

Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA™ *Military Officers Association of America*



October 2018

Volume 41, Issue 2

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The Superstition Mountain
Chapter, Military Officers
Association of America Inc., is a
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<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!



Chapter Members,

Greetings from your President. We started back to our Sunday evening dinner meetings last week. We had a good turnout and a good meeting.

Lin Sue Cooney was our guest speaker. She was a news anchor for Channel 12 TV for 31 years and now works with Hospice of the Valley. She gave a very interesting presentation about hospice care and how it is funded. Most of us were surprised at the things we didn't know about Hospice care and particularly Hospice of the Valley! Hospice of the Valley cared for Chapter member Jackie Oddo in her final days.

We had another two guests, actually three, counting the service dog. You may recall we donated money to Louis Robinson, who is a service dog trainer. Louis brought Veteran Andrew and his new service dog Nix to the meeting, so we could see what our money was being spent on. It was extraordinarily rewarding to see Andrew and his dog together. We should all feel proud about sponsoring a veteran who trains dogs for veterans. All in all, it was a fulfilling meeting.

Next month is our semi-annual picnic. You will read more about the date and location further in the newsletter.

Legislatively, the Congress has passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). There is a pay raise for the military, which should also affect retirees. Additionally, there are no new TRICARE fees. Good news.

November 1st and 2nd is the National MOAA meeting at the Arizona Grand Hotel. Several of us will be attending to see what's new.

Lastly, our membership continues to grow. We are very happy about that as it gives us more bargaining power at both the State and Federal level.

In closing, I hope all of our members and families are doing well, and we look forward to seeing more of you at our monthly meetings. Come out to the October picnic, Tom Ralph cooks a mean burger!!

Best regards,

Dave Rataczak, MG (Ret) U.S. Army
President, SMC MOAA



2018 OFFICERS

President, MG Dave Rataczak	480-353-6261 dratadzak@cox.net
1 st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2 nd VP, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480- 759-1717 jbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen	
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph	
Past President, Capt Ed Mangan	

2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



The next meeting of the auxiliary will be on Friday, October 12th, 11:00am at Dobson Restaurant. We will be putting together hygiene kits for our homeless veterans. Hope to see you there. Thank you to all the ladies who come and give of their time and talents so unselfishly. We also thank the members of Superstition Mountain Chapter for their continued support. If you have any suggestions or ideas for projects the auxiliary may be able to do, please let us know.

On October 13th we have an opportunity to help with a picnic being sponsored by the Desert Mustangs (Marine veteran group) for Arizona State Veterans House residents. The hours are 1000-1300. It is an excellent opportunity to talk and share some time with these veterans. If you are interested please contact George Meegan at CaptainGeorgeMeegan@gmail.com or myself at jdbushko@earthlink.net.



At our September dinner meeting the Auxiliary ladies presented approximately 70 pillows to Lin Su Cooney, in memory of Jacki Oddo, to be used throughout the valley at grief groups sponsored by Hospice of the Valley.



Judy Bushko presented money, collected by the Auxiliary ladies, to George Meegan to be used at bingo that is provided for veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Home.



September Dinner Meeting



Diane and JR played great Country music for us during the Social Hour before dinner. Many of our members danced and it was fun to see everyone enjoying themselves.



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This was a great way to start the Chapter's fall dinner meetings. Comfy clothes, nice music, great food and good friends!



JR & Diane!
Thanks for the music, just loud enough for us to enjoy and yet we could still carry on conversations. You're the best!



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Dave Rataczak presented a Chapter coin to Lin Su Cooney

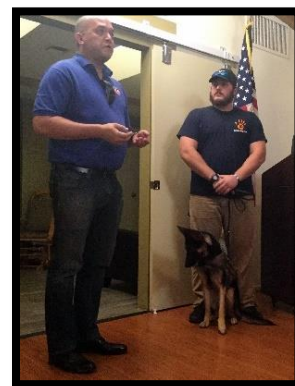
Everyone enjoyed the presentation by our guest speaker Lin Su Cooney, from Hospice of the Valley. Lin Su told us about the many services this not-for-profit organization provides for the community. It is truly a remarkable organization and it was obvious Lin Su loves being a part of it. Check out their website <https://www.hov.org/>

Our raffle was hosted by John and Judy Bushko. Thanks for the great items you brought!

