



Minutes from the 22 October 2008
Military Officers Association of America
Oregon State Council of Chapters Meeting
(Corvallis Country Club, Corvallis, OR)

1. The meeting was called to order by the Council President, Norb Murray, at 1130-- followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** The 19 members introduced themselves. The Southern Oregon Chapter, Southwest Oregon Chapter, and Lower Columbia River Chapter did not have any representatives in attendance.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
LtCol Norb Murray, USMC	Council President	Portland
BG Norm Hoffman, AUS	Council 1 st Vice President	Emerald Empire
Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF	Council Secretary/Treasurer	Portland
LTC Gary Zwicker, USA	Council Past President	Willamette
LtCol H. A. MacDonald, USMC	Council Legislative Chair	Willamette
LTC William O'Neill, USA	Chapter President	Willamette
CAPT John Stensland, USN	Chapter 1 st Vice President	Willamette
CAPT Woody Tiernan, SC, USNR	Chapter Past President	Willamette
COL Bert Toepel, USA	Chapter President	Emerald Empire
CDR Dick Kimbell, USN	Chapter Vice President	Emerald Empire
CAPT Charlie Cole, USN	Chapter Secretary	Emerald Empire
Lt Col Dick Norton, USAF	Chapter Treasurer	Emerald Empire
LtCol Malcolm LeMay, USMC	Chapter President	Corvallis
Col Bob Schoning, USMCR	Chapter Secretary	Corvallis
CAPT John Detweiler, USNR	Chapter Treasurer	Corvallis
Capt J. L. Patrick, USMC	Chapter 1 st Vice President	Portland
MAJ John Sampson, USA	Chapter 2nd Vice President	Portland
MG Chuck Rosenfeld, USA	Chapter President	Central Oregon
CWO4 John Meredith, USN	Chapter Past President	Central Oregon

3. **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- a. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 27 June 2008 were presented and approved.
- b. **Financial Report:** As of 27 June 2008, the Council had a check book balance of \$717.45. Checks written included: \$65 for 2008-2009 UVGO Annual Dues and \$50 for Corporation Division (Fees). Deposits included: \$43.50 for the Emerald Empire Chapter dues. The total check book balance as of 22 October was \$645.95.

The AG Edwards Money Market account had a balance of \$4,517.50 as of 31 March 2008. Interest earned was \$23.71. As of 30 June 2008, the money market account had a balance of \$4,541.21. Interest earned was \$20.05. As of 30 September 2008, the money market account had a balance of \$4,561.26. Total assets available were \$5,207.21. The financial report was approved, as presented.

- c. **Council Dues:** Dues for the 2008-2009 program year were due on 1 October 2008. Dues are still \$0.25 per member. Auxiliary members are not counted as members for dues. Thus far, the Corvallis and Emerald Empire Chapters have paid their dues.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Council Web Site (www.oregon-moaa.org):** Our new webmaster is Tom Thomas from Bend, Oregon. His contact information is: 866-652-2038 (toll free) or Snipe@NAFTS.com
- b. **2007 Communication Awards (Outstanding Website):** The Corvallis Chapter received this award, and a certificate was given to John Detweiler. Norb Murray congratulated the chapter on its achievement, encouraged chapters to update the information on their web sites, and suggested that chapters get rid of old, non-updated web sites.
- c. **Legislative:** “Mac” McDonald discussed the **2009 Legislative Priorities of the United Veterans’ Groups of Oregon** (as of 12 July 2008). Copies of these priorities were handed out to those in attendance.

Norb Murray reviewed the “Legislative Update” given by MOAA at the Chapter Presidents’ Symposium in Lake Tahoe in October 2008. Copies were distributed to those in attendance. As for MOAA becoming congressionally-chartered, the measure did not pass this time; however, it should be a virtual “shoe-in” in the next Congress. Congressmen should be honorary members of our chapters; Jim Willis is an honorary member of the Willamette Chapter.

Chuck Rosenfeld suggested that the Council send a letter to MOAA to correct an error on the MOAA Legislative Report Card regarding Congressman Greg Walden (R-2nd). During the MOAA “Storming the Hill,” Greg had been very accessible and has been going out of his way to support veterans’ issues; during some of the voting, he was attending funerals of veterans. Thus, because Greg missed some of the voting, MOAA rated him down on the report card. A discussion ensued as to whether the report card was a helpful thing in really knowing the complete picture concerning the voting record of congressmen and senators. Chuck volunteered to draft a letter to MOAA.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **State Convention 2009 Update:** Since there were no representatives from the Southern Oregon Chapter in attendance, Norb Murray said the Convention Committee was well established, and he had written letters inviting Norb Ryan and Jim Willis to come to the convention. The registration fee will be the same as last year, and all chapters leaders are asked to encourage maximum participation in this convention by chapter members and spouses. More information follows:

When: 25-27 September 2009 (Friday-Sunday)

Where: Ramada Inn Convention Center, Medford, Oregon (The hotel is being remodeled and is co-located with the Convention Center.)

Theme: "A New Decade of Change"

Tentative Format:

Friday afternoon: Registration

Friday evening: No-Host "Icebreaker" Cocktails in the Convention Center
Attendees are on their own for dinner

Saturday morning: Honor Guard (CAP or Young Marines?)
Business Meeting
Program designed for both members and their spouses

Saturday Buffet Lunch: Served in the Convention Center

Saturday afternoon: Business Meeting

Saturday evening: Sit-down dinner in the Convention Center

Sunday morning: Business Meeting with follow-on State Council of Chapters Meeting

Tentative Speakers:

Opening Remarks on Saturday: Mayor of Medford (?)

Saturday Lunch: MG Raymond F. Rees, Oregon Adjutant General

Saturday Dinner: Congressman Greg Walden (R-2nd District)

Session Topics:

Legislative Update, ODVA (Jim Willis), Recruiting, Fundraising, TRICARE, TOPS

Motel Room Rates:

Single king: \$63.00 plus tax per night for one person. \$5.00 more for each extra person.

Double queen: \$72.00 plus tax per night for one person. \$5.00 more for each extra person.

Activities:

Feedback from the Council members indicated that two events should be planned for Friday: a golf tournament and a play.

Attendees might consider either coming earlier or leaving later to attend the plays in

Ashland, Oregon.

Chamber of Commerce should be approached to provide information on activities in the local area.

“Seed Money”: If the Southern Oregon Chapter wants \$2,500 in “seed money” for the Convention, they must request it in writing from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Registration Packets: Will be sent out in March 2009.

Save the Date:

All chapters should put the dates for the convention in their chapter newsletters.

Norb Murray has contacted MOAA National and the ODVA to give them the dates of the State Convention 2009.

- b. **Report on Chapter Presidents’ Symposium (16-19 October 2008):** Norb Murray passed out some “Highlights from the Lake Tahoe Symposium” to all the attendees. He emphasized the importance of good programs at chapter monthly meetings; he recommended inviting local leaders and legislators as guest speakers and advertising chapter programs.

Charlie Cole brought up the fact that the chapter Personal Affairs Committee needs to help widows who need to know where to go to get help after their spouses die. He recommended an interactive personal affairs workbook, *Help Your Survivor Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead*; MOAA will give five copies for free and each one after that will cost \$15.

In addition, the following publications were recommended: (1) *TAPS: Your Guide to Military Burials*, (2) *A Family’s Guide to the Military for Dummies*, and (3) *Veterans Benefits for Dummies*.

Jim Patrick said the Personal Affairs Committee should be expanded and renamed the Member Benefits Committee—which would include traditional personal affairs items with much more information for the chapter membership on benefits in general.

- c. **Membership - “Give Me 10” Report (September 2008):** Norb Murray indicated the report shows the following increases in membership: Corvallis (3-4), Emerald Empire (6), Portland (19), Willamette (12), and Central Oregon (4). Norb indicated that the numbers did not look right, and he was going to check with MOAA National for clarification.
- d. **Chapter Health:** Norb Murray said that he visited with the president of the Southern Oregon Chapter; the chapter is going along well, “doing its own thing.” Perhaps attendance of its chapter officers and some members might revitalize the chapter.

Col Lee Lange from MOAA National visited the Southwest Oregon Chapter and had lunch with three members on 24 May 2008. Norb Murray will contact Lee to find out what his impression of the chapter is at this stage and determine how we can help.

