a job as an intelligence analyst. My service included three deployments contributing to Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2010, I was honorably discharged from the Marines and moved back to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon.

While at the University of Oregon I supported multiple public servants in their campaigns for office, ultimately starting my own business, "Pelroy & Associates," in 2012, helping people, businesses, and community groups with policy issues and campaigns in Oregon. I graduated in 2014 with a BS in General Social Science, Specializing in Applied Economics, Business and Society. Since leaving the Marines I have worked on various policy/political projects for over 16 years and spent 6+ years staffing legislators at the state capitol.

In 2024, I helped form the Lane County Garbage and Recycling Association (LCGRGA). LCGRA is an industry advocacy association of family-owned garbage and recycling haulers in Lane County. We aim to protect and educate customers about issues facing garbage and recycling ecosystems in Lane County and advocate for the voice of its members and the system.

I married my wife Kelly in 2015 and we welcomed our two boys in 2016 and 2018 respectively. We are members of Gospel Community Church and run a small vacation rental business, KDP Properties, as a husband and wife team.



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.

Our chapter Nominating Committee has until October 18th to build a slate of candidates to fill all officer and board member positions for 2027.

NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN

So, you only have a couple of weeks to decide which position you would like to hold. Membership in the Board of Directors is usually a good place to start as it gives you access to the conversations that determine the chapter's policies, prosecute its purposes and determine how its funds should be disbursed. Membership on the Board can lead to one of the five Officer positions. You've all been officers before, so nothing new there. Put your hand in the air.

Emerald Empire Chapter MOAA... Who We Are

We have 85 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.

Visit our website at www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

AND EVEN MORE BRIEFS

The Coast Guard commissioned the USCGC Jeffrey Palazzo on September 12th, 2026, honoring its namesake who was killed on 9-11 while doing his job as a New York City firefighter. Jeffrey's son, MK2 Matthew Palazzo, USCG, who never knew his father, attended the commissioning, which was held after the city's 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at the 9-11 Memorial. Matthew attended that ceremony with Vice President J.D. Vance.

The Palazzo is a 154-foot Fast Response Cutter, named after enlisted heros. The USCGC Vincent Danz, named after another CG Reservist who was killed while serving as a firefighter on 9-11, was previously commissioned.

The CGC Jeffrey Palazzo is now under way to her new home port in Guam.



About 17 veterans a day take their own lives

The [2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) analyzes Veteran suicide data from 2001 to 2022, with 2022 being the most recent year for which data is available.

Our top clinical priority is preventing Veteran suicide. We use evidence-based research and suicide analytics as the foundation for our programs and initiatives. Our richest data related to Veteran suicide comes from our annual report.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7, confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

To reach responders, Dial 988 then Press 1, [chat online](#), or text 838255. Get more information about the [Veterans Crisis Line](#)

You can read report at: <https://news.va.gov/137221/va-2024-suicide-prevention-annual-report/>

HALLOWEEN IS COMING

Your military journey documented in the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress has instituted a program to capture the recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. These personal stories will then be curated and available to anyone, either by visiting the Library of Congress or by accessing the collection online.

The process of conducting the interviews and collecting and submitting the documents and photos (optional) is not overly complicated, but can be so much simpler if someone walks you through it. Hence, Chapter Board member LTC Ryon Skiles, PMS of the U of O ROTC, will rouse his Cadets to master the process and help Lane County Veterans prepare their stories for inclusion in the collection. Interviews will start this fall.

To get your name on the list to be part of this program, contact the chapter at MOAAofEugene@gmail.com and we will put you on the list.

**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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. Other areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>.

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