We need volunteers to host our monthly raffles. If you would like to host one of the months or donate an item for the raffle, please contact Arlan Allen at 602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net. We need Five or six items, each worth at least \$20.00. If you are willing to host, we will try and help you get the items. You will be compensated for the cost of the items.



A few months ago, our Chapter donated the money for a veteran to receive a service dog. Louis Robinson, a veteran himself, trains the dogs and the veterans. Nix, the service dog, brought his handler and friend, Andrew, to our dinner meeting so we could meet the beneficiary of our donation. Nix and Andrew have been in training for 3 months. For more information on Louis's service dog training go to this website <http://www.robinsondogtraining.com/dogtrainerbio.html>



CONGRATULATIONS!

We did it again! Superstition Mountain Chapter has received the 5 Star Award from National MOAA for the chapters work in 2017. On the left, President Dave Ratazak and Vice President Arlan Allen are pinning the Award pin on our chapter flag. It takes a lot of work to be a good chapter and our Board Officers and Directors are some of the best! On the right you see the pins from other years we have won. Seven 5 Star awards in seven years!



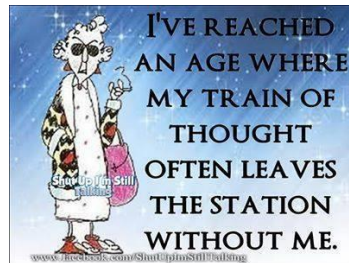
October Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

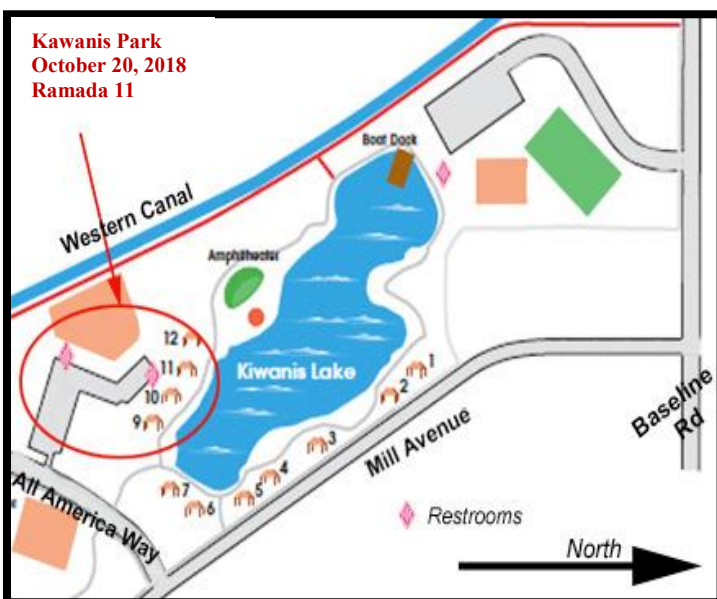
Jim Austin	19
Patrick Gallagher	4
William Koch	22
Jim Knapp	22
Ed Mangan	13
Greg Moore	30
Richard Ridenour	17

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY



ANNIVERSARIES

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



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 10

Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Member Appreciation Fall Picnic

Saturday October 20, 2018

**Tempe Kwanis Park
11am Social - Noon Lunch**

Meal includes

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Brats, Potato Salad,
condiments –Water & Soft Drinks**

No Cost Member Appreciation

Please bring a dessert for four, a salad, or beans

**Reservations by Wednesday October 17th to
to Arlan Allen**

4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019

602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net



Chef Tom Ralph will be on hand to cook up those delicious Brats, Hot dogs & Hamburgers. There is always lots of great food. Kwanis Park is beautiful, and we have a nice Ramada with bathrooms close by. Come join us for this fun afternoon.

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Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Auxiliary Luncheon at Dobson's Restaurant

October 12, 2018

Lunch at 11:30am

Order lunch off the menu

No reservation needed

Please join us as at 11am to make Hygiene Kits



Central Arizona Satellite Chapter MOAA

Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 27th, 12:00pm, at the 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. 573-308-8372 droamin@gmail.com or CAS Membership Rep. Norm Poole at 520-836-8456 nrpoole1066@gmail.com.

The chapter meets on the last Saturday of each month. This is subject to change.



