



MOAA™

THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ANNUAL MEETING

November 13th—Vet’s Building

1626 Willamette

11:30 Social / 12:00 Lunch

Lunch - \$17.00

MENU

Roasted turkey breast served with cranberries

Mashed potatoes with turkey gravy

Seasoned stuffing

Green beans with onions

Mac’s Caesar salad

Grandma’s rolls & butter

Pumpkin pie with whipped cream



PROGRAM

Guest speaker: Sue Brown, SMART organization

Election of Officers for 2020

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2019

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The 2020 meeting dates are listed on page 6. Cut it out and save it.

Save the Date: Christmas Dinner is on Dec 11th.

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Ken Evans	914-6235
Vice Pres	Dick Norton	344-8800
Secretary	Pat Harris	942-5274
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Eric Watkins	687-8404
Newsletter	Pat Harris	942-5274

The U of O ROTC Scholarship Fund is starting over for calendar year 2020. Please show your support of this program and make your donation today.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: OCT 2019

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES – 23 October 2019

PRESENT: Officers: President Ken Evans; Vice President Dick Norton, Secretary Pat Harris and Treasurer Elaine Callahan. Board members and committee chairs: Mike Kennedy, Frank Balazs, Kike Kennedy, John Toensing, Eric Watkins and Ed Daley were present. A quorum was established. Prospective board members Dick Kimbell and Bud Fitzgerald were also present.

OPENING: President Evans called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Norton gave an opening prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 25 Sep 2019 board meeting was reviewed and approved.

TREASURER: The Treasurer's Report for 25 Sep to 22 Oct 2019 was reviewed and approved with the following notations:

Club Operations:

Beginning balance	\$2600.55
Deposits:	\$1389.00 to club operations
	\$ 333.00 to special funds, noted below
Expenses:	\$1432.47, all out of club operations
Club Operations as of 22 October 2019:	\$2557.08

ROTC Scholarship Booster added \$258 for a Balance of	\$3801.00
ROTC Cadet Dinner added \$25 for a balance of	\$ 512.81
Special Projects added \$50 for a balance of	\$1440.05
Umpqua checking account grand total is	\$8310.94

The OCCU Endowment Fund Account as of 22 October 2019 had \$1.68 in interest for a total of \$6815.86.

The Benton Community Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund has a current market value of \$32,905.71 as of 20 October 2019. This represents a loss of \$80.17.

Treasurer's notes:

- (1) An expense of \$132 was noted for a luncheon payment, but the receipts from members were missing. An inquiry is ongoing.
- (2) Several categories of funds were under-defined by the previous treasurer. The matter will be addressed by a committee of previous treasurers and interested officers before the next meeting. President Evans, Elaine, Pat, Dick N. and Dick K. will attend.

"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

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 141 regular and associate 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/>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (continued)

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership profile – John T. recalled that he learned more about Rusty Cook’s life and service at his funeral than he ever knew while Rusty was alive. He suggested we find a way to better know each other while we are still together. Pat H. has offered a profile outline that he will adjust according to suggestions of the board, then offer it to the board for acceptance at the next meeting. The intent is to suggest all members fill out a profile that the chapter will publish for all members’ information.

Suggested guest speakers – A suggested speaker was a member of the local Oregon Guard unit which is preparing for a deployment. Also suggested were someone from Lane County Veterans’ Services and a local Medal of Honor winner who was written about by historian Daniel Simmons. John T. will take for action.

Personal Affairs – The board decided that the chapter could not afford to send flowers when members passed, and that a card to the family was sufficient.

Ken, Marcy and Dick N. have keys to the storage unit. Only Elaine has a key to the post office box. She will look into getting a second key from the post office so that another officer/board member can check the mail in her absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HEALTH AND WELFARE – Dick Norton: Congratulations to Dick Kimbell and Pat Harris on their successful recoveries from surgery. Our thoughts turn to Milt Krieger and Jack Lindstrom as they address their difficult medical issues.

HOUSE COMMITTEE – Pat Harris: The November menu is set with a Thanksgiving theme. Dick N. confirmed the Dublinaires singing group has been confirmed for the Christmas party.

MEMBERSHIP – Eric Watkins: Nothing to report.

LEGISLATIVE: - Ed Daley: Medical and commissary/exchange issues. See newsletter for details.

NEWSLETTER - Pat Harris: Ginger Banks is still helping with the newsletter, which should be out by 5 Nov.

FUND RAISING – Marcy Previc: No report. The issue of whether or not to continue having garage/holiday sales was asked but tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The slate of officers and board members will be presented to the general membership at the 13 Nov luncheon. Nominations will remain open until the 11 Dec meeting, at which time a vote will be taken.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Eugene Elks will have a Veterans’ Day dinner on Friday, 8 Nov at 6:00 pm. Details will be in the newsletter.

President Evans reports he attended the 8 Oct Council of Chapters meeting in the Dalles. He sensed a new vitality among the new officers.

Board member Frank reports from the local chapter of the VVA that the VA has a proposal to name the new Eugene clinic after Medal of Honor recipient Maximo Yabes, an Oaridge resident, who was killed in Vietnam. Frank will get info on how the chapter can support the effort.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

OFFICERS: **President**, Ken Evans; **Vice President**, John Toensing; **Secretary**, Pat Harris; **Treasurer**, Elaine Callahan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, representing: Erik Watkins, USA; Frank Balazs, USMC; Michael Kennedy, USN; Ginger Banks, USAF; Tom Kulick, USCG, Dick Kimbell, USNR, Bud Fitzgerald, USAR. No representatives of USPHS or NOAA were nominated.

NOTE: John Toensing, will chair the ROTC Committee.

There will be committee chairs needed to fill other appointed positions, such as:

House Committee, Personal Affairs, Calling Committee, Legal Counsel and Liaison to other organizations.



Chapter Dues for 2020: Dues of \$25.00 are due on 1 January 2020 (separate from national MOAA dues). A few members have already paid for next year; early payments will be "well-received."

DUES ARE DUE. 1 JAN 2020, \$25. PAY UP!

BRIEFS

It is flu season...so get your flu shots.

U of O ROTC Annual Chili Cook-Off: Chapter members are invited to the ROTC Chili Cook-Off scheduled for December 5, 2019 1100-1300, at Agate Hall (old Condon Elementary School Bldg) at Agate and 18th Avenue. Although Pat Simpson is not available, we will have an entry if someone steps forward. Any chapter members who want to attend can do so. There's no charge. Anybody who wants to enter their own chili would be welcome, but let us know. Everything is "open-ended", show-up if you can. It's a great opportunity to visit with the cadets, cadre and members of the U of O administration and faculty.

Elk's Lodge To Host Dinner for Veterans

Eugene Elks will be hosting their annual Veteran's Day Ceremony and Dinner on Friday, Nov. 8th at 5:30 pm (ceremony), and 6 pm for dinner. BG, Norm Hoffman (Ret) will be there with Troop 60 Boy Scouts to do the Flag Ceremony and give a brief talk on former Boy Scouts that have served in combat.

Vets eat free, and get one free drink. Guests and spouses will be charged \$10.00 for dinner. Drinks are extra.

Emerald Empire's own Burt Toepel will be the guest speaker at this event.

Elks Lodge address is: 2470 W 11th Ave, Eugene.

NOVEMBER PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Halloween is here. It has been a kick when driving around town seeing so many people in costume. Some have been really very good and some fairly standard but all looked like they were having a very good time.

October ushered in our official fall as it seemed to take a little while for most trees and shrubs to turn color. The brightest colors in the vineyards was just over a week ago.

October was filled with a number of activities including our Board of Directors meeting, an Oregon MOAA Council of Chapters meeting and our October luncheon meeting.

I would again like to thank everyone who attended the October luncheon for altering their schedule to the 16th and making do with the seating in the bar area of the Vets Club. I believe all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Diane Carlson-Evans; quite the attention keeper.

The Board of Directors meeting on October 23rd saw the introduction of interim treasurer Elaine Callahan followed by discussion of chapter accounting categories, the number of categories and accounting procedures that meet the needs of the members as well as meet the obligations the chapter has to its 501 (c) 19 non-profit status. The board will continue work on the strategic plan project including our name recognition, recruiting and retention and support of projects. We wish to maintain a healthy chapter that can accomplish projects, learn from others while having a good time. We continue to welcome your input and want hear what you like about the chapter and your opinion of what might help improve the chapter.

The Council of Chapters meeting was held October 8th in The Dalles and was attended by Dick Norton and Ken Evans. The council elected their new president, Tom Majchrowski. Thank you to outgoing president Dennis Merrill. One of the activities being looked into by the council is a State Legislative Consortium whose purpose would be to "facilitate information sharing, electronically and through periodic calls and webinars, between affiliates and with MOAA national in order to leverage resources and maximize coordination." Also the council is looking at groups and ways that will help get needed and timely information to Oregon veterans. Stay tuned for more information on these and other endeavors as I am sure we will want to gather your ideas and opinions in pursuit of positive outcomes.

I am sorry I will not be at the November luncheon due to business obligations but I do wish you all a wonderful and fulfilling Thanksgiving holiday.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (cont.)

FUTURE EVENTS:

13 Nov 2019, 11:30 am social, noon lunch: Chapter general membership meeting, Vets' Bldg.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 20 Nov 2019 at noon in the Veterans' Memorial Building. The date of the December board meeting will be 18 Dec 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 1330 hours.

Pat Harris, Secretary

Pay Increases for 2020

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the VA, Military retirees, and social security recipients will see a 1.6% increase in their monthly checks for 2020.

As a result of the increase, the average check for an O-5 with 20 years of service will go up by \$72 monthly increase.

The 1.6% increase means that you will get an additional \$16 for every \$1,000 in government benefits you receive.

Emerald Empire Chapter Calendar For 2020

January: 8th Luncheon 22nd Board Meeting	July: 22nd Board Meeting
February: 12th Luncheon Board Meeting 26th	August: 26th Board Meeting
March: 11th Luncheon Board Meeting 23rd	September: 13th Chapter Picnic 25th 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: 10th Luncheon 24th Board Meeting	December: 9th Christmas Dinner 16th Board Meeting

LEGISLATURE UPDATE by Ed Daley

"Congress is back to work" : ask your law makers to support these **Critical NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) Provisions**

Their purpose is to ensure meaningful reforms for service members past present and future. None of this reaches the upper tier on the local or national news. Without our help and support this will be a difficult endeavor.

Five items of concentration of our leadership:

1. Delay proposed reduction of up to 18,000 military medical billets, until congress conducts a full inquiry of how this proposal will effect military a retired veteran healthcare.
2. Eliminate the "Widows Tax" (a \$12,000 a year financial penalty faced by more than 65,000 military survivors).
3. Improve Guard and Reserve retirement credit for troops activated under certain conditions.
4. Call for the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct an independent review the business case analysis supportive of merging the military's commissary and exchange systems.
5. Establish essential rights for military families privatized base housing.

These positions already have overwhelming bipartisan support, however this is far from a done deal. This is why MOAA and it's leadership keep pushing for participation and support with and by our elected and non elected government officials. Some of these may be important to us, some not individually. As a veteran, all things important to some are worth the fight for all.

What can we as members do?

1. Contact elected officials, email, telephone or letter.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, [HTTPS: www.Merkley.senate.gov/contact](https://www.Merkley.senate.gov/contact)

Sen. Ron Wyden [HTTPS: www.Wyden.senate.gov/contact](https://www.Wyden.senate.gov/contact)

Rep. Peter Defozio [HTTPS: www.defozio.house.gov](https://www.defozio.house.gov)

Local state Senator:

Sen. James Manning, Sen.James.Manning@Oregonlegislature.gov

(also) Lawanda Manning: Lawanda.Manning@Oregonlegislature.gov

2. Visit the MOAA advocacy page on the MOAA website, where you will find much more information. With money issues, a close watch has to be maintained on the military side of the fence, seems an opportune target for cutting.

Just maybe if we are diligent enough, the results may be more in our favor. We'll keep a close eye on things.

November Luncheon Guest Speaker—Sue Brown

Sue has spent 8 years volunteering for the SMART reading program. The SMART reading program reaches Oregon grade schoolers with one-on-one reading support, and books to take home and keep. Sue has held a variety of positions within the SMART program, such as Leadership Council member, Site Coordinator, and Reader Volunteer.

Today, Sue is a Reader Volunteer at 2 sites and added the Volunteer Ambassador to share SMART information at events.

Every SMART Volunteer has amazing, heartwarming stories about their volunteer experiences reading with students, sharing our love for books. Giving one-on-one attention to the students all around reading and books, helps the students with confidence and reading skills.

For every additional volunteer at least 2 additional students are served with SMART Reading. Sue loves to share the joy and heartwarming she receives as a volunteer, from sharing her time and book love with kiddos!

Community-based Urgent Care Facilities in Lane County

ROSEBURG, OREGON, (Oct. 2, 2019) – The Roseburg VA Health Care System (RVAHCS), in accordance with the VA MISSION Act of 2018, is working with local Urgent Care facilities across its area to partner for Veteran care. Veterans may check VA benefit eligibility by calling 1-833-4VETNOW or by calling the RVAHCS eligibility office at (800) 549-8387. A list of available Urgent Care facilities in Lane County is below.

PeaceHealth Medical Group
3321 W 11th Ave
Eugene, OR 97402
541-222-7200

PeaceHealth Medical Group-Oregon
1400 Valley River Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
541-222-7375

Tricare Pharmacy Costs Will Increase 01Jan20

Prescription drug costs for Tricare users are set to rise Jan. 1, some by as much as 42%. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, a 90-day supply of generic drugs received through the program's Express Scripts mail-order pharmacy will increase from \$7 to \$10. Co-pays on brand-name drugs received through the mail will go from \$24 to \$29; the price rises from \$53 to \$60 for non-formulary drugs.

Generic drug prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies will see the cost rise from \$11 to \$13 for a 30-day supply, while the same supply of brand-name medications will increase from \$28 to \$33. Non-formulary drugs -- those not on Tricare's list of fully covered medications -- will go up from \$53 to \$60.

Prescriptions filled on base will continue to be free.

The price increases, while normal in the civilian world, are fairly new to Tricare. They were mandated by Congress as part of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act in an effort to bring the amount users pay into line with the actual costs of prescription drugs, which have been skyrocketing in recent years.

Per that law, these annual increases will continue until at least 2027.

Out-of-network pharmacy costs are also increasing. Users who buy drugs at those pharmacies or overseas must first meet their annual deductible, which varies by Tricare plan.

LOCAL MILITARY DEERS INFORMATION

Last month we published an article about travelers being stopped and informed by the TSA Agents about failing to have an approved ID. With this in mind, we thought it would be helpful to pass along information about the local military ID DEERS section (in Springfield), hours and days of operation.

The Family Assistance Center and DEERS Military ID section; located at 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield OR, 97477, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (except holidays on those days) from 9-11 and 12-3. Lunch is from 11-12.

There are two good phone numbers: 541-915-2391 and 541-463-7280. The first is the supervisor and the second is direct to the office by the front door. While not stated, walk-ins seem to be fine.

Thank you Michael Kennedy for the updated information.

**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



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supporting MOAA
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never
too late
to
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**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 390,000 members.



The organization represents those on active duty, former officers, members of the National Guard, Reserve, Retirees and their surviving spouses.

