

Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA™ Military Officers Association of America



December 2019
Volume 41, Issue 4

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The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization, IRS tax ID# 23-7430856

<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!



President's Comments

Greetings to All,
First, I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to thank Arlan for stepping in for me at the Council of Chapters meeting and the chapter November dinner meeting. I sincerely appreciate his assistance and his willingness to do anything for the chapter. At the dinner meeting we collected 45 backpacks for our support of the veterans in the area. We also collected numerous toys for the Marines Toys for Tots program. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

From the Council of Chapters meeting, we received our 5-Star Level of Excellence award. Additionally, the 'be connected' program, started here in Arizona, has caught the attention of President Trump. This is a program to provide information, support, and resources to service members, veterans, and their families. For more information look at their website, www.beconnectedAZ.org.

This month we are electing the slate of officers for 2020. I hope everyone had an opportunity to review the list of candidates. Please contact Arlan or Peggy as soon as possible with your meal choice and reserve your seat. We have entertainment for the meeting, so I invite all to join us for the evening.

As we enter the month, we will observe holidays with religious significance; Hanukkah and Christmas. Additionally, we observe Pearl Harbor Day, and some celebrate Kwanzaa. Whatever you do, please be safe and start the new year healthy.

I know it may not be politically correct but, I want to wish all a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Warmest Regards,
John Bushko



2019 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
1 st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2 nd VP, Capt. Al Anderer	480-227-1022 al_anderer@cox.net
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480- 759-1717 jbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen	
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph	
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak	

2019 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	CW4 Arlan Allen
Membership	Capt. Al Anderer
ROTC/JROTC	Col Karl Pfitzer
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	Mrs. Ann Schminke
Director	Capt. George Meegan
Director	Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin
Director	Capt Ed Mangan
CAS Membership	Maj Norm Poole



AUXILIARY NEWS : from Judy Bushko



Greetings, I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and encouragement. Thank you for the recognition at the dinner. I am humbled to be a part of this organization.

We will be meeting on Friday, December 13th at 11:00 at Dobson Restaurant. Our project for the day will be stuffing pillows for the Hospice of the Valley. Thank you for your generous response to the backpack request. We delivered 43 backpacks to the Veterans Center. Thirty-Five Hygiene Kits were delivered as well.

Marlene gave me some cards that the sixth graders at Neely Traditional Academy in Gilbert made for the veterans and I gave them to the staff at the center to share with the veterans. One staff member had tears as she read the heartfelt messages. She assured me they would be shared with the Veterans. Phones were delivered to be recycled for phone cards.

I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

480- 759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

November Dinner Meeting



We were fortunate to again have the Campo Verde High School JROTC join us for the evening. This is a great group of young men and women!



As our Dinner Meeting began the JROTC Color Guard presented the colors. The Cadets then performed the POW/MIA Ceremony. They did a great job, and as always brought tears to our eyes as we remembered our fallen brothers and sisters. For those of you who couldn't join us, below are pictures in sequence of the ceremony.

The POW/MIA Ceremony is conducted by active duty military members, retired military fraternities, Senior ROTC units, and Junior ROTC units to honor those military members who were (or still are) Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, and those warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice through giving their lives in defense of our nation and way of life. This poignant ceremony is conducted with a script, solemn members marching in slow ceremonial cadence who represent the service(s) to place a hat at an austere table (the Battle Hymn of the Republic is softly played). The ceremony sends a message of commitment to all, especially to those still serving, that our POW/MIA and KIA that they will not be forgotten...the ceremony is concluded with Taps and the detail briskly marches away.

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As the ceremony starts, the Marine hymn plays softly in the background. The narrator reads the script as the cadets solemnly start their walk.



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There are no chairs...
They can't be with us tonight.



The Cadets joined us for dinner, and as the evening passed, they shared some of their aspirations with us. Our members were also sharing some of their life stories. We always enjoy having the Cadets as our guests. They are an inspiration and give us hope for the future of our country. Amazing young men and women!

***This was a special night, as we thought about, and remembered all the service men and women who have served our country over the years.
In our hearts and in our prayers!***



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After dinner, Vice President Arlan Allen gave our donation check to Col Steve Woods, the Campo Verde JROTC Senior Instructor.

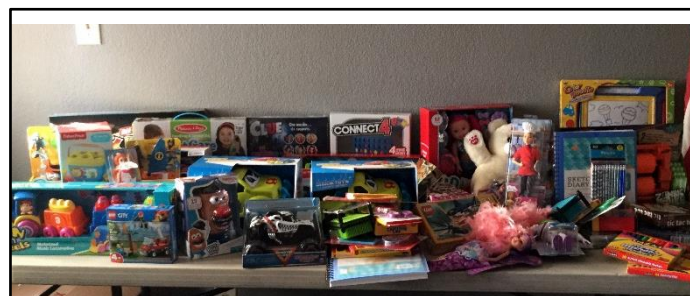
JROTC Chairman Karl Pfitzer presented each Cadet with a token of our appreciation.



We consider November our “Veterans Month.” So we honored one of our own members that goes out of her way to honor our veterans. Judy Bushko, our Ladies Auxiliary President spends countless hours each month doing things to help our veterans at the Veterans Center. She leads the ladies Auxiliary by example and gets everyone to join in and help. The Last Call Blankets, and the Heart Pillows for the Veterans hospital, as well as the Hygiene Kits for the Veterans Center are all ideas thought of and carried out by Judy. These are just a few of the things she does for our veterans. We are so proud to have her as a member of our Chapter!

Vice President Arlan Allen presented Judy with a \$50.00 gift certificate, a plaque, and a Chapter Coin in appreciation of all she does for our chapter and for all veterans!

Vice President Arlan Allen Presented our guest, Brigadier General Don Harvel with a Chapter Coin for his support of our JROTC Program. General Harvel is a member of the Phoenix Chapter of MOAA and Flight Captain elect for the 2020 “Willie” Flight 82, Order of the Daedalians.



We ask everyone to bring a new back pack for the veterans at the Veterans Center and new toys for the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. Once again, our members out did themselves, donating 43 backpacks and 100 toys. Sgt Hill USMC is shown pictured with toys they received. Thanks again for stepping up and helping out. The veterans at the center really appreciate the back packs and a lot of children will have a much better Christmas because of your generosity!



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Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Auxiliary Luncheon
at Dobson's Restaurant
 2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ

December 13, 2019

Lunch at 11:30am
 Order lunch off the menu

Come at 11:00 to stuff pillows
 for the Hospice of the Valley



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Semi-Formal Military Ball
Election and Installation of 2020 Officers
December 15, 2019



5:00pm Social –6:00pm Dinner
 Dobson's Restaurant at the golf course
 2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ

Christmas music performed by J.R. and Dianne

Menu choices
 Filet of Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Fish & Chips
 All meals include Green Salad, Vegetables,
 Dinner Rolls, Dessert & Coffee or Tea

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Wednesday December 11th
to Arlan Alan
 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019 -
 602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net

 **Central Arizona Satellite Chapter MOAA** 

Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 28th, 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. The chapter meets on the last Saturday of each month. This is subject to change.

For additional information: please contact CAS POC Harold Fales at droamin@gmail.com (573) 308-8372 or CAS Membership Rep. Norm Poole at nrpoole1066@gmail.com (520) 836-8456.

December Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARIES

John Bushko	29
Jack Follet	4
Leonard Fuchs	7
Gerald Gustafson	26
Lorreta O'Malley	9
Norm Poole	14
Lorraine Howard	31
Dave Rataczak	16
Gredory Romas	11

Sharon Fales	27
Marlene Fox	29
Lynda Moore	13

Martin & Royetta Dooley	27
Charles & Charlotte Eckert	15
Matt & Linda Hayball	13
Norman & Marcella Peters	28
Tom & Mary Ralph	30
John & Mary Scott	22



CHAIRMAN REPORTS



1st Vice President **Arlan Allen- Programs**

Here we are, Thanksgiving is behind us, Hanukkah and Christmas both just around the corner. Let me be the first to wish you Happy Hanukkah or Merry Christmas, whichever the case may be!

December is the Chapter's annual semi-formal dinner meeting and election/installation of officers and board members. Your participation for the annual vote is encouraged. The meeting will be held on December 15th with social hour beginning at 1600 and dinner at 1700. Yes, I will be wearing a suit and tie! Meal selections are: Filet of Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Fish & Chips. Please have your reservations to me by Wednesday, December 11th by phone at 602-283-5862 (you can leave a message), or email cw4allen@cox.net. JR and Dianne will be playing for our listening and dancing pleasure.

Thank you for having allowed me the honor of serving as the First Vice President and Program Chairman for the last year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve under Chapter President, LTC John Bushko. Thank you, Sir, for your leadership.

I have been nominated to serve as First Vice President and Program Chairman, once again, for 2020. If you will have me, it will be my pleasure to continue serving in this position.



2nd Vice President **Al Anderer - Membership**

Are you still enjoying the cooler weather? I've been sending out introduction letters and copies of our newsletter to new prospective members and hope we will have some new members showing up at our meetings soon. If you belong to other veteran organizations, don't hesitate to mention chapter.

I want to encourage everyone to help recruit new members. Membership in the chapter includes a Basic membership in the National MOAA, giving them access to the national website with information & news from Washington DC that is pertinent to retirees & veterans. Just pass on their contact information to me, & I will do the introduction to MOAA and offer them the opportunity to join. Thanks in advance for your help.

480-227-1022 al_anderer@cox.net



CAS Membership Spokesperson **Norm Poole**

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season from Casa Grande! We are looking forward to 2020 and hope to bring in some new CAS members.



Treasurer

Tom Ralph



Here's wishing you all a really happy and merry Christmas and New Year's holiday season. As a cautionary note, please be careful out there. A lot of "party down" people have been released on the streets and you never know how much they have partied down.

Thanks to all of you for generously supporting our chapter and the all the programs in which we participate. Your contributions mean that we can continue to support our community and retain a very robust financial position. With your support, we are looking forward to another terrific next year.

If you have questions, please call at 602-569-2130 or send a text and I will be glad to help you.



Transition Coordinator

James Austin

Need A Job?

American Airlines has multiple openings for Senior Developers in Tempe, AZ including IT Applications (Referenc 1511) responsible for leveraging cutting-edge techniques to solve business problems at American Airlines by designing software or customizing software for client use with the aim of optimizing operational efficiency. Related degrees and/or experience and skills required. Veterans are encouraged to send their resumes to American Airlines, Inc. Attn: Gene Womach, HR, 1 Skyview Drive, MD 8B204, Ft. Worth, Texas 76155 including cover letter and reference to # 1511.

NXP USA, Inc. has multiple Engineer-IT Positions openings in Chandler, AZ to include RF/Wireless Development Engineer, Facilities Mechanical Engineer, Product-Test Engineer. Related degree and/or experience and skills required for all positions. For more detailed information and to apply veterans are encouraged to visit <http://www.nxp.com> and click on "Careers".

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Personal Affairs Greg Moore



Well SMC you did it again!

I delivered 90-100 toys (some boxes could be used as two gifts) to the Marine detachment at Luke AFB. According to Sgt Hill USMC (soon to be recruit Hill, Tennessee Highway Patrol) they have requests for over 4000 toys so far this year. Thanks to all of you who participated this year.

Meredith and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies

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



Legislative Dave Rataczak



Well, it looks like the government won't be shutting down for a little while at least. President Trump signed the Spending Bill to keep things going until December 20th.

The following information is from the MOAA National website December 3, 2019.

Although the calendar year is changing, you can expect to see some of the same goals from MOAA's advocacy team year over year.

"In 2019, MOAA Government Relations will engage the 116th Congress early and often on issues of greatest importance to our members, the men and women in our uniformed services, their families, and their survivors," says Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), vice president of Government Relations. "As military experience among members of Congress has declined over the years, with just over 17 percent having experience in uniform at the onset of 2019, these goals are instrumental to our efforts to inform and influence members of Congress and their staffs."

The split political power between the two houses promises to bring new challenges and opportunities. Those cannot be addressed until the new Congress is sworn in and committee assignments have been finalized.

However, a first step in any new congressional session is to reintroduce legislation that was not passed in the previous legislative cycle. MOAA's national and grassroots supporters will work directly with members of Congress to ensure our interests are properly represented by proposed and reintroduced legislation.

Some of National MOAA's 2019 goals:

- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
- Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.



ROTC/JROTC Karl Pfitzer



Happy Holidays to All. During our Chapter's December meeting a new slate of chapter leaders will be installed. As announced previously, I will be leaving the position of JROTC/ROTC Committee Chair and Ed Mangan will be taking over for me. I have had the privilege of chairing our program for the last 11 years and have decided it is time for a new leader to take the reins.

Our program for 2020 will be very similar to what we have done in past years although Ed and the board of Directors may modify it as they see fit. We will again be supporting the JROTC programs at 21 East Valley and Central Arizona high schools with three awards per school: the MOAA medal, a US Flag that has flown over the US Capitol and a \$100 "impact" award presented to a worthy cadet. We will also support the four Arizona State University ROTC programs with one MOAA medal for each branch.

I would like to personally thank each and every member of the chapter, past and present, for their unwavering support and contributions to the success of our program. I especially want to thank each member that presented our awards in person at the high school awards ceremonies. The feedback I have received over the years from the JROTC cadre has indicated how pleased they are and how meaningful it was to have a chapter member present our awards in person. Ed Mangan and I have had a "handoff" meeting and I will support him during the transition process. I would ask each chapter member to support Ed as he continues our program into the future.

Again, thank you all for your support and Happy Holidays to you and your families.



Auxiliary Sponsored Programs



Hygiene Kits for Vets

Judy Bushko



Items we need for our kits are: Razors, Wash cloths, combs, white socks, bars of soap, regular size toothpaste and toothbrushes.

We have been asked for regular sized items as the veterans are only allowed to receive one kit a month.

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 350 kits made since we started this project.!**



Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital

Blankets are used for covering our veterans who have passed in the room and are being moved. They are covered with these blankets and the blanket is then given to the family. Over 50 blankets donated since we started this project.!



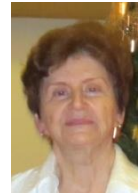
Heart Shaped pillows for VA Hospital and Hospice of the Valley

Patients at the VA hospital that have had heart surgery use these pillows to help in their recovery.



Cell Phones for Soldiers /Helping Heroes Home. 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. Phones don't need to work. Contact Judy Bushko 480- 759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net



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 11320 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.



Chapter Elections!

The nominating committee is very happy to announce our 2020 board of Directors Nominees.

A list of the nominees is on the right.

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

MG Dave Rataczak
Chairman, Nomination Committee
Past President



Chapter Office Nominees

President - Lt Col John Bushko
1st Vice President, Programs – CW4 Arlan Allen
2nd Vice President, Membership – Col John Marsh
Treasurer – Col Tom Ralph
Secretary – Mrs. Peggy Allen
Vice President, Auxiliary – Mrs. Judy Bushko

Director Positions

Legislative - MG Dave Rataczak
Personal Affairs - Lt Greg Moore
ROTC/ Scholarship – Capt Ed Mangan
Transition Coordinator –
Website – Lt Ann Ferguson
Newsletter Editor – Mrs. Marlene Fox
Director - Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin
Director – Capt George Meegan
Director – Maj Austin Foote
Director – Mrs Ann Schimke
Director – Col Karl Pfitzer



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 _____ Printed 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 2020 has 3 types to pick from. **1. Basic-free-electronic only.** **2. Premium- \$43.00 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: \$43.00 – 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. Write 2020 dues in the memo line
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 Al Anderer:
 480-227-1022 al_anderer@cox.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

December Dinner Meeting Reservation

Sunday, December 15, 2019 - Dobson's Restaurant

Social Hour 4:00pm Dinner – 5:00pm

Meal Choices: Filet of Beef _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ or Fish & Chips _____
\$30.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Wednesday, December 11th

Make checks payable to: **SMC of 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

2020 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 2020

Please print name _____ 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, Hygiene Kits for Vets _____

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



ROTC/JROTC Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ or School Awards Sponsor \$125.00 _____
If sponsoring a school, please write the school name here _____

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

Superstition Mountain Express

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



2019-2020 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

Chapter Board Meetings	Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons	Chapter Dinner, Luncheon Meetings
December 9 th – 9:00am	December 13 th - 11:30am	Sunday December 15 th - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
January 13 th - 9:00am	January 10 th – 11:30am	Sunday January 19 th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
February 10 th – 9:00am	February 14 th – 11:30am	Sunday February 16th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
March 9 th – 9:00am	March 13 th – 11:30am	March 15th - – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner

