

THE EMERALD VOICE

MOAA®

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, October 8th
Veterans' Memorial Building
1626 Willamette Street, Eugene
11:30 Social / 12:00 Lunch / \$20 each

MENU

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

PROGRAM

Alan Ezelle, MSG, USA, (Ret), Coordinator of the
Maxwell Student Center at Lane Community Center
Guests are always welcome

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025

In this issue:

Program	1
Board Minutes	2
Thoughts from the Board	3
Briefs	4
Briefs and Boosters	5
Briefs	6
A Little Naval Jargon	7

October

08 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
 13 Navy Birthday and Columbus Day
 22 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets
 31 Halloween

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

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		

Who We Are

We have 89 members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES of 24 SEP 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, Secretary Pat Harris, and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members: Scott Sandgathe, Ken Evans, Jonathan Landon, Frank Balazs and Tom Kulick. A quorum was established.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: BALANCE ON HAND (September 23, 2025):

Chapter Operations	\$ 6322.05
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 2719.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 800.00
ROTC Scholarship Booster Fund	\$ 6829.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 192.40

NOTES: The BottleDrop Account contained \$1,359.90. \$1200.00 has been requested, leaving \$159.90 in the account, and the check was issued on September 22, 2025, but not yet received. It will be placed in the Veterans Service Fund.

A \$2000.00 donation was received from a member for "where it is needed most". It is temporarily placed in Chapter Ops until the EEMOAA Board decides the appropriate disbursement.

B \$1000.00 donation by a member was placed directly to the ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund at their request, for the purpose of establishing a new endowment fund.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MOAA table at the Lane County Stand Down – Floyd.

A. MOAA was visibly present at the stand down, handing out sleeping bags and cots, waterproof bags and clothing items; items that had been donated by President Bard from excess material that he had stored. There were no inquiries about MOAA membership. There was interest to staff a table at the next stand down.

B. 352 veterans registered at the stand down; 54 who were homeless; similar numbers to 2024.

2. Speakers Schedule – John T.

A. Alan Ezelle, MSG, USA (Ret), Coordinator for the Maxwell Student Center at Lane Community College, will speak at the October luncheon.

B. Capt Rex Hoffman, USA, will speak at the November luncheon.

3. IRS 501(c)(3) conversion update (open until 501(c)(19) is closed) – Ken, Elaine.

The Treasurer will transfer all funds from the 501(c)(19) organization to the new 501(c)(3) on 1 Oct 25. Minutes of the 22 Oct 25 board meeting and a letter of dissolution of the 501(c)(19) organization will be prepared by the conversion committee.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS

1. Our webmaster reports our website had 146 hits last month; three times the norm.

2. John Toensing commented on his success recruiting new members. He credits his hat which bears his service and unit affiliation. He says it is a great conversation starter and recommends all members wear their hats when out in public.

3. John will once again approach Stroda Brothers to donate Christmas trees for us to sell.

4. Dick Kimbell made a motion to take the recent \$2,000 donation that was directed to "where it was most needed," and post it in the Scholarship Endowment fund to be used toward establishing a new scholarship endowment that is better performing and less expensive than the Benton County Foundation. Jonathan Landon seconded.

(1) During discussion, Elaine Callhan moved to amend the original motion to split the donation in half and place half in the Veterans Service Fund and half in the fund to establish a new scholarship endowment. Jonathan Landon seconded that one, too.

(2) The amended motion was discussed and passed unanimously.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

FROM THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE: LTC Joe Snyder, USA

University of Oregon Army ROTC

"Training Tomorrow's Leaders Today"

Greetings to the esteemed members of the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA,

The 2024–2025 academic year has been one of excellence for the University of Oregon Army ROTC “Webfoot Warriors.” In today’s uncertain world, the need for adaptive, ethical, and decisive leaders is clear—and our Cadets are rising to that call.

This year we exceeded mission by commissioning 13 new officers into the Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Beyond commissioning, our Cadets excelled across Army training: 15 graduated Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox; 5 completed Cadet Troop Leader Training at Fort Richardson, JBLM, Fort Bragg, and Grafenwoehr, Germany; and 3 earned competitive internships with USASOC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Military Police Corps. Additional achievements included 2 Basic Camp graduates, Cadets serving at CST OPFOR and Operation Sluss-Tiller, and badges earned at Air Assault (3), Airborne (1), and Sapper (1) schools. Among our new senior class, two Cadets earned the distinction of Distinguished Honor Graduate, placing them in the top 20% of Cadets across the Nation.

These results show more than numbers, they reflect Cadets who embrace challenge, seek voluntary adversity, and prepare themselves for the complex missions ahead. As their Professor of Military Science, I see firsthand the seriousness with which these young leaders approach their development. They understand that the Army—and the nation—needs leaders of character now more than ever.

We are living in an era of renewed great power competition, with conflict in Eastern Europe, instability in the Middle East, and increasing tensions in the Indo-Pacific. The character of warfare continues to evolve, blending conventional, irregular, cyber, and information threats in ways unseen by previous generations. In this environment, the Army does not simply need officers who can execute orders—it requires leaders who can inspire soldiers, adapt under pressure, and uphold values in the face of uncertainty.

That is why our training emphasizes decision-making in ambiguity, ethical judgment under stress, and the ability to lead diverse teams with clarity of purpose. Leadership is no longer about rank alone, it is about trust, competence, and moral courage. I am confident that the Cadets we are developing here at the University of Oregon are prepared to shoulder this responsibility.

“Leaders of character, trained for uncertainty, ready for tomorrow’s fight.”

