



FEB 2024
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<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>
(MOAA and its Superstition Mountain Chapter are both nonpartisan.)



President’s Comments
Gregory L. Moore, 1Lt. USA (Ret.)

Greetings all:
Those of you who were unable to attend Saturday’s luncheon missed a most informative program arranged by John Bushko, and presented by staff of Arizona Life Hospice. Local data shows the average stay in hospice where you are eligible for care under Medicare of 6 mos. Because of your veteran status, other benefits also kick in thru the VA. ALH has a full-time veterans advocate to assist with that benefit.

ALH has a type of screening quiz to help determine if hospice may be appropriate. And remember, eligibility is not limited to medical issues, but mental issues, such as Dementia or Alzheimer’s as well. Some indicators such as falls on the last 6 mos, the increasing need for others to assist with activities of daily living, increased weakness or fatigue, Loss of desire in participating in life activities, increased meds for pain, noticeable weight loss without trying, shortness of breath, even at rest, more frequent hospital ER or physician visits, physician suggestion that illness is life limiting. 4-10 affirmative answers may indicate the need for a referral.

Second, there is a “scam” going around whereby you receive an e-mail or message that the UPS or post office or other delivery service is holding a package for you because of fees or postage due. You are asked for a credit card number, or to provide some kind of personal information in order to free the item for delivery. The USPS or UPS do not operate that way. You can go to the post office to verify or local UPS, NEVER SEND MONEY To someone you have not contacted first.

Lastly, let us all wish Jim and Barb Austin a happy wedding anniversary. I neglected to do so at the luncheon.

Stay safe,
Greg



VP Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse
Judy Bushko



Happy Valentine's Day!

Greetings,

The auxiliary will not be meeting for our regular monthly meeting, due to the fact that our numbers are dwindling. We will be meeting in conjunction with the March 17th Luncheon.

Please join us; our numbers are really low!

Judy

January Luncheon Photos!

**Faby Aldama. Patient Advocate,
Arizona Life**



Bill Rogitz – Arizona Life



Tom and Melanie Ralph



Meredith and Greg Moore



Ann and Fred Ferguson



Peggy and Arlan Allen



Vicki and Karl Pfitzer



Barb and Jim Austin



Donna Stowman



February Congratulations!



MEMBER

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Dennis Languell | 7 |
| Karl E Pfitzer | 12 |
| Arlan Allen | 24 |
| Tom Gaylor | 27 |

SPOUSE

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Carol Languell | 8 |
| Peggy Allen | 10 |
| Joyce Gallagher | 14 |
| Cindy Wood | 16 |
| Dawn Grierson | 18 |
| Bonnie Faull | 19 |



ANNIVERSARY

**Luncheon Meeting
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

Saturday, February 17, 2024

12:00 Noon Social – 1:00 pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton
1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

Chinese Buffet- Chinese Chopped Salad, Orange Chicken, Beef with Broccoli.
Steamed Rice, Vegetable Spring Rolls
Iced Tea and Coffee Fortune Cookies for dessert

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, February 11, 2024

to **John Bushko**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email jabushko@earthlink.net.

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, MOAA

(Revised) - 2024 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| President | 1Lt Greg Moore | 480-814-0580 | glmoore24@yahoo.com |
| 1 st Vice President | LtCol John Bushko | 614-204-0413 | jabushko@earthlink.net |
| 2 nd Vice President | Capt Norm Poole | 520-836-8456 | nrpoole1066@gmail.com |
| VP Auxiliary | Mrs. Judy Bushko | 614-204-0412 | jdbushko@earthlink.net |
| Treasurer | COL Thomas Ralph | 602-616-1653 | tomralph@cox.net |
| Secretary | Peggy Allen | 602-554-7103 | arapla@cox.net |
| Past President | LtCol John Bushko | 614-204-0413 | jabushko@earthlink.net |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Programs | LtCol John Bushko | 614-204-0413 | jabushko@earthlink.net |
| Membership | Capt Norm Poole | 520-836-8456 | nrpoole1066@gmail.com |
| Personal Affairs | CW4 Arlan Allen | 602-283-5862 | cw4allen@cox.net |
| Legislative | Col Robert Grierson | 563-580-7125 | b206flyr@gmail.com |
| JROTC/Scholarship | CW5 Michael Ostermeyer | 602-316-1072 | ostermeyerm@cox.net |
| Newsletter | Mrs Paula Anderer | 480-298-6242 | paulaanderer10@gmail.com |
| Website | Maj Austin Foote | 480-329-4806 | oldfoots@cox.net |

DIRECTORS:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Capt George Meegan | 480-897-8835 | captaingeorgemeegan@gmail.com |
| COL Karl Pfitzer | 490-991-2463 | pvkarl@cox.net |
| Mrs. Ann Ferguson | 480-961-9634 | vfergusonfnp@netscape.net |

1/31/2024

Chair Reports



1st Vice President/Programs
LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Greetings all,

Our meeting this month will be on March 17. The menu is a Chinese buffet with a Chinese Chopped Salad, Orange Chicken, Beef with Broccoli, Steamed Rice, Vegetable Spring Rolls, and Fortune Cookies.

I am still working on a speaker and will let everyone know when it is confirmed. Please email me at jabushko@earthlink.net by the 11th with your reservation.

Happy Valentine's Day, and do not forget about your loved ones!

John

Please contact me via email at jabushko@earthlink.net with any questions or to volunteer for a position.



Personal Affairs

Arlan Allen

Happy Valentine's Day to all SMC Chapter members. The Superstition Mountain Chapter of MOAA is more than just a social organization. We are an extension of your military family. If you need assistance of any kind, please contact me. I will do my best to assist, or help find a solution for your needs. I can be reached at 602-283-5862 (This phone is not answered, but please leave a message. It is checked on a daily basis.)

Arlan



Legislative

Bob Grierson

Happy St. Valentines Day to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

As you know, a new continuing resolution was passed funding the government until March 1 or 8, 2024. Let us hope they complete the budgetary process soon. Congress should be working on 2025 at this point, not still cleaning up 2024.

At the Federal level, MOAA has been actively engaged in the 2024 NDAA which passed last month, and I covered the big items of that legislation in the January update. But to try to explain the difference between an authorization and a budget is important. The NDAA is merely the agency authorization to exist, its programs, end strength, and short-term vision. The appropriation is the budgetary allocation to fund those programs and projects. They are not the same. So, while we have an authorization, we do not necessarily have the requisite funding to carry it out. Clear as mud?

MOAA is asking for your help on a number of issues like the budget, spouse support, housing, etc. Here is how you can assist:

The Budget Mess Still Threatens Servicemember Pay Congress Must Act.

[• Ask Lawmakers to Pass a Budget](#)

[• Urge Your Elected Officials to Pay Servicemembers During a Shutdown](#)

(cont'd.)

Help MOAA Make a Difference for Surviving Spouses.

- [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Caring for Survivors Act.](#)
- [Urge Your Legislators to Support Remarriage Legislation for Surviving Spouses](#)
- [Urge Your Legislators to Support the Respect for Grieving Military Families Act Respite Care.](#)

Other Support Services are Lifelines for Caregivers and Veterans.

- [Urge Your Legislators to Support the CARE Act](#)
- [Urge Your Legislators to Support H.R. 542 and Provisions in S. 141](#)
- [Urge Your Legislators to Support H.R. 1815 and S.495](#)

The Major Richard Star Act:

- [Ask lawmakers to include H.R. 1282/S. 344 in their official FY 2025 NDAA request.](#)

BAH Restoration Act:

- [Ask your elected officials to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing \(BAH\) with H.R. 2537/S. 1823 in their NDAA request.](#)

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Burial:

- [Congress must act through the NDAA. Please log in to the MOAA |Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#)

State Issues The state legislature is now in session. Going through the 635 bills pending today, I found that very little is being discussed impacting those still serving, veterans, and spouses, but I am sure something will be very shortly. This is probably the last time during the state session this year where you can get a bill under consideration. If there is something you feel needs to be addressed, do not delay one more minute. Pick up the phone and call your legislator. Otherwise, we can only weigh in on what has been proposed. Remember, only you can speak for you.

To confirm who your state legislators are, you can go to <https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator>

Bob



Mike Ostermeyer

JROTC/ROTC



Karl Pfitzer

Greetings all,

January was a productive month for Mike Ostermeyer and I for activities in our JROTC support program. We sent out letters to all our schools and as you will see on the attached chart, we have received early feedback from a number of them. There are two changes for our program for this year and they are outlined below.

- **As shown in an earlier newsletter, the Chapter made the decision to drop the US Flag award based on feedback from the schools' senior instructors. We decided to replace the flag award with an award of the MOAA Challenge Coin. The MOAA Challenge Coin represents a JROTC cadet who has demonstrated he or she has learned the kind of self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills that can help him or her successfully meet the challenges of adulthood and serve their nation and community. The selection of the recipient will be made by the senior JROTC instructor. So far, we have received positive feedback from the JROTC cadre.**
- **The second change is the transfer of four of our schools to a new MOAA chapter. The new MOAA chapter has been chartered in north Tucson, the Catalina Mountain Chapter. The Catalina Mountain Chapter has formed a JROTC support program, and they contacted our chapter with a proposal to jump start their program by having Superstition Mountain transfer JROTC support of four schools to their chapter. These four schools are geographically closer to the Catalina Mountain Chapter as compared to our Mesa/East Valley location. After board meetings and approvals by both the Catalina Mountain Chapter and the Superstition Mountain Chapter we agreed to transfer the following JROTC programs to them: Casa Grande HS, Vista Grande HS, Coolidge HS, and Poston Butte HS. Our agreement is that the Superstition Mountain Chapter will provide awards this school year with the Catalina Mountain Chapter picking up the program for next year. CAPT Ritt Schiano will be the POC for the Catalina Mountain Chapter and he, along with a member of our chapter, will be making the awards to these four schools this year on behalf of the Superstition Mountain Chapter.**

If you are interested in sponsoring a JROTC award or in presenting chapter awards at the schools' ceremonies, please let me know. Sponsorships are \$100 per school, which covers the cost of the Impact Award. If you have never presented awards in the past this is a great opportunity to see how the JROTC program can positively affect our future leaders. If you have questions, please contact me or Mike at our contact information below. Thanks for your support.

Karl

(Chart on next page.)

2024 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

| # | School & Affiliation | Ceremony Date/Time | Presenter | Sponsor | Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | ASU: USA, USN, USAF, USMC, USSF | | Greg Moore | N/A | |
| 2 | Apache Jct, USN | | | | LCDR Gary Lock |
| 3 | Basha, USAF | FR, 5-3, 1445 hrs | Arlan & Peggy Allen | Arlan & Peggy Allen | COL Cliff Stansell |
| 4 | Campo Verde, USAF | | | | LTC Steve Wood |
| 5 | Casa Grande, USMC | | Ritt Schiano/N Poole | Norm Poole | GySGT Jesus Flores |
| 6 | Chandler, USAF | | John & Judy Bushko | John & Judy Bushko | MSGT Scott Goodsen |
| 7 | Coolidge, USMC | | Ritt Schiano | | LTC Richard Callahan |
| 8 | Dobson, USAF | | | Greg Moore | LTC Anthony Kusek |
| 9 | Gilbert, USAF | | | | MSgt Elwin Longnion |
| 10 | Globe, USA | | | Arlan & Peggy Allen | SFC Tony Lyons |
| 11 | Hamilton, USAF | | | | LTC Greg Franklin |
| 12 | Higley, USAF | | | | COL David Vaughn |
| 13 | Marcos De Niza, USA | | | | MAJ Robert Fore |
| 14 | Maricopa, USAF | | | | LTC Allen Kirksey |
| 15 | Mesa, USAF | FR, 4-12, 1800 hrs | | | MSGT Mark Caldwell |
| 16 | Queen Creek USA | WE, 4-24, 1045hrs * | | Robert Grierson | SFC John Biggs |
| 17 | Poston Butte USAF | | Ritt Schiano | | MAJ John Napier |
| 18 | Red Mountain, USA | FR, 5-3, 1800 hrs | | | MAJ Olga Cortez |
| 19 | Skyline, USA | FR, 5-3, 1700 hrs | | | COL Geoff Stevens |
| 20 | Vista Grande, USMC | | Ritt Schiano/N Poole | Norm Poole | 1stSgt Alberto Griego |
| 21 | Westwood, USAF | | | | LTC Joe Abel |

Current on: Thursday, February 01, 2024

P= Presenter or School Has Awards Package

***= Have Awardee Names**

@= Sponsors Have Paid

Mike Ostermeyer

602-316-1072

Ostermeyer@cox.net

Karl Pfitzer

480-635-2080

pvkarl@cox.net



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, its 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 2024 has three types to pick from. **1. Basic--free-electronic only.** **2. Premium- \$40.00 a year.** **3. Life membership-fee is age dependent** (can be as much as \$700.00) 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 will 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 will be able to tap into MOAA's staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That is 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: \$40.00 – 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 2024 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 Chair Norm Poole

520) 836-8456. nrpoole1066@gmail.com

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 magnetic

1. _____

2. _____

Luncheon Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2024 - DoubleTree by Hilton

Social Hour - Noon

Lunch - 1:00pm

Menu

Chinese Buffet- Chinese Chopped Salad, Orange Chicken, Beef with Broccoli

Steamed Rice, Vegetable Spring Rolls

Iced Tea and Coffee Fortune Cookies for dessert.

\$30.00 per meal - Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, February 11, 2024

Make checks payable to: SMC of MOAA

CONTACT: **JOHN BUSHKO**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email jabushko@earthlink.net

Chapter Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

This donation may be used for any Auxiliary projects _____ or ROTC _____

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

Write AUXILIARY or ROTC in the memo line of the check

Mail to: **TOM RALPH, Treasurer:** 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

2024 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 2024

Please print name _____

My National MOAA Number _____

2024 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)

| Chapter Board | Chapter Auxiliary | Chapter Member/Guest |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Meeting - CHOMPIE'S | Luncheon | Luncheon Meetings |
| Feb. 13, 2024- 9:30am | - | Feb. 17, 2024- Noon Social. 1:00pm Lunch |



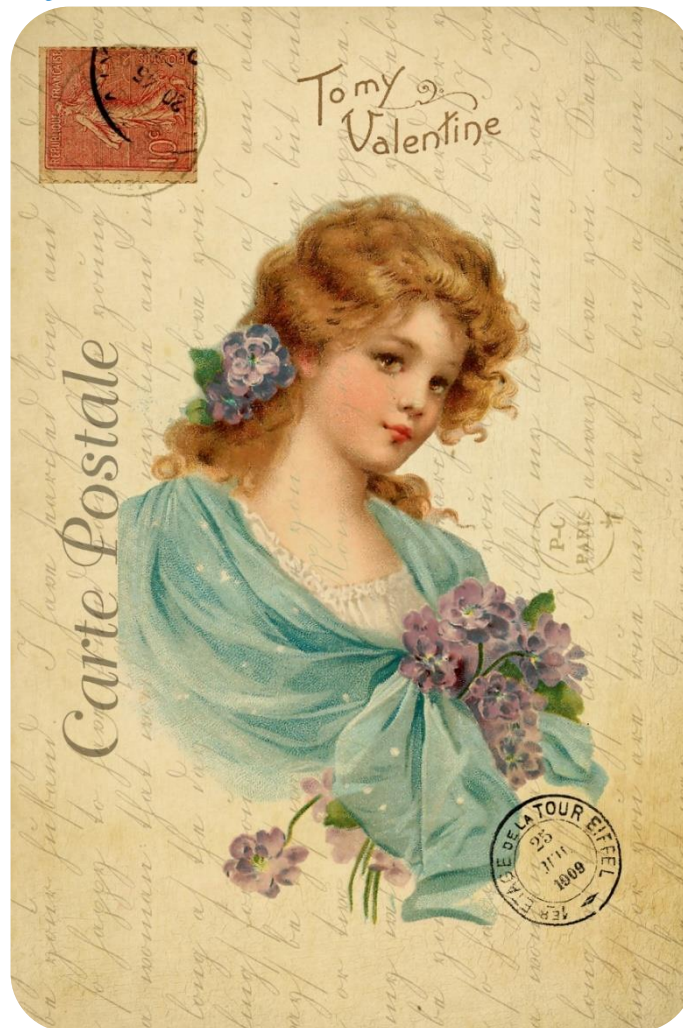
“Life is not fair.
Get over it!”

...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

In loving Memory of Marlene Fox, our long-time Newsletter Editor.



**Vintage Victorian Valentine card -*



Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

Superstition Mountain Express

4201 W. Luke Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85019

Superstition Mountain Chapter Military Officers Association of America



RESOURCES

Newsletter: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

MOAA Home Page: [https:// moaa.org](https://moaa.org) (Visit the [Take Action Center](#))

MOAA SMC Chapter Website: [https// smcmoaa.org](https://smcmoaa.org)

 **beconnected**: <https://beconnectedaz.org>
service members • veterans • families • communities

Visit the websites and explore the different features,
and other organizations in your area.