



Superstition Mountain Express

Military Officers Association of America



October 2017

Volume 41, Issue 2

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The Superstition Mountain
Chapter, Military Officers
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<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!

President's Comments



Welcome to our October Newsletter. I have to start with very sad news.

Bob Delker, a longtime member of our Chapter, passed away this past week. We were very saddened by this announcement. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his surviving family, and also to Jackie Oddo, who was his partner for the past year. Bob was very active in not just our Chapter, but several other Veteran's activities. He was also a member of the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame. Again, our prayers to his family.

Our September dinner meeting was a chance to catch up on what's happened this past summer. I have previously mentioned that Marlene Fox received the 4 Star award for the outstanding work she does on our newsletter, and Ann Ferguson received the 5 Star award for her work on our website. Congratulations to both of them. Our Chapter also received the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award.

October is one of our two annual picnics. More information in this newsletter. You will also read about the huge effort our Women's Auxiliary puts in to providing gifts for our Veterans

Looking ahead, November is always our month to honor military members. This Dinner Meeting always has a big turnout. We would like to see our Chapter have a large participation.

Look forward to seeing all of you at our picnic.

Best regards

Dave Rataczak, MG (Ret) U.S. Army
drataczak@cox.net



2017 OFFICERS

President, MG Dave Rataczak	480-3536261 dratadzak@cox.net
1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2nd VP, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen	
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph	
Past President, Capt Ed Mangan	

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	CW4 Arlan Allen
Membership	Lt Col John Bushko
Personal Affairs	Lt Gregory Moore
Newsletter	Mrs. Marlene Fox
Website	Lt. Ann Ferguson
Transition Coordinator	Lt Col James Austin
Director	Maj. Austin Foote
Director	Mrs. Jackie Oddo
Director	Capt. George Meegan
Director	Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



The auxiliary will meet at 11:30 on Friday, October 13th at Dobson Restaurant. Lin Sue Cooney, from Hospice of the Valley, will be speaking. She is looking forward to meeting us. Please feel free to invite spouses and friends to attend. Everyone will order off the menu as always. We will not work on projects at this meeting. Look forward to seeing you there.

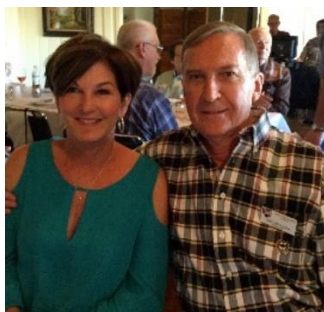
The ladies will put together Hygiene Kits at our November meeting. Remember, you can bring donated items to any MOAA activity. Thirty-Six Hygiene Kits were delivered to the VA Service Center in Phoenix after our last meeting. We were told that the Hygiene Kits are the most asked for items they give to the Vets. Thank you to all who helped and donated. If you have any questions you can contact me at 480-759-1717 or jdbushko@earthlink.net.



September Dinner Meeting



JR and Diane serenaded us with some great Country Music during the social hour before dinner. Several couples even got up and danced. It was a fun evening with friends!



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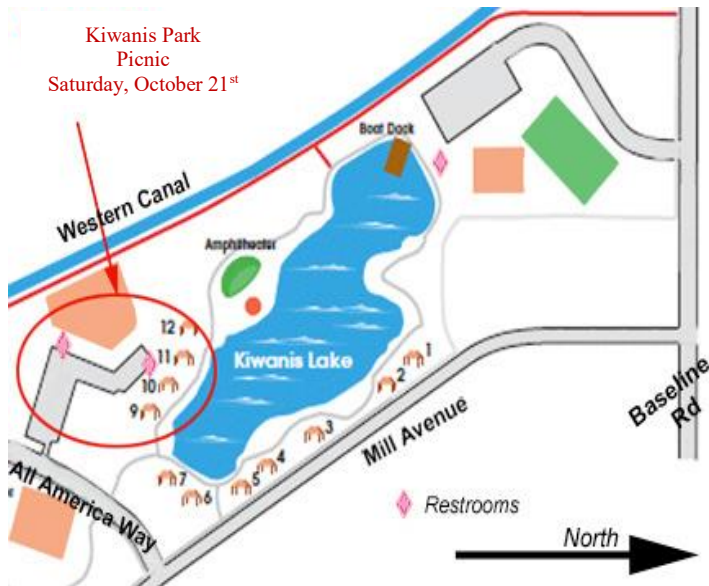


President Dave Rataczak presented Marlene Fox with a certificate and MOAA Chapter Coin, for her work on the Chapter Newsletter which received a 4 Star Communication Award from MOAA National.



Thanks,
Arlan & Peggy Allen, for
hosting our raffle.

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From Baseline Rd, go south on Mill Ave to All American Way, turn right (west), then turn into the first parking lot on the north side. Ramada 11



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA



Fall Picnic



Saturday October 21, 2017

Tempe Kawanis Park – Ramada 11

11am Social - Noon Lunch

Meal includes

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Brats
condiments - Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Please bring a dessert for four, a salad or beans

**Reservations by Wednesday October 18th
to Arlan Allen**

4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019 -

602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net



Kawanis Park is a beautiful place to spend an afternoon. The new Ramada's are very nice, with restrooms close by and shade in case it rains or is too hot. Our Chef, Tom Ralph, does a great job cooking. We always have a good time. Please come join us.



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Auxiliary Luncheon

at Dobson's Restaurant

2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ

October 13, 2017

Guest Speaker Lin Sue Cooney

From Hospice of the Valley

Lunch at 11:30am

Order lunch off the menu

No reservation needed



Central Arizona Satellite



Chapter MOAA

Luncheon

Saturday, October 28, 2017

12:00pm

Robson Ranch in Eloy, AZ

Take Jimmie Kerr Rd, exit 198 off I-10. The chapter's person of contact is; CWO4 Harold Fales, USN Ret. The chapter meets on the last Saturday of each month. This is subject to change.



October Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

Jim Austin	19
Patrick Gallagher	4
William Koch	22
Jim Knapp	22
Ed Mangan	13
Greg Moore	7
Mary Thomas	30

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

Old age is when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.



ANNIVERSARIES

Bart & Connie Bartels	6
Keith & Mary Ann Cerhan	25
Patrick & Joyce Gallagher	19
Kenneth & Lois Morgan	10
Gerard & Kay Wittman	20
James & Mary Woods	30

CHAIRMAN REPORTS



1st Vice President **Arlan Alan, Programs**

October features our annual Fall Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, October 21st beginning at 1100. The location will be Kiwanis Park, Ramada number 11, Tempe, AZ. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Our menu will be hamburgers, brats and hotdogs with all the fixings. Drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert for four, a salad, or beans to share. Please RSVP to Arlan at 602-283-5862 or cw4allen@cox.net by October 18th.

Looking forward to November. Our annual "Salute to the Troops" Thanksgiving dinner will be held on November 13th, which is the second Sunday of the month. More to follow in the November newsletter.

I may be reached at: 602-283-5862 (can leave message) or email: cw4allen@cox.net.



2nd Vice President **John Bushko, Membership**

The weather is finally getting bearable (temps below 100). We had a great time at the September dinner meeting. I want to remind everyone, we are starting the 2018 membership drive. Let's get as close to 100% retention as possible. Additionally, when you are out and about, if you meet someone who is a current or former military officer, encourage them to join us for our picnic this month. I have plenty of tri-fold new member applications if you need them. I will have them available at all our meetings along with the renewal forms. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic this month.

480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net



Transition Coordinator **James Austin** **Need A Job?**

A Job Fair will be conducted at Creighton School District in Phoenix, AZ from 1300 -1600 hours October 12, 2017. The District will be hiring for a wide range of teaching positions as well as a Nurse requirement. Interested veterans can contact the District Office at 602-381-6000 or apply online at www.creightonschools.org. Sufficient time is available to secure state certification and FBI fingerprint check before the school year beginning January 2018.

Second Mesa Day School, P.O. Box 98 Second Mesa, AZ 86043 has openings for school year 2017-2018 to include Art Teacher, Exceptional Student Service Director, Elementary Teachers, Chief School Administrator and Gifted and Talented Teacher. All positions are required to undergo an intensive background check, possess a valid Arizona Driver's License, complete and pass the pre-employment screening in accordance with Second Mesa Day School Policies and Procedures, must obtain a First-Aid and CPR certification, and meet State Certification requirements as specified. Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, Short Term and Long-Term Disability, and 401K Retirement Plan. Interested Veterans please contact Janet Lamson, Human Resources Technician at Ph. 928-737-2571, FAX 928-737-2565.

Multiple Job Positions as Senior Objective Oriented Program Analysts are required by American Airlines in Tempe, AZ requiring a Master's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Engineering Technology, CIS/MIS, or closely related discipline plus 5 years of progressive experience.

Continued on next page.....

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Cited positions interface with management business analysts, quality assurance project managers and developers, solutions architects and internal business customers to understand requirements and develop software according to American Lines business needs. Veterans are highly encouraged to apply on line at http://www.aa.com/careers_referencing_Job_Code_#12068.



Treasurer

Tom Ralph



Chapter dues remain unchanged at \$25.00 per year for regular members and are \$12.50 for the Auxiliary. They are due on the 1st of January 2018, but you may pay them at any time. I will take the money! Chapter dues are separate and different than MOAA National dues.



ROTC/JROTC

Karl Pfitzer



Hello fellow chapter members, and welcome to Fall and the beginning of the end of another hot Arizona Summer. The return of Fall brings not only weather change but the beginning of another school year and our Chapter's support of the JROTC programs at 21 East Valley high schools and the three ROTC programs at Arizona State University. Your board has voted to continue our support of these schools in the same manner that we did last year. We will start our fundraising drive for this project next month.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. 480-635-2080 pvkarl@cox.net



Central Arizona Satellite

Spokesperson Norm Poole

The Central Arizona Satellite of the Superstition Mountain Chapter of MOAA has been busy during the summer with plans for the upcoming year.

In August, CAS joined the Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce. Our membership as a non-profit service organization has already gained attention by other members of the Casa Grande Chamber, who have voiced interest in supporting MOAA and CAS goals of supporting active, reserve, national guard and former military personnel.

During the Chamber's August "Business After-Hours Mixer," Harold Fales and Norman Poole were presented with CAS's new membership plaque and they were introduced to the Chamber's members. The event was hosted by the Casa Grande Banner Regional Hospital.

Mr. Fales had the opportunity to discuss how CAS, as a part of MOAA and the Superstition Mountain Chapter, are serving our local military, veterans, and Reserve Officer Training Corps' detachments. He explained that recent reductions in funding have created financial challenges for the Junior ROTC detachments at Casa Grande Union, Casa Grande Val Vista, and Coolidge High Schools. Mr. Fales expressed the hope that CAS could help address those issues. CAS is already preparing for a golf tournament in March of next year at the course in Arizona City to help sponsor and support the JROTC program.

In addition to the Casa Grande Chamber activities, Mr. Fales and Mr. Poole also attended the Superstition Mountain Chapter Board of Director's meeting at Dobson Ranch in Mesa on September 11th. The board provided the representatives of CAS with guidance and support for the upcoming activities to help support the three JROTC units.



In Memoriam
CW4 Robert Delker US Army, Retired
September 26, 2017



Bob and his wife Shirley, were part of the original members of our chapter when it was started and was known as TROA. They were both very active and attended almost every activity we had. Bob held just about every board position available throughout the years. He has held positions on the State Council of Chapters and has been very active in other Veteran Organizations. Bob will truly be missed as a fellow member and dear friend.

Auxiliary Sponsored Programs

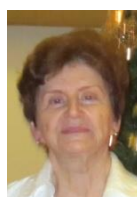


Hygiene Kits for Vets

Judy Bushko



Some of the items we need for our kits are: Hand sanitizer, Razors, Shaving cream, Feminine products, Deodorant, Wash cloths, combs, white socks, small bars of soap, Tissues (small pkg). All of these items are travel size. Please join in and help, just as you have all stepped up to help with all the other great projects the Auxiliary has undertaken over the years. Thanks for your continued support!

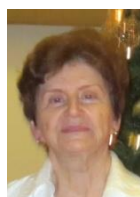


Packages from Home

Ann Ferguson

We will be sending boxes to our troops every few months. Thanks for your support. Bring your donations to any chapter function. Monetary donations are always appreciated. 480-961-9634 - vfergusonfnp@cox.net

Our Auxiliary ladies are fantastic! Always finding ways to help our veterans.



Operation Paperback Books

Ann Ferguson



We send paperbacks to the troops and hard cover books are taken to the VA Hospital. Bring your books to any chapter function, or contact Ann Ferguson. 480-961-9634 or email vfergusonfnp@cox.net

Since 2012, Over 1191 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.



Cell Phones for Soldiers / Helping Heroes Home

Judy Bushko

Calling for old phones!



When you upgrade your phone, don't throw those old phones away. Bring them to us. We'll send them in to get phone time for our troops overseas. The phones don't need to work. Monetary donations are great too! \$5.00 is equal to 2.5 hours of family talk-time for one soldier.

For more information contact Judy Bushko 480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

Since 2011 over 345 phones have been sent!

Thanks for your donations!



Packages from Home



Operation Paperback



Cell Phones for Soldiers



Pillows for VA heart patients and Hospice



Blankets for the Veterans in the VA Hospital



Hygiene Kits for Vets

A Request for books

Ann Ferguson received this request from Operation Paperback. Ann broke her hip and cannot send books right now, but if you would like to send them directly the address is below. Use media mail rates which are much cheaper than letters. APO and FPO addresses get quick delivery.

The Soto Cano Library has been on our mailing list for a while. This week we received an email from our contact there. He writes: "The multiple storms have roughly 50% of our active personnel here in Latin America operating in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Continued on next page.....

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Given the lack of power there, we are hoping to send some books that way. It may well be that this mission will go on for a while and of course, we'd be grateful for any mixed fiction and nonfiction books you could send our way. We will load them onto supply aircraft and give these soldiers, sailors and airmen something to do during their downtime. Having just returned from PR, I can tell you that it is much worse than it looks on television. We are concentrating on trying to serve the most at risk, including children and the elderly. It is extremely discouraging. Thank you in advance for your support."

Volunteers, if you would like to support this effort, here is the address:

Benjamin Blackburn, PSC 1300 Soto Cano Library, APO, AA 34042

Thank you for all that you do for our military, especially those serving in such harsh circumstances.



Chapter Elections!

Our nominating committee will be contacting all the current officers and board of directors to see if they wish to continue in their current positions. If you are interested in joining this group as an officer or a director, please contact me via email emangan3@aol.com or give me a call. 602- 501-0128.

It is important to continue to add a few new faces to the board each cycle. Are you interested in sharing your ideas with other MOAA members to keep our chapter leading the way? We will publish the list of nominees in our November newsletter, with voting and installation during the December meeting.

Capt Ed Mangan, USAF (fmr);
Chairman, Nomination Committee
Past President

Chapter Office Positions

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Vice President - Auxiliary

Director Positions

Programs
Membership
Newsletter Editor
Personal Affairs
ROTC/ Scholarship
Legislative
Transition Coordinator
Website
Director
Director
Director



Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame

2017 Induction Luncheon

Friday, October 27, 2017

**Talking Stick Resort Conference Center
9800 Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85256**

Menu: Herb Roasted Chicken

\$65.00 if received from Oct 1st to October 13th

Doors open 10:30am – Ceremony at 11:30

For more information or tickets go to the website below
<https://azuav.org/coming-events/...>



Vietnam Veteran's Dinner Saturday, October 28, 2017

Elements Event Center

**16000 Maricopa Rd #200,
(North/next to Ak Chin Casino) AZ**

Social 4:30pm-5:30pm – Program at 5:30pm

Cost: \$50.00 per meal

Guest speakers:

**Professor Robert Turner & Professor Mark Moyar
To register call Joe Abodeely at (520) 868-6777**

Or joeabo7@gmail.com



Board meetings

The board meets at Dobson's Restaurant in Mesa, on the 2nd Monday of each month at 9am. As always, members are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

Upcoming meetings: *October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th.*

Auxiliary Spouses Meetings

The Auxiliary meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 11:30am. Octobers meeting is on the 13th at Dobson's Restaurant. Order off the menu, no reservation necessary. We will not be working on any projects at this meeting.

For more information, contact Judy Bushko
480-759-1717 or jdbushko@earthlink.net

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Looking at Tomorrows Leaders

This is a short article Peggy Allen wrote about her grandson, Nathan. He is the 5th Generation of the family who has volunteered in support of Veterans issues and projects!



Nathan Griswold is the grandson of Arlan and Peggy Allen, SMC members. When Nathan entered his Freshman year at Basha High School, he was tasked with deciding the subject of his Senior Project. The Senior Project is a project the student works on beginning the Freshman year and must be completed prior to graduation. Nathan's choice was "Homeless Vets in the Valley." He spent numerous hours researching the number of homeless veterans in the valley, causes and issues leading to a veteran being homeless, resources and assets available to assist the homeless and various local outreach programs for the veterans. After reviewing the collected materials, Nathan chose the Community Resource and Referral Center, 1500 E Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ., as a location for him to provide assistance to a few homeless veterans by donating Walmart "Thank You" Gift Cards. He presented these gift cards on Friday, September 22nd.

The summation of his data collection and efforts will be presented in a Power Point Presentation to his Civics Class at the end of the year.

Legislative Update from National MOAA Take Action

<http://takeaction.moaa.org> MOAA National Legislative Action Center

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today. Go to the above site, then contact your congressman. Tell them what you want them to do.

- **Final Push for Defense Bill**

As the defense bill heads to conference committee, your earned benefits are at stake. Congress will decide on the military pay raise, TRICARE pharmacy fees, and significant changes to the military health system.

- **Prevent Steep TRICARE Fee Hikes**

The FY2018 national defense authorization bill negotiations are underway. The Senate's budget request includes large increases to TRICARE fees across the board. These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 National Defense Authorizations grand-fathering clause. The intention of the grand-fathering was to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in the service prior to 1 January 2018.

- **Compensation is Crucial to Recruitment and Retention**

The president has requested DoD commence with the 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) to assess the adequacy of military compensation and, essentially, decide if a salary system would be more effective for recruiting and retention.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marlene Fox

As the Newsletter Editor, I strive to minimize errors. There will be times that mistakes occur. If you notice any errors please let me know. I would appreciate any input on articles you might think would be appropriate for the newsletter. It would also be helpful if all address changes, corrections, or email changes were sent to me so I can insure you receive the newsletter without delay.

marlenekfox@cox.net - 1151 N Joshua Tree Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85234, 480-854-9473,



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MOAA's Mission: The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a non-profit veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. National MOAA, it's Councils and Chapters are nonpartisan.

MOAA National & Superstition Mountain Chapter Membership Application

Date _____ Member Name & Initial _____
Branch of Service _____ Rank _____
Spouse First Name _____ National MOAA Number _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____
Home Phone # _____ Work or Cell# _____
Please Circle: ARMY--AIR FORCE--NAVY--MARINE CORPS- COAST GUARD--NOAA--PUBLIC HEALTH SVC
Circle All That Apply: REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONAL GUARD-FORMER OFFICER-ACTIVE-RETIRED-
MALE___ FEMALE___ WIDOW-___ WIDOWER___
Member Date of Birth MM___/DD___/YYYY___ Spouse Date of Birth MM___/DD___/YYYY___
Anniversary Date _____ E-mail Address _____

MOAA National membership for 2018 has 3 types to pick from. **1. Basic--free-electronic only. 2. Premium- \$37.00 a year. 3. Life membership-fee is age dependent.** As a **BASIC Member** you will receive electronic newsletters and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get *Military Officer Magazine* via our mobile app. You'll also have the opportunity to attend our career fairs, networking events, and classes and to take advantage of valuable discounts on products and services. As a **PREMIUM Member** you get full access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of our career resources (one-on-one career counseling, résumé reviews, and interviewing advice and critiques), countless discounts on products and travel, and access to all MOAA exclusive publications and news updates. You'll be able to tap into MOAA's staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That's on top of all the benefits you receive at the BASIC Membership level.

Superstition Mountain Chapter membership fee is **\$25 per year**. Spouses of current members may participate in Chapter Auxiliary luncheons and activities with no fee. Chapter bylaws require Chapter members and Chapter Auxiliary members to be members of MOAA National.

For National dues, enclose check for: \$37.00 – Make check payable to MOAA National

Mail to: MOAA, Dept. 1488, Maryfield, VA 22116-9820

Enclose check for: Chapter \$25.00 or Auxiliary (SSAC) \$12.50 –

Make check payable to Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA.

Mail Chapter Application and Check to:

Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA, Tom Ralph, Treasurer

20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024 - Phone 602-569-2130

For More Information Contact, Membership Committee Chairman John Bushko:
480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net

Name tags are durable hard plastic, white background with MOAA logo and your name engraved in black.
To place your order, please fill out the form below.

Print first and last name

**Select nametag type
pin on or magnetic**

1. _____
2. _____



CLIP AND MAIL

October Picnic Reservation

Saturday, October 21, 2017 – Kawanis Park, Ramada 11

Social Hour 11:00pm Lunch 12:00pm

Meal Choices: **Hamburgers** _____ **Hot Dogs** _____ or **Brats** _____

\$15.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Wednesday, October 18th

Make checks payable to: Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA

CLIP AND MAIL TO: **ARLAN ALLEN**: 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019
602-283-5862 (can leave message) or email: cw4allen@cox.net

2018 Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Annual Dues: \$25 Regular Members \$12.50 Auxiliary (**SSAC**) Members



Please make check payable to Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA

- - - Write MOAA Chapter Dues on Memo line of the check

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2018

Signed _____ My National MOAA Number _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____



Chapter Auxiliary Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

This donation may be used for any Auxiliary projects _____
specifically, for Packages from Home _____

Please make check payable to Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA

Write Auxiliary in the memo line of the check

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024



ROTC/JROTC Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Please make check payable to Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA

Write JROTC in the memo line of the check

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

Superstition Mountain Express

**Superstition Mountain Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
1151 N Joshua Tree Lane
Gilbert, AZ 85234**



2017 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

Chapter Board Meetings	Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons	Chapter Dinner/Picnic Meetings
October 9 th – 9:00am	October 13 th - 11:30am	October 21 st - 11:00am social – 12 noon lunch
November 13 th – 9:00am	November 10 th - 11:30am	November 19 th - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 11 th – 9:00am	December 8 th - 11:30am	December 17 th - 5:00pm social – 6:00pm dinner



*Happy
Halloween*



Superstition Mountain Express