CHAIRMAN REPORTS



1st Vice President Arlan Allen- Programs

On October 20, 2018 the Chapter will be hosting a member appreciation picnic at Kiwanis Park, ramada 11. Social hour begins at 11:00 with lunch at noon. In appreciation for your continued membership and participation, there is no fee for this picnic. We only ask that you bring a dessert for four, and your own alcohol if desired. The Chapter will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and brats along with condiments, soft drinks and water. Bring you families and enjoy the camaraderie. Col Tom Ralph will be the "grill master" for this event! Marlene has included in this newsletter, a map of Kiwanis Park and the location of the ramada. Map on page 5.

Please have your reservations to Arlan Allen by Wednesday, October 17th. Email at cw4allen@cox.net or call 602-283-5862 (may leave a message).

Looking ahead to November, we will be having our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting on Sunday the 18th. Please mark your calendar!



2nd Vice President John Bushko - Membership

I hope everyone who attended the September dinner enjoyed the music and presentations.

We are definitely entering the fall season, although the temps aren't really going down much. With the season changes also comes the need to renew your membership for next year. The renewal form is at the end of the newsletter. Please take the time to complete the form and send it in. Renewals are due by January 1st.

Have a great month and I hope to see all at the September dinner meeting.

480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net



Superstition Mountain Express



Treasurer

Tom Ralph



Our Chapter is doing well. We have added some new members over the past few months, but still need to keep recruiting.

We also need to keep our existing memberships current. Dues for 2019 are due before 1 Jan 2019. If you don't remember if you have paid or not, feel free to call or text me and I'll check my records. Thank you all for your support. tomralph@cox.net (602) 569-2130.



Personal Affairs

Greg Moore



Just when you think it is too early for thinking of Christmas, (it's 102° after all), here I come. Because of meeting dates, cutoff dates, Christmas vacations and the like, we are moving our annual Toys 4 Tots collection to the November Dinner Meeting. As always, please bring one (or two or three) new unwrapped toys to be given on Christmas morning to a needy child in Maricopa county.

If you are of the age where your grandkids are too old for toys, remember there are hundreds of families not in your position and who, because of you, will have a brighter holiday, just like the ones your family use to have. Those of you living in a community setting might even consider enlisting your neighbors in this worthwhile project.

For our satellite Chapter, there is a Toys 4 Tots in Pinal County. Please join in for what has become an annual event for the Chapter.



ROTC/JROTC

Karl Pfitzer

We will be kicking off our ROTC/JROTC program next month. I am looking forward to working with all of you on this special program.

Karl Pfitzer, ROTC/JROTC Chairman
480-991-2463 pvkarl@cox.net



Legislative

Dave Rataczak



Legislative update from MOAA National
September 28, 2018

Taken from an article by Kevin Lilley

President Donald Trump signed spending legislation Friday afternoon that will fund the Defense Department through FY 2019 and prevent a government shutdown.

The bill includes nearly \$675 billion in military spending and will pay for a FY 2019 military pay raise of 2.6 percent, one of several MOAA priorities met by the new law; others include language that would provide death gratuities to the families of fallen servicemembers in the event of a future federal shutdown, and would provide \$34.4 billion for defense health requirements.

The raise is the largest servicemembers have received since 2010.

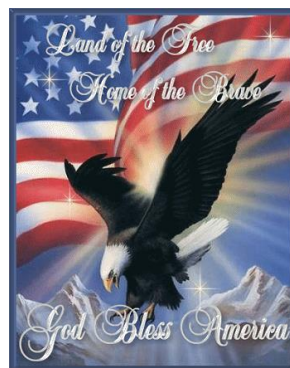
The legislation does not address the expansion of concurrent receipt or the dollar-for-dollar deduction of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, better known as the widows tax, which remain key MOAA legislative priorities.

The bill also does not include funding for the president's proposed wall at the Mexican border. That created some concern in Washington about whether he would sign the legislation, which includes about \$855 billion in overall spending.

The president signed separate legislation Sept. 21st that funded the VA, along with other federal agencies.

Check the National MOAA website for more in depth information. <http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA National Legislative Action items are available to you at <http://www.moaa.org/> . Click on 'Take Action' at the top of the page.



Auxiliary Sponsored Programs

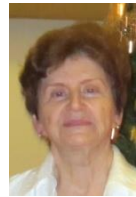


Hygiene Kits for Vets

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! **Over 120 kits made since we started last year!** One of the cards pictured below is included in each Hygiene Kit.



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 1250 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.

Cell Phones for Soldiers /



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. Phones don't need to work.

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

Our Axillary ladies at work!



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



Chapter President Dave Ratazak presented Marlene Fox with a certificate from MOAA National. Marlene received the Five Star Communication Award for the Chapter Newsletter!

Let's do something to help our Chapter!



Fry's Food Community Rewards

Superstition Mountain Chapter has been approved for the Fry's Food Community Rewards program. The program was designed to make fund-raising the easiest in town... all you have to do is shop at Fry's and swipe your V.I.P Card! We need as many members as we can get to enroll now for the Fry's Community Rewards Program.

Registration procedure: Visit <https://www.frysfood.com>

- Log into your Fry's account
- Select '**Savings and Rewards**'
- On drop down menu select '**Fry's Community Rewards**'
- Go toward the bottom of the page and click on '**ENROLL NOW**'
- Search for **Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA** either by name or **SB166**

Every time you, as a member, shop for groceries and swipe your card, our organization automatically starts earning a rebate. This does **not affect** your gas points. You will still get them!

Purchase accumulations begin on September 1, 2018. After this date, individual purchases will begin counting towards your organization within 7-10 business days of registering the individual Fry's V.I.P. Card on-line.



Chapter Elections!

The nominating committee is very happy to announce the list of SMC persons who have agreed to be our Officers and Board Members for 2019.

A list of the nominees is on the right.

We will be voting and installing during the December Dinner meeting.

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



2019 Chapter Board Nominees

President- Lt Col John Bushko
1st Vice President- CW4 Arlan Allen
2nd Vice President- Capt. Al Anderer
VP Auxiliary-Mrs. Judy Bushko
Treasurer - Col Tom Ralph
Secretary- Mrs. Peggy Allen

Director Positions

Programs - CW4 Arlan Allen
Membership - Capt. Al Anderer
Newsletter Editor – Mrs. Marlene Fox
Personal Affairs - 1LT Greg Moore
ROTC - Col Karl Pfitzer
Legislative - MG Dave Rataczak
Transition Coordinator - LTC Jim Austin
Website - Lt Ann Ferguson
Director - Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin
Director - Capt. George Meegan
Director - Maj Austin Foote
Director - Mrs. Ann Schminke
Director - Capt. Ed Mangan

We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear on earth, peace, security, liberty, our family, our friends, our home. But when we look at our flag and behold it emblazoned with all our rights we must remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties. Every glory that we associate with it is the result of duty done."

~Calvin Coolidge

Superstition Mountain Express



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

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 2019 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 SMC of MOAA.

Mail Chapter Application and Check to:

SMC 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. _____



October Member Appreciation Picnic Reservation

Saturday, October 20, 2018 – Kawanis Park – Ramada 11

Social Hour 11:00am

Lunch 12 noon

Meal Choices: Hamburgers _____ Hot Dogs _____ or Brats _____

Meal paid for by your Chapter – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Wednesday, October 17th

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

2019 Chapter Dues Renewal Form

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

Please make check payable to SMC of 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 _____

ROTC/JROTC Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ School Awards Sponsor \$130.00 _____

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

Write JROTC in the memo line of the check

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

Chapter Auxiliary Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

This donation may be used for any Auxiliary projects _____

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

Write Auxiliary 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**



2018 - 2019 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

Chapter Board Meetings	Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons	Chapter Dinner/Picnic Meetings
September 10 th – 9:00am	September 14 th - 11:30am	September 16 th - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
October 8 th – 9:00am	October 12 th - 11:30am	October 20th - 11:00am social – 12 noon picnic
November 12 th – 9:00am	November 9 th - 11:30am	November 18 th - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 10 th – 9:00am	December 14 th - 11:30am	December 16 th - 5:00pm social – 6:00pm dinner
January 14 th – 9:00am	January 11 th – 11:30am	January 20 th – 5:00pm social – 6:pm dinner
February 11 th – 9:00am	February 8 th – 11:30am	February 17 th – 5:00pm social – 6:00pm dinner