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and of the Cadets who will carry forward the Army’s proud tradition of service and leadership.

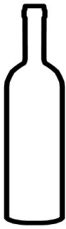
Once a Duck, Always a Duck—Webfoot Warriors!

CHRISTMAS PARTY SAVE THE DATE: The annual Emerald Empire Chapter Christmas party will be held on Thursday, **December 4th**. This should keep us from having another party in the ballroom above us and give us better parking availability. **SAVE THE DATE.**



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 two years. We have completely blown past the \$1,000 mark on funds raised from simply collecting and returning bottles and cans. The program, started by John Toensing and recently assumed by Ken Evans, has most recently been used to support Housing Our Veterans 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 him at ken@eugenegenerals.com.

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/>

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 Joe Snyder, 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.

"The Emerald Voice"

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
Email: MOAAofEugene@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 89 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.

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 annual scholarship awards.

The Chapter is 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.

Get Ready to Update Your Directory Listing

We plan to publish a new Chapter Member Directory on 1 Jan 2025. 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 541-942-5274.

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.



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.

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 (CGC) 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.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

The highlight of our 10 September luncheon was the presentation of the three 5-Star national MOAA awards the chapter won for their performance in 2024. Chapter President Floyd Bard thanked 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell for his authorship of the Levels of Excellence nomination package that captured the chapters activities. Webmaster Ginger Banks and Newsletter Editor Pat Harris were honored for winning the 5-Star Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications awards for their work on the chapter's programs. President Bard gave all three \$25 Olive Garden gift cards to show his appreciation.



Next, President Bard singled out honorary member Brooks Hayes for his continued support of our chapter communications by printing and

mailing our monthly newsletter to those members who do not have access to email.

Our speaker, Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr, briefed us on the responsibilities and programs that the county oversees. Mr. Farr states that there are 30,153 veterans in Lane county. Their program, Operation 365, strove to house 365 veterans/families in their first year, and succeeded in housing 404. The county also provided the land and facilities at Camp Alma for Veterans Legacy, which takes veterans from homelessness and provides recovery services to help them better integrate back to the community.



TRICARE OPEN SEASON will run from Nov 10 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. 10-Dec. 8). More information is available at [BENEFEDS.gov](https://www.benefeds.gov).

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

Details on 2026 plans had not been released as of Sept. 16.

Our chapter Nominating Committee has until October 12th to build a slate of candidates to fill all officer and board member positions for 2026.

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.

In Honor of the Navy Birthday

A List of Naval Sayings & Phrases

- A Shot Across The Bow:** A warning shot, whether literal, symbolic or metaphorical.
- Any Port in a Storm:** A commonly used proverb usually taken to mean that in a time of difficulty, any solution is acceptable, whether completely ideal or not.
- Batten Down the Hatches:** To secure and make preparations.
- Chock a Block:** To be packed together so tightly that there is very limited movement.
- Clear the Deck:** To prepare for an incoming disturbance such as bad weather, similar to the phrase “Batten down the hatches.”
- The Cut of One’s Jib:** Referring with a negative tone to the way an individual looks or acts.
- Dead in the Water:** To be in a state/position to progress or grow.
- Deliver a Broadside:** To attack one another with words.
- Even Keel:** To maintain calm and steady progress.
- Fathom:** To attempt to figure out, or get to the bottom of something. To deduce based on facts.
- Flotsam and Jetsam:** Items of no real value.
- From Stem to Stern:** The entirety of something.
- Get Underway:** To set off on a journey.
- Give a Wide Berth:** To steer clear of, to give a good distance between.
- Go Overboard:** To fall into a body of water, usually from a boat or ship.
- In the Doldrums:** To be sad, tired or dull.
- Keel Hauling:** To receive a strong punishment or reprimand for a particular wrongdoing.
- To Know the Ropes:** To be familiar/competent in a particular task.
- Landlubber:** Someone who dislikes, prefers not to be or isn’t commonly on the water.
- Learn the Ropes:** To take the time to understand how to perform a new task.
- Like Ships That Pass In The Night:** A near encounter, the passing of two entities without knowledge of the other.
- Logbook:** A meticulous record of official details accompanied with data such as dates and times.
- Loose Cannon:** Used to describe a person, object or situation that is unstable or likely to cause trouble if left unattended.
- Make Up Leeway:** To make up for lost or wasted time.
- On Board:** To be or become part of a group or team.
- On the Right Track:** To be going in the right direction, towards the correct outcome.
- Overhaul:** To pull something apart and redo it completely, as if from scratch.
- Rats Deserting a Sinking Ship:** To leave or abandon an activity, organization or school of thought before it fails entirely.
- Running a Tight Ship:** Under control, perfectly in order.
- Sailing Close to the Wind:** To engage in a risky activity, to disallow a margin for error.
- Shiver Me Timbers:** An expression of annoyance or surprise.
- Smooth Sailing:** Easy progress without impediment or difficulty.
- Taking the Wind Out of His Sails:** To demotivate someone or remove their initiative.
- Three Sheets to the Wind:** To be in a state of intoxication.
- Tide Over:** A small supply of something, such as money, to get you from one point to another.
- Trim One’s Sails:** To adapt or change to fit a different circumstance that was originally supplied.
- Try a Different Tack:** To attempt a different tactic or method when dealing with a situation or problem.
- Walk the Plank:** To be ousted, removed or literally fall from a plank into the sea below.
- And That’s Our Complete List of Sayings with a Nautical Origin.**

The etymology of any language or phrase is as interesting as it is historical. We hope that this list has explained the nautical origins behind some of the most common turns of phrase used in our day-to-day lives.

**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. 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.