- e. **Meeting Frequency and Venues (From Central Oregon Chapter):** Chuck Rosenfeld said the Central Oregon Chapter had met every other month, but, since the interaction was considered so important, the chapter went back to monthly meetings with one or two permanent locations. They usually have between 40 to 70 people at a meeting. At the Elks Club, they pay around \$22-\$30 for dinner; inexpensive dinners are getting hard to find. The Auxiliary Ladies' Lunches are growing in numbers. Malcolm LeMay said that the Corvallis Chapter meets at the Corvallis Country Club and pays around \$17 for dinner. The Emerald Empire meets at the Vets' Club and has switched from Tuesdays to Wednesdays. Jim Patrick from the Portland Chapter said that the Milwaukie Elks Club charged \$395 to use their picnic area.
- f. **Council and Chapter Visit by National:** MOAA National likes to visit every chapter every three years. Lee Lange or Barry Wright would like to come to one of our Council of Chapters Meeting—and also attend one of the chapter meetings on or near the date of that council meeting. Norb Murray talked to MOAA National at the Symposium about possibly coming to our State Convention or Council of Chapters Meeting; MOAA will also be contacting various individual chapters.

Norb also mentioned that MOAA National will send speakers out to the various chapter meetings; chapter officers are asked to spread the word.

- g. **MOAA Zip Code Project:** A discussion ensued and various questions came up: (1) Are there any zip code parameters (should be realistic) for chapter assignment? (2) How far are people willing to travel to attend meetings? It seems that you can join any chapter you want. (3) Does MOAA freeze membership for deployed active duty/ANG/Reservists? (Norm Hoffman)

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **National MOAA Update:** Norb Murray indicated that Nanci Visser could not attend the meeting as her mother had passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her at this difficult time. Nanci will be leaving the MOAA National Board of Directors in early November 2008 as her term comes to an end.
- b. **MOAA and Politics:** Norb Murray reminded everyone that MOAA is non-partisan; we cannot support a particular candidate. Information on this subject is included in the *MOAA Chapter and Council Policies and Procedures Guide*. Major Pete Wylie, legal counsel for MOAA, is a good contact.

7. **“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER”**

- a. **Induction into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Honor:** On 19 October 2008 at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, four members were inducted: Lt Col Jim Dixon, USAF (Ret) (a member of the MOAA Portland Chapter); Major General Charles A. Sams, USAF (Ret); Major General David M. Jones, USAF (Ret); and Tim Wahlberg.
- b. **Uniform Use:** “Mac” MacDonald says that he needs donations of uniforms and hats for

displaying at various types of veterans' events; he especially needs old uniforms and hats from women officers and enlisted in the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. With the uniforms, he needs the name, picture, and bio of the veteran.

- c. **“Band of Brothers” Reunion:** This event--honoring the members of the 101st Airborne Division, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, E Company--will take place from 23-26 October 2008 in Salem, Oregon.
- d. **Chapter Newsletters:** Copies of all chapter newsletters should be emailed to the Secretary/Treasurer at maryjmayer@yahoo.com

8. CHAPTER REPORTS:

- a. **Corvallis:** President Malcolm LeMay provided the following activity report:

At the September meeting the MOCC members heard from member MAJ Tom Wirth about his deployment to Afghanistan with the Oregon National Guard. In 2006, he deployed with the 41st Brigade Headquarters to Afghanistan as part of Task Force Phoenix and served as the J6, Communications Officer. For the last 11 years he has been an insurance agent with Unified Insurance Group in Corvallis.

In October, the MOCC heard from member JB Rainey about his one year tour as a civilian contractor living and working in Kazakhstan. Also at the October meeting, the MOCC elected a new board. The new MOCC board will start their term in January:

President – Ray Siuta (rsiuta@comcast.net)

Vice Pres. – Ed Knecht (continued service)

Treasurer – John Detweiler (continued service)

Secretary – Marshall & Karen Anderson (dmmcb5@yahoo.com)

On Saturday, October 18, several MOCC members participated in the annual ROTC scholarship 5K/10K run to raise money for the Military Science Scholarship Endowment Fund. MSSEF coordinator Mike Rainbolt worked with local businesses to donate gifts, food and sponsorships with all proceeds going to the Benton County Foundation to provide scholarships for future ROTC students and veterans. OSU is one of a small number of universities nation- wide that has all four military services on campus. Graduates of the program receive a commission in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force and serve on active duty, the reserves, or in the National Guard. This was the 10th annual run for the MSSEF.

No meeting scheduled for November.

The December meeting will be the holiday party with seasonal music entertainment. Mike Rainbolt will be coordinating an auction to raise funds for the MSSEF and the newly established MOCC veterans' support endowed fund.

January program is on Healthy Aging by Mike Waters from the Corvallis Timberhill Athletic Club

February program is Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Dept of Veterans Affairs.

b. **Emerald Empire:** President Bert Toepel provided the following activity report:

Emerald Empire Chapter suspended meetings of the general membership during the months of July and August; however, meetings of the directors continued on a monthly basis. Our September membership meeting consisted of our annual picnic, which was well attended and well-organized.

One of our members, Secretary Charlie Cole, continues to make bi-monthly/quarterly runs to the VA Hospital in Roseburg, delivering clean used clothing, books, games and personal amenities. Our latest estimate is that about \$5,000 in various items were delivered in 2007. These items were collected by members of our chapter from members, friends and two Rotary Clubs in our area.

Our May submission to MOAA for chapter recognition resulted in a 4-Star recognition. During the last four years, we have received one 5-star and three 4-star recognitions.

Two of our members, Norm Hoffman and Dick Norton are very active serving as ESGR representatives. Both attended the Mid-Valley Veterans' Career and Benefits Fair on 20 September. They make regular reports of their activities to our board of directors.

Three of our members attended the MOAA Chapter Presidents' Symposium held at Lake Tahoe on 16-18 October.

Recruiting is going well. We have received applications for 22 new MOAA members, although not all will be joining our chapter.

c. **Portland:** 2nd Vice President John Sampson provided the following activity report:

The Portland Chapter had a recruitment social hour in late August. The Membership Committee sent out approximately 700 postcards to potential members who lived on the West Side of Portland. From the 24 potential members who responded, 17 joined our Chapter. We are still in the process of calling others who attended. We will have another social hour for our East Side community, probably in March 2009. We also received two potential members from the Salem Chapter who live in the Portland area.

We are also having a presentation of the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal to chapter members on 7 February 2009. So far, we have 19 members who have signed up for the ceremony.

d. **Southern Oregon:** No report submitted.

e. **Southwest Oregon:** No report submitted.

f. **Willamette:** No report submitted.

g. **Central Oregon:** President Chuck Rosenfeld provided the following activity report:

The Central Oregon Chapter has had a busy summer... we continue to vigorously support several veterans support activities in our area. We have provided many volunteer hours to driving the DMV van to the Portland VA hospital, gather comfort items for the Oregon Veteran's Home, pack care packages for Caring For Troops, and participate in the Central Oregon Veteran's Alliance. In addition, we are gearing-up for a major troop support effort as our local National Guard unit, the 1/82 CAV begins its pre-deployment training in December, with departure overseas in May. This is the third deployment from our area during 'Iraqi Freedom'... and adds additional stress to service members and their families.

COMOAA has sponsored Senator Wyden, Senator Smith and Rep. Walden at 'veteran's only' meetings which have led to a greatly expanded VA Clinic in Bend... we are working to achieve conditions which will reduce the need for veterans "east of the mountains" to make exceptionally long trips to Portland for most medical services. After receiving a Communication Award from national MOAA for our Website, the Chapter and its Webmaster- Tom Thomas- have volunteered to overhaul the Oregon Council website. This project is well underway, but all chapter secretaries are needed to furnish photos and information to make this site 'first class'!

A fifth Junior ROTC unit has been added in our area... Redmond High was awarded Oregon's only new USMC sponsored unit. COL (Ret) Mike Brock headed COMOAA's support for this unit and assisted in its establishment. COMOAA has pledged to add a fifth scholarship to ensure inclusion of this unit in our scholarship activities.

We continue to participate and support Veteran's Day and Memorial Day dedications, parades and flag displays. LTC (Ret) Dick Tobiason has led a number of local initiatives to remember veterans, including naming of a road and three bridges in honor of local veterans. Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell (Honorary Member) has delivered a number of inspirational addresses to veteran's and school groups, and MG (Ret) Chuck Rosenfeld has flown overflights in a WWII observation plane over several dedications, memorials and internments.

COMOAA continues its tradition of providing leadership and support to the veterans' community within our region, and encouragement to our community leaders and educators to assure the future of America's uniformed services.

h. **Lower Columbia River:** No report submitted.

The next meeting will be held from **1100-1400 on Wednesday, 18 March 2009** in **Salem, OR**. (The summer meeting will be held from **1100-1400 on Wednesday, 17 June 2009** at the **Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles, OR**.) The meeting was adjourned at 1400.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary

MARY J. MAYER, Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Secretary/Treasurer
MